

# North Dallas Gazette

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## Proposed State Medicaid cuts imperil seniors' care, risk local health jobs

(NDG Wire) State and national long term care leaders warned last week that the new round of cuts to Medicaid-funded nursing home care now being considered by Austin policy-makers places seniors' care in direct jeopardy, puts key

facility jobs at substantial risk, and undermines the economic stability facilities require to continue the provision of quality care to Texas' most vulnerable seniors and persons with disabilities.

The long-term care

leaders also noted that recently-passed \$725 million cuts to Texas seniors' Medicare-funded nursing home care, coupled with the threat of more cuts in the FY 2011 federal budget, also requires the Texas congressional delegation to act

with vigilance in preserving, protecting and defending their elderly constituents' Medicare benefits.

"A full eighty to eighty-five percent of Texas' nurs-

See MEDICAID, Page 4

## Plano explores option for DART withdrawal



(NDG Wire) In response to citizen inquiries regarding the City of Plano's withdrawal from the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) service area, Plano staff has worked with DART to determine the steps required to initiate such a process.

DART President Gary Thomas said in a March 5 letter to the City, "Chapter

452, Subchapter Q of the Texas Transportation Code requires Council action, a canvassing of the vote and a formal acknowledgment to DART to withdraw...the next opportunity for a withdrawal election is 2014."

While service to Plano would immediately cease if

See DART Page 12

## Free pole dancing class shows women new way to get fit

(NDG Wire) Pole dancing has found a life outside of seedy strip clubs and made a new home at a Richardson fitness clubs. No more is pole dancing confined to smoky dimly lit gentleman's quarters, now,

women can strut their stuff while getting fit.

Two Dallas mompernurers have opened Pole'ticians Fitness Studio in Richardson, Texas to give women a new way to get fit while learning a few new

moves. The public is invited to try out or watch a pole dance demonstration on the forth Friday of each month at the studio at 2100 N. Greenville Ave. #100 inside Jerome's Gym.

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COVER STORY

## Affordable ways to liven up your home: Refresh your nest



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Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen presents *The Living Word*

For more information see pg. 10  
[www.northdallasgazette.com](http://www.northdallasgazette.com)

COMMENTARY

## Women and the Environment

BY KATHLEEN ROGERS

Climate change is a critical issue in the 21st century, and we should bear in mind the effect of the environment on women. Women make up the majority of the earth's population, and are most vulnerable to changes in climate and environment.

"The poor are not living in industrialized countries where the environment is distant -- where you have to go out to appreciate it. Our lives depend upon it," said Wangari Maathai, winner of

the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize.

Problems such as air pollution, contaminated water, lack of adequate sanitation, disease vectors and degraded ecosystems are all risk factors for women and their children. In 2005, 1.1 billion people lacked access to safe and affordable drinking water, nearly 20 percent of the earth's population, while 40 percent of the earth's population lacked clean sanitation. Approximately

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## People In The News...



Glenda Brock Simmons



Sonya Walker



Lily Qian

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## Glenda Brock Simmons

The Denton Independent School District, retired Texas Women's University (TWU) vice president for student life Glenda Brock Simmons and the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) will be honored for their exceptional service to the community and to Texas Woman's University as the 2010 TWU Founders' Awards recipients.

The awards will be presented at the annual TWU Founders' Awards Scholarship Luncheon at noon Thursday, April 8, 2010, in Hubbard Hall on TWU's

Denton campus.

Seats for the event are \$35 per person. Patron seats are available for \$75. Benefactor tables for eight are available for \$750.

For information on sponsorship opportunities, contact Patrice Benfield Frisby at 940-898-3867. Reservations are required by Friday, March 26.

"These honorees represent the best in service to others," TWU Chancellor Ann Stuart said.

"TWU is privileged to be among those who have benefited from their gen-



erosity and commitment." Proceeds from the

luncheon benefit the TWU Chancellor's Endowed Scholarships, the most prestigious scholarships awarded by the university.

Established by Chancellor Stuart and other donors in 2000, these scholarships are the largest awarded by TWU, and the only academic scholarships that offer a stipend to recipients in addition to paying tuition and fees.

They are awarded to TWU students on the basis

of outstanding academic achievement, leadership and service in school and community activities.

*The Denton Record-Chronicle* and Hester Capital Management, L.L.C. are the presenting sponsors of the TWU Founders' Awards Scholarship Luncheon.

As of March 1, sponsors of the luncheon include: PointBank; Access 1st Capital Bank; BBVA Compass; DATCU Credit Union; Bill DeBerry Funeral Directors; First State Bank; Meridian Bank Texas; Bettye B. Myers, Ph.D.; Ramey & King Insurance; Texas Health Presbyterian Hospi-

tal Denton; Verizon; Chancellor and President, TWU; the TWU Former Students Association; the TWU Foundation; and the TWU Leadership Institute.

Katherine Sharp Landdeck, Ph.D., TWU associate professor of history and coordinator of the TWU Civic Agency Initiative, will be the keynote speaker.

Dr. Landdeck has done extensive research on the WASP and is writing a book about their contributions to American society. Her speech is titled "WASP: Pioneers in Women's History."

## Sonya Walker

Sonya Walker, is the founder and CEO of Essence, Inc. a dynamic company that beautifies women and teenage girls from the inside and out. She is a sought after speaker, a life coach, an author, and a woman full of purpose. She currently writes for online forums and magazines. Her unique writing abilities leaves her readers with a beautiful sense of awareness about themselves and the importance of loving

yourself.

Essence was created to fulfill a growing need in helping women love themselves from the inside out. Essence means to help bring out the nature in which you were created. Essence was designed to build the image of women and teenage girls through the word of God.

Our purpose is to help them fulfill their God given destiny. To help women and teens see themselves the way

God sees them. To build up their self-esteem and self-worth. To teach that there is beauty in wholeness and holiness.

Training is one of the premiere services offered by Essence. However, there is a lot to consider in a training program. Like many of the services offered, training must be considered holistically, (mind, body, soul, spirit).

We believe that one should be taught how to love themselves. Our goal through our training is to teach

women and teenage girls how to apply what they have learned to their everyday life.

Our responsibility in our seminars and workshops is to make her one within herself. Realizing that you can be beautiful inside and out.

Essence was designed to help women and teens to build character, build healthy relationships, how to overcome depression, to embrace their uniqueness, and to learn how to love themselves from the inside out.

Prior to reinventing herself, Sonya was a hairstylist

and makeup artist for 22 years. Her years of experience has taught her that no matter how beautiful of an image you create, if you don't believe in yourself, then you will have beauty without substance. Sonya has worked with some of the top radio personalities, entertainers, and photographers.

Sonya created a baby doll cap sleeve t-shirt line called Beautifully Speaking, to teach women and teens the importance of positive confession. To learn how to speak well of themselves.



Sonya's desire is to transform women from all walks of life to give themselves the greatest gift, LOVE.

## Lily Qian

Local resident Lily Qian, a financial professional with AXA Advisors, LLC in Dallas, has earned a Certificate in Retirement Planning from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. She is one of a select group of financial professionals nationwide to complete this retirement planning education program. Phil Pescatore, Vice President and head of AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company's At Retirement® unit made the announcement.

The retirement education program is a customized program developed for AXA Equitable to provide AXA Advisors' financial professionals with intensive training in retirement planning. The Whar-



ton School is recognized around the world for its academic strengths at every level of business education.

The Wharton program commenced with 50 hours of intensive study taught by 10 Wharton School faculty members over a weeklong period. It was led by Dr. Olivia Mitchell, the Interna-

tional Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans Professor of Insurance and Risk Management at The Wharton School. Topics covered included:

- Understanding the Retirement Marketplace
- Identifying, Mitigating and Insuring Retirement Risks
- Qualified and Non-Qualified Plans and their Roles in Retirement

Planning

- Medicare and Social Security – Dealing with Institutional Risk
- Asset Allocation and Diversification
- Real Estate in the Retirement Portfolio
- Estate Planning and Tax Issues in Retirement

Individuals who complete the retirement planning education program at Wharton are required to complete ongoing continuing education provided by Wharton's Learning Continuum and AXA Equitable.

"AXA and The Wharton School have developed an extraordinary program focused on concepts and issues for the At Retirement® marketplace," said Dr. Mitchell, the academic director for the program. "Selected on the basis of their work in value and relationship management, participants will strengthen their retirement risk-management and financial asset allocation techniques for their clients in the future."

"Offering this program to AXA Advisors financial professionals is part of our company's overall commitment to providing clients

with the most comprehensive and current advice on a broad range of financial topics related to retire-

ment," said Christopher M. "Kip" Condon, Chairman

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The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones

# Justice for Black Farmers has been denied for too long

BY RALPH PAIGE

When President Abraham Lincoln created the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 1862 he referred to it as the People's Department. The problem is that its services have never been available to all the people. Although more recently, with the Clinton and Obama administrations, efforts have been made to correct discriminatory problems at the USDA, it's an unfortunate fact that the USDA's history has been marred by rampant discrimination. This is why black farmers filed a 1997 lawsuit against the USDA that focused on discrimination in administration of its farm programs in the 1980s and into the 1990s.

The litigation -- referred to as *Pigford vs. Glickman* (now *Pigford vs. Vilsack*)

and named after Tim Pigford a black farmer in North Carolina and then-Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman -- was settled in 1999, and more than 15,000 black farmers obtained relief for discrimination at the hands of the USDA. But the settlement itself triggered such an outpouring of pent-up frustration and demands for justice that more than 12 years later the case is still ongoing.

Black farmers originally needed to file claims by Oct. 12, 1999. While thousands of farmers met that deadline, many others were unaware of the lawsuit. As a result, the judge let people who missed the deadline petition to get into the settlement, providing they did so by Sept. 15, 2000. Again, thousands of farmers filed petitions and are now re-

ferred to as "late filers."

Of these late filers, only 3 percent (2,700) were found eligible to file a claim in Pigford. This left a staggering 97 percent of late claimants (around 58,000 and more than 75 percent of all claimants) who were denied the opportunity.

Black farm groups and their advocates expressed concern that tens of thousands of black-farmer petitioners had been unable to file a claim. Many petitioned Congress and its leadership to resolve this issue. As a result, Congress included in the 2008 Farm Bill a provision to allow late filers into the suit, while establishing a budget of \$100 million -- which unfortunately was not nearly enough to serve the farmers.

Since passage of the

2008 Farm Bill, President Obama proposed adding considerably more monies to bring the total to \$1.25 billion for the Pigford lawsuit, an amount much closer to what likely will be needed to cover all proven claims. Based on that proposal, attorneys for black farmers and the government have negotiated a settlement of the late-filer lawsuit.

All well and good, but the job remains unfinished. The Obama administration has already submitted legislative language to Congress but the settlement cannot go forward until Congress appropriates the funds requested by President Obama, and they have set March 31 as a deadline to do so. Time is short, and

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1.8 million children die every year as a result of diarrhea caused by lack of clean water and proper sanitation. That is an average of 4,500 children per day.

Air pollution can aggravate symptoms of cardiovascular and lung disease, and can increase blood pressure in women 50 and older more so than in their male counterparts. Indoor pollution has been named a "silent killer" among women. Approximately 1.5 women die annually as they inhale poisonous gases while cooking or heating their homes.

Post-menopausal women who were exposed to lead early in life often suffer bone loss. This exposure also releases lead into the blood stream, which can precipitate kidney failure. Nearly half of all people in developing countries suffer from health problems caused by water and sanitation deficits -- and most of them are women.

Women play a critical

role in the quality of the environment and often depend on natural resources. In places such as Sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia, women are responsible for 60 percent to 80 percent of crops produced.

When climate change affects their crops, domestic burdens are increased, which includes additional work to fetch water or collect fuel and fodder. As these domestic burdens increase, some young girls walk as much as 20 miles a day and because of time and fatigue, are unable to attend school. Without proper education, the needs and opinions of young women are seldom heard.

The World Health Organization encourages simple filtration and disinfection of household water. Improved or energy-efficient appliances to reduce exposures to indoor air pollution and washing hands with soap about 20 seconds can reduce diarrhea related illnesses by 40 percent. Ed-

ucation also is crucial -- innovative prevention and treatment protocols need to be developed and implemented for women at high risk for environmental-related illnesses.

Women in regions such as Africa and central Asia who are informed about environmental risks present in their homes and communities are better equipped to take appropriate action to reduce or eliminate exposure.

The United Nations says an estimated \$9 billion investment would achieve universal access to clean water and sanitation. Consider that Europe spends more than \$11 billion a year on ice cream. Every dollar invested in water yields an economic return of eight dollars in saved time, increased productivity and reduced health-care costs. Our economy cannot -- and will not -- achieve maximum sustainability without proper care of women.

Nearly all U.N. millen-

nium development goals have implications for women and the environment. Since 2005, the U.N. has supported women's roles in protecting biodiversity, indigenous knowledge and overseeing environmental resources.

In order to achieve true environmental justice, we need to empower women. As we take steps to sustain our environment we must not further undermine women's increasing vulnerability on the planet.

Women can play a larger role in the future of a sustainable environment and can be real catalysts for change.

From the green-belt movement in Africa to women working for environmental justice in Southeast Asia, around the world women are making a difference.

Kathleen Rogers is President of Earth Day Network, earthday.org. Copyright (C) 2010 by the American Forum. 3/10



# The secret lives of women and substance abuse

(NDG Wire) On Friday April 30th, just in time for this Mother's Day, the Orchid Recovery Center will be featured on ABC News 20/20 as part of a news story tackling women and alcoholism. It is a dark subject that has come to the attention of the public following the tragedy involving the Long Island mother who drove her minivan the wrong way down a suburban parkway before crashing in a wreck that killed eight people.

According to the prosecutor, the woman "was drunk and high on marijuana at the time of the accident." Her 2-year-old daughter and three young nieces died and three others killing a total of 8, in the July 26 crash. Most puzzling was her husband's reaction to news of the crash, claiming that he was "completely unaware of his

wife's drinking problem,' and that "it couldn't be,' the public cried foul in disbelief. But research demonstrates, 'he may have been telling the truth and really be unaware of her disease,' says Julie Queler, CEO of The Orchid, adding, "Alcoholism is the hidden disease and women become quite skillful at hiding it from their closest partner."

## *Looking for the Signs of Hidden Alcoholism*

Because women who are suffering from hidden alcoholism are highly unlikely to admit that they have a problem (or seek professional help on their own accord) it is absolutely imperative that friends and family members become familiar with the signs and symptoms of this insidious disease.

The classic symptoms of alcoholism in women are:

- Suddenly poor performance at work or school
- Drinking at socially unacceptable times throughout the day
- Disappearing without warning for stretches of time
- Chronic illness (hangovers)
- Strong alcohol cravings
- Irritability and moodiness

## *Counseling and Hidden Alcoholism*

Once a woman is lucky enough to enter into a professional alcohol rehabilitation program, she will need to take part in the various counseling programs offered at the facility. Hidden alcoholism counseling helps treat the condition at the core by addressing the "triggers" that have led to the unwanted behavior. Women are given more positive ways to respond to

these stressors – and learn the decision-making skills required to achieve and maintain sobriety.

However, simply knowing that someone cares and understands their pain can

lead to amazing breakthroughs.

After years of neglect from the research community, a number of studies in recent years focused on finding the most effective

way to treat women who drink compulsively. What these studies found is that women respond more positively to gender-specific alcohol addiction treatment –

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the whole effort is teetering toward failure.

We at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives / Land Assistance Fund recognize that work with farmers requires far more than a lawsuit can provide. This is why for 43 years we have offered Southern black farmers assistance with cooperative development, farm management, debt restructuring, alternative crop suggestions, marketing expertise and a whole range of services to ensure family farm survival.

ability.

Black farmers with late-filer claims, however, have waited for decades for relief for USDA denial of services and credit opportunities. In the 10 years since the original claim period closed, many of these farmers died, others lost their farms or left farming altogether. It is a tragic injustice that thousands of black farmers are still being denied relief for discriminatory behavior from their own government. The Federation of Southern Co-

operatives/Land Assistance Fund, the Network of Black Farm Groups and Advocates, and the scores of organizations around the country supporting the network's efforts urge Congress to act expeditiously on providing necessary funding for the black farmer late-filer settlement.

*Paige is executive director of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives / Land Assistance Fund. Copyright (C) 2010 by the American Forum. 3/10*

## MEDICAID, continued from Page 1

ing home residents are dependent upon federal and state programs that have already been cut in Washington, or now being examined for cuts here in Austin," said Tim Graves, President of the Texas Health Care Association (THCA). "This double whammy in terms of federal Medicare cuts just enacted and state Medicaid cuts now under consideration is an ominous development for seniors, caregivers and the ongoing economic viability of facilities all across Texas. Before Austin even thinks about cutting Texas seniors' key Medicaid programs, we must look first at the fact nursing home residents in rural, urban and suburban settings alike are already confronting a state and federal funding environment that also squeezes facilities' ongoing ability to recruit and retain high quality direct care staff. This is not in seniors' interest, nor the public interest."

Bruce Yarwood, President and CEO of the American Health Care Association

(AHCA), pointed out that beyond threatening patient care and undermining local employment stability and opportunities, the worsening Medicare and Medicaid cost-squeeze inhibits Texas' facilities' continued investment in cost effective care.

"Nursing homes in Texas, like facilities nationally, are caring for an increasingly diverse patient base, and providing a greater variety of acute care, rehabilitative and convalescent services that cannot be delivered elsewhere. These are the very services patients depend upon in order to recuperate and return to their homes. The ability to continue making progress on this vital front is being undermined by a seemingly never-ending barrage of state and federal funding cuts."

Wayne Culp, Licensed Nursing Facility Administrator for the Park Manor Facilities in the Houston area, expressed concern the worsening cumulative cost squeeze on facilities is hav-

ing a negative impact on his ability to offer expanded benefits in the competitive employment market. "The crushing Medicaid and Medicare cost squeeze – which has become more problematic over the past year -- undermines our ability to offer additional benefits to our staff, and undermines our ability to compete in the jobs marketplace," Culp said.

"And like other facilities throughout the Houston area, and across the state, we have been forced to defer investment in the new equipment and technologies we need to continue the provision of quality care in the years ahead – at a time when more baby-boomers are flooding the long term care system. It doesn't make sense and is short-sighted to reduce funding as demand for care is rising."

Graves said the negative impact of the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) \$725 million cut to Texas seniors' Medicare-funded nursing

home care, which went into effect October, 2009, is adding to the chronic stress already inflicted on seniors' care needs due to the fact Medicaid rates paid to providers in 2010 are approximately \$200 million short of meeting the state's own conservative estimate of necessary funding.

"With the challenging budget conditions we face in this 2010-11 biennium, we want to make sure voters know and understand that state Medicaid cuts now up for consideration could precipitate the loss of far more in federal funding than it will save in state general revenue dollars," Graves continued. "Successfully meeting our most vulnerable seniors' long term care needs -- as well as sustaining a strong workforce and local jobs base -- will be predicated upon appropriate Medicaid funding levels from Austin, particularly in the face of cuts to Medicare funding in Washington."

From a health care policy perspective, Graves and

Yarwood pointed out Medicare's dangerous "cross-subsidization" of Medicaid - Medicare being forced to prop-up deteriorating Medicaid funding -- continues to play a vital role in sustaining nursing home care for Texas', and the nation's most vulnerable citizens. The long term care leaders

said it is their mission moving forward to help ensure Texas' state and federal lawmakers understand the growing inter-relationship between Medicaid and Medicare funding, and how additional federal Medicare cuts would reverse demonstrated progress in boosting facility care quality.

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## McKinney announces lower ISO rating

(NDG Wire) Starting April 1, McKinney residents will reap the benefits of years of hard work by the McKinney Fire Department. A revised ISO Property Protection Classification (PPC) of Class 2 up from the former classification of Class 4 is effective on April 1, bringing savings on fire insurance to many home and business owners in McKinney that could total more than \$5 million.

The majority of insurance companies use the city's PPC from ISO to determine their fire insurance rates within the city, so the

better classification McKinney has attained results in lower insurance rates for many commercial and residential property owners. McKinney residents and business owners are encouraged to call their fire insurance provider to alert them to the new ISO level and determine if they qualify for a lower rate.

"Only 1 percent of cities nationwide reach this ISO rating, and we are extremely proud of our Fire Department for attaining this goal. It underlines our commitment to the safety of our citizens," said McKin-

ney Fire Chief Mark Wallace.

Companies relying on the ISO's PPC system should offer a reduced rate in their annual insurance premiums of about \$100 per \$100,000 of value of their residential property and about 11.5 percent reduction in commercial fire insurance rates, according to the Texas Division of Insurance.

"We have worked hard to reach this designation. Throughout McKinney, we estimate the aggregate savings to McKinney citizens will be over \$5 million per

year. Not only will many of our citizens save on insurance, but our fire department will continue to provide the excellent service to all of our residents," said Wallace.

Individual rate reductions may vary and are set by each insurance company for each individual property. Each insurance company sets its own rates, and the amount of any rate reduction may vary between insurance providers and affected properties. Neither the city nor ISO set insurance rates.

## AARP tax-aide provides free tax assistance and preparation

(NDG Wire) With the chaos of tax season in full swing, AARP's Tax-Aide services can provide guidance for your tax woes.

Tax-Aide is the nation's largest, free, volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service.

Now in its 42nd year, Tax Aide is the nation's largest free tax assistance and preparation service.

It provides assistance to AARP members who are low- and middle-income taxpayers with special atten-

tion to those ages 60 and older. You do not need to be a member of AARP or a retiree to use this service.

"What a valuable resource, especially during these tough economic times," said Bob Jackson, AARP Texas Senior State Director.

"Tax law can often be confusing. AARP Tax-Aide volunteers can make the process of filling out tax returns a whole lot easier."

This year, taxpayers who file a federal tax return

with a refund due to them can purchase savings bonds using all or a portion of their refund. Savings bonds can be purchased in multiples of \$50, up to \$5,000.

Last year in Texas, 2,151 AARP Tax-Aide volunteers helped more than 163,871 people file their federal tax returns.

The program is offered at approximately 336 sites in Texas including senior centers, libraries and other convenient locations.

AARP Tax-Aide coun-

selors also visit assisted living facilities and homebound people to assist in their tax preparation.

Across the country in 2009, more than 34,600 Tax-Aide volunteers – trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service – helped over 2.6 million taxpayers at nearly 6,500 sites with the preparation of their income tax returns.

For information call 1-888-AARP NOW 1-888-227-7669 or visit [aarp.org/taxaide](http://aarp.org/taxaide).

## Metroplex-wide celebration of Horton Foote

(NDG Wire) Dallas-Fort Worth arts organizations and cultural institutions are uniting to produce the metroplex-wide Foote Festival March 14 – May 1, 2011, to celebrate the life and work of the late award-winning Texas playwright Horton Foote (March 14, 1916 – March 4, 2009).

"Horton Foote is widely considered to be one of the most influential American playwrights, and the most influential Texas playwright. When he died last year, theater artists and scholars across the nation began to reexamine and celebrate his immense body of work," says Kevin Moriarty, Artistic Director of Dallas Theater Center.

"It would be impossible for any one theater company or arts organization to produce a comprehensive look at the significant contributions Horton Foote made to American theater, film and television throughout much of the 20th century, but by bringing together Dallas and Fort Worth's leading theater companies and arts organization in an unprecedented community-wide collaboration, we can celebrate his legacy and introduce audiences throughout the Metroplex to his unique voice."

Organizations and institutions participating in the Foote Festival include: Booker T. Washington High School for the Visual and

Performing Arts, Circle Theater, Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, Dallas Film Society, Dallas Museum of Art's Arts & Letters Live, Dallas Theater Center, Kitchen Dog Theater, Stage West, Southern Methodist University DeGolyer Library, Theatre Three, Uptown Players, WaterTower Theater, and WingSpan Theatre Company and 1:30 Productions, with more participants expected to join the festival in the future.

Foote, born in Wharton, Texas, was a prolific playwright whose plays, among the 60-plus he wrote, included *Dividing the Estate*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, the three-part *Orphans' Home Cycle*, and the Pulitzer

Prize-winning *The Young Man from Atlanta*. His work has been nominated for numerous awards, including Emmy Awards, Tony Awards and Writers Guild of America Awards.

Foote's Academy Award-winning screenplay adaptation of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* is perhaps his most well-known recognition.

Individual organizations will make known full details of their participation in next year's Foote Festival as they announce their seasons and programming for 2011. Information about the Foote Festival as it develops can be found at [www.footefestival.com](http://www.footefestival.com).

## Richardson's 2010 Bond Election

(NDG Wire) On May 8, Richardson residents will decide on a \$66 million bond election. The election is split into four separate propositions. The City Council decided to separate the projects into four groups in order to give residents the flexibility to decide whether or not they favor or oppose any specific group of projects.

The financing for the bonds would be supported by a property tax increase. If all propositions were to be approved, then the total impact would be up to 6 cents per \$100 in valuation. That amounts to about a \$110 increase for the average home owner's yearly property

tax bill which is about \$9 per month.

There are many projects included in the four propositions, including: street, alley, and sidewalk rehabilitation; a new recreation center and pool at Heights Park; the replacement and relocation of Fire Station No. 4; a new Fire Training Center; and funding for additional neighborhood parks and new trails.

The City's new Communications Department and Information Systems Department have compiled information concerning the election on the City's Web page ([www.cor.net](http://www.cor.net)) And, residents will receive more information via the mail on the bond election.

## Garland Youth Council accepting applications

(NDG Wire) 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. 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 in grades 9-12 during the 2010-11 school year are eligible to apply. Each applicant should submit a completed GYC application and two letters of reference by May 14, 2010 to Dorothy White, Public & Media Affairs Manager, 200 N Fifth Street, Garland, TX 75040.

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

at Granger Recreation Center, 1310 W. Avenue F.

The Mayor and each of Garland's eight City Council members will select

two applicants to serve a one-year term.

Applications and meeting agendas are available at Garland City Hall, 200 N. Fifth Street, in the City Secretary's office and [www.garlandyouthcouncil.org](http://www.garlandyouthcouncil.org). For additional information, contact Dorothy White at 972-205-2879 or [dwhite@ci.garland.tx.us](mailto:dwhite@ci.garland.tx.us).





## Collin College named to President's Honor Roll

(NDG Wire) Collin College has been named to the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

In 2008-2009, more than 2,800 Collin College students engaged in community service, providing more than 24,000 volunteer hours in the community. Over the last three years, Collin College has worked



with more than 250 service-learning community partners. In 2008-2009, Collin College students helped with projects ranging from assisting Hurricane Ike victims to providing dental hy-

giene care to underprivileged and underserved children in Collin County.

"Congratulations to Collin College and its students for their dedication to service and commitment to improving their local communities," said Patrick Corvington, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

"Our nation's students are a critical part of the equation and vital to our efforts to tackle the most persistent challenges we face. They have achieved im-

pactful results and demonstrated the value of putting knowledge into practice to help renew America through service."

This year, students have already worked with the national Veterans History Project, nursing homes and hospice organizations, homeless shelters, health clinics and rehabilitation agencies, Collin County first responder organizations, science museums and environmental agencies, as well as a variety of schools and mentoring organizations.

## HBCUtodayonline.com launched

(BLACK PR WIRE) Education Online Services Corporation recently announced the launch of the www.HBCUtodayonline.com education portal in collaboration with the *HBCU Today* publication to provide marketing and recruitment services for Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU).

The www.HBCUtodayonline.com portal will prominently feature a different Education Online Services Corporation educational partner institution each week as well as pro-

vide marketing and recruitment opportunities for all participating colleges and universities which will enable them to increase their academic reach and offer their outstanding degree programs to qualified students, anytime, anywhere.

"We are excited about this opportunity to significantly expand the reach of HBCU's and PBI's to recruit a more diverse student base in the US and abroad", said Ezell Brown, Chairman, Education Online Services Corporation.

"HBCU's play an important role in the educational landscape and it is our intention to recruit students on their behalf uti-



lizing the online techniques and platforms that have made non-traditional colleges and universities successful.

In recognition that many of today's young people have grown up with the internet, but remain unaware of the rich tradition and academic excellence of HBCU's, our goal is to educate them on the many opportunities available at HBCU's using the online platforms that are so familiar to the younger generations. Therefore, by using the extensive online marketing resources of our company, we expect the HBCU Today online portal

to have one million unique global visitors per month within 90 days of launch," emphasized Chairman Brown.

"Through www.HBCUtodayonline.com, Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Predominantly Black Institutions will be able to expand significantly their academic and historical achievement in higher education within the global marketplace.

This new portal will help to increase the recruitment, enrollment, and number of graduates for our partner colleges and universities. We will thereby contribute to the financial sustainability of these vital schools," stated Dr. Benjamin Chavis, President, Education Online Services Corporation.

"Our youth cannot incorporate into their decision making, relative to post secondary education, informa-

## Teens Reaching Teens, Inc. offering 2010 Scholarships

(NDG Wire) Teens Reaching Teens, Inc.'s mission is to provide quality community-based programs and services that motivate and empower teens to develop and enhance their educational, social, leadership and professional development skills. They have announced their annual Teen Graffiti Education Scholarship for graduating high school seniors is now accepting applications.

Teen Graffiti's Education Scholarship was founded on the principle that today's youth are tomorrow's leaders. These scholarships are open to deserving high school seniors aspiring to attend an accredited U.S. college or university in the Fall 2010 Semester. The scholarship deadline is May 31, 2010.

Students interested in applying for these scholarship can review eligibility requirements, download application forms, and ex-



plore Teen Graffiti's website at <http://www.teengraffiti.com> or by writing to Teens Reaching Teens, Inc.; c/o Teen Graffiti's Education Scholarship; P.O. Box 452721; Garland, Texas 75045-2721.

For additional information about Teens Reaching Teens, Inc. ([www.teensreachingteens.org](http://www.teensreachingteens.org)); Teen Graffiti Magazine ([www.teengraffiti.com](http://www.teengraffiti.com)) contact Sharon Jones-Scaife, Executive Director at 972-496-9457 or email [sharonj@teensreachingteens.org](mailto:sharonj@teensreachingteens.org).



lizing the online techniques and platforms that have made non-traditional colleges and universities successful.

## QIAN, continued from Page 2

and CEO of AXA Equitable. "We chose Wharton because it is a leader in management research, education and knowledge creation, and we wanted our financial professionals to have access to some of the best minds on these issues."

"The Wharton School is extraordinarily engaged with the AXA leadership in linking top-notch financial

sector producers and academics, communicating "outside the box" thought on financial strategy and decision-making for the At Retirement® marketplace," Dr. Mitchell said.

Qian works with individuals and business owners to help them define their retirement goals and create strategies to help meet their objectives.

In addition to the Wharton Certificate in Retirement Planning, Qian earned a BS in business administration from the Sichuan University, China. She also earned an MBA in business administration and a Master of Information Systems from the University of Texas in Arlington. Additionally, she holds the FINRA series 66 and 7 li-

censes.

Recognized for her commitment to clients, professional leadership and outstanding sales performance, Qian has received numerous company and industry honors throughout his career with AXA Advisors, including two Centurion Awards and a National Quality Award.

Active in community

and professional organizations, Qian is a member of the Million Dollar Roundtable, an international association of leading financial professionals, recognized as the standard of excellence in the financial services industry. She is also founder and president of the Sichuanese Association, on the Board of Directors of the Asian American Citi-

zens Council, and a member of the Greater Dallas Asian Chamber of Commerce, the US Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Hua Xia Art Troupe.

She currently resides in Dallas.

Qian's office is located at 12377 Merit Sr., Suite 1500, Dallas, TX 75251. She can be reached at 972-455-9064.



## Fair Park's Cotton Bowl to turn into Texas-sized dog park for thousands of canine and kin at free fourth annual Dog Bowl April 11

(NDG Wire) With springtime in the air and canines calling for play time, Fair Park will “un-leash” the Cotton Bowl Stadium for the free fourth-annual Dog Bowl on Sunday, April 11, from 1 – 5 p.m. Pups and pooches of all sizes will get to run, play, scamper and splash as Dallas’ most historic football field transforms into Texas’ largest dog park.

“You’ve just got to see it to believe it,” said David Luther, chairman of Friends of Fair Park. “Hundreds of dogs of every size and shape playing on the 50-yard line of the Cotton Bowl ... for

dog lovers and those with treasured memories of football, this is a pretty incredible, don’t-miss opportunity.”

The Dog Bowl will feature an animal-only agility course, giveaways, exhibits, plus ongoing contests to award the crème-de-la-crème “top dogs” in the following categories: Pet /Owner Look-Alike, Cutest Canine, Diva Dog (best dressed dog) and more.

Three-time world cup champ Maggie and her owner Matt DiAno will perform flying disc demos throughout the afternoon (April 11 only). Known as “Team Maggie,” the two-

some are the 2006, 2007 and 2008 UFO World Cup Champions – and the first-ever to win the award three times.

A misting tent and giant “dip and sip” dog pools will keep canines cool and quenched, while dog owners will have the opportunity to enjoy refreshments (including beer) and other concessions for sale. In addition to freebies and coupons, other doggy delights will include complimentary pooch-pampering services such as teeth cleaning and nail clipping plus a variety of pet product vendors who will offer apparel, pet grooming samples

such as dog soaps, and information on pet care companies, doggy daycares, boarders and more. Affordable vaccinations will be offered.

Trainers, veterinarians and other animal experts will offer advice and the latest tips and trends in the dog world. Pets in need of a home will be on site at Adoption Row. Dogs and owners can wind down with a leisurely stroll around the lagoon on The Pooch Path.

A second doggy play date is in store this summer Sunday, June 6 (same time and place).

Both Dog Bowl events



are free and open to the public. Parking is \$10 and available at Gate 11 (Fitzhugh Ave. and Lagow St.), or ride DART’s Green Line to the Fair Park Station. (Please note: Non-service animals

are allowed on DART only if they are in crates.) Owners will be asked to observe all current City of Dallas Dog Park policies while at Fair Park.

## Bond election held in McKinney: Six propositions on ballot

(NDG Wire) On May 8, McKinney residents will vote to make decisions about the future growth of the city.

A bond election will be held with a ballot including projects totaling \$51.35 million centered on land acquisition, parks and recreation, public safety and streets improvements.

The following propositions appear on the bond election, with voters deciding whether or not the McKinney City Council is authorized to issue general obligation bonds for these projects.

- \$12.5 million for park and recreational facilities,

including land acquisition, construction, improvements and expansion

- \$11.35 million for public safety facilities, including land acquisition, construction and improvements

- \$15.5 million acquiring, constructing and improving streets and associated drainage improvements within the city, including sidewalks and railroad crossings, traffic control and signalization devices, street lighting, public streetscaping and landscaping improvements, curb and gutter replacements and related improvements

- \$5 million for public works facilities improvements, construction and land acquisition


- \$4 million for construction and improvement to flood control facilities including creeks, dams and lakes

- \$3 million for connectivity and improvements of municipal parking facilities in the Historic Downtown area


Early voting is available for McKinney voters starting Monday, April 26.

For a complete list of times, dates and locations, visit [www.mckinneytexas.org](http://www.mckinneytexas.org).





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**Every Saturday**

**Pure Saturdays** 2026 Commerce Street 23 & up preferred DJ Steve Nice in The Mixx. Doors open @ 10 p.m. Info text or call 214-810-5483.

**Every Tuesday**

The Irving Public Library invites families to enjoy stories and music in both English and Spanish. **Family bilingual storytimes** are offered at 11 a.m. Tuesdays at the East Branch Library, 440 S. Nursery Road, and at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. For more information, call 972-721-2458.

**Ongoing**

**African American Republican Club of Collin County** meets 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. (Doors open at 6:30 pm.) Collin County Republican Party HQ. 8416 Stacy Rd., McKinney. Call Linda Wynn Drain, 214-498-7574 or website [www.aarcc.com](http://www.aarcc.com)

**Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce**, CCBCC General Meetings, 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30pm. Call 469-424-1020 or email: [info@CCBlackChamber.org](mailto:info@CCBlackChamber.org) for location.

**DFW Financially Empowered Women** meet monthly for lunch or dinner and a fun, informative seminar on various financial topics. Info: 469-942-0809 or [meetup.com/378](http://meetup.com/378).

**Group Business Seminars** at 4907 Spring Avenue, Dallas, (214) 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.; 3rd Friday of the month 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for those interested in starting your own business, it is a Brown Bag Lunch with Free Parking

**No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch** 1st Thursday at 1 pm in Plano Must RSVP at [www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com](http://www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com)

LimitNetwork.com or 972-898-5882.

**The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN) Learning Over Lunch Series:** 4th Saturdays, 11am-1pm, Remarkable Affairs Cafe, 2727 LBJ Fwy., Suite 140, Dallas. \$20 for members; \$35 for non-members, \$5 off for early bird registration. <http://nbwenorg.ning.com>.

**North Dallas Texas Democratic Women Regular Meetings** 4th Thursday, 6:45 p.m. Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Rd (between Forest & Royal Lanes).

**Through April 11**

**Dallas Blooms** - The showcase of this Dallas Arboretum event is over 450,000 spring-blooming bulbs; including tulips, as well as daffodils, Dutch Iris and Hyacinth, flowering alongside over 100,000 pansies, violas and poppies and thousands of other spring-blooming annuals and perennials. Info at [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org)

**Through April 10**

**Dr Pepper Dallas Cup XXXI** The Dallas Cup International Youth Soccer Tournament will celebrate its 31st Anniversary during the week of March 28 – April 10, 2010. In past years, teams and referees have traveled to Dallas from ninety-eight countries and six continents. Details at [www.dallascup.com](http://www.dallascup.com)

**April 1**

The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History continues its **Celebrity Lecture Series**, with Dr. Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, the Emily Hargroves Fisher Professor of Education at Harvard University and MacArthur Fellow. [fortworthmuseum.org](http://fortworthmuseum.org)

**April 2**

The African American Museum in conjunction with Alpha Phi Alpha and Alpha

Kappa Alpha will host **First Friday - Music Under the Dome** from 7:30 p.m. until 12 a.m. Featuring live music by Charles Young. The cost is \$10.00 and it includes: parking, food, and drinks at 3536 Grand Ave in Dallas. Info: 214-565-9026, [www.aamdallas.org](http://www.aamdallas.org) or [www.DallasAlphas.com](http://www.DallasAlphas.com)

**April 2 - 4**

**16th Annual Deep Ellum Arts Festival** The biggest weekend of the year for the Deep Ellum Entertainment District, this free-to-attend outdoor "street party" features four outdoor stages with non-stop performances by over 75 national, regional, and local original bands. The festival features more than 100 decorative and visual artists, muralist, the Deep Ellum Pet Parade, and abundant food and drink This is an adult-oriented visual and performing arts festival - while supervised young children and teenagers are welcome, there are no planned activities for them. Details at [www.deepellumartsfestival.com](http://www.deepellumartsfestival.com)

**April 4**

**Eirene Christian Fellowship Easter Celebration 2010** at 10:30 a.m. at Berkner High School located at 1600 E. Spring Valley Rd. Richardson. The Theme is New Beginnings are Always Possible

**April 8**

**Garland Neighborhood Management Academy** at the Central Library, 625 Austin Street, April 8, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. Register electronically at [www.GarlandVitalNeighborhoods.org](http://www.GarlandVitalNeighborhoods.org) or [tallmend@ci.garland.tx.us](mailto:tallmend@ci.garland.tx.us).

**April 10**

Junior League of Plano's 21st Annual **Trinkets to Treasures** Collin County's largest Rummage Sale! Shoppers may choose from gently used furniture, computer hardware, clothing, appliances, collectibles, home

electronics, sports equipment, children's toys, books and more. This year's sale will also offer health and safety related activities to benefit the entire family. Admission is \$5, Children 10 years of age and under are admitted free \$4 Admission for seniors 65 and older, Free Admission - 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. For more information visit [www.jlplano.org](http://www.jlplano.org)

**April 11**

Fair Park will "un-leash" the Cotton Bowl for the free fourth-annual **Dog Bowl** from 1 to 5 p.m. Pups and pooches of all sizes will get to run, play, scamper and splash as Dallas' most historic football field transforms into Texas' largest dog park.

**Holocaust Remembrance Day Yom Hashoah Ceremony** at Congregation Shearith Israel, 9401 Douglas Avenue, Dallas. The traditional morning Minyan will begin at 10:30 a.m., with a brunch to follow. The evening ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public. Please R.S.V.P. for the brunch at 214-741-7500, ext. 100.

**April 17**

**Dallas Art Dealers Association's Annual Spring Gallery Walk** 2-8 p.m. at 35 of its members' galleries and non-profit art spaces. Panel discussions (topics and location to be announced)

The March of Dimes will hold its annual **March for Babies fundraising walk** at 8:45 a.m. at the Norbuck Park at White Rock Lake. Register online at [www.marchforbabies.org](http://www.marchforbabies.org) or call 972-669-3463.

**DallasKIDSRead!** at NorthPark Center, 8687 North Central Expressway, Dallas. Event is free and open to the public. Info: 214-871-3028, [DallasKidsRead.org](http://DallasKidsRead.org).

In its fourth year, the **Live Green Expo** offers a new perspective on going green. From green jobs to organically grown food, from renewable energy to dynamic children's activities with extended hours and convenient off-site parking. FREE! For info, call 972-816-9489 or visit [livegreenexpo.net](http://livegreenexpo.net).

**Second Annual Basement Reunion** will be held at the Historic Lakewood Theater. Tickets are \$20 in advance (\$25 day of show) and are on sale through The Lakewood Theater box office at 214-821-SHOW (7469) or through all Ticketmaster.

**Free Bancroft Family Concert Series** at the Dallas Museum of Art at 3:00 p.m. The museum is located at 1717 North Harwood, Dallas, TX 75201. Auditorium doors open at 2:30pm for the 3:00pm concert. For information, call 214-520-2219 or visit [www.fineartschamberplayers.org](http://www.fineartschamberplayers.org).

**April 21**

**Eldercare Friends volunteer training** from noon to 1 p.m. at the Visiting Nurse Association's headquarters, the Patrick and Beatrice Haggerty Center, located at 1440 W. Mockingbird Lane in Dallas. Volunteer training can also be scheduled by appointment.

**April 23**

Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce's **13th Annual Excellence in Education Scholarship Luncheon** Noon at the Dallas Convention Center. [www.dbcc.org](http://www.dbcc.org)

**May 1**

**1st Annual Douglass Senior Citizens Prom** for all seniors citizens 55 years of age and up at the Southfork Hotel-Plano, TX starting @ 7-11p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person, formal prom attire is required. Info: 972-941-7174

**April 24**

**Farmers Insurance's 2nd Annual Charity Poker Tournament** to benefit March of Dimes. "Farmers Agents for Babies" is an event with all of the proceeds going directly to March of Dimes at 5:00 p.m. at Rock Creek Ranch. Info: [www.farmersagentsforbabies.com](http://www.farmersagentsforbabies.com)

**May 2**

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, North Dallas Suburban Alumnae presents an **Emerging Artist Showcase, A New Decade of Intellectual and Cultural Renaissance** at the Best Western Dallas Hotel, 8051 LBJ Freeway and admission is free and is open to the public.

**May 3**

Eisemann Center Presents **Celebrating CHOPIN!**, featuring concert pianist Jeffrey Siegel. *Chopin and the Future*, will be held in the Eisemann Center's Bank of America Theatre at 7:30 pm. *Chopin and the Future* will include the works of Chopin that both delight the ear and point to the future. Info: [www.eisemanncenter.com](http://www.eisemanncenter.com) or 972-744-4650.

**May 15**

**The Hamilton Park Historic Preservation Foundation** is hosting its first Hamilton Park Golf Classic at the Eastern Hills Country Club, 3000 Country Club in Garland. The shot-gun starts at 8:00 a.m.

**June 25-26**

The Dallas Symphony presents **Planet Earth Live** June 25 and 26, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. Info: 214.692.0203 or visit [DallasSymphony.com](http://DallasSymphony.com).

**June 26 – September 5**

**Constructive Spirit: Abstract Art in South and North America, 1920s–1950s** at the Amon Carter Museum of Art [www.cartermuseum.org/exhibitions](http://www.cartermuseum.org/exhibitions)

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## FAMILY FEATURES

As the saying goes, there's no place like home. And these days people are looking for ways to make their home a more enjoyable living space.

"Rather than flipping homes, like people did when the housing market was strong, we're seeing more and more families embracing what they already have," says Bob Maricich, president and CEO of World Market Center Las Vegas. "The idea of refreshing one's environment, even in the smallest ways,

can have a restorative power and transform a house to a home."

Home furnishing experts say that it's important to recognize that it's the littlest things that matter when you're making enhancements to your home. Simple touches of a new sofa or end table, rug or even a decorative lamp shade will create a different look and feel to a room or space. This is a small lifestyle change, and not an unobtainable luxury.

## Timeless Trends

Nancy Robinson and Julie M. Smith, of Nine

Muses Media, have put together some timeless trends that will help you visualize and explore the possibilities for updating your home.

## Calm Yourself

Living with a neutral interior palette is like being enveloped by a cloud. Get the look by blanketing rooms in the softest neutral shades: cream, mocha and, most especially (and perhaps surprisingly), gray. "A dash of a neutral metallic accent, such as silver, adds a welcome sparkle," said Robinson. "It's like sunlight peeking through the clouds."

## Distressed to Impress

Modern Country is ageless and exudes a comforting charm that takes imperfection to new heights. Natural finishes, heavily distressed surfaces, reclaimed woods, rattan, wicker and other natural textures are livable finishes for busy families. And the look fits farmhouse style or urban loft with equal ease.

## Ethnic Inspiration

Far-reaching global influences are no longer far flung. Ethnic-inspired fabrics are turning up all over in American homes. "The organic patterns, vibrant color palettes and hand-crafted looks create an aura of sophisticated warmth," said Smith. What to look for: motifs inspired by traditional African design; susani patterns from Central Asia; ikats and batiks from Indonesia; and handblocked woodprints from India.

## Power Play

A smaller footprint, lighter weight and better

performance are important purchase considerations when buying a new laptop. The same things matter when buying home office furniture. In fact, Robinson and Smith note that as laptops have become the most popular home computing choice among consumers, so, too, have writing tables and petite desks moved to the fore. Unlike their executive suite predecessors, these modestly scaled workstations don't take up an entire room. Instead, they slip easily into most interiors, providing needed workspace without taking up too much space — or too much money.

## Seeing Black and White

The go-to item in your closet may be the little black (or white, depending

Tips for  
Choosing Furniture

Measure, measure, measure!  
Too many people do not measure their

rooms, doorways and stairways before buying a furniture piece. Make sure it will not only fit in the room, but will fit through all the doorways it takes to get into the room.

Color Trial: Just because you like the color in the showroom doesn't mean you'll like it in your house. Lighting and surrounding elements can

change a color drastically. Get color swatches and live with them for a few days before making a final decision.

Reality Check: Think through how this piece of furniture will be used and who will be using it. Small children, pets, shoes on the ottoman, snacking in front of the TV — they all can cause wear and tear on furniture. Light colored fabrics, delicate construction and fine finishes might just have to give way to more practical concerns.



*Bring the world home with ethnic-inspired fabrics. Icon Collection, Larry Laslo Designs for Robert Allen.*



*Imperfections can be the perfect accent. Interior by Regina-Andrew Design.*



*Black and white never goes out of style. Côte de Rhône bedding ensemble by Amity Home.*



*A dash of silver adds sparkle. Star chest, table and chairs by Bolier & Co.*



## Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen, Theatre & Arts Ministry presents *The Living Word*

(NDG Wire) The Fellowship of Baptist Church of Allen's Theatre & Arts Ministry is celebrating Easter with a production of *the Living Word* written by Myron Albert on Saturday, April 3 at 5:00 p.m. The production will be held at Story Elementary located at 1500 Edelweiss Drive, in Allen.

The story begins with John and Peter, the two disciples closest to "the Teacher" (Christ Jesus), following the instruction of Christ to go find a place to have *supper* together before He must suffer. They're puzzled when they reach the city and find no clear sign as directed. So, they

begin to draw their own conclusions.

Next the high priests come together for a special meeting to address this *newcomer* who threatens their power and wealth. They recall a few of the miracles of this man they call Christ. He is a *force* to be reckoned with, and something must be done about Him. They search their minds for a way to dispose of the threat to *order* and find a willing participant in their scheme.

Christ gathers with the disciples for the *supper*. Here the children (the families of the disciples) display their love for Him, speaking boldly that Jesus

is the bread of life, the light of the world, the good shepherd, the way, the truth and the life, and the vine. Also, at this dinner, Jesus reminds them that he is the *resurrection* and that prophesy must be fulfilled.

They, the unbelievers, being provoked by the high priest, come to charge Him, and persecute Him by order of Pilate, the governor. Christ Jesus is crucified, and His body laid to rest.

In the end, as Jesus had foretold, He arose from the dead. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." —John 3:16

## A Ride With Bob: The Bob Wills musical with Ray Benson and Asleep at the Wheel

(NDG Wire) Before there was Elvis, before there was Hank, there was a fiddler from West Texas by the name of Bob Wills and he was The King. Eisemann Center Presents the musical production *A Ride With Bob* - the first-ever play about the life and music of Bob Wills. Thurs., Jul. 15 at 8:00 p.m.; Fri., Jul. 16 at 8:00 p.m.; Sat., Jul. 17 at 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. and Sun., Jul. 18 at 2:00 p.m. This musical biography, written by Ray Benson and Anne Rapp, includes the live performance of 15 of Wills' most popular songs in a plot that interweaves Ray Benson's present day with various

stages in Wills' storied career. *A Ride With Bob* played at the Eisemann Center for one performance in February 2009 and was completely sold out.

The production stars the nine-time Grammy-Award winner Ray Benson and the famous band Asleep at the Wheel. The production features an all-star cast of actors and musicians including The Quebe Sisters Band (in every performance except Thurs., Jul. 15). The performance focuses on a conversation between Benson and Wills about the trials and tribulations of being a working musician.

In 1973 after the re-

lease of the band's first album, Benson was invited to Dallas to meet Wills' idol. Upon his arrival, he learned that Wills was not feeling well and the meeting was postponed. That same night, Wills had a stroke and subsequently died.

Audiences can look forward to hearing such favorites as *San Antonio Rose*, *Faded Love*, *Cherokee Maiden*, and *Take Me Back to Tulsa*.

Tickets range from \$20-\$60 and will be available online Mon., April 5 at [www.eisemanncenter.com](http://www.eisemanncenter.com), by phone at 972-744-4650 or in person at Eisemann Center Ticket Office.

## Have You Heard?



### Will a thorn in Hawthorne crew side.

- Will Smith needs to get a job and go work somewhere because he is driving wife, Jada, Hawthorne

crew crazy.

### When did R&B go gangster?

- Raheem DaVaughn and Lyfe Jennings are seriously beefing...so what are they going to do? Diss each other through soul stirring ballads?

### Erykah Badu must be smoking too much

- We get she is creative

but to go topless in downtown Dallas while families are present is a bit much.



Read more on the latest Have You Heard? topics at [www.northdallasgazette.com](http://www.northdallasgazette.com).

## 'Round About in the DFW

### Theatre

Lerner's and Loewe's present *Brigadoon* at the Artisan Center Theatre in Hurst, 3/5-4/10 at 7:30 p.m. Info: 817-284-1200

*Lion in Winter* at the Irving Arts Center Dupree Theatre, 4/1-4/3 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door. Info: 972-252-2787

### Parties

DJ Klassik presents *Facebook Fridays at Sankofa Kafe and Bar* in Dallas

every Friday. Doors open at 10 p.m. Must be 21 and older. Info: 214-749-1911

### Comedy

*Ad Libs Comedy* at 2626 Main Street in Dallas Fridays and Saturdays. Show starts at 10 p.m. Tickets \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door. Info: 214-754-7050

### Film

*Clash of the Titans* in 3D starts on 4/2. Info: [clash-of-the-Titans.warner-bros.com](http://clash-of-the-Titans.warner-bros.com)



### Concerts

*Alicia Keys with Melanie Fiona* at Nokia Theatre in Grand Prairie on 4/2 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$89.50-\$125. Info: [www.nokia-theatredfw.com](http://www.nokia-theatredfw.com)

For more entertainment events this week, visit [www.northdallasgazette.com](http://www.northdallasgazette.com).

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Melanie Fiona  
April 2nd  
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**NOKIA Theatre**  
at grand prairie



FOR MORE INFO LOG ON TO: [WWW.THESILENTPARTNER.BIZ](http://WWW.THESILENTPARTNER.BIZ)

Tickets available at all **ticketmaster** outlets.  
Group by phone: 1.800.745.3000 or on  
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# Hispanic youth marketing takes center stage on newly expanded agenda of Hispanic PR & Social Marketing Conference, May 10-12

(BLACK PR WIRE) Hispanic youth marketing best practices is the focus of four new sessions added to the professional development agenda of the Hispanic PR & Social Marketing Conference, May 10-12 in Dallas, TX.

The conference, a co-presentation of the Hispanic Public Relations Association (HPRA) and the Hispanic PR Blog, features 20 sessions of training.

"Our conference now represents the ultimate annual marketers' boot camp for a wide range of topics related to Hispanic PR and social marketing," said Manny Ruiz, conference or-

ganizer and publisher of the Hispanic PR Blog.

"Our new case study-driven sessions on marketing to Latino youth strengthen our convention's unique value proposition."



**Hispanic PR & Social Marketing Conference in Dallas, May 10-12**

The new sessions include case study focused presentations by the U.S. Army, Microsoft Zune and Major League Soccer.

These sessions join a fourth one featuring Latino urban youth marketing expert Fred Sotelo. The full conference agenda with days and times can be viewed at [www.HispanicPRConference.com](http://www.HispanicPRConference.com).

The convention is taking place at the Sheraton in

downtown Dallas and features senior multicultural PR speakers from such corporations and organizations as General Mills, Walmart, UnitedHealthcare, Microsoft, the US Army, Qwest

Communications, State Farm, Southwest Airlines, McDonalds, Major League Soccer, Verizon, the NBA, the American Heart Association, the American Diabetes Association and the

National Pork Board, among others.

Conference information is available by contacting show director Ray Bianchi at [rbianchi@hispanicprblog.com](mailto:rbianchi@hispanicprblog.com), calling 305-600-4878

or visiting our web site at [www.HispanicPRConference.com](http://www.HispanicPRConference.com).

To sign up for conference-related Twitter headlines subscribe at [Twitter.com/HispanicPR](http://Twitter.com/HispanicPR).

## DANCE, continued from Page 1

Five years ago, pole dancing lessons were available at a handful of studios around the country. Now about 100 outlets exist and a group is trying to get it certificated as an Olympic sport.

Owner Rashida Hobbs, has never been an exotic dancer, in fact, she was a high school teacher, who has won an award for teacher of the year, and many other educational awards for excellence in education. Now a certified pole instructor, Hobbs sees

her new role of teaching women fitness as just as important as her old job.

"Pole dancing offers women better results in losing weight, toning up those muscles, sculpting their bodies, burning calories, but also boosting self confidence all at the same time," said Hobbs.

In addition, to teaching pole tricks, Hobbs has created a comfortable environment for women. "I teach them that it is ok to be sensual and there is no need for judgment."

Hobbs reminds her students that "it is ok to love yourself," and the this combination of sensual moves and rigorous athletics teaches women just that.

Pole dancing classes at the Richardson Gym have quickly grown to more than 700 students since it started a two ago. As a result of the overwhelming growth, Hobbs partnered with Pole Fitness Divas owned Tina Jennings to offer classes throughout the Metroplex. The group offers classes on location, demonstrations,

health fairs, fashion events, community workshops, radio, television, or promotional events.

In addition, to her teaching experience Rashida is also a motivational speaker to youth, single mothers, and corporate organizations. She has been speaking to individuals for years about pursuing their passions.

For more information call contact Rashida at [poleiticians.com](http://poleiticians.com) or call Phone 214-604-5001 or logo on to [www.poleiticians.com](http://www.poleiticians.com)

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**United States Census 2010**

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# Collin County real estate market continues recovery

(NDG Wire) The Collin County Association of Realtors reports that there were 8 percent more new listings in February 2010 in Collin County and surrounding areas than in February 2009. In addition, there was a 6.5 percent increase in homes under contract over the same month last year.

“The improvements from a month ago represent normal seasonal increases we typically see this time of year, but the improvements over last year represent a strengthening market,” says Steve Haid, CCAR member services director.

The CCAR Pulse, which delves into the real estate markets of 36 local communities, also reports that most

local real estate market indicators improved in February from January, and from a year ago. For example, the time it took to sell a home in February 2010 was 19 days less than a year ago—94 days versus 113 days. Median sales price was about the same, \$167,000, in February 2009 compared to \$167,500 in February 2010.

“For the last several months, we have reported a strengthening local real estate market. While it is still not as strong as it was three or four years ago, we are encouraged by the progress, especially when compared to most other parts of the United States,” notes Haid.

From a buyer’s perspective, homes in Collin

County and surrounding areas remain very affordable, with an affordability index of 157. This means, the median family income is 157 percent of what it would take to purchase the median priced home. Mortgage rates also continue to be very low, and our local economy remains strong compared to most of the rest

of the country.

“It’s still too early to say this market has completely rebounded, but signs of progress are good,” says Haid. “While our local real estate market is always influenced by the national economy and world events, we have been fortunate to be in one of the most stable markets in the country.”

## Does your business *really* have a strategy?

(NDG Wire) Many executives love blaming the bad economy for why their business may be tanking, but Rich Horwath thinks there may be another culprit for languishing revenues – lack of a strategic plan. According to a survey in the Harvard Business Review, nearly 50 percent of the business failures in the U.S. resulted from flawed strategies – not poor execution, which is where most execu-

tives place the blame.

Part of this phenomenon is that companies create strategies, write the plans, and then let them languish in a desk drawer, according to Rich Horwath, strategy consultant and author of Deep Dive: The Proven Method for Building Strategy, from Greenleaf Book Group Press (strategyskills.com).

“Many companies suffer from an organizational lo-

botomy: mindlessly doing the same things in the same ways as their competition year after year and expecting miraculous new growth,” Horwath said. “They act like zombie bumper cars, constantly spinning in different directions because they’re always being reactive, instead of proactive. The irony is that most of them wouldn’t dream of going a year or two without preventative

maintenance on their cars, like changing the oil, checking the filters and rotating the tires. Yet those same people will go a year or more without a similar type of diagnostic or tune-up on their business. Executives spend more time tuning up our \$40,000 cars than our multi-million dollar companies.”

Horwath believes that a simple five step process could unlock the potential

of the strategic plan.

- **Discovery:** In this phase, you are pulling together everything you know about strategy, market intelligence, competitive intelligence, customer data and industry data so you have a solid bank of information on which to base your primary business assumptions.
- **Strategic Thinking --** Getting together with your development team, you take the information from dis-

covery phase and then use tools and models to generate new insights and discover what is going on in your business and how your business is moving forward in the future.

- **Strategic Planning --** This takes the insights from strategic thinking and channels them into an action plan to achieve your company’s goals and objectives.

See STRATEGY, Page 13

## DART, continued from Page 1

voters provided the required majority to approve withdrawal, contractual payment of sales tax to DART would continue for an estimated 8.8 - 16 years depending on collection rates at that time.

Since joining DART in 1984 Plano has contributed nearly \$794 million, with \$53.1 million in sales tax funding the current 2009 contribution.

While criticism of DART and the City’s funding con-

tribution has been questioned by some of Plano’s citizens, there is no indication how a public vote for withdrawal might go.

Plano officials acknowledge the downside to any future savings would be the elimination of both bus and light rail service to Plano residents. Nine Plano bus routes currently boast ridership of over 974,000 persons annually, with light rail service making Plano a regional des-

tination for not only daily commuters but for tourists and visitors as well.

DART estimates they have invested over \$126 million in direct infrastructure improvements in Plano through permanent transit facilities, with an additional \$40 million invested in street and signal improvements. Future plans call for connections to DART’s western service area, including DFW Airport.

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mmike@dadsandfathersoftexas.com

## LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will be closing soon:

GAME #	GAME NAME / ODDS	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1191	<b>Sparkling 7's</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.32	\$7	04/10/10	10/07/10
1184	<b>\$50,000 Cash Winfall</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 4.18	\$5	04/16/10	10/13/10
1090	<b>\$250,000 Bingo</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.14	\$10	04/22/10	10/19/10
1208	<b>Tripler</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 4.85	\$3	05/01/10	10/28/10
1185	<b>Lucky Rider</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.70	\$5	06/02/10	11/29/10
1188	<b>Stocking Stuffer</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.79	\$3	06/02/10	11/29/10
1189	<b>Winter Winnings</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.82	\$5	06/02/10	11/29/10
1192	<b>Jingle Jumbo Bucks</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.36	\$10	06/02/10	11/29/10
1206	<b>Double Doubler</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 4.37	\$1	06/02/10	11/29/10
1218	<b>Veterans Cash</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 4.72	\$2	06/02/10	11/29/10
1261	<b>Dallas Cowboys</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.85	\$5	06/02/10	11/29/10

For detailed odds and game information, visit tdlottery.org or call 1-800-371-LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas Education. © 2010 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.



## Texas unemployment rate remained at 8.2 percent for February

(NDG Wire) The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 8.2 percent in February, unchanged from 8.2 percent in January 2010, and continuing to trend well below the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February of 9.7 percent. Now at more than 12.1 million workers, the Texas Civilian Labor Force grew by another 40,200 workers in February.

The total nonagricultural employment in Texas decreased by 13,000 positions

in February, offsetting the revised January gain of 12,600 jobs. Four industries added jobs including Professional and Business Services employment, which increased by 9,000 jobs, which is the largest monthly gain since January 2008.

"The Texas unemployment rate remained at 8.2 percent for the fourth month in a row," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. "Although this serious national recession continues to have a negative impact here in

Texas, the unemployment rate appears to have stabilized."

Other industries adding jobs in February included Manufacturing, which added 2,900 jobs, Mining and Logging, which increased by 1,200 jobs and Information employment, which increased by 200 jobs.

"While it is encouraging to see job gains in February across several major employment sectors, our job market remains tight for those seeking new opportunities in the Lone Star

State," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "TWC and the 28 workforce boards are committed to assisting Texas job seekers and connecting them with available jobs."

In February, Leisure and Hospitality employment recorded a loss of 4,300, Education and Health Services decreased by 3,000 jobs and Financial Activities employment was down by 3,200 jobs. Construction posted a loss of 4,600 jobs, and Trade, Transportation, and

Utilities also decreased by 7,700 jobs.

"Although we sustained overall job losses in February, we experienced job gains in critical industries such as Manufacturing and Professional and Business Services," said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. "Texans searching for work can look to TWC for assistance at workforce centers across the state and search for jobs on WorkInTexas.com."

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**Interested candidates should email resume to publisher@northdallasgazette.com**

### Public input meeting for Center Services

A community meeting for the planning of services at the Douglass Community Center will be held on Wed., April 7 at 6:00 p.m. at the Plano Municipal Center located at 1520 Avenue K.

The City of Plano Parks and Recreation staff has been working with the Boys and Girls Club of Collin County (BGCCC) on a service agreement that, if approved, would result in the center operations being provided by the BGCCC on behalf of the City. Additionally, the City would realize significant savings in operational costs while enhancing youth programs.

## STRATEGY, continued from Page 12

• Strategy Rollout -- A lot of times, companies will create a strategic plan, but then they leave out the communication step. This leaves the employees who will be responsible for implementing the plan in the dark with regard to what they need to do in order to execute against that plan. Research suggests that 95 percent of company employees don't understand company strategy, so how can they be expected to work the plan if they don't know the plan.

• Strategy Tune-Up -- Like that diagnostic tune-up of your car, this step forces companies to look under the

hood of their strategic plans to evaluate what is different, what has changed and what is new since they created the plan. This allows companies to then make adjustments in their tactics to fit the new conditions. It helps answer the ongoing question "Are we on the

right path?"

"New growth comes from new thinking," Horwath said. "Expecting new growth for your business without new ways of thinking about it is like a farmer expecting new crops to grow without first planting the seeds."



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Small Community Newspaper looking for a partime 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](mailto:trj1909@tx.rr.com)



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Saturday, April 17

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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Richardson, Texas 75080

For faster entry, apply online at  
[www.risd.org](http://www.risd.org) by April 12

Certified by August 2010

[www.RISD.org](http://www.RISD.org)

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Denton Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant

Alternate Discharge Pump Station

Bid Date:

Tuesday

April 6, 2010 @ 3:00 p.m.

Contact:

Jimmy Smith

[j.smith@eaglecontractinglp.com](mailto:j.smith@eaglecontractinglp.com)

Metron: 817-379-1897 • Fax, Metron: 817-379-0610

Mail to:

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**AVENUE F CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
IN RICHARDSON**  
**April 2, 12 pm**

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

**April 3, 7 a.m.**

Join us for our Ladies Prayer & Breakfast meeting at the IHOP, 933 N. Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75075. Come fasting, if you can, and have a thirst for righteousness. Everyone is welcome. For details call Sis. Misty Rockwell @ 214-244-1142 or Sis. Deadra Pete @ 469-667-5865

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

**DAYSTAR  
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**On Going**  
**9:30 – 11:30 am**

Visit Helen's House every Monday and Friday to receive, to give, to comfort and most of all to fellowship. The give-a-way of food, love and household items is given freely to all those who could use a little touch.

**Pastor Minnie**  
**Hawthorne-Ewing**  
**635 W. Campbell Road**

**Suite 210**  
**Richardson, TX 75080**  
**972-480-0200**

**FELLOWSHIP  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF ALLEN**  
**"THE SHIP"**

**On Going, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**Monday – Friday**  
Prayer Lines for those in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567.

**Wednesdays Only**  
Join us for Wednesday Night Live at our main campus @ 7 p.m.

**April 3**

You are invited to an inspiring Easter play, "Living Word" in Luke 24:44-48 (NKJV) by our Theater & Arts Ministry at Story Elementary in Plano. Call the church for details.

**W. L. Stafford, Sr.,**  
**M.Div.**  
**Senior Pastor**  
**305 N. Alder Drive in**  
**Allen for Sunday**  
**Morning Worship**  
**Church Address is**  
**200 Belmont Drive**  
**Allen, TX 75013**  
**972-359-9956**

**FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
OF HAMILTON PARK**  
**"FIRST CHURCH"**

**April 3, 11 am**

And every first Saturday In each month. Join us for "Prayer With Pastor." Come to pray for our world and hear Pastor Gregg's inspiring message.

**April 3, 12 Noon**  
Bring the children to an "Old Fashioned" Easter Egg Hunt at our family Life Center.

**April 4**

We will not have our regular 7:30 a.m. early Morning Worship Service; but do join us for our Resurrection Worship Services: Sunday School @ 8:30 a.m.; an Easter Program @ 9:30 a.m. and our Worship Service @ 10 a.m.

**Pastor Gregory Foster,**  
**300 Phillips Street**  
**Richardson, TX 75081**  
**972-235-4235**

**FRIENDSHIP  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
OF THE COLONY**

**April 2, 7 p.m.**

You're invited to our Good Friday Worship Service.

**April 3, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Join us for our Resurrection Day Family Picnic.

**April 17**

Come to our Fun Run and Walk that is sponsored by our Health Ministry.

**Dr. C. Paul McBride**  
**Senior Pastor**  
**4396 Main Street**  
**The Colony, TX 75056**  
**972-625-8186**

**MT. PISGAH  
MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**"THE ROCK"**

**April 4**

You are invited to our Resurrection Services at 6 a.m., 8 a.m. or 11 a.m. and

discover "The One!"

**April 14-16**

Join us for our Spring Refreshing Service with Pastor S. Veal from Temple Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio.

**April 17,**

**6:30 p.m.-11 p.m.**

Come to our Singles Outing "Ol' School Game Night"

**Pastor Robert Townsend**  
**11611 Webb Chapel Road**  
**Dallas, TX 75229**  
**972-241-6151**

**NEW MOUNT ZION  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

**On Going**

You are invited to visit our Job Resource Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in our Computer Training Room in the Educational Building.

**April 3, 12 Noon**

Bring the children, and dyed hard-boiled eggs or candy-filled eggs to our Easter Egg Hunt.

**April 4**

Join us for Sunrise Service @ 6 a.m.; our exciting Easter Play, "The Easter Lesson" @ 8:30 a.m., in our Family Life Center; and Morning Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

**April 10, 8 a.m.**

You're invited to our Marriage Class 4th Annual Marriage Retreat & Workshop in our Educational Building. Dinner and a movie will be at the Studio

Movie Grill from 4 p.m.- 6 p.m. Our theme is "Growth for Marriage." Call the church for registration and details.

**April 16, 7 p.m. &**

**April 17, 7 a.m.**

We will walk in American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life", Call Olivia Sewell @ 214-375-2916 for registration and details.

**April 17,**

**9 a.m.-12 p.m.**

Our Young Adult Ministry and Youth Department will host a Financial Workshop for all students in grades 9th-12th, college students and adults. There will be Financial Planners from Prosperity Bank with financial management information.

**Dr. Robert Price, Sr.,**  
**Senior Pastor**  
**9550 Shepherd Road**  
**Dallas, TX 75243**  
**214-341-6459**

**NORTH DALLAS  
COMMUNITY  
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP  
CHURCH**

**April 16 & 18**

You are invited to commune with God and enjoy a time of rest at our Women's Retreat at the Hilton Garden Inn Las Colinas, 7516 Las Colinas Blvd., Irving, TX 75063. Call the church for fees and details.

**Dr. Leslie W. Smith,**  
**Senior Pastor**  
**1010-1020 S. Sherman St.**

**Richardson, TX 75081**  
**972-437-3493**

**SAINT MARK MBC  
IN MCKINNEY**

**April 1-2, 7:30 p.m.**

You're invited to our Passion Week Service. Call the church for details.

**April 4, 6 a.m.**

Join us for our Sunrise Worship Service. Call the church for details

**Dr. Charles Wattlely**  
**Senior Pastor**  
**1308 Wilcox Street**  
**McKinney TX 75069**  
**972-542-6178**

**SHILOH MBC  
IN PLANO**

**April 2, 7 p.m.**

Join us for Tenebrae – Service of Darkness, featuring scripture readings, visual displays and serving the Lord's Supper.

**April 4, 8 a.m. & 11 a.m.**

Join Pastor Joshua and our Worship and Arts Ministry as we celebrate the majesty of worship on this extraordinary day, Resurrection Sunday!

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

*He  
is Risen!*

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10:45AM Story Elementary  
11:50AM Edgewood - Allen, Tx

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7:00 PM  
200 Belmont Dr - Allen, Tx



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**10:00 am**  
**Wednesday Nights**  
**7:15 pm**

Call Pastor Sam on:  
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(Sundays 9 am - 10 pm)  
Hear Pastor Sam on: "Truth Made Simple"  
KGGR 1040 AM, Monday - Friday @ 5:25 pm - 5:30 pm







Sister Tarpley

"And I will give thee the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest that I, the Lord, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel." **Isaiah 45:3.**

If you are going through a trial that seems to be lasting, to you at least, a long time, now is the time to tie a knot to the end of your rope and continue to trust God.

You may find yourself out of your comfort zone because you are in a difficult place in your life. However, study the scriptures and allow God to lead you to certain passages that will help to increase your faith and help you to hang on until your situation change for the better.

What you may perceive as dark periods in your life are designed to be treasures from God. There are riches stored in secret places. You, perhaps, cannot see the treasures in your darkness because of the pain and fear that you are feeling. But, God has a purpose for your trials.

During these trying times you are completely at God's mercy for breakthroughs in your life. You will never know how per-

## Your treasures in God's darkness

sonal God is, or that He can be trusted to meet the deepest needs in your life. You will never experience God's faithfulness without your trials.

God wants you to know that you are "called by your name;" that every hair on your head is numbered. God is aware of every activity that you are involved in. His love for you knows no bounds and He will use every opportunity to show this to you.

An old adage says, "God's answer to your prayer is seldom early, but it is never late!" If you trust Him, God will give you the grace you need and at the right time.

If you keep a right attitude and not allow bitterness or resentment to take hold, then at the right time, in due season (if you faint not); God will answer your prayers.

Habakkuk 2 tells us that God has an appointed time to answer your prayers so that you receive just what you need at just the right time to live victoriously and happily. Believe that God is at work in your life bringing about what He knows is best for you.

Ask God for patience as you faithfully wait for your situation to improve. "For the vision is yet for an ap-

pointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."

**Habakkuk 2:3.**

Remember, Satan will attack your mind and will tell you that no one cares about you or your problem and he will try to convince you that you are alone with this problem. Instead of giving in to those evil thoughts don't forget to open your Bible and turn to scriptures in the Word of God that guarantees you that your needs will be met.

Tell God that with the help of the Holy Spirit, you won't take back your problem. This is not an easy thing to do; but every time the problem comes to your mind, quote a scripture and praise God.

A pastor once told his congregation, you can't stop temptations and evil thoughts from coming to your mind, but you don't have to let them build a nest there.

Learn to find your treasures in God's darkness for you. The next time you're facing a problem, give it to God. He has volunteered for the job and you can trust Him to do it well. After all, He really does care for you.

To God you're unique and one of a kind. Your life

can be what you want it to be.

Take the days just one at a time. Learn to count your blessings, not your troubles. With God, you'll make it through whatever comes along. Understand that your treasures are "stored in secret places," have courage and be strong.

It is Spring time, time for a new beginning, we have plenty to be thankful for. Learn the true meaning of Easter, and this weekend, have a happy and blessed Easter!



**Brent and the Honorable Karin Webb, a Carrollton-Farmers Branch I.S.D. (C-FB ISD) Board of Trustee, attending a function honoring the Honorable Richard Fleming, another C-FB ISD Board of Trustee.**

## Dallas SCLC to commemorate the life of founder Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

(NDG Wire) The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Dallas Leadership Board, committee members and general body invite the DFW metroplex to commemorate the Life & Christian servitude of founder, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, on Good Friday evening, April 2 at the Faithway Fellowship Baptist Church of Hamilton Park located at 8219 Bunche Drive at 7:00 p.m.

The event, titled "The Last Seven Sayings of Christ," will be a night of brief expository accounts,

shared by local pastors and ministers, of the final words of our Savior before He ascended back to Heaven.

Churches, family and friends are invited to celebrate Jesus Christ and the life of a Christian servant. Dr. King served as a clergyman and is still remembered as a peaceful civil rights leader that led from behind the sacred desk. On this evening, SCLC returns to the church pulpit to share words from the One in whose footsteps Dr. King walked.

To bring closure the

weekend of celebration, join SCLC Dallas members in front of the Dr. King statue on Monday, April 5 at 6:00 p.m. for the Annual MLK Memorial Candlelight Vigil to held at thee Martin Luther King Jr. Center at 2922 MLK Boulevard in South Dallas.

Both events are free and open to the public. The SCLC is a national movement that began in 1957 to address the many social and economic disparities suffered by minority individuals and in their communities.



Ramon Hodridge, Minister

### Avenue F Church of Christ

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

[www.avefchurchofchrist.org](http://www.avefchurchofchrist.org)

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



Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

### Friendship Baptist Church

4396 Main Street The Colony, Texas 75056  
(972) 625-8186

website: [www.fbc-online.net](http://www.fbc-online.net)

Schedule of Services:

Sunday

Early Morning Worship-8:00 a.m.  
Sunday School Classes-9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday

Early Bird Bible Study  
- 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Morning Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting and Evening Bible  
Study - 7:30 p.m.

"The Church with a Vision"

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Rev. Robert Townsend, Pastor

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Worship Services

Sunday Worship ..... 7:45 am & 11:00 am  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 am - 10:45 am  
Wednesday Bible Study ... 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm

Office Hours

Monday & Friday ..... 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday ... 9:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Saturday & Sunday ..... Closed

Contact Info

Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church  
11611 Webb Chapel Road • Dallas, TX 75229  
Office: 972-241-6151  
Email: [info@mtspisgah.org](mailto:info@mtspisgah.org)  
Website: [www.dallasmtspisgah.org](http://www.dallasmtspisgah.org)

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Two Sunday Worship Times  
**8:00am & 10:30am**  
Wednesday Night Bible 7:30pm



## WOMEN, continued from Page 4

especially when it takes place exclusively in the presence of other women. Women in these gender specific programs, such as at The Orchid, felt safer, thereby making them more comfortable and open to treatment.

They also formed support structures with other women in the treatment center – which in turn greatly enhanced the recovery process, which for many up to entering the program, has only been a dream.

As the Orchid's Execu-

tive Director, Julie makes that dream a reality every day by utilizing the groundbreaking research of Dr. Karen Dodge as the bedrock of The Orchid's treatment ideology. Dr. Dodge's philosophy of "relational growth" enables personal growth in women through strong support groups and interdependence within those groups. Currently, there is no other treatment program that focuses exclusively on women and utilizes this amazing modality for overcoming addiction.

# Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas opens new corporate campus

Last month, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas officially opened their new 1 million square foot corporate campus in the Galatyn Park Urban Center area with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. We are certainly excited with the addition of the largest transit-oriented development in the area and the largest built-to-suit project the market has seen in a decade.



BlueCross BlueShield of Texas

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas has called Richardson home for more than 25 years. Blue Cross Blue Shield employees are important participants and contributors at many of local community events, like Corporate Challenge – and will be the title sponsor for Corporate Challenge for the next three years.

They are expected to announce in a few weeks time, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas will also be the inaugural sponsor for


the new Tree The Town initiative and supporting the upcoming award winning Wildflower! Festival to be held in the Galatyn Park Urban Center in May.


**"Bridging the Gap between God and man"**  
Come Join Us!  
Community Alliance  
Sunday 10:00am - 11:00am  
Worship, Celebration - 10:00am  
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00pm  
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A Spiritual Oasis for a Thriving World  
1010-1000 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081  
www.bridgingthegapchurch.com



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**SERVICE TIMES:**  
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LIVE ON **TELEVISION** 7:30 AM  
10:30 AM  
MONDAY SCHOOL 7:00 AM  
TUESDAY  
MUSIC FELLOWSHIP 7:00 PM  
INVITED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
www.iboc.org





**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK**  
Worship Services 7:30am & 10:30am  
Sunday School 9:30am  
Wednesday Night Service 8:00pm  
  
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1010-1000 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081  
www.ndcbf.org



**Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church**  
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**Pastor Isaiah Joshua, Jr.**  
Celebrating 15 Years  
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Unwavering Teaching  
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**Sunday School:** 9:45 a.m.  
**Mid-week:** Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Children's and Youth Worship 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



**New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas**  
**Sunday Service**  
Morning Worship 7:30 am & 10:30 am  
9:00 am Sunday School  
**Monday Service**  
Men's Ministry 7:00 pm  
Women's Ministry 7:00 pm  
Young Adult Ministry 7:00 pm  
**Wednesday Service**  
Intercessory Prayer 6:15 pm  
Bible Study 7:00 pm  
  
**Dr. Robert E. Price, Sr.**  
Senior Pastor  
**A Praying Church Family**  
"Watchmen on the Walls"  
214-341-6459 (Phone) • 214-342-8403 (Fax)  
9550 Shepard Road  
Dallas, TX 75243  
www.nmzb.org (Website) • newmzbc@aol.com (Email)

**the mark**  
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**Charles S. Wattley**  
Senior Pastor  
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Education Ministries 9:30 a.m.  
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