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New UTD center helps veterans adjust, succeed at university

Young veterans from Iraq or Afghanistan pursuing degrees from UT Dallas often arrive on campus battle-weary and with markedly different needs than typical college students.

They've served back-to-back tours of duty, and



Ken Saunders is assistant director of the new Veteran Services Center.

they worry about potential redeployment. Short furloughs give them little time to deal with marriage and family issues. And after serving in the military for four or five years straight out of high school, their academic skills may be rusty.

"Our job is to relieve some of that," says Ken Saunders, assistant director of the new Veteran Services Center at UT Dallas. "We're doing everything as a University to make them successful."

See **VETERANS**, Page 8

COVER STORY

22 DISD schools offer free EIF college readiness and access program



Mayor Mike Rawlings with Adan Gonzales, a former EIF student who is now at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

See **COLLEGE**, Page 9

Doctor advises states should expand access to dental care for poor children

BY DR. DAVID SATCHER (America's Wire Writers Group) As states wrangle with whether or not to pursue Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, they should look carefully at the serious implications for oral health, especially for poor and minority

children if Medicaid services are not expanded as originally envisioned under the ACA.

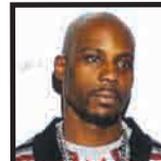
Twelve years ago, as Surgeon General of the United States, I issued a report calling attention to the profound disparities in oral health care across the coun-

try. I called it a silent epidemic. Twelve years later, some progress has been made, and it is no longer silent - but for many across the country, it is still a serious epidemic causing pain and harm to millions of poor and minority children.

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Tweet and Greet details for free tickets to 2012 State Fair Classic
Twitter.com/NDGEditor

DMX feud with Drake



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

COMMENTARY

The financial exploitation of America's senior citizens

BY CHARLENE CROWELL Most American families expect to enjoy retirement after lengthy years of working and raising children. Unfortunately for millions of older Americans, the proverbial 'golden years' have become instead a series of stressful and unexpected financial challenges. Even worse, some unscrupulous businesses target these older Americans for financial exploitation.

Among the worst financial abusers are those who defraud Medicare and Medicaid. Each year an estimated \$38.2 million of taxpayer funds intended to benefit the health care needs of seniors and poor people is fraudulently claimed. Unfortunately, there are many more financial abuses.

Recently the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) highlighted

See **CITIZENS** Page 3

DISD dance faculty member nominated by Dallas Black Dance Theatre wins national award

Bridget Moore, a dance faculty member at Dallas Independent School District's Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts was named a 2012 Choreography Fellow by the Princess Grace Foundation. Moore was commissioned to create a new work and nominated for the cov-



Bridget Moore

eted award by Ann Williams, Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Founder and Artistic Director.

"I had spoken with Bridget last year about a commissioned work for DBDT," said Williams. "She seemed like a perfect fit, as an emerging artist, for this award."

The Princess Grace Foundation, celebrating its 30th

anniversary in the U.S., grants only 25 gifts to emerging talent in the disciplines of theater, dance, choreography and film each year. Moore will receive her award at an exclusive awards ceremony and gala October 22, 2012 in New York.

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People In The News...



Mark Hayes



Doug Williams



Mikki Taylor

See Page 2

Mark Hayes

SIMPLY GRACE, a non-profit recovery residence, announced its first annual "Simply FORE Grace Golf Tournament" charity event. The tournament is September 25 at Bear Creek Golf Club in Dallas, TX. All proceeds benefit the 501c3 non-profit dedicated to providing a safe, supportive and structured living environment for people who have completed an inpatient alcohol and drug treatment or are attending an outpatient treatment program.

Local news anchor Mark Hayes from *NBC 5 Today* is the host and emcee for the tournament, which is open to both men and women golfers. The format is a 4-

person scramble with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. with the awards luncheon to follow at 1:30 p.m.

To date, the Dallas Cowboys, Uptown Consignment, Haynes Transcription, Bagadocious, and Mini Cooper have contributed products and services for event prizes and contests.

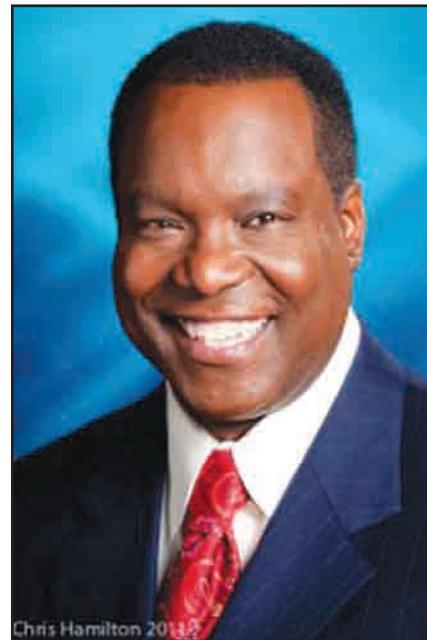
Tournament organizers stated that corporate sponsorships and donations are still welcome. For information, contact Anika Cooper at 214-794-1431 or anika@simplygracehouse.com.

Player registration is \$125 and includes 18 holes of golf, lunch, and gift bag. Groups of four may register for \$400. Online registration

and more information are available at www.tournevents.com/simplygrace.

SIMPLY GRACE is a recovery residence providing a safe, supportive and structured living environment and is designed for people who have completed an inpatient alcohol and drug treatment or are attending an outpatient treatment program. Simply Grace is 501(c)3 and all donations are tax deductible. For more information, visit <http://www.simplygracehouse.com>.

When the consequences that drive an addict to treatment seem to pass, they often feel they are out of the "critical" stage. The staff at Simply Grace knows from experience this is not the case. They work to provide



Chris Hamilton 2011

the guidance, assistance and motivation residents need to achieve long-term recovery.

They have almost 20 years of personal experience with the issues and challenges faced during the "sober living" stage of recovery. Simply Grace specializes in helping residents develop a burning desire to continue treatment and /or long-term recovery.

They accept the disease concept of addiction along with the recovery process set forth in Alcoholics Anonymous, Cocaine

and Narcotics Anonymous. Full participation in meetings is required and they encourage exposure to various programs so residents can choose the best foundation for their on-going recovery.

Mark Hayes co-anchors NBC 5 Today weekday mornings from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. Mark joined the NBC 5 team in May of 2012.

Prior to moving to North Texas, Mark was at FOX 5 Atlanta as the "Good Day Atlanta" co-host in April 2002.

Mark's on-air career began in Albany, Georgia at WALB-TV. He has also worked at WOKR in Rochester, New York, KMGH-TV in Denver, WBAL in Baltimore, and anchored in Detroit at WXYZ-TV.

Doug Williams

Dr. Fitz Hill, President of Arkansas Baptist College (ABC), who served as assistant head football coach for the Arkansas Razorbacks before being selected as the first African American to lead the San Jose State football program, has been a passionate longtime scholar when it comes to the challenges faced by African Americans in the college coaching profession. After years of research, he has now written the most comprehensive book ever on the subject - *Crackback! How College Football Blindsides the Hopes of Black Coaches*.

Doug Williams, who as the Washington Redskins' quarterback was named MVP of Super Bowl XXII, wrote the foreword for *Crackback!* Williams currently serves as head football coach at Grambling State University.

Seeking a diverse perspective on race-related issues for African American football coaches, Dr. Hill chose to co-author his book with Mark Purdy, an award-winning sports columnist for the *San Jose Mercury News*. Purdy frequently covered Hill when he was employed as San Jose State's head football coach

from 2001-04. On multiple occasions, Purdy has been named to the annual Associated Press Sports Editors list of America's Top 10 sports columnists and was also cited by the *Wall Street Journal* for writing one of the country's Top 10 sports columns.

Hill has spent the last 24 years studying race-related barriers for African American football coaches employed at predominantly white colleges and universities. His groundbreaking exploration of the issue, including his own doctoral dissertation, has been featured on such television shows as ABC's "Nightline," "HBO Real Sports" and numerous ESPN programs. As a

nationally consulted expert, Dr. Hill was summoned to testify before a U.S. congressional committee about this topic while writing *Crackback!*

Hill is scheduled to be featured on ESPN "Outside the Lines" in September to discuss the most recent employment developments of Alcorn State University. Alcorn is

a member of the historically black Southwestern Athletic

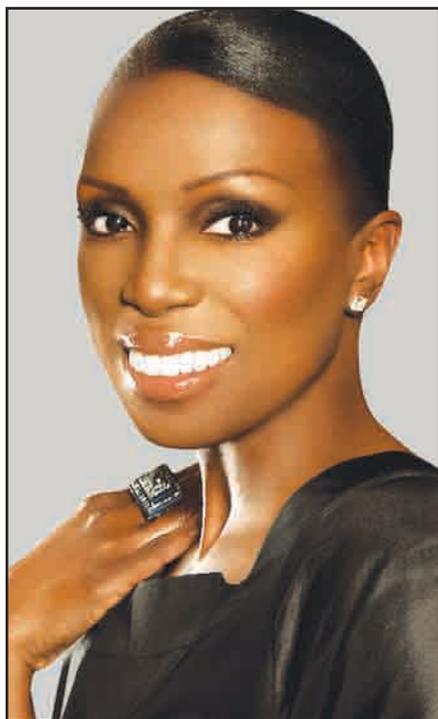


Conference (SWAC) and recently gained wide notoriety

for the hiring of the first white head football coach in the history of the school and football conference. Hill discusses how this hire could potentially be an additional barrier for African American football coaches seeking head coaching positions. *New York Times* sports columnist, Bill Rhoden also recently wrote about *Crackback!* while attempting to explain the racial phenomena of Alcorn's decision.

For more information on *Crackback!*, visit www.crackback.us.

Mikki Taylor



Mikki Taylor, *Essence Magazine's* Editor-at-Large, will host the Humanitarian Hands Charities "What if...?" gala event Oct. 13 at the Hotel Intercontinental Dallas, 15201 Dallas Parkway in Addison. The gala is the premier fundraising and awareness event for the organization, which sheds

light on the issues surrounding Ugandan orphaned youth.

The event kicks off at 5:30 p.m. with a V.I.P. reception and cocktail hour, followed by a dinner and silent auction featuring art work from Africa. Entertainment will be provided by Fort Worth's award winning jazz artist Tatiana Mayfield & Band.

Proceeds from the fundraising gala event will benefit the Ray of Hope Children's Home, which will be located in Fort Portal, Uganda. The Home will house a dormitory, library, clinic, school, recreational grounds, and career center for or-

phaned youth and the community.

Before the evening is over, two Ugandan students will be honored with scholarships for outstanding academic achievement.

Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased online at www.hhcharities.org or you can mail a check to the Humanitarian Hands Charities office, 9304 Forest Lane Suite South 125, Dallas, Texas 75243. Questions can be directed to (972) 331-6098. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

To learn more about the Ray of Hope Children's Home, visit www.hhcharities.org.

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NAACP opposes efforts to undermine Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) was created by the 2010 Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act as an independent agency to promote education, fairness and transparency for mortgages, credit cards and other consumer financial products and services. The CFPB is intended to help protect families from the predatory and abusive lending practices that ignited the economic crisis that has plagued our nation since 2007.

Sadly, since its inception in July 2011, the CFPB has been attacked by those in Congress who do not see a need to educate or protect consumers from reckless or abusive lenders. The latest salvo in these attacks is H.R. 6139, the mis-named "Consumer Credit Access, Inno-

vation and Modernization Act". This legislation would move oversight of all non-bank financial servicers, including payday lenders, from the CFPB to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), which has stated for the record that it does not feel it should regulate non-bank lenders. This bill also preempts state and local laws (such as those in Arizona, Ohio and Montana) which are intended to protect consumers and put limits on the amount of interest which can be charged. Finally, H.R. 6139 would also repeal a key protection of the federal Truth in Lending Act, in that it states that no lender would be required to quote the annual percentage rate (APR) for any loan of one year or less in term, thereby denying consumers essential cost comparison in-

See BETTER, Page 15

Chicago teacher strike reveals a major education evaluation flaw

BY JAMES BREEDLOVE,
NDG CONTRIBUTOR

The week-long controversial and confusing strike of the Chicago public school teachers has focused attention on the difficulty implementing viable education reform both in Chicago and across the nation.

While pay, benefits and job security are part of the Chicago stalemate the key issue of the strike is the proposed evaluation of teacher quality under a new system based in part on computer generated student growth projections extrapolated from actual student performance on standardized tests.

The teacher's union is standing firm against the perceived punitive evaluation system. Union president Karen Lewis in her press release announcing the strike called the new

evaluation procedures 'unacceptable', saying, "This is no way to measure the effectiveness of an educator. Further there are too many factors beyond our control which impact how well some students perform on standardized tests such as poverty, exposure to violence, homelessness, hunger and other social issues beyond our control."

And what is the real result of the testing? School superintendents and administrators can let teachers keep jobs that no longer challenge them to create valuable lifelong learning experiences for students but only check their ability to teach to a standardized test?

Professor Kevin Kumashiro of the University of Illinois raised questions about the scope and validity of the proposed evaluation

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to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) a wide range of products that are dangerous for older Americans including payday loans, overdraft fees, debt settlement schemes and more.

CRL advised, "More than 13 million older adults are considered economically insecure, living on \$21,800 a year or less. Senior women in particular face diminished incomes because of lower lifetime earnings and therefore lower Social Security and pension benefits."

According to a 2011 MetLife Study on Elder Financial Abuse, each year at least \$2.9 billion is stolen from older Americans. Most victims were ages 80-89, lived alone and required some level of help with either health care and/or home maintenance.

Among older African-Americans, the findings are even harsher. After years of working at lower earnings, life-time sav-

ings are often smaller, Social Security benefits are lower and family homes often located in neighborhoods have lower property values. With fewer financial resources, debt becomes more difficult to handle and resolve.

Today, the average credit card debt for older American households is slightly more than \$9,000, the highest average balance of any age group. As debt diminishes the financial resources of older Americans, people over 55 now comprise the fastest-growing segment seeking bankruptcy protection.

Although federal law protects benefits like Social Security from garnishment by debt collectors, this provision does not include defaulted student loans. Retirees receiving more than \$750 each month can face up to 15 percent reduction in benefits on defaulted loans.

For payday and overdraft loans, banks can and

do seize portions of Social Security benefits to pay related fees. The risk of incurring multiple fees within a single billing cycle leaves overdraft and bank payday borrowers the most vulnerable to escape debt traps and the loss of several hundred dollars – in costs.

Earlier CRL research found that nearly a quarter of all bank payday loan borrowers were Social Security recipients. Moreover, these customers were 1.6 times more likely to have used a bank payday loan than other bank customers.

For prepaid cards, the U.S. Treasury Department has banned deposits to prepaid cards that have a line of credit or loan agreement that triggers automatic repayment with the next deposit.

CRL also advised CFPB that the standards for prepaid cards should also benefit other consumer financial products to stem elder financial abuses.

"The federal government should ensure that federal benefits are protected from debt collection even when the creditor is the customer's bank, and it should protect direct deposits of federal benefits from high-cost loans made through traditional checking accounts, as it has protected these funds on prepaid cards."

In future commentaries, other elder financial abuses wrought by debt buying, debt settlement and reverse mortgages will be shared. In the meantime, now would be a timely moment to check on older loved ones and offer assistance to help them preserve all of the benefits they worked a lifetime to earn.

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

CPR Training

It can happen anywhere – someone suddenly falls into cardiac arrest. CPR training prepares you to step in possibly save someone. You should be trained every two years. It's one class that teaches you how to recognize a life-threatening emergency, use a defibrillator, and relieve choking in a safe and timely way.

Sandra Dantzler is a nurse coordinator for FedStrive at



the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

“Are they responsive? If not, someone needs to call 9-

1-1. When that's under control, you come back to the person and you start compressions. And if that's all you do, you're going to help save their life.” (13 seconds)

Cardiac arrest can occur as a result of heart failure, electronic shock, or drowning.

You can learn more about CPR training from the American Heart Association and the Red Cross.

White House Chef appearing at SMU

Recipes, anecdotes and samples of White House kitchen fare are on the menu when Secrets from the White House Kitchens author John R. Hanny III speaks from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Oct. 16, at SMU. The evening includes a lecture, signed book and hors d'oeuvres at the Mack Ballroom in Umphrey Lee Center on the SMU campus.

As chef and restaurateur, Hanny has served as consultant and visiting chef to the Kennedy through Obama White Houses. In the book, he shares recipes ranging from President Kennedy's cod chowder to President Obama's favorite chili, as well as anecdotes of state and family dinners.

A master chef by age 20, the French government

named Hanny a chevalier for his contributions to the French wine industry. His presentation is sponsored by SMU's Continuing and Professional Education Department, which offers professional development and certificate programs, personal enrichment courses, test preparation workshops and workshops for mental health professionals.

World Tamale Eating Championship to feature top-ranked showdown in Lewisville

Tim “Eater X” Janus will return to Lewisville on Saturday, Sept. 29, to defend his title and world record in the 8th annual World Tamale Eating Championship, but he will face perhaps his fiercest competition as he tries for an astounding fifth title in the event.

Joey Chesnut, the top-ranked competitive eater in the world according to Major League Eating and himself a former holder of the world record for tamales, will be in Lewisville to contend for the crown.

The World Tamale Eating Championship will be held during the annual Western Days festival in Old Town Lewisville. The event, organized by the Lewisville Convention and Visitors Bureau and officially sanctioned by Major League Eating (MLE), will pay a total purse of \$3,500 to the top six finishers. The contest will start at 1:15 p.m. on the front steps of Lewisville City Hall, 151 W. Church Street. Registration is being conducted online at www.ifoce.com.

Dat's Good BBQ, a family-owned Lewisville restaurant, is the event sponsor and will provide the traditional hand-made pork tamales for the competition.

Janus, a New York City resident who attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas, is currently ranked third in the world by MLE. He is a four-time winner of the tamale championship and holds the top all-time mark of 71 tamales consumed in 12 minutes, a result that won the 2007 title. His success at the tamale

championship, combined with his popular “Eater X” persona, inspired local fans to display signs at the 2011 event welcoming eaters to “Lew-X-Ville.”

Chesnut, who lives in San Jose, Calif., has won five straight Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Championship titles and holds more than 20 MLE world records. He set the previous world record in tamales by eating 53 ½ during a May 2007 event in Houston, but lost that record to Janus later the same year.

This will be his first time to compete in Lewisville.

The inaugural World Tamale Eating Championship was held during the Bassmaster Elite 50 Country Fair at Lewisville Lake in June 2005 and was won by Levi Oliver of Austin, who established a world record by eating 36 tamales in 10 minutes, 30 seconds. He remains the only Texan to win the world title in tamales.

Oliver's record was beaten in May of the following year in Houston by Chip “Burger” Simpson of Penn-

sylvania before being broken by Janus in Lewisville in 2006, Chesnut in May 2007, and Janus again in September 2007. The 2008 championship was won by Patrick Vandam of Minnesota, that season's “Rookie of the Year” honoree. The 2009 event saw Juliet Lee of Germantown, Maryland, eat 48 tamales in 12 minutes to become the first female champion.

In 2010, Janus returned after a two-year absence to reclaim his crown by eating 59 tamales in 12 minutes,

See TAMALE, Page 11



IRVING/CARROLLTON BRANCH NAACP FREEDOM FUND LUNCHEON





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A-Maize-ing Race online registration closing next week

Runners who are looking for a quick and easy way to register for the third annual A-Maize-ing 5K

and Fun Run should circle Sept. 25 on their calendars, as that is the deadline for online registration for the

race, according to Stacy Buckley, HR Manager and chair of the race committee.

“Registrants should go to www.murphymaize-days.com by Tuesday, September 25 and enter their

information online. That’s the most convenient way to register because not only are there no lines, but it’s

the only way we can accept credit cards for the entry fee. And on top of that, **See RACE, Page 13**

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For instance, data from Georgia exemplifies the challenges that poor and minority children face in getting access to appropriate dental care.

In 2008, 15.9 percent of Georgians did not have health insurance and almost half - 41.5 percent - did not have dental insurance (Georgia Population Survey 2008). In 2007, visits to Georgia emergency rooms for preventable dental disease cost more than \$23 million. The proportion of children with untreated tooth decay has dropped from 27 percent in 2005 to 19% in 2011, but that still means that close to a fifth of our state's children suffer unnecessary pain and health risks for something that is truly preventable. The majority of these children are poor or minority or can't see

a dentist because of financial or geographic reasons.

When I issued my report, tooth decay was the single most common chronic childhood disease - five times more common than asthma. It still is. There were striking disparities in dental disease across the country. There still are. Thirty-seven percent of African American children and 41 percent of Hispanic children have untreated tooth decay, compared with 25 percent of white children. More than 50 million Americans live in areas where dentists do not practice and millions more can't gain access due to cost reasons.

It is time to get serious and pursue the framework for action that I set forth in my 2000 report. All health care professionals need to

understand that good oral health means more than sound teeth. The mouth is really a window to the whole body. Oral health affects everything from the ability to speak, eat or smile. Poor oral health is linked to heart disease, stroke and other long-term illnesses. We need to engage other health professions in working to prevent oral disease.

As a country, we have made great strides in prevention, particularly with fluoride and sealants. But many do not have regular access to a dentist or school-based programs that offer some preventive care. That is why it is critical to expand access by seeking innovation on a number of fronts: in oral health policies, how we train our providers, exploring the creation of new dental providers, and build-

ing a cadre of ethnically-diverse, culturally-competent dental practitioners, as well as expanding the reach of the dental team with other health care professionals.

The country has a great opportunity to increase access to dental care under the ACA, which calls for extending oral health benefits to an additional five million children in 2014. Expansion of coverage, however, won't translate into access to care if we don't have enough providers to meet the need. Currently just 20 percent of practicing dentists treat Medicaid patients. How can we provide services to an additional five million children in 2014?

States need to think about this now. States should explore all options that could expand access to

care, including allowing midlevel dental providers such as dental therapists to practice. They are trained to provide routine services, freeing up dentists to attend to more complicated procedures. These practitioners already work in Alaska and Minnesota. And in just a number of years, they have been able to expand access in Alaska alone to an additional 35,000 people who could not get regular care in their own communities.

It is imperative that everyone have access to the dental care they need. Different professionals can provide different, yet appropriate, levels of service. Our concern and approach to a solution ought to focus first on the patient, not the dental profession. We have an opportunity with the

ACA to expand access. Will the medical and dental communities be ready?

Dr. David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., is a public health administrator, who served simultaneously as the 10th Assistant Secretary for Health at the US Department of Health and Human Services, and the 16th Surgeon General of the United States. America's Wire is an independent, nonprofit news service run by the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education and funded by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Our stories can be republished free of charge by newspapers, websites and other media sources. For more information, visit www.americaswire.org or contact Michael K. Frisby at mike@frisbyassociates.com



Urban League of
Greater Dallas & North Central Texas

Empowering Communities,
Changing Lives

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Senior Director Employment/Career Development

Seeking a qualified individual with broad and effective experience in developing and implementing employment/career development programs, networking with local employers and workforce development programs relevant to employment/community development. MS Degree w/five (5) years or a B.A. Degree with eight (8) yrs exp. Must also have experience working with diverse groups from all socio-economic and academic backgrounds and high-level grant writing and grants management skills.

Senior Director Education & Youth Services

Seeking a qualified individual with extensive experience in implementing a comprehensive education and youth development program for in school secondary youth, adults, out-of-school and adjudicated youth. Must have experience administering and/or supervising school programs, youth services, or related programs sponsored by educational, governmental agencies, or community-based organizations. Program includes services for parents and/or guardians of the youth and working with secondary school systems and charter schools in southern Dallas., higher education (community colleges/universities) and alternative schools. MS Degree w/five (5) years or a B.A. Degree with eight (8) yrs exp. Must also have experience working with diverse groups from all socio-economic and academic backgrounds and high-level grant writing and grants management skills.

Senior Director Health & Quality of Life

Seeking a qualified individual with extensive experience in implementing comprehensive health programs (HIV, Prevention, STD's, Substance Abuse, Outreach, Diabetes, etc.) targeting diverse populations. Must have experience managing multi-faceted programs including for Veterans and Seniors. MS Degree w/five (5) years or a B.A. Degree with eight (8) yrs exp. Must also have experience working with diverse groups from all socio-economic and academic backgrounds and high-level grant writing and grants management skills.

Senior Director Housing Services

Seeking a qualified individual with extensive experience in planning and directing comprehensive Housing Services. Must have broad and effective experience working with HUD/FEMA, corporations, foundations and other governmental entities. Must also have experience in housing and property management, emergency financial assistance, and counseling. Homebuyer workshop, credit repair services and other housing support services. MS Degree w/five (5) years or a B.A. Degree with eight (8) yrs exp. Must also have experience working with diverse groups from all socio-economic and academic backgrounds and high-level grant writing and grants management skills.

Co-Facilitator/Substance Abuse Counselor

Associate Degree and/or LCDC or HS Diploma w/ Substance Abuse Certification w/2 yrs. demonstrated exp. in facilitating group level prevention interventions to reduce risk behaviors by heterosexual African American (AA) women at highest risk for HIV. Experience in risk reduction, recruitment, outreach, report writing and data collection. Must be willing to work evenings and weekends and have reliable transportation.

Accounting Assistant

AA degree in Accounting, will accept some college with 3 yrs of exp, preferably in non-profit accounting. Ability to compile, analyze, and provide concise, and accurate financial data. Demonstrated knowledge of computer skills, accts payable and accuracy in statistical reporting. Self starter, a team player, works well under pressure and meet deadlines.

Positions require excellent verbal and written communication skills, thorough knowledge of Dallas communities, work as a team member as well as independently. Advanced computer skills, including Microsoft Software application required. Must have reliable transportation.

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4315 S. Lancaster Rd.
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POST MARK BY: September 30, 2012

Dallas Urban League CEO speaking at Mountain View College

The Mountain View College Common Book conversation continues with a panel discussion on October 3 at 11:15 a.m. inside room S1029/1030. Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Dallas and North Central Texas; Wende

Burton, the Community Philanthropy Director of the Communities Foundation of Texas, and Sarah Nelson, the Chief Philanthropy Officer of the Communities Foundation of Texas will discuss the working poor in the greater Dallas area, and will discuss resources available. The

event is free and open to the public.

For more information regarding events and activities for Mountain View College's Common Book Project visit <http://www.mountainview-college.edu/Academics/commonbook/Pages/default.aspx>.

TEACHER, continued from Page 3

system. "Do test scores tell us what students learn and how well teachers teach or are scores to standardized tests correlated to other factors, like race or cultural background, previous educational experiences before you even walked into that teacher's classroom?"

It has been over ten years since the No Child Left Behind Act was signed into law. NCLB advocated standards-based education reform based on the premise that setting high standards and establishing measurable goals would improve individual outcomes in education.

While the theory of standardized testing may have been plausible the practice, as indicated by the acrimonious Chicago strike, has not been mutually beneficial to the students, the teachers or the educational overseers.

The missing factor in the equation for educational excellence is that none of the participants in the education cycle, either individually or jointly, is responsible for the quality of the finished product.

A simple analogy illustrates this point. A new car is purchased and the buyer is told that the car will function as advertised for three years or 36,000 miles. If it does not function as advertised the buyer can exercise 'lemon law' rights and return the vehicle for repairs, modification, or replacement.

Our schools certify the product (student) with a certificate, diploma, or degree as ready to perform certain skills (reading, math, science) at a predetermined

level of proficiency. When the product does not perform as promised there is no equivalent lemon law recourse because no one is responsible for the product.

The result is a vicious cycle of finger pointing, blame-gaming and the repackaging and reselling to a disillusioned society a new and improved more expensive version of something labeled 'quality education'.

There is no question that America's schools are in crisis and the United States is losing or perhaps has lost its educational advantage. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan issued the following statement on the latest report released by the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA):

"Today's PISA results show that America needs to urgently accelerate student learning to remain competitive in the global economy of the 21st century. More parents, teachers, and leaders need to recognize the reality that other high-achieving nations are both out-educating us and out-competing us. Being average in reading and science - and below average in math -- is not nearly good enough in a knowledge economy where scientific and technological literacy is so central to sustaining innovation and international competitiveness."

Secretary Duncan was commenting on the PISA report that ranked the United States 25th in math among peers from 34 member countries, 14th in reading, and 17th in science. "The brutal fact here is there are many countries

that are far ahead of us and improving more rapidly than we are," Duncan said. "This should be a massive wake-up call to the entire country."

Few would disagree with the need to raise educational standards and improve the quality of education for our children. Until political and special interest biases are overcome, our educational system will continue to promote and provide mediocrity.

All elements of the education system (funders, administrators, teachers, students, parents, corporations) must come together to create a workable system that ensures the product produced can perform as advertised. This is a difficult but not impossible task.

However, the process must begin somewhere and Chicago you are in a position to lead the parade toward progress. Teachers, go back to work with the understanding that the union and school officials will negotiate from the perspective of a new mandate of producing a quality product - not a system that simply perpetuates itself.

It will be tragic if Chicago and the nation continue to pay above average education prices for below average education results. Even one uneducated child, graduating from a "pass the test at any cost" education system, unprepared to be a self-sustaining problem solving member of society is one too many.

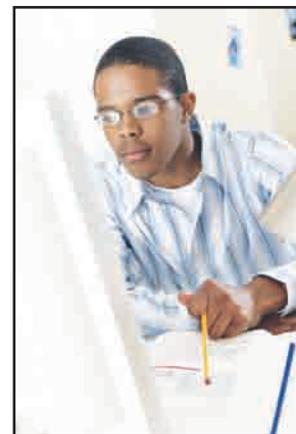
James W. Breedlove

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: www.jaydubub@swbell.net

Educate Black America's \$100 grant challenge

Acknowledging that education is the key to opportunity in America, a portion of virtually every dollar people spend can be converted into a scholarship fund to support Black Higher Education. The Educate Black America initiative uses cause marketing through online shopping from its web site, www.am-blk-coll.com, to sell the best products and services at the same prices found at other web sites with one important difference and advantage.

Every purchase from the Educate Black America Shopping site contributes to



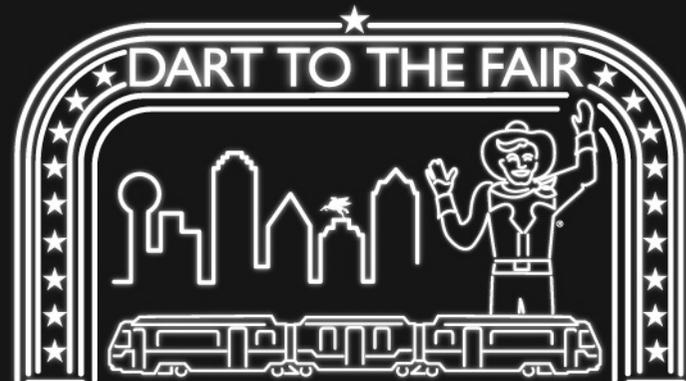
underwrite scholarships that include K-12, college, post secondary trade and career, distance learning, as well as

management and professional studies.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, noted human and civil rights advocate, said as national spokesperson for Educate Black America that, "Educating Black America is something we must do, can do, and should do."

If everybody does their part and their share, the TRILLION DOLLARS spent by consumers and businesses in Black America and other supporters of Black Higher Education can generate a \$100 Million fund. The

See GRANT, Page 13



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Irving-Carrollton NAACP hosting Freedom Fund Luncheon Oct. 13

The Irving-Carrollton Branch NAACP Freedom Fund Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday Oct. 13, from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in Irving Texas at DFW Airport Marriott 8440 Freeport Pkwy. The Keynote Speaker is National NAACP Southeast Region Field Director, Alethea Bonello.

The public is invited to attend and be an integral part of this event by becoming a sponsor for the Irving-Carrollton Branch NAACP. They are seeking financial donations to the NAACP's education initiative for youth programming. All of events they host support the Irving Branch Youth Education Programs.

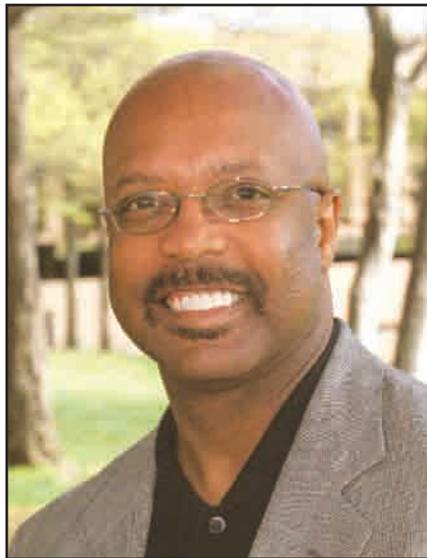
Donations and sponsorships will be used to support youth participation in the NAACP's Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics, a yearlong achievement program designed to recruit, stimulate, and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school stu-

dents. Funds will also be used to assist at-risk students with the costs of tutoring, mentoring and preparation to pass the standardized tests.

The Diamond and Platinum sponsor will receive recognition in all media announcements, signage at the "Freedom Fund Banquet", one complimentary table for eight guests and a full-page ad; Diamond sponsors will get priority ad placement. Gold and Silver Sponsors will receive a half page ad and one table for eight guests. Blue Sponsors will receive a quarter page ad and two tickets. All sponsors will receive acknowledgement at the event.

The sponsorship levels are listed below:

Diamond Sponsors - \$3500.00 Platinum Sponsors - \$2000.00 Gold Spon-



Tony Grimes, NAACP

Sponsors - \$1500.00 Silver Sponsors - \$1,000.00 Blue Sponsors - \$500.00

Ad Prices are as listed: Full Page \$125.00; Half a page \$75.00; Quarter Page \$60.00

Tickets are \$50.00 each or, \$400.00 per table.

Please choose the desired ad size or sponsorship level and enclose a computer generated ad copy. Deadline for ads is Oct. 1. They are also asking for donations for the Silent Auction.

Irving City Manager allegedly accepted free sports and circus tickets

Allegations of the Irving City Manager requesting and receiving tickets to local entertainment events were featured in a recent affidavit for the Las Colinas Group's (LCG) lawsuit against the City of Irving.

Anthony Bond, long-time activist in Irving, has delivered tickets to the home of Irving's City Manager Tommy Gonzalez according to his statements in a recent affidavit. Bond is a consultant for the Burrell

Group, and stated he was asked by the Gonzales to get tickets for events from the company run by Martin Burrell. Bond indicated Gonzales allegedly promised to get the Burrell Group's contract with Irving renewed.

The Burrell Group had a contract with Irving and the American Airlines Center (AAC) to assist with their respective minority and women owned business initiatives.

The tickets were for suites at the AAC, for various events including sporting and circus performances.

Bond indicated a suite was obtained for Gonzales' usage at the AAC, 18 tickets and parking passes were left by him under a doormat at Gonzales' home. Bond's affidavit is a part of \$139 million dollar lawsuit for breach of contract filed by the Las Colinas Group.



Fact:

1.2 million registered dogs in DFW produce an estimated 900,000 pounds of waste. Pet waste can daily pollute the storm drainage system, including area creeks, lakes, and the Trinity River, potentially harming plants and aquatic wildlife.

Tips:

- +Pick up after your pet during walks.
- +Choose at least one day a week to collect pet waste in your yard.
- +Dispose the waste by flushing it down a toilet or double bagging it as trash.

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Texas Publishers Association meets with Paul Sadler in Austin

BY T. L. WYATT

THE VILLAGER (AUSTIN)

The Texas Publishers Association (TPA), the Black Press of Texas, invited Senatorial candidates Paul Sadler (D) and Ted Cruz (R) to come before the Executive committee of the organization on Saturday, September 8, in Austin. The non partisan organization of publisher holds screenings during every political season. They have endorsed candidates in both parties over the years. In fact the group endorsed retiring Senator Kaye Bailey Hutchison on several occasions as well as Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams and others. Ted Cruz did not appear at the meeting, stating that he had a conflict of with another meeting.



Democratic U.S. Senator candidate Paul Sadler and TPA

Sadler told the group that he was a seasoned legislator who served in the Texas Legislature for several terms. He said that he supports the Dream Act, Medicare, and a fair tax system designed to make sure that huge corporations and the super wealthy pay their fair share. We went on to say that he will be a vote to continue health care reform while making cha-

nges, improvements and corrections.

Paul Sadler is the Democratic nominee for the U. S. Senate from Texas. He has served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1991 - 2003 and has received numerous awards for his legislative work. Sadler and his wife Sherri live in Henderson, Texas and they have 5 children.

See AUSTIN, Page 13

Learn important steps for voting this election season

While American citizens have the right to vote, some don't simply because they don't know where to go, how to register or have other basic questions that must be answered before voting. USA.gov has the information you need to know before you cast your ballot.

You must be 18 years old to vote in the United States. To register, contact your state board of elections. Most states also ac-

cept the National Mail Voter Registration Form, which allows you to register from anywhere in the United States. And most state departments of motor vehicles also allow voter registration.

It's important that you register to vote before your state's deadline. Most state deadlines are about 25-30 days before the election, but check your state's deadline well before that to make

sure you register in time.

If you are living away from your permanent address, are working or studying abroad, or are a member of the armed services, you can vote absentee. Absentee voting allows you to place your vote in advance and to mail it to your local election center by the election date, which this year is Tuesday, November 6th.

On Election Day, you must vote at your design-

ated polling place. Be sure you know ahead of time where it is, its hours and which congressional district you're in. Congressional districts and polling place locations can change when new lines are drawn based on a change in the population. You can check your local election office or use the League of Women Voters' online search tool to find out where to vote and when.

Local drugs and alcohol driving awareness program approved TEA

BY KATHY THOMAS

Drugs and alcohol are a dangerous combination. The Drugs & Alcohol Driving Awareness Program (DAD-AP) was approved by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to help address this serious issue.

Alcohol is the number one killer among teenagers today. It is important to understand that alcohol severely

impairs the ability to form cognitive skills. Parents, schools and churches in the DFW area are partnering with DADAP to help educate teenagers on the dangers of alcohol and how alcohol can damage their developing brain.

During the training the students will learn why alcohol is considered a depressant

See DRUGS, Page 15

VETERANS, continued from Page 1

The center, which will be dedicated on Sept. 14, is a one-stop shop of resources for veterans, from financial aid and benefits to academic success programs. Located in the first floor of McDermott Library, it's just a few steps from the Student Success Center, which helps students overcome academic obstacles in getting a college degree.

The center also provides veterans with a listening ear from someone who's been there.

"We have a space where they'll feel at home, and receive care and compassion," said Saunders, a former drill sergeant who had been in the military from the Vietnam era through Desert Storm.

For seven years, he was a civilian contract worker for the military in Iraq, so he knows the constant preparedness that more recent veterans have had to maintain.

"They've had to be so alert. It's left them very jittery," Saunders said. "They are readjusting from a war zone back to Earth."

With a growing number taking advantage of the latest government educational benefits, it makes sense to have a center at UT Dallas dedicated to the needs of veterans, said Dr. Darlene Rachavong, vice president for Student Affairs.

The Post 9/11 GI Bill gives eligible veterans free in-state, undergraduate education at any public university. Benefits are

based on duration of military service. Stipends are also provided for housing and books. Work-study programs help cover living expenses.

Some 400,000 veter-



Student Keeshaun Coffey served in the Navy and is president of Veterans of Dallas at UT Dallas.

ans were enrolled in higher education institutions in spring 2012, according to the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), a New York-based advocacy organization for young veterans.

At UT Dallas, about 625 military veterans and 100 or so dependents are drawing GI benefits, with nearly 350 of them attending under the Post 9/11 GI Bill, Saunders said. Another 300 veterans are pursuing graduate degrees here on their own dime after their benefits ran out.

The new Veteran Service Center is part of the University's response to encouragement from the Department of Veteran

Affairs and the UT System to support veterans under the new bill. UT Dallas had long helped veterans navigate financial and enrollment needs, and provided counseling

and career help, Rachavong said. But now it's time for a center of their own.

"This is centralizing the information for veterans and providing a clearinghouse for resources. Now the needs are there," Rachavong said.

The center also has a lounge area for vets to hang out between classes and be served by a dedicated staff to answer questions.

Buddy Sherbet, who handles financial aid and GI Bill certification for veterans at UT Dallas, keeps his office door open in the new center. He's been a fixture in helping veterans line up educational benefits, even while they were still on the

field. The new center will give them a place to connect face-to-face, he said.

"About half will come in and ask if we've served in the military. It's important to them," said Sherbet, who spent 18 months in the Navy after being drafted during the Vietnam War.

An increasing number of UT Dallas freshmen are recent veterans in their mid-20s. University staff describe these veterans as motivated and highly disciplined as students, but say they also feel alienated and isolated from the general public at times.

"Some may not want to identify themselves as a vet. They may be a non-traditional student. They might be married, or they're older—with children, and some experience a heightened anxiety because there's the potential for redeployment," said Amber Wright, a staff psychologist and veteran services coordinator at UT Dallas.

Besides counseling help, the veterans center can provide information on research initiatives at UT Dallas' Center for Brain-Health that include protocols for helping those with traumatic brain injury to improve cognitive skills, and the use of magnetic stimulation technology to minimize symptoms of PTSD.

Cary Ziegler, 33, did intelligence work for the Navy in the D.C. area, and says she was diagnosed with PTSD after

having depression and flashbacks due to her experiences. Now working on a master's degree in international political economy at UT Dallas, she said the new Veteran Services Center is a "safe place" for her.

"It's a paranoia you live with," she said. "It's hard to adjust to people who are not in the military. You don't have that thing in common, that

bond. I wanted to hang out with people I feel safe with.

"At the center, I feel safe. I feel I don't have to watch my back."

Saunders said staff members strive to use their experiences to support UT Dallas' veteran students.

"We are advocates for them because we've walked in their boots," Saunders said.



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- Must be a US Citizen
- Be fingerprinted and subjected to a search of records to disclose a criminal record.
- Not be on probation for a criminal offense.
- Driving record in compliance with City of Lewisville Driving Policy.
- Be able to identify license plate numbers of automobiles at 6 car lengths while traveling 60 mph. This requires vision correctable to 20/20 binocular.
- Possess ability to distinguish between red, green, and yellow in order to accurately describe suspects and vehicles and to identify traffic lights and sign colors.
- Be able to successfully pass a validated physical ability test.
- Be able to pass a background investigation
- Be able to pass post-offer physical, psychological, and drug test.

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22 DISD schools offer free EIF college readiness and access program

Believing that every young person deserves the opportunity for a higher education, Education is Freedom (EIF) is now enrolling 9th through 12th-grade students in its college-readiness program, offered free of charge at 22 Dallas ISD high schools.

Founded in 2002, EIF is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide free comprehensive college-planning services that produce life-changing results. With an expectation that all underserved students are capable of being prepared to enroll and succeed in college, EIF's overall goals are to prevent low-income students from dropping out of high school and to provide a range of high-quality, college-preparatory tools for students and families. In addition, EIF helps students leverage private and public scholarship funds, provides opportunities for summer intern experiences, and equips them with the necessary personal and professional skills to successfully complete college.



Education is Freedom staffers staffers students from Dallas ISD high schools.

"If you want your son or daughter to go to college but need help making it happen, then encourage your student to sign up for Education is Freedom," said Marcia Page, President/CEO of Education is Freedom Dallas. "At EIF, we equip students – and parents

– with the start-to-finish tools they need to prepare for college and navigate the complex application and financial-aid process."

She says the free services EIF provides are important because "current data shows that less than 5 percent of Dallas ISD 9th graders earn a college degree by their mid-20s."

EIF offers an array of programs – including monthly college-planning workshops, life-skill courses, academic recognition, college visits, parent outreach, scholarships and university partnership programs. EIF also employs full-time Higher Education Advisors (HEAs) at every high school campus to mentor, guide and support students through these activities. Moreover, because parents play a crucial role in getting students to college, numerous parent workshops are held in English and

Spanish, throughout the year. EIF high school advisors work very closely with the Dallas ISD high school counselors to ensure that families are fully aware of their college and career options.

Page adds that the EIF method already has helped



Rawlings at the Mayor's Intern Fellows luncheon (which Education is Freedom organizes) with two EIF students as well as Superintendent Mike Miles, Holly Reed of AT&T and Marcia Page, president/CEO of Education is Freedom.

thousands of students. In the 2011-2012 academic year, 6,174 9th-12th grade student enrolled in EIF. The 6,174 include 2,671 seniors. Of those seniors enrolled in EIF, 93 percent graduated from high school and 93 percent applied for college. To date, the EIF seniors accepted to college have been offered an estimated \$ 25 million in renewable public, private and institutional scholarships. They were also offered \$ 7.7 million in grants, loans and work-study for their first year of college.

Participating high schools are W.H. Adamson, David W. Carter, Emmett J. Conrad, Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center, Thomas Jefferson, Justin F. Kimball, Lincoln, James Madison, Moisés E. Molina, North Dallas, Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy, L.G. Pinkston, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Seagoville, Skyline, A. Maceo Smith New Tech, Irma Rangel, South Oak Cliff, H. Grady Spruce, Sunset, Wilmer-Hutchins, and W. T. White.

The program is free, and enrollment is open to anyone (9th through 12th grade) who desires assistance to graduate on time, enter college, and achieve academic success. Once enrolled, students and their parents/guardians sign an

agreement that they commit to through graduation. That commitment requires them to complete the recommended state high school curriculum, attend life skills and personal development classes; work one-on-one with their Higher Education Advisor to customize a college plan; maintain a cumulative 80 GPA; take the SAT/ACT during their junior and senior years; and submit applications to at least four colleges and six scholarships during their senior year. Parents are encouraged to attend two workshops per year.

to EIF students, the HEA is also responsible for reaching out to parents and guardians to emphasize and educate on the value of a formal education, and strengthen their knowledge of what it takes to enter and succeed in college. Since 2008, EIF has formed partnerships with The University of Texas at Austin, University of North Texas, University of North Texas at Dallas, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Jarvis Christian College and external scholarship organizations that have committed millions in merit-based



Education is Freedom staffers staffers students from Dallas ISD high schools.

scholarships exclusively for EIF students. Each university offers its own perks such as automatic enrollment or priority consideration for honor and scholarship programs for eligible EIF students, plus a variety of college-transition and enrichment programs, tutoring, mentoring, and retention programming for college students.

In addition, EIF has implemented a college persistence program at Texas A&M University-Commerce and the University of

North Texas where they will have an on-site EIF advisor on the respective college campuses to help EIF students overcome academic, social, and cultural challenges that generally cause students to drop out of school. Through these partnerships, EIF students will receive college success workshops, intentional advising, educational, leadership and life skill training, mentoring, tutoring assistance, peer group interactions, opportunities to interact with university faculty and staff, and parent outreach. Some re-enrollment scholarships are available as well.

Rising junior and senior high school students can apply for the Mayor Rawl-

ings' Intern Fellows Program for a chance to gain real-world experience during full- and part-time, eight-week, paid summer internship at some of Dallas' top corporations, nonprofits, city departments, and legal firms.

For more information or to enroll in Education is Freedom's college-planning program, please visit educationisfreedom.org, contact the EIF office or counseling office at participating schools, or call EIF at 214-432-8550.

NDG Gossip: DMX feud with Drake

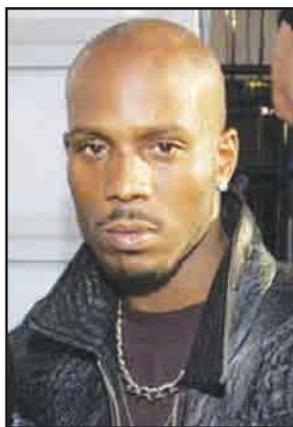
BY KENDRIA BROWN,
NDG INTERN

DMX is not feeling Drake these days. What seems to be in common for both rappers is the love for Aaliyah, who shares a big space in the hearts of many artists. So when Drake produced some posthumous music with Aaliyah, DMX was upset that Drake would take matters into his own hands and not reach out to those artists who worked closely with Aaliyah—such as Missy and Timbaland. "It's disrespectful; like, that don't even make sense. You can't do s--t like that. That's like wrong, man. I wish it was like seven, 10 years ago — catch a n---a on the elevator and beat him up, just to let him know it's real,

son. He ain't gotta be by himself. That's not a problem. We wolfed out in this joint", DMX told a NY radio station.

DMX has a growing despise for the Toronto rapper, since back in February he responded, "I don't like anything about Drake. I don't like his voice, I don't like the sh-- he talks about, I don't like his face, I don't like the way he walks, I don't like his haircut, just nothing."

That is not the only thing DMX had to say about Drake and Young Money. When referring to Nicki Minaj, he states, "I'm good on that. I wouldn't do that. I don't know her to not like her. I'm not attracted to her. It's too much going on.



DMX

I know she don't hop out the bed lookin' like that."

The dog has spoken. Will DMX's tirade end here? Well we know the dog will speak his mind and bark up any tree he sees fit.

DMX is working on his new album *Undisputed*.

NDG Gossip: American Idol: the judges are in!

BY KENDRIA BROWN,
NDG INTERN

And the results for the new American Idol judge panel are in! The lineup will include Mariah Carey, Nicki Minaj, Keith Urban, Randy Jackson and host Ryan Seacrest. Carey, Minaj, and Urban have replaced former ju-dges Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler for this new season.

The new judges have their own reason for being a part of the show. "I'm a big fan of the brand. This is such a credible brand. Plus I get a chance to wear a whole bunch of different wigs", says Minaj.

Urban is doing it for the American Idol brand as well, and for the difference it represents in so many lives.



American Idol judges

Carey says, "Honestly, I've never been a fan of this type of thing. But I realized what this show has done for such talented artists — truly giving them careers....I really felt like this would be something to help bring out new talent and [for me] to be a part of that."

When rumors of a feud emerged between artists

Carey and Minaj, it was quickly dismissed. Carey proclaims, "How can you feud in two days? I think a feud takes a little longer [to build]."

American Idol is scheduled to premiere in January 2013, where (judges) skills will meet talent. Will the judges all agree to agree? You be the judge.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. - Kappa Zeta Chapter 7th Annual Taste of Blue Wine Tasting & Silent Auction

The Ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. - Kappa Zeta Chapter will have their 7th Annual Taste of Blue

Wine Tasting & Silent Auction on Friday, Oct. 26. The event is at The Quixotic World, located at 2824

Main Street in Dallas. The tickets are \$25 available online at <http://kappazeta.eventbrite.com/>. Tickets

may also be purchased at the door for \$30. There will be relaxing music, hors d'oeuvres, and wine of

course. Attendees will receive a complimentary souvenir wine glass. No one under 21 is admitted. For

questions or more information email: winetasting@kappazpb.org.

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Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet to celebrate 86 years of constructive leadership

The oldest and largest Black chamber of commerce in the nation, the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce (DBCC), will hold its 86th Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. (Registration – 6:00 p.m.) at the Dallas Convention

Center, Ballroom A (650 South Griffin Street, Dallas, TX).

The Dallas Black Chamber Awards Banquet is the highlight of the chamber's annual event line up as it serves to provide a progress report on the chamber for the year as

well as to acknowledge those chamber members, sponsors and supporters who have gone above and beyond to support the chamber in its community efforts.

The banquet draws over 1,000 attendees annually and will this year fea-

ture the special presentation of the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce / Thomas L. Houston Community Service Award to honor an individual for a lifetime of work, dedication and contributions towards the betterment and civic advancement of Dal-

las' African-American community. The award was recently renamed to honor the memory of former DBCC President, Thomas L. Houston, who served from 1982 to 1995, for the many years of service and dedication he gave to the Dallas Black Chamber of

Commerce and the African-American community.

Tickets for the DBCC 86th Annual Awards Banquet are \$75, a small business table of ten (10) is \$750 and a corporate table of ten (10) is \$1,500.

Black Engineer Alumni conference in Dallas

The National Society of Black Engineers Alumni Extension (NSBE-AE) will host the 2012 Professional Development Conference in Dallas TX. The conference, themed "Fulfilling the Mission to Succeed Professionally" will be hosted October 4-6 at the Hotel Intercontinental. This conference will attract African-American Technical Professionals from across the country to come together for techni-

cal training, professional development and high powered networking.

Included in the list of top-notch confirmed speakers is Stedman Graham, CEO of S. Graham and Associates. Mr. Graham will speak on the topic of personal branding, a topic that he has presented to a number of corporate & non-profit groups. Stedman Graham educates individuals and industries on using Success Circles(TM)

a work-life balance tool he developed to make information and experience relevant to personal, professional and business growth. Other confirmed speakers include Pat Locke, the first African American female graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and Louis Upkins, sports & entertainment entrepreneur whose clients have included Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey, Starbucks

and the Olympic Games.

The conference will also feature a number of technical training workshops designed to give attendees specific knowledge in a variety of fields. These workshops include Affordability in the Aerospace & Defense Sectors, Creating an App for Mobile Devices and an Introduction to LEAN. Additionally all of the NSBE-AE Special Interest Groups (SIGs) will present

on topics related to their technical fields of specialty.

To round out the conference experience, attendees will participate in a number of networking activities including the Mentoring from the C-Suite sessions. In these sessions, attendees will be broken into small groups and receive mentoring from top executives in attendance. Then there is the EPIC networking event, designed to

help attendees get the most out of their experience and have as many meaningful new contacts as possible.

In order to obtain more information about the Professional Development Conference, please visit the conference website at <http://pdc.nsbe-ae.org>. Here you will find information regarding workshop presenters and activities as well as hotel & registration information.

Chinese Lantern Festival will light up the "Big & Bright" State Fair of Texas®

An ancient Chinese tradition, the Chinese Lantern Festival will be on display for the first time in the American Southwest at the 126th Annual State Fair of Texas®, Sept. 28-Oct. 21, 2012, at the Lagoon at Fair Park.

The festival is two shows in one. By day, it's a collection of authentic Chinese art featuring pandas, flamingos, and even a 110-yard-long dragon made from 15,000

porcelain dishes tied together by hand. By night, the festival lights up from within to set the Fair Park night sky aglow.

Both day and night attendees will experience a Chinese marketplace featuring Old World handcrafts, souvenirs and a food court, as well as live shows on the stage.

"Most people think Chinese lanterns and envision small paper lanterns," said

Errol McKoy, president of the State Fair of Texas®. "Fairgoers will be amazed when they see that these lanterns are anything but that. They are large, beautiful, colorful structures that will light up the fairgrounds. The festival will be a cultural destination at this year's State Fair of Texas."

Admission to the State Fair of Texas® is required before entering the Chinese Lantern Festival, which is

open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Festival admission is payable with State Fair of Texas® food/ride coupons. Admission to the festival includes entry to the Museum of Nature & Science between 3 p.m. and 10 p.m. daily. For groups of 20 or more, please contact Wayne for rates at 214-928-7677.

For more information, visit chineselanternfestival.com.

TAMALE, continued from Page 4

edging out fellow world-class eater Sonya "Black Widow" Thomas by just three tamales. He again won the competition in 2011, falling just short of his own world record by eating 67 tamales, 11 better than runner-up Matt Stonie.

MLE is the governing body of all stomach-centric sports, conducting more than 70 events annually including the Nathan's Famous Fourth of July International Hot Dog Eating Contest in Coney Island, N.Y. The competitive eating community, which numbers more than 3,000 veteran and rookie athletes, travels the nation in search of top titles and the glory that they provide.

The World Tamale Eating Championship is part of a full two-day schedule of activities planned for Western Days 2012, designed to showcase Lewisville's rich history. Other offerings include the best of Texas country music and local performers on three live stages, arts and crafts vendors, gunfight re-enactments, trick ropers, cooking demonstrations, car show, boat show, children's fishing area, Tailwaggers Ranch pet zone, food vendors, a Stickhorse Rodeo for kids, "Chalk This Way" interactive sidewalk chalk zone, and "Where the West Begins," a special exhibit of Western art and sculpture at the MCL Grand.

The festival is free, but a ticket is required. Free tickets are available (print your own) at the festival website, www.LewisvilleWesternDays.com, and through entertainment sponsor 99.5 The Wolf. Festival schedule is 7-11:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28, and

10 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29. Main stage headliners are Randy Rogers on Friday and Josh Abbott on Saturday.

For the latest info on Western Days 2012, visit www.LewisvilleWesternDays.com or call 972-219-3401.

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The City of Allen is currently accepting application packets for Firefighter /Paramedics. Applicants must be certified Firefighter/Paramedics prior to October 12, 2012. Interested applicants are invited to submit an on-line employment application by visiting the City of Allen's Employment Opportunities Page at <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/allen>. The application deadline is Friday, October 12, 2012 at 5p.m. Incomplete packets will be disqualified. For questions contact Human Resources at 214-509-4676 or visit the City of Allen website at www.city-ofallen.org.

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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: sandylake.com

Through September 30

The Second City Does Dallas at Wyly Theatre, 2100 Ross Avenue; Info: 214-880-0202

Through November 12

Goodnight Moon & Other Favorite Stories: Pre K Drama Class at Dallas Children's Theater, 5938 Skillman Street- Rosewood Center for Family arts; Cost \$220; Info: 214-978-0110

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 6

Books N' Bugs at Texas Discovery Gardens, 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd- Fair Park at 10:30 a.m.; Cost: \$8-\$10; Info: http://texasdiscoverygardens.org/events_and_classes.php

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

Through December 11

Movie Night @ the Library at Irving Public Library Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd at 6:30 p.m.; Free to attend; Info: 972-781-2628

Through December 18

TeenScene Movie at Irving Public Library, 801 W Irving Blvd; Free; 972.721.2628

Through December 28

Jazz Happy Hour Fridays at Champagne's Luxe, 5201 W Lovers Lane at 4 p.m.; Info: 214-352-7777

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

Irving International Women's Consortium Event from 6 – 8:30 p.m. at North Lake College – Student Life Center – Room H200, 5001 N. MacArthur Blvd. This is a free event, but you will need a ticket to attend. Please register at http://dcccdoir.us.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_aYtj2S6NBBf06fX. Tickets can be picked up on at 5:30 p.m. outside the Student Life Center. For more information: visit www.iwc.net, 469-524-4509

September 21

Lewisville Lake Symphony at Medical Center of Lewisville Grand Theater, 100 N. Charles Street at 7:30 p.m.; Cost: \$20-\$25; Info: 972-874-9087

September 22

Cedric the Entertainer at Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance in Grand Prairie

September 22

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

September 24

The next meeting of the **Lake Highlands AARP – Chapter 3881** will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Lake Highlands United Methodist Church located at 9015 Plano Road, Dallas. Potluck lunch follows the program on the Chihuly Exhibit at the Arboretum. Bring along a friend.

September 25

2 Chainz Based on a T.R.U. Story Tour at House of Blues, White Swan Building at 9 p.m.; Tickets \$26-\$150; Info: 214-978-2583

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

Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce chapter of the **Senior Services Alliance** at the 5201 N. O'Connor in the Chamber Board Room. 214-217-8484

September 29

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

The **Irving Black Arts Council** invites the public to free event featuring griot Tony Brown as he guides you through an amazing array of storytellers covering topics from the "Motherland to the Homeland." African Desserts will be served by William Batson, Second Chance Sweets. Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., – Atrium / Suite 200, Irving, Info: 214-993-8444 or www.irvingblackarts.com; Admission price: \$10 Adults, Children Under 17 Free

Ascential Events Presents: An Evening with Monica at House of Blues, 2200 N Lamar St at 8 p.m.

October 1

Bonnie and Clyde at Conference Center at Collin College, Spring Creek Campus, 2800 E Spring Creek Pkwy in Plano at 7 p.m.; Free; Info: <http://www.collin.edu/academics/csce/auteurfilmseries.html>

October 2-21

Dallas Summer Musicals bring THE ADDAMS FAMILY to the Music Hall at Fair Park; Tickets \$15-\$75; Info: 214.413.3940

October 3

Anthony Hamilton at Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance Place in Grand Prairie at 7:30 p.m.; Tickets/info: 888-929-7849

October 5

Radio One Celebrity Golf Classic Tournament at Cedar Crest Golf Course, 1800 Southerland Avenue at 8 a.m.; Info: 972-331-5400

2012 BAT Jazz Featuring Larry Carlton at Bishop Arts Theater Center, 215 S. Tyler St at 7 p.m.; Tickets/info: 214-948-0716

October 5-7

Warner Bros. presents **Bugs Bunny** at the Symphony Single tickets start at \$28, 214-692-0203 or www.DallasSymphony.com.

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Irving Public Library Job Fair

The Job Center at the Irving Public Library will host its thirty-fifth Quarterly Job Fair on Thursday, October 25. The event is free to both employers and job seekers. The job fair will be from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Employers may set up between noon and 1 p.m.

Job seekers can call the Job Center Hotline at 972-721-2326 for additional information. Employers can call 972-721-2608.

DANCE, continued from Page 1

A Dallas native, Moore began her dance training at BTWHSPVA and received her BFA in dance from Ohio State University. Moore was the first recipient of Project Next Generation, a commission to an emerging female choreographer by Urban Bush Women Dance Company. In addition, she was commissioned by the Maggie Allesse National Center for Choreography, in affiliation with Florida State University, to work with the Philadanco Dance Company in a creative residency. Moore recently received the 2012 Surdna Arts Teachers Fellowship and

was featured in the July 2012 Teacher's Tool section of Dance Teacher Magazine.

"It is my aspiration to re-establish professional connections by building a continuous working relationship with Dallas Black Dance Theatre. As a native of Dallas, I have had the pleasure of witnessing the artistry and beauty of the prestigious dance company," said Moore. "It is an understatement to say that it would be an honor to work with dancers of Dallas Black Dance Theatre, a company of artistic excellence and whose longevity spans over 35 years."

Moore will create a ballet based on the life of the great African American artist, Romare Bearden. Considered one of America's most important and inventive artists by historians, Bearden grew up in the heart of the Harlem Renaissance and used that experience as the basis for most of his works. His primary medium was the collage – fusing oils, magazine clippings and old paper or fabric like a jigsaw puzzle. Dallas Black Dance Theatre will debut Moore's work Feb. 22-24, 2013 during the Cultural Awareness Series at the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre.

GRANT, continued from Page 6

goal will be met if \$1 out of every \$10,000 spent can be leveraged through the Educate Black America initiative, according to Alvin J. Lee, founder and former Fortune 500 executive.

"Shoppers can choose from top American retailers such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Macy's, Walmart, Advance Auto, Office Depot and many more. Educate Black America Shopping

has products and services for you, your house, your car, your family, your pets and your business."

The program has been expanded with two new features, EBA Travel and Appseed.

Supporters can keep current on Educate Black America through pages on Facebook, and Twitter. For more info, visit www.am-blk-coll.com

AUSTIN, continued from Page 7

Sadler says that he knows that he has an uphill fight to win this race. However, he pointed out that Cruz was also heavily outspent in the primaries but was able to defeat Lt. Governor Dewhurst and his millions. He said that he had \$300 thousand dollars for a statewide race.

"The Democratic National Committee and the State Democratic Party is only spending money in a limited number of areas of

the state." That money will be directed through the Coordinated Campaigns in those areas.

Sadler believes that this is the first time in many years that Democrats have had the opportunity to send someone to the senate from Texas. Our current Senators are Hutchinson and John Cornyn.

Sadler said that he is making a special effort to reach out to the traditional voters of the Democratic

party – African Americans, Hispanic and Liberal and Moderate Democrats. This race will be decided on the turnout of these voters who have been neglected by the leaders of the party for many years.

The TPA will make a decision on their endorsement by the end of the month, after consulting with its membership. The general election will be November 6.

RACE, continued from Page 5

there's a discount for early registrants," she said.

The race is set for Saturday, Sept. 29 starting at 8 a.m. The starting and ending points for the race are on the running track of Tom Kimbrough Stadium on North Murphy Road. Proceeds from the race will benefit the Melanoma International Foundation, in memory of the late Neal Golden, a city employee who succumbed to the disease. Lead sponsor for the 2012 A-Maize-ing 5K and Fun Run is Baylor Medical Center at Garland.

Runners may register online or on the two packet pickup days, Sept. 27 and 28, in the lobby of City Hall, 206 North Murphy Road, or on race day, Sept. 29 at the stadium. Only cash or checks are accepted at late day registration.

The entry fee for runners 12 years of age and younger will be \$10, regardless of when they register. The fee for runners who are 13 years of age and above is \$25 through Sept. 25 and \$30 after that date. Also, available

online only, families can register two adults and two children, age 12 and under, for \$60 by Sept. 25.

"We're extremely excited about the race, and the fact that it essentially starts the day's activities. It's our third year, and we expect a very nice crowd, nice weather and, of course, competitive racers," said Buckley.

More information and registration can be completed at www.murphymaizedays.com.

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September 26
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.

September 30, 9:45 a.m.
You're invited to our 5th Sunday Fellowships, Morning Bible Classes and Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m. There will be a FREE meal, activities and a blood pressure clinic afterwards.

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

BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

September 23, 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.

September 26, 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 when they come, 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

September 22, 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.

September 23
Join us in worship at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. as we praise and worship God's to the utmost.

September 26, 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

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

September 23, 9:30 a.m.
Join us to experience the joy of praising and worshipping God to the fullest at Story Elementary School, 1550 Edelweiss Drive, Allen, TX.

Also, at 1:30-5:30 p.m.
The public is invited to our Founder's Day Celebration at Celebration Park, 701 Angel Parkway in Allen, Texas. We will have fun, food, games and prizes. Bring your lawn chairs, tents, etc. There will be a contest for the best BBQ and best dessert. Call the church for details.

September 26, 7 p.m.
Join us at 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
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Admin. Building Address
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972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK "First Church"

September 23, 7:30 a.m.
You are invited to our Early

Worship Service; and stay for our Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. for Steadfast Thanks. Our Unifying Topic: Faith Inspires Gratitude, Hebrews 12:18-29. Then finish the morning in our 10:30 a.m. Worship Service and Women's Annual Celebration.

September 26, 7 p.m.
Join us for Bible Study and stay for our Mid-Week Service at 8 p.m.

September 29, 8 a.m.
Don't miss First Church Annual Golf Classic at Ridgeview Ranch Golf Course. Call Tim Gordon at 214-537-7771 for details and to pre-register.

October 20, 11 a.m.
Mark your calendar for our Fall Fest 2012; there will be fun for the entire family. Then join us at 6 p.m. for "A Tribute to the Man and Music of John Mark Tatum" with Ms. Kathy Taylor; and help us as we praise and worship God.

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

NORTH DALLAS ROCKBRIDGE CHURCH

September 23
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

September 23, 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.

September 27, 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

September 23, 8 a.m. And 11 a.m.
Join us in our Morning Worship times and stay for our Sunday School at 10 a.m.

September 26, 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

September 23, 7:30 a.m.
Join us as we worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

September 24, 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

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Sister Tarpley

The story is told of five volunteers who were to undertake a dangerous mission, a General lined up his men and asked that those willing to volunteer take one step forward. During the process, he said he would turn his back. When he re-faced his men, the line was intact. As the general expressed his disappointment that apparently not a single man in the entire group was brave enough to volunteer for the task, a Corporal interrupted him saying, "Beg your pardon Sir, but we all stepped forward and at the same time, Sir."

Think what it would mean to the church and other non-profit organizations if this was the attitude of all Christians and people in general. In spite of all the good that is being done in congregations, in our neighborhoods and our cities throughout the brotherhood, we know that it is still being done by a very small percentage of those who are

members of someone's church and in the non-profit organizations. Perhaps that is why Jesus said, "Many are called but few are chosen." Too many Christians and people wish just to be "counted" a worker in the church, community and the neighborhood. For that reason, someone else must carry the load that they should carry.

Only a few are willing to really work for the Lord and God's kingdom. Others allow weeks to pass into years without doing more than worship once a week and not even once a week sometimes if something comes up that they desire to do. They neither advertise nor attend many gospel meetings.

Thousands die every day without accepting the gospel (the good news), but it is not any of their concern. Religion or doing good has never meant anything to them, except as an escape from hell or just bragging about it for their own selfish gain; and some are not using it enough to do that.

Step Forward Please

But just suppose that all Christians and caring people should step forward at once. The story would be much different. It is my hope and prayer that some day all of us will desire to be really loyal and work as the Master commanded.

Have you stepped forward for the Lord? Will you be willing to step forward for the Lord now?

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Every time you have a kind and gentle word to give—you help someone find beauty in this precious life we live.

For happiness bring happiness and love always brings love; and giving is the treasure that content-

ment is made of. -- Author Unknown.

God's Wings: An article in the National Geographic several years ago provided a penetrating picture of God's Wings. After a fire in Yellowstone National Park, Forest Rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the damage. One Ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. He gently struck it and three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings.

The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to



Sister Tarpley and Danta Jones, Former NFL Linebacker for Chicago Bears and Denver Broncos greeting senior citizens after their day at the State Fair in 2011 at the Coaches Corner Club in Oak Cliff.

abandon her babies. The blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast.

She was willing to die; and those under the cover of her wings would live. "He

will cover you with His feathers and under His wings you will find refuge." (Psalm 91:4) Being loved this much should make a difference in your life. Remember God loves you; be different because of it.

IMC to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 through October 15 each year with art exhibits, concerts, festivals, lectures parties, etc. The contributions, cultures, histories and traditions of individuals from Mexico, Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries in the Caribbean, Central America and South America

are highlighted during the observance at The International Museum of Cultures (IMC) at 7500 W. Camp Wisdom, Dallas

IMC will observe Hispanic Heritage Month with traveling exhibits. The first exhibit opened Sept. 17 at Nissan-USA headquarters, located at DFW Freeport. Special programming will be held at their headquarters

throughout the week. The second exhibit will be shown at the Government Center, DeSoto.

The IMC is dedicated to showing the cultural diversity of countries around the world, especially those indigenous cultures living in remote areas. The 2012 theme for Hispanic Heritage Month is "Many Background, Many Stories...One

American Spirit" A special online game "Paco's Passport at PBS KIDS GO! Is available on line. The museum has the PASSPORT game available in the International Expressions Gift Shop

For further information regarding programming for the month consult the website: www.internationalmuseumofcultures.com.

NAACP, continued from Page 3

formation and giving short-term lenders an unfair advantage over other lenders.

H.R. 6139 would dramatically undermine attempts to protect consumers, especially

those who have traditionally been targeted by abusive short term lenders including some payday lenders. This includes low income Americans, racial and ethnic minorities and

members of the Armed Services and their families.

THE NAACP OPPOSES H.R. 6139 AND URGES ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO REJECT THIS BAD

LEGISLATION, AS WELL AS ANY OTHER PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD UNDERMINE OR WEAKEN THE EFFORTS OF THE CFPB

DRUGS, continued from Page 8

and how it causes them to function. Even small doses of alcohol can quickly affect parts of the brain that influences thinking processes.

The program is designed to help young people to get a second chance. Parents are

encouraged to not allow their teenagers to become part of the criminal justice system for minor citations.

Teenagers who receive class C misdemeanor citations for Minor In Consumption (MIC), Minor In Posses-

sion (MIP), Public Intoxication (PI), can have a clean record at the age of 21 years old by completing a DADAP course at the request of a judge. They are placed on deferred adjudication. Once they complete the required

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NDG Bookshelf



BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER
NDG CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It should have been a dream job.

You'd wanted to work at that business since forever. You thought about it for years, in fact, imagining what it would be like. It was the exact job you said you wanted when adults asked you what you wanted to do when you grew up.

But when you landed the position (finally!), you were astounded. Like so many

NDG BookShelf: Blair Underwood and friends deliver again with *South by Southeast*

things in life, anticipation was better than reality and the job stunk.

It happens, and in the new book, "*South by Southeast*" by Blair Underwood, Tananarive Due, and Steven Barnes, it happened where there should've been sun and fun.

Tennyson "Ten" Hardwick gave up on Hollywood stardom long ago.

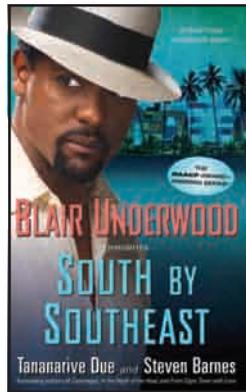
He still did minor roles, sure. But his fame, it seemed, would forever be linked to detective work he did as a sideline and to escort work he did before he gave up *The Life*. But film? No fame there.

So when Gustavo Escobar offered Ten the role-of-a-

lifetime in a new horror movie, Ten leapt at the chance, even bringing his entire family to Miami. It would be a good thing: a new city would give his ailing father a change of scenery, and Chela, Ten's ward, could check out the beaches.

And it might have been a great time for everybody – had the job turned out better.

There was a dark side to Escobar, and Ten had seen it. Escobar was a jerk, asking for extra takes, long hours, things



that Ten wasn't willing to do. Ten wasn't sure he wanted stardom that much. He quit at least once, much to the horror of his agent.

Yes, the part should've been a dream job – but it wasn't.

And then things turned worse.

An old friend of Chela's from back in the day showed up on the set, and Chela's former life was no longer an off-limits topic between her and Ten. He was worried, and tried

to send her home to stay with his girlfriend-not-girlfriend. Chela was offended that he didn't trust her.

But when the old friend's body washed up in the beach, Ten knew he couldn't trust anyone. And that included a certain director with a temper, a cruel streak, and a past that was drowning in suspicion...

Oh, man, I really have to stop reading Tennyson Hardwick novels before bed.

Authors Blair Underwood, Tananarive Due, and Steven Barnes pack everything you ever wanted in a noir thriller between two pages that can barely hold it all. As usual, the authors' main character, Tennyson Hardwick, is smooth, re-

sponsible, and suave but this time, we're given much more of the people who surround him: their troubles, and their pasts. That adds up to a fast-paced, chilling, keep-you-up-all-night package you shouldn't wait to open.

Yes, this book is part of a series, and while it's possible to figure out what's going on without reading prior novels, you'd probably like it better if you were up to speed. Once you're there, though, grab this book because "*South by Southeast*" is a noir-lover's dream.

Blair Underwood Presents South by Southeast by Blair Underwood, Tananarive Due, and Steven Barnes (Atria, \$15, 373 pages)

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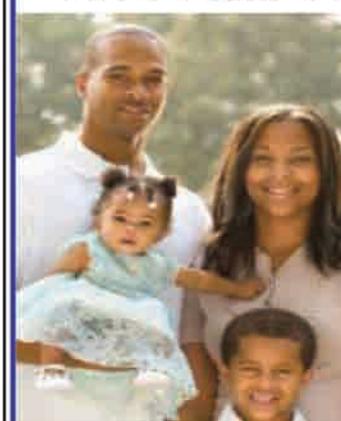
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