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BY CONGRESSWOMAN
EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

One of the most relevant communication organizations in our country is the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), which represents the nation's nearly two hundred African American newspaper owners.



Eddie Bernice Johnson

Located in Washington, D.C. and managed by Mr. William Tompkins, the NNPA provides professionally written relevant news stories and editorials to its member papers. Some of its weekly columnists include George Curry, the former editor of *Emerge Magazine*, Marian Wright Edelman of the Children's

Defense Fund, Marc Morial, former New Orleans Mayor and CEO of the National Urban League and Lee Daniels, an award winning writer who worked with the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* Newspapers.

This year the organization is celebrating its 73rd

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COVER STORY



Don Hill deserves a fair sentence

See **HILL**, Page 3

NDC'S VIEW



Voter Laws Threat

See **VOTER**, Page 9

The 32nd Annual National Day of Prayer Luncheon scheduled for May 2

The 32nd Annual National Day of Prayer Luncheon hosted by The Thanks-Giving Foundation will take place at The Fairmont Hotel Thursday, May 2, 2013. A true multicultural event, the luncheon will commemorate religious freedom and the peace and power of prayer

and will feature Dr. Eboo Patel, who was named by *US News & World Report* as one of America's Best Leaders of 2009. A prominent speaker, author and leader, Dr. Patel has written two renowned books and is the Founder and President of Interfaith Youth Core, as well as the recipient

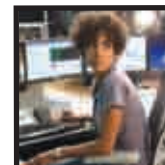
of Roosevelt Institute's Freedom of Worship Medal.

Proceeds will be used to further the work of the Foundation including Thanks-Giving Square and the international Expressions Art and Essay competition. The 2012 competition drew more than

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Halle Berry gets meaty role in *The Call*

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

COMMENTARY

Resetting the housing sector: It's time for new leadership at Federal Housing Finance Agency

BY JEAN-MARIE
CATERINA AND JOSE
GONZALEZ

(American Forum) Business groups with an axe to grind against the Obama Administration, like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Federation of Independent Business, like to push the idea that "uncertainty" over government actions is the monkey on the economy's back.

As small business owners who work in the housing sector, we don't buy that

analysis. The source of our continuing economic problems is not some vague cloud of "uncertainty." It is, quite the opposite, the very real certainty that if we don't do more – and soon – to hit the reset button for the housing sector, the economic recovery will continue to fall short of what we need to put millions of unemployed Americans back to work.

Almost five years after the financial crisis rocked our economy, we still

See **HOUSING**, Page 3

North Garland offers country's first high school Apple repair certification program

Reading, writing, arithmetic and Apple repair. North Garland High School (NGHS) now offers students the opportunity to graduate with an independent business plan. The campus is the country's first to, not only teach students how to repair Apple devices, but certify them as well.



(l-r) Raymond Ortiz, Javier Solis, Jerry DeFeo, and Jaime Posada

"Kids need skills that are employable and that they can grow," said NGHS teacher Laura Aronson. "The Apple program offers many opportunities for students choosing to go to college or directly into the workforce."

North Garland's program began as an idea by

Stacey Payton, Garland ISD's MST Title 1 technology specialist. She broke the screen on her iPhone and encountered some tech-savvy teenagers while getting it replaced.

"They asked to buy the broken phone from me, so that they could fix and re-

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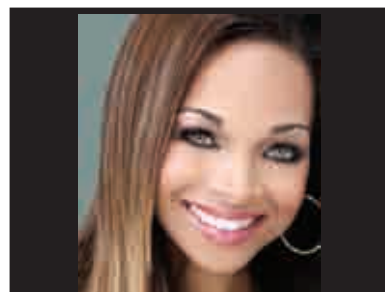
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People In The News...



Paula Smith



Pat Smith



Atima Omara-Alwala

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Paula Smith

DALLAS -- For 25 years, Paula Smith has lent her expertise in information technology, or IT, to Fortune 500 companies such as PepsiCo/Frito Lay, IBM, Verizon, Reliant Energy, and Shell Oil. Now, Smith has taken the same training modules used in corporate America and designed a series of instructional books to novices improve their knowledge of Microsoft product and technologies.

The purpose of the *Easy Steps Learning Series: Easy Steps to Outlook 2010* is to provide easy steps, interac-

tive practical exercises, and review questions and answers to learn Microsoft Outlook 2010.

"While making the shift in my career, I notice people wanted to improved their skill sets just like me. I begin to train, develop curriculum, and used my experience to help others," said Smith, who is a certified Microsoft Office Subject Matter Expert (SME).

The 202-page book includes more than 250 screenshots/figures sourced from Outlook 2010. The easy-to-read book includes

step-by-step instructions to help users grasp every aspect of the personal information manager.

Smith, who earned a B.A. from the University of North Texas in Denton, holds numerous Microsoft certifications. She has also served as a technologist on the Microsoft Partner Research Panel and a beta tester for many Microsoft products.

"I use Outlook 2010 every day for business and I'm amazed at all the high quality instruction in this book," said J. J. Hebert of MindStir Media. "Paula Smith is obviously an Outlook 2010 expert. Her book



showed me how to create meetings and appointments in Outlook 2010 as well as create rules for more efficiency – among other things ... It also goes over the basics for those people who are new to Outlook ..."

Smith is CEO of Providing Leading Solutions, LLC a consulting firm that uses IT economics to help businesses increase performance, committed to meet client needs and help companies increase overall productivity through automated leading solutions. It is also a premier company that specializes in Microsoft Technology Solutions, Leader-

See SMITH, Page 13

Pat Smith

DALLAS – Pat Smith will lead "Big D's Race Against Breast Cancer," the Dallas County Affiliate of Susan G. Komen announced.

The Dallas philanthropist and co-host of KTXD's *D: The Broadcast* has been named the 2013 honorary chair for the 31st Susan G. Komen Dallas Race for the Cure set for Saturday, Oct. 19 at NorthPark Center.

Smith will make her first appearance as honorary chair at Komen Dallas County's

Impact Awards Luncheon on April 4 at Hotel Zaza. Tickets to the luncheon may be purchased on Komen Dallas County's website, which also includes information on available sponsorship opportunities.

"I was only 22 when I lost my mother to breast cancer. My faith, girlfriends and mentors became a support system that gave me the inspiration to move forward in life and help others," Smith said.



"Komen Dallas County offers an amazing support system, and I am proud to join them as this year's honorary race chair. Together, we will help empower our neighbors, renew the spirits of those affected by this disease, and continue to raise awareness among women about the importance of taking an active role in their breast health."

The former beauty queen will appear in public service announcements during the month of October and will kick off the official start of the Race on Oct. 19.

"We are thrilled to have Pat Smith join us in Dallas County's fight against breast cancer," Jennifer Legere, Komen Dallas County's executive director, said.

"Pat is well known for her philanthropy and dedication to helping women in need. She is truly an amazing role model who will inspire our supporters and constituents and make a real impact in our community."

More than 20,000 participate in the annual Komen Dallas Race, which includes both a 1K and 5K walk/run and

serves as the largest fundraising event in Dallas County for local breast cancer screening, treatment and education.

Through community grants, Komen Dallas County invests 75 percent of the net funds raised from events such as the Komen Dallas Race each year to support vital breast health services—including screening mammograms, diagnostic testing, breast cancer treatment, and transportation to and from medical appointments—for uninsured and underinsured residents.

Atima Omara-Alwala

Long-time activist, Atima Omara-Alwala, of Arlington,

American at the helm of YDA in its 80 year history.



has announced her candidacy for the presidency of the Young Democrats of America (YDA.) If elect, Omara-Alwala will be the first African

"YDA needs a leader that will maximize its history and connections to the established Democratic Party to provide real value to its membership,"

said Atima Omara-Alwala, current vice president of YDA. "In the new world filled with progressive organizations supporting civil rights and social justice for all Americans more than ever, young people are at the emerging forefront of this struggle and YDA is in a position to be a forum in which young people can amplify their voices."

Omara-Alwala is also a first generation immigrant; both of her parents moved to the United States from the African nation of Uganda.

"Atima is a remarkable young woman with superior leadership skills and political intuition," said Delegate Charniele Herring, Chair of the Democratic Party of Virginia. "I had the opportunity to work with Atima when she ran for first primary and I've come to respect her as a top leader for young people and the African American community."

Omara-Alwala has served young Democrat chapters at the local, state and national level. She currently serves as a vice president of YDA and formerly served as Mid-Atlantic Region Director and chair of YDA's Women's Caucus. She also served as Virginia's national committee-women, chair of the Virginia Young Democrats (VAYD) Women's Caucus.

"I am thrilled to see a member of the Virginia Young Democrats running to head our national organization," said Isaac Sarver, VAYD president. "Atima is a dedicated, hard-working individual who has worked tirelessly to elect Democrats, defend the principles of our party, and to support young people's involvement in Democratic politics."

Omara-Alwala first came to YDA nine years ago as the representative of VAYD; since she has been highly in-

involved in YDA leadership and advocating on issues affecting

young people, minorities, immigrants and women.

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Don Hill deserves a fair sentence

NDG's View

The Federal Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals will hear the appeal of the conviction of former Dallas City Councilman Don Hill on April 30, 2013. While there are only four legal issues to be reviewed by the Court, we, who support Don Hill in this matter, and in his past efforts for benefit of the African American community in Dallas, believe there are several other items worth mentioning on his behalf.

In the very narrow legal review process the Fifth Circuit must follow, the Court will only rule upon the following four possibilities of error:

- The sealing of the courtroom during jury selection in Hill's trial,
- The allegation of prosecutorial error in closing arguments,
- Whether the verdict was contrary to the evidence; and
- Whether the overruling of an after-verdict motion by Hill's attorneys was an error of the trial court.

Any overturning of Hill's conviction will hinge on what the Court finds in these areas. But observers should look at the larger issues surrounding this travesty of justice.

This Southern Dallas housing related debacle began with the dueling housing developers Brian Potashnik and

**Don Hill**

James Fisher, who both vied for lucrative South Dallas housing contracts with the City of Dallas. A number of Don Hill's associates and appointees were hired by these developers as "consultants" and paid fees reportedly with the understanding a portion of these fees would trickle down (or up) into Hill's pockets, ostensibly for favorable votes for those developers on city contracts. There is no evidence Hill knew these representations were being made. In fact, the evidence shows Hill was basically indigent throughout and actually never received any of the funds attributed to his purview.

The sentence handed down to Hill is the longest sentence for a public corruption charge ever handed down in American history, it is longer than sentences of those (white) persons found

guilty of selling senate seats or bribing congressional and executive branch officials. And no money was ever paid to Don Hill or traced to Don Hill. As Don Hill was the only elected official charged, he bore the brunt of the convictions and received the longest sentence.

The structure of Dallas City government in general, and the nature of the city council hierarchy and protocol specifically, makes it not uncommon for council members to meet with constituents, developers and lobbyists who desire to establish projects in their districts.

It is a competitive process that not only provides tax credits to the developers from both state and federal sources, but it is a heightened process due to the shortage of housing in certain areas. Certainly Southwestern Dallas was one of those areas. Federal regulation mandated only one housing development per year could receive a tax credit, if multiple developments would be within least one mile of each other. Therefore, the contest for tax-credited housing developments in the south Dallas area was of major proportions.

Now comes a number of minority "consultants" who entered this fray representing they had the support and backing of Don Hill, none of

which was ever presented in evidence. While there is evidence these "consultants"—Lee, Reagan, Farrington, *et al*—were paid by the developers and actually benefited from the contested housing development market—there was no evidence Hill participated or benefited therefrom.

He was a victim of sloppy bookkeeping, shoddy records, and bad personal associations. Don Hill should not serve 18 years in the federal penitentiary for those crimes.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

A call to action

If you feel that an 18 year- sentence was too harsh for the Don Hill's crimes, it is important to express your concerns to the Federal Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Concerned citizens are invited to attend the hearing on April 30 or contact the court by writing a letter.

The address is:

Carl E. Stewart
Chief Judge
U.S. Court of Appeals,
Fifth Circuit
600 S. Maestri Place
New Orleans, LA 70130-3408

HOUSING, continued from Page 1

haven't done anything to address one of the key drivers of the crisis: the divorced-from-reality overpricing of homes and mortgages during the housing bubble. Since the bubble burst, nothing has been done to correct the pricing distortions that were written into mortgage contracts. The result? Fourteen million Americans are underwater in their homes.

This isn't just holding back the housing sector. A weak housing sector drags the whole economy down, and when consumers are stuck shipping inflated mortgage payments off to Wall Street accounts every month, that drains consumer purchasing power and weakens local economies.

A scientific survey of small business owners nation-

wide commissioned last year by three business networks bears this out. In that survey, 73 percent of small business owners said the drop in consumer demand as a result of the housing and mortgage crisis has hurt their businesses (and 28 percent said it has hurt a great deal).

There is, of course, a solution: reset underwater mortgages to fair market value. That will boost the housing sector, bolster consumer spending, and restore the dream of home ownership for millions of Americans who've been living an underwater nightmare for the last five years.

Why haven't we implemented this simple solution? There's a simple answer. In two words or less: Edward DeMarco.

As acting director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, DeMarco oversees Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. And in that capacity, DeMarco has blocked all efforts at resetting underwater mortgages. Indeed, despite clear evidence that writing down underwater mortgages to fair market value would be good not only for homeowners but also for Fannie, Freddie, and U.S. taxpayers, DeMarco has rejected all efforts to move this solution forward.

Remember how, on the campaign trail, President Obama often used the metaphor of driving a car to make his case for why he (and Democrats) should be re-elected? "Why would we give the keys back to the same people who drove the economy into the ditch in the first

place?" was the gist of his appeal. Well, now he's got a guy driving his administration's housing policy who, instead of turning the key and stepping on the gas to get the car out of the ditch, seems more intent on slashing the tires.

Especially with the gridlock in the U.S. House and Senate over economic issues, we need President Obama to do what's in his power to get the economy back on track. As small business owners and real estate agents, we'd suggest he start by asking DeMarco to hand over the keys to his office. It's time to appoint a new FHFA director who will do what's right for homeowners, small businesses, and the economy by resetting mortgages to fair market value.

On-street bicycle signs installed in McKinney

McKINNEY — Signs going up in McKinney remind motor vehicle drivers that state laws give bicyclists the right to use a full lane on roads. The aim of the new signs is to help keep the roads safe for both riders and drivers.

The signage is in accordance with the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, a document issued by the Texas Department of Transportation to specify the standards by which traffic signs, markings and signals are designed, installed and used.

Funding for the signs was obtained through a federal grant in 2009 and cost less



than \$9000. The signs are part of the On-Street Bicycle Transportation Master Plan, created to develop a vision and framework for an on-street bicycle network that provides safe and logical routes connecting residents and visitors to key destinations throughout the city. City staff members, residents and

stakeholders worked together through a series of meetings to create a vision for on-street bicycling in the city.

Educational information on laws and safety tips on the city website help bicyclists understand how to integrate into traffic safely. Cyclists must follow the same rules as motor vehicles, ride as far to the right as practicable, wear visible clothing and use hand signals to turn, stop or merge.

Drivers of a motor vehicle should provide at least three feet when passing a bicyclist, look for cyclists whenever driving and especially on roads with signage, and treat cyclists as they would any slow moving vehicle operator.



Not since Cecil B. DeMille's 1956 classic *The Ten Commandments* has Hollywood paid any attention to the subject of the Bible or Christians. This month has marked an about face for the liberal Hollywood elite. The History Channel has been broadcasting a six-part mini-series called *The Bible*. What's this? Could there be a mistake?

Has Hollywood actually produced a 20 million dollar mini-series that is based on the Bible? They have and they are just as surprised at the massive viewer support.

The Bible as seen by Hollywood

Conservatives are at the fact that Hollywood even produced the series in the first place.

The second installment of the mini-series was not only the highest rated show in its time slot; it was the highest rated show in all of television. *The Bible* commanded HISTORY as #1 in all of television from 8-10 p.m., with 10.8 million total viewers and in adults 25-54 with 3.8 million. In addition, *The Bible* garnered 3.2 million viewers in the 18-49 age range. Over 50 million cumulative viewers have seen at least a portion of the series since it began on March 3. Did you get that? Some 50 million people have seen

some part of the series. There is no other show in all of television that has such numbers.

Now what will Hollywood learned from this? Well my bet is nothing. What other TV show has any main character that attends church? What other TV show has any main character that prays? What TV character in a starring roles mentions GOD? When is GOD mentioned in any Hollywood script in a favorable light? I remember as you do when prayer was a central part of Hollywood scripts.

Remember when the *Walton's* prayed before each

See BIBLE, Page 13

Can't pay Uncle Sam on April 15 – here are your options

As April 15 draws near, some U.S. taxpayers are bound to discover that they owe taxes on their 2012 Form 1040.

"If you owe a lot of taxes and have no idea how you are going to pay them, don't panic," says Robin Christian, senior tax analyst at Thomson Reuters. Although, taxpayers who fail to file and pay their taxes in a timely manner face penalties and interest charges, there are several options for paying off the balance due, advises Robin Christian.

As an example, Don and Donna's 2012 tax return shows unpaid tax of \$5,000, but they do not have the cash to pay what they owe. First, they should not ignore the IRS—it will not go away-- and if they do not file their return on time, they will have to pay a late

filing penalty of 5 percent of the unpaid tax amount for each month the return is late (with a cap of 25 percent), plus interest charges. If instead, they file their return (or request a filing extension) by the April 15 due date, they will still pay interest charges on the unpaid amount, but instead of a 5 percent per month late filing penalty, they will only have to pay a .5 percent per month late payment penalty until the taxes are paid. Simply by filing or extending their return, they have avoided the onerous late filing penalty.

If Don and Donna don't do anything by April 15th, but file the return and pay their taxes three months later, they will owe a late filing penalty of \$750. If they extend the return and then file it and pay their

taxes three months later, they would pay a late payment penalty of \$75—\$675 less than if no extension had been filed. "This shows how important it is to file or extend by April 15th even if you don't have the money," says Christian.

Christian points out that: "getting an extension is pretty easy—all you need to do is to complete and file Form 4868. You do not need to pay the taxes you owe to get an extension, but you do need to properly estimate and enter them on the appropriate lines of the



form, or the extension will be disallowed." Getting an extension will avoid a late filing penalty, but interest and the late payment penalty on the unpaid tax amount will accrue until the tax is paid.

Some taxpayers can qualify for an extension to pay the tax because of undue hardship, federally declared disaster, terrorist act, or military action. This type of approach would allow Don and Donna to avoid the failure to pay penalty but not the interest charge. "However, hardship relief is difficult to obtain," notes Christian, "because of the restricted definition of hardship, and most taxpayers do not experience a federally declared disaster, like a hurricane or flood."

Financing the Payment
Borrow from a bank or family member. "Since the failure to pay penalty and interest applies to late tax payments, borrowing from a family member, bank, or other lender can be less expensive than paying penalties and interest to the IRS," says Christian. The IRS interest rate changes quarterly. For the first quarter of 2013, it is 3 percent. Tax penalties are nondeductible, and interest expense associated with an individual's federal tax liability, whether paid to

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SMITH, continued from Page 2

ship and Professional training and Curriculum Development for a global society.

The Houston native said she is in the process of developing training books for Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher and others.

Easy Steps Learning Series: Easy Steps to Outlook 2010 is available at Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, and other book retailers for

\$19.99. The training book is also available for Kindle, Nook and other major e-reading devices for \$6.99.

Visit www.easystepslearningseries.com for Paula's Tech Nuggets and a video blog highlighting issues related to IT and the workplace. For information on Providing Leading Solutions, go to <http://www.providingleadingsolutions.com/>.

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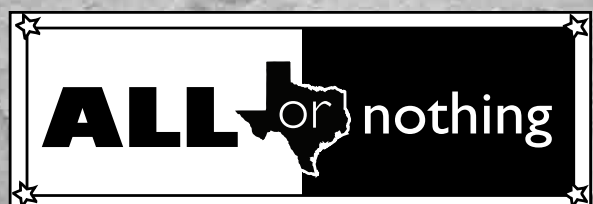
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Eastfield College will host Garland City Council Candidate Forum on April 4

GARLAND - Eastfield College is hosting a forum for candidates running for Garland City Council in the May 11, 2013 municipal election. Only candidates in contested races will participate in the forum. Don Baynham, Associate Vice President, will moderate the forum.

The forum is scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Garland City Hall, 200 N Fifth Street. The forum will also be broadcast live on CGTV, the City's government access cable channel. CGTV is available on Time Warner Cable channel 16, on Verizon FIOS TV channel 44 and is streamed live on the City's website.

Garland citizens are invited to submit questions to be used during the forum. Questions must be received by March 29, 2013 by email to scook@dcccd.edu or by fax to 972-860-8324.

Please include Garland City Council Forum in the subject line of email and fax submissions.

Eastfield College personnel will evaluate the validity of the submitted questions and have the option of combining similar questions or eliminating questions that are inappropriate in nature (such as personal attacks on individuals or questions that are vulgar in nature).

Deltas hosting Teen Town Hall Summit on April 8

The Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will present its Teen Town Hall Summit on Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Cedar Valley College, 3030 North Dallas Ave., Building M, in Lancaster.

Online registration is required. The registration deadline is Monday, April



8. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.dallasalumnae.org/>.

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sell it," she explained. "I thought of the NGHS computer maintenance class and wanted our students to be prepared to go into business, or start their own on the side, when they graduate."

Payton also thought that certifying GISD students in Apple repair could have future benefits for the district. MST campuses use hundreds of Apple devices, and when their warranties run out, our students could eventually be able to fix them.

With the help of Theresa Williams, director of Special Programs, and Phil Gilbreath, director of Career and Technical Education, North Garland's Apple repair certification program kicked off this school year.

"We asked Ms. Aronson if she was willing to get certified, then sent her to the training last summer," said Payton. "CTE also helped purchase the needed equipment."

Aronson's class now teaches PC repair during

the first semester and Apple repair during the second. The program is open to grades 10-12, and any student is able to sign-up for the Apple certification test in May. Those who pass will be licensed to work on both warranty and non-warranty devices. Aronson will also offer a second-year class starting in 2013-14, where certified students can begin repairing devices and those who need more practice for the test can receive it.

"Most people usually get their certification after college," commented junior Raymond Ortiz. "Being certified in high school will help me attain job skills that I can use for my future sooner. It could even help me achieve my goal of having an internship with Apple."

"I wanted to be part of this program because I think it will pave the way for future opportunities," added senior Jaime Posada. "If I succeed at something that no other high school in

the nation is doing, there will be no other goal that I will not be able to achieve."

Ortiz and Posada are both signed up to take Apple's certification test in May. Their registration fees were paid for by two members of the Garland Noon Exchange Club. Aronson was asked to speak at one of the club's meetings and mentioned that several of her students would have a hardship paying for the exam. Two members in attendance agreed to sponsor a student each. They pre-

sented Ortiz and Posada with checks at NGHS in February, joking that they would come calling when their Apple devices needed repair.

"Having the support of the Garland community means so much to me," commented Posada. "I know it sounds so simple to say that, but it really is an honor that a community I have lived in for the majority of my life is helping me achieve an opportunity that can change my whole future."



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Strider World Cup features race for toddlers

RAPID CITY — Strider Sports International, developer of the patented STRIDER No-Pedal Balance Bikes, is bringing the Strider World Cup to Desoto for the USA BMX Super Nationals March 23 at Metroplex BMX, 500 E Centre Park Blvd. in Desoto.

The season-long Strider World Cup series gives toddlers two to five years old, the chance for friendly competition at events across the country. No prior experience needed. The Strider World Cup races are perfect for both beginners and more experienced riders alike.

The Strider World Cup race will start at 11:15 a.m. on Saturday, with registration from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. The whole family can enjoy



Now even tikes can get in on the racing action

the Strider experience at the Adventure Zone from 9 a.m. — 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Toddlers can test ride their favorite Strider on the obstacle course while playing, learning, and socializing with peers on two wheels.

USA BMX Strider memberships are available for \$25. The membership includes the racer's first Strider World Cup race and a USA BMX membership card. Participating in a race at any USA BMX National will qualify the racer for the Strider World Championship this fall in Sarasota, Florida.

Strider Sports founder and CEO Ryan McFarland says, "At Strider Sports we are committed to supporting a fun, safe, and healthy lifestyle through bicycling. Our partnership with USA BMX has introduced hundreds of children to bicycling at a younger age than ever before. We can't wait to continue spreading the love of cycling that will keep them fit and healthy for years to come."

St. Phillips hosting Parent University on March 26

DALLAS - St. Phillips School and Community Center will conduct its FREE semi-annual Parent University on Tuesday, March 26 from 5:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. This community program is open to the public for educators, parents, grandparents, child-care and ministry workers.

"At St. Philip's, we recognize how important it is to equip parents and primary caregivers with resources and the knowledge and skills needed to foster Spiritual, Physical, Academic, Cognitive, Emotional, and Social (SPACES) development in their child's life", explains Ramona Bailey, Director of St. Philip's Academic Language Program. SPACES is taught through semi-annual parent educational workshops using the "Morning Star Lecture Series" curriculum, and resources in the parent resource center.



St. Phillips offers parenting tips

"The purpose of the workshops is to equip parents with parenting skills and knowledge," said Bailey. "The younger the parents, the more we find we are having to teach them to parent by educating their children and setting greater goals for academic, social and emotional development."

St. Philip's began hosting the Parent University workshops in 2007. Two sessions are held each year in the spring and fall. This

year, attendees can select two of the following concurrent workshops to attend:

- For men only: The Impact of a Man
- Early Childhood: "Hands-On" Learning Everywhere
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Getting Ready for Math
- Understanding How My Child Learns
- Perspectives on Being

See UNIVERSITY, Page 8

STANDARDS, continued from Page 1

anniversary. I was honored by the group at a recent event held in Washington, D.C. as NNPA publishers presented me with the Torch Award for Political Achievement. This was a humbling experience since I find it an honor and a privilege to work tirelessly for the improvement of our communities and our country.

Throughout the history of this country the Black Press has been a crucial crucible for the delivery of information to people of color when no other news organizations thought it necessary to cover events of relevance to minorities and progressive thinking people.

The achievements of the Tuskegee Airman during the Second World War were slightly acknowledged in the white press. The remarkable baseball feats of the men and women who played in the Negro Baseball Leagues only received coverage in papers such as the Pittsburgh Courier and the Afro-American Newspaper, both members of the NNPA.

Editorial giants such as John H. Sengstacke, the publisher of the Chicago Defender and Daisy Bates, the founder of the Arkansas State Press helped to shape

the social fabric of America during the 20th century. They and so many other NNPA publishers provided the news sources for the messages of social activists such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, legal scholars such as Justice Thurgood Marshall and elected officials such as Congresswoman Barbara Jordan.

During my tenure as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus I recognized the NNPA for its exemplary work and its standards of excellence that continue until this very day. A 2012 study by NNPA and Nielsen, a global consumer research organization, pro-

jected a \$1.1 trillion buying power presence by African Americans in the year 2015. The study suggested that NNPA news outlets are a preferable way for marketers to reach consumers.

The Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and NNPA have been partners in improving the American economic and political climate for all of our citizens. It is a vital partnership that will continue, I believe, for years to come.

Editor's note: The North Dallas Gazette is a proud long-time member of NNPA.

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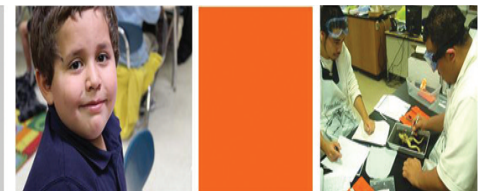
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Lancaster ISD Job Fair — Saturday, March 23, 2013 — 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Lancaster High School at 200 E. Wintergreen Rd. Lancaster, TX 75134

Visit www.LancasterISD.org to fill out an application

Please bring several copies of the following:

- Resume
- Transcripts
- List of References
- Letters of Recommendation
- Certification/Proof of Participation in an Alternative Certification Program



Concord Church Grand Opening



The new Faith Building at Concord Church

The renown Concord Church celebrated the grand opening of their new worship center on March 16. *North Dallas Gazette's* Religion Editor, Sis. Shirley Tarpley was on hand for the unveiling of the building referred to as their "Faith Building". The church is led by Pastor Bryan Carter.



Guests and members enjoy the new sanctuary

Concord Church opened in June 1975 under the leadership of the late Dr. E. K. Bailey at 3410 South Polk. After 22 years at that location, the congregation purchased the 24 acre site of 6808 Boulder Drive (now Pastor Bailey Drive). During the early years at their



NDG's Religion Editor, Sis. Shirley Tarpley

"Joy Explosion" revival 1,000 people accepted Christ in one week. The theme over the last two years at Concord is "We Grow People" with a ministry focus of helping people to grow spiritually in their lives.

Garland Youth Council Applications Available

GARLAND - The Garland City Council wants to hear from the city's youth and invites young people to apply to serve on the Garland Youth Council (GYC). The Youth Council's mission is to provide

a forum, which educates Garland's youth to the various workings of City business and allows youth to voice ideas and concerns.

Garland residents who will be grades 9-12 during

the 2013-14 school year are eligible to apply. Each applicant should submit a completed GYC application and two letters of reference by May 17, 2013 to Dorothy White, Public & Media Affairs Director,

200 N Fifth Street, Garland, TX 75040.

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

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

Applications and meeting agendas are available at Garland City Hall, 200 N. Fifth Street, in the Public & Media Affairs office and www.garlandyouthcouncil.org.

UNIVERSITY,

continued from Page 7

Dad: Presence, Patience, and Persistence

- Summer Life after the School Year
- Parenting Tips for Having a Successful Year
- For the Love of Parenting
- We Reap What You Sow
- Exercise and Movement in the Classroom
- Bullying: Aggressive Relationships
- Understanding and Improving your Child's Standardized Test: ERB/CTP-4
- Workshops for girls and boys 4th grade and up childcare for 2 years and up.

The workshops are conducted by experts in the parenting and education fields. For more information or to register for these dynamic, FREE Parent University workshops, please contact Ramona Bailey at (214) 421-5221, ext., 120 or rbailey@stphilips.com.

March 11, 2013

PUBLIC NOTICE

The McKinney Housing Authority will accept applications for the Public Housing waiting list on April 1, 2013 thru April 30, 2013.

The McKinney Housing Authority has One, Two and Three Bedroom Units Applications will be taken in our office Monday-Thursday * 7:30-5:30pm Applicants may mail in their application to the address above. You can also fax in your application to 972-562-8387. All applications must be received or postmarked by 04/30/13.

McKinney Housing Authority
1200 N. Tennessee St.
McKinney, Texas 75069
Phone: 972-542-5641 * Fax: 972-562-8387

AVISO PUBLICO

El Ministerio de Vivienda de McKinney aceptará solicitudes de la lista de espera de Vivienda pública el 1 de abril de 2013 durante el 30 de abril de 2013.

El Ministerio de Vivienda de McKinney tiene Un, Dos y Tres Unidades del Dormitorio Las aplicaciones se tomarán en nuestra oficina El lunes-jueves * 7:30-5:30pm Los candidatos pueden enviar en su aplicación a la dirección encima. También puede mandar por fax en su aplicación a 972-562-8387. Todas las aplicaciones se deben recibir o timbrarse hacia el 04/30/13.

McKinney Housing Authority
1200 N. Tennessee St. ~ McKinney, Texas 75069
Phone: 972-542-5641 * Fax: 972-562-8387

Notice of Public Hearing

MHA Annual/Five Year Plan Input Opportunities

Notice of Public Hearing on MHA Agency 2013 Annual/5-Year Plan Input Opportunity

A draft of the proposed Annual/Five Year Plan is available for review on the MHA Website (mckinneyha.org) and at the MHA main office located at: 1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX.

You can submit comments by hand delivery, mail, or email to McKinney Housing Authority Main Office; 1200 North Tennessee Street; Attn: Roslyn Miller; McKinney, TX 75069 or rmiller@mckinneyha.org. A public hearing for plan adoption will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 5:30pm - McKinney Housing Authority community center.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Voter Laws Threaten to Limit Political Clout for People of Color

BY CATHY COHEN AND
JON C. ROGOWSKI

(America's Wire Writers Group) In a democracy, few rights are as cherished as the right to vote. Yet, in the United States people of color, mainly Latinos, African Americans, Asians and Native Americans, are finding that the more they demonstrate their civic responsibility by voting, the more obstacles that surface designed to weaken the power of their votes.

Since 2008, when the nation elected its first African American president, there have been numerous efforts in various states to impact ballot access. Legislatures in 19 states have tightened identification requirements for citizens who wish to vote. Many of these new laws require citizens to show a

That prediction became reality last November. A study conducted immediately after the 2012 election surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,500 young people between the ages of 18 and 29 with large oversamples of Blacks and Latinos. Consistent with other national reports, the study sponsored by the Black Youth Project confirmed that a high voter turnout among youth. It also determined that young people of color—especially Black youth—were asked to show identification when voting at considerably higher rates than white youth.

Even in states with no identification laws, 66 percent of Black youth and 55 percent of Latino youth were asked to show ID, compared with 43 percent of white youth. When non-

of color.

In the aftermath of the 2012 election, also under attack is the principle of "one person, one vote" established in 1964 when the Supreme Court ruled in *Reynolds v. Sims* that legislative districts must contain equal numbers of citizens.

Several states, including Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia, recently considered or are considering measures to apportion their electoral votes by congressional districts in place of the winner-take-all system currently in place. Discussions of these proposals have focused, not incorrectly, on the implications for the outcomes of presidential elections. But these proposals are designed explicitly to reduce the electoral influence of citizens living in densely populated areas—precisely those areas more likely to contain larger proportions of people of color—and increase the electoral importance of people living in more sparsely populated areas that take up larger swaths of geography.

As Sen. Charles Carico, who introduced the measure in the Virginia State Senate, explained, residents in rural areas "were concerned that it didn't matter what they did, that more densely populated areas were going to outvote them." Under these plans, the gerrymandering of congressional districts ensures that Black voters in states like Ohio and Pennsylvania would have considerably less influence on the apportionment of the state's electoral votes.

For instance, the 538 blog recently reported that President Obama would have lost twelve of Ohio's 18 electoral votes had they been apportioned by congressional district. Not only would this have distorted the voices of Ohio's

voters writ large (Obama received more than 100,000 votes more than Romney), but it also would have significantly weakened the influence of Ohio's Black voters. Nearly 65 percent of Black residents of Ohio are concentrated in the four congressional districts (mostly in the Cleveland area) in which Obama won. Along with weakening the political potency of urban voters generally, proposals to apportion Electoral College votes by congressional district seriously devalue the votes from people of color.

This tension between individuals and geography is also found in the debate surrounding the current Supreme Court case *Shelby County v. Holder*. At issue is Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which requires states with a history of racially discriminatory voting practices to receive federal clearance before changing electoral laws.

In oral arguments on February 27, attorney Bert Rein argued on behalf of Shelby County, Alabama that this provision is "an inappropriate vehicle to sort out the sovereignty of individual states." But the sov-



should not be allowed to weigh the votes of rural residents over votes from urban areas, neither should Alabama be excluded from provisions designed to protect Alabama citizens' voting rights because Alabama's sovereignty is judged to be more important than their citizens' electoral voices.

Rein is right, though, on at least one point. As he and some of the conservative justices on the Court pointed out, the South is not uniquely racially discriminatory. Schemes to apportion Electoral College votes by congressional dis-

Section 5. Indeed, any measure that limits ballot access or dilutes some group's electoral influence in any state ought to be opposed.

However, if states like South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and others currently subject to Section 5 have their way, significant numbers of people of color are especially likely to feel the negative consequences of new electoral laws. Keeping Section 5 in place will continue to help guard against attempts to limit the influence of people of color on Election Day.

Dr. Cathy Cohen is the David and Mary Winton Green Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago and Jon C. Rogowski is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Washington University. Dr. Cohen and Prof. Rogowski work with the Black Youth Project. America's Wire is an independent, nonprofit news service run by the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education. Our stories can be republished free of charge by newspapers, websites and other media sources. For more information, visit www.americaswire.org or contact Michael K. Frisby at mike@frisbyassociates.com.



state-issued form of photo ID.

The New York University School of Law Brennan Center for Justice warned in 2006 that because identification documents are not distributed equally across the population, voter ID laws would significantly affect voter access for people of color—especially Latinos and African Americans—who possessed photo identification at considerably lower rates than whites.

voters were asked to indicate the reasons why they did not vote, Black youth were three times as likely as white youth (17 percent compared with 5 percent) to say that they did not vote because they lacked the proper identification documents. The study provides compelling evidence that identification laws are applied inconsistently across racial groups, and appears to reduce turnout disproportionately among people

"Along with weakening the political potency of urban voters generally, proposals to apportion electoral College votes by congressional district seriously devalue the votes from people of color."

ereignty of states should not be privileged over the equal protections constitutionally granted to individual citizens. Just as states like Ohio and Pennsylvania

trict, for instance, have been discussed mostly by states that are not required to receive federal preclearance. But this is not an argument for striking down

Win Disney on Ice's *Rockin' Ever After* tickets!

Get ready to rock out with some of the most magical idols of all in a musical showcase that features the hottest tunes and talent from across the kingdom in Disney On Ice presents *Rockin' Ever After*!

Jam to a Scottish jig as a group of royal contenders from the latest Disney Pixar film, *Brave*, competes to win the heart of headstrong, sharp-shooting Merida, making her ice debut. Experience a show-stopping performance as Sebastian breaks out of his shell for one night only to make waves with Ariel. A chorus of harmless hooligans from *Tangled* unleashes musical mayhem



when they get a visit from the sassy and spirited Rapunzel and her charming ally Flynn. And, get your feet moving as the Beast and his castle's enchanted entourage take center stage in a spectacular show for Belle.

It will be a rockin' remix of royalty when Disney On Ice brings this superstar line-up to the American Airline Center April 3-7. For a chance to win tickets to the show register on the *North Dallas Gazette's* Facebook page.

Dallas Zoo Feathers, Fur & Scales Photo Contest

DALLAS – Guests have the opportunity to capture the spirit of the animals at the Dallas Zoo and enter their photos into the Feathers, Fur & Scales photo contest. The Zoo's 11th annual photography contest is accepting entries until Sept. 30.

The contest is open to everyone from children to experienced professionals. The entry fee of \$15 enables participants to submit up to three 8x10 prints of any animal from the Dallas Zoo or the Children's Aquarium at Fair Park. All photos must be taken between April 1 and Sept. 30. Prints may be in color or black and white and should be unframed and unmounted.

Photos will be judged in three categories: youth (12 and under); teen (ages 13 to 19 years); and



adult. First, second, and third place winners will be selected in each category and best of show will be awarded. The grand prize winner will receive a camera from Canon USA.

The Zoo's staff photographer, Cathy Burkey, knows what it takes to capture perfect images of animals. Photo Safaris are a great way for beginners and experts alike to enjoy a wildlife photog-

raphy adventure. Burkey shares her insight on photographing animals in a zoo setting and participants can take advantage of optimal times to see the animals and capture unique photographic opportunities. Upcoming Photo Safari dates include April 27, May 18, and June 22. Please contact Burkey for registration and pricing at 469-554-7423 or Cathy.Burkey@DallasZoo.com.

Mail entries to Cathy Burkey, Dallas Zoological Society, 650 South R.L. Thornton Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75203. All photos become the property of the Dallas Zoological Society and will not be returned. Winners will be notified by phone and will be invited to the awards ceremony in October at the Zoo. For more information visit DallasZoo.com.

PRAYER, continued from Page 1

500 entries from 10 countries. The winning entries will be on display at the Luncheon.

The Thanks-Giving Foundation Luncheon's deep-rooted history dates back to 1774, when our forefathers began the first session of Continental Congress with a

prayer. In 1981, The Thanks-Giving Foundation collaborated with president-elect Ronald Reagan to set aside the first Thursday in every May as a permanent National Day of Prayer.

Tickets range from \$75 to \$200. Sponsorships and

tables are also available and range from \$2,000 to \$10,000. To purchase tickets or for additional information, please contact Michelle Meadows at mmeadows@thanksgiving.org.

Halle Berry gets meaty role in *The Call*

By DWIGHT BROWN

(NNPA) "911. What's your emergency?" Call center operators are the unsung heroes. Everyday they answer the pleas of frantic people in distress. We don't call 911 often, but when we do, we expect the person at the other end of the line to be calm, collected, probing and knowledgeable. They're no more than voices. Even if they gave us their names, who would remember them? After all, it's all about us, not them. 'Till now.

This tension-filled thriller focuses on the strained, frayed but oh so mutually dependent relationship between victims and their helpers. And for the most part it does so admirably, giving Halle Berry her juiciest role in eons.

Jordan (Berry) works in the L.A. 911 call center. They call it the hive, because with the constant din of conversations it sounds like bees at work. On her shift, she gets calls for help, nuisance calls, calls from admirers. As she will someday teach future operators, there are two basic survival rules: 1. Stay emotionally detached. 2. Never make a promise, because operators rarely see the end results of their work—that's a cop's job.

Screenwriter Richard D'Ovidio hadn't thought much about 911 call center operators until his wife listened to an NPR show about the subject. Good writers don't just sniff out intriguing subject matter; they base further exploration and development on whether they are going down a path that is unique or too well worn. 911 folks have never had their story told, so D'Ovidio did some investigating and witnessed their coolness under fire: "Every time a call came in, my stomach would drop, but they were so calm!...they were the glue of the city. They held the police, the fire, the ambulances—nobody moved in the city without them."

Exhibit A: "A man is trying to break into my house!" The young girl on the phone is terrified, but Jordan tries to talk her through an escape plan. "Open a window. Hide.



Halle Berry

Don't talk." The teen follows her commands, but they don't work. She's kidnapped, murdered and her body is found in a field. Jordan is devastated. Six months later, a rookie operator answers a similar call from a teen named Casey (Abigail Breslin), who has been abducted in a mall and thrown into the trunk of a sedan. The rookie panics and Jordan takes over, calming the screaming victim. The police are alerted, and their efforts are spearheaded by Jordan's boyfriend, Officer Paul Phillips (Morris Chestnut), and his partner, Jake Devans (David Otunga). Jordan is determined not to let this caller down, but sometimes determination is not enough.

Halley Berry is a movie star, but it's hard to remember why these days. She's been in so many big-budget soul-less films and her persona has been chipped away by tabloid headlines that reduce her to failed relationships, contentious custody battles and the men who literally fight for her attention. There couldn't be a better time to for her to get the press to refocus on her acting, and she makes the most of this opportunity. The script gives Berry a blue-collar character she can make accessible, vulnerable and gutsy. She works the screen like Meryl Streep, giving her best performance since *Monster's Ball*.

Chestnut is suitably gallant and stalwart as her caring lover and a cop on a mission. WWE wrestling champion David Otunga (Jennifer Hudson's main man) is a cool sidekick. Breslin, in her most adult role yet, shrieks and cries for help on cue as

her character struggles to find her bearing and gumption. Michael Eklund (TV's *Shattered* and *True Justice*) plays the psychopathic kidnapper with surprising depth. It's helpful that he doesn't have a familiar face, and hasn't played a string of cliché bad guys. His wiry, jittery sleazy demeanor leaves a lasting impression; like John Hawkes from the film *Winter's Bone*.

In 1996, director Brad Anderson cut his teeth on a \$40,000 film called *The Darien Gap*, which premiered at the Sundance film festival. His thin filmography includes the indie classic *The Machinist*, starring a very emaciated Christian Bale. He didn't need movie credits to prepare him for this tight-has-a-drum, riveting thriller. Directing episodes of *The Wire* and *The Shield* gave him the perfect sensibility for guiding this grizzly crime story, which will play even better someday on Saturday night cable TV. He gets great performances out of Berry, Eklund, Breslin and Morris. Gruesome scenes are well staged and choreographed. Anderson's only serious error is a postscript ending that takes you from reality to cheap horror effects. Even with this misplaced coda, his direction is solid.

The lag time in between call center work life and horrific events is negligible thanks to the pacing of editor Avi Youabian. Cinematographer Tom Yatsko gets all the lighting right; love the bright Southern California skies juxtaposed with the inside of a pitch dark car trunk. Berry's Jeri Curl Afro wig is a bit distracting. The kidnapper blares his car radio with deafening music, but the musical score is innocuous. Costumes, set design and art direction are on point.

Don't be fooled. This film is a whole lot scarier than you think it's going to be. When Casey screams to her tormentor, "Please just kill me," you get it. At that point, she is so terrified, exhausted and beaten down, she just wants the seemingly inevitable to be over. But it isn't.

Visit Dwight Brown at www.DwightBrownInk.com.

AT&T announce plans to add 90 jobs in North Texas

DALLAS — AT&T last week announced plans to hire more than 90 bilingual retail specialists in North Texas to accommodate the growing demand for products and services by bilingual customers in its retail stores across the area. These jobs are in addition to the more than 450 new employees hired in North Texas in 2012. The bilingual retail specialist positions are available immediately and positions will be posted at <http://connect.att.jobs/texas/bilingual>.

Although bilingual employees are being hired across the North Texas region, the majority of these employees are in the DFW area. Other open positions will be filled in El Paso, Carlsbad and Hobbs, Amarillo, Abilene, Lubbock, Midland/Odessa, Longview, and Waco/Temple.

Retail Sales Professional work hands-on with customers to understand their communications needs and discover how AT&T products meet those needs. The hires are a combination of new jobs and filling vacancies created by attrition.

These jobs also offer great earning potential, amazing benefits and career growth opportunity only a company with the AT&T history can offer; discounts on AT&T products and services, Tuition Reimbursement Program, Medical/Dental/Vision benefits for entire family, and up to 22 days off per year.

For AT&T, commitment to hiring and retaining a diverse, talented and dedicated workforce is a key strategic priority. The company has been nationally recognized for its diversity programs and performance, including being named to DiversityInc.'s Top 50 Companies for Diversity Hall of Fame.

"This is some very welcome good news about jobs," said Rick Ortiz, President & CEO, Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

"AT&T's investment in high-tech jobs shows that private businesses are ready to invest and hire where they have a stable, sensible tax and regulatory environment. This is a model for how we can grow North Texas jobs."

AT&T also invested more than \$2.85 billion in its Dallas-Fort Worth area wireless and wireline networks from 2010 through 2012, part of a total investment of more than \$7 billion Texas during that period. Those investments have helped ensure our customers have a network they can count on to talk and surf on their mobile phones or on any of their connected devices anywhere they go.

"These investments in hiring bilingual employees and in our networks reflect our commitment to fulfill our promise to provide all of our customers an extraordinary experience. It's an investment in our present and in our future" said Adam Vital, vice president and general manager for AT&T's North Texas Region. "In addition to improving quality of life for our customers, these AT&T jobs bring new wealth that will help support our communities and brighten our economic future."

AT&T offers Spanish speaking customers a full-service Spanish-language web site, at

www.espanol.att.com. AT&T also offers U.S. consumers and visitors access to vital AT&T services in more than 160 languages in the majority of our service regions and advertises in the most widely spoken languages in the United States.

For more information on coverage in Texas or anywhere in the U.S., consumers can visit the AT&T Coverage Viewer. Using the online tool, AT&T customers can measure coverage quality of coverage from a street address, intersection, ZIP code or even a landmark. For updates on the AT&T wireless network, please visit the AT&T network news page.

Letter to Editor

Will Senate Bill 521 kill sex education?

In the 9th grade, my good friend became pregnant. The sex education course at our school didn't teach girls about contraceptives. She was prompted to drop out of school, works two jobs, and still struggles to feed her own child.

Earlier this month, Senator Ken Paxton proposed Senate Bill 521 which would require students to provide written permission from parents (at least two weeks in advanced) to participate in a sex education class if the course is taught by an indi-

vidual who is not a district employee. Public health experts say this would lead many school districts to stop teaching sex education.

Sex education saves lives, and gives young students the tools they need to practice safe sex, should they choose to have it.

As citizens, we must encourage our representatives to vote down this bill. Do it for the students, and for a safer state.

Regards,
Michael Graves
Dallas Resident

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<p>Weeknights</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>public. Various locations on SMU campus www.smu.edu/litfest</p>	<p>Borders at Fort Worth Community Arts Center, 1300 Gendy St in Fort Worth at 7:30 p.m.; \$15; 214-871-2376</p>	<p>April 17</p> <p>Irving International Women's Purse Auction at Las Colinas Country Club, 4400 N. O'Connor Blvd. in Irving at 6-8:30 p.m.; \$50; 972-831-8866</p>	<p>100; Irving; 800-540-3192</p>	<p>12 p.m.; 214-827-0813</p>
<p>Daily</p> <p>Activity Time Highland Hills at Highland Hills Branch Library, 3624 Simpson Stuart Rd.; 214-670-0987</p>	<p>Through March 23</p> <p>"Death Takes A Holiday" by Garland Civic Theatre at Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre; 972-205-2790</p>	<p>March 31</p> <p>Kite Flying Festival in Plano at North Pavilion - Bob Woodruff Park, 2601 San Gabriel Drive, in Plano; 4 p.m.; FREE; 214-267-8424</p>	<p>April 18</p> <p>Lecture and book signing: Novelist Joe Coomer, 6:30 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. lecture will read from his first novel, The Decatur Road, which is being republished by DeGolyer Library at SMU http://smu.edu/cul/degolyer/</p>	<p>Dallas March for Babies at Norbuck Park, White Rock Lake at 9 a.m.; 972-232-1348</p>	<p>May 10-11</p> <p>Full Moon Fever: A Tribute to Tom Petty DSO Pops Series at 8 p.m. Tickets: 214.692.0203 or www. DallasSymphony.com.</p>
<p>Personal Views: Texas Black Folk Artists at African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave.; 214-565-9026</p>	<p>March 21</p> <p>17th Annual Spirit of Contact Luncheon at Hyatt-Regency, Landmark Ballroom, at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Keynote speaker is Mrs. Laura Bush, Former First Lady; www. contact-crisis.org</p>	<p>April 3</p> <p>Arts & Letters Live: Visual Verse at DMA, 1717 N. Harwood at 7:30 p.m.; \$15-35; 214-922-1818</p>	<p>April 18</p> <p>Lecture and book signing: Novelist Joe Coomer, 6:30 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. lecture will read from his first novel, The Decatur Road, which is being republished by DeGolyer Library at SMU http://smu.edu/cul/degolyer/</p>	<p>Fort Worth March for Babies at Farrington Field to Trinity Park at 9 a.m.; 682-201-3037</p>	<p>May 11</p> <p>FREE Bancroft Family Concert at 3 p.m. at the Dallas Museum of Arts located at 1717 North Harwood, Dallas www. fineartschamber-players.org</p>
<p>Every Tuesday</p> <p>Dallas Comedy House Open Mic at 2645 Commerce St; 214-741-4448</p>	<p>March 23</p> <p>Spring Youth Forum at SMU, Prothro Hall at 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m.; FREE; 214-768-1333</p>	<p>April 6</p> <p>DSO on the GO at Allen Performing Arts Center, Allen at 7:30 p.m. www.DallasSymphony.co m/DSOontheGO for details</p>	<p>April 18</p> <p>Lecture and book signing: Novelist Joe Coomer, 6:30 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. lecture will read from his first novel, The Decatur Road, which is being republished by DeGolyer Library at SMU http://smu.edu/cul/degolyer/</p>	<p>April 30</p> <p>Big, Hot, Cheap, and Right: What America Can Learn from the Strange Genius of Texas at Fort Worth Club, 306 W. 7th St. in Fort Worth at 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.; \$55; 214-965-8403</p>	<p>May 17-19</p> <p>Wildflower! Richardson's Arts & Music Festival; http://www.wildflowerfesti- val.com/</p>
<p>March 20-23</p> <p>Literary Festival: LitFest at SMU will include author and student readings, receptions, and book signings. Free and open to the</p>	<p>March 24</p> <p>When Black Queens Danced! at Irving Arts Center in Irving at 3 p.m.; \$15-\$27.50; 972-252-2787</p>	<p>April 7</p> <p>Dog Bowl at the Cotton Bowl on April 7 from 1 - 5 p.m. the event is free and open to the public</p>	<p>April 16</p> <p>Rihanna: Diamonds Wo- rld Tour at American Air- lines Center at 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>May 5</p> <p>Nasher Sculpture Center and Dallas Architecture Forum present Design Symposium features The <i>New York Times</i> Chief Architecture Critic Michael Kimmelman at 2 pm.</p>	<p>May 19</p> <p>The Singers Celebrate! at Mesquite Arts Center, 1527 N. Galloway in Mesquite</p>
	<p>March 29</p> <p>Dallas Black Dance Theatre: Dancing Beyond</p>		<p>Sharepoint 2010 for Business Intelligence training at 320 Decker Drive, Suite</p>	<p>May 10</p> <p>Visionary Women Luncheon at Omni Hotel Dal- las, 555 S. Lamar Street at</p>	<p>May 31</p> <p>Little Egypt presents: Stars of Spring at Radisson Hotel, 1241 W Mockingbird Lane at 12:30 - 6 p.m.; 972-840-8450</p>

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Eastfield College will host Garland City Council Candidate Forum on April 4

GARLAND - Eastfield College is hosting a forum for candidates running for Garland City Council in the May 11, 2013 municipal election. Only candidates in contested races will participate in the forum. Don

Baynham, Associate Vice President, will moderate the forum.

The forum is scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Garland City Hall, 200 N Fifth Street. The forum will also be

broadcast live on CGTV, the City's government access cable channel. CGTV is available on Time Warner Cable channel 16, on Verizon FIOS TV channel 44 and is streamed live on the City's website.

Garland citizens are invited to submit questions to be used during the forum. Questions must be received by March 29, 2013 by email to scook@dcccd.edu or by fax to 972-860-8324.

Please include Garland City Council Forum in the subject line of email and fax submissions.

Eastfield College personnel will evaluate the validity of the submitted questions and have the op-

tion of combining similar questions or eliminating questions that are inappropriate in nature (such as personal attacks on individuals or questions that are vulgar in nature).

HUD provides Texas \$66 Million to provide homeless housing assistance

FORT WORTH – U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan last week awarded \$65,942,897 to renew support for 231 local homeless housing and service programs in Texas. Provided through HUD's Continuum of Care programs, the funding announced today will ensure these HUD-assisted local homeless assistance programs remain operating in the coming year. Later this year, HUD will award additional grant funding to support hundreds of other local programs, including new projects. View a complete list of

all Texas homeless projects awarded funding.

"The evidence is clear that every dollar we spend on those programs that help find a stable home for our homeless neighbors not only saves money but quite literally saves lives," said Donovan. "We know these programs work and we know these grants can mean the difference between homeless persons and families finding stable housing or living on our streets."

HUD's *Continuum of Care* grants are awarded competitively to local projects to meet the needs of their homeless clients. The grants fund a

wide variety of programs from street outreach and assessment programs to transitional and permanent housing for homeless persons and families. HUD funds are a critical part of the Obama Administration's strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness.

While the Fiscal Year 2012 funds awarded today are not impacted by the automatic across-the-board budget cuts under sequestration that began March 1st, Donovan cautioned that future budget cuts may reverse significant reported declines in homelessness: "During this challenging budget climate, we must make

certain that we don't balance our books on the backs of our most vulnerable citizens. When we make even modest investments in these programs, we see a measureable decline in homelessness."

HUD recently announced its 2012 "point in time" estimate of the number of homeless persons in America. Approximately 3,000 cities and counties reported 633,782 homeless persons on a single night in January of 2012, largely unchanged from the year before. While HUD found significant declines among the long-term homeless and veterans, local communities reported an increase

in the number of sheltered and unsheltered families with children. In Texas, local communities reported a 7.7 percent overall drop in homelessness in 2012.

HUD's Continuum of Care grants announced today will continue offering permanent and transitional housing to homeless persons as well as services including job training, health care, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment and child care. Continuum of Care grants are awarded competitively to local programs to meet the needs of their homeless clients. These grants fund a wide variety of programs

from street outreach and assessment programs to transitional and permanent housing for homeless persons and families.

In 2010, President Obama and 19 federal agencies and offices that form the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (US-ICH) launched the nation's first comprehensive strategy to prevent and end homelessness. Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness puts the country on a path to end veterans and chronic homelessness by 2015 and to ending homelessness among children, family, and youth by 2020.

BIBLE, continued from Page 4

meal? Even the classic "good night John Boy" had a prayerful note. The little girls prayed on *Little House On The Prairie*. Michael Landon, the star and producer of the series went on later to write and star in *Touched By An Angel* a show where prayer centered prominently with the characters.

Hollywood even wrote prayer in comedy in years back such as dinnertime in *Good Times* sitcom.

Let's not be over excited about the Bible series although it is a welcome sight.

Hollywood has proven itself to be a bastion of not only liberal thought but of a steady churn of anti-GOD

sentiment. Hollywood I know it is hard for you to imagine this since this sort of thing exist only outside of the studios of Hollywood, but there are many of us that yearn for that kind of spiritual family friendly programming.

There are still people like us who bow their heads and

pray each evening at dinner and we still hit our knees at night in reverence to a power greater than us. We read our Bibles with promise and hope. We welcome you Hollywood to "our world", which is not filled with glimmer and glamour but grace and faith.



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EAGLE CONTRACTING L.P., an Equal Opportunity Employer, is soliciting Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprises for Subcontract and Material Supply Bids for the following project:

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Bid Date: April 4, 2013 @ 4:00 p.m.

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j.smith@eaglecontractinglp.com

Metro: 817-379-1897
Fax, Metro: 817-379-0610

Eagle Contracting L.P. Fort Worth, Texas

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**AVENUE F CHURCH
OF CHRIST IN PLANO**

March 2013

For those in need and live in the 75074 and 75075 Zip Codes area, CALL TODAY about Avenue F Family Health Center's (AFFHC) Community Clinic. You can also set an appointment at 214-380-9713. Read this information on the following websites: www.affhc.org and/or www.avefchurchofchrist.org

Mondays – Fridays

Call 972-423-8833 for AFFECT, Inc. or email: AFFEC-TxInc@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.

March 24, 2013 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.

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

**BIBLE WAY
COMMUNITY
BAPTIST CHURCH**

March 22, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Women's Fellowship as we praise God;

worship Him and Study His Word.

March 23, 9 a.m.

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

March 24, 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.

March 27, 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.

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

**CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH IN
RICHARDSON**

March 27, 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.

March 29, 7 p.m.

Join us for the viewing of the Passion of Christ.

March 30, 8:30 a.m.

Don't miss our Blood Drive for a chance to save a life. Call about details.

March 31, 8:45 or 11 a.m.

You're invited to our Easter Service as we honor and praise God for Jesus who gave His life as a ransom for us.

April 5, 7 p.m.

Join us for the viewing of The Passion of Christ.

April 6, 8:30 a.m.

Don't miss the opportunity to help save a life, come to our Blood Drive and give some of your blood.

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

**CHRISTIAN CHAPEL
CME TEMPLE OF FAITH
CHURCH**

March 24

Join us in Morning Worship as we honor and praise God for His blessings. You're invited to join us for our Sunday Worship Experience at 8 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. Come and be blessed of God.

March 25, 7 p.m.

Join us for God's Daughter's Bible Study; as we study God's Word and worship His name.

Rev. Kwesi R. Kamau,

Senior Pastor
14120 Noel Road
Dallas, TX
972-239-1120
www.cctof.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@the-ship3c.org

**March 24, 8 a.m.
And 9:30 a.m.**

Come and grow with us. You're invited to a new series of teaching, "Guaranteed Victory". God will "Equip, Elevate, and Empower" you; call the church for details.

March 27, 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.)

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

**SHILOH MBC
IN PLANO**

March 24

8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Join us in our Sunday Morning Worship Service. This year's theme is "SMBC: A Church Focused on Excellence while Teaching the Word, Preaching the Gospel, Reaching the World." Also, after both services ministers and deacons are available to meet with you for prayer or questions.

March 27, 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**

March 24, 7:30 a.m.

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

March 25, 7 p.m.

Come to Monday School as we study the Word of God. We will 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.

March 24, 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.

March 26, 7:30 p.m.

You're invited to our School of The Prophets as Pastor Voss; who is also a prophet, bring the Word of God; and we worship and praise His Holy name.

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

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- Sunday Service 10:00 am
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African Americans women have always played a vital role in shaping Americans history; I will continue to honor them in my column this month.

Sarah E. Goode was the first Black female patent holder. She was issued a patent on July 14, 1885 for a Folding Cabinet Bed. **Miriam E. Benjamin** was the second Black woman in history to receive a patent, it was for a Gong and Signal Chair for motels on July 17, 1888. **Patricia Bath** was the first Black female doctor to receive a patent for a medical invention; an apparatus for ablating and removing cataract lenses.

Ruane Jeter invented a digital Toaster on April 14, 1987. **Ellen Elgin** invented the Clothes Wringer in the 1880's. **Madeline Turner** in Oakland, California invented a Fruit Press on April 25, 1916. **Henrietta Mahim Bradberry** from Chicago, Illinois invented a bed rack which was an attachment to the bed that permitted air to pass through and refresh worn clothes on May 25, 1943; and on December 11, 1945, the device operated pneumatically and was adapted to discharge torpedoes under the water surface (the Torpedo Discharger.) **Virgie M. Ammons** invented a Fireplace Damper actuating tool on September 30, 1975. The instrument opens and closes a fireplace damper and is also intended to operate as a securing means to prevent fluttering of the damper due to wind.

Marie V. Brittan Brown, invented the Video Home Security System that utilized television surveillance on December 2, 1969 (the same year that Sheila, my only daughter was born.) **Bessie Blount**, a physical therapist who worked with soldiers injured in WW II invented a device allowing amputees to feed themselves in 1951. **Sarah Boone** invented the Ironing Board on December

30, 1887. **Mary J. Reynolds** invented a Hoisting/Loading Mechanism on April 20, 1920. **Natalie R. Love**, invented a T-Top Roof Cover on May 5, 1992. **Marjorie Joyner** from Chicago, Illinois, invented a Permanent Wave Machine, which could wave the hair of both white and Black people on November 27, 1928.

Alice H. Parker from Morristown, NJ on December 19, 1919 invented a new and improved gas heating furnace. The invention provided a mechanism for regulating heat to be carried to various rooms in a building. **Valerie Thomas** in 1980, invented an Illusion Transmitter; this futuristic invention extends the idea of television, with its images located flatly behind a screen to having three dimensional projections appear as though they were right in your living room.

The U.S. Postal Service, as I stated last week, through its Black Heritage stamp series has paid tribute to 28

African American leaders, inventors, educators, scientists, entrepreneurs, entertainers, and athletes since the "First stamp in the series was issued on February 1, 1978 to Harriet Tubman." This month, I proudly wear two issued stamp pens, one of Opera Singer **Marian Anderson** that was issued in January 2005, and the other one dedicated on October 13, 2004, to focusing attention on **Sickle Cell Disease**. Stop by any post office and inquire about purchasing one of each and don't forget, as Carl T. January, Dallas District Manager, says, "Buy The Stamps."

Mary McLeod Bethune founded the National Council of Negro Women; and what is now known as Bethune-Cookman College. Her stamp was issued March 5, 1985. Before **Aretha Franklin** "Queen of Soul," we had **Mahalia Jackson**, known as "Queen of Gospel Music." **Mrs. Jackson** received national recognition by appearing at Carnegie Hall. An ac-

tive participant in the civil rights movement, she sang at the "March on Washington" in 1963, and at the funeral for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. **Roberta Martin** was founder of the Roberta Martin Singers and she was the operator of her own "Gospel Music Publishing House." Sister **Rosetta Tharpe** was a Gospel Singer that was known for her signature guitar style; she also introduced gospel music into nightclubs as well as concert halls. **Jackson, Martin, and Sister Tharpe** stamps were issued July 15, 1998; the same year my first grandchild (a girl!) was born.

Ethel L. Payne was an internationally recognized writer and commentator, she was the first African American woman to receive accreditation as a White House correspondent. Her stamp was issued September 14, 2002. **Gertrude Malissa Nix Pridgett, (Ma Rainey)** AKA "Mother of the Blues," specialized in a down-home style of classic blues. Her stamp



Sister Tarpley and Reverend Bryan Carter, Senior Pastor at Concord Church on Press Day at Their New Sanctuary, "The Faith Building"

was issued September 17, 1994. **Wilma Rudolph** AKA "The World's Fastest Woman," as a child suffered from polio and wore leg braces for years, she won three gold medals in sprint events at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, Italy. Her stamp was issued in 2004.

Thought for the Week: 60 MINUTES -- Only 60 Minutes, 60seconds in it, we didn't seek it, we didn't choose it, but it's up to us to use it. We must give an account if we abuse it, just a tiny minute but eternity is in it.

-- Author Unknown

Think It Not Strange Ministries hosted by Prophetess Tondalyn Perry presents The 2013 Think It Not Strange Experience "The Movement", Friday, March 22nd & Saturday, March 23rd, 2013, 7:00 p.m. nightly, Mt. Olive Church of Plano, 300 Chisholm Place, Plano, Texas 75075.

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NDG Bookshelf



BY TERRI
SCHLICHENMEYER

Your child has caught some bug that's going around.

He has a terminal case of The Gimmes, and he's not getting any better. It's "Gimme that" and "Buy me this" all day long. It's GimmeGimmeGimme, usually accompanied by whining, pleading, and a maddening inability to understand the word "no."

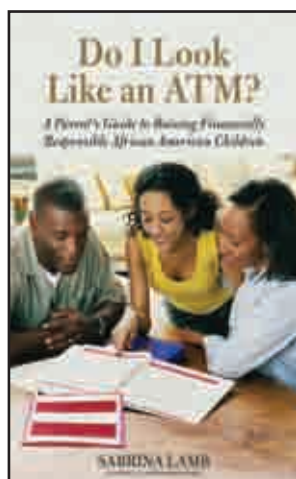
The Gimmes are enough to make any parent crazy.

NDG Book Review: Possible solution to the "gimmes" for parents: Read *Do I Look Like an ATM?* by Sabrina Lamb

They make you wish there was some sort of doctor who had some sort of shot to prevent it. But there isn't - so why not read "Do I Look Like an ATM?" by Sabrina Lamb instead?

Somewhere in your home, there lives a little beggar who can't take "no" for an answer. He's always got his hand out and he knows exactly how to wear you down when it comes to money. If you had a dime for every dollar he's asked for, you'd be rich.

So how did this happen? Sabrina Lamb says that your child was born to beg, which is a situation you need to stop. Avoiding the issue (or worse: giving in) can result in big problems now and even big-



ger problems in the future.

But first, the stats: members of the black community have an estimated \$1.1 trillion dollars to spend - and yet, many report having no sav-

ings, most don't know their credit score, and forty percent have little or nothing for retirement. Furthermore, "... African Americans tend to wield their tremendous buying power on products with little or zero monetary value." That means rented homes, expensive vehicles, and fancy phones take money out of your pocket but don't put it back.

The first step to fixing that situation is by looking inward. Chances are that you never learned financial literacy and your attitudes toward wealth may be limiting your ability to understand money issues. Just giving yourself an education on finances presents a good example for your kids.

Speak your financial truth and tell your child. Understand the difference between "need" and "want" and teach your child that looking financially successful is not the same as being financially successful. Forget about keeping up with your neighbors. Identify your parental money style. Set your family up as a business, show your kids how to save - and then show them how to give, too.

Wow. I was so impressed at what I found inside "Do I Look Like an ATM?" that I was uncharacteristically speechless.

When it comes to financial literacy for children, so many authors take mincing baby-steps and waste every-

body's time, but not WorldOfMoney.org founder Sabrina Lamb. She takes a different approach that starts with parents, and she's not gentle with her words. No, Lamb's a little sarcastic and very in-your-face, but her boot-camp-like attitude left no doubt in my mind that what she says, works.

I like that no-nonsense talk and I think you will, too - especially if you're serious about money matters. If talking about dollars to your kids just makes sense, then "Do I Look Like An ATM?" would be a shot in the arm to your family's finances.

Do I Look Like an ATM? by Sabrina Lamb (Lawrence Hill Books, \$14.95 215 pages)

UNCLE, continued from Page 4

the IRS or to a commercial lender, generally is nondeductible personal interest.

Home equity loan. If Don and Donna can finance the tax payment with a home equity loan, the interest may be deductible for regular tax (but not AMT) purposes. A home equity loan is debt (other than acquisition debt) secured by a qualified residence. It generates deductible interest to the extent the loan does not exceed the lesser of \$100,000 (\$50,000, for married filing separately), or the fair market value (FMV) of the residence less acquisition debt. There is no

limit on the number of qualified home equity loans a taxpayer can take out (as long as the loans collectively meet the \$100,000 /\$50,000 or FMV limitation) and use of the debt proceeds is irrelevant unless they are used to purchase or carry tax-exempt obligations.

Credit card. Another option is paying the tax by credit card. Applicable finance charges (according to the credit card agreement) and "convenience fees" will apply, but if Don and Donna have a low interest rate card, these will be kept to a minimum until the balance

is paid in full. While the interest on the credit card is nondeductible personal interest, some credit cards provide low rates, airline miles, or other incentives. For more information, go to www.irs.gov and type "paying tax by credit card" in the Search box.

Request an Installment Agreement with the IRS. A final option is to request an installment arrangement from the IRS by completing and filing Form 9465. Once filed, the IRS will notify the taxpayer if the request is approved or denied, or if additional information is needed. The IRS would charge

Don and Donna a \$105 fee for entering into the agreement; however, that fee would be reduced to \$52, if the electronic funds withdrawal option is selected, and can be reduced to \$43 for certain low-income taxpayers.

Since Don and Donna owe \$50,000 or less, they can use the online payment agreement (OPA) application at www.irs.gov to request the agreement. This application is available to taxpayers who meet the \$50,000 requirement, have filed all required tax returns, and are current with their tax payments.

"The bottom line is that if you can't pay taxes you owe by April 15, either file your return or an extension and pay as much as you can to avoid penalties and interest," advises Christian.

"You can then work on a so-

lution to pay the unpaid balance. Never ignore the filing deadline."

Taxpayers should consult with a personal tax adviser before applying these or other tax strategies.

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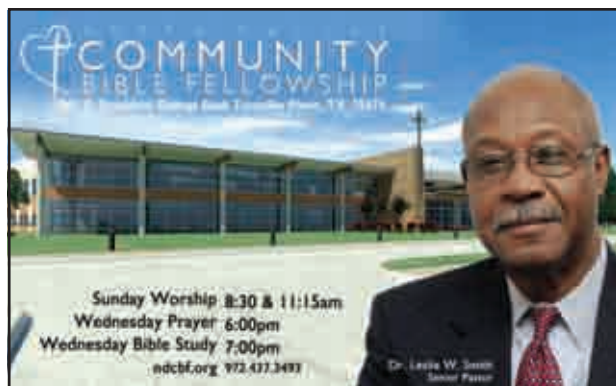
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