



Visit Us Online at www.NorthDallasGazette.com

Opportunity and diversity one industry at a time

BY BENJAMIN TODD JEALOUS, NAACP PRESIDENT & CEO

There is a missing component to the national discussion concerning how to strengthen and rebuild the American economy. It is true that high unemployment, a weak national in-



Ben Jealous, NAACP President & CEO

frastructure, the need for stronger public education, the concentration of wealth and the deficit are all challenges to the nation's economy but being left out of the discussion is the continued economic marginalization of racial and ethnic minorities.

The American economy has always been strongest when it's kept the middle class within reach for most Americans. But with white households holding nearly 20 times the wealth of black or Latino households, and with rising

See DIVERSITY, Page 13

Free Enterprise is not free!

BY NICOLE TICHON

There's been a lot of talk about what we can't afford as a nation and who is getting what "gift" or which free ride. When President Barack Obama recently met with CEOs and chatted with Jamie Dimon, we should hope he issued a stern warning that legal tax avoidance games played by banks and multina-

tional corporations are on the chopping block. After all, free enterprise isn't free.

In the coming weeks there will be pivotal conversations about how and where to tax corporations and how to reform our corporate tax system. Don't believe the hype that these issues are too complicated. They're not. If you paid more than 1.9 per-

cent in income tax, you paid a higher rate than Apple. Period.

Both political parties need to combat the damaging effects of the offshoring of jobs and revenues. Our current system drains our Treasury and threatens basic services and national security.

Citizens get it. According

See FREE, Page 3



Visit NorthDallasGazette.com for our 25 Days of Christmas each day!

COVER STORY

Irving ISD: Moving in the right direction



Dr. Dana Bedden

See BEDDEN, Page 9



Is Chris Brown another Tupac? He thinks so

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

COMMENTARY

Deficits, deceit, and the body politic

BY NORMAN AND VELMA HILL
SPECIAL NDG
CONTRIBUTORS

Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are the foundations for the wellbeing of scores of millions of middle- and low-income Americans. Without Social Security, 14 million more low-income Americans would be living in poverty. Because of Medicare, 33 million older people live longer, have access to quality care, and are not driven

into poverty by rapidly rising health-care costs. Medicaid is a health-care boon to Americans not yet eligible for Medicare, which covers some 60 million Americans.

Because of historical and lingering discrimination, racial minorities in particular need these programs. Overall, they have less income and fewer assets than whites, so a higher percentage of their retirement income comes from Social Security benefits. Also, because they more

See DECEIT, Page 3

Criticism of Dutch "Black Pete" tradition grows

BY TOBY STERLING

AMSTERDAM (AP)—Foreigners visiting the Netherlands in winter are often surprised to see that the Dutch version of St. Nicholas' helpers have their faces painted black, wear Afro wigs and have thick red lips—in short, a racist caricature of a black person.



Black Pete
Photo by Associated Press

icature of a black person.

The overwhelming majority of Dutch are fiercely devoted to the holiday tradition of "Zwarte Piet"—whose name means "Black Pete"—and insist he's a harmless fictional figure who doesn't represent any race. But a growing number are questioning whether "Zwarte Piet" should be

given a makeover or banished from the holiday scene, seeing him as a blight on the nation's image as a bulwark of tolerance.

"There is more opposition to Zwarte Piet than you might think," says Jessica Silversmith, director of the regional Anti-Discrimination Bureau for Amsterdam.

See PETE, Page 5

INSIDE...

People In The News	2
Op/Ed	3
Community News	5
Holiday Events Pages	7-8
Cover Story	9
Arts & Entertainment	10
Business	11
Classifieds	12
Career Opportunity	13
Church Directory	14-16
Sister Tarpley	15

People In The News...



Michelle Williams



Rep. Eric Johnson



Liza Ellen

See Page 2

Michelle Williams

GMC TV, Light Records and Roland Corporation will participate in the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's 4th annual Most Powerful Voices gospel competition. The online gospel singing competition helps the association to educate people about stroke - the No. 4 cause of death and the leading preventable cause of disability in America. Michelle Williams is involved in the contest, because her family has been affected by stroke. The contest is open to independent artists, groups and choirs who sing

gospel, holy hip hop, praise and worship music.

Participants, who must be 18 years or older, may sign up at <http://power.watcgmctv.com> and upload a video or MP3 file by Jan. 31. Family, friends - and fans - have until April 5 to vote for their favorite artists. Those who register to compete or vote will receive lifesaving stroke information from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

The top 10 finalists will be judged by gospel music industry leaders, including

singer and song writer Michelle Williams (formerly of Destiny's Child), James Robinson, president of A&R at Light Records, and holy hip hop artist Flame.

The grand prize winner will be announced April 30 and will receive:

- The opportunity to perform in the Central Park Summer Stage Concert in New York City with Light Records artists

- \$2,500 for a trip to New York

- \$1,500 cash and a digital single on iTunes from Light Records

The top 10 finalists and a lucky voter will also win



prizes.

Most Powerful Voices is part of the American Heart Association/American Stroke

Association's Power To End Stroke awareness campaign. Through Power To End Stroke, the association provides culturally relevant events, tools and resources to decrease stroke among African-Americans, who are disproportionately affected by the disease.

"African-Americans are especially susceptible to stroke due to a higher prevalence of high

blood pressure, diabetes and previous heart attack or stroke," said Dr. Rani Whitfield, family practitioner and American Stroke Association spokesperson. "That's why it's an important requirement of this competition to receive stroke information and to learn how stroke is largely preventable, treatable and beatable."

Michelle Williams is involved in Most Powerful Voices because it "focuses on two things that I am passionate about - gospel music and sharing stroke information," she said. "My father and my grandmother suffered from

See WILLIAMS, Page 6

Rep. Eric Johnson

Representative Eric Johnson (D-Dallas) joined a delegation of a dozen members of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) in a meeting with President Barack Obama and key members of his administration to discuss the fiscal cliff Tuesday at the White House. It is the first time that President Obama has met with a group of exclusively African American state legislators since taking office.

"I am deeply honored to be included in the delegation of African American state legislators who had the historic opportunity to meet with President Obama and his advisors today," said Representative Johnson. "The President wants to make sure our constituents are aware of what is at stake in this fiscal cliff debate and to do all we can to make sure that Congress doesn't jeopardize our economic recovery," Johnson said.

The NBCSL delegation met with President Obama and a group of his top advisors, which included Senior Advisor to the President and Chair of the White House Council on Women and Girls Valerie Jarrett and Special Assistant to the President for Education Policy Roberto Rodriguez. The meeting also included Cabinet Member and Council of Economic Advisors Chairman Alan Krueger, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Office

of Intergovernmental Affairs David Agnew, and Luke Tate with the White House Domestic Policy Council. The meeting was held in the Roosevelt Room in the White House and lasted for more than 90 minutes.

Currently the NBCSL has a membership roster of over 600 African American state legisla-



tors. The NBCSL's primary mission is to develop, conduct and promote educational, research and training programs designed to enhance the effectiveness of its members. Representative Johnson has been a member of the NBCSL since 2010 and has served on its executive committee since 2011.

Liza Ellen

Liza Ellen, an up and coming music artist, released her new song, *Head*



Knockin to a worldwide audience. Her song is now available for free download as part of her upcoming

EP, 'Everything's Okay' was released on the same day as her release party Dec. 4.

Liza Ellen is recognized as both a poet and music artist. Her poetry is influenced by her desire to express, encourage and love. As a vocalist on the D/FW scene she's been seen performing or recording with Lucky Peterson, Joseph Vincelli, Ma-

dakwu Chinwah and many more. After years as a "vocalist" she's decided to release her own works of art

through her Fall EP *Everything's Okay*. In addition, she is currently in the studio working on expanding her musical collection by releasing an EP every season.

According to Liza Ellen, "I was looking for an authentic avenue to express myself through music and writing. It was time to stop singing songs created by other artists and start singing my own. It is my passion to create music of substance, pleasure and depth while revealing my character and telling stories that resonate with others."

Liza Ellen is currently booking music gigs and providing interviews as she works to expand her music presence both locally and nationally.

Those interested in booking a show can listen to her sample music tracks here: <http://lizaellen.com/music/>. Her music most resembles eclectic world sounds that inspire and cultivate positive feelings with an abundance mentality, a life filled with passion and a free spirit.

"I really wanted to build a community with my music and share a good life we can all embrace", said Ellen.

To book an interview or music gig with Liza Ellen, visit her website at <http://lizaellen.com/lizaellen-blog/> or she can be reached via email at booking@lizaellenmusic.com. Her latest song, *Head Knockin* can be downloaded immediately

<http://lizaellen.com/free-download-my-new-single-head-knockin/>.

\$69* DIVORCE

Criminal Defense

- DWI / Suspended License
- WARRANTS Removed*
- 24 Hour Jail Release*
- Occupational license, felonies
- Protective Order
- Misdemeanor/Felonies*

Family Cases

- Divorce / Annulment
- Child Support / Paternity
- Custody Modification
- Restraining Order
- Protective Order
- Name Change / Adoption
- Domestic Violence

Easy Payment Plans

Law Offices Of Vincent Ndukwe

214-638-5930

817-277-0196 (Metro)

2730 N. Stemmons Frwy, Suite 409 • Dallas, TX 75207

Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization
* If you qualify. *Fees quoted above are minimum down payment needed to begin processing your case.

North Dallas Gazette

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

Phone: 972-516-4191

Fax: 972-509-9058

**Publisher's Office:**

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:

opportunity@northdallasgazette.com

Editorial Department:

editor@northdallasgazette.com

Online:

www.twitter.com/NDGEditor

www.facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette

Website:

www.NorthDallasGazette.com

STAFF

Chairman Emeritus

Jim Bochum

1933 – 2009

Editor

Ruth Ferguson

Published By

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

VP of Digital & Entertainment Marketing

Brandy Jones-West

Production

Sharon Jones-Scaife

Contributing Writer

Jackie Hardy

Ivy N. McQuain

Jacqueline Murphy

Terri Schlichenmeyer

Nicole Scott

Tanya DeVaughn

Special Projects Manager

Edward Dewayne

"Preacher Boy" Gibson, Jr.

Community Marketing**Director**

Carrenza Thurmond, Jr.

Editorial Writers

Ivy N. McQuain

Ruth Ferguson

Nicole Scott

Religious/ Marketing Editor

Shirley Demus Tarpley

NDG Intern

Kendria Brown

Advisory Board:

John Dudley

Myrtle Hightower

Fred Moses

Annie Dickson

Cecil Starks

Willie Wattley

Coty Rodriguez-Anderson

B. J. Williams

Denise Upchurch

Barbara Simpkins,

ADVISORY BOARD SECRETARY

Advisory Board**Committees:**Public Relations Planning
and Implementation
Cecil Starks, CHAIRPERSONBusiness Growth Referral
John Dudley, CHAIRPERSONProgram Policy Development
Annie Dickson, CHAIRPERSONQuality Assurance
Myrtle Hightower, CHAIRPERSON
Coty Rodriguez

North Dallas Gazette assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate revisions.

The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded in July 1991, by Mr. Jim Bochum and Mr. Thurman R. Jones. North Dallas Gazette is a wholly owned subsidiary of Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Send stories suggestions email: editor@nothdallasgazette.com
For advertising quote print or web (for upcoming event or your Business)
Email: opportunity@northdallasgazette.com

FREE, continued from Page 1

to a new poll by Hart Research, "84 percent of voters approve of increasing taxes on the profits American corporations make overseas, to ensure that they pay the same taxes on those as they do on domestic profits."

These issues were put on the national stage because of a presidential candidate who uses offshore accounts, and by the reporting of tax shell games by Apple, Google, Starbucks, Microsoft and General Electric. Now, in the U.K., Amazon, Starbucks and Google are being questioned by the government for shady tax practices.

The Obama administration and Congress need to correct a flawed system that has fostered legal tax avoidance and raised the ire of progressives and conservatives alike.

Who can defend companies making record profits skipping out on their tax bills? Who can honestly keep holding up the disingenuous argument that multinational corporations in the U.S. pay the

highest rate in the world when the fact is, it just ain't so? Consider: According to the Congressional Budget Office, the average tax rate corporations pay on domestic profits in the U.S. is about 12 percent.

Moving forward, we'll hear lofty-sounding ideas about broadening the base, lowering the rates, closing loopholes, and more technical ideas about moving to a territorial system of taxation.

Let's start with the former: The loopholes that need to be closed are those that enable corporations to pay extraordinarily low tax rates or no tax at all by shifting profits, patents and headquarters offshore. These cost us \$100 billion per year.

With respect to the latter, lawmakers are in danger of making a bad situation worse. A territorial system would be tantamount to a permanent tax holiday for corporations. Under this system, companies would not have to pay U.S. federal income taxes on foreign earnings when they bring

the profits back to the United States. These "foreign" earnings include the money that companies such as Google pay themselves for their own products or patents conveniently parked offshore.

Powerful special interests and CEOs have already lined up money, lobbyists and their media machine to lull lawmakers and citizens into believing they're the grownups at the table and know what's best. They don't. Instead, they benefit from a system rigged for their interests. And now they want more, at your expense.

Decisions made about taxation will have long-term and profound effects. It's not fair to continue to ask taxpayers to sacrifice, while failing to collect existing tax revenue from corporations making record profits.

Free enterprise isn't free. The nation's budget situation may be reason enough to close these loopholes, but the ramifications go much further. American corporations that benefit from the work force,

infrastructure, courts, markets and national security of the United States shouldn't be allowed to avoid their responsibilities.

Former U.S.-based corporations that have benefited from U.S. government research and development dollars and do the majority of their business in the U.S. should not be allowed to simply call a post office box in the Cayman Islands or an empty law office in Switzerland their "headquarters."

Congress needs to close offshore tax-dodging loopholes and make large corporations pay taxes in the same country that provides them with the benefits and legal protections that make it profitable to operate in the United States in the first place.

Nicole Tichon is executive director of Tax Justice Network USA and director of the Financial Accountability and Corporate Transparency coalition. American Forum. 12/12

DECEIT, continued from Page 1

often have physically demanding jobs, they rely more on Social Security disability and require more health care after retirement. If there were no such support, the proportion of impoverished, elderly African-Americans would rise to 62 percent from 24 percent, and for Hispanics, 61 percent from 19 percent.

The disproportionate dependence on these programs has grown as the wealth gap (income and assets) between whites and minorities has grown. From 2005 to 2009 wealth fell by 66 percent among Latino households, 53 percent among black households, and 54 percent among Asians, compared to 16 percent among whites.

We know this statistically and experientially. We are black and have spent most of our lives in the American civil rights and labor movements.

A 2010 survey found that 86 percent of whites and 92 percent of blacks believe Social Security benefits are worth the cost. A recent poll revealed that, by a 51 percent to 33 percent margin, Americans think that preserving Medicare as is outweighs reducing the deficit. A new sur-

vey found that only 13 percent of Americans favor major changes to Medicaid.

Republicans have ginned up a lot of concern about a so-called fiscal crisis. Since the emergence in 2010 of "tea party" organizations, their condemnations of budget deficits have become almost hysterical. But there is no fiscal crisis. Right's right: No. Fiscal. Crisis.

In this period of economic downturn, deficit spending is actually a stimulant that the economy needs. The "debt crisis" isn't fiscal; it's a political mirage, a smokescreen used by right-wingers to justify cuts in social insurance.

Minorities should take the lead in opposing those cuts, particularly through their social organizations, trade unions, and their ethnic-based groups. Their greatest allies are the facts.

Social Security does not contribute to the deficit. Its payouts come from Social Security tax revenues and interest from safe, conservative investments. Furthermore, even if nothing is done, Social Security can continue meeting 100 percent of its obligations until 2036. Solvency could be

extended decades further by modest reforms like raising the cap on taxable income for Social Security from its current \$110,100 and by gradually increasing the Social Security payroll tax by 1/20 of one percent (0.05) over twenty years. The eligibility age increases and benefit cuts proposed by Republicans are totally unnecessary.

Medicare, it is true, faces more serious challenges. But it is not going bankrupt, and prudent reforms -- not radical changes -- can extend its fiscal health well into the future. Republicans say that increased life expectancy and the surge in retiring baby boomers make benefit cuts and increases in age eligibility a no brainer. On the contrary, the main cause of increased Medicare costs is soaring health care inflation, which can be contained. President Obama's Affordable Health Care Act promotes preventive care by providing free screenings for early disease detection and by offering community-based prevention grants. It also promotes a policy of payment for results rather than by the numbers of procedures performed. Additionally, its Independent Pay-

ment Advisory Board will help detect potential cost savings. Significant cost reductions could also be made if Medicare were allowed to bargain with pharmaceutical companies over drug prices.

Despite overwhelming public opposition to social program cuts, and despite the Democratic victory in November, Republicans continue to press their attack, now using the "fiscal cliff" to attach social spending. The cliff, as you know, refers to legislatively mandated tax hikes and spending cuts of a drastic nature that will take effect after December 31 unless Congress acts to cut the deficit. According to some (but not all) economists, the automatic hikes and cuts will lead to a new recession.

Whatever compromises must be made, the President must draw a red line against reduced benefits in basic entitlements. He must stick to his campaign pledge to let the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy expire and to find ways to cut expenditures that do not hurt the most vulnerable.

The President must stand by his November mandate, and we must do all we can to assure that he will.

Medicare recipients saving over \$5B because of Affordable Care Act

Earlier this week Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson released the following statement on the announcement by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services concerning prescription drugs savings made possible by the Affordable Care Act:

"Today, Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that America's seniors have saved more than \$5.1 billion on prescription drugs since

the enactment of the Affordable Care Act. In Texas alone, 158,000 Medicare recipients have saved over \$300 million by closing the Medicare prescription drug coverage gap known as the "donut hole." Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, Medicare recipients will continue to see these savings on prescription drugs until 2020, when the donut hole coverage gap will close.

As the only North Texas legislator to vote for this historic healthcare reform bill, I am pleased to see so many Texans taking advantage of its many benefits. More than 1.62 million Texans have also utilized free access to preventive services. As the American people see increased savings and access to care, the Affordable Care Act is more popular than ever before."

Deadline for theme nominations due Dec. 10 for Red Ribbon Week 2013

In its 28th year as the nation's largest and oldest drug prevention campaign, Red Ribbon Week® reaches 80 million people each year throughout the United States. The National Family Partnership® (NFP) have issued their annual call-for-entries for the new theme of next year's Red Ribbon Week®. The winner will receive \$500 worth of Red Ribbon Week® 2013 merchandise for their K-12 school.

"The winner will receive national acclaim and recognition," said Peggy Sapp, NFP's volunteer president. "The winning slogan and design will be used throughout 2013 at thousands of schools and communities across America."

Entries must be received by Dec. 10 via email to redribbon@nfp.org (or via mail to National Family Partnership, 2490 Coral Way, Miami, FL 33145). Entry should include your name, school name, telephone number and email address.

Red Ribbon Week® is celebrated in schools across America, with large banners and signs hung from marquees and fences. Themes should be brief and as catchy as possible (The 2012 theme was "The Best Me Is Drug Free™." 2011's theme was "It's Up To Me To Be Drug Free®." The theme for 2010 was "I Am Drug Free: Choices = Consequences®.") Other recent annual slogans include "100% Me Drug Free®," "Look At Me I'm Drug Free®" and "Drug Free Is The Key®." While the red ribbon should be prominently



featured in the design, it is not required. Please refer to the red ribbon logo at www.redribbon.org. And last, don't be afraid to use other colors (in addition to red) in your entry.

The winner will be recognized at the 2013 Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of

America's (CADCA) Annual Leadership Forum (which brings together more than 2,500 participants representing community anti-drug coalitions from across the country, the media, government leaders, addiction treatment professionals, researchers, educators, law enforcement, and faith-based leaders). The winning slogan will also be recognized via Red Ribbon Week®'s national media relations and social media campaigns.

The NFP spearheaded the national campaign in response to the 1985 death of DEA agent Kiki Camarena, who was abducted and murdered by drug traffickers in Mexico. For more information, please visit www.redribbon.org or www.nfp.org.

Breast Cancer: Improving your odds

BY LAKSHMI KANNAN, MD

Patients often ask how they can improve their odds against breast cancer. The best way to improve your odds is to understand your risk factors.

Factors that increase your risk of breast cancer include being a female over the age of 50; previous estrogen therapy; a family history of breast or ovarian cancer in a first-degree relative (parent, sibling, or child) and a previous breast biopsy. Having a risk factor or several risk factors, however, doesn't mean that a woman will get breast cancer.

You can lower your risk of breast cancer by changing certain controllable risk factors. Limit your alcohol intake, exercise regularly, and maintain a healthy body weight. Women who choose to breast-feed for at least several months may also get an added benefit of reducing their breast cancer risk. Not using hormone therapy after menopause can help you avoid raising your risk.

Methodist Health System offers an interactive breast cancer risk assessment tool in the health library at www.methodist-healthsystem.org/healthinfo. This brief assessment will help you determine if you have major risk factors for breast cancer.

If you have a family history of breast or ovarian cancer, talk with your physician about options to reduce your risk. Your options may include additional screening techniques and other steps in certain serious risk cases to prevent cancer.

The best screening plan for breast cancer is digital mammography along with periodic breast self-exams combined with a clinical exam by a physician. The American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends yearly mammograms starting at age 40 and a clinical breast exam about every three years for women in their 20s and 30s, and every year for women 40 and older. Women should know how their breasts normally look

and feel and report any changes to their physician. An MRI may be recommended for patients with a greater than 20 to 25 percent lifetime risk, and may be used in conjunction with a mammogram and sonogram. Women should ask the question, "Do I need an MRI?"

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women, other than skin cancer. It is common among all racial and ethnic groups. The American Cancer Society reports that the breast cancer death rate is declining, probably because of earlier detection and improved treatment. There are certain factors you can't control, such as your age, gender, family history, and race. Focus on those things you can control and the odds should be in your favor.

Lakshmi Kannan, MD is an oncology and hematology specialist with Texas Oncology and independently practicing physician on the medical staff at Methodist Charlton Medical Center.



EVERY ONE IS IMPORTANT.

You can help keep your child healthy with regular checkups and vaccines. Every one is important. And they're free with Children's Medicaid.

Your child will also get other health benefits like free prescription drugs, dental care, eye exams, and glasses. Even rides to and from the doctor or dentist's office. Call today or visit our website to apply.

www.CHIPmedicaid.org
1-877-KIDS-NOW

 **Children's Medicaid**
We've got your kids covered.

CHILDREN WITH MEDICAID CAN GET FREE RIDES TO THE DOCTOR OR DENTIST'S OFFICE. CALL 1-877-MED-TRIP TO LEARN MORE.

Top Dollar Tax Service



Get up to \$1000.00 Loan (with bank approval)

**W2s, Schedule C, 1099,
RAL's funded in 24 hours!**
WWW.TOPDOLLARTAXSERVICE.BIZ

- All refunds are Electronically filed (24 hr RAL's)
- You have earned a 25.00 off filling fee with this card
- Ask about our 100.00 referral fee program
- Students Welcomed
- Free Estimates with your last paycheck stub
- Business Taxes Welcomed

Stop at any one of our convenient locations

(Corporate Office)
330 N 8th Street - Midlothian, Texas 76065

(Oak Cliff Office)
3333 Cedar Crest Blvd - Dallas, Texas 75203

(Cell) 817-615-7014 (Office) 214-614-8217 (Fax) 469-757-4522

Zetas hosting Skate for Babies

The Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. - Kappa Zeta chapter invites the family to bring your family and friends on the first Friday of every month (Dec. 7 through April 5) for their Skate for Babies.

The cost to participate is \$8 to enter. Also, every time you mention Kappa Zeta the March for Babies will receive \$4. The sorority has pledged all proceeds from this event will be donated to

the March for Babies campaign.

For more information visit about the Skate for Babies events visit www.facebook.com/#!/events/275705705865673/.

Ft. Worth church hosting 22nd annual coat drive

Charity Church Founder, Bishop F.R. Mays and members are hosting their 22nd annual Coats for Kids Give Away on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 9 a.m. The congregation and partners will provide local families with coats, hat, gloves, shoes, toys and bicycles for Christmas at the Charity Ministry Center located at 4400 Panola Ave in Ft. Worth.

Bishop F.R. Mays says, "I am delighted that Charity Church is still holding this event where we have served over 9,800 people with coats, toys & food since we started Coats for Kids Give Away."

Charity Church started with six individuals in the living room of Bishop Mays home and has grown to over 1,800 members. Charity Church indicated they have ministered to over 10,000 individuals.

Bishop F.R. Mays was motivated to start Coats for Kids when he observed two kids sharing a coat while waiting for bus ride to school twelve years ago. Charity Church Coats for Kids Give Away was established to serve children in the community and the elderly who are also eligible to receive coats.

Charity Church Coats for Kids Give Away has become one of the largest ministries in North Texas that serves families without any requirements other than showing up at the Center. Charity Church and Charity Center is open year round.

"There are no low income requirements that needs to be met in order to participate in Charity Church Coats for Kids Give Away," says Event Volunteer Coordinator Elder Marlow Shields, "Bishop Mays has pledged that Coats for Kids Give Away will give away near \$500,000 in goods, toys and services this year."

North Texas businesses exceed early goals of the United Way Campaign

Numerous North Texas businesses eclipsed previous individual fundraising records as they conducted early workplace fundraising programs over the last few months to support the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas annual campaign.

This year's United Way Pacesetters, who are part of the larger, 88th annual United Way of Metropolitan Dallas campaign, conducted early donation initiatives between March and October to encourage giving that will help end the cycles of high school dropouts, poverty and poor health. The United Way campaign remains underway through June 2013.

Campaign highlights from the United Way Pacesetters include the following:

•**Atmos Energy Corporation**, after breaking the million-dollar mark last year, grew its campaign by more than 12 percent over last year's total.

•**AT&T / CWA 6215's**

employee giving increased 9 percent over last year.

•**Celanese** hosted a golf tournament that generated a record-breaking \$600,000 for its campaign. The company's total campaign contribution grew by 6 percent over last year.

•**Comerica's** annual campaign raised an additional 8 percent over last year's total.

•**Jones Day** increased its contribution by 10 percent year over year. The firm has the largest law firm campaign with United Way of Metropolitan Dallas.

•**Kimberly-Clark Corporation** grew its annual campaign by 6 percent over last year.

•**USAA's** contributions grew by 80 percent over last year.

"We want to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of these leading local businesses and thank them for their commitment," says Rich Templeton, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas Cam-

paign Chair, and President/CEO of Texas Instruments. "Their hard work allows United Way to positively impact the lives of North Texans, building stronger communities, and providing better education for a more productive, healthier workforce."

Seven Pacesetter companies each raised \$1 million or more through their campaigns: AT&T/CWA 6215, Atmos Energy Corporation, Celanese Corporation, Citi, Energy Future Holdings Portfolio of Companies, jcpenny and UPS.

Six Pacesetter corporations earned LIVE UNITED Awards for their outstanding work in giving, advocating and volunteering for United Way. The organizations are: Alliance Data, AT&T/CWA 6215, Celanese Corporation, Comerica, DFW International Airport and Jones Day.

"United Way Pacesetters set the tone for giving by mo-

See UNITED, Page 11

PETE, continued from Page 1

She said that historically her office received only one or two complaints per year, but the number jumped to more than 100 last year, and will escalate much further this year.

"It's not only Antilleans or Surinamers who are complaining," she said, referring to people descended from the former Dutch colonies that once traded in slavery. "It's all kinds of Dutch people."

There are various versions of the history of St. Nicholas — "Sinterklaas" in Dutch — and of Zwarte Piet, who made his debut as an African servant in an 1850 book.

"Nobody is against the Sinterklaas celebration or is calling people who celebrate it racist," said Silversmith. "But it is time to consider whether this is offensive, whether there actually are racist ideas underlying Zwarte Piet."

The debate comes after a decade in which the Dutch have rolled back many aspects of their famed tolerance policies, and in which anti-immigrant sentiment has risen sharply. Zwarte Piet is

frequently defended as part of Dutch cultural heritage, and those who don't like it are often bluntly invited to leave the country. Many Dutch say Pete's black face derives from the soot he picked up climbing down chimneys to deliver presents — although that hardly explains the frizzy hair and big lips.

A sea-change may have occurred here during last year's festivities, when four men were arrested for wearing T-shirts bearing the slogan "Zwarte Piet is Racism" outside a store during an appearance of Sinterklaas — and charged with protesting without a permit.

Police threw one, Quinsy Gario, to the ground, and kned him in the back repeatedly as they dragged him away, though he offered no resistance. A video of the incident was placed on YouTube, and the slogan began trending.

Although police were later found to have acted wrongly, many parents still felt that it was inappropriate to protest during the holiday or when children were pres-

ent. Gario responds that Dutch people won't discuss the matter the rest of the year, so his protest was the only way to broach the subject.

This year the debate has clearly escalated.

For the first time, a white politician has openly challenged the tradition: "The Sinterklaas celebration once began without Zwarte Piet," Amsterdam councilwoman Andree van Es said in an interview with newspaper Het Parool this week. "It's time it continues without Zwarte Piet."

Two major chains of stores, Blokker and V&D, now use images of kids with ash-smudged cheeks in their sales catalogues, rather than Petes with black faces. And in a first this weekend, a documentary laying out arguments against Zwarte Piet aired on national television.

The county's most widely read news blog, "GeenStijl" launched a blistering campaign against Black Pete — surprising because GeenStijl prides itself on being tasteless and politically incorrect, and had mocked Gario after the 2011 incident.

"Zwarte Piet is nothing more than a repulsive parody of a slave, fine-tuned to indoctrinate schoolchildren into the finer points of racism," it wrote in its first posting in a series. "The sooner we get rid of Zwarte Piet, the sooner we won't look like idiots to the rest of the world."

Despite the growing anti-Pete movement, the tradition finds a strong bedrock of support in mainstream Dutch society, meaning it's unlikely to disappear any time soon.

In 2008, a Museum in Eindhoven called off an anti-Pete exhibition after protests. The foreign artists received death threats. And when Victoria's Secret model Doutzen Kroes said on national television in 2009 that Zwarte Piet is the one thing that has ever made her feel ashamed of being Dutch, the studio audience laughed at her.

A Facebook page with the slogan "Zwarte Piet is Racism" has become a major platform for debate this year, though moderators have begun removing hate speech and personal threats.

M&M RESIDENTIAL AND PRESERVATION SERVICES
"We Clean As If It's Our Home"
469.831.0042 or 214.414.5308



M&M Residential Cleaning and Preservation Services is a foreclosure preservation organization.

Our organization is run by husband and wife team, Marcus L and Marva J Norsworthy. Both partners have individual experience in the field of foreclosure preservation management.

M&M Residential Cleaning and Preservation Services is professional and extremely focused on providing high-quality service and customer satisfaction - we will do everything we can to meet your expectations.

With a variety of services to choose from, we're sure you'll be happy working with us.

We offer:

- Property securing
- Lock change outs
- Re-keys
- Winterization
- Carpet Cleaning
- Broom Swept Cleaning
- White Glove Cleaning
- Yard Maintenance
- Minor Repairs
- Trash outs
- Paint
- Boarding

Our company is based on the belief that our customers' needs are of the utmost importance. Our entire team is committed to meeting those needs. As a result, a high percentage of our business is from repeat customers and referrals.

Local students inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is pleased to announce that the following local students were recently initiated into Phi Kappa Phi -- the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines:

Susan Duboskas of Irving, Texas, who is pursuing a degree in Business Administration at Texas Woman's University.

Cicley Jones of Dallas, Texas, who is pursuing a degree in Administration at Texas Woman's University.

Ronald Blumoff of Dallas, Texas, who is pursuing a degree at The University of Texas at San Antonio.

These local students are among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors, having at least 72 semester hours, are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

tion and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors, having at least 72 semester hours, are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Celebrities teaching dance to local kids

The PULSE On Tour will bring celebrity choreographers to the Dallas area dancers, Dec. 15-16.

For the ninth consecutive year, dance icons join The PULSE to create the ultimate dance experience for thousands. The 2012-2013 Tour will include more opportunities to a greater body of dancers as The PULSE adds international cities in Mexico, The United Kingdom, Canada, and Japan to the highly anticipated domestic lineup for the upcoming season.

Confirmed PULSE Dallas Faculty includes, Tyce Diorio (*SYTYCD*, *Katie Holmes*), Dave Scott (*Step Up*, *SYTYCD*), Cris Judd (*DWTS*, *JLo*), Gil Duldulao (*Nicki Minaj*, *Janet Jackson*), Desmond Richardson (*Complexions*, *SYTYCD*), and PULSE Emcee, Carmit Bachar (*Pussycat Dolls*, *Adam Lambert*).

Featuring "a group of the most respected choreographers in the biz" (US Magazine), The PULSE On Tour, educates and inspires dancers across the country by providing them unprece-

ded access to all-star choreographers and groundbreaking training through classes, performances, seminars, scholarships, meet and greets, Q&A's and more.

The PULSE has hosted over 80,000 dancers ages 11 to 40 in 30 cities across the United States and Canada.

Registration is now open for the event at The PULSE Dallas event scheduled for:

Hyatt Regency Dallas;
300 Reunion Boulevard;
Dallas, TX 75207; 214-651-1234

Dallas Bar Association announce December schedule for LeglaLine

Volunteer attorneys will answer legal questions at no cost from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 12, via LeglaLine, a call-in program sponsored by the Dallas Bar Association.

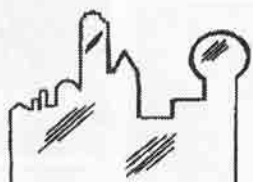
LeglaLine is a community service for DFW-area residents, provided the second and third Wednesdays of each month. On these designated nights, anonymous lawyers are available to answer questions in many law-related areas ranging from divorce and child support matters, to wills, insurance, employment and criminal law matters.

Residents needing assistance should call LeglaLine at 214-20-7476 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 12. Please note there is no LeglaLine on Dec. 19, due to the holiday season.

UNIQUE GLASS & MIRROR & REMODELING

"Covering the DFW Area"

Decks	Solar Screens
Fences	Mirrors Cut To Order
Floors	Tempered Glass
Counter Tops	Furniture Tops
Windows	Wall Mirrors
Shower Doors	Fog Window Replacement
Window Screens	Small Brick Repair
Lawn Service	



We Will Save You Money

Roderick, Owner
(469) 231-6007 ~ Fax (214) 941-4665
Uniqueglassandmirror.com
uniquegandm@aol.com

Irving ISD hires Bertha Bailey Whatley as Attorney

Irving Independent School District (Irving ISD) has hired its first in-house attorney to represent the Superintendent, designated staff and the Board of Trustees. Until now the district has been using out of district legal counsel. Last night the Board was introduced to Bertha Bailey Whatley, the lone finalist for the position.

Bailey is currently the Chief Legal Counsel for Fort Worth ISD. She is expected to start with Irving ISD is Jan. 7, 2013 and the agreed annual salary for the position of Attorney is \$141,000. Bailey accepted this position as an at-will employee, which means the Board of Trustees does not have to formally vote to approve the hire.



Bertha Bailey Whatley

WILLIAMS, continued from Page 2

strokes," Williams said. "My father's stroke left him unable to walk or talk and I am sad to say that my grandmother is no longer with us. Stroke has really

devastated my family, so being involved with the competition gives me the opportunity to share my story and to empower people with stroke knowledge

to help them to reduce their risks."

For more information on the competition and stroke, visit <http://power.watchgmctv.com>.

New Possibilities. New Neighborhoods.

With more stations and destinations, a better DART commute is here.

Dallas Area Rapid Transit's new rail and bus connections make it even easier to reach the great destinations DART serves.

The Orange Line offers new paths to knowledge and experience, with North Lake College Station and a convenient new bus connection from Belt Line Station to Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

And the Blue Line's Downtown Rowlett Station offers a new way to the office, and back to home.

Connect from your home to great work and play destinations throughout the DART service area — the affordable and hassle-free way! Parking is available at all three new stations.

For more information about DART or to plan a trip, visit DART.org.



214.979.1111

Follow us on Twitter Like us on Facebook





Was your home in the FORECLOSURE PROCESS in 2009-2010, and was your mortgage loan serviced by one of the companies listed here?

America's Servicing Co.

EMC

PNC Mortgage

Aurora Loan Services

EverBank/EverHome
Mortgage Company

Sovereign Bank

BAC Home Loans Servicing

Financial Freedom

SunTrust Mortgage

Bank of America

GMAC Mortgage

U.S. Bank

Beneficial

HFC

Wachovia Mortgage

Chase

HSBC

Washington Mutual (WaMu)

Citibank

IndyMac Mortgage Services

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

CitiFinancial

MetLife Bank

CitiMortgage

National City Mortgage

Wilshire Credit Corporation

Countrywide

If you believe foreclosure errors cost you money, you can request a free review of your mortgage foreclosure file by a neutral party. You give up nothing by requesting a review and waive no rights by accepting compensation.

IF AN ERROR IS FOUND, YOU COULD RECEIVE A PAYMENT OR OTHER COMPENSATION THAT MAY INCLUDE REFUNDED FEES, STOPPING OF A FORECLOSURE OR PAYMENTS UP TO \$125,000 PLUS EQUITY.*

Visit IndependentForeclosureReview.com or call 1-888-952-9105 to request a review today. You must submit a Request for Review Form no later than December 31, 2012.

Don't pay for help to request a review. Federal bank regulators—the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury—are directing and monitoring the review process.

For more information, go to the government websites: occ.gov/independentforeclosurereview or federalreserve.gov/consumerinfo/independent-foreclosure-review.htm

If you need free help to complete the Request for Review Form, contact a HUD-approved nonprofit organization that helps homeowners in distress. Information about HUD-approved nonprofit organizations that can provide free assistance is available at makinghomeaffordable.gov/get-started/housing-expert or by calling 1-855-778-0855.

Si usted habla español, tenemos representantes que pueden asistirle en su idioma para darle información sobre la Revisión Independiente de Ejecución Hipotecaria.

Assistance is also available in over 200 languages, including: Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Hmong and Russian.

提供中文幫助。
한국어 도움을 제공합니다.
Помощь на русском языке.

Trợ giúp hiện có bằng tiếng Việt.
Peb muaj cov neeg hais lus Hmoob pab nej.
Available ang tulong sa wikang Tagalog.

* Any payments made to you if errors in your foreclosure are found may be reported to the IRS and may have tax implications. Consult a tax advisor to discuss those implications.

An important message directed by
the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
INDEPENDENT FORECLOSURE REVIEW

NDG's 25 Days of Christmas: Massage Envy & Coppell's toy drive for Make a Child Smile

We all enjoy giving and receiving gifts during the Christmas season. However, the true spirit of Christmas includes sharing with those less fortunate. Throughout NDG's 25 Days of Christmas Gift Guide we will spotlight opportunities for individuals and families to help others.

Massage Envy Coppell is partnering with the City of Coppell on the Make a Child Smile donation drive, a holiday program that helps families who are in need. Their goal is to provide items for at least 350 children in the city.

"One of our clients works for the City of Coppell and when he told us about the program, we knew we wanted to be involved," said Ashley Martin, clinic administrator at Massage Envy Coppell. "We're always looking for new ways to give back to the community. It helps us to feel more connected and it goes hand-in-hand with what we do professionally because massage therapy is all about helping others."

Massage Envy Coppell will accept donations for the Make a Child Smile program until 10 p.m. Dec. 5, 2012, after which, Massage Envy employees will deliver donations to the City of Coppell for sorting and distribution.

Make a Child Smile was created by the City of Coppell about 25 years ago. It is a holiday tradition that's designed to provide clothing and toys for Coppell children who are in need.

"We collaborate with Coppell Independent School District on the project and the district helps us identify families that may need a little extra help around the holidays. Then we create a Christmas ornament for each child that lists the gender, age and clothing size, and people are encouraged to donate based on the information on the ornaments," said Sharon Logan, community information officer for the City of Coppell.

How it works: People visit the Massage Envy Coppell clinic and pick out a Christmas ornament. Then, they choose which item or items to donate and communicate that to the Massage Envy staff, and finally purchase and return with the item(s) anytime during business hours. The clinic is open from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. until 8

p.m. on Saturdays and from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Sundays.

All donated items should be new and unwrapped. Anyone who wishes to donate but does not have time to shop can make a monetary donation over the phone by calling 972-956-5999 or in person at Massage Envy Coppell, located at 120 South Denton Tap Road #303 in Coppell, 75019.

"The City of Coppell is trying to bring in donations for approximately 350 kids, so every little bit helps," said Martin. "We still have a long way to go, but with the community's help, we can reach that goal."

People also can donate directly to the City of Coppell by calling 972-304-3663 or by visiting the city manager's office, located on the second floor of the Coppell Town Cen-



ter, 255 Parkway Blvd. The office is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit <http://coppelltx.gov>.

"Make a Child Smile has always been successful. We have a great community that really pitches in when there's a time of need. We have wonderful corporate partners like Massage Envy, whose employees and customers just jump in and help. It's the generosity of the community and businesses that make this program such a success," added Logan.

"Light Up a Life" Provides Remembrance of Loved Ones and Hospice Care in Dallas County

The holiday season is a time for remembering loved ones and the Visiting Nurse Association is exhibiting its eleventh annual "Light Up a Life" tree to honor the memory family members and friends.

A paper dove bearing the name of an honoree can be placed on the tree for a \$20 donation to the Visiting Nurse Association. Funds raised from "Light Up a Life" help the nonprofit organization provide hospice services to terminally ill patients and their families in Dallas County who lack resources for needed care.

The "Light Up a Life" tree will be on display weekdays through December 31 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Visiting Nurse Association's headquarters on 1440 W. Mockingbird Lane in Dallas.

Donations to "Light Up a Life" can be made by con-

tacting Julie Feltner, hospice volunteer coordinator for the Visiting Nurse Association, at (214) 689-2672 or feltnerj@vantexas.org.

Donations to "Light Up a Life" help the Visiting Nurse Association provide hospice care to Dallas County patients and their families.



NDG's 25 Days of Christmas

Visit www.NorthDallasGazette.com to read about gift ideas for the special child, lady or guy on your Christmas list. Will also feature special events, local nonprofits and Dallas dining. Check in each day until Dec. 20 and share your ideas with us too!

Good Day

24 Hour Childcare Center

- * Fieldtrips
- * Sports Programs
- * Preschool Programs
- * After School Programs

- * A Gardening Program
- * Online High School Programs
- * In-Home Childcare Services

Your Child's Health Important to Us
Every child receives snacks and three meals a day. We provide them with a healthy breakfast, lunch and dinner!
Furthermore, because obesity is such a huge problem on a local and national level, we also have a food program for obese children.

Phone: (469) 271-2217
Fax: (972) 491-6941

Comprehensive 24 Hour Childcare Services in Plano, Texas
3237 Santana Lane, Plano, TX 75023-3602
Bilingual Services
Info@goodday24hrchildcare.com

North Dallas
Gazette

The Money Saver

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS PROMOTION

2c x 5

**Thurmond's
Bar & Grill Ad**

Coupon

AD & FREE Coupon
Reg. \$800.00 Per Month
Now \$400.00 Per Month

Contact Carrenza Thurmond at 972-516-4191 X3
or call 214-298-5215 (cell).

Irving ISD: Moving in the right direction

BY TANYA R. DEVAUGHN,
NDG CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

The Irving Independent School District (Irving ISD) appears on track to make important strides under the leadership of Dr. Dana Bedden according to his supporters and even detractors.

Earlier this fall, in our Oct. 18 story entitled *Irving ISD's new 5-2 voting plan symptom of a larger problem*, we focused on the redistricting plan for Irving ISD. The story also spotlighted the concerns of community leaders regarding the new 5-2 voting plan. This month we are looking at the efforts of Irving ISD to increase diversity among teachers, principals and administrative-level personnel; efforts to increase male role models; and the state of the district's supplier diversity efforts. We are also taking a look at how Dr. Dana Bedden is doing as Irving ISD's superintendent.

and cabinet for 2012-13.

As a candidate for the superintendent position, Dr. Bedden pledged to increase minority candidates for positions in the district if he was hired. While the current numbers for both professional staff and teachers are lower

than the 50.6 percent seen in 2010-11, they are higher than the 32 percent and 33 percent seen in 2011-12. Dr. Bedden wants to increase the minority staff, however he points out the district must hire the "best candidate for the position." When asked about increasing the hiring of Hispanics, he acknowledged the majority of the student population is Hispanic at 71 percent. Dr. Bedden indicated if he hired Hispanic teachers to match the current student population, then nearly seven out of ten teachers hired would be Hispanic. Under current hiring guidelines, the dis-



trict cannot hire such a large number of Hispanics. Additionally, when you take into account the candidate's education, state certification and other employment requirements, the teacher candidate pool becomes smaller. Along with increasing minority staff, there is a concern regarding if the district has enough male

role models in Irving ISD. In response to this concern, Irving ISD provided the following statement: "We strive to employ a diverse and inspiring professional staff, recruiting from the same pool of qualified applicants as our local counterparts. Our first priority is always to hire the best-qualified candidate and to adhere to Title VII and other legal requirements that govern employment practices. Historically, the teaching profession shows that more females than males become teachers. In the past few years, the state of Texas has averaged ap-

proximately 77 percent females in the profession. Irving ISD, for the past 4 years has averaged approximately 79.5 percent female."

One individual, a former staff member, believes the reason they were not promoted to a higher position was due to a lack of consistency and objectivity when evaluating candidates based on the expectations communicated to those pursuing higher level positions. As a result, expectations became a 'constantly moving target.' They felt some candidates had an unfair advantage because of their 'connections' within the district. This individual does not believe it was racially motivated, but feels there is a pattern of identifying 'select' minorities already in the district to either appoint them or groom them for higher-level positions.

Another anonymous source mentioned the lack of male role models in Irving ISD, but is pleased with the progress Irving ISD has made in addressing male mentoring, especially among African-American students.

Regarding Irving ISD's supplier diversity efforts, their goal is to have 10 percent participation of minority vendors and they have outlined procedures to accomplish this goal. Irving ISD confirmed to the *North Dallas Gazette* that more than 15 percent of their discretionary spending is with Minority/Women Business Enterprise-Historically Underutilized Business (M/WBE-HUB) vendors. In fact, Irving ISD officials believe the total spend will actually increase to 18 percent. It is important to note the district's current MWBE-HUB policy was developed over the last two years under Dr. Bedden's leadership.

Dr. Dana Bedden was hired as Irving ISD's superintendent in 2010. As with any leader, Dr. Bedden may have his naysayers, but there are others who think Dr. Bedden is serving the students of Irving well.

This includes René Martinez, the director of the League of United Latin American Citizens' (LULAC) District 3. Perhaps not surprisingly, Martinez does not feel there is adequate Hispanic representation in top administrative positions. However, Martinez indicated overall Dr. Bedden has been responsive to the Hispanic community. He was especially impressed with the handling of a situation at F.M.

Gilbert Elementary School where the student population is majority Hispanic and the principal, who was white, was allegedly insensitive to the needs of Hispanic students.

"Regarding how the situation at Gilbert Elementary was handled, I'd give Dr. Bedden a score of 9 out of 10," says Martinez. "I would also defend him on how he's handling the bilingual program." Gilbert Elementary now has a new principal, a Hispanic female. According to Martinez, the school's bilingual program is working very well, and they are recruiting bilingual teachers.

A source, wishing to remain anonymous, says Dr. Bedden works hard to appear unbiased to others, and at times this can ruffle feathers because outwardly he appears biased against African-Americans. However, they give him high marks on his management during the recent financial crisis while maintaining growth in school technology programs. Several schools have been recognized for achievement in technology. Overall, the individual believes Dr. Bedden has done a good job.

Anthony Bond, chair of the Irving Education Coalition, does feel Irving ISD is moving too slowly in becoming a district whose overall staff represents the ethnic make-up of the Irving community. Bond is also a proponent of single member districts.

However, Bond believes Dr. Bedden is a knowledgeable and intelligent leader for the district. When asked about Dr. Bedden's overall performance Bond says, "I would give him an A- rating at this point."

Minorities	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Teachers	50.6%	32.0%	46.6%
Professionals	50.6%	33.0%	47.8%

A chart provided by the Irving ISD shows the district's progress in increasing minority hires. Both the minority teaching staff and professional staff have

increased since 2011-12.

2012-13	African-American	Hispanic
Principals	13.2%	24%
Senior Cabinet	33%	0%
Cabinet	25%	12.5%

While there were no previous years to compare, the second chart (below) shows the percentage representation of minorities as principals, senior cabinet

increased since 2011-12.

While there were no previous years to compare, the second chart (below) shows the percentage representation of minorities as principals, senior cabinet

increased since 2011-12.

The Irving ISD staff is utilizing new innovative approaches through the use of technology in their efforts to recruit minority candidates. Budget constraints present challenges

NDG Gossip: Is Chris Brown another Tupac? He thinks so

BY KENDRIA BROWN,
NDG INTERN

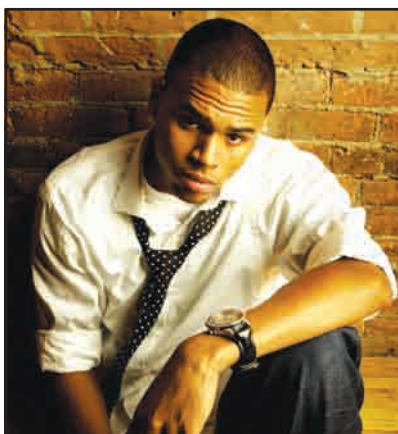
Aside from piercings and volatile behavior, what else does Chris Brown and the late Tupac Shakur have in common? Sure they both put out great music but can you think of anything else?

Maybe the fact they both had songs referring to not being judged- Brown's single *Don't Judge Me* and Shakur's *Only God Can Judge Me*. Both artists have faced much scrutiny from the public because of their acts of violence and publicized criminal proceedings. And yes Brown can be a ladies' man, mama's boy, or even misogynistic from time to time, as was Pac. Brown and Pac could be labeled as two playboys who feud in clubs and make verbal attacks and physical assaults.

Shakur's life was tragically brought to an end in a

shooting at the age of 25, but his music lives on. He obviously has inspired many artists such as Brown. In this era, social media is a popular outreach tool used by artists, fans, and foes alike. It was on the Instagram social media channel that Brown likened himself to Shakur, stating, "That awkward moment when the only person u can relate to in the world is dead." Brown also included a photo of Tupac holding up the middle finger.

Although calling Chris Brown another Tupac is quite a stretch to make, I am sure we can think of various similarities Pac and Brown share. How would Tupac have reacted today via social media sites when confronted by his haters and



Chris Brown

foes? Maybe Brown is responding in the same way Tupac had if he'd been alive today.

Remember before Brown deleted his twitter account and feuded with one female, he responded, "Take them teeth out when u Sucking my d*ck H*E." Perhaps another Tupac-like move?

In what ways do you think they are alike? Comment on www.facebook.com/northdallasgazette.com

Texas Voices holiday concerts

Professional chamber choir The Texas Voices continues its 10th anniversary season of public concerts with *Mary Had a Baby: A Celebration of Hope and Mystery* on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1919 Independence Parkway in Plano and on Monday, Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Rd. in Dallas.

The holiday concert features choral arrangements

of 15th and 16th century English, Scottish, and Welsh carols, including *Sussex Carol*, *Balulalow*, *Ding Dong Merrily on High*, and *Make We Merry*.

Also included are *Ave Maria* by Peppie Calvar, *Breath of Heaven*, *Holy Mystery* by Composer-in-Residence Debra Scroggins, and The King's Singers' masterful vocal arrangement of the Christmas spiritual *Mary Had a Baby*.

New this season are multiple performances and flex passes good for any combination of performances. Flex passes are \$85-\$125, depending on the number of performances. Individual tickets are \$22 regular, \$18 for seniors (65+), and \$10 for students. Flex passes and individual tickets may be purchased online at www.thetexas-voices.org, at the door, or by calling 214-384-6336.

X Factor contestant Panda Ross to sing National Anthem for the MetroPCS Dallas Marathon

Panda Ross, 2012 *X Factor* contestant and local celebrity, will sing the National Anthem during the starting ceremonies of the 2012 MetroPCS Dallas Marathon. Panda was invited by executive director Marcus Grunewald, who was introduced to Panda through his Back on My Feet running buddies.



Panda Ross

"Panda has worked at my local Starbucks for seven years now, I visit her on Friday's after my morning run," said Grunewald. "She's extremely talented and after hearing about her *X Factor* success, I asked her to join us on race day."

Ross, originally from Hobbs, New Mexico, tried out for *X Factor* because she

See PANDA, Page 11

It's Free Checking. It's a Money Market. (Ahh...it's the perfect blend of both.)

Absolute Checking means no monthly fees, loads of free extras to access your cash and **premium interest of 1%^{APY}**.

It's everything you've always wanted in checking.



ViewPoint Bank

972-578-5000 • viewpointbank.com

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

MEMBER FDIC

New Work Space sponsoring a Holiday Vendor

The Connective Hub in North Dallas is celebrating its grand opening by hosting a holiday vendor / giving fair for small businesses and nonprofits on Saturday Dec. 8, 2012 from Noon to 4 p.m. The public is invited to shop and choose from a number of nonprofit organizations to make year-end and Christmas donations.

"This is the perfect opportunity for us to showcase some of the small businesses and nonprofits organizations in our community," said Michael Bailey, owner of Connective Hub. "Tis the season for giving and purchasing. What a better way to celebrate our grand opening by doing what we do best, build our community and support entrepreneurial endeavors."

The Hub is a 5,000 square foot collaborative workspace for entrepreneurs, independent workers, corporate defectors and diverse small businesses sharing and supporting each other at 14228 Midway Road, Dallas, TX 75244. The space is also

used for hosting lectures, Meetups and other community and business events. The collaborative working space has just completed a year-long beta test and will consider December 8th its official public launch date.

Thought to have first started in San Francisco in 2005 with Citizen Space, co-working spaces are now widespread in the U.S. and Europe and are making headway in Asia, courting mostly people in their 20s and 30s working on projects solo or in small teams. Connective Hub is one of a few workspaces in the Dallas area and the only one in North Dallas.

The space organizes regular events, including weekly lunch & learns, monthly meet-ups and quarterly art shows.

The Connective Hub has created a community that combines the diversity of a collaborative working space, the structure and capabilities of a successful company, the discipline of a business incubator, the atmosphere of a hip coffee shop, the flexibility of a na-

tionwide executive office and the power of an entrepreneurial community.

The Hub was started by Michael Bailey to provide a place for active entrepreneurs. "We understand that the first years of a small business are usually the hardest." The Hub has put together a number of programs and co-ops to provide resources for small business owners and independent workers. He hopes that people who are tired of meeting at coffee shops or working from home alone will consider the Connective Hub.

The Dec. 8 event is free to the public. Vendor booths are still available for \$50 each. Ten non-profits organizations will be featured during the fair. They will be on hand to give out information about their organization and will be accepting donations onsite.

For more information or to get a vendor booth call 214-432-4878, e-mail info@connectivehub.com or visit www.connectivehub.com.

Dallas ISD's climate survey shows majority of staff believe their school is headed in the right direction

A climate survey conducted of Dallas ISD staff November 1-16 shows that the majority of teachers and other district employees believe that their schools are heading in the right direction.

More than 10,000 employees responded to the survey, including 78% of district teachers and 67% of all staff members. Staff members were assured that their individual responses would remain anonymous.

"These survey results are encouraging particularly

with so many changes since the beginning of the school year," said Superintendent of Schools Mike Miles. "Our goal is to be supportive of our staff by helping coach and inspire them with the ultimate goal of improving student achievement. Surveys like these will continue to be used over time to help us know how we are doing."

Results show that 86% of staff members who chose to participate in the survey agree that their campuses base

their actions on the district's core beliefs. In addition:

- 75% of those who took the survey believe that the key actions that their school is working on this year are focused on what is best for students.

- 71% of the staff believe their school is headed in the right direction.

- 70% of staff believe that they work in an environment of support and respect.

- 69% of staff agree that campus leadership helps them

See CLIMATE, Page 15

UNITED, continued from Page 5

tivating other businesses and organizations to do the same," says United Way of Metropolitan Dallas President and CEO Jennifer Sampson. "The incredible generosity of these companies and their employees allows United Way's work to improve the lives of countless North Texans, through our focus on the three key areas of education, income and health."

Additional Pacesetter campaign efforts were acknowledged in the following categories:

Outstanding New Pacesetter Campaign

USAA
Best Practices Awards
Best Use of Social Media/
New Technology
La Quinta Inns & Suites

Best Example of Volunteerism
Energy Future Holding Portfolio of Companies

Best Employee Engagement
Kimberly-Clark Corporation

Outstanding Leadership Campaign

Aviall, Inc.
Comerica
Corgan Associates, Inc.
Energy Future Holdings Portfolio of Companies

Outstanding Tocqueville

Campaign

AT&T/CWA 6215
Celanese Corporation
La Quinta Inns & Suites
Vinson & Elkins, L.L.P.

Outstanding Campaign Growth

Atmos Energy Corporation
Thomson Reuters

Outstanding Service Provider Campaign

LaunchAbility

PANDA, continued from Page 10

wanted to win enough money to help build a church with her ministry group, Victory Outreach. She also counts Simon Cowell as her "idol." After making it through her audition in front of the judges, Ross made it to the boot camp round where she was eliminated.

"I've been singing all of my life," Ross said. "I'm so looking forward to singing the National Anthem and to experience all of the excitement for the Dallas Marathon. Every time a customer walks through the door of my Starbucks, I'm always singing the anthem for practice!"

Since X Factor, Ross has been making appearances for the show, filming commercials and has also recorded a handful of singles for her upcoming Christian-gospel record. Ross will be singing the National Anthem

for the Dallas Marathon on the heels of a gig in New York City to kick off the professional soccer season.

To learn more about marathon weekend festivities, visit dallasmarathon.com.

Experienced Welder

Reynolds Asphalt and Construction Company has an immediate need for welder with experience in heavy equipment welding and industrial plant fabrication.

Requirements:

- 1 to 2 years of proven welding experience
- Legal to work in the United States
- Pass a pre-employment drug screening and physical
- Clean driving record
- Willing to work in the field and at the shop in all weather conditions
- Available to work extended hours, including weekends
- Hold a HS diploma or GED
- Be flexible to work extended hours, including weekends
- Be a positive team player

Please do not apply unless you are willing to work

Salary to match your experience and knowledge
Qualified candidates please e-mail your resume to:

mhood@reynoldsasphalt.com or
Come by and fill out an application:
701 S. Industrial Blvd #100
Euless, TX 76040
EEO

**BROOKHAVEN • CEDAR VALLEY
EASTFIELD • EL CENTRO
MOUNTAIN VIEW • NORTH LAKE • RICHLAND**

**SPRING 2013?
REALLY?**

**REGISTER BY
JAN. 16.
CLASSES START
JAN. 22!**

**You don't have to be Einstein to know that
registering early will ensure that you get the
classes you want, when you want them, for the
Spring 2013 semester.**

**Get class schedule info at
www.dcccd.edu/schedules.**

Really!

**SMART
STARTS HERE.**

**Dallas County
Community College District**

Weeknights

Award-winning journalist **Cheryl Smith: Cheryl's World** provides informative talk, commentary and interesting guests Tune in weeknights at 6 p.m., Sundays 8 a.m. & Saturdays at Noon on Blog Talk Radio or call 646-200-0459 to listen.

Daily

Activity Time Highland Hills at Highland Hills Branch Library, 3624 Simpson Stuart Rd.; 214-670-0987

Personal Views: Texas Black Folk Artists at African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave.; 214-565-9026

Every Tuesday

Dallas Comedy House Open Mic at 2645 Commerce St; 214-741-4448

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 at 10045 Audelia Rd. (at Church St.) in Dallas. Info: hellen.fissahaie5@gmail.com

"Legally Blonde" by Garland Civic Theatre at Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre; 972-205-2790

"Cricket on the Hearth" by Breitling Youth Theatre at Plaza Theatre; 972-658-3915

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 22

The Forgotten Carols at the Belaire Plaza at 420 East Pipeline Rd. Performances are at 7:30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday with 3 p.m. matinees on Saturdays Nov. 24 and Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2012. Reserved seating tickets on Friday and Saturday are \$18 for adults, \$16 for students and seniors, and \$9 for children 12 and under. 817-284-1200 or <http://www.ArtisanCT.com>

Through December 28

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

Through January 13

American Childhood: Celebrating Classic Toys at the Old Red Museum of Dallas County History & Culture, 100 S Houston

Dead Sea Scrolls & the Bible at MacGorman Performing Arts Center, 4616 Stanley Ave. in Fort Worth; 877-789-0876

Nov. 30 – Dec. 2

Dallas Ballet Company

presents **The Nutcracker** at Granville Arts Center in Garland www.dallasballetcompany.org or 972-205-2790

Ballet Ensemble of Texas presents **The Nutcracker** at Irving Arts Center www.irvingartscenter.com or 972-252-ARTS

December 2

Eat, Drink, Dance, and Be Merry! with a guest performance by Epiphany Dance Arts from 6-8pm at Quixotic World, 2824 Main St, Dallas, \$19 Adults, \$13 Children (12 & under) 646-526-6220

December 12-15

"Fruitcakes" by Breitling Youth Theatre at Plaza Theatre; 972-658-3915

December 12-16

Batman Live- World Arena Tour at American Airlines Center

December 14

Garland Symphony Orchestra, Concert III at Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium; 972-926-0611

December 15

Funky Towns First Annual **Grown & Sexy Saturday** at The Elegant Masonic Hall Center, 1100 Henderson St. in Fort Worth; Cost: \$25; 682-221-4078

December 27-30

"Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas" at Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre; 972-205-2790

December 27, 2012 - January 1, 2013

Lone Star Circus Illuminates the Imagination with Cirque Banquiste Dec 27-Jan 1. International circus stars from around the globe bring their talents and a pre-show in the theatre lobby allows children from the Lone Star Circus School's classes to show their skills, too. Tickets \$20-\$46, 214-740-0051 or www.lonestarcircus.org. For group sales information, contact Mark Doyle at 214-237-2515.

January 17- February 9, 2013

"Under the Yum-Yum Tree" by GCT at Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre; 972-205-2790

January 18, 2013

Garland Symphony Orchestra, Concert IV at Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium; 972-926-0611

February 2, 2013

The Joey Riley Show at Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium; 817-455-7783

January 25- March 3, 2013

Goodnight Moon at the Dallas Children's Theater brings a favorite book to life. Savor the whimsical and rich world of a child's imagination with stars, air and noises everywhere! This fanciful poem of good-night wishes comes to life as an extravaganza of enchantment, singing, dancing and puppetry. Rosewood Center for Family Arts at 5938 Skillman Street in Dallas.

February 15, 2013

Garland Symphony Orchestra, Concert V at Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium; 972-926-0611

CADNET/NORTH DALLAS GAZETTE

National and Local Classified Advertising Network

To advertise call 972-509-9049 Email (ad for quote) opportunity@northdallasgazette.com

ADOPTION

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? You choose from families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 866-413-6292, 24/7 Void/Illinois

Pregnant? FTMom/Dedicated dad seek to adopt. Financial security. Expenses paid. Yvette/David. Ask4Adam. 1-800-790-5260

AUTOS WANTED

TOP CASH FOR CARS, Any Car/Truck, Running or

Not. Call for INSTANT offer: 1-800-454-6951

ELECTRONICS

Direct To Home Satellite TV \$19.99/mo. Free Installation FREE HD/DVR Upgrade Credit/Debit Card Req. Call 1-800-795-3579

Employment Need 18-24 fun, energetic people to travel with young successful business group. Paid travel expenses. No experience necessary. 1-877-646-5050

HELP WANTED

HIRING: Workers Needed to Assemble Products at Home. No selling, \$500 weekly potential. Info. 1-985-646-1700 DEPT. CAD-4085

Live like a popstar. Now hiring 10 spontaneous individuals. Travel full time. Must be 18+. Transportation and hotel provided. Call Loraine 877-777-2091

MISCELLANEOUS

AIRLINE CAREERS begin here - Become an Aviation Maintenance Tech. FAA approved training. Financial

aid if qualified - Housing available. Job placement assistance. Call AIM (866)453-6204

ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE from Home. *Medical, *Business, *Criminal Justice, *Hospitality. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. SCHEV Authorized 800-494-3586 www.CenturaOnline.com

CASH FOR CARS, Any Make or Model! Free Towing. Sell it TODAY. Instant offer: 1-800-864-5784 !!OLD GUITARS

WANTED!! Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch. 1930-1980. Top Dollar paid!! Call Toll Free 1-866-433-8277

CANADA DRUG CENTER. Safe and affordable medications. Save up to 90% on your medication needs. Call 1-888-734-1530 (\$25.00 off your first prescription and free shipping.)

Meet singles right now! No paid operators, just real people like you. Browse greetings, exchange messages and connect live. Try it free. Call now 1-888-909-9905

WANTED TO BUY

CASH PAID- up to \$26/Box for unexpired, sealed DIABETIC TEST STRIPS. Hablamos Espanol. 1-800-371-1136

Wants to purchase minerals and other oil and gas interests. Send details to P.O. Box 13557 Denver, Co. 80201

Yearbooks Up to \$15 paid for high school yearbooks 1900-2012. www.yearbookusa.com or 214-514-1040

Reader Advisory: the National Trade Association we belong to has purchased the following classifieds. Determining the value of their service or product is advised by this publication. In order to avoid misunderstandings, some advertisers do not offer employment but rather supply the readers with manuals, directories and other materials designed to help their clients establish mail order selling and other businesses at home. Under NO circumstance should you send any money in advance or give the client your checking, license ID, or credit card numbers. Also beware of ads that claim to guarantee loans regardless of credit and note that if a credit repair company does business only over the phone it is illegal to request any money before delivering its service. All funds are based in US dollars. 800 numbers may or may not reach Canada.

Co-work space offer free space for toy donation

The Connective Hub is partnering with Gifts For Moms to bring smiles to the faces of children of single mothers by sponsoring a Christmas toy drive. From now until December 13, anyone donating a toy will receive a week free rent at the collaborative workspace at 14228 Midway Road, Dallas, TX 75244 (Addison business district).

Anyone donating can drop off an unwrapped toy for a child between the ages of 1-17 years old during

normal business hours (10am-6pm). The toy drive ends December 13 at 5:00 p.m. Toy suggestions include, gift cards to toy stores, Walmart, Game Stop, stuffed animals, games, bikes and educational toys.

"Creating opportunities for giving is just a part of the collaborative work experience," said Michael Bailey, Connective Hub founder.

"We understand that Christmas can be a stressful time for single mothers

so we wanted to do our part to help."

Anyone donating a toy will have an opportunity to stop in and work at the Connective Hub for a week free. The week has to be used before January 31, 2013. The workspace/community center offers entrepreneurs a number of perks that include high-speed internet, free coffee & snacks, conference rooms, event space, full kitchen, free parking, video conferencing and more.

Gifts For Moms is a five-year-old organization whose mission is to help single moms with resources and information to help live well while parenting alone.

"Connective Hub is a great example of a business partner being socially responsible. Christmas is one of the single greatest stressors for moms; by having someone sponsor a toy drive for us this has the potential to impact hundreds of

families. We are so grateful," said Stephanie Ward, Founder of Gifts For Moms.

This year, Gifts For Moms hopes to collect toys for more than 200 children between the ages of a 1 year old- to-17 years old. For more about Gifts For Moms log on to www.gifts4moms.org

Connective Hub provides affordable work & event space, elite resources/amenities and diverse networking & learn-

ing events for our community of entrepreneurs, freelancers, indy-contractors and mobile/remote workers. We believe that a community of like-minded professionals eager to collaborate and share resources will help them accelerate in various stages of their businesses. For more log on to www.connectivehub.com or stop by 14228 Midway Road #104 Dallas, TX 75244 or call (214) 432-4878.

DIVERSITY, continued from Page 1

disparities in unemployment, poverty, and income, the future of the middle class has never looked more uncertain. As the country rapidly becomes majority-minority the nation's economic well-being is increasingly tied to overcoming racial economic inequality.

The economic challenges that people of color face is reflected in the recently released NAACP Opportunity and Diversity Report Card which analyzes the hotel and lodging industry. Mediocre grades among the five leading hotels we examined—Hyatt, Starwood, Wyndham, Marriott and Hilton—reveal the widespread lack of investment in minority suppliers, the over representation of people of color in the lowest paying entry level positions, the under representation in the more highly paid career track positions and finally a lack of commitment to collecting basic diversity data that could be used to

strengthen inclusion efforts.

Our report shows that black-owned businesses, which comprise 7% of all businesses in the U.S., make up only 0.9% of all vendors receipts—a troubling red flag that signals how far corporate America has to go in their supplier diversity outreach. And while people of color are 36% of the population, only 13% of the governing bodies in the hotel and lodging industry consists of people of color.

One of the most disconcerting findings of our report card is that all of the top 5 hotel and lodging corporations do not collect diversity data from their franchise properties. This means for four out of five of these leading corporations no data is collected for the majority of their individual hotels. This is unacceptable.

The NAACP is calling for these corporations to collect the diversity data already mandated by the gov-

ernment through EEO1 reports. We are also asking for planners of major events to request EEO1 reports from any individual hotel they are considering for their event so they can make diversity and inclusion part of their assessment as to which hotel is worthy of their business. The National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners has already voiced support for this action and we will be

working with our community and civil rights partners as well as local bureaus of tourism to make widespread the use of EEO1 data as an important and widely used factor for determining which hotels qualify to hold major events.

The EEO1 survey is a primary means that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission uses to advance its mission derived from the 1964 Civil Rights

Act. Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act focused on prohibiting racial discrimination in employment and almost 60 years later we still find great racial and ethnic disparities in business and its workforce. The Opportunity and Diversity Report Card and our call to action for greater use of EEO1 data should not be seen as just a "civil rights" matter but should be understood as a means of dealing

with one of the greatest threats facing the American economy over the next thirty years, racial economic inequality. We at the NAACP have always seen racial inequality as a grave threat to the country and in the next few decades if serious action isn't taken to bridge this divide the entire nation will see the economic results of this inequality.

Advertising Account Manager Needed Immediately

Must be

- A good telemarketer
- Willing and able to cold call effectively
- Have reliable transportation
- Skilled in MS Word and Excel
- Able to demonstrate good people skills
- Able to work in Plano and surrounding areas

Interested candidates should email resume to publisher@northdallasgazette.com

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Small Community Newspaper looking for a parttime student graphic artist.

Prefer student (intern) that's available on a per project basis.

Must have knowledge of Quark and Indesign software.

Work will be done at company office.

Must be professional and dependable. Fax resumes to:

972-509-9058, or email to: trj1909@tx.rr.com

Employment Opportunity

Family Service Counselor (Sales)
Must be a self starter, self motivated and pass background check. Excellent Pay, Full benefit package including 401K, medical, life, dental, & vision insurance. Plus liberal sick and vacation benefits. Call (214)398-5898 or (214)514-9553.

**Lincoln Funeral Home
& Cemetery Services**
8100 Fireside Drive
Dallas, Texas 75217



GARLAND

**Attention Suppliers of Goods,
Services and Construction**

**Review Competitive Opportunities at
www.bidsync.com**

www.garlandpurchasing.com

972-205-2415



**DO YOU WANT AN EXCITING
AND REWARDING CAREER?**

**PURSUe A CAREER AS A
POLICE OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER!**

- **Competitive wages**
- **Array of benefits**
- **Education incentive pay**
- **... and more**

SIGN UP TO TAKE
THE CITY OF IRVING'S NEXT
CIVIL SERVICE ENTRANCE EXAM.
CALL (972) 721-2696 TO REGISTER.

*The City of Irving does not discriminate on the basis of
race, sex, religion, age, or disability
in employment or the provision of services.
www.cityofirving.org*

AVENUE F CHURCH OF CHRIST IN PLANO

Mondays – Fridays

Call 972-423-8833 for AFFECT, Inc. or email: AFFECTxInc@aol.com for counseling services, resources and assistance for job readiness and training programs for individuals. For couples we offer services for marital relationships and for ex-offenders we offer programs for getting back into the work force.

December 9, 8 a.m.

You're invited to our Early Morning Worship Service; stay for Bible Classes at 9:30 a.m. and for Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.

December 12, 10 a.m.

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.

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

www.avefchurchofchrist.org

BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

December 9, 9:35 a.m.

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

December 12, 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, three things are incorporated when they come, children learn and they play and have fun.

December 15, 9 a.m.

Join us for Men's Fellowship as we worship and praise God; and we study His Word.

December 21, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Women's Fellowship as we praise God; worship Him and Study His Word.

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

www.biblewayirving.org

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

December 8, 1 p.m.

Ladies you are invited to our Mother, Daughter, Sister Tea. Call the church for details and fee.

December 9

Join us in our Women's Day 2012 Worship Service at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. with guest speaker Rev. Cokiesha Bailey Robinson from Concord Church. Theme: It's All about the Kingdom, Rev. 7:9-12. Come and be blessed by the Word of God.

December 12, 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, honor and praise.

Dr. Terrence Autry,
Senior Pastor
New Location for 12-16-2012
George Bush Fwy at Jupiter Road
On the Garland/
Richardson Border
972-991-0200
www.followpeace.org

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "The Ship"

Monday – Friday

9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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

December 9, 9:30 a.m.

You're invited to experience the joy of praising and worshipping God to the fullest at Story Elementary School, 1550 Edelweiss Drive, Allen, TX.

December 12, 7 p.m.

Join us for our Church Wide Fasting each Wednesday (100% juice & water only); the fast begins at 12:01 am with our 1st prayer at 3:30 am; 2nd prayer at 12 Noon, and the closing prayer at 6 pm. Then join us for 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.)

December 15, 4 p.m.

F3C Theatre and Arts Ministry presents "Jesus Season" at Story Elementary School, 1550 Edelweiss Drive, Allen, TX. Found in James 1:17 & 18.

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK "First Church"

December 31, 9:30 p.m.

Join us, First Church and New Mount Zion Baptist Church, for

Watch Night Service in memory of Dr. Robert E. Price, Sr. with special guests, celebrities and Psalmists Tamela and David Mann from Meet the Browns' TV show. Doors will open at 9 p.m.

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

NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, DALLAS

December 8

Join us for our Youth Ministry's Annual Christmas Fellowship and Talent Hour in the Family Life Center as we worship and praise God for Jesus' birthday.

9550 Shepherd Road
Dallas, TX 75243
214-341-6459
www.nmzb.org

SAINT MARK MBC IN MCKINNEY

December 9, 9:30 a.m.

Join us in our Morning Worship Service and stay to enjoy our Education Ministries at 10:45 a.m.

December 12, 6:30 p.m.

You're invited to our Prayer Ministry every Wednesday because "Prayer Changes Things" People and Situations.

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

SANCTUARY 303 TRUE TABERNACLE CHURCH

December 12-16

You're invited to witness an electrifying Ministry of Prophet James, a pastor and National Evangelist, and the power of God. This event will take place at Zion Chapel MBC, 1004 N. Jefferson, Lancaster, Texas 75134. On Wednesday – Friday meet us at 7 p.m. On Sunday come at 3 p.m. and be blessed. For information call Pastor Lee Barnes at 214-759-9244.

Dr. Lee Barnes, Pastor and
Dr. Sharon Garrett Barnes,
Co-Pastor
214-759-9244
Barneslee1221@gmail.com

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

December 9, 8 a.m.

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

December 12, 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

December 9, 7:30 a.m. or 11 a.m.

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

December 10, 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

WORD OF LIFE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Early Prayer, 5 a.m.

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

December 9, 9:30 a.m.

Join us for Sunday school with Elder/Superintendent Greg Mason; Sis. Vicki Mason, adult class teacher and Evangelist Elizabeth McAfee, children class teacher and Director of our children's choir. Then stay for Morning Service at 11 a.m. as we worship, honor and praise God for His goodness.

December 11, 7:00 pm

Join us for a one Night Back Home Revival for the Saints; theme found in Acts 2:1-2 at the Heard-Craig Hall, 306 N. Church Street, McKinney, TX 75069. The featured Back-Home-Pastors are Elders Ricky Houser; Sammie Houser; Paul Jackson; Charles Niblet; Charles Owens; Jesse Owens; Eddie Seals; Willie Sims; Coy Tarver and Dr. Gregory Voss. Also featured will be Evangelist Timothy Ford, a walking 17 year old miracle; and the Youth on Fire for Christ dance group. Come and be blessed.

December 31, 9 p.m.

Mark your calendar for an exciting, blessed and Spirit-filled Night Watch Worship Service with Prophet James and other prophets and pastors around the Metroplex area.

Dr. Gregory E. Voss,
Senior Pastor
2765 Trinity Mills Road
Building 300
Carrollton, TX 75006
214-514-9147
www.wordoflife09@live.com

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO

300 Chisholm Pl. Plano, TX 75075 972-633-5511

Answers you need, Hope for today is waiting for you...

Pastor Sam Fenceroy

Pastor Gloria Fenceroy

- Sunday School for all ages 8:30 am
- Sunday Morning Prayer 9:30 am
- Sunday Service 10:00 am
- Wednesday Night Service 7:00 pm

Radio Programs

"Vision & Truth Live"
Call Pastor Sam
Every Sun. 9:00pm-10:00pm
KWRD 100.7 FM THE WORD

"Truth Made Simple"
Listen to Pastor Sam
Mon.-Fri. 5:25pm- 5:30pm
KGGR 1040 AM

www.mocop.org

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH

A Kingdom Building Church
200 BELMONT DRIVE - ALLEN, TX 75013
(972) 359-9956 - www.theship3c.org

FC
CC

Sunday Morning Worship
Story Elementary
1550 Edelweiss Drive
Allen, TX 75002
9:30 AM

Wednesday Night
Live Service
200 Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
7:00 PM

KEDRA A. WILLIAMS

CPA. PC

Financial Statements

Profitability Analysis & Reporting

Tax Preparation

469-449-9833

www.kedrawilliams.com

Sister
Tarpley

This is from the files of *Floyd Erving, a radio personality; I thought you would enjoy reading this.*

GOD BLESS AMERICA: Will we be the "Country of Choice" and still be America if we continue to make the changes forced on America by some individuals from other countries that chose to come and live in America because it is the "Country of Choice?" Think about it.

I have to say this, "When will something be done about **MY RIGHTS AS AN AMERICAN?**" I proudly celebrate Christmas, Jesus' Birthday; After all, Jesus is the Reason for the Season! However, because it isn't celebrated by everyone in America, we are discouraged from saying "Merry Christmas."

We are now encouraged to say, "Season's Greetings." It's no longer a "Christmas Vacation" from school and the office; it's now a "Winter or Holiday Break." It's amazing how this "Winter or Holiday Break" ALWAYS occurs during America's traditional "Christmas Holidays?"

We have gone so far the other way; we have bent over backwards not to offend anyone, that I am now being of-

fended. But it seems that no one has a problem with that. **The following says it all!**

After hearing that the State of Florida changed its opinion and let a Muslim woman have her picture on her driver's license with her face covered, this editorial by an American citizen, was published in a Tampa newspaper.

Immigrants, not Americans, must adapt! I am tired of our nation worrying about whether we are offending some individuals or their culture. After the terrorist attacks on 9/11, we experienced a surge in patriotism by many Americans.

However, the dust from the attacks had barely settled when the "politically correct" crowd began complaining about the possibility that our patriotism was offending others.

I am not against immigration; nor do I hold a grudge against anyone seeking a better life by coming to America. Our population is made up of descendants from immigrants. But, there are a few things that those who have recently come to our country, and apparently some that are born here, need to understand.

This idea of America being too much of a multicultural community has served only to dilute our sovereignty and our national

identity. Americans have our own culture, our own society, our own language, and our own lifestyle.

Our culture developed over centuries of struggles, trials, and victories by millions of men and women who sought freedom.

We speak **ENGLISH**, not Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, or any other language. Therefore, if you wish to become a part of America, learn **ENGLISH!**

"In God We Trust" is our national motto; this motto was adopted because of Christian men and women, based on Christian principles, founded this nation; this is clearly documented.

It is appropriate to display it on the walls in our schools, and in our government buildings. If God offends you, then I suggest that you consider another part of the world as your new home, because God is a major and important part of our culture.

If Stars and Stripes offend you or you don't like Uncle Sam, then seriously consider a move to another part of world. We are happy with our culture and we have no desire to change.

We don't care how you did things where you came from, if it was that good, why did you come here? This is **OUR COUNTRY**, our land, and our culture.

Jesus is the reason for the season



Cousin Lillian Green with her granddaughter Lydia Mya, Cousin Rev. Cecil Green from North Carolina and Cousin Robert (Bob) Ali-Carr from Florida at a recent family gathering.

Our First Amendment gives every citizen the right to express his opinion, and we will allow you every opportunity to do so. But once you are through complaining, whining, and griping about our flag, our pledge, our national motto, and/or our culture, I highly encourage you to take advantage of one other

great American freedom, **THE RIGHT TO LEAVE!**

This Holiday Season, remember that Jesus is the Reason for this Season and we must thank God for Him being born to save the world with His precious shed blood.

This 2012 Christmas Season ask God to bless you that you may be a blessing to oth-

ers. It is more blessed to give than receive. Ask Him to keep you strong that you may help those that are weak.

Ask God to uplift you that you may have words of encouragement for others. Pray for those that are lost and need to find their way; and for those misjudged and misunderstood.

CLIMATE, continued from Page 11

improve the quality of instruction.

- 71% believe they have the support they need from campus leadership to do their job well.

- 59% of teachers said they have sufficient opportunities and encouragement to develop their leadership potential.

"While the results from this initial survey are encouraging, we cannot and will not ignore that there are still real concerns as well as variances from campus to campus," said Miles. "One of the areas for improvement includes how discipline is enforced and whether it is consistent and effective at each campus. Nevertheless, to have such a high percentage of positive responses on this initial survey is a strong first step toward reaching the goals in Destination 2020."

Trouble?

Dallas and Ellis Counties

- Misdemeanors
- Felonies
- Federal cases

Mention North Dallas Gazette and get 30 minutes telephone consultation free

214-749-0040
Gina Smith, Attorney at Law
 2201 Main Street, Suite 400-11
 Dallas, 75201
www.GinaSmithLaw.com

effective representation for a bad situation!!!

World-Wide Ministries

COME WITNESS

The ELECTRIFYING Ministry of Prophet James and the Power of God!

- If you need help...
- If you are having problems...
- If you are on drugs...
- If you are sick in your body...
- If you are suffering financial hardship...

COME AND BE BLESSED!

Place: Sanctuary 303 True Tabernacle Church
 (at Zion Chapel MBC)
 1004 N. Jefferson
 Lancaster, TX 75134

Date: December 12, 13, 14, & 16th

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Wed., Thu., & Fri.
 Sunday, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Host Pastor/Co-Pastor:
 Dr. Lee Barnes
 and Dr. Sharon Garrett Barnes

For More Information:
 Call Pastor Lee Barnes
 (214)759-9244

DR. PROPHET JAMES
 Pastor
 National Evangelist
 Dallas, Texas

NDG Bookshelf



BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER
Naughty or nice?

Yep, you've been both this year. You've been nice because it's the right thing to do, it gives you a warm-fuzzy, and you want to make the world a better place.

You've been naughty because it's fun.

You've been both, but not because of some fat guy in a red suit. You stopped believing in Santa years ago, but read the new book *The Saint Who Would Be Santa Claus* by

The Saint Who Would Be Santa Claus examines the truth and myth about the "real" Santa Claus

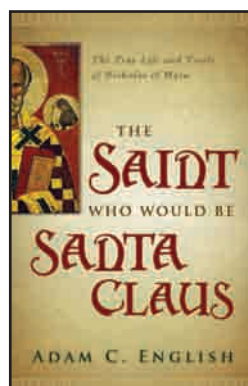
Adam C. English, and you might change your mind.

You know him as Santa Claus. He also goes by Sinterklaas, Kriss Kringle, Père Noël, and Father Christmas and he, in his familiar jolly-old-elf incarnation, has been around about 100 years. Santa-as-gifter is a few centuries older than that, but the real Santa showed up some 1750 years ago.

His name was Nicholas and he was born in the ancient Mediterranean city of Patara sometime after the year 260, according to an eighth-century biographer. The biographer, like most literate people of his time, was given to florid language (straightforward prose, says English, was "gauche and

uncouth") and facts were "disdained," so it's no surprise that Nicholas' story is filled with fanciful miracles and other phenomena.

Nicholas was, by any account, loved by his upper-class family. He was well-educated and was given a solid religious base on which to grow. The latter allowed him "remarkable signs of spiritual maturity at a young age," and he was ordained a priest at age nineteen, about a year after having lost both his parents in a plague.



Nicholas was known as a great lover of children, and his generosity is legendary. The main story attributed to him involves the dowries of three destitute sisters bound for prostitu-

tion. On three successive nights, Nicholas threw money in their father's window, to save the girls – possibly his earliest gift. He took his ministry seriously, and his kindness was widely known throughout Europe.

Nicholas died at around age 70.

Through the centuries, because of miracles and anecdotes connected to him, Nicholas became the patron saint of pawnbrokers, newlyweds, bankers, voyagers, firemen, and pilgrims and others. And he's beloved by generations of children who know him by a different name...

The Saint Who Would Be Santa Claus is steeped in ancient history, Biblical teachings, legend, and Roman society. It's sweeping in depth and intelligence. That gives it an interesting flair that teeters on the sometimes-not-so-interesting.

Author Adam C. English starts with modern pop culture

and quickly gets to the nitty-gritty of Santa's roots. He then dives into pagan and Christian history, and pulls us out with a centuries-long story of a saint who some doubt ever existed before plunging back into fourth century Rome. That back-and-forth sometimes kept my attention, but was more often too much for me to follow.

Still, I think Biblical scholars will enjoy this book more than I did, and if that's you, or if you're very interested in ancient history, ask for it. *The Saint Who Would Be Santa Claus* might be a gift that's nice.

The Saint Who Would Be Santa Claus by Adam C. English (Baylor University Press, \$24.95, 245 pages)

Bible Way Community Baptist Church



Dr. Timothy J. Wilbert, Sr.
Senior Pastor

4215 N. Greenview Dr. • Irving, TX 75062
972-257-3766

*The place where Jesus Christ is Lord
and the Word of God Transforms lives*

Sunday School 9:35 A.M.
Sunday Worship 11:00 A.M.
Wed Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

Daily Radio broadcast: KGGP 1040 & 102.5 FM
10:00 A.M. - 10:25 A.M.

www.biblewayirving.org

Avenue F Church of Christ

1026 Avenue F • Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833

www.avefchurchofchrist.org



Ramon Hodridge, Minister

Early Sunday Morning 8:00 am
Sunday Bible Class 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 3:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class 7:00 pm

Radio Program @ 7:30 am on
KHVN 970 AM Sunday Mornings

IBOC
INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH
7701 WESTMORELAND RD
DALLAS, TX 75247
972-572-4262 (IBOC)

SERVICE TIMES:
SUNDAY
LIVE ON KJRH 7:30 AM
10:30 AM
MONDAY SCHOOL
7:00 PM
THURSDAY
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
7:00 PM
www.iboc.org

RICKIE G. RUSH, PASTOR
INVITED BY:

South Dallas Faith Base Outreach Ministry

PASTOR WILLIE C. COCHRAN



We provide: Prayer, Spiritual Counseling, Funerals,
Weddings, Baptisms, Marriage Counseling, Notary Public

MEN'S PRAYER MEETING

We would like to invite all men to come out to our
prayer meeting The first Monday of every month
BRING A FRIEND!

TIME: 7:00PM Sharp

PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY

We would like to invite men & women to come out to
our prayer meeting and Bible Study
The first Tuesday of every month

TIME: 7:00PM Sharp to 8:00pm

LOCATION: 2822 Tanner, Dallas, TX 75215
off MLK Blvd & Malcom X Blvd

For more information about our
meetings and our services, please call:
PASTOR WILLIE C. COCHRAN, Founder
2822 Tanner, Dallas, TX 75215
214-428-2390

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

Serving the Plano Community for 127 Years

Founded 1884

920 E 14th Street Plano, TX



Isiah Joshua, Jr.
Pastor



2012 Theme:
Serving the Savior,
Seeking the Sinner
and Sustaining the Saved

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

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



Becoming Salt and Light

North Dallas Community Bible Fellowship

Dr. Leslie W. Smith, Senior Pastor

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

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



Charles S. Wattley
Senior Pastor

SUNDAY

Education Ministries
9:30 a.m.

Worship Celebration
10:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Family Ministries
7:00 p.m.

*Friendly Fellowship
With a Family Focus!*

SAINT MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
1308 Wilcox Street • McKinney, TX 75069 • 972-542-6178
Visit us on the web at www.saintmarkbc.com