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COVER STORY

Economy continues sluggish recovery – but not for Blacks



See **BLACKS**, Page 9

Irving City Council votes to allow contract to expire; developer files lawsuit

Suit accuses City Manager of seeking favors from vendors

BY RUTH FERGUSON,
NDG EDITOR

The developers did not let any grass grow under their feet when they filed a lawsuit on Tuesday against the City of Irving alleging breach of contract. This was in response to the City Council

allowing their contract to expire at midnight on August 7.

A special meeting was called to allow developers and the public the opportunity to provide comment to the Irving City Council on a request to extend the devel-

oper's deadline on the entertainment center project in Irving.

After hearing from Irving residents Monday night, members of nearly a capacity crowd, the City Council voted 5-4 to allow the contract with the Las Colinas

Group (LCG) to expire. LCG offered a new plan, which dramatically reduced the City's financial contribution and offered to step aside and allow TDI to complete the project.

On Tuesday morning
See **COUNCIL**, Page 6

Gabrielle Douglas seizes the moment

Editor's note: Although Gabby has not had a stellar week, her achievements in the 2012 games remain historic.

BY JAMES BREEDLOVE

The newest America's Sweetheart, Gabrielle Douglas, was not afforded time to savor her magnificent Olympic accomplishments before having to contend with the burden-



some weight of the potential political and social ramifications of being an Olympic champion.

The 16 year-old gymnastic star from Virginia Beach, VA and West Des Moines, IA is not only the first African-American to win gold in the women's individual all-around gymnastics competition, but is also the first American gymnast to win gold medals in both the

individual and team events at the same Olympics.

Yet, at this significant moment in Gabby's young life, the nation cannot let her bask in the sunshine of her achievement without regurgitating imagery of America's onerous fixation with racism and sexism.

Gabby's journey from Virginia Beach, where she was de-

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Rapper Drake going back to school for his Diploma

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

COMMENTARY

Black Press to presidential campaigns: Show Me the Money!

BY CLOVES CAMPBELL

(NNPA) There are less 100 days until voters throughout the country cast their votes for the next President of the United States of America as well as U.S. Senate, Congressional and State Legislatures. The campaign war chests for President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney total almost \$3 Billion dollars!

However as of this writing, not one dollar has been spent in the Black

Press. Once again the Black Press has been unfortunately relegated to an "Oh By the Way" campaign that features one 1/2 page ad placed two weeks before the election in all Black newspapers totaling a shameful \$1.2 million dollars! That is the money placed by the Obama for America Campaign (OFA). The Romney Campaign has zero dollars allocated! To put this all into paper perspective, let me fill you in on the process

See **MONEY**, Page 3

Upcoming expo focuses on growing trend of chemical free hair options

After spending countless hours waiting in salons, tens of thousands of dollars on chemical processing and avoiding the gym and other physical activities, some African-American women have given up the stress of straight hair to return to natural, non-chemically



processed hairstyles. A local business owner is bringing a team of industry experts to Dallas to help women make the transition.

The Texture Revolution is a natural hair expo designed to educate women

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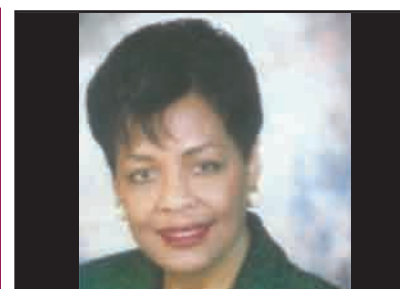
People In The News...



David Richardson



Candice Bledsoe



Marjorie Craft

See Page 2

David Richardson

When Marcus was ready to balance his work/life he networked his way from the retail industry to technology sales. After becoming an active member of the Austin Chapter of the National Sales Network (NSN), Marcus used the organization's development opportunities and relationships to grow within the company, now overseeing a \$200 million dollar business. August 8-11, the organization will highlight

their 20-year anniversary of building success stories at the annual conference and diversity career fair to be held in Baltimore, Maryland.

This past June, marked the 20th year of resource sharing, professional development and career advancement opportunities provided by NSN for African Americans in the sales industry as well as entrepreneurs looking to grow their business. From a one-man start-up to more

than \$2 million in total contracts, Chuck said his business would not be where it is now if it were not for NSN.

"I started with a computer and a desk, and a membership in NSN. Because of the contacts we've made over the years, my company now develops sales leaders through strategy creation, training and leadership coaching. In short, we would not be the success that we are today if we had not joined NSN," he said.

Founder David

Richardson recognized the need for himself and others in the sales industry to be able to network and learn from each other. "Being in sales, we knew how important networking was to developing leads and growing a business, so we were determined to create an organization that would give those in our industry an opportunity to both build



their assets and help expand their careers," he said.

Richardson, who currently serves as the NSN Executive Director, said the organization strives to be a resource for entrepreneurs as well as sales professionals, with a special development track for women.

This emphasis on females in sales was crucial when St. Louis member Myleekah

See ROBINSON, Page 5

Candice Bledsoe

Candice Bledsoe was one out six professors named 2012 fellows for the Texas Project for Human Rights Education, a research-focused, curriculum-building program funded by the Boone Family Foundation of Dallas and overseen by the Embrey Human Rights Program with the SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.

The Texas Project for Human Rights Education program aims to expand human rights education throughout the state by awarding grants to higher-

education teachers to conduct research and incorporate human rights into their varied academic disciplines. Other fellows include

SMU professors Sabri Ates and Noah Simblit; University of North Texas political science professor Idean Salehyan; and two Texas Tech professors Hans Hansen and Jill Patterson.

"This is an opportunity for the fellows, and ultimately their students, to understand how relevant human rights is in any field," says Embrey Human Rights Program Director

Rick Halperin. Each professor will receive about \$20,000 to fund trips, human rights courses and research the Holocaust with a focus on women's rights, a guiding force behind the Boone Family Foundation.

Candice Bledsoe teaches English at Tarrant County College. Bledsoe helps girls, minorities, and economically disadvantaged youth with their written and oral communication skills.

Bledsoe believes, works for, and loves her community. She is the Founder of Poetic Diamonds and the Cutting Edge Youth Summit. Poetic Diamonds help students with their verbal

and written communication skills. The Cutting Edge Youth Summit helps to develop students in the area of mentorship, leadership, and scholarship.

Bledsoe began her studies as a business professional seeking intellectual growth, with a focus on African American literature and Human Rights. Her academic work had such an impact that she decided to leave the corporate world to pursue a career in



academia and the nonprofit sector.

"My MLS degree enabled me to more directly make a difference in the lives of others," she says. "My studies helped me realize that all things are possible."

Currently, Bledsoe is also pursuing a doctorate in Global Education at the University of Southern California Rosier School of Education.

For more details about the program, visit <http://smu.edu/humanrights> or call 214-768-8347.

Marjorie Craft

Marjorie Craft is retired from the food services in-



dustry with over 20 years successful experience in

sales, marketing, and operations. She will be honored at the upcoming Hamilton Park Reunion August 17-19.

Craft has served as a consultant for new companies in the area of new business development; Executive Director Nutrition Services for the Dallas Public Schools; a Director of Sales for PepsiCo/Tricon Global Restaurants (Yum Brands) in the Pizza

Hut Division; and Executive Director of New Busi-

ness Development for Orion Food Systems.

Her service to the community includes having served on the Board of Regents for the University of North Texas System (was chair of the advancement committee) and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the UNT Murphy Entrepreneurial Center. She served as: president of the UNT alumni association from 1999-2000; the University's School of Hospitality & Merchandising Board of Governors; the Capital Campaign: An Act of Leadership; Homecoming committee chair; and in many other areas in support of the University over the years. In 1997 Marjorie was recognized as outstanding alum for her service to the University.

Craft also actively supports several community and civic organizations.

She was formerly a member of the board of directors, Zale-Lipshy University Hospital; a trustee for the Dallas Museum of Art; The Links Inc.; and the Salvation Army's Advisory Board (Greater Dallas Metroplex). She currently serves as a member of the Board of Visitors of UT Southwestern Health System; and is a member of the De Soto Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Marjorie is a golden life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and a member of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship Church where she has worked with the youth ministry.

Over the years, Craft has spoken at numerous conferences and seminars in the foodservices industry; university students and alumni; and various community organizations. She

received several awards and recognition for her

contributions to the food-

See CRAFT, Page 6

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P. O. Box 763866 • Dallas, Texas 75376-3866

Phone: 972-516-4191

Fax: 972-509-9058

**Publisher's Office:**

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:

opportunity@northdallasgazette.com

Editorial Department:

editor@northdallasgazette.com

Online:

www.twitter.com/NDGEditor

www.facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette

Website:

www.NorthDallasGazette.com

STAFF

Chairman Emeritus

Jim Bochum

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Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Production

Sharon Jones-Scaife

Special Projects Manager

Edward Dewayne

"Preacher Boy" Gibson, Jr.

General Manager, National Sales

John E. Banks-Morgan

Religious/**Marketing Editor**

Shirley Demus Tarpley

Assistant to the Publisher

Emily Cox

Editor

Ruth Ferguson

VP of Digital & Entertainment Marketing

Brandy Jones-West

Contributing Writer

Jackie Hardy

Ivy N. McQuain

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Nicole Scott

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Do We Have A Friend In The White House?

BY WALTER SMITH

The world applauded when Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States in November of 2008.

People of color the world over were ecstatic over having someone they could relate to as the leader of the richest and most powerful country in the world.

Heads of States of foreign countries who were at odds with the US felt relieved when Obama suggested that they stop fighting and start talking.

He inspired hope in the repressed, the downtrodden, the disenfranchised, and the poor.

The word was, "I never thought I would live to see the day a Black man would be elected president of the United States."

His initial campaign prompted every African American newspaper in the country to promote his candidacy pro bono through the pages of their publications.

The cause for rejoicing was things would be different for people of color. A person of color was in charge of the Justice Department of the United States.

Young people of color the world over were inspired to look to higher heights. They knew that if they only applied themselves that anything was

possible. All glass ceilings were broken and there was no limit to personal growth.

Publishers of the Black Press were encouraged primarily because for years they had tried to get advertising from the Federal Government with no success.

Presidential campaigns meant millions of dollars of income for newspapers and other media outlets. The Black Press usually got less than 1 hundredth of 1% of this windfall.

It was tokenism at best but that is what they became accustomed to in presidential races.

They got peanuts from the democrats and nothing from the Republicans.

In 2008, the presidential elections cost a record-setting \$2.8 billion. To win that election, Barack Obama spent \$740.6 million. He spent approximately \$1 million with the Black Press. The expense for the current presidential race will exceed \$5 billion with nearly \$3 billion being spent between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association is composed of a group of middle class entrepreneurs. That same group, founded in 1827 by John Russwurm initiated the growth and recognition of the talents

and contributions of African Americans to the US.

In spite of the lack of advertising revenue, the Black Press has been there for all who needed to be positively profiled, protected, and promoted for



Barack Obama

whatever position in life they were aspiring to.

Had there been no Black Press of America, there would be no Barack Obama in the Whitehouse.

Barack Obama won the popular vote in 2008 by 4 percentages points. 52% for the Democrats and 48% for the Republicans. The Electoral Vote was a different story.

However, if that popular vote can be reversed coupled with implementation of the voter ID requirements which will eliminate over 20 million voters from the polls with a majority of them African American, Obama can lose. The Re-

publicans are working hard to reduce Obama's voting base.

Voter ID laws have been introduced in all except 9 states. In the first four months of 2012, election supervisors in Florida removed nearly 7,000 voters from the rolls. Democrat: 3,550 (51.20 percent) Republican: 1,206 (17.39 percent). TV ads are not going to address these issues to Obama's base, only the Black Press and the Black church will.

If our President is serious about winning this election, he should consider the proposal presented to the OFA campaign by NNPA's Chairman, Clovis Campbell.

Obama's current advisors on the Black vote and the Black Press are no different today than they were in 1976 with Jimmy Carter, or in 1980, or 1984 or 1992, or 1996, or 2008.

Tokenism is all they knew then and tokenism is all the current advisors know now.

The Black Press needs to be recognized for the work they have done and invited to participate in the economic windfall associated with presidential elections especially when a Black candidate is running.

Walter Smith is the publisher of the New York Beacon.

MONEY, continued from Page 1

In January of this year we had conversations with the OFA campaign. At that time, we were told that money was not coming in as expected so they could not talk about advertising in Black Newspapers. In late April, after we found out that the OFA campaign had only \$800 million dollars, we put together a very detailed advertising proposal for \$21 million dollars, which included multiple insertions in all National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) publications from June through November.

The plan suggested a campaign that encouraged

three phases of action. The first steps were "Voters Registration - you can't vote if you are not registered." Second was, "Proper ID - What to take to the polls." Understanding that voter suppression laws vary from state to state, it is important that voters know what to take to the polls in order to vote. The last stop is "GOTV - get out the vote." Mobilizing our communities to go to the polls is the key to winning the upcoming election. Our proposal also included an aggressive digital and social media campaign as well.

Today, we are once again in a position of being

taken for granted. Does Jim Messina know something about Black folks that we didn't know? I am beginning to wonder where are the Black Folks that are advising this campaign? Do they not see the money being spent around them? Are they not asking why are there no Black pollsters, ad agencies, placement, firms, or other Black owned businesses reaping the benefits of the only \$3 Billion dollars being spent in this campaign season. SHOW ME THE MONEY!

At the end of the election, over \$3 Billion dollars will be spent. Some people

will be very happy. They will not care who wins.

To take a quote from the movie Trading Places, "No matter what happens.... DUKE and DUKE still get their commission!" What are we to do? Do we stand by and again wait four more years? Let's get moving now!

Come on Roland Martin, Rev. Sharpton, Rev. Jackson, Cliff Kelly, Steve Harvey, Oprah Winfrey! Let's talk about this now. SHOW ME THE MONEY!

Clovis Campbell is the Chairman of the NNPA.

Medicare prescription drug premiums to remain steady for third straight year

Average basic premiums for Medicare prescription drug plans are projected to remain constant in 2013, Health and Human Services Secretary (HHS) Kathleen Sebelius announced today. The average 2013 monthly premium for basic prescription drug coverage is expected to be \$30. Average premiums for 2012 were projected to be \$30 and ultimately averaged \$29.67. At the same time, since the law was enacted, seniors and people with disabilities have saved \$3.9 billion on prescription drugs as the Affordable Care Act began closing the "donut hole" coverage gap.

"Premiums are holding steady and, thanks to the health care law, millions of people with Medicare are saving an average of over \$600 each year on their prescription drugs," said Secretary Sebelius.

Today's projection for the average premium for 2013 is based on bids submitted by drug and health plans for basic coverage during the 2013 benefit year, and calculated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Office of the Actuary.

The upcoming annual enrollment period -- which begins Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 7, 2012 -- allows people with Medicare, their families and their caregivers to choose their plans for next year by comparing their current coverage and quality ratings to other plan offerings. New benefit choices are effective Jan. 1, 2013.



Because of the Affordable Care Act, out-of-pocket savings on medications for people with Medicare continue to grow. Last month, CMS announced that more than 5.2 million people with Medicare have saved over \$3.9 billion on prescription drugs in the Medicare Part D donut hole since the law was enacted. In the first

half of 2012, over 1 million people with Medicare saved a total of \$687 million on prescription drugs, averaging \$629 per person this year.

As a result of the Affordable Care Act, coverage for both brand name and generic drugs in the coverage gap will continue to increase over time until 2020, when the coverage gap will be fully closed. This year, people with Medicare received a 50 percent discount on covered brand name drugs and 14 percent coverage of generic drugs in the donut hole. In 2013, Medicare Part D's coverage of brand name drugs will begin to increase, meaning that people with Medicare will receive a total of 52.5 percent off the cost of brand name drugs (a 50 percent discount and an additional 2.5 percent in coverage) and coverage for 21 percent of the cost of generic drugs in the donut hole.

For more information on how the Affordable Care Act closes the Medicare drug benefit donut hole, visit: <http://www.healthcare.gov/law/features/65-older/drug-discounts/index.html>

Humanitarian Hands Charities announces community outreach mission for local refugee resource assistance center

Humanitarian Hands Charities announced their community outreach mission to launch a refugee resource center. The center will be located in Dallas and will provide workshops on family structure, finances, advanced ESL classes, mental health counseling, senior citizens' awareness and much more.

The center, which is slated to open in December 2012, will prove to be a viable, and much needed resource for the community. In fiscal year 2011, there were 56,419 refugee arrivals into the United States, with Texas being the second highest recipient, receiving 5,623 refugees. Refugee arrivals

are already at a total of 3,598 for the first quarter of this year.

Humanitarian Hands Charities, an organization that primarily supports Ugandan orphans by providing housing, healthcare, quality education, and job skills training, felt the need to provide support on a more local level.

"We were excited when we performed a needs assessment with local refugee agencies who stated that there was a critical need for more concentrated and long-termed refugee support systems to assist them in their transition to an unknown environment and culture," noted Mary Christopher,

CEO and Co-founder of Humanitarian Hands Charities. "Our focus is to provide resource services that will make a substantial and sustaining difference in the refugees' lives. Not only will we be able to assist African refugee youth, but refugee youth and their families from all over the world!"

Plans for the refugee resource assistance center are underway. Additional details will be highlighted at the Humanitarian Hands Charities' upcoming "What if ...?" gala event in October.

For additional project updates, visit www.hhcharities.org.

bodybar™ opens second boutique fitness studio

bodybar™, a Dallas-based boutique fitness studio featuring high-energy Pilates, will open the doors to its Plano location with a grand opening event for the family on Satur-

day, September 8 on the southeast corner of Park and Preston. The event will last from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., but the festivities will continue all week with free classes for anyone

who registers at www.bodybarstudios.com.

Created as more than just a workout studio, bodybar is a

See FITNESS, Page 8

After the cancer

Getting through the treatment may not be the end of the story for teenagers or young adults who have been diagnosed with cancer. A study says many of them have chronic medical problems that may not be related to cancer but may be related to lifestyle.

Researchers saw that in 2009 national survey data on 4,000 teen and young adult cancer survivors and about 345,000 people without cancer. The survivors were more likely to report heart disease, high blood pressure and other conditions, and were more likely to smoke and to be obese.

At the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, researcher Eric Tai:

"Cancer survivors need to be aware of the long-term risks associated with un-

healthy behaviors and chronic medical conditions."

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Hamilton Park celebrates its school wide reunion in August

The Hamilton Park School will celebrate its 57th school-wide reunion from Friday, August 17 through Sunday, August 19.

On Friday night, there will be a social mixer with food, socializing, dancing, vendors and photographs. Attendees will also be able to cast their votes for the 2012 Hamilton Park Wall of Fame.

On Saturday morning, participants will embark on a guided tour of the Hamilton Park Pacesetter Magnet School. On Saturday evening, there will be a banquet at the Hyatt Hotel in Richardson, where Hamilton

Park graduates Marjorie Bowers Craft and Donald Payton will give speeches.

On Sunday morning, guests will attend Hamilton Park First Baptist Church in Richardson at 10:30 a.m., where Dr. Gregory Foster is the senior pastor.

The Hamilton Park community includes many notables NFL players Andre Tillman, Aundra "Boomy" Thompson, Carl "Spider" Lockhart, Everson Walls, Faddie Tillman, Kevin Murphy, and Terrel Harris, a member of the Miami Heat, the 2012 NBA championship winners.

Attendees will include Hamilton Park High School graduates, Hamilton Park Pacesetter Magnet (HPPM) former students, retired teachers, HPPM current faculty and staff, original ho-meowners from Hamilton Park, Richardson Independent School District board members, Texas Instruments representatives, elected officials and community members.

The ticket price is \$60 and is available with more information on the organization's website: www.hp-schoolwidereunion.org.

The 11th Annual Ethiopian Day includes the first Taste of Ethiopia

The Mutual Assistance Association For The Ethiopian Community (MAAEC, Inc.) in Dallas-Fort Worth and The Ethiopian Day 2012 Organizing Committee have announced the upcoming 11th Anniversary of Ethiopian Day. They also announced the first Taste of Ethiopia. This annual celebration will be held at Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano TX 75074, during the Labor Day weekend on September 1-2 from 11 a.m. to midnight.

"The Ethiopian community is a growing community with an estimated 35,000 residents in the Dallas-Fort Worth and surrounding towns. MAAEC, Inc. is proud to present our first Taste of Ethiopia to DFW to enhance the relationship between the Ethiopian community and the diverse global groups in the area" said Mac Mekonnen, the Executive Director of MAAEC, Inc.

"Come and experience the sights, sounds, and

tastes of Ethiopia along with the famous Ethiopian coffee ceremony. Various local Ethiopian restaurants and caterers will be providing free samples of food and local beverages. Several historical and cultural presentations including cultural dance performances, fashion show, and short films will be part of the program."

MAAEC is a nonprofit 501 C Tax Exempt organization, more info at www.maaecdallas.org.



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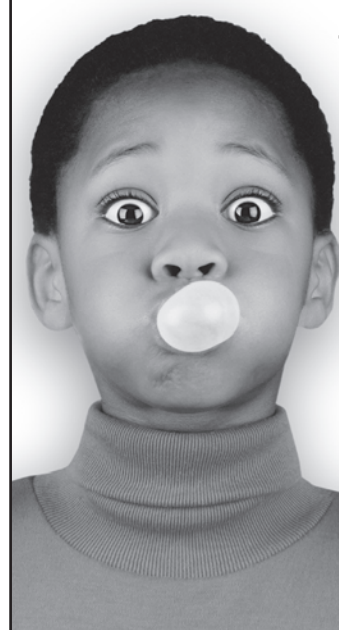
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Collin College receives \$192,859 job-training grant

Collin College has partnered with a manufacturing consortium to provide job training using a \$192,859 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The businesses partnering in the grant include Advantage Machine and Manufacturing, Natural Polymer In-

ternational Corp. and Network Engines Inc.

The grant will be used to custom train 99 new and incumbent workers in manufacturing software packages and processes, as well as project management, and financial accounting. It will help the participating businesses expand, upgrade em-

ployee skills to handle higher production and sales volumes, and increase productivity. Those trained will include technical support specialists, electronic technicians and machinists. Upon completion of training, the workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$25.22.

PUC offers summer energy conservation tips for Texans

The heart of summer in the Lone Star State brings scorching hot temperatures and increased electricity usage, as Texans try to beat the heat by cranking up the air conditioning.

As part of its new Power to Save campaign,



the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) is reminding all residents to do their part to conserve electricity during the dog days of summer. Taking a few simple steps will not only help the state save energy, but will also help consumers re-

See ENERGY, Page 8

North Lake College & Irving ISD Recognize Future Scientists

North Lake College recently held a ceremony to recognize 23 Irving ISD students who participated in TexPrep, a math-based summer enrichment program. The ceremony also celebrated the new partnership between North Lake and the Irving ISD. Through the program, students studied science, technology, engineering, and

math in a college setting. They needed a grade of 85 percent or higher in science, math, and English and they had to submit an essay to take the seven-week program.

"The program's goals are to prepare students for the future," said Lynda Edwards, dean of educational partnership and recruitment, "The emphasis on

STEM is consistent with our emphasis to promote the sciences as a strong component of North Lake College."

At the ceremony, each student talked about how they felt about the program. Irving ISD Superintendent Dr. Dana Bedden also spoke and parents received certificates of support.

COUNCIL, continued from Page 1

LCG filed a 51-page breach of contract lawsuit accusing City Manager Tommy Gonzalez of making "every effort to kill the project" including refusing "to even meet with representatives of LCG to discuss this favorable proposal," they allege he instead hired "trial lawyers."

The lawsuit includes allegations Gonzalez or "someone acting on his behalf" leaked confidential information during Standard and Poor's rating review process. In the end, S&P did not issue a favorable rating on the proposed \$146 million bond package.

The more personal accusations against Gonzalez include the suggestion he runs

his staff "as a petty tyrant" punishing those he perceives as disloyal. The lawsuit alleges he shows favoritism when selecting vendors and hiring staff. They accuse him of coercing LCG into hiring a personal friend facing foreclosure and indicated if they submitted her payment of \$6,000 on the next payment request (draw) the City would process the payment request. According to the lawsuit, these are the funds the friend needed to avoid foreclosure.

LCG alleges Gonzales' lack of support stems from their refusal to make a donation to the private school his children attend. They even suggest this is part of a pattern, referring to alleged pres-

sure he made on a vendor when he was the Lubbock City Manager.

The lawsuit also accuses Mayor Beth Van Duyn of attempting to sabotage the project through her hostile city council resolutions, including 20 separate resolutions on February 28, 2012 for an upcoming March Special Meeting. The lawsuit states that despite the City Council voting down the resolutions, the damage was done.

Mayor Van Duyn dismissed the lawsuit in comments to the Dallas Observer saying, "The city has done everything they were obligated to do. It's nothing but a smear campaign."

CRAFT, continued from Page 2

services industry including the International Food Manufacturers Associations' "Silver Plate Award in 1991", and the Roundtable for Women in Food Services' "Pacesetter Award". She was president of the Texas Association of School Nutrition from 1986-1987.

She was among 25 successful women in Dallas profiled in the Book Women Who Have Won by Moor & Northum and

was listed in The Lives and Times of Dallas Black Women by Sanders and Winegarten.

Craft currently enjoys coaching and empowering individuals to move forward and fulfill his/her God given potential in every area of life: time management, relationships, health, work, finances and spiritual life.

She enjoys aerobic exercise, travel, art and fashion design. She loves her

bible study with Bible Study Fellowship (BSF). She is married to Robert Earl Craft and has one adult daughter, Catrina Marchelle Craft Jenkins and son-in-law Brent Lamar Jenkins.

ROBINSON, continued from Page 2

was between jobs. When the economy took a turn and I was between jobs, I was encouraged to attend the NSN conference. I knew I had the talent and skills, I just needed to get in front of the right people - and I did because of NSN, she said. The conference proved to be right antidote for a struggling economy.

NSN has nearly 2,000 members and is comprised of 18 affiliate chapters - including Dallas - across the country. It is the leading networking organization for African-American

sales professionals in the United States, whose main goal is to provide resources that meet the professional and developmental needs of the African American sales and sales management professionals. More than 40 hiring corporations will participate in the career fair at this year's conference. Organization sponsorship is available for corporations at both the national and affiliate levels.

For information, visit www.salesnetwork.org or call 678-525-4507.



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Rep. Eric Johnson and Rev. Dr. Henry L. Masters co-hosting Community and Police Town Hall Summit

State Representative Eric Johnson (D-Dallas) and the Reverend Dr. Henry L. Masters, Senior Pastor of St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church, will co-host a town hall meeting bringing together representatives of the local community and law enforcement officials. The purpose of the meeting is to fos-



Rep. Eric Johnson

ter a dialogue between the local community and law enforcement in order to reduce violent crime and reverse the uptick in police related shootings in the City of Dallas.

"It is time for those of us who care about our community and who are interested in discussing this issue in an honest and

See JOHNSON, Page 13

Garland hosting Dog-A-Palooza

Dip your paws in the water with your faithful canine companion Saturday, August 18 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Holford Pool. Entry fees are \$5 per dog and \$1 per human, cash only.

Enjoy a ton of dog-riffic activities including: an unleashed fence area with swimming and wading pools, tote bags for the first 300 paid attendees, low cost vaccines and micro-chipping, dog agility play area

with balls and squeaky toys, local rescue groups with their adoptable dogs. Retail vendors will include pet supplies and services, dog bathing and nail trimming. Food and snow cones for people, as well as doggy treats will be available for purchase.

Garland Animal Services will be on hand offering low-cost rabies vaccinations, as well as pet registration for animals belonging to Gar-

land residents. The registration fee is \$5 per year for sterilized animals and \$15 for unsterilized pets. Three year registration is available for \$15 for sterilized animals and \$45 for unsterilized animals.

Garland Pawsibilities assists Garland Animal Services by helping place adoptable pets in forever homes. For more information, email info@garlandpaws.org or visit www.garlandpaws.org.

SMU Group Visits Rwanda to Learn, Give Supplies

A group of 20 SMU students, faculty and staff will be in Rwanda Aug. 3-13 to witness the deep emotional, physical and environmental scars of genocide while contributing to the African country's recovery efforts.

After Rwanda's 1994 civil war, in which as many as a million people were killed in 100 days, "history lives on," says Rick Halperin, director of SMU's Embrey Human Rights Program, the trip's sponsor.

"The ethnic tensions that led to mass slaughter 18 years ago still reside below the surface," Halperin says. "And while there's no imminent danger of such ethnic violence reoccurring, Rwandan society is clearly struggling to heal."

To contribute to the healing process, trip participants will give the Urukundo Home for Children 200 pounds of school supplies donated by the SMU



SMU student (now alumna) Astrud Villareal helps with a construction project at the Urukundo Home for Children during a Embrey Human Rights Program trip to Rwanda. Photo by Sherry Aikman.

community, 250 pounds of books for children and young adults given by Half Price Books, and \$2,000 worth of medical supplies provided in part by Project C.U.R.E., a Denver-based service group for which SMU student Hayley Wagner is a summer intern.

The SMU group also will visit genocide sites and meet with survivors.

For more details about trips sponsored by the Embrey Human Rights Program in SMU's Dedman College of Humanities & Sciences, visit smu.edu/humanrights or call 214-768-8347.

Urban League of Greater Dallas & North Central Texas

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FITNESS, continued from Page 4

fitness experience developed from the mutual passion of Kristin Moses, professional dancer, strength trainer and Pilates master trainer, and Laurie Gatlin, business development and marketing strategist. Moses and Gatlin share more

than 45 years of business and fitness expertise.

"We are excited to expand our business to the North Texas community," owner Laurie Gatlin said. "Our goal is to provide a unique experience that allows the commu-

nity to nourish their bodies in every form – whether it's through cutting-edge fitness methods, a raw juice bar, stylish, athletic clothing or overall wellness."

The studio will offer fitness classes in addition to its

popular raw juice and smoothie bar, a line of signature scent candles and workout apparel. The studio is designed by California-native Carly Bla-ylock and reflects an energized, inspirational environment. Customers will have access to the bodybar patented cardio chair and high-energy Pilates routines featuring the signature "bodybar burst" routines that are not currently practiced anywhere in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The studio is located on the southeast corner of Park and Preston (1900 Preston Rd., Suite 269), about 30 minutes from Downtown Dallas. For more information, visit their website at www.bodybarstudios.com and follow them on Facebook and Twitter.

ENERGY, continued from Page 6

duce their monthly utility bills, keeping more money in their pockets without affecting their comfort.

During the summer, electricity usage is highest between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. The PUC is asking Texans to conserve electricity during these peak hours by delaying heavy electricity consumption activities – such as running the washing machine or dishwasher – until later in the evening.

"Last summer's record heat and drought presented challenges that we had to overcome. Despite 90 days of triple-digit weather in parts of Texas, we avoided critical conditions due to the public's response. This

year, we are again encouraging people to make small changes to their daily routines," said Chairman Donna Nelson of the Public Utility Commission of Texas. "Simple steps such as raising your air conditioner one to two degrees, closing window blinds and turning off lights can make a huge difference in helping us meet our energy conservation goals."

Turning up your air conditioning by only one or two degrees can reduce your energy usage by 16 percent and save you money, Nelson added. Turning the electric water heater down by 10 degrees can reduce energy consumption

by 5 percent. Using a programmable thermostat can make it easier to reduce electricity usage between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

At the centerpiece of the campaign is a new website, www.PowerToSaveTexas.org, which shares information on reducing energy usage and features links to both track your usage and shop for the lowest electricity rates available. Users can even sign up to receive energy alerts via email, to help avoid outages.

The PUC offers the following simple tips for Texans to conserve electricity this summer.

Air Conditioning and Heating

- Ideally, try to set thermostats to 78 degrees or higher, but even 1-2 degrees higher than your usual setting helps reduce electricity usage. Use fans to make rooms feel four to six degrees cooler
- Make sure windows and doors are closed tightly
- Close blinds or drapes on windows that get direct sunlight

Washers, Dryers and Dishwashers

- Only run these appliances when they are fully loaded – and after 7 p.m. – to keep the house cooler and reduce electricity usage during peak times
- Wash laundry with cold water, and don't overfill the dryer
- Dry laundry in back-to-back loads to take advantage of the already-heated dryer
- Make sure the outside dryer air vent is properly sealed
- Use the air-dry setting on dishwashers to prevent heating the kitchen with the heat-dry setting

Lighting and Other Electrical Equipment

- Turn off lights, TVs and other electrical equipment when not in use. Devices that are not running but are plugged in still consume energy, so unplug devices and turn off power strips.
- Set computers and monitors to "sleep" when idle for more than a few minutes.
- Do not run kitchen or bathroom ventilation fans longer than necessary because they replace inside air with warmer air from outside.

More energy-saving tips can be found on the Power to Save website at www.powertosavetexas.org.

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1. APY=Annual Percentage Yield. Rates subject to change. To earn the highest APY, all of the following are required. Otherwise you will earn the lowest APY. (a) Receive monthly direct deposit or use Qwik Pay to make one online bill payment per month. (b) Receive your statements and notices electronically through Online Banking. (c) Use your Absolute Checking Visa Check Card at least 15 times per month for purchases. If requirements are met, rates quoted as of August 1, 2012, were the following: 1% APY on \$0 - \$25,000; 0.35% APY on \$25,000.01 - \$100,000; and 0.35% APY on all deposits over \$100,000. If requirements are NOT met, the rate is 0.01% APY. \$100 minimum opening deposit required. Only one account per primary owner. You must live in the State of Texas to be eligible for this account.

MEMBER FDIC

Economy continues sluggish recovery – but not for Blacks

BY FREDDIE ALLEN

(NNPA) – Economists are breathing a sigh of relief after the Labor Department reported last week that employers added 163,000 workers to their payrolls last month, doubling the 80,000 jobs added in June. More jobs were added in July than in the previous two months combined (69,000 jobs were picked up in May).

it doesn't matter who you ask – the numbers are dismal.

In July, the unemployment rate for Blacks was 14.1 percent, a slight decrease from June's 14.4 percent while the jobless rate for Whites stayed flat at 7.4 percent. Black women fared better in July (12.5 percent) than June (13.7 percent), but nowhere near as well as White women

153,000 workers a month.

"If we were at full employment, we'd be happy with those numbers, because they're enough to keep up with population growth," Shierholz said. But when millions of Americans are out of work or have simply given up hope of ever finding a job and earning a living wage, adding 151,000 jobs a month just won't cut it.

weight is 400 pounds, when that person loses 10 pounds, of course it's an improvement – but they're still grossly overweight. If we begin to celebrate meager gains in the economy, Pitts suggested that we may begin to settle for less: healthier than last month, but only an oreo away from cardiac arrest.

"My fear is that we get to a new normal," said Pitts. A new normal for Blacks would translate into depression-level unemployment rates, overcrowded food banks and half-empty shopping malls.

For economists such as Shierholz, it's ultimately up to the government to step up and boost the economy through practical fiscal policy.

"The economics are clear," Shierholz said. "[The economy] needs more fiscal stimulus and more relief to state and local governments, so that we can stop hemorrhaging jobs at the state and local levels."

Relief to state and local governments will spur job growth in the public sector where Blacks find employment at much higher rates than other groups. In a 2011 research brief on Black workers in the public sector Pitts wrote:

The public sector is the single most important source of employment for African Americans.

During 2008-2010, 21.2% of all Black workers are public employees, compared with 16.3% of non-Black workers. Both before and after the onset of the Great Recession,

African Americans were 30% more likely than other

In July, the unemployment rate for Blacks was 14.1 percent, a slight decrease from June's 14.4 percent while the jobless rate for Whites stayed flat at 7.4 percent. Black women fared better in July (12.5 percent) than June (13.7 percent), but nowhere near as well as White women who, even with a slight increase (7.3 from 7.0 percent), still landed below the national average of 8.3 percent. In comparison, Black men fared far worse than the other groups nearly doubling the national average from July with an increase from 15.1 percent to 15.8 percent. The rate for White men dipped slightly from 7.6 to 7.5 percent.

workers to be employed in the public sector.

For both men and women, the median wage earned by Black employees is significantly higher in the public sector than in other industries.

Prior to the recession, the wage differential between Black and White workers was less in the public sector than in the overall economy.

community gets hit disproportionately hard."

As the economy added 163,000 private sector jobs in July, it shed 9,000 public sector jobs.

Layoffs and deep cuts in public sector spending can lead to an erosion in consumer spending power and with Black buying power expected to top a trillion dollars by 2015, depression-level unemployment and



The unemployment rate still managed to creep up to 8.3 percent from 8.2 percent in June, confounding supporters of President Mitt Obama and rallying the Republicans eager for the showdown in November.

How can the unemployment rate go up as the economy gains jobs? It depends on whom you ask. The Labor Department utilizes two different surveys to measure the employment outlook in the U.S. The government polls business owners to get the jobs number, which economists say is a more accurate gauge of employment trends. The unemployment rate is derived from household surveys.

When it comes to the Black unemployment rate,

who, even with a slight increase (7.3 from 7.0 percent), still landed below the national average of 8.3 percent. In comparison, Black men fared far worse than the other groups nearly doubling the national average from July with an increase from 15.1 percent to 15.8 percent. The rate for White men dipped slightly from 7.6 to 7.5 percent.

Heidi Shierholz, an economist with the Economic Policy Institute, said that July's unemployment numbers indicate that the economy is making "slow and rocky progress." The U.S. economy added 151,000 jobs per month on average for the first seven months of 2012. In 2011, employers hired roughly

"The number of jobs we need to get back to full employment is around 10 million," Shierholz explained. "At that pace, it's going to take so long to get back to anything that looks like health in the labor market. That is just completely unacceptable."

Other economists suggest that the fierce political climate and partisan bickering in Washington has redefined just what we are willing to accept.

Steven Pitts, labor policy specialist at University of California-Berkeley's Labor Center, compared the unhealthy job market to someone who is dangerously overweight. If that person's ideal weight is 185 pounds, but their actual



For decades, jobs in the public sector have been the most stable, highest-paying jobs that Blacks could find. You could raise a family, get health insurance and send your children to school.

"You're not going to get rich on a [public sector salary], but you're going to be okay," said Shierholz. "The loss of state and local jobs means that the Black

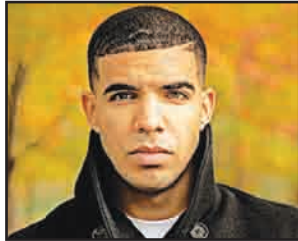
joblessness in the Black community could continue to weigh down a sluggish economic recovery for years to come.

"It's going to be at least another five years maybe more before we get back to something that looks like a healthy labor market," Shierholz said. "It's horribly disappointing and tragic."

NDG Gossip: Rapper Drake going back to school for his Diploma

BY KENDRIA BROWN
NDG INTERN

The Canadian-born rapper, once featured in the television series DeGrassi as the handicap student, Jimmy Brooks, is now back in school for real this time to finish up something long overdue: his high school diploma.



Although the rapper is currently signed to Young

Money as a recording artist, he knows that having a high-school diploma or GED is something that could never be replaced. It's never too late, as Drake will put it- "I'm actually spending my summer graduating high school. That's my main focus after OVO Fest. I only

See **DRAKE**, Page 15

Tamela Mann's Take Me to the King remains #2 for 2nd week

Acclaimed Actress, NAACP Image Award Nominee and Dove Award-Winning Singer Tamela Mann holds #2 position at Gospel radio for a second week with her hit single Take Me To The King, featuring Kirk Franklin.

"I am grateful for the blessings God has given me, and I am humbled by the impact this song is having on people around the country," said Tamela. "It is my passion to put out music that gives people hope and encouragement, even in their darkest hour, and I believe 'Take Me

To The King' is a song that speaks to those struggling and empowers them to stay faithful."

Take Me To The King, penned and produced by Kirk Franklin, is the debut single from Tamela's forthcoming CD, Best Days. The CD hits stores on August 14, 2012 through TillyMann Music Group Inc. and distributed by Central South Distribution. The CD, produced by Myron Butler and Franklin, features 12 songs including stand-out tracks I'll Hold On, Best Days, and Back In The Day Praise.



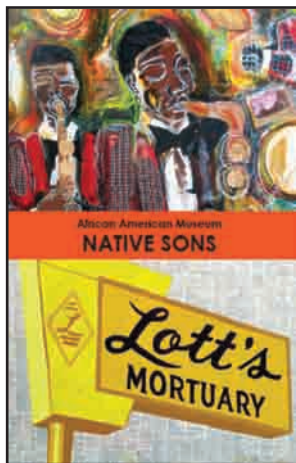
Tamela Mann

Best Days is available for presale on Amazon.com, BestBuy.com, iTunes, Target.com and Walmart.com.

African American Museum to feature exhibition by two Dallas natives

The African American Museum will host, Native Sons, an exhibition of two native Dallasites, Patrick Crouch and John Spriggins, July 27 – September 7, 2012. The soulful, musically inspired works of Patrick Crouch and the colorful, graphic imagery of John Spriggins will be on display at the Museum through September 7, 2012. This unique show is a homecoming of sorts for the two artists who both earned Bachelors of Fine Arts degrees from Texas A&M University-Commerce. An opening reception will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012.

Patrick Crouch's paintings give a nod to the history of collage found in the likes of master artists Jacob Lawrence



and Romare Bearden. Crouch's flat, geometric figures are interwoven with pieces of color fabric that add texture to the energetic, gestural lines of his musical compositions. This passion that

began as a child has evolved into a gratifying livelihood." You can also find Crouch teaching visual arts at Dallas's Skyline High School.

Conversely, John Spriggins offers a brief retrospective of his artwork from the past ten years. Representation from three separate bodies of work gives us a visual sampling of what can be described as Text, Color, and Image. John, too, uses the medium of collage in his artwork boasting bold contrasting colors and found text. "This is a special opportunity for me in that I grew up in the Fair Park area ... it is very exciting", says Spriggins. John is also a professor of Arts and Humanities for both Dallas and Tarrant County Colleges.

North Texas sales of existing homes rise 16 percent

Sales of existing homes in the 29-county North Texas region are up 16 percent so far this year compared to the same period last year. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram re-

ported that real estate agents say that activity has picked up this year as first- or second-time buyers are finding low mortgage rates and plenty of available homes.

The newspaper reported that the median selling price of homes is up 7 percent, making the first half of 2012 the strongest six-month period since the housing crisis.

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DOUGLAS, continued from Page 1

scribed as a good gymnast with great potential, to 2012 London Olympic champion is well documented. But the true political and social lessons to be culled from Gabby's experience, especially the move to West Des Moines, have only been mentioned in fairy tale fashion. The potential that her life template has for resolving residual racism and social division issues has been overlooked.

First, how a white family (Parton) and a black family (Hawkins) came together to discuss the mutual benefits and risks of working together to polish a diamond in the rough (Gabby).

Second, how both families mentored and polished the rough diamond to discover its inherent beauty, character, charisma, strength, tenacity, self-esteem and worth.

Third, how each family opened itself to core growth and expanded mutual understanding by intimately sharing their diversity and gaining a synergistic advantage.

In the end both families validated that by working together they could achieve an objective that would have been statistically impossible to achieve alone.

The net result of the two families' mutual cooperation, jointly sharing responsibility for

a common objective, and utilizing available resources (Coach Liang Chow) was the rough diamond (Gabby) became a crown jewel that not only accomplished her childhood dream but also brought honor and glory to both families and to America.

A yet to be realized benefit is the Parton siblings are going to have an excellent foundation for success in a multi-cultural, multi-racial society because of their participation in the Hawkins-Parton partnership.

It does not take rocket science or genius intelligence to translate the methodology implemented by the Hawkins and Parton families into a universal template that could revive a stagnating America at the federal, state, local and individual level if partisanship, racism, negativism, egotism, personal agendas, and greed could be subordinated to the mutually advantageous "greater good".

Quantifying the lifetime success of the Hawkins-Parton partnership will be an ongoing endeavor, however, the interim data from both Gabby's Olympic gymnastics performance and her post-performance news conferences portend exceptional results.

In her gold medal performances Gabby flew higher, wobbled less on dismounts, and showed incredible athleticism

that made even her difficult routines look easy. She started her rotations by landing the extremely complex Amanar vault — which includes one flip and two and a half twists — and never relinquished the lead. Her role in the Hawkins-Parton partnership taught her to be focused, confident and comfortable with adversity.

At the news conference following the gold medal presentation Gabby's charm and demeanor had the international cadre of reporters spell bound. Her responses to two of the questions illustrate this.

When asked if she watched the scoreboard at any time prior to the final results being revealed Gabby flashed her megawatt smile for a few seconds before responding.

She then admitted she couldn't resist peeping. She stated in a moderately apologetic tone, "A few times even though Coach Chow advised me not to. After the vault." She then paused and began to giggle sheepishly while adding, "And bars. And beam. And floor." Then she finished the response by explaining, "I'm sorry, I had to see".

The entire room erupted in laughter—entranced by her youthful vulnerability—after the reporter chided, "You broke Coach's rule?" They were putty

in her hands for the remainder of the press conference.

"What about the pressure? Do you embrace the pressure", a reporter asked?

"Pressure is not bad", she said. "Pressure means Game On. Can you do it or not. Pressure makes you do greater and better

things. It hypes me up. It pumps me up. It makes me want to stick every landing and make sharp movements to get as many tenths as possible. Pressure helps motivate me."

"It was just an amazing feeling," she said, giggling. "I was just like, believe, don't fear,

believe. I just wanted to seize the moment. You have to learn how to enjoy the moment."

America, it's time to seize the moment by embracing the Hawkins-Parton philosophy.

Comments or opinions may be sent to James W. Breedlove at: www.truthclinic.com.



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Don't miss VISIONS: The Women's Expo at Market Hall during August 25-26!

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beauty, nutrition, exercise, professional organization tips, entertainment, cooking and a chance to meet famous chefs. VISIONS is the premier women's expo in the Southwest.

This year's guest speaker Victoria Snee shares her best secrets in her new book "The Beauty Buzz." She interviewed celebrities and their make-up artists to find out what products stars like Angelina Jolie and Jennifer Lopez use to stay beautiful. Have fun while learning ways to make your life even better!

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Community Calendar

Visit www.NorthDallasGazette.com and click on Community Calendar for more events!

Through August 12
Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus: Fully Charged at American Airlines Center. Ticket are \$15 - \$100 at www.Ticketmaster.com

Through September 16
Sharky Sundays- Planet Shark: Predator or Prey exhibiton at Musuem of Nature & Science, 3535 Grand Ave; Cost \$7-\$10; Info: 214.428.5555

Through September 23
Sandy Lake Amusement Park in Carrollton. Admission is \$2 and children under 3 years old is free (see family coupon for free admission online) and coupons for rides are \$.50. Info: sandy-lake.com

Through September 9
The Magic School Bus Kicks up a Storm at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park at 10:30 a.m.; Book readings are on June 23 (Ms. Fizzle appearance), September 1, and September 8; Admission is \$7-\$10; Info: 214.428.5555

Through September 14
Shark Feedings on Wednesday and Friday at 11 a.m. at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428.5555

Through September 15
Shark Dissections on Saturdays at 1 p.m. at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428.5555

Through November 27
Family Movie Time at Irving Public Library, 801 W Irving Blvd at 4:30 p.m.; free; Info: 972.721.2628

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.fissihai5@gmail.com

August 10
Cover Down performing at Firewheel Town Center in Garland. They are an energetic dance party band from

the Dallas area playing the best hits from the 70s to today. Info: Facebook.com/FirewheelTownCenter

August 11-12
Discovery Days: Discover Going Green at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428.5555

August 12
Mindless Behavior #1 Girl Tour at the Verizon Theater in Grand Prairie at 7p.m.; Also featuring Lil Twist & Jacob Latimore; Info: <http://www.axs.com/dallas-tx/music-events/mindless-behavior-2012-august12-3634-3.html>

August 19
Shark Sunday: Sharks with guest Kelly Morales of Sea-World Antonio at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428.5555

August 25
Enrique Iglesias, Jennifer Lopez & Wisin & Yandel at the American Airlines Center at 7:30 p.m.; Tickets \$26-\$196; Info: www.ticketmaster.com

Urban League of Greater Dallas 45th Anniversary GALA at the Hilton Anatole at 7 p.m. 214-915-4632

September 2
Shark Sunday: Shark Celebration at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428.5555

September 15
B.L.A.S.T. I Workshop; Info: www.lifelong.tcu.edu 817-257-7132

September 16
Shark Sunday: Award-winning shark conservationist David McGuire at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428.5555

IMAX: Whales at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428.5555

IMAX: Flying Monsters at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428.5555

September 20
Beer & Bones: Science in the City at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park at 7-10 p.m.; 18+; Info: 214.428.5555

September 19
The Family Place Trailblazer Awards Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the Omni Hotel, 555 S. Lamar, Dallas. Tickets are \$125. Sponsorships available, info @ www.familyplace.org

September 22
B.L.A.S.T. II Workshop; Info: www.lifelong.tcu.edu 817-257-7132

September 25
The King's Men at Verizon Theatre in Grand Prairie at 7 p.m.; Tickets range \$30-\$100; Info: 972-854-5050

September 29
The Fundamentals of Etiquette & Social Protocol for Grades 5-8 at TCU; Info: www.lifelong.tcu.edu

October 2-21
Dallas Summer Musicals bring THE ADDAMS

FAMILY to the Music Hall at Fair Park; Tickets \$15-\$75; Info: 214.413.3940

November 10
Pass the Butter Please at TCU; Info: www.lifelong.tcu.edu 817-257-7132

November 16
Kevin Hart Let Me Explain at the American Airlines Center at 8 p.m.; Tickets: \$52-\$122; Info: www.ticketmaster.com

October 12
Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce 86th Annual Banquet Dinner at 7 p.m. at the Convention Center, Ballroom A Info: 214-421-5200

October 27
The fourth annual **McKinney ISD Holiday Bazaar** will be held inside McKinney Boyd High School - 600 North Lake Forest Drive - in McKinney.

October 29
Justin Bieber at American Airlines Center at 7 p.m.; Info: 214-221-8326

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EXPO, continued from Page 1

about trends and products created especially for non-chemically treated hair and designed for all types of curly hair. The expo is Saturday August 25, 2012, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Addison Conference Centre, Addison, TX. Admission to the expo is \$10.

The expo will feature workshops by top industry leaders, demonstrations, vendors and much more. Speakers include, Dr. Nina Ellis-Hervey, aka BeautifulBrwnBabyDol, Karen Wilson Top Natural Hair Stylist, Kelly Foreman, Creator and CEO of Mop-Top Hair Products, Certified Nutritionist Betty Murray, and CEO and Creator of Koils by Nature, Pamela Jenkins.

There is a huge increase in the number of African-American women that are refusing to yield to the pressure of living in a straight hair society and are instead embracing their natural hair texture," said Audra Cooper, Owner of Naturally Divine Beauty and the Expo Host.

The move away from chemicals is showing up in declining product sales. While relaxers have been at the heart of the black hair care industry for decades,

2007 marked the beginning of a decline in sales of relaxer kits at mass market stores, which is projected to continue during the next coming years.

But as black women frustrated with chemical damage reconsider straightening, black-owned mini-companies have emerged as the go-to sources of organic products, capitalizing on first-hand knowledge of ethnic hair to return the market to its roots.

In June, Chicago market research firm Mintel valued the black-hair care products market at \$1.8-billion.

The Texture Revolution expo will feature local vendors, product give-aways, educational seminars and more.

"This seminar is the answer for anyone with questions about curly hair. I want to educate people about their hair so that they are comfortable and can make the choice to go and stay natural", said Cooper.

For more information log on to www.naturallydivinebeauty.com/events or call Cooper at 972-880-4020 cell or e-mail audra@naturallydivinebeauty.com.

JOHNSON, continued from Page 7

respectful way to come together, get educated on the facts, and then take the appropriate action to help make our community safer," said Representative Johnson.

Joining Representative Johnson and Rev. Dr. Masters will be Dallas Police Chief David Brown, Dallas City Attorney Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., and representatives from the community who will address the concerns of homeowners, business owners, and our youth.

"The purpose of this meeting is not to point fingers or engage in more politics. Hopefully, our panelists will educate us all about the challenges they face as law enforcement,

residents, and business owners in neighborhoods struggling with violent crime so that, working together, we can begin crafting solutions," added Representative Johnson.

The meeting will take place at the historic St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church, located in House District 100, on Saturday, August 25. The two-hour meeting is scheduled to begin at 10 am and will include remarks from Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings. The panel, which will be moderated by Representative Johnson, will address a number of topics with questions from the audience to follow.



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August 15

Join us for Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. and come back at 7 p.m. for Prayer, Praise and Songs as we worship and praise God.

August 16, 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

August 12, 9:35 a.m.

You’re invited to our Sunday School at 9:35 a.m. and to stay for Morning Worship at 11 a.m. as we worship and praise God.

August 15, 7 p.m.

Come to our Wednesday’s Bible Study to learn more about God’s Word and help us to praise and worship His holy name.

Also bring your children to our Wednesday Night Children Program, two things are incorporated, children

learn and they play.

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

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

August 11, 11 a.m.

Ladies you are invited to our Women of Wisdom meeting as we study and discuss God’s Word. Call the church for details.

August 12

Join us in worship at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. as we praise and worship God’s to the utmost.

August 15, 7:30 p.m.

Come to Bible Study as we go further in and deeper down into God’s Word and we give Him all of the glory and praise.

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

DAYSTAR DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES

August, 2012 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
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Richardson, TX 75080
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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

August 12, 9:30 a.m.

Join us and experience the joy of praising and worshipping God to the fullest at Story Elementary School, 1550 Edelweiss Drive, Allen, TX. We will praise God for His blessings.

August 15, 7 p.m.

You’re invited to our Wednesday Night Live in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall on Belmont Drive, with old school prayer and testimony. Also, come to our Corporate Prayer and our Kidz Zone (an environment to equip children to grow and to show God’s love.)

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”

August 19
Join us at our Back-2-School Rally.

August 26

You’re invited to First Church’s Homecoming.

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

NORTH DALLAS ROCKBRIDGE CHURCH

August 12

Join us in Prayer with Pastor at 8:30 a.m. and stay for Worship Celebration at 10 a.m. 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

August 12, 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.

August 16, 7 p.m.

You’re invited to our Wellness Ministry with Tamara Haskins, Director and Fitness Instructor. Call for details.

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

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

August 10-12

You invited to join us in our Annual Marriage Enrichment Seminar. For details email
jeanetta.carter@yahoo.com, or
willierivers@tx.it.com, or
mhrivers@tx.rr.com

August 12, 8 a.m. And 11 a.m.

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

August 15, 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

August 12, 7:30 a.m.

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

August 13, 7 p.m.

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

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S. Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.ibocjoy.org

VICTORY BIBLE CHURCH INTERNATIONAL, (VBCI DALLAS)

August 12

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Suite 1007
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WORD OF LIFE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Early Prayer

Join us in prayer early in the morning at 5 a.m. on Monday – Thursday at 1-661-673-8600, Code # 142219 and please put your phone on mute. Prayer will change people, things and situations.

August 14, 7:00 p.m.

You’re invited to Kingdom Empowerment Night; Prophet/Pastor Dr. Gregory Voss will bring the Word of God.

August 16, 7:00 p.m.

Join us in our Gift Stirring Service as Saints of God bring God’s Word and reveal their God-given talents.

August 19, 11 a.m.

You’re invited to a Youth Day and Back-2-School Rally. Women of Worship will minister in a dance. Word of Life Youth Choir will minister in a song; guest Recording Artist Jadelin Calloway will perform and our guest speaker will be Sis. Jennifer Walton from Meriville, Indiana.

Dr. Gregory E. Voss,
Senior Pastor
2765 Trinity Mills Road
Building 300
Carrollton, TX 75006
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1550 Edelweiss Drive
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9:30 AM

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"One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." **Proverbs 11:24-25.**

Word of Life Church of God in Christ in Carrollton, Texas where Dr. Gregory Voss is a Prophet/Pastor has a motto that is printed in their bulletins, on the church bus and inside the sanctuary, "Blessed to be a Blessing;" and one of my favorite scriptures that I read daily states, "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." **Hebrews 13:15-16.**

One of the reasons God entrusts money to us is to bless other Christians by helping to meet their needs. God uses the transfer of

money within the Body of Christ to build unity among Christians. Sometimes we withhold money that God has designated for someone else that He desires to bless through us, but His will cannot be accomplished through us if we are disobedient.

It is alleged that a business owner said that God told him to give up a company bonus one year. God directed him to share his year-end bonus with a certain employee to show his appreciation for him. The business owner wrestled with God for three full days before obeying the Lord on the matter. When he finally met with the employee to give him his check, the man said he had been praying about a financial need he had three days earlier. He had decided to borrow the money to meet his need. The amount of money he borrowed was the exact amount the business owner gave him.

God had already planned to provide for the employee through the business owner, but because he was hesitant, he almost

missed the opportunity to be an instrument of God in this man's life. Even so, he could have prevented the man from having to borrow money. It was an important lesson for the business owner.

How many people do we let down because we feel that the "harvest" that God has provided us with is all ours? In our society, the pressure is always on to move up the ladder of material accumulation. Jesus warned us about this. If our focus is on accumulation, we will not look for opportunities to be God's vessels of financial blessing to others. Ask the Lord to help you to have an open hand when it comes to blessing others.

The story is told of a man from London who said, "I was walking passed the Stock Exchange in the City of London when I overtook an Orthodox Jew with his black hat and long gray beard. As one does, I put my arm on his shoulder and gave him the blessing which God gave to Moses to give to Aaron with which he was to bless the Jews.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace." "The Jewish gentleman turned round with a smile." God said to Abraham, "Those who bless the Jews will be themselves blessed." "You will be blessed!"

"I know, I said, "Ten years ago, I blessed a Jew at Kennedy Airport and I was upgraded to Club class, and this happened again on my next two transatlantic flights. Every time I blessed a Jew I was upgraded!"

"You're the man, you're the man!" my friend said, "I read that article in the Jewish Chronicle and was just going to tell you the story." "We ended up embracing each other on the pavement, no doubt to the astonishment of passing stockbrokers and bankers!"

It has been said, "Unless we pass on what we receive, we will lose it." Virtue is always manifested through blessings that you have passed on. Nothing will be



Ms. Marian Angela Fielding received her Doctor of Jurisprudence from Stanford Law School in California on June 16, 2012. She is a graduate of Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Magnet Center and Florida A & M University (FAMU). She is now studying to pass the bar exam. Marian parents are David and Rose Demus Fielding

of any importance to you except what you pass on to others. When you help others, you are obeying God and it's a win win situation. The Bible states that only what you do for Christ will last.

Jim Washington and Stan Levenson to be honored at Urban League Gala

The honorees at the 2012 Urban League Annual Gala on Saturday, August 25 include two long-time media and public relation executives in Dallas – Jim Washington and Stan Levenson.

Jim Washington is the CEO of the Dallas Weekly newspaper President and General Manager of the Atlanta Voice, the largest audited African American newsweekly in Atlanta, Georgia. He will receive the Whitney M. Young, Jr. award in honor of his continued support of the Urban League's mission and objectives. Washington's support of the Dallas community includes service



Jim Washington Stan Levenson

on the Dallas Black Dance Theater, Dallas Theater Center and the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce. Also, Washington has worked assisted the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce and the Dallas Arboretum.

Levenson will receive the President's Award for his advocacy and leadership in community service and the arts in Dallas. He has worked as a public relations professional for over 45 years, including the launch of his first firm, Stan Levenson Associates, in 1966. He later co-founded Levenson & Hill with his wife Barbara, and colleague Bill Hill. Over the years their company has grown and is now known as Levenson & Brinker Public Relations.

Meanwhile, Levenson's focus has also remained on community service, the arts and support for higher education. A short list of a few of his achievements include: chairman of the Greater Dallas Chamber's marketing committee, directing civic initiatives such as the Mayor's Task Force on Marketing Southern Dallas; and chairing the grand opening of the African American Museum at Fair Park.

Washington and Levenson will be honored with community activist Edna Pemberton at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 Stemmons Freeway at 7:00 p.m. For ticket information call 214-915-4600.

DRAKE, continued from Page 10

have one credit left, and I'm really excited about that".

So as gangster and street rapper's lyrics may sound, he does genuinely believe in completing his education, even if it is just a high school diploma.

Having it all means much more than the women, money,

fame, fans, and cars for the rapper. Obtaining his GED may be a personal thing for him, but he is sure to inspire his peers who are too high-school dropouts and the other generations to come. Possibly college in the near future?

Whatever Drake decides, it is nice to know that the rapper does think about his education and will invest the time to finish- even it does not mean a difference in money for the rapper. We can see how much an education really means to him.

He is still doing his music thing and has just put out a new single with the late Aaliyah, titled, "Enough Said". Music and education is not a bad combination at all. In fact, that's what's up. Go here to listen: youtube.com/watch?v=4HNgVmHSuVM

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NDG Bookshelf



BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER
NDG CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You've got a secret.

The secret is that you're excited about this school year. You plan on raising your hand a lot because you'll know the answers to the teacher's questions. You'll keep your homework neat, you'll stand up for kids who are bullied, you won't talk out of turn, and you won't be a disruption.

Most of all, you plan to really impress everybody with

NDG Bookshelf: Two books to answer the what and why for kids

your superior intelligence because, well, this is going to be the best year ever and they need to know you're a smart kid. And there's no better way to get smart(er) than by reading *Time for Kids Big Book of What?* and *Sports Illustrated Kids Big Book of Why*.

All school year, you cram your brain with math, science, history, and other subjects. But do you know which creature is the deadliest on earth? Do you know which planet rotates on its side? Read these books and you will.

With the "Big Book of What?" and the "Big Book of Why," in fact, you'll know where the largest meteorite landed, where the hottest tem-



perature was, the difference between a fruit and a vegetable and how long you could survive without either one, and how long you could survive in space without protection.

You'll learn which muscle in your body is the strongest (and a few runners-up), what it means to be double-jointed, and why it's not always a good idea to do a lot of stretching before

you exercise or play sports.

With these books in your hands, you can impress your teacher by knowing what an orrery is. You could impress yo-

ur mother with your knowledge of nutrition, cooking, eating bugs and worms and not eating things that are poisonous. You'll amaze yo-ur friends by knowing what Olympics sports are men-only, how to play Mancala, and when it's National Magic Week. You can impress your coach by knowing why they call that basketball team "The Lakers," why tennis balls

are furry, why b-ballers wear arm sleeves, and why they call baseball's warm-up area a "bullpen."

And then you can ask him to take you Zorbing.

That is, if you're not busy reading these two awesome books...

As a parent, you want your children to be good scholars. You want them to learn, which is what will happen when you hand them *Time for Kids Big Book of What?* and *Sports Illustrated Kids Big Book of Why*. With these books, they'll learn a lot. They just won't feel like they are.

Delving into subjects that kids want to know, both these books give young readers just

enough information to whet their appetites, in small bites that won't cause them to lose interest. There's a wide variety of topics and plenty of pictures to keep even the most non-bookish children reading, all in a kid-friendly, parent-happy format.

So before the summer ends, give your 7-to-12-year-old a school jump-stat with *Time for Kids Big Book of What?* and *Sports Illustrated Kids Big Book of Why*.

Just don't tell them they're learning. That's your little secret.

Time for Kids Big Book of What? (Time Home Entertainment, \$19.95 192 pages) and *Sports Illustrated Kids Big Book of Why* (Time Home Entertainment, \$17.95 128 pages)

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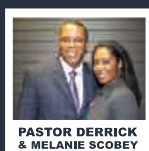
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Pastor



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and Sustaining the Saved*

Worship Times: 8 and 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Mid-week: Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Service: Every 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sunday at
10:45 a.m.

AWANA: Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Contact Information: 972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org



Becoming Salt and Light

North Dallas Community Bible Fellowship

Dr. Leslie W. Smith, Senior Pastor

1010 & 1020 S. Sherman Street Richardson, TX 75081
972-437-3493 www.ndcbf.org

Sunday Worship Services
7:45am 9:30am 11:30am



Charles S. Wattley
Senior Pastor

SUNDAY

Education Ministries
9:30 a.m.

Worship Celebration
10:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Family Ministries
7:00 p.m.

*Friendly Fellowship
With a Family Focus!*

SAINT MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
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