

North Dallas Gazette



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Understanding reverse mortgages

BY CHARLENE CROWELL (NNPA) With Baby Boomers continuing to increase America's aging population, elder issues are also broadening. The day-to-day concerns of older Americans often impose shifting priorities including convenient access to quality medical care and pre-

serving independent living. Yet how well many retirees financially adjust to fixed income living can be a challenge when bills arrive for medical treatment or major home repairs.

When black elderly homeowners aged 62 or older are heavily relying upon Social Security and

facing a resulting "cash-poor" environment, a reverse mortgage -- a loan against the value of the home -- may be a way to cover the cost of emergencies. Eligible residences include single-family, dwellings units in townhomes or condominiums, or two to four unit properties

owned and occupied by the borrower.

But as with any consumer lending product, it remains important to fully understand the terms and responsibilities before signing on the dotted line.

A reverse mortgage is a

See MORTGAGES, Page 12

Black Chambers hosting annual conference this weekend

(NDG Wire) The Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce (TAAACC) will host its 10th Annual Conference -- "Charting the Changing Economic Face of Texas" -- September 17-18, 2010 at the Austin North Marriott

(2600 La Frontera Blvd. Round Rock, TX).

Representing the interests of nearly thirty Black chambers across the state, TAAACC will convene an outstanding line-up of workshops and seminars addressing small business issues, contracting oppor-

tunities and professional development for chamber officials. The HUB Vendor Fair will feature state agencies with which TAAACC has current memoranda of cooperation (MOC), as well as businesses from across the state taking advantage of the opportunity

to speak directly to the agencies, chambers and their members.

"We are working diligently to move the issues important to Black-owned businesses to higher visibility," said TAAACC

See CHAMBERS, Page 11

Plano Community Forum 29th Annual Awards Banquet

(NDG Wire) The Plano Community Forum (PCF) presents the 29th Annual Awards Banquet with this year's theme, "Bridging the Gap In The 21st Century: Parent, Child, and Teacher Connection." PCF sponsors an annual awards ban-

quet to recognize outstanding achievement by individuals, business owners, educators and community volunteers.

The banquet will recognize PCF's 2010 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship recipients. Scholar-

ships totaling \$12,500 were awarded to 13 graduating seniors in the Plano Independent School District.

The scholarship recipients this year are: Andrew Austin, Ashley Garner, Marissa Jones, Christian Oz, Maryanne Miller, Ariel

Bowman, Sophia Felek, Nehal Mubarak, Gabrielle Walters-Stinnett, Diana Godana, Chelsia Reeves, Michelle Ejimakor and Cindy Wang. Since 1983, the PCF has awarded

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COVER STORY

Dr. Ron Walters: 'Scholarly Giant' NNPA Columnist Just 'Never Stopped'



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Kanye West and Taylor Swift return to the VMA Stage

For more information see pg. 7 www.northdallasgazette.com

COMMENTARY

President Barack H. Obama's Strong Leadership

BY BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS JR. (NNPA) Be careful on what you pray for, because God will answer your prayers. Millions of African Americans and others prayed for a President of the United States who would lead America in a more just and fair direction both domestically and internationally. Many believed two years ago that the world would never witness a Black

man and woman in the White House.

Unless we are too quick to forget, prior too November 2008, the U.S. economy, world image, and national social divisions were all in pretty bad shape after eight years of failed leadership from President George W. Bush. Today as we approach the mid-term 2010

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People In The News...



Darius McCrary



Dr. Karen Prager



Jennifer Cox

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Darius McCrary

Best known for his role as Eddie Winslow on the long-running television series *Family Matters*, this actor, singer, songwriter, producer and top-rated soap opera *Young and the Restless* star brings over 24 years of experience to the lead role as "prodigal son" Daniel Rhodes in the upcoming film *Church*.

The must see faith-based independent film of the season for all moviegoers interested in family

friendly entertainment is the musical, *Church*, an inspiring story of faith, redemption and forgiveness.

He began his career in Hollywood at the age of ten. McCrary, who is also a songwriter and music producer, is the son of Grammy-nominated gospel/jazz musician Howard McCrary and older brother of actor Donovan McCrary.

McCrary has also starred as a series regular on NBC's *Committed* as Bowie

James and later as Jamal in UPN's *Eve*. He also appeared on the small screen in the NBC/Paramount miniseries *Kingpin*, on HBO's multi-award-winning *Don King: Only in America*, starring Ving Rhames, and in the popular Neal Israel-directed *Kidz in the Woods*.

On film, McCrary portrayed Malcolm Tremell in *The Maintenance Man*, based on the novel by author Michael Baisden; he was Ray Collins in *Vampires: Los Muertos*, the sequel to John Carpenter's

original *Vampires*; Detective Tommy Cullen in *15 Minutes*; and Aaron Williams in *Mississippi Burning*. Other film credits include *Hostage*, *Something to Sing About*, *Kingdom Come*, *The Breaks*, *Park Day* and *Big Shots*.

Darius McCrary plays autobot Jazz, First Lieutenant to Optimus Prime in 2007's 3rd of July blockbuster *Transformers*. McCrary will soon be seen in the musical comedy *Step-in': The Movie*, costarring Anthony Anderson, Mo'Nique and James Avery, on

which he also serves as co-producer; *A Good Man is Hard to Find* with Lance E. Nichols; and *Next Day Air* with Mos Def, Debbie Allen, Donald Faison, and Mike Epps. All three films are in post-production and slated for 2008 release. Darius just completed his theatre tour of *Rumors* which he played the starring role of Marcus. Coincidentally, he also plays the starring role of Marcus in the recently completed pilot of *The Life and Times of Marcus Felony Brown* for The Wayans Bros. production.



McCrary is an amazing singer, musician, producer, songwriter and dancer among other things and is finally ready to share his talents with the world.

Dr. Karen Prager

(NDG Wire) An estimated 57 million Americans – about one in four adults – suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year. This fall's Gender Studies Lecture Series addresses the importance of mental health awareness in women.

"For the upcoming lecture series, we decided to focus on depression in women in part because of its prevalence," said Dr. Karen Prager, professor of psychology and head of the

Gender Studies program. "Studies show that women are diagnosed with depression twice as often as men and are at least two times as likely to attempt suicide."

Julie Hersh begins the series at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 23, in the McDermott Suite (MC 4.404) of the McDermott Library. Hersh is an advocate for mental health awareness and author of *Struck by Living*, a personal narration of searching for identity through a career,



marriage, motherhood and the edges of suicide.

"My goal with *Struck by*

Living is to dispel the stigma associated with mental illness and make it more real for those who have never experienced depression," said Hersh.

Dr. Anna R. Brandon will continue the conversation with a lecture entitled *The Psychological Transition to Motherhood and Perinatal Depression*, at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 7, also in the McDermott

Suite. Brandon is a licensed clinical psychologist and assistant professor of psychiatry at the Women's Mental Health Center at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

Specializing in mood and anxiety disorders occurring across women's reproductive events, Brandon is funded by both the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) for her development and investigation of Partner-Assisted Therapy (PAT) for perinatal depression and by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for a pilot qualitative

project identifying the ethical challenges to conducting controlled research with pregnant women.

Brandon recently received the 2010 March of Dimes Young Scholar Award in Perinatal Bioethics for the paper, *Ethical Barriers to Perinatal Mental Health Research and Evidence Based Treatment: An Empirical Study*.

The Gender Studies Lecture Series is sponsored by the School of Interdisciplinary Studies Gender Studies program and the Carolyn Lipsky Galerstein Women's Center.

Jennifer Cox

(NDG Wire) Jennifer Travis Cox, a Methodist Dallas transplant recipient and Cedar Hill author, knows a thing or two about living with chronic illness. Her husband was told his kidneys were failing, and eventually had to go on dialysis. Later, he developed

prostate cancer and congestive heart failure. Next, she learned she had chronic kidney disease and would need a transplant. Then her 5-year old daughter was diagnosed with Lupus.

In fact, Cox had her daughter Tiffany in mind when she named her book, *Broken Dolls - Gathering the Pieces*. "When I was little, I had a delicate porcelain doll whose face was cracked," says Cox.

"I was crushed." When Tiffany became ill, she felt like once again her beautiful little doll, her daughter, was broken.

Cox who has since had a trans-

plant at Methodist Dallas Medical Center and is an avid organ donation advocate, likened living with chronic disease to one of her favorite fairy tales, Goldilocks.

"Like Goldilocks, our family had an intruder—an uninvited guest, and that guest was chronic illness. We didn't invite the intruder, but it touched the lives of everyone in our home."

While speaking at the Senior Access event at Methodist Charlton, Cox shared some tips for dealing with chronic illness.

- Connect with someone who has the same disease--someone who is further along and has God-given wisdom--to share and encourage you.

- Join a support group where you can talk and share your heart.

- Fight hard to not have a pity party and be de-

pressed. At her house they had a ten-minute rule. You had 10 minutes to cry, run, and do whatever you needed to, but then you had to get back to the business of living.

- Examine your treatment options, be compliant, and take your medications as prescribed.

- Educate yourself about the disease. Go online, or get info from the doctor.

- Take someone to your appointments with you who can listen and help you digest the deluge of information you will be receiving from the doctor and caregivers. Write down your questions beforehand. Then write down the answers.

- Learn to make the disease a part of your life, but not your whole life. Learn how to fit it in. Do not let it take over your life.

- On the days when you feel good, do the things

you like to do. Go places, spend time with your friends and the people you love.

- Be kind to your caregivers.

Say thank you and please.

- Encourage someone

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\$69* DIVORCE

Criminal Defense

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

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Uninformed or misinformed Which is a greater danger to democracy?

BY ROBERT FRANKLIN
NDG SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

One of the maxims of democratic government is that the voting public must be sufficiently informed on the issues they are deciding. Unfortunately, the reality is that the voting public is often uninformed of those issues. This lack of information is one of the driving forces behind low voter turnout in the United States. Potential voters often stay away from the polls because they feel uninformed about candidates and issues. In low turnout elections, those that do vote are generally considered the more politically aware, and therefore should make the right decisions for the rest of society.

Political scientists have been studying the behaviors of voters for decades. Recent studies and experiments have highlighted an even more im-

portant problem than the uninformed voter and that is the misinformed voter. Many regular voters base their policy choices on false, misleading or unsubstantiated information that they believe to be true. A University of Michigan study (Nyhan and Reifler, 2009) has attempted to quantify whether these misinformed voters would correct their views when confronted with irrefutable evidence demonstrating their misperception or error.

The results of the study are disheartening. It appears that most people will not change their perception when confronted with fact that conflicts with their beliefs. Some people actually increase the strength of their beliefs when presented with proof of their error. Political ideologues are the worst offenders, in that they are least likely to change a position

when confronted with proof of their misperception. Only a small number of liberals will change their position to conform with fact; an even smaller number of conservatives will change their erroneous positions. Among conservatives, there exists an even more dangerous result, referred to as 'backfire.' These holders of strong ideological positions will actually strengthen their misperception when shown their position is based on factual error.

The study draws some conclusions that need to be taken seriously. First, strong conservative ideologues are the least likely to change their position when confronted with factual contradictions to their positions, and are more likely to strengthen their erroneous position. Strong liberal ideologues are just slightly more likely to change their posi-

tion, but just barely. The centrists or moderates are the group most likely to alter a position when confronted with factual contradictions. Second, corrective information rarely reduces the misperceptions; once a misperception is adopted by a person, they are very unlikely to change their position no matter how convincing the facts contradict their political views. Third, the more politically ideological the individual, the more dogmatic they become. It appears that the moderate or centrist voter is the one most likely to change a position based on misperception.

The entire report, including methods and findings, can be found at personal.umich.edu/~bnyhan/nyhan-reifler.pdf. Robert Franklin is a member of the North Dallas Texas Democratic Women www.nddw.org

LEADERSHIP, continued from Page 1

elections across the United States, it is very important for us not to lose our memory or sense of perspective.

This is also certainly not the time to become complacent or to take the importance of voting for granted.

Yes, the vast majority of African Americans are proud of the leadership and progress that has already been accomplished by President Barack H. Obama. Once again, the vital role of the Black press re-emerges on the national scene. Most of the established media in the U.S. thrives off of cynicism and negative media coverage. We believe in objective reporting and constructive criticism. Yet, the problem is there appears to be more subjective criticism of President Obama than is warranted after only two years in office.

We pause, therefore, to salute the excellent and thorough broadcast of the Tom Joyner Morning Show that featured President Obama live on Friday, Sep-

tember 10, 2010. Joyner's skilled interview of the President exemplified the best of the Black press tradition of providing timely and crucial information to the African American and other communities who demand more objective truth in the media. Most of all, what was clear from that broadcast was the outstanding leadership of President Obama on a number of key issues critical to improving the quality of life of African Americans.

The leadership of a president is not to be judged solely by media coverage or by sheer popularity. Presidential leadership should be judged by how well a president leads the nation forward, not backward. In 2010, even with the persistent economic and unemployment challenges, the U.S. under Obama's leadership has moved in a forward, progressive manner in terms of foreign and domestic policies.

It goes without saying

that we understand that the President of the United States has the responsibility to act and lead in behalf of all the people of the U.S. One of the reasons why we attest to President Obama's strength as a national and world leader is that while he has held the office with high dignity and integrity, and has well represented all of the people in the U.S., he has not forgotten about the Black American community in terms of public policies, budget allocations, and other governmental actions.

During the Tom Joyner Morning Show interview, President Obama in summary stated, "What we've been trying to do is build a new foundation for economic growth and prosperity in our communities...

Now, what we have done over the course of two years is laid the foundation. Put in place some key reforms... I mentioned health care reform. That's going to mean millions of African Americans and Hispanics and

people of every stripe across the country who did not have health care... now are going to have health care. Number two in terms of one of the keys that we've always talked about in terms of job growth - long term - is education. We have done more to reform education in our communities in the last two years than had been done in the previous 20 years, and that's at every level K-12... But it goes all the way up to higher education, where HBCUs are getting \$850 million dollars over the next 10 years... So, no we're not where we need to be. But at least we're moving forward, and what we can't start doing is moving backwards."

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is a national civil rights leader, Senior Advisor to the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO) and President of the Education Online Services Corporation.

TRMC-Sunnyvale hosts Be a Friend, Bring a Friend prostate screenings September 25

(NDG Wire) To mark the September observance of National Prostate Awareness Month and support the efforts of the national organization ZERO-The Project to End Prostate Cancer, Texas Regional Medical Center at Sunnyvale will offer prostate screenings at no charge from 8-10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 25.

The most commonly diagnosed cancer among

men in the United States, a new case is diagnosed every two minutes and fifteen seconds, according to National Cancer Institute statistics. Estimates are 217,730 cases are expected in 2010.

NCI figures show about 90 percent of prostate cancer cases are found while the cancer is still either local or regional, and nearly 100 percent of men are still alive five

years later.

"Regular office visits and PSAs are important because, often, there are no symptoms," said Dr. Nabeel Syed, who is on staff at TRMC-Sunnyvale and also works at Associated Urologists in Sunnyvale. "If prostate cancer is caught early, many options are available and prostate cancer can be cured."

Reservations are required and, as part of

TRMC-Sunnyvale's Be a Friend, Bring a Friend event, participants are encouraged to bring their friends along for screenings.

A light breakfast and coffee will be served.

Each participant will undergo a prostate-specific antigen test. To receive a PSA test, call 972-892-3023 or email Guinnis.west@trmcsunnyvale.com by Sept. 24.

Fly to Napa without leaving Dallas at the 2010 Signature Chefs of Dallas' Angels & Aces Auction

(NDG Wire) Visit Napa Valley without leaving Dallas at the fifteenth annual March of Dimes Signature Chefs of Dallas auction Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at the Frontiers of Flight Museum. This year's unprecedented event, Angels & Aces, will feature wine pairings from 40 Napa Valley Vintners' member wineries along with food prepared by Lead Chef Kent Rathbun and 19 of

Dallas' signature chefs.

In addition to the exquisite food tastings and fine wines, guests will enjoy "Mystery Magnums" and big board and live auctions featuring one-of-a-kind packages prepared by each participating signature chef.

This year's celebrity chefs include:

Kent Rathbun, Lead Chef- Abacus, Jasper's, Rathbun's Blue Plate Kitchen & Zea Woodfire

Grill

Richard Chamberlain - Chamberlain's Steak & Chop House & Chamberlain's Fish Market Grill

David Holben - Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steakhouse

Sara Johannes - Five Sixty by Wolfgang Puck

Stephan Pyles - Stephan Pyles Restaurant & Samar by Stephan Pyles

Jim "Sevy" Severson - Sevy's Grill

Billy Webb - Opio Restaurant at Hilton Park Cities

The event will be held Wednesday, October 13 from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Frontiers of Flight Museum located at 6911 Lemmon Avenue in Dallas. Tickets are \$300. To purchase tickets and for more information contact Katie Sperry at 972-669-3463 or ksperry@marchofdimes.com.

Public handwashing finally improving

(NDG Wire) Mom's advice about cleaning your hands may finally be starting to get through.

In the latest observational study sponsored by the American Society for Microbiology and the American Cleaning Institute® (formerly The Soap and Detergent Association), 85% of adults washed their hands in public restrooms, compared with 77% in 2007. The 85% total was actually the highest observed since these studies began in 1996. The results were announced at the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and

Chemotherapy, an infectious disease meeting sponsored by the American Society for Microbiology.

On behalf of ASM and ACI, Harris Interactive discreetly observed 6,028 adults in public restrooms in August 2010 to note whether or not people washed their hands. Researchers returned to six locations in four cities where two previous studies were conducted: Atlanta (Turner Field), Chicago (Museum of Science and Industry, Shedd Aquarium), New York City (Grand Central Station, Penn Station), and San Francisco (Ferry Ter-

minal Farmers Market).

Men stepped up to the sink a bit more than they have in the past when it comes to public handwashing. More than three-quarters of the guys (77%) washed their hands publicly in 2010, compared to 66% in 2007.

The men still strike out more on handwashing in sporting venues, though. Turner Field by far fielded the worst percentage for the guys - barely two-thirds (65%) - though that's still better than just 57% in 2007. Perhaps as a counter to the men's poor handwashing practices, Turner

Field brought out the best in women's handwashing among all venues: 98%.

Overall, the rate of women washing their hands in public restrooms improved from 88% in 2007 to 93% in 2010.

"We are really pleased to see these results, which suggest that our campaign is being effective," said ASM spokesperson Dr. Judy Daly, Director of Clinical Microbiology at Children's Primary Medical Center, Salt Lake City. "Although the venues were different, our first observa-

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Pharmaceutical Collection Event September 25

(NDG Wire) September 25 is "National Take Back Initiative" Day. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is coordinating a one-day collaborative effort with The Carrollton Police Department to remove potentially dangerous prescription drugs from Carrollton homes. Collection activities are planned from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 25 in the front parking lot of the Carrollton Police Department (2025 E. Jackson Road).

The National Take Back Initiative Day will provide a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted or unused pharmaceutical substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction since these substances in homes are a potential source that fuels drug abuse and are a risk to public health and safety. Everyone


is encouraged to support the initiative and participate with the Carrollton Police Department and the City of Carrollton in hosting this effort.

Clean out those medicine cabinets. Controlled, non-controlled, and over-the-counter substances may be collected. No questions or requests for identification will be made. Participants may dispose of medication in its original container.

All solid dosage pharmaceutical product and liquids in consumer containers will also be accepted. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container. Intra-venous solutions, injectibles and syringes will not be accepted due to potential hazard posed by blood-borne pathogens.

For more information, call Officer J. Moore at 972-466-3521.

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McKinney Oktoberfest Set for Last Weekend in September

(NDG Wire) Once again McKinney Main Street, supporting sponsors and the shops in downtown McKinney will host Oktoberfest in Historic Downtown McKinney. This year's event will span two days starting Friday, Sept. 24 from 4 p.m. until 11 p.m. and continuing through Saturday, Sept. 25 from 10 a.m. until 11 p.m. Last year, 20,000 patrons enjoyed non-stop activities in the heart of McKinney.

"Oktoberfest is a true family favorite. This year, we felt that it was important to expand not only our offerings but extend the party for two days. Our bigger, better event will give our community and visitors an opportunity to experience

our true hometown culture in the heart of Downtown McKinney, surrounded by more than 128 vibrant retail, specialty and restaurant destinations," said Ty Lake, Director of McKinney Main Street.

Favorites from last year will make their appearances again, including authentic German food and activities such as Bier Barrel Races sponsored by the Collin County Young Lawyers Association.

The fun starts at 4 p.m. on Friday with the traditional Oktoberfest march through Historic Downtown. Authentic German beer flows starting with the official Franconia Beer tapping demonstration by hammering the bronze

spout into a more than 200 year-old keg with a wooden mallet. Beer is provided by Warsteiner Beer, a popular German brand distributed by Ben E. Keith's, and McKinney's very own brewery, Franconia. All of the fun is accompanied by live German music and German Dance Clubs to entertain the crowds.

Entry into the event and into the Biergarten area is free and open to the general public and parking can be found throughout the City of McKinney's 12 city-owned parking lots in the Historic District.

Oktoberfest isn't just a celebration for adults. There is plenty to entertain youngsters, like face painting, air brush tattoos, sand art, pet-

ting zoo, Oktoberfest photo opportunities, train rides and arts and crafts of all types. The Goddard School of McKinney will offer free kinder activities during the two-day event including Pass the Pumpkin with German Polka Music, Pumpkin Penny Toss, Apple Juice Relays, Pumpkin Tic-tac-toe and paper pumpkin painting.

"McKinney Main Street is a non-profit organization with a mission to ensure downtown McKinney continues to be the vibrant, inviting and safe area it is known for today. Funding we receive for the many festivals and activities that we incorporate into the quality of life for our residents is dependant on

fundraising efforts, donations and sponsorships. We applaud and thank our 2010 Oktoberfest Sponsors for their continued support," said Lake.

For information on the 2010 McKinney Oktoberfest, call McKinney Main Street at 972-547-2660 or visit www.downtownmckinney.com.

BANQUET, continued from Page 1

\$211,500 in monies to 225 students.

This year's awards banquet will be held at the Southfork Hotel, Plano on Saturday, October 16 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Navolia Bryant, Founder/Executive Director of Training for Excellence will serve as emcee for the evening. The featured entertainment will be the sultry saxophone sounds of Jeff Aycock with "Music That Moves The Soul."

In further recognition of this year's theme, "Bridging the Gap In The 21st Century: Parent, Child, and Teacher Connection," will also feature a special appearance from the Younger Generation Chorus of Plano.

Sponsors, to date, include Earl Manns State Farm Insurance, Atmos Energy, Huffines Auto

Dealerships, Oncor, Microsoft, UBS Financial Services and Verizon.

Chairing this year's banquet committee is Fran Richardson. Others on the banquet committee include David Richardson, Julius Chambers, Linda James, Pat Humphress, Arthur Young, Don McKnight, Felix Nnaji, Earl Simpkins and Barbara Simpkins.

For individual or group ticket purchases and reservations, please contact Fran Richardson, 469-675-0002, or franrich3@yahoo.com for a gala night of entertainment. Single tickets are \$60.00 and tables of 8 are \$480.00.

Ads and sponsorship opportunities are still available, contact Earl or Barbara Simpkins at 972-964-0867, or at esimpkins@verizon.net.

Discover the Great Outdoors in Garland

(NDG Wire) Bass Pro Shops and the City of Garland Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department are co-hosting the Garland Outdoor Festival on Saturday, September 18, 2010 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Bass Pro Shops located at 5001 Bass Pro Drive.

Experts will be on hand to provide information on the many outdoor recre-

ation opportunities available in the Garland area. Adults and children can try all sorts of activities including: fly-fishing, kayaking, archery, windsurfing, camping, outdoor cooking, off-road biking, scouting and casting.

Details about Garland's parks and natural areas will be available, along with information about area state

parks and activities provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

City of Garland and Bass Pro Shops staff is hosting this event to promote the many benefits of outdoor recreation: healthy lifestyles, family bonding, environmental awareness, and natural area preservation. Outdoor recreation activities are also vital for

developing a high quality of life.

As the Garland area becomes more urbanized, it is even more important for Garland residents to go outside and recreate!

For more information about the Garland Outdoor Festival, please visit www.garlandparks.com or call 972-205-2772.

Cottonwood Art Festival to Feature 240 Acclaimed Artists

(NDG Wire) The works of the nation's top visual artists will be on display Oct. 2-3 at the bi-annual Cottonwood Art Festival.

Now in its 42nd year, the prestigious show is rated the fifth best art festival in the United States and is the premier fine arts event in North Texas. The twice-a-year event generates more than \$2 million in art sales annually.

The festival is set for 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, October 2-3, 2010 at Richardson's Cottonwood Park. The park is just east of the intersection of Beltline Rd. and Coit Rd..

Cottonwood Art Festi-

val is a juried show. This year, approximately 1,300 artists submitted their work for consideration. Jurors selected over 240 artists to exhibit their museum-quality work -- paintings, sculptures, ceramics, jewelry, fiber art, fine glass, woodwork, mixed media, and photography.

But Cottonwood is more than the art. The festival also features local bands performing the best in rock, country, jazz, blues, swing and folk. In the courtyard, sit in the shade by the lake and enjoy the music. Food and spirits are also available.

ArtStop, the children's

area at Cottonwood Art Festival, offers arts, crafts, and activities for children of all ages. Create a sculpture hat from scrap, design a masterpiece in plaster, add to an enormous collage, or practice sculpting clay.

For more information

on Cottonwood Art Festival, go to www.CottonwoodArtFestival.com. Whether shopping for art, listening to music, enjoying the outdoors, or making art of your own, Cottonwood has something for everyone.

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Prairie View A&M Alumni-Dallas Chapter hosting annual scholarship gala

(NDG Wire) The Dallas Alumni Chapter of Prairie View A&M University has announced its 15th Annual Athletic Scholarship Gala for Friday, September 24, at 6:30 p.m. at the Westin City Center Hotel-Downtown Dallas (650 North Pearl Street).

The gala will be held the night before the annual Prairie View vs. Grambling State Football Classic and will feature dinner, a champagne reception, silent auction, door prizes, live entertainment and dancing to the sounds of "Vin-Jac".

The theme of the night is "PV Alumni: Feel The Excitement...Give!!" and will feature Keynote Speaker, Stephen Brown, Senior Associate Pastor of Concord Baptist Church. There will also be a special presentation honoring PVA&MU Football

Coach, Henry Frazier, III with the internationally known "Black Foxes"!

Seating is limited! Tickets for the gala are \$75.00 each and a table of ten (10) is \$750.00. Sponsorship and Advertising Opportunities are available, as well as special hotel rates at the Westin City Center-Dallas Hotel.

Proceeds will benefit the Prairie View A&M University Athletic Endowment Scholarship Fund, which to date has been presented with more than \$400,000 from the Dallas Alumni Chapter.

For additional information, contact Publicity Chair, Dvorah Evans at 214-421-5200 or via e-mail at dae@dbcc.org or Gala General Chair, Kimberly Runnels at Dallas PV Alumni Chapter, P.O. Box 397508, Dallas, Texas 75339 or call 972-289-9942 or 214-337-1845.

UNCF needs \$4 Million to help students graduate

(NDG Wire) With thousands of economy-impacted college students short of funds to pay for tuition, books, and dormitory rooms the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) is urging all Americans to contribute to its Campaign For Essential Student Aid, an initiative to help students at UNCF's 39 member historically black colleges and universities complete their senior year and receive their college degrees. UNCF today kicked off the Campaign for Essential Student Aid in North Texas to raise \$4 million nationally this year to help 2,500 students.

"It is essential that students cross the finish line and graduate," said Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D., UNCF

president and CEO. "These students have done everything in their power to graduate. Now, they have come to the last mile and need help crossing the finish line. We encourage communities across America to help these students get the education they need and our nation needs them to have. Many of these students will not be able to graduate this year if support is not secured."

As the recession lingers, many students at UNCF schools continue to find themselves in financially vulnerable positions. Unemployment and pay cuts still reduce families' financial support for their chil-

See UNCF, Page 12

Plano's Otto Middle School opens with 835 students in grades 6-8

(NDG Wire) Dr. Kary Cooper, principal of the new Douglas W. Otto Middle School, named for Plano ISD's current Superintendent of Schools, shared a few main focus areas with his 835 students in grades 6-8 on August 23, the first day of school. "Their teachers and I told them that, number one, we expect them to do their best in school. That doesn't mean A's on all homework, class work and projects. That means their best effort," Dr. Cooper emphasized.

"Number two, we talked about correct behavior and about making the right choices all of the time, even when nobody's looking," continued Dr. Cooper. "And, thirdly, we want to create a healthy environment at school, one in which students feel comfortable asking questions and being involved."

Dr. Cooper told the students during those first-day-of-school assemblies that, "This is your school," and students will be critical in developing the school's traditions based on their input, ownership and involvement.

He especially challenged

eighth grade students to set the tone for student success this year. To emphasize their impact on the school, all students participated in an "eighth grade walk" on the first day of school. Sixth and seventh grade students formed a spirit line through which the eighth grade students walked to songs like "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey and "I Gotta Feeling" by the Black Eyed Peas.

Dr. Cooper began this spring hiring the approximately 70 individuals who comprise the Otto Middle School faculty and staff, looking for distinct qualities that they each bring to the team through innovative strategies and unique perspectives that will trickle throughout the entire faculty.

"We are very fortunate to have hired an experienced, diverse and dedicated faculty and staff for Otto Middle School who bring the right skill sets for teaching middle school students and a passion for teaching a diverse student population," he said.

"Student success starts with compiling the right team of people. At the end of the day, after you read all the

leadership literature and books and attend all the best conferences, whether in business or education, success comes down to hiring the right people.

"Above all, students need to know that their teachers, all staff members and the school's administrators care about them," said Dr. Cooper. "We model that through team-

work and building trust by letting students know that we care about each of them as individuals and all of them as a group.

"Students perform better when they know that you are interested and that you want them to do well in school," he said.



Principal Kary Cooper helped student Briana Marshall navigate her way to class on the first day of school.

6th Annual Women's Celebration

Theme: "Women of Integrity...Walking with the Lord"

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Turning Point Temple - Dallas
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SUNDAY, SEPT. 19th - 11:00 A.M.
Speaker: Reverend Marian Rabb
(Attire: Pink and Black for the Ladies)

SUNDAY, SEPT. 19th - 3:00 P.M.
Guest Speaker: Pastor Regina Burrell,
Praise Temple Evangelistic Church, DeSoto, Tx.
(Attire: Pink and Black for the Ladies)

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A Family Clothing Swap and Vintage Apparel Expo.
September 25, 2010
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
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Women, Men and Children are encouraged to participate. Swap your way to a new wardrobe while enjoying fashion shows and trunk shows throughout the day.
For More Info log onto www.recessionistascloset.com and click the latest news link or call 214.886.0696
\$5.00 Donations requested at the door.
A portion of proceeds and left over clothing will be donated to The Dallas International Street Church.

Methodist Charlton Medical Center Hosts Pastor Appreciation Luncheon September 21

(NDG Wire) Recognizing the impact church leadership has on its community, Methodist Charlton Medical Center is inviting local pastors and ministry leaders to attend an appreciation luncheon hosted at the hospital. The venue is an opportunity for attendees to:

- Learn about the huge growth and changes taking place at Methodist Charlton
- Become educated on policies and procedures that would help pastors and ministry leaders better serve patients and their families during pastoral visits
- Open up a dialogue with hospital leadership that would lead to better com-



Clara Reed

munication and partnerships

Methodist Charlton is hosting this second annual event to express sincere gratitude to pastors and

ministry leaders who serve patients and their families all hours of the day to provide spiritual support. Dr. Clara M. Reed, district superintendent, North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, will be the keynote speaker at the event, which will be held Tuesday, Sept. 21, at 11:30 a.m. in the Methodist Charlton auditorium.

Free health screenings for hypertension, high cholesterol, triglycerides, diabetes, prostate cancer, and body mass index (BMI) will be offered. For more information contact Community Relations Liaison Cynthia Mickens-Smith at 214-947-5204.

Kristine Kahanek in Plano for a Stormy Adventure

(NDG Wire) Author and meteorologist Kristine Kahanek will take Haggard Library visitors on fun-filled, educational weather adventure on Saturday, September 18 in Plano.

Beginning at 2 p.m. at Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Road, Kristine will discuss all types of weather and severe weather safety. She will

read from her book, *Katie and the Magic Umbrella: A Stormy Adventure*.

The event is open to all ages and includes a book signing. This program is funded by Friends of the Plano Public Library.

For information on other upcoming Plano Public Library System programs visit www.plano.library.org or call 972-769-4240.



Kristine Kahanek

COX, continued from Page 2

in the same situation as you. Even while you are going through, you still have something to be thankful for.

Cox ended her speech by comparing her daughter Tiffany to another one of her favorite fairy tales, *Cinderella*. Like Cinderella, Tiffany sometimes felt frumpy,

but the day she dressed in a gorgeous electric blue dress as a bridesmaid in a wedding, she looked beautiful. "She looked so elegant with her hair pinned up," says Cox.

But like Cinderella, Tiffany had an appointed time to be home. The next

day at 1:59, she went to be with her Heavenly Father.

Cox says she wrote the book because she wanted to provide the principles and a roadmap for other families in the same situation. "No one should have to go through this," she says.



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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 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.) Collin County Republican Party HQ, 8416 Stacy Rd., McKinney. Call Linda Wynn Drain, 214-498-7574 or website www.aarcc.com

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce, CCBCC General Meetings, 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Call 469-424-1020 or email: 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 meeetup.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

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).

Target Second Saturdays at Latino Cultural Center On the second Saturday of every month family-friendly activities celebrating Latino arts and culture. Come in for one hour, or stay the day.

Target Second Saturdays at Latino Cultural Center On the second Saturday of every month family-friendly activities celebrating Latino arts and culture. Come in for one hour, or stay the whole day.

Business Empowerment Sessions. Learn to grow a successful small business. 1st Thursday of each month at Christian Chapel Temple of Faith, 14120 Noel Rd., Dallas. Call 214-942-6698 for details.

How to start a business. Free sessions on getting started the right way. Sessions held the last Monday of each month. Call The PLAN Fund for details 214-942-6698.

Thru November 7

Amon Carter Museum's Ansel Adams: Eloquent Light features 40 photographs by the artist. Admission to the Carter is free.

September 16-19

Make your way to historic

Grapevine and uncork the largest wine festival in the Southwest. Wine lovers and connoisseurs from across the nation will sample award-winning Texas wines at the **24th Annual GrapeFest** on September 16, 17, 18, and 19. A grape stomping good time awaits you at GrapeFest voted a 2010 ABA Top 100 Event in North America! Visit grapevinetexasusa.com for more information.

September 18

At 10:30 a.m. at the Irving Northwest Library Branch will hold its regular monthly meeting of the **African-American Authors Book Circle**, discussing reader's choice from the works of Maya Angelou.

Community Garage Sale at Crosby Recreation Center (1610 E. Crosby Road). Carrollton. The event is free to the public, but shoppers should bring cash to the event for purchases. Info: 972-466-9810 or cityofcarrollton.com/parksandrec.

September 21

Methodist Health System is sponsoring a **free health screening event** at Golden Cross Academic Clinic, 122 W. Colorado Blvd, adjacent to Methodist Dallas Medical Center. Screenings will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and will include prostate blood test, cholesterol, sugar, triglycerides, and the digital rectal exam. These screenings are limited to once per year per person. Fasting is not necessary. Appointments are recommended. To schedule an appointment, call 214-947-4647.

September 23

NDTDW meeting Author Malia Litman Rebuttal to the Rogue is scheduled for 6:45 p.m. at the Northaven United Methodist Church at 11211 Preston Road (between Forest and Royal). Litman, a senior partner at Thompson & Knight in Dallas, has written a fearless ex-

amination of Sarah Palin's career and on her influence on conservative voters. The book is carefully researched and highly informative. Copies will be available for sale at the meeting, with all proceeds going to Planned Parenthood.

September 24

Methodism's **Luncheon of Appreciation**, Celebrating 40 Years of Sharing the Bread of Life at 11:30 a.m. at Zan W. Holmes, Jr. Community Life Center; 6211 East Grand Ave. The cost is \$40 per person.

September 25

Recessionista's Closet will be held at Excuse Art Bar and Café located at 3025 Main St. Dallas. A \$5 donation is requested at the door. For more information visit www.talisalavarry.com and click on the latest news link, or call 214-886-0696.

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce workshop 8:30 a.m. to noon at Reel Thing Catfish in Allen. Guests are asked to RSVP by Saturday, September 18 by calling Shelia Jones at 469-424-0120 or via email at sjones@ejesinc.com.

September 27

Annie's List Luncheon's Special Guest is Connie Schultz, author and syndicated columnist for The Cleveland Plain Dealer and Creators Syndicate. The event is scheduled for Noon to 1:15 p.m. at The Westin Galleria Dallas, 13340 Dallas Parkway, Dallas.

October 1 thru 3

Oktoberfest Southlake is celebrating the 9th annual Oktoberfest celebration hosted by Southlake's Chamber of Commerce! Attendance is completely free: no admission or parking fees. Booths sell a range of food & beverages, and artisans present unique, handcrafted shop-

ping opportunities while you explore the arts and crafts booths. In addition to live entertainment events during the festival and the excitement-packed children's area, Oktoberfest also includes our popular wiener dog race, held on Saturday, October 2. Info: www.southlakechamber.com

October 2

thru January 2

American Modern: Abbott, Evans, Bourke-White at the AMon Carter Museum of Art www.cartermuseum.org/exhibitions

October 2 thru 3

Cottonwood Art Festival will feature 240 artists from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, October 2-3, 2010 at Richardson's Cottonwood Park. The park is just east of the intersection of Beltline Road and Coit Road. Info: www.cottonwoodartfestival.com

October 2

The Sister to Sister Fitness Festival is a day of breast cancer education activities, specifically targeting African American women starts at 8:30 a.m. The event will be held at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center, 310 East Parkerville Road, Cedar Hill. Register and info: www.celebratinglife.org or 214-947-0026.

6th Annual Plano International Festival to take place in Haggard Park in Downtown Plano from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy ethnic food, multicultural music and dance performances, cultural displays, children's activities and much more! The Festival is underwritten by the Plano City Council and is designed to showcase the many cultures that make up Plano, Collin County, and their surrounds. Info: www.planointernationalfestival.org

October 12

27th Annual Philbin Awards Luncheon, Recog-

October 13

March of Dimes Signature Chefs of Dallas auction 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Frontiers of Flight Museum located at 6911 Lemmon Avenue in Dallas. Tickets are \$300. Info: Katie Sperry at 972-669-3463 or ksperry@marchofdimes.com.

October 16

The Plano Community Forum's **29th Annual Awards Banquet** with this year's theme, "Bridging the Gap In The 21st Century: Parent, Child, and Teacher Connection." This year's awards banquet will be held at the Southfork Hotel, in Plano from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. For individual or group ticket purchases and reservations, contact Fran Richardson, 469-675-0002, franrich3@yahoo.com for a gala night of entertainment. Single tickets are \$60.00 and Tables of 8 are \$480.00.

October 23

2010 C.C. Rousseau Scholarship Black and Gold Gala at 7 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel (Downtown Dallas). Tickets are \$65.00 per person or \$650 per table. This is a Black Tie event. : DallasAlphas.com or : jabari156@gmail.com

November 12-13

The Ricardo Miller Children's Ministries are hosting the 2nd Annual Children's Ministry Symposium, a city-wide meeting for Children's Pastors, Children's Workers, Coordinators, and individuals interested in being trained in Children's Ministry. The CMS will be held November 12-13 at Pathway of Life Church in Dallas. www.richadomiller.com

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Dr. Ron Walters: 'Scholarly Giant' NNPA Columnist Just 'Never Stopped'

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY
NNPA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

(NNPA) He was a political analyst, a professor, a lecturer, a strategist, a mentor, a commentator, a thought leader, a Black Press columnist, a husband and a friend. And he did it all while remaining true to his life's passion as an advocate for the progress and advancement of Black people.

Dr. Ron Walters died of lung cancer Sept. 10, shocking many in the civil rights community who were unaware of the extent of his illness.

"Dr. Ron Walters was the preeminent activist and scholar of our times," says the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who visited with Walters in the hospital during his final days and will deliver the eulogy next week. Funeral services were incomplete at NNPA deadline.

"He was my issues director in my '84 and '88 campaigns. Ron led a sit-in in 1958 as a student NAACP youth leader two years before the 1960 sit-ins in Greensboro. He wrote six books and thousands of articles... We learned to lean on Ron Walters for our frame of reference," said Jackson.

"Today we're number one in athletics and number one in presidential politics; but also number one in poverty. We're number one in infant mortality, short life expectancy and in unemployment. Ron kept us abreast of that data.

The good news is that Ron taught so many scholars. There are those who will now bear truth. So, that tradition will be kept alive."

Walters, who submitted his last NNPA column - "...March for Jobs and Justice Where Ever You Are" - to the NNPA News Service

on August 16, continued to conduct interviews and phone conferences from his hospital room, Jackson said. "He never stopped giving of himself."

Former NNPA Editor-in-Chief George Curry, who edited Walters' column for seven years and also covered him for decades,

a retired social worker.

"He had a diverse, multi-dimensional character to himself in terms of teaching, mentoring, working in the grassroots communities to assist them in any way he could; doing many, many, many things throughout his distinguished career for no pay

live. As the cancer spread into his lungs and he was told the end was near, he remained heartened by new accomplishments.

He was especially happy about a renewed lecturing relationship with Howard University, where he once served as chair of the Political Science Department before becoming a professor at the University of Maryland.

"As a son of Howard, he never left the Capstone. It was always home," said Howard's President Sidney A. Ribeau in a statement. "We are deeply grateful for his enormous contributions to our university, to the field and to the nation. We will truly miss his measured voice and his strategic mind, but his insightful wisdom will endure through the lives he touched."

Walters was slated to give his first speech at Howard under the new contract on Sept. 9, but he was too ill and died the next day at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Md.

Mrs. Walters said he simply wanted to give everything he could; so he kept quiet about his illness in order not to dissuade people from asking for his services.

"He wanted to be able to continue his work, which he did at the very, very last moment. That's the way he was," she said. "He wanted to go about his business and have people to treat him like they always treated him in not knowing that he had been battling cancer for six years."

Walters helped to lay the groundwork for the formation of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1970.

"Professor Walters was a scholarly giant and was

*"Dr. Ron Walters
was the preeminent
activist and scholar
of our times,"*

Rev. Jesse Jackson

described him as "a brilliant, dedicated, consistent and unapologetic warrior for African-Americans.

While he is best known for teaching at Howard and the University of Maryland, advising Jesse Jackson and the Congressional Black Caucus, he spent many hours sharing his expertise with small, largely unknown community groups. Black American has lost a scholar whose life exemplified excellence."

News releases honoring Walters' legacy were plentiful from top Black leaders and Walters associates around the country.

They include Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Barbara Lee; NAACP President Benjamin Todd Jealous; president and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation.

But, his greatest tributes came from his wife of 47 years, Patricia Ann Walters,

whatsoever because he had this deep love and affection for the work that he was doing for African-Americans in particular. And he was their spokes-person," Mrs. Walters said in an interview with the NNPA News Service Sunday morning.

"That was his calling. ...The African-American community stopped and listened because they understand that the messenger was with clean hands and was telling the truth and always on message and never, never deviated from his message.

He never backtracked. You always knew that if you got an interview from him, if you got him on TV, he was going to be consistent with his message and he did that for over four decades."

Mrs. Walters said her husband had pressed beyond the amount of time the doctors expected him to



Dr. Ron Walters

one of America's most insightful analysts of the political landscape, in general, and of the intersection of race, politics and policy, specifically," said CBC Chairwoman Lee.

"His scholarly work and sound advice have assisted many past and present members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and other African American political and civic leaders around the country."

Walters was born in Wichita on July 20, 1938. He graduated with honors from Fisk University and earned a Masters in African studies and a doctorate in International Studies from American University. He also taught at Georgetown, Syracuse, and Brandeis.

Mrs. Walters said several public memorials will be held, but plans were incomplete.

"We knew that it was an uphill battle. He was such a tremendous fighter and doctors knew that he'd live long beyond what the expectation was. I think he was able to accomplish that because the vast majority of people did not know how

sick Ron was when he did things for people and spoke and went on television and conducted radio and television interviews and newspaper interviews. That's the way he wanted it. And I think he did it with style, elegance and dignity. That is Ron."

Jackson marveled at the loving relationship between Walters and his wife.

"He stayed close to his wife, Patty, who he loved so much," he said, noting how she was his greatest encourager.

Jackson said, "He never stopped fighting for a fair and just and comprehensive urban policy to lift up and change the plight of Black people. And that was classical Ron. And at the end, even at the very end, even as he struggled, at the very end, his sensitivity to our constituency, the love of his wife remains such a thing of beauty."

Editor's note: Ron Walters' columns over the years frequently appeared in the North Dallas Gazette and we join others across the country in extending our sympathies.

Kanye West and Taylor Swift Return to the VMA Stage

(NDG Wire) Lady Gaga, outdoing even herself with her adventurous couture, dominated the 2010 MTV Video Music Awards, adding eight to her collection of Moonmen with awards including "Video Of The Year," "Best Dance Video," "Best Pop Video" and "Best Female Video."

Eminem, who opened this year's Awards with a triumphant performance, walked away with two statues for "Best Male Video" and "Best Hip Hop Video."

VMA newcomers 30 Seconds To Mars and Florence + The Machine took home their first wins for

"Best Rock Video" and "Best Art Direction," respectively. Justin Bieber was voted "Best New Artist."

A year after Taylor Swift's first VMA win was interrupted by Kanye West, the two returned to musically play out last year's drama, once again on the VMA stage. For an exclusive live performance, Taylor sang *Innocence*, an emotional song she wrote about how she felt after last year's incident.

Later in the evening and this year as an official performer, Kanye debuted *Runaway* (featuring Pusha T

from Clipse), a personal statement on the turbulence of the last year.

MTV aired the 2010 Video Music Awards live on Sunday, September 12 from Nokia Theater in Los Angeles, having transformed the venue into a 1950's scul

tural nod to modernism. The VMA's kicked off with an epic performance by Eminem backed by an orchestra to present a medley of his comeback anthem *Not Afraid* into a fiery version of *Love The Way You Lie* with surprise guest Rihanna.

Host Chelsea Handler brought her edgy comedic flair to the Awards, making

a dramatic entrance that riffed on Lady Gaga's extravagant fashion sense, flying onto the stage wearing a suburban house on her head, complete with a single car garage, and ending her monologue by releasing a dove from her dress. Backstage before taking the stage, Chelsea was shown receiving "encouragement" from well wishers Li'l John, Flo Rida and a score-settling Lindsay Lohan.

In another show highlight, the one-and-only Cher presented Lady Gaga with her "Video Of The Year" Award, donning the same outfit (yes, she still fit into

it) that she barely wore more than 20 years ago in her own memorable video *If I Could Turn Back Time*.

With an intro by Ke\$ha and Trey Songz, Usher's electric entrance and pounding energy brought down the house with a medley of *DJ Got Us Fallin' In Love* into *OMG!*, showing off his dance moves against an other-worldly combination of visual effects.

The physicality of Usher's set contrasted with VMA newcomer Florence + The Machine's ethereal, breakout performance of *Dog Days Are Over*, featuring a large-scale dance

number with scores of dancers and percussionists to create a flowing dream-like sequence.

Hip-hop artist Drake was joined on onstage by Mary J. Blige and Swizz Beatz for a performance of his hit single *Fancy*, set against a supper club backdrop.

Following Drake's performance, Chelsea stumbled upon the cast of *Jersey Shore* in, what else, a hot tub. Teasing the cast about how dirty the water is, she finally agreed to jump in fully clothed, only to emerge wet and pregnant.

Gallery 219 at Eastfield Presents: Stephen Lapthisophon: Specificity

(NDG Wire) Gallery 219 at Eastfield College presents Stephen Lapthisophon: *Specificity* — photographs in situ and seasonal fruit" going on now through October 8. Reception: September 17, 6 to 8 pm.

Stephen Lapthisophon is a multimedia artist and writer whose work addresses questions of language, his-

tory and cultural memory. Recent projects include exhibitions in Berlin at Zagreus Projekt and in Barcelona at El Escaparat. Lapthisophon presented *Quotation as Gesture* at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth in 2009 and is represented at Conduit Gallery in Dallas Texas.

Upcoming in early 2011

there will be solo exhibitions at Conduit Gallery and Hyde Park Art Center in Chicago. He teaches at The University of Texas at Arlington.

Lapthisophon is also represented in the permanent collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. Lapthisophon holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Stephen will present a lecture on his work at 6 p.m. on September 17 in F201.

Gallery 219 is located on the upper floor of the Fine Arts building (Bldg F) in Room 219C.

The lecture will take place in F201, directly across the hall from the gallery. Park and enter at the Performance Hall entrance

on the west side of the campus.

Gallery hours are 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Monday through Friday and on weekends by ap-

pointment.

Contact Iris Bechtol at 972-860-7329 or irisbechtol@dcccd.edu for additional information.

The Plano Symphony Orchestra presents *Over the Rainbow*

(NDG Wire) Broadway Soprano Linda Eder performs her famed tribute to Judy Garland with Hector Guzman and the Plano Symphony Orchestra - an evening to remember! According to USA Today, Eder is "a captivating presence and a Streisand-esque singing voice that elevates everything it touches." Eder's performance in her 1990 pivotal role as Lucy in *Jekyll & Hyde* earned her the Theatre World Award for Best Broadway Debut, as well as the Drama Desk and Outer Critics' Circle Award Nominations for Best Actress in a Musical.

Eder will pay tribute to Judy Garland with songs including *Zing! Went the Strings of My Heart* and

Somewhere Over the Rainbow; a season highlight!

The first half of the concert will feature the Plano Symphony performing Gershwin's *Cuban Overture*, selections from "Fiddler on the Roof" and the Opening Dance and Finale from Leonard Bernstein's "Fancy Free".

To order, call the Plano Symphony Orchestra Ticket Office at 972-473-7262, or visit www.planosymphony.org for up to the minute ticket information. Reserved Seating tickets start at \$9; add \$2 per ticket at the door. Group and student rates available.

The Eisemann Center for Performing Arts is located at 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson, TX

75082.

For information, contact Alice Hobbs, Executive Di-

rector, at 972-473-7262, or email her at ahobbs@plano-symphony.org.

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African-Americans, Women, and Southerners talk and text the most in the United States

(NDG Wire) Think you can guess which Americans talk or text the most on their cellphones?

According to Nielsen, African-Americans use the most voice minutes – on average more than 1,300 a month. Hispanics are the next most talkative group, chatting an average of 826 minutes a month. Even Asians/Pacific Islanders, with 692 average monthly minutes, talk more than Whites, who use roughly 647 voice minutes a month.

African-Americans and Hispanics also text the most. Hispanics send and receive around 767 SMS messages a month while African-Americans send and receive around 780 – significantly more than Asians/Pacific Islanders (384 texts a month) and Whites (566 texts a month).

The voice and text re-

sults are compiled from one year (April 2009-March 2010) of data gathered by the The Nielsen Company, which analyzes the cellphone bills of more than 60,000 mobile subscribers each month in the United States.

If you think women in the U.S. talk more than men on their cellphones, Nielsen data confirms your suspicion.

On average, women talk 22 % more than men (856.3 minutes a month compared to men's 666.7). Turns out, American women are more communicative in general on mobile devices; they text more, too, sending or receiving an average of 601 SMS messages a month compared to the 447 monthly text messages sent or received by the average American

See TEXT, Page 16

Take Charge of Business at Texas Business Conference in Arlington

(NDG Wire) The dynamics of today's fast-paced, challenging economy can make it difficult for employers to keep up with laws affecting their businesses and workers. To address that, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is inviting Arlington-area business owners and managers to the Texas Business Conference (TBC) on Friday, September 17.

"The conference helps employers recognize how laws affect them and their workforce," said TWC Chairman and Commissioner Representing Employers Tom Pauken.

"Tools presented at the event will give employers the information they need to operate businesses effectively. Texas is a great place to do business, and we need to do our part at TWC to encourage job creation and economic growth in the private sector, while helping our employers address the regulatory challenges of

employment law."

Chairman Pauken and his staff will present practical, up-to-date information for operating a successful business and managing employees. Agency attorneys and staff will discuss employee handbooks, hiring and retention, firing, workplace investigations, Unemployment Insurance (UI), preparing for UI hearings, wage and hour laws, workers' compensation and more.

Participants will receive the latest edition of the popular publication Especially for Texas Employers, which addresses basic legal issues regarding hiring and post-employment and work-separation policy. Certified public accountants who attend can earn six hours of continuing education credit. Other conference participants may qualify for general professional credit.

The conference is from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the Arlington Convention Center's Grand Hall Room,

1200 Ballpark Way in Arlington. Registration is from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

Registration is \$85 per person and is nonrefundable. Registration forms can be downloaded at www.texasworkforce.org/twcinfo/tbcforms/tbcform.html, then mailed with the fee payable

to:

Texas Business Conference — TWC, Texas Workforce Commission, 101 E. 15th St., Room 218, Austin, TX 78778.

Space is limited, so participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

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www.DART.org/statefair 214.979.1111

CHAMBERS, continued from Page 1

Chairman Jim Wyatt. "In a state like Texas – with such a dynamic African American population – we should demand more attention to issues of importance to our communities across the state. We believe that elevating the profile of Black businesses is one sure way to accomplish that goal."

The TAAACC convention and fair is one of the state's top business conferences for African-American entrepreneurs and other organizations seeking to capitalize on the variety of vendors and business owners participating in the event. This year's conference will focus on and address issues associated with the development, enhancement and sustainability of minority owned businesses.

A number of elected of-

ficials from across Texas have been invited to participate on various panels scheduled during the two-day conference, including State Senator Royce West (Dallas) and State Representative Sylvester Turner, of Houston.

Notably, Texas gubernatorial candidate Bill White has accepted an invitation to address conferees during the Saturday, September 18 "Salute to the Best of the Best" statewide small business awards breakfast.

"We're taking this annual opportunity to recognize business owners from across the state who have demonstrated business acumen AND a commitment to service to the chamber organizations who nominate them," said Wyatt. "Business owners are the heart-

and-soul of our chambers and too often the work they do goes unrecognized.

Moreover, it is well documented that small businesses literally drive this nation's economy and Texas is no exception to that fact. Black businesses across our state make significant investments in our communities."

In recognition of his commitment to the organization during his nearly 15 years as President of the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, TAAACC has retitled its business awards for Reginald Gates.

Gates, Vice Chancellor for the Tarrant County College District, is expected to be on hand to salute the first "Reginald Gates Best of the Best" award recipients.

For registration infor-

mation (individual, corporate, vendor & hotel reservations) visit the TAAACC website – www.taaacc.org. TAAACC Chairman Jim Wyatt can be reached via email at info@taaacc.org or phone at 512-535-5610.

"We are absolutely encouraging anyone with an interest in improving opportunities for Black-owned businesses in our state to make plans to attend this year's conference," said Wyatt.

"A number of state agencies and Texas corporations that have a demonstrated commitment to diversity have invested in the success of this conference, and we urge all of Texas to take advantage of this great opportunity to forge a new economic reality in our state."

DART to fun, food and football at the fair

(NDG Wire) A Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) pass is the ticket to the State Fair of Texas® and “Super Sized Fun” from September 24 to October 17.

The fairgrounds are connected to two DART Rail Green Line stations - Fair Park, located on Parry Avenue at the entrance to the fairgrounds, and MLK, Jr., located south of R.B. Cullum Blvd. and convenient to the MLK fairground entrance (Gate 6) and the Cotton Bowl Stadium.

Those passengers riding DART Rail and the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) to downtown Dallas can transfer easily to the Green Line: Southbound Red and Blue Line passengers transfer at Pearl Station; Northbound Red and Blue Line passengers transfer at Akard Station; and TRE passengers transfer to the Green Line at Victory Station.

Special connections are planned for Saturday, Octo-

ber 2 and Saturday, October 9, and some passengers may use buses to complete their trip. Go to DART.org/RedRiverRivalry or DART.org/BaylorTexasTech for details.

Local Day passes for riders headed to the fair (DART Rail, local bus) will be \$4. Folks riding the TRE from Irving will pay \$5 (\$7 starting October 1) for a System Day Pass.

Customers coming from Tarrant County need to purchase a Regional Day Pass for \$7.50 (\$10 starting October 1). The fares are good for trains or buses or both. Passes are available at Ticket Vending Machines located at all DART and TRE stations.

Fair highlights this year include three Saturdays of college football in the Cotton Bowl.

DART has created special web pages for each game with detailed information about the additional service to help fans plan

their trips:

- State Fair Classic, September 25: DART.org/StateFairClassic

- Texas–Oklahoma, October 2: DART.org/RedRiverRivalry

- Baylor–Texas Tech, October 9: DART.org/BaylorTexasTech

As game day nears, sign up for service alerts and get the latest information about rail and bus service at www.DART.org/StateFair, or call 214-979-1111.

To help accommodate the expected large crowds before and after the games, DART is adding light rail and buses and TRE trains (service varies by event).

No matter which travel option you choose, be sure to allow plenty of travel time so you do not miss a minute of the action.

The trip doesn't end with the final whistle, so DART is working with State Fair staff to make the post-game departure and wait smoother.

Staff will be on hand to get customers to the fastest areas to board for a return trip. Special service will continue for at least two hours after the game, so there's plenty of time to relax and get that extra corny dog.

On Saturdays and Sundays, motorists can ride the free "Big Tex Express" train between auxiliary parking at the fairgrounds to a gate near the Cotton Bowl.

The State Fair of Texas offers acres of lighted and secured parking off Haskell west of Dolphin Road -- easily accessible from I-30. Parking is \$15. The service operates continuously from 10 a.m. to midnight on Saturdays and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sundays. Note: The Big Tex Express does not run to Tarrant County.

Advance discount State Fair of Texas tickets with a DART Pass are available for \$16 at a participating Kroger.

HANDWASHING

continued from Page 4

tional study in 1996 found only 68% overall washing up in public restrooms, and that declined to an all-time low of 67% when we repeated the study in 2000. We hope that as a result of an increased focus on handwashing in the media over these years, as well as increased public awareness of infectious disease risks, behavior really is changing."

"The message is that people are getting the message," said Nancy Bock, ACI Vice President of Consumer Education. "Between mom's common sense advice and the recent pandemic scare, people now seem to realize the importance of when and how you wash your hands."

"Although we are happy about the latest results, there is still work to

do," Daly said. "Only a minority indicate they wash their hands after coughing or sneezing. Handwashing in this context is particularly important because we now know that many respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses are transmitted primarily by hand contact when contaminated hands touch the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, or mouth."

"Whether it's cold and flu season or baseball season, handwashing is a no-brainer," said ACI's Nancy Bock. "Washing with soap and water for 20 seconds or more is a simple way to stay healthy. And if you're out and about, hand sanitizers or hand wipes are good alternatives for keeping your hands clean."

MORTGAGES, continued from Page 1

loan against your home that allows you to turn that home value into cash without selling the property. Unlike a regular "forward" mortgage that requires monthly payments, a reverse mortgage requires payment when either the borrower passes away, or moves away and no longer lives in the home continuously for a year.

However, should the borrower fail to maintain the property, or fail to pay property taxes or insurance, the lender may recall the loan and require payment immediately.

Prospective borrowers must decide between an adjustable interest rate or a fixed one. Fixed interest rates are only available to borrowers who receive the principal in one lump sum.

Borrowers preferring monthly payments or a line of credit will face an adjustable rate loan. In deciding which is the better type of rate, borrowers should seriously consider just how

much money is really needed, keeping in mind that the interest will accrue over time. With a fixed-rate interest rate, the likelihood is that borrowers will pay more over the life of the loan.

Reverse mortgage loans also require borrowers to pay high up-front costs. The origination fee alone can be up to \$6,000.

Additionally, closing costs will apply and a mortgage insurance premium (MIP) typically costing two percent of the home value. MIPs prevent borrowers from ever owing more than the home is worth.

The federal Truth-in-Lending Act requires lenders to make a full disclosure on the total annual cost of loans (TALC). Knowing a lender's TALC will provide consumers the ability to comparison shop and factually determine the better loan.

Once the loan is closed, reverse mortgage borrowers access the monies in one of

three ways: a lump sum, monthly payments or a line of credit that is tapped on an 'as needed' basis.

Borrowers should also be aware that following closing on a reverse mortgage, they are allowed three business days to cancel the loan. Only written cancellations are accepted and may take the form of a letter, fax, or telegram.

Many consumer advocates urge such borrowers to hand deliver the written notification within the allotted time. Should the cancellation be mailed or faxed, it should be done before midnight of the third business day.

But make no mistake. This transaction is a loan and must be repaid. Once the borrower passes or is no longer in the home, the reverse mortgage is due.

The loan must be paid in full along with all applicable interest and any fees deferred from the front end of the loan. In the event of a borrower's death, any be-

quests involving the property will represent what is still remaining after the loan is fully paid.

In many instances, it is not financially feasible for heirs to repay the loan and retain the dwelling. As a result, these heirs will be forced to sell the home.

In sum, reverse mortgages can be a helpful tool for cash-poor and home equity-rich older Americans. However, they should be used only after careful consideration of each borrower's circumstances and alternative options.

Anyone considering a reverse mortgage would be well-advised to first seek advice from a HUD-certified housing counselor.

These counselors typically provide advice without cost. Independent counseling before closing is a requirement for any HUD-insured reverse mortgage. To review a list of certified counselors by state, visit the HUD web at hud.gov.

Before contacting a

lender, prospective borrowers are advised to gain a clear and full understanding of the loan's rights and responsibilities.

Since a reverse mortgage is a complex financial product that can signifi-

cantly impact the senior's ability to pass down their home to the next generation, many older homeowners may want to discuss their options with trusted family members or friends.

UNCF, continued from Page 6

dren's education. The credit crunch still keeps private student loans off the market. And students still come up short of the funds they need to cover tuition and room and board balances.

Individuals, corporations and foundations can help thousands of students finish this academic year by contributing to the Campaign For Essential Student Aid. Many companies match their employees' donations, doubling the support for these deserving college seniors. Other companies, like ExxonMobil,

the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Lowe's—have given CESA challenge grants—donations that UNCF matches, again effectively doubling the donation. All of them help a graduating senior complete the final year of their college education.

To help keep kids in college, send a donation today. Send your gift to the UNCF office at 501 Elm Street, Suite 700, Dallas, TX 75202 or call 972-234-1007.

For more information visit www.uncf.org and click on Campaign for Essential Student Aid.

THE UN-COMFORT ZONE: Keeping The Ball Rolling

BY ROBERT EVANS WILSON, JR.
NDG SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

I know an advertising agency owner who never fully takes a vacation. He takes his family to fairly exotic locations, but never so alien that they are outside the reach of modern communication.

In other words, he is never further than a cell phone call or email away. He checks in with the office several times a day – much to the chagrin of his family who want him to be fully engaged in the holiday at hand.

So, he ends up sneaking off under the guise of visiting the restroom, or going to the bar for a cocktail, in order to connect with his staff, a client or a prospect. His wife and kids aren't fooled; they just sigh and accept the inevitable.

I used to think he was a control freak – someone who couldn't let go and let someone else take over – until I came to understand the concept of Momentum.

In science, Momentum is equal to Mass times Velocity. Or just think of Indiana Jones in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* running as fast as he can out of the tunnel while that huge stone ball rolls faster and faster after him.

In business, Momentum

is the point at which success begins to come easily. Business veterans jokingly refer to it as having, "paid my dues."

The best thing about Momentum is that once you get it, motivation becomes self-perpetuating

In short, Momentum is an accumulation of acquired knowledge, skill, experience and connections. And, those who understand it... also know it can be fragile and easily lost.

Sales professionals who have achieved Momentum will tell you that you must pursue a number of activities to generate sales leads: phone calls, emails, sales letters, networking events, etc.

You keep it up building dozens, then hundreds of leads at a time. Then to convert those leads to sales you keep following up on each of them in a timely fashion.

Meanwhile, you are still maintaining all the activities that continue to generate leads. So between generating leads, following up on leads, then turning leads into sales, you begin to feel like the guy in the circus

who spins plates on top of poles – rushing from one plate to the next to keep them spinning.

Years ago when I first started giving speeches, a seasoned professional speaker advised me, "It took me ten years to quit sweating cash flow, but even so, it is still all about non-stop marketing." In other words: maintaining Momentum.

For a growing company, Momentum is the point where you have done enough advertising, marketing, public relations, networking, customer service, and so forth that business begins to flow.

It is the point where you

See ZONE, Page 15



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TWC program helps employers cut hiring costs, puts Texans back to work

(NDG Wire) Texas Back to Work has surpassed a milestone by helping more than 5,000 individuals secure employment to date, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) announced today. Funded by the Texas Legislature and supported by Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, the initiative provides up to \$2,000 in wage subsidies to Texas employers per qualified new-hire employee. Qualified individuals include those who are currently receiving or have received Unemployment Insurance benefits within the last year.

"I'm pleased to see this innovative new program helping so many Texans get back to work," said Lt. Gov. Dewhurst. "Texas Back to

Work is not only providing job opportunities, income and training for thousands of newly hired employees; it's also helping small businesses, growing our economy, and saving Texas taxpayers money in the process."

To date, 5,184 individuals have secured jobs with 1,511 employers who have received wage subsidies for hiring qualified out-of-work Texans.

"Texas Back to Work is one tool in TWC's arsenal to help qualified Texans re-enter the workforce," said TWC Chairman Tom Pauken. Employers can sign up for Texas Back to Work by contacting their local workforce development boards. Local contact

information is available at www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/txbck2work/txbck2work.html. TWC's 28 local workforce development boards provide employers with workforce recruitment assistance, pre-screening of qualified applicants and training programs. More than 1.8 million customers were served in more than 240 workforce centers across Texas last year.

Employers also are encouraged to take advantage of WorkInTexas.com, TWC's online job matching website where more than 250,000 employers already are registered to post job openings and find great employees. Visit WorkInTexas at www.twc.state.tx.us/jobs/job.html

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Jump start your business at CCBCC workshop

(NDG Wire) Business owners who are unsure what it takes to succeed are invited to attend the Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce workshop on September 25 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The workshop will be held at Reel Thing Catfish in Allen.

Monica Cornetti will lead the workshop and help

business owners consider the key question what does their business offer that the market wants. Also, they will examine if their marketing efforts are effective.

Guests are asked to RSVP by Saturday, September 18 by calling Shelia Jones at 469-424-0120 or via email at sjones@ejesinc.com.

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September 19

Join us with speaker Rev.
Marian Rabb at 11 a.m. At-
tire for ladies is pink and
black and at 3 p.m. Pastor
Regina Burrell from Praise
Temple Evangelistic Church
in Desoto, TX. Attire for
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Sister Tarpley

"And he said unto Him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? Is it not in that goest with us? So shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth. And the Lord said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thy hast found grace in My sight, and I know thee by name." Exodus 33:15-17

The Holy Scripture tells us that Moses was in the middle of his journey through the wilderness, leading the people of Israel out of Egypt when he spoke to God and God spoke to him in verses 15-17. The people had just sinned (**Exodus Chapters 32 and 33**) by worshiping the golden calf. Moses interceded for them and God spared them their lives. Moses then talked one on one with the Lord. He knew he could not lead this stubborn people without God's presence. He had come to realize that without God's presence, he could not do anything. (Have you, as a Christian, come to realize that impor-

Unless the Lord Goes With Us

tant fact?)

Moses did not want to move farther without the assurance that God was moving with him. He knew it was a life and death situation. He sought the Lord with his whole heart on this one matter.

The question is a good one to ask God for yourself. If Christians are to be effective in anything they do for the Lord, the Lord must be in the midst of it. Unless the Lord's power is seen among believers in Christ, they will be just another person who has religion. Unless they manifest His life to others, they will see only good behavior that is easily counterfeited by moral people. Moving out in presumption will end in failure and frustration.

Ask the Lord today to assure you of His presence and power in your activities. Then you will be assured that you will be distinguished among all the other people on the face of the earth. As Christians we must be self-controlled and fully alert because our enemy, Satan, seeks to devour us. Diligently seek to be under the Holy Spirit's control for there are dangers around you. Know that if you draw near to God, Satan will flee from you, but only for a while, that's

why you must seek God daily.

Christians past can be a hindrance or a help in helping them to seeking the assurance that God is with them; that they have found grace in His sight and that He knows their names. For some, the past has meant pain and heartache, and grace is required so that they do not let their past dictate their responses to the future. If Christians allow their past to make them a victim, then they have not entered into the grace that God has for them. If Christians live on memories of past successes and fail to seek God's

grace, they again are victims of their past.

Christians past should only be viewed for what they can learn from it. They must move forward and avoid viewing the negative or the positive for more than what they can learn. Many have allowed their past to dictate their future. God is always about doing new things in their lives. He gives fresh revelation of His purposes in their lives. Do not live in the past. Do not hold onto bitterness that may hinder God from doing new and exciting things in your life. He turns our wastelands into streams of water to



Young Miss Tyanna Donnise Lott with her Uncle Jarrell and Aunt Cleo Spann Tarpley at her grandmother's birthday dinner.

give life, not death. Ask God for help to serve Him with a wholehearted devotion, a pure heart and a will-

ing mind so that the Lord goes with you, that you find grace in His sight and that He knows you by name.

ZONE, continued from Page 13

are garnering the precious and often elusive word-of-mouth referrals. Momentum is about building a reputation. Acquiring it, however, doesn't mean you can taper off on your efforts... but it does mean that your efforts will become easier.

The best thing about Momentum is that once you get it, motivation becomes self-perpetuating. Momentum is energizing. It keeps you on your toes. And, the rewards come quickly and regularly.

I have found this to true

in all pursuits. Even when I am writing fiction there is always a certain point in a novel that it takes on a life of its own and demands my daily attention, energy and focus until it is complete.

Unfortunately, nothing quite puts the brakes on Momentum like finishing a book, or completing any other major task. The trick to avoid losing that Momentum is to begin another book or another task before you complete the first one.

Then you just shift your energy over to the

next project that is already under way.

Robert Evans Wilson, Jr. is a motivational speaker and humorist. He works with companies that want to be more competi-

tive and with people who want to think like innovators. For more information on Robert's programs visit www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com.



Ramon Hodridge, Minister


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Neighborhoods networking event September 18

(NDG Wire) Citizens are invited to join the Neighborhood Advisory Commission and the City of Carrollton Community Services for a Neighborhoods Networking Event for Involved Neighbors from 8:45 a.m. to noon on Saturday, September 18 at Crosby Recreation Center (1610 E. Crosby Road). The Commission and the City are coming together to create community within neighborhoods.

The event will host vari-

ous speakers as well as provide the opportunity for citizens to build people-to-people connections between neighbors, neighborhoods and commissioners for the Neighborhood Advisory Commission. Neighborhood leaders will share successes in their own neighborhoods, followed by roundtable discussions among participants.

Topics and Speakers: Communications - Gary Wooley, President, Oak Hills ACORN; Crime Watch

- Cynthia Gonzales, Crime Watch Chair, Savoy of Josey Ranch; Fundraising - Susan Campbell, Board Member, The Whitlock Warriors; and Neighborhood Beautification - Marilyn Roppolo, Beautification Chair, Savoy of Josey Ranch.

Share what is working in your neighborhood and enjoy a lively idea exchange. For more information, call Community Development at 972-466-4299.

TEXT, continued from Page 11

male.

Not surprisingly, teens text the most, sending or receiving an amazing 2,779 SMS messages a month. In the next two age brackets, text usage falls by more than half each time, with those aged 18-24 sending or receiving 1,299 messages and those aged 25-34 exchanging an average of 592 messages.

While the text usage varies greatly between those 18-24 and those 25-34, their voice usage is quite close (981 voice min-

utes for 18-24 and 952 minutes a month for those 25-34 years old.)

Location plays into usage patterns as well. Southerners are the most talkative, but while Florida ranks high in terms of monthly voice minutes

used, it ranks very low for text messaging (the state has one of the highest median ages and older Americans text the least.) Mississippi, interestingly enough, ranks high for both talking and texting.

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