

# North Dallas Gazette



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## New voice offers radical solutions to the violence in the Black community

(NDG Wire) When a shooting incident involving one African American killing another makes headline news, the politicians, community activists, religious leaders and the community itself expresses outrage. All these voices

repeat the same old chants -"We must stop the violence", "We need more police", or "Parents have to take control over their children."

This outrage usually lasts about a week to ten days at best. Then the issue

suddenly drops from the consciousness of the mainstream news media. The weight of the problem reverts back to the community to handle.

The discouraging fact is the community is not equipped to effectively

deal with the issue without strong leadership from within the community. This void of community leadership, according to Malik Green, author of *The Black-Print - Black America's Blueprint for Achiev-*

See **COMMUNITY**, Page 12

## Called to service: NSERL to double as polling place

Research lab to host University's first ballot station amid Collin County test

(NDG Wire) A university location known for experiments will soon be the site of a voter turnout experiment.

The Natural Science and Engineering Research Laboratory (NSERL) will be the first polling location on The University of Texas at Dallas campus, and will

be open to all registered voters in Collin County.

Collin County is one of only four Texas counties testing a new way for voters to participate in the electoral process through the Vote Center concept. On Nov. 3, during a statewide Special Election, registered Collin County

voters may vote at any of the 57 designated polling places in the county. Just as early voting allows registered voters to cast ballots at any polling place before election day, the pilot program works in the same way for the Tuesday, Nov. 3 Special Election. The Vote Center pilot is spon-

sored by the Texas Legislature.

"It doesn't matter where you choose to vote. Your ballot will be there," said Sharon Rowe, Collin County elections administrator.

The effort to bring vot-

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## The Boneyard delivers frights - even at your home



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Dinosaurs return to Dallas this week

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

## More than just a pink ribbon

BY JULIANNE MALVEAUX (NNPA) October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. If you flew Delta Airlines this month, you saw flight attendants with pink t-shirts, pink uniforms and the ever-present pink ribbons.

riod to raise money for breast cancer awareness. There are billboards and public service announcements about breast cancer awareness.

Why? Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among women, after lung cancer. African-American women are more likely than white women to die from breast cancer at every age. Although black women are

A number of department stores have breast cancer awareness "sales" or passes, with dollars raised being donated to breast cancer research. In Washington, D.C., women walked 60 miles over a 3-day pe-

See **RIBBON**, Page 4



Rev. B.R. Daniels

## St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church 130th Church Anniversary Celebration

(NDG Wire) During November, St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in McKinney will celebrate our 130th anniversary. Under the leadership of Senior Pastor Charles S. Wattley, they will rejoice with the theme, "Seeking God's Face

Through Prayer, Praise and Worship." The church has chosen II Chronicles 7:14 for the scriptural focus of the anniversary celebration.

The church has been, and continues to be, blessed with a community of people whose hearts, minds and

hands have blended under the leadership of God and have created what they know lovingly as St. Mark Baptist Church, aka "The Mark."

In just an instant of reflection, it is easy to see that they have so much for which

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## People In The News...



Billy Webb



William (Bill) Velasco



Mayisha Akbar

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## Billy Webb

BY KAYLA TUCKER ADAMS  
NDG SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

A self-taught Chef, Billy Webb, has been cooking up incredible dishes for more than twenty years. His career in the food industry began with a job as a cook at Church's Chicken. Billy worked for Church's Chicken for fourteen years and worked his way up through the ranks into management, and then as a restaurant inspector, traveling the country making sure that the chicken chain's restaurants were up to par.

Billy Webb's career in restaurant management led him to Washington, DC, which is where he met his friend and mentor, Chef Patrick Clark, who inspired him to become a chef.

"Patrick Clark was such a dynamic chef that he was chosen to be President Clinton's White House chef," said Webb. "However, he declined the position and became the Executive Chef at New York's famed, Tavern on the Green."

Today, many years after perfecting his culinary



skills, Billy Webb is the executive chef at OPIO Restaurant at the Hilton Dallas Park Cities Hotel

and has won many awards and acclaim for his creative genius with food. Most recently, he was featured as a celebrity chef at the State Fair of Texas.

Billy Webb is not just renowned for his gifted performance in the kitchen, but he is also known for the generosity that he has shown for the smallest citizens of Dallas...babies.

For the past 14 years,

Billy Webb has been selected as a "Signature Chef" for the March of Dimes Signature Chefs Auction. "March of Dimes is my favorite charity," said Webb. "I got involved with March of Dimes because my brother had polio at an early age and the March of Dimes was there for my family."

Billy Webb will once again participate in the March of Dimes Signature Chefs event on November 5 at the Fairmont Hotel. He is the only African-American chef participating in the event, and promises that this year's guests will be in for a real treat. "I'm still

working on my signature dish for the event, but the guests will love it," he said, "And I am working on a one-of-a-kind auction package, which will be linked to the African American Museum, for the lucky winner!"

You can join Billy Webb, Kent Rathbun, and 18 other dynamic chefs at the 2009 March of Dimes Signature Chefs Auction, presented by Comerica Bank. For more information, call the March of Dimes Dallas Division at 972-669-3463, or visit [www.marchofdimes.com/texas](http://www.marchofdimes.com/texas).

## William (Bill) Velasco

(NDG Wire) Dallas businessman William (Bill) Velasco is the new chairman of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Board of Directors. Velasco has served on the board, representing the City of Dallas since 2001.

He is the owner of Velasco Tax and Insurance of Dallas and most recently served the board as vice chair of the Administration, Audit, and Revenue com-

mittees and many others.

Active in the community, he is past president of La Calle Diez Community Corp., a founding member of the Winnetka Heights Historical District and the Oak Cliff Development Corp. He is a past member of the Board of Directors of Dallas CAN! Academy and is currently on the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

He has also served as a

building committee member at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church; and Community Advisor Committee member at Sunset High School. He is a member of the National Association for the Self-Employed, National Association of Public Accountants and National Association of Tax Practitioners

Velasco is a graduate of Texas A & M University in College Station.

Board members also elected Irving member John Danish vice chair, Dallas

member Scott Carlson secretary and Plano member Loretta Ellerbe assistant secretary. Officers serve one-year terms.

Danish was appointed to the DART Board in 2005. An attorney in private practice, Danish is a former Irving City Councilman, deputy mayor pro tem, and former chairman of the Irving Planning and Zoning Commission. He holds an undergraduate degree from Wheaton College in Illinois and a law degree from Southern Methodist Uni-

versity.

Carlson was appointed to the board in 2003. He is an attorney in private practice and currently serves as chair of the Operations committee of the board. He has served as chair of a number of other committees during his DART tenure. He holds a B.S. in civil engineering from Texas Tech University and a law degree from Southern Methodist University.

Ellerbe was appointed in 2008 by the Plano City Council. A former member



of the Plano City Council, she is a member of the Administrative, Ethics, Operations and Revenue committees

## Mayisha Akbar

(NDG Wire) Mayisha Akbar was born Elaine Hook in Torrance, California on Oct 22, 1952, to the proud parents Louis C. Hook (Coweta, Oklahoma) and Anna Maude Harris (Rosedale, Louisiana). She was raised in the government housing projects in a partially rural area of Los Angeles called Harbor City.



Animals were a passion as long as her mother can remember. "Each day, I would look out the window to see what animal she was bringing home today. Elaine wasn't afraid of animals. The sick were her favorite and would nurse them back to health." While exploring her community as a child, Elaine found she had a special relationship with horses. This love followed her into adulthood.

Education was very important in the Hook household and Akbar excelled academically. Adventurous and full of life, she enjoyed participating in school activities and made local news as the first Black cheerleader and homecoming princess at Narbonne High School, a predominately

white school. Receiving a state academic scholarship gave her the opportunity to attend Loyola Marymount University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Education.

Akbar originally planned to teach after graduation from Loyola, but the real estate boom of the 70's abruptly changed her plans and instead a successful career as a real estate agent.

Akbar discovered little known agricultural area of Compton, California known as Richland Farms. Given the cowboy flavor of the Richland Farms community, Akbar's childhood attachment to horses made it a real gem of a find for her. In particular, facing the challenges of being a recent divorcee, she became very excited about giving her three children the opportu-

nity to experiences of living on a farm with horses and other animals.

As her children ventured out and made friends, they became pied pipers to the many "latch key" children encountered. She discovered the children were often in need of a place to go, food, clothing and family love. So on any given weekend, the Akbar home became a place for youth to meet, sleepover, and enjoy equestrian activities, among other fun events.

It was amazing to Akbar that night after night of sleepovers would go by and none of the parents of these new friends would ever show up. Instead of kicking the kids out, Akbar's kids told their friends that "there's lots of work around here and if you wanna stay and continue to ride you gotta help take care of the

horses!"

As the number of kids staying, working and riding grew, Akbar learned many

were not in school, and those in school were not

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## DNA testing: today's get-out-of-jail card

BY GARY L. FLOWERS

(NNPA) Last week, United States Attorney General Eric Holder directed the United States Department of Justice to review a Bush Administration policy virtually excluding DNA testing from defendants in federal cases.

In addition, the U.S. Attorney General favors the expanded use of DNA testing in federal courts. In 2004, the Innocence Protection Act of 2004 was enacted by the United States Congress to ensure greater protections under law for the wrongfully convicted.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Act nearly intact; however, the U.S. Senate conjured up a catch—waivers to DNA tests that could provide exonerating evidence by defendants in consideration for lesser sentences. In response to the Innocence Protection Act, the Bush Administration via, U.S. Attorneys' offices, required some defendants to waive their right to DNA testing, despite such a right provided for by the Act.

Although waivers were only filed in cases where guilty pleas were entered, the plausibility of coerced con-

fessions of guilt or cases where defendants pled guilty to charges in exchange for lesser prison sentences were not considered. The process was politicized.

The most diabolical aspect of the policy was that defendants who filed DNA waivers were barred from ever asking for DNA tests, notwithstanding the existence of exculpatory evidence in such tests. In other words, a defendant was forced to waive science for a softer sentence, even in cases where their innocence existed. Seriously?

The use of DNA evidence became widely used around 2003 and has had a dramatic affect on exonerating innocent people wrongly convicted of crimes. For example, following the conviction last year of high-ranking police officers in Chicago or coercing confessions through torturing the accused, several people have been released from prison as DNA evidence was admitted and exonerated them from the crimes they were forced to admit.

However, the full effect of DNA testing in federal courts is yet to be witnessed.

So far, 243 people in the United States have been exonerated by DNA evidence (25 percent of which gave false confessions, and 16 of that number pled guilty). Seventeen wrongly convicted people have been exonerated. All 243 who have been exonerated have been in state cases. In fact, 97 percent of federal convictions arise from guilty pleas, thereby eliminating the use of DNA tests.

Most federal court districts have enacted legislation allowing inmates to request DNA testing, and the majority of cases permit petitions, post guilty pleas.

Some high-volume federal districts such as the District of Columbia, Manhattan, New York, and Alexandria, Virginia, commonly use waivers. Twenty-four U.S. Attorneys do not use waivers at all. However, help is on the way.

The DNA process will soon expand to include biological data. Currently, DNA data does not reveal whether the DNA sample originated in semen, blood or other tissue. The improvements in science are way overdue for the wrongly convicted—dis-

proportionately African Americans and Latinos.

In 2009, the inmate population in the United States is over 2 million, with nearly 75 percent ethnically Black or Brown.

In the board game Monopoly a "Get-Out-of-Jail Card" is won on the chance the player rolls the dice and lands on the appropriate box on the board. The reality for defendants of being wrongfully convicted due to poverty, poor legal representation or overly ambitious prosecutors should not depend on a "roll of the dice," nor is it appropriate that so many are jailed for so little evidence. The playing field for the falsely accused and convicted should be leveled so that scientific evidence is available in order to ensure the nation's promise of liberty and justice for all.

Today, science in the form of DNA testing provides a genetic "Get-Out-of-Jail Card," or better still: a "Not-Go-to-Jail Card." I love the proper use of science for just public policy!

*Gary L. Flowers executive director & CEO of the Black Leadership Forum, Inc.*

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## Insurers argue for public option

BY DEAN BAKER,  
TRUTHOUT | OP-ED  
NDG SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

The insurance industry trade association issued a study last week emphasizing the need for a strong Medicare-type public plan if insurance is to be affordable. The study predicted the plans being debated by Congress would lead insurers to raise their prices by an additional 18 percent over the next decade. This would put the cost of an average family plan at \$25,900 in 2019.

There were several important flaws in the industry's study. For example, it assumed that a tax on more expensive insurance plans would not affect the number of people taking out

these plans; they would just see the tax reflected in higher premiums. This led the study to substantially overstate costs since many employers would obviously shift to less expensive plans in order to avoid the tax.

The study also did not take account of the government subsidies included in all plans currently being considered by Congress. Depending on the final version, the subsidies could pick up a substantial portion of costs for families with incomes three or even four times the poverty level.

But we can take the basic point of the industry's study as accurate. If we do not have the option of a good public plan, then we can expect to pay lots of

money to buy insurance.

A strong public plan will have lower costs for two reasons. First, administrative costs in the public sector are far lower than for private insurers. We know this because the administrative costs for the Medicare program are 2-3 percent of payouts to providers each year. By contrast, administrative costs for private insurers average more than 15 percent of payments to providers. Even when adjustments are made for the fact that Medicare patients have higher costs on average (and, therefore, raise the denominator) there is still a gap of more than 7 percentage points.

There are several reasons why public plans have

lower costs. They do not spend as much money marketing themselves, they don't have to pay dividends to shareholders and they do not have executives earning tens of millions of dollars a year. The high pay for the top executives in the health insurance industry comes directly out of the premiums paid by the rest of us. No one in the public sector earns even \$300,000 a year. By contrast, this sum would be just a few days pay for some of the top executives in the insurance industry.

The difference in administrative costs implies substantial savings - close to \$1,500 a year on an average family policy in 2019. But this is just one of the

See OPTION, Page 12

# Questions you should ask before you get the swine flu vaccine

BY ELAINA GEORGE, MD  
NDG SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

With the H1N1 swine flu virus vaccine becoming available this month, there is a big push to vaccinate as many people as possible. However, whether or not you decide to take the vaccine, there are important questions you should ask your doctor or other health practitioner to make sure it is the right choice for you and your family.

## 1. Does the vaccine contain additives such as mercury or squaline?

Additives called adju-

vants like mercury (thimerisol) are added to inhibit bacterial contamination. However, some studies have implicated mercury as a cause of autism and squaline as a cause of neurological damage respectively.

## 2. How can I avoid getting a vaccine that contains mercury?

Ask to receive your vaccine from a single dose vial. Unlike the multiple dose vials which contain thimerisol, the single dose vials do not contain that additive.

## 3. Will getting the vaccine

## completely protect me from getting the swine flu?

The vaccine comes in two forms - a nasal form and an injectable form. The nasal form contains live virus that has been altered (attenuated) to be less infectious. The injectable form is made from a killed form of the virus. Because there is an increased risk of actual infection, the live (attenuated) virus should not be given to individuals with compromised immune systems such as pregnant women, HIV patients, those on chemotherapy or chil-

dren.

## 4. Is the swine flu more dangerous than the seasonal flu?

Since the outbreak of the flu this past spring, over 74 countries have documented cases of the H1N1 virus. There have been approximately 345,000 cases worldwide with 4,100 deaths. Conversely, there are approximately 40,000 deaths due to the seasonal flu each year in the US. Statistics continue to suggest that the H1N1 virus is not as deadly as has been purported. To date it has been a relatively

mild and self-limited infection in both adults and children.

## 5. What are the risks and benefits of taking the vaccine?

The mortality rate is largely associated with pneumonia caused by secondary bacterial infections. In fact, secondary bacterial pneumonia was the main cause of death in the influenza pandemic of 1918. It is important to weigh the risks associated with the potential side effects of the vaccine vs the vaccine's inability to protect from the

more deadly complication of bacterial pneumonia.

*Dr. Elaina George is Board certified Otolaryngologist who started Peachtree ENT Center with a mission to practice state of the art medicine that is available to everyone. She graduated from Princeton University with a degree in Biology. Her training included general surgery at Lenox Hill Hospital, pediatric ENT at The NY-Presbyterian Hospital, and head and neck oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.*

## Local schools to celebrate national Red Ribbon Week

(NDG Wire) Continentals Societies, Inc. will join others across the country to raise awareness about drugs and encourage healthy choices as they celebrate National Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31, 2009.

Red Ribbon Week was established by Congress in 1988 to commemorate the work of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent, who

was murdered in the line of duty and has come to represent the belief that one person CAN make a difference in the fight against drugs. The Red Ribbon campaign promotes this belief and encourages a drug-free lifestyle and involvement in drug prevention efforts.

This year's theme, "Freedom is...Drug Free," helps create awareness of the drug problems facing every com-

munity; to develop parent and community teams to combat alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

The Dallas Chapter of Continentals Societies, Inc. is partnering with McShan Elementary School. The celebration will kick off on Monday, October 26 at 8 a.m., the students, teachers and Continentals will recite a pledge and sign a drug free pledge card.

Judith Nix, Dallas Chapter, Vice President states, "Red Ribbon Week alone cannot solve our state's drug problems, but it can raise awareness and encourage participation in drug-free activities. Red Ribbon Week is one tool in a comprehensive continuum of prevention activities, and provides an excellent starting point for implementation of community-based prevention efforts."

## Plano firefighters care enough to wear pink

(NDG Wire) Plano firefighters will be showing their support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month by wearing pink t-shirts on their shift work days October 25, 26 and 27.

The t-shirts are provided by the International Association of Firefighters Local 2149 as part of the "Cares Enough to Wear

Pink" campaign, which was adopted by resolution at the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters.

Throughout October, t-shirts are also available for purchase by contacting the Plano IAFF Local 2149 at 214-537-9459.

Money from the sales of t-shirts will go toward cancer-related charities.

## RIBBON, continued from Page 1

less likely to have breast cancer after 40, we are more likely to have breast cancer before 40. Since many health plans don't suggest or even allow a mammogram before 40, many young black women go undiagnosed with breast cancer too long, which increases their likelihood of dying from breast cancer.

One of my personal heroes is a woman named Zora Brown. She started a group, Rise, Sister, Rise, to educate African-American women about breast cancer. A 20-year survivor of breast cancer, Zora has authored books, produced television programs and been a valuable resource concerning breast cancer awareness and education.

She lived in Washington, D.C., decades before she relocated to Oklahoma City, where she continues to work on health care issues. There are far too few Zora Browns

in our world - agitators in the African-American community around health care issues.

While I appreciate people wearing pink ribbons to raise awareness about breast cancer, we need to do a lot more than just wear ribbons. We need to ensure that women, especially young black women, are doing everything they can to take care of their bodies.

Most doctors will show women how to check their breasts for lumps, which is an important way to detect cancer possibilities early. Mammograms aren't painless, and some of us avoid them, but they are an important way to detect cancers and to ensure breast health.

Concern about breast cancer ought also to be concern about health care. Indeed, while breast cancer is a leading cause of death among women, more women die

from heart attacks than breast cancer. An amazing number of Americans do not get annual checkups, often because they simply cannot afford them.

How many of the people wearing pink ribbons are also opposing health care reform, as proposed by President Obama?

How many who say they oppose a public role in health care want to keep their Medicare benefits? There is a lot of hypocrisy in this health care reform debate. It makes no sense to wear a pink ribbon without acknowledging health care as a basic human right.

We in these United States are experts at awareness. December 1 is World AIDS Day, and attention then will be focused on HIV and AIDS. Easter Seals campaigns have us focusing on people with disabilities. We raise awareness about polio, diabetes

and any number of other illnesses, and perhaps that is a good thing. But awareness does not equal treatment. Awareness does not equal access to health care.

I wish we had ribbons to wear for health care reform. Maybe they should be green ribbons, as some of the interests opposing health care reform are moneyed interests. Or maybe they should be black ribbons for the number of folk who die because they don't have access to health care. Maybe there shouldn't be ribbons at all, maybe armbands. Mostly, there should be action, not just awareness.

The pink ribbons are better than nothing. They recognize the need for women to be more health-aware, and the challenges that young African American women face around breast health and the early diagnosis of breast cancer.

But it would be interest-

ing to ask some of the pink-ribbon wearers where they stand on health care reform. On that question, we need people to do a lot more than

just wear ribbons.

*Julianne Malveaux is President of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, N.C.*

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# Texas Association of Business announces 2009 Distinguished Business Leader in Education

## CEO of Texans Can! recognized for success in educating at-risk youth

(NDG Wire) The Dallas chapter of the Texas Association of Business (TAB) announced last week Richard Marquez, President and CEO of Texans Can!, will be honored as the 2009 Distinguished Business Leader in Education at a November 12 luncheon.

For 12 years, TAB has recognized Texas business executives who exhibit strong leadership skills, promote ethical business practices and contribute to

the local community with the Distinguished Business Leader Award. Past recipients are Dick Cheney, Herb Kelleher, Ebby Halliday, Norm Brinker, Robert Dedman Sr., Earl Nye, Ray Hunt, H. Ross Perot, Raymond Nasher, Boone Pickens, Paul Bass and Carl Sewell. Marquez is the first to be honored in the field of Education.

Marquez has been CEO and president of Texans Can! since 2007. He has

dedicated his professional life to education. He is a change agent in the education of at-risk and disadvantaged youth.

Prior to Texans Can! he was appointed as a special adviser to the United States Secretary of Education; was a superintendent for a South Texas school district; served as an area superintendent for Dallas ISD; and was a principal and middle-school teacher. An educator at heart, Marquez still thinks



of himself as a teacher.

His record of success as

an inspirational educator and business acumen places him in an elite class of Dallas educators. He has the skills to operate his schools like a business and pay attention to the bottom line, while making sure the students are receiving the attention and tools they need to earn their high school diplomas, said TAB's Dallas chapter chair Billie Meador.

"TAB is proud to honor him with this year's Distinguished Business Leader in Education Award," Meador added.

The Distinguished Business Leader in Education Award luncheon will be held at the Renaissance Hotel Dallas, 2222 Stemmons Freeway, on Thursday, November 12 at noon. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. For ticket information contact Monna Miller at 214-868-8468 or visit [www.TxBiz.org/TexansCan](http://www.TxBiz.org/TexansCan).

## DA's Office & Dallas Police Department work together to exonerate two men convicted of 1997 murder and file charges against new suspects

(NDG Wire) The Dallas County District Attorney's (DA) Office announced today that a joint investigation between the Dallas Police Department's (DPD) Cold Case Unit and the Conviction Integrity Unit of the District Attorney's Office has resulted in an arrest and capital murder charge against Don Michael Anderson, 40, for the 1997 capital murder of victim Alfonso Aguilar. A co-actor in the murder, Alonzo Hardy, 49, has also been identified through the joint investigation. Hardy has been in custody since 1999 and is currently serving a 30-year sentence in the Texas Department of Crimi-

nal Justice for an unrelated aggravated robbery which he committed approximately one year after the murder.

The arrest and charges clear the way for the anticipated exoneration of two previously convicted men who have consistently maintained their innocence. The joint investigation by DPD and the DA's office, has established that Claude Alvin Simmons, Jr., 54, and Christopher Shun Scott, 39, were both wrongly convicted of the capital murder of Alfonso Aguilar. The two men were tried in back-to-back trials in October 1997.

"The hard work and cooperation between DPD and

the District Attorney's office have made this possible," said Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins. "This is a huge step forward for justice. Two innocent men will be exonerated for capital murder and the two guilty parties are finally being brought to justice. DPD and its Cold Case Unit are to be commended for their willingness to take a fresh look at what had been a closed case."

The facts of the case reveal that in the early morning hours on April 7, 1997, two men entered a Dallas residence and robbed and fatally shot the victim, Mr. Alfonso Aguilar. The victim's cause

of death was a gun shot wound to the chest.

The reinvestigation of the case revealed that both Anderson and Hardy had been mentioned as suspects during the early stages of the original investigation of the offense and that defense attorneys attempted to present evidence at one of the 1997 trials that Anderson had in fact confessed to the offense. The trial judge would not allow the jury to hear the evidence.

The reinvestigation includes an extensive confession by Hardy, detailing his and Anderson's role in the offense. His detailed statement, likewise exonerates Simmons and Scott. Hardy's statement

is corroborated by physical evidence collected at the original crime scene as well as by other witnesses. Hardy has also passed a polygraph.

After the DA's Conviction Integrity Unit advised that other persons were claiming responsibility for this offense the Dallas Police Department's Cold Case Squad immediately reopened the investigation in order to reexamine the facts of the case. Our purpose was to ex-

amine all the evidence in order to make an independent judgment on the validity of the original investigation, or determine the identity of the true offenders. Dallas Police Chief David Kunkle stated "The Conviction Integrity Unit has done an excellent job in reviewing cases and working to ensure justice was done. We share their passion in protecting the integrity of

See SUSPECTS Page 16

## AKBAR, continued from Page 2

doing well. So Akbar told them, "If you want to continue to ride you've got to be in school and getting good grades. If there's a problem, we'll get you tutoring."

Akbar soon realized there was a real need in the community for alternatives to the gang and drug lifestyle facing the children, especially boys, in their community.

Over time, the growing number of youth in Mayisha's backyard past-time, affectionately known as the Jr. Posse, resulted in the decision to formalize into the nonprofit organization called the "Compton Jr. Posse Youth Equestrian Program."

This program allows children to learn the value of hard work, team work and competition. Many op-

portunities are offered to youth through the program, including training and apprenticeships with international trainers, including Olympic gold medalists. With Olympic hopefuls in their midst, the Compton Jr. Posse formed the first inner-city high school team in Los Angeles in 2009.

Akbar has touched the lives of children through her program, and is respon-

sible for many of them attending college, serving in the military or becoming entrepreneurs. For her contributions, Akbar will be a National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum 2009 Hall of Fame Inductee during their weekend of celebration in Ft. Worth November 6-7.

For more information, visit [www.cowboysofcolor.org](http://www.cowboysofcolor.org).

**3 Sister's Beauty Supply**  
See OPTION Page 16



3 Sister's Beauty Supply offers a unique shopping experience.

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# Texas Challenge Academy accepting applications

(NDG Wire) Texas Challenge Academy, an education program of the Texas National Guard, gives youth 16 to 19 years old who have dropped out, or are in danger

of dropping out of high school, a second chance at success.

This quasi-military high school focuses on helping cadets recapture high school

credits, earn their GED, or, in some cases, earn their high school diploma. It is a 17-month program with five and half months of residential training in Sheffield, Texas,

and 12 months of mentoring in their home community. The program is sponsored by the state and federal governments, and there is no cost to the family.

There are two classes each year – one beginning in July and the other in January. Applications are now being taken for the January class. There is great demand for

this program, so applications should be received as soon as possible.

Applications can be downloaded from [www.ngycp.org/state/tx](http://www.ngycp.org/state/tx).

## Plano East theatre director takes center stage as Texas Educator of Year

(NDG Wire) Lisa Hale was in the first grade when she got the bug for acting...and teaching. It was then that she saw the movie *The Sound of Music*. After memorizing each character's lines, she acted out all parts of the musical, enlisting her brother as co-star and her dolls as the audience.

"I even taught the dolls and graded them in a gradebook," she confessed. It was then that the young director realized her lifelong passions for acting and teaching.

Now, after a successful 27-year career in education, Hale has been "graded" by her peers in the Texas Edu-

cational Theatre Association who have awarded her 2009 High School Educator of the Year.

In *The Sound of Music*, a few of Maria's favorite things were raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens. On Hale's stage however, social injustice, moral dilemmas and gender differences are a few of the topics that her student actors have tackled.

An example was the recent production of *EAT, It's Not About Food*. In a highly relevant, informational and at times lighthearted way, the Plano East Theatre cast uncovered the dangerous and baffling world of eating disorders affecting both

boys and girls. Performances were free and open to the public and included audience talk back with local medical experts on eating disorders.

"It's important to me that we look at the world through other people's eyes," explained Hale, who has spent the past 24 years as theatre teacher and director at Plano East. "My goal is to instill a love and respect for the art and craft of theatre. I hope to inspire students to explore their creativity, discover their talents and realize the boundless possibilities of individual and group expression."

Hale also wants to train students to be the audiences

of tomorrow by giving them a passion and enthusiasm for live theatre. "There is an immediacy in live theatre that you cannot capture on film," she said. "Although it's become hard to compete with the film industry and its special computer effects, theatre has the 'live' moment, a 'You had to be there,' quality that can never be replicated on film. You can see the same play every night and it might feel different because of actor / audience chemistry."

Effervescent and sentimental all at once, Hale beams when recollecting former students. Among the hundreds of students she has taught, her former stu-

dents who are now theatre teachers hold a special place in Hale's heart. Two of her former students teach theatre in Frisco ISD, one in Greenville and another in

San Antonio. "My greatest reward would be to meet one of them at contest and they'd beat us. I'd be SO happy!"

## Six facts about the American Opportunity Tax Credit

(NDG Wire) Many parents and college students can offset the cost of college over the next two years under the new American Opportunity Tax Credit. This tax credit is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Here are six important facts the IRS wants you to know about the new American Opportunity Tax Credit:

1. This credit, which expands and renames the existing Hope Credit, can be claimed for qualified tuition

and related expenses that you pay for higher education in 2009 and 2010. Qualified tuition and related expenses include tuition, related fees, books and other required course materials.

2. The credit is equal to 100 percent of the first \$2,000 spent and 25 percent of the next \$2,000, per student each year. Therefore, the full \$2,500 credit may be available to a taxpayer who pays \$4,000 or more in qualifying expenses for an eligible student.

3. The full credit is gen-

erally available to eligible taxpayers who make less than \$80,000 or \$160,000 for married couples filing a joint return. The credit is gradually reduced, however, for taxpayers with incomes above these levels.

4. Forty percent of the credit is refundable, so even those who owe no tax can get up to \$1,000 of the credit for each eligible student as cash back.

5. The credit can be claimed for qualified expenses paid for any of the first four years of post-sec-

ondary education.

6. You cannot claim the tuition and fees tax deduction in the same year that you claim the American Opportunity Tax Credit or the Lifetime Learning Credit. You must choose to either take the credit or the deduction, which ever is more beneficial for you.

Complete details on the American Opportunity Tax Credit and other key tax provisions of the Recovery Act are available at the official IRS Web site at [IRS.gov/Recovery](http://IRS.gov/Recovery).

## Central Park Campus plays host to VNA exhibit

(NDG Wire) The Visiting Nurse Association of Texas is celebrating its 75th anniversary with an exhibit at the Collin College Central Park Campus through Sunday, Nov. 15.

Located at the Consumer Health Information Center in the Central Park Campus library, the exhibit

will include large-format photos, newspaper clippings, memorabilia and more, showcasing the years of dedication and expansion of the association.

The organization was started during the Great Depression when Lillian Beckett and a small group of nurses went into the poorest

areas around Dallas providing care.

As the metroplex expanded, so did the association. It opened several branch offices, including the McKinney location, which opened in 1979.

The Central Park Campus is located at 2200 W. University Drive in McKin-

ney.

Its hours are Monday-Thursday, 7:45 a.m.-9:45 p.m.; Friday, 7:45 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

For more information call 972-548-6860, e-mail [cpclibrary@ccc.edu](mailto:cpclibrary@ccc.edu) or [www.ccc.edu/library](http://www.ccc.edu/library).

## COLLEGE CORNER

### Beacon Partners Healthcare IT Scholarship

This program, established to advance the field of Healthcare Information Technology, is awarded to a student pursuing a degree (Undergraduate, Masters or Ph.D) in the IT Healthcare field.

In addition to the scholarship award, the winner will also receive an all-expense paid trip to the Annual HIMSS Conference and Exhibition.

The applicant must be a member in good standing of HIMSS. The primary occupation of the applicant at the time the scholarship is awarded must be that of a full-time student enrolled

in an accredited undergraduate, Masters or PhD program related to the healthcare information management systems field.

The specific degree program is not a critical factor. However, students enrolled in a MIS or Healthcare Administration-like programs are highly preferred. Undergraduate applicants must be at least a first-term junior when the scholarship is awarded.

#### Deadline:

October 31, 2009

**Award Amount:** \$7,000

#### Website:

[www.himss.org/foundation/schlr\\_Beacon.asp](http://www.himss.org/foundation/schlr_Beacon.asp)

<p><b>\$65 Traffic Ticket Defense</b> <b>CRIMINAL CASES</b> Misdemeanor DWI • Felony Juvenile Law Suspended Driver's License <b>CAR ACCIDENTS</b> Personal Injury 18 Wheeler Accidents</p> <p><small>* If you qualify fees quoted above are Minimum Down payment needed to begin processing your case.</small></p>	<p><b>\$99 *DIVORCE</b> Custody Battles   Paternity Tests   Child Support Name Change <b>LAW SUITS</b> Medical Malpractice Discrimination Civil Litigations Sexual Harassment <b>IMMIGRATION LAW</b> Phones answered until 10pm Open Saturday &amp; Sunday! <b>214-631-4330</b> 2710 N. Stemmons Fwy. #1100 Dallas, TX 75207 Law Office of Clement Umeakuana, P.C.</p>
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# Professor receives renowned poetry award



**R. Flowers Rivera**  
Photo by Nick Young/  
Collin College.

(NDG Wire) A Collin College English professor recently took home a prestigious award from the Taos Summer Writers' Conference.

R. Flowers Rivera, of McKinney, was awarded the 2009 Leo Love Merit Scholarship in Poetry. She also gave a featured reading and studied with Valerie Martínez, Poet Laureate of Sante Fe, New Mexico.

The Leo Love Scholar-

ship, which is open to registered participants of the Taos Summer Writers' Conference, provides tuition for a weeklong workshop.

Rivera's poetry and fiction have been published nationally. Her short story *The Iron Bars* won the 1999 Peregrine Prize. Rivera was a finalist in 2002 for both the Naomi Long Madgett Award and the Akron Poetry Prize and

a two-time nominee for the Pushcart Prize.

Rivera earned a doctorate in African-American Literature and Creative Writing from Binghamton University, a Master of Arts

from Hollins University and a Master of Science from Georgia State University.

The Taos Writers' Conference is one of the nation's premier writing workshops offered for and

by writers. It attracts attendees from all over the world.

For more information visit [www.unm.edu/taosconf/](http://www.unm.edu/taosconf/).

## Grossology: The (Impolite) Science of the Human Body open in Frisco

(NDG Wire) Sci Tech Discovery Center is open and everyone is totally grossed out! A whirlwind of planning, countless volunteer hours, wet paint and educators preparing exhibits defines the last few weeks at Sci-Tech Discovery Center.

They proudly opened their doors of their new permanent home in Frisco to more than 200 guests (despite the rain and traffic) at their VIP Grand Opening Party on Thursday, October 2.

Visitors received not only a sneak preview of Sci-Tech, but they also were the first to interact with the inaugural exhibit, Grossology: The (Impolite) Science of the Human Body.

The First Family of Frisco, Mayor Maher Maso and his wife Val, who also served as Honorary Chairs, joined President of Sci-Tech Byron Williams and celebrity emcee's Gene and Julie from KVIL's New Lite FM Gene and Julie Show for an evening of drinks, complete with floating "eyeballs," and appetizers, while getting gross with the exhibit's many stations that explain the not so polite interworkings of the human body.

During the remarks Mayor Maso shared the vision for Frisco's museum district and the ongoing commitment to education

where Sci-Tech will play a role in inspiring children to become scientists, engineers, educators and innovators.

Guests also got a sneak peek of the Rube Goldberg machine designed by University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) mechanical engineering students that performed the official ribbon cutting at Sci-Tech on Saturday, October 4 at noon.

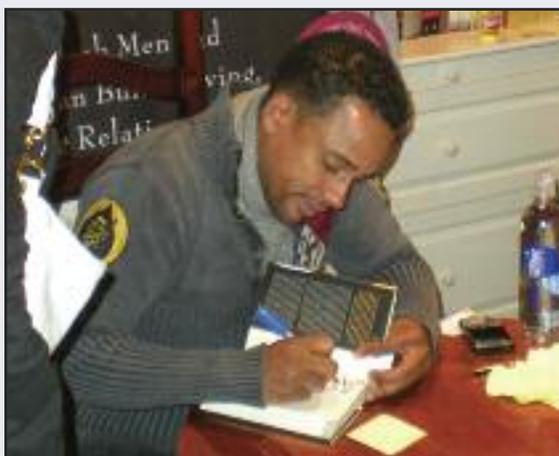
Saturday brought a beautiful morning of sunshine as city leaders and science enthusiasts gathered to celebrate the official public opening of Sci-Tech Discovery Center. City of Frisco innovators George Purefoy, Ron Anderson and Mayor Maso were presented with official Sci

Tech lab coats and named honorary scientists of Frisco. The crowd waited anxiously as the UTD mechanical engineering students set off a Rube Goldberg machine that eventually led to the ribbon cutting using a simulated battle ax. Nothing plain and boring at Sci Tech!

The children were greeted by Nigel Nose it All and had a blast learning about snot, sounds and more snot!

Grossology will be open Tuesday - Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.; Sunday: 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.; closed Mondays. Ticket prices are \$6.50 for ages 3 and up, children 2 and under are Free.

## Entertainer and author visits Dallas



*CSI:NY* and best selling author **Hill Harper** visited Plano during a recent book tour. Photo by Stephanie Ward.

## National Finals Rodeo

**Largest Multicultural Rodeo in the Country**  
Come see the best ethnic cowboys and cowgirls in the country compete for cash prizes while cultural entertainers tell the forgotten stories of our Western heritage. Enjoy Wild Horse Races, Buffalo Soldiers, Tennessee Walking Horses, Pony Express Relays, Escaramuzas and the audience favorite Bull Riding along with other traditional rodeo events.

**Date:** Saturday, October 24th

**Time:** Doors Open 6:30 p.m.  
Rodeo Starts 8 p.m.

**Where:** Mesquite Championship Resistol Arena

**Other:** For Tickets call 972-285-8777

Box Seats \$30; Grandstand Reserve \$14  
Presell and Group Tickets Available

**Entertainment:** Richmond Punch Jazz Quartet



## Special Friday Night VIP Party - Living Legends Western Gala Dinner and Dance

6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Friday, October 23rd

McWhorter-Greenhaw Historic Building  
Old Town Mesquite • 105 S. Broad Street  
(1 mile east of Rodeo Arena)

Mexican Dinner, Guitar Appraisals, Old & New Friends, Create Fancy Cowboy Hats, Take Photos with Living Legends, Enjoy Dessert and Dancing

\$60 per person

Limited Seating

Reserve your seat today

214-929-6884



**Ongoing**

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

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

**Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce: Monthly Lunch & Learn** - Every third Thursday \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm at El Fenix Restaurant, 3450 S. Central Expressway, McKinney. Info: 469-424-0120.

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

**No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch** 1st Thursday at 1 pm in Plano Must RSVP at [www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com](http://www.TheNoLimitNetwork.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 Freeway, Suite 140, Dallas. \$20 for members; \$35 for non-members, \$5 off for early bird registration. See <http://nbweng.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).

**Thru October 24**

**My Sister in This House** presented by Wingspan Theater Company at The Bath House Cultural Center on White Rock Lake, 521 East Lawther Drive, Dallas. Tickets \$15-20, Info: 214-675-6573, [wingspan@wingspantheatre.com](mailto:wingspan@wingspantheatre.com), or [www.wingspantheatre.com](http://www.wingspantheatre.com)

**Thru October 25**

**The George Washington Carver: An Extraordinary Man With A Mighty Vision** Exhibit at The African American Museum, 3536 Grand Avenue, Historic Fair Park, Dallas, 214-565-9026, \$5 Adults, \$2 Children [www.aamdallas.org](http://www.aamdallas.org)

**Thru November 29**

**35th Annual Texas Renaissance Festival** at 21778 Fm 1774 Plantersville, TX, Info at [www.texrenfest.com](http://www.texrenfest.com) 800-458-3435

**Thru December 4**

**Adriatic First Fridays Art Walk** 6-9 p.m. Adriatic Merchants Association presents First Fridays at Adriatica (McKinney). Art walk, live music, sidewalk sales, free food samplings. Admission is FREE. Every 1st Friday on Virginia Pkwy. 972-540-2739.

**October 22**

**Humanitarian Hands Foundation** will host its fund-raising gala entitled *Life Is* at 7 p.m., Renaissance Dallas Hotel at 2222 Stemmons Freeway. Info: [www.humanitarianhands-foundation.com](http://www.humanitarianhands-foundation.com) or Mary Christopher 972.331.6098.

**The Holocaust in Contemporary Consciousness, Culture and Curriculum** 7:00 p.m. at the Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record Street, Suite 100, Dallas.

**Metroplex Technology Business Council** hosting **Brown Bag Lunch** Topic: *Making the Web Work for You*. 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at 411 Belle Grove Drive, Richardson. Fee: \$5.00, bring your lunch, beverages provided [www.metroplexitbc.org/Events/Brown-Bag-Luncheon.aspx](http://www.metroplexitbc.org/Events/Brown-Bag-Luncheon.aspx)

**Geriatric Wellness Center of Collin County 30th Anniversary Bash Luncheon** from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. \$40 per person. Info: 972-941-7335 or [www.gwccc.org](http://www.gwccc.org).

**October 24-25**

**Star Wars Fan Days III** runs 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25 at the Plano Center, 2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy. in Plano, Texas. Admission is \$15 Saturday and \$10 Sunday, with free admission for children ages 12 and under when accompanied by an adult. Speed passes and VIP passes also are available and may be pre-ordered online. Parking is free.

**October 24**

**Collin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 10th Anniversary Gala** at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel & Conference Center, 705 Central Expressway South, in Allen at 7 p.m. \$90 for a single ticket, \$150 for two and \$720 for a table for eight. Info: [www.cchchamber.org](http://www.cchchamber.org) or 972-548-2608.

**Sisterspeak Luncheon** at the Omni Dallas Hotel at Park West 1590 LBJ Freeway, Dallas. Noon - 3 p.m. Register for this FREE event: [EBONYJET.com](http://EBONYJET.com) or (800) 530-9636.

**National Finals Rodeo** - Doors Open at 6:30 p.m., Rodeo at 8 p.m. at the Mesquite Championship Resistol Arena, I-635 LBJ Fwy. at Military Pkwy. The largest multicultural rodeo in the

country celebrates Cowboys and Cowgirls of all colors including Buffalo Soldiers, Ceremonial Dancers, and Pony Express Relays educate about Western heritage. Tickets \$30 Box Seats; \$14 Grandstand Reserved; Call for details: 972-285-8777

**NAACP Irving Branch Freedom Fund Luncheon**, 11:30 a.m., DFW Wyndam Hotel North, 4441 Esters Rd. @ Hwy 114.

**City of Garland - NAACP Garland Branch Fair Housing Expo**, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Garland NAACP Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., at Garland Women's Center 713 Austin Street @ Glenbrook. Agenda includes an overview of the GISD School Desegregation Court Order and job opportunities with the Internal Revenue Service.

**Business Basics for Entrepreneurs**, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Christian Chapel 14120 Noel Rd. Dallas, \$45.00.

Hamilton Park United Methodist is hosting their annual **Health and Wellness Fair** from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at 11881 Schroeder Road in Dallas. The event is free and open to the public. Info: call 972-235-4633 ext. 7.

**Scare-On-the-Square** 7:00 p.m. - 10:00pm. Stories begin on the Courthouse-on-the-Square lawn and are free to the public. These family friendly stories last until 8:00pm. The Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum is located in the historic Denton County Courthouse at 110 W. Hickory in Denton, TX.

**October 27**

**Jobing.com Career Expo** Will Rogers Coliseum,

3401 W. Lancaster, Ft. Worth, noon - 5 pm

**Carrollton Wind Symphony** will perform the "Sounds of October" at St. Andrew United Methodist Church (5801 W. Plano Pkwy, Plano). The concert is free and will begin at 7 p.m. Info: [carrollton-windsymphony.com](http://carrollton-windsymphony.com).

**October 29**

**Love and Logic®: Practical Solutions to Today's Most Common Teaching Challenges** 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Plano Centre. Info: cost is \$99, 800-338-4065, [loveandlogic.com](http://loveandlogic.com). October 31

**Free North Texas Kids Family Expo** at Plano Centre, Info: 972-516-9070, [www.northtexaskids.com](http://www.northtexaskids.com)

**October 30-31**

**Woman to Woman Conference** - 3000 Women in Pink at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center, 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine. \$139.00 includes hotel room, breakfast, lunch, workshops and conference materials. Register at: [www.woman2womanctcc.com](http://www.woman2womanctcc.com)

**October 30 - November 1 "Haunting and Healing"** Event at the Famously Haunted Adolphus Hotel in Dallas at 1320 Commerce Street, Dallas. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$30 each at the door. Seating is limited, so register early. Register online at [www.hauntingandhealing.com](http://www.hauntingandhealing.com) or (520) 399-1969.

**October 31, November 21, December 12**

Connemar Conservancy is hosting a **Habitat Walk**, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Info: 214-351-0990 or [www.connemaraconservancy.org](http://www.connemaraconservancy.org)

**November 1 4th Annual Business**

**Expo**, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Christian Chapel CME Church, 14120 Noel, Dallas. Admission is free. Info: Lynne Poole at 214-679-2072, [lynnconstantconnection@verizon.net](mailto:lynnconstantconnection@verizon.net).

**November 6**

**Dallas/Fort Worth Breast Cancer 3-Day Opening Ceremony 6:30 a.m.** at Plano Centre, Info: 800.996.3DAY (3329), [www.The3Day.org](http://www.The3Day.org).

**November 6-7**

National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum in Fort Worth, will host its annual **Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Week-end of Activities**. For more info: [www.cowboysofcolor.org](http://www.cowboysofcolor.org), 817-922-9999 or [info@cowboysofcolor.org](mailto:info@cowboysofcolor.org).

**November 10**

Plano ISD Board hosting **Isaacs Early Childhood School dedication ceremony** at 7:00 p.m., located at 3400 East Parker Road in Plano (Parker Road and San Gabriel Drive).

**November 14**

**Jazz Series** at Bishop Arts Theater Center featuring Jeff Lorber.

The Methodist Richardson Medical Center Foundation presents the **Yellow & Black Tie Gala** benefitting Methodist Richardson Cancer Center at the Marriott at Legacy Town Center Plano. Info: [www.yellowandblacktiegala.com](http://www.yellowandblacktiegala.com) or 972-498-7678.

**Toilet Trade-In Program** 9:30 a.m. to noon at Home Depot at Firewheel, 3261 North George Bush Highway, Garland.

**November 19-22**

**Curious George** swings onto the stage at the Nokia Theatre at Grand Prairie. Tickets are on sale now and start at just \$16.

Sponsored By:



**Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community**

# The Boneyard delivers frights – even at your home

BY RUTH FERGUSON  
NDG EDITOR

Some may be surprised that Halloween is second only to Christmas in terms of spending and sixth in overall holiday spending, according to the National Retail Federation. The jack-o-lanterns, candy and costumes appear on store shelves after Labor Day, contributing to the high volume of sales.

But Dan Hall, creator of The Boneyard Haunted House in Arlington, isn't surprised. He said costumes bring back childhood memories for many, "Halloween is the only time of the year that everyone lets their guard down."

Even with a weakened economy, Hall is not expecting a significant drop in attendance or on Halloween related spending. The Boneyard staff works closely with Halloween stores nationwide, and Hall said early polling indicates spending is right on track with last year.

And for Halloween decorators, Hall has a few tips for spending wisely. He suggests you first determine your target audience.

"Do you want little kids coming up to your front door to get candy? Then we still want to keep it fairly well lit and safe. So buy a blue or green light bulb, which will

totally change the visual mood for just \$2," Hall said.

For more mood and atmosphere, Hall recommends searching online for free Halloween music to download. "Or, for nine dollars, you can purchase a CD with 25 tracks of spooky sounds, and set it up through speakers," he added.

Although dry ice is hard to get, Hall said you can buy an ultra sonic water fogger at dollar stores.

And, of course, Hall thinks the Boneyard is good value, considering everything that goes into making it the world's largest haunted house and DFW's top rated dark amusement park. Hall said they maintain their reputation by attention to detail and year-round preparation.

For lovers of a Halloween scare, limited lighting in the parking lot sets the eerie mood. And the experience just gets better with Boneyard's blend of high-tech effects and good old-fashioned blood and guts scare tactics. The Boneyard has new scenes, animatronics and movie quality props.

18 year-old Cheridie, of Dallas, said the Boneyard is exciting. After her recent visit, she said, "As the night went on it kept getting better and better." She added that she screamed throughout the

show because actors popped out unexpectedly. Cheridie said she and her friends loved the maze, but they wondered if they would ever find their way out.

Hall said his customers' expectations expand with the advancement of technology. Although it's harder to impress guests, Hall said his team revels in the challenge. "Our customers are so much more sophisticated, making it harder to impress guests," said Hall.

But as the technology advances, so do the possibilities for Hall's team. He said they use transparent technology. "The customers are not really aware of the technology, they are focused on the experience," said Hall.

The Boneyard, which opened in 1998, has developed a loyal following. Hall said there are annual visitors who travel from Oklahoma and Louisiana. He said they arrive on Friday and attend three consecutive nights. "That means a lot to me," Hall said.

The facility also accommodates corporate and private events, such as team building staff retreats and company Halloween parties. Amenities include catering and multimedia capabilities, making it suitable for corporate board meetings.

And in his pursuit of the perfect Halloween park, Hall said his staff has already started on 2010. "We have started on 2010 now - we try and get the 2009 show put to bed in August," said Hall.

The program experience is re-examined each year to identify areas for updating. "Certain elements we retain, like the zombies, but we will change their location." Changes are also made during the season if needed.

As a leader in the haunted house business, Hall hosts an open haunted house every June for operators around the country, with workshops.

Although Hall wants as many people as possible to visit the Boneyard, he said it isn't designed for children under the age of 14, and especially not small children. "With the level we operate on, we do not recommend bringing small children because it is pretty intense," said Hall.

Starting Thursday, October 22 through November 1, the Boneyard is open nightly 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Sunday - Thursday, and until midnight Fridays and Saturdays The Boneyard Haunted House is located at 360 and Division in Arlington. For tickets and information, visit [www.theboneyard.org](http://www.theboneyard.org).

## Tricks and Tips for a Safe Halloween



(NDG Wire) Trick-or-treating, wearing costumes, and carving pumpkins are all part of the Halloween fun for kids of all ages. However, many of these activities also offer potential for injury, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) suggests that Halloween-goers take the following steps to stay safe.

Ill-fitting masks and costumes, as well as walking in unfamiliar areas in the dark, can lead to fractures, dislocations, sprains, contusions, abrasions and head trauma from trips and falls.

"When children get excited about a holiday that involves candy, they may be less cautious than usual," says orthopaedic surgeon Charles Blitzer, MD, spokesperson for the AAOS. "Also, Halloween tends to encourage unruly behavior, so parents and other caregivers need to be especially vigilant to ensure that kids follow basic safety guidelines whether they are pumpkin carving or trick-or-treating."

The AAOS offers the following tips to help ensure an injury-free Halloween:

### Pumpkin-carving

- When carving pumpkins, use specifically designed carving knives, no kitchen knives.
- Carving knives are less likely to get stuck in the thick pumpkin tissue. (Injuries can occur when a carver tries to yank the stuck knife out.)
- Adults carving pumpkins should remember to always cut in small, controlled strokes, away from themselves.

- Any moisture on the tools, hands, or table can cause the knife to slip, leading to injuries.

Should an individual cut a fingertip or hand while carving pumpkins, elevate the hand above the heart and apply direct pressure to the wound with a clean cloth to stop the bleeding.

If continuous pressure does not slow or stop the bleeding after 15 minutes an emergency room visit may be necessary.

### Costumes

- Halloween costumes should be light and bright, so children are clearly visible to motorists and other pedestrians.
- Trim costumes and bags with reflective tape.
- Make sure children wear flame-resistant costumes that fit properly.
- Children should wear sturdy, comfortable and slip-resistant shoes.
- Masks and hats can impair a child's vision, so secure hats well and consider using face makeup instead of masks.

### Trick-or-Treating

- When trick-or-treating, children should stay in familiar neighborhoods and be accompanied by an adult at all times.
- Children must walk on sidewalks and never cut across yards or driveways.
- Trick-or-treaters should only approach houses that are well lit.
- Both children and parents should carry flashlights to see and be seen.
- Examine all treats for tampering or other unsafe conditions before allowing the children to eat them.

## Local churches offer celebration alternatives

Local churches offer alternatives to traditional Halloween celebrations

Not everyone agrees with the messages and traditions associated with Halloween. Churches and other community groups across the metroplex offer programs and events children and parents can enjoy together. A few include:

**Books for Treats at both Carrollton Public Library locations** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31.

Children ages 12 and under are invited to wear Halloween costumes to ei-

ther the Josey Ranch Library (1700 Keller Springs Rd.) or the Hebron and Josey Library (4220 N. Josey Ln) and pick out a free book, while supplies last.

**Christian Carnival at St. Mark Baptist Church** (601 Rowlett Road, Garland 972-240-6674). For over thirty years on October 31, St. Mark Baptist Church has offered games and food for members and children in the community.

This year's carnival starts at 4:30 p.m. with outdoor games and activities, before moving in-

doors at 6:30 p.m.

**Halloween Fall Fun Fest at St. Mark Baptist Church** (1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney, visit [www.saintmarkbc.com](http://www.saintmarkbc.com) for more details) 972-542-6178.

**Word of Life Church of God in Christ will host their Hallelujah Night** for the entire family. They will have Food, Fun and great Fellowship.

There will be a costume contest: 1st prize winner will get \$50.00, the 2nd place winner will get \$25.00 and the 3rd place winner will get

\$15.00. Costume characters should be role models from the Bible: Angels, Moses, Ruth, warriors, etc.

There will be games, songs and a solo by Artist Lina, a former Atlantic & Hidden Beach Recording Artist. 2765 Trinity Mills Road, Suite 305, Carrollton, 214-514-9147

If your church or community organization is offering a similar program, email details to [editor@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:editor@northdallasgazette.com), and we will feature them in our October 29 issue.

## National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum announces 2009 hall of fame induction ceremony weekend activities

(NDG Wire) The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum in Fort Worth, will host its annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Weekend of Activities November 6-November 7, 2009.

The weekend line up begins, November 6 at 6:00 p.m., with a Hall of Fame Weekend Sponsor VIP Reception at the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum, located at 3400 Mount Vernon Ave.. VIPs from the sponsors of the 2009 Hall of Fame Weekend, the 2009 inductees, alumni and invited symposium presenters will gather to network, greet event attendees and enjoy good food and conversation. The reception is open to the public. For tickets to

attend, RSVP the museum's business office by November 2 at 817-922-9999.

The weekend continues on November 7 with the "Forgotten Cowboys" Western Heritage Symposium scheduled for 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum. During the symposium, museum guests will attend a series of western heritage sessions, in which they will learn about a proud heritage, learn to embrace diversity and tolerance, and encounter new role models. Western heritage historians and guest speakers will share their knowledge of the complete history of the settlement of the western United States.

During each session

museum guests will be presented with the stories of the under-represented persons who significantly contributed to the development of the American Western Frontier.

The sessions will consist of oral presentations by western heritage historians and guest speakers, the viewing of historic photographs and artifacts as well as opportunities for museum guests to interact with the speakers, test their knowledge of history and win prizes. Museum guests are also invited to tour the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum free of charge during the symposium.

The symposium is free of charge and open to the public. However, pre-regis-



**Ben F. Tahmahkera**

tration is requested. Students, educators, adult groups, youth groups and families are all encouraged to attend. Box lunches will be available for purchase (\$8.00), or feel free to bring a "brown bag." To register for the event, contact the staff of the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum at 817-922-9999 or at [info@cowboysof-](mailto:info@cowboysof-color.org)

[color.org](http://color.org). Free parking is available.

The weekend activities conclude on Saturday evening with the 2009 Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet, beginning with a reception for the honorees at 6:00 p.m., and followed by the Induction Ceremony and Banquet at 7:00 p.m., at the Sheraton Fort Worth Hotel & Spa.

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony salutes outstanding pioneers who contributed to the settling of the early American Western Frontier and acknowledges individuals who continue to be trailblazers committed to the legacy of western culture.

The 2009 Hall of Fame Inductees will include May-

isha Akbar, Alex Dees, Dean Smith and Ben F. Tahmahkera. 2009 posthumous inductions include Calvin Greely, Jr., Henry Harris, Isaac Burns Murphy and Albino Tais. The museum's notable hall of fame alumni include Bill Pickett, Quanah Parker, Jerry Diaz, Bass Reeves, Red Steagall and Cathay Williams.

For additional information about the 2009 Hall of Fame Inductees and other members of the museum's hall of fame, visit the website at [www.cowboysof-color.org](http://www.cowboysof-color.org).

Tickets to attend the induction ceremony and banquet are available through the museum's business office at 817-922-9999 or email [info@cowboysof-color.org](mailto:info@cowboysof-color.org).

## Dinosaurs return to Dallas this week

(NDG Wire) Dinosaurs return to the earth in a live theatrical arena show, *Walking With Dinosaurs – The Arena Spectacular*, based on the award-winning BBC Television Series.

*Walking With Dinosaurs* has sold out performances and broken records in arenas all over the America – generating \$100 million in ticket sales to date. It was the subject of a Discovery Channel Really Big Things episode.

*Walking With Dinosaurs – The Arena Spectacular* is brought to North America by The Creature Production Company, headed by CEO Carmen Pavlovic.

Pavlovic said, "The BBC Series was a brilliant blend of special effects, escapism, excitement and information. Our show brings together all of that, plus something extra - it's live! In this production, seventeen roaring, snarling "live" dinosaurs mesmerize the audience – and are as awe-inspiring as when they first walked on earth."

Pavlovic continued,

"The dinosaurs are life-size, making the show so immense, it could only fit in arenas. It's a \$20 million arena spectacle of unprecedented size and quality, which captivates young and old alike. With *Walking*



*With Dinosaurs*, we really believe we have created a new genre in entertainment, and we hope to continue to bring new products to arenas for years to come "

Ten species are represented from the entire 200 million-year reign of the dinosaurs. The show includes the Tyrannosaurus Rex, the terror of the ancient terrain, as well as the Plateosaurus and Liliiensternus from the Triassic period, the Stegosaurus and Allosaurus from the Jurassic period and

Torosaurus and Utahraptor from the awesome Cretaceous. The largest of them, the Brachiosaurus is 36 feet tall, and 56 feet from nose to tail. It took a team of 50 – including engineers, fabricators, skin makers, artists

and painters and animatronic experts – a year to build the original production.

The show depicts the dinosaurs' evolution, complete with the climatic and tectonic changes that took place, which led to the demise of many species. With almost cinematic realism, *Walking With Dinosaurs* has scenes of the interactions between dinosaurs, and the audience sees how carnivorous dinosaurs evolved to walk on two legs,

and how the herbivores fended off their more agile predators.

The history of the world is played out with the splitting of the earth's continents, and the transition from the arid desert of the Triassic period is given over to the lush green prairies and forces of the later Jurassic.

Oceans form, volcanoes erupt, a forest catches fire – all leading to the impact of the massive comet, which struck the earth and forced the extinction of the dinosaurs.

The *New York Times* said that dinosaurs are making "a thundering comeback after 65 million years." *Newsweek* called the show, "that rare entertainment beast that parents and kids can enjoy together." *Variety* said, *Walking With Dinosaurs* is a truly spectacular spectacular. The dinosaurs are stunning, life-size and faultlessly nimble."

The show is now on a North American arena tour and will perform eight per-

formances at American Airlines Center in Dallas. More than 2 million Americans have already seen the production since it opened in July 2007.

Tickets are on sale now at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com), all Ticketmaster outlets and the American Airlines Center Box Office. The per-

formance schedule continues Thursday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m., Friday, October 23 at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, October 24 at 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, October 25 at 1:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m. For more information visit [www.dinosaurlive.com](http://www.dinosaurlive.com).

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# Wingstop creates new executive role to support franchise growth

(NDG Wire) Wingstop, the nation's fastest growing chicken wing chain, has named current CFO Wes Jablonski as Chief Development Officer to support the company's rapid expansion plans over the next few years. In this newly-created position, Jablonski will oversee franchising, development and real estate for

the company.

"Creating the role of chief development officer better positions Wingstop for our next level of strategic growth," said James A. Flynn, president and CEO of Wingstop. "Wes spearheaded a national franchise program that resulted in Wingstop expanding to 650 restaurants open or in de-

velopment in 33 states. His expertise in franchising, real estate and finance coupled with his dedication to the Wingstop brand makes him the perfect candidate for this new role."

With more than 30 years of experience, Jablonski is a veteran of the restaurant and finance industries. He joined Wing-

stop in 2003 as executive vice president of business development, and transitioned into the role of CFO in 2006. Under his direction, Wingstop has steadily flourished into one of the top fast casual dining chains in the country and has experienced 24 consecutive quarters of positive comparable store sales. Jablonski

was recently named a finalist in the Dallas Business Journal's CFO of the Year Awards.

In his new role, Jablonski will be responsible for the overall growth of the franchise network, beginning with an aggressive expansion campaign targeting the Northeast. Additionally, he will focus on real estate

site selection and assist new franchisees through the franchise development process.

"Ninety-five percent of our system is owned and operated by franchisees," said Jablonski. "They are the backbone of Wingstop and I look forward to leading the effort to grow and develop this company through a strong franchise network."

## Smashburger sizzles into Addison in November

Dallas, Tx.-(October 20, 2009)-Smashburger, a fast-casual, "better burger" concept by Consumer Capital Partners (CCP) will open a Dallas-area store in conjunction with franchise partner, BIGG Capital Holdings. A fast-growing favorite of burger lovers nationwide, the Smashburger-BIGG Capital Holdings deal will bring 30 Smash-

burger stores to the Dallas area over the next five years.

Known for the cooking method used to create the perfect burger, Smashburgers start with a one-third or half-pound ball of 100-percent Angus beef-fresh, not frozen-smashed, seared and seasoned on a flat grill. To further the "better burger" experience, Smashburgers



are served on butter-toasted artisan buns and topped with a selection of real cheeses, the freshest produce and top-quality condiments.

Smashburger provides something for everyone. Along with its mouthwater-

ing burgers, the restaurant serves delicious Smashchicken sandwiches, Smashdogs, and Smashesalsads, with sides like veggie fries and rosemary and garlic-seasoned Smashfries. Diners can also enjoy Häagen-Dazs shakes, beer, wine and root beer floats with their meal.

Dallas diners can look forward to the introduction

of a Dallas menu that will cater to the prevailing tastes and local flavors of Dallas cuisine.

"Dallas diners have long been beef lovers," says Leonard Davis, BIGG Capital Holding creator. "It is exciting to have the opportunity to bring a solid burger concept built around uncompromising quality to my town. I know that it is

just a matter of time before Smashburger has a loyal local following."

"Dallas residents will love Smashburger's 'better burgers,'" says Smashburger Founder Tom Ryan. "Smashburger's success in other Texas cities allows us to expand confidently into Dallas and further our mission of becoming every city's favorite burger place."

## Microsoft unveils SharePoint Server 2010 and showcases new functionality

(NDG Wire) Microsoft Corp.'s SharePoint Conference, Microsoft Chief Executive Officer Steve Ballmer announced that the public beta of Microsoft SharePoint Server 2010 and Microsoft Office 2010 will become available in November, and revealed some of the new SharePoint Server 2010 capabilities for the first time.

"By taming the overflow of information across systems and technologies, SharePoint enables organizations to thrive," Ballmer said. "SharePoint 2010 is the biggest and most important release of SharePoint to date. When paired with Microsoft Office 2010, SharePoint 2010 will transform efficiency by connecting workers across a single collaboration platform for business."

SharePoint Server is one of the fastest-growing products in Microsoft's history, with over \$1.3 billion in revenue, representing

over a 20 percent growth over the past year. According to IDC, Microsoft attained a significant share of the collaborative content workspace market in 2008, and had the highest growth rate among top vendors with its Microsoft Office SharePoint Server.

During his keynote address, Ballmer talked broadly about SharePoint Server as a business collaboration platform and highlighted three key areas.

One was how organizations can respond quickly to business needs with an improved developer platform that makes it easier to build rich content and collaboration applications. Another topic was the enhanced Internet site capabilities that help businesses drive revenue and retain customers on a single platform. The third was the choice and flexibility between on-premises and cloud solutions. At the event, Microsoft showcased the

breadth of SharePoint Server 2010 that ranges from wikis to workflows, while Ballmer's keynote address highlighted features and capabilities such as these:

- A new ribbon user interface that makes end users more productive and customization of SharePoint sites easy
- Deep Office integration through social tagging, backstage integration and document life-cycle management
- Built-in support for rich media such as video, audio and Silverlight, making it easy to build dynamic Web sites
- New Web content management features with built-in accessibility through Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, multilingual support and one-click page layout, enabling anyone to access SharePoint Server sites
- New SharePoint tools in Microsoft Visual Studio

2010, giving developers a premier experience with the tools they know and trust

• Business Connectivity Services, which allow developers to connect capabilities to line-of-business data or Web services in SharePoint Server and the Office client

• Rich APIs and support for Silverlight, representational state transfer (REST) and Language-Integrated Query (LINQ), to help developers rapidly build applications on the SharePoint platform

• Enterprise features in SharePoint Online such as Excel Services and InfoPath Forms Services, which make it simple to use, share, secure and manage interactive forms across an organization

• The addition of two new SharePoint SKUs for Internet-facing sites, including an on-premises and hosted offer

"In today's economy, controlling costs and ex-

penses is essential," said David Glenn, director of Enterprise Operations at Del Monte Foods Co.

"However, we still have the requirement to make sure our employees, customers and partners can get the information they need where they are. SharePoint 2010 is going to allow us to do that more effectively."

Microsoft SharePoint 2010 is part of the next wave of Microsoft Office-related products, which includes Microsoft Office

2010, Microsoft Project 2010, Microsoft Exchange Server 2010 and Microsoft Visio 2010, that are designed to give people the best productivity experience across PCs, phones and browsers.

The public betas of Microsoft SharePoint Server 2010, Office 2010, Project 2010 and Visio 2010 will become available in November 2009; more information is available at <http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=9689707>.

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# Federal Trade Commission bans robocalls

BY GREG ABBOTT  
TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL

Prerecorded telemarketing calls for expiring car warranties, lower credit card rates and other solicitations have now been officially prohibited by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

Effective September 1, solicitors who use prerecorded commercial telemarketing calls commonly

known as robocalls face penalties of up to \$16,000 per call unless the telemarketer obtained written permission from call recipients in advance. The new requirement for written authorization is part of amendments to the FTC's Telemarketing Sales Rule (TSR).

Telephone calls delivering purely informational recorded messages, such as

airline flight cancellations or school district messages, are not prohibited. Since these calls do not attempt to interest recipients in the sale of any goods or services, they are not covered by the TSR.

Other types of calls are not covered by the TSR. For example, calls from financial institutions, political candidates, telephone carriers and most charitable or-

ganizations are not prohibited. Similarly, the new rules do not apply to health care messages or debt collection calls as long as the caller is not trying to sell something.

Telemarketing robocall messages by businesses covered by the TSR must tell call recipients how to opt-out of future calls at the start of the message, and provide an automated opt-out mechanism that is voice or key-

press-activated. Prerecorded messages left on answering machines also must provide a toll-free number that connects to this automated opt-out mechanism.

Texans who receive prerecorded telemarketing calls but have not agreed to get them should file a complaint with the FTC at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or by calling (888) 382-1222. Recipients may also file a complaint with

the Office of the Attorney General online at [www.texasattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov) or by calling (800) 252-8011.

Earlier this year, the Office of the Attorney General charged three telemarketing firms with participating in an unlawful scheme to sell car warranty service contracts. The companies harassed countless Texans with deceptive and abusive telemarketing calls.

## COMMUNITY, continued from Page 1

*ing Wealth, Prosperity and Respect* and founder of *Going-Beyond-The-Dream.org*, "has been the most significant reason for the perpetual violence in the African American community."

"The African American community is in desperate need of strong, fearless and intelligent leadership. African American mothers and fathers are shedding rivers of tears because they are losing their sons at an alarming rate. They deserve solutions and action, not rhetoric" says, Green.

This new voice offers interesting ideas regarding the health, wealth and

safety of the African American community. In light of the increase in black-on-black violence throughout the country, Green believes radical solutions are needed because whatever is being done now, is not working.

Green's book offers "unique, radical, and empowering concepts and strategies to subdue the forces that impede the development of many African American communities.

Green has launched a grassroots organization to begin the process of organizing young African Americans to address the challenges confronting African American communities

using the ideas offered in his book.

His organization *Going-Beyond-The-Dream* is recruiting young black men and women to join the fight. The battle is to eliminate, what he believes are the subtle, but destructive elements that contribute to the dysfunctional status of many African American communities. To get an idea of Green's perspective; below is an excerpt from his book:

"The majority of African Americans who live in predominately African American or low income neighborhoods are good, honest, and hardworking people. It

is the minority; the 20 to 30 percent of African Americans who inflict pain and suffering on the community.

This 20 to 30 percent are wrecking havoc on the community. The African American men who live in African American communities are culpable in this matter. Many of the African American men sit back and allow this 20 to 30 percent to control and destroy their communities.

By their inaction, they have in fact encouraged the minority to continue causing problems for the entire community.

Now is the time for real African American men to

stand up and protect their woman and children from those who would victimize or harm them -- whether the perpetrator is black, white, yellow or purple.

We, law-abiding African American men, need to rekindle the spirit of the men and women who formed the Black Panther Party. I mean this not in the sense of being militant in our approach to the government but in the sense of being bold warriors and protectors of our communities.

If we wish to have vibrant and prosperous communities we must begin with protecting the commu-

nity and banishing those who are unwilling to conduct themselves with personal honor and integrity."

Green addresses many other issues concerning the African American community and provides some very interesting concepts and specific strategies to remedy the most serious and destructive forces that perpetuate the marginalization of African Americans and the communities they live.

For more information or to contact Malik Green go to [www.going-beyond-the-dream.org](http://www.going-beyond-the-dream.org) or email him at [malik@going-beyond-the-dream.org](mailto:malik@going-beyond-the-dream.org).

## POLLING, continued from Page 1

ing locations to campus began in August 2007 as a student-driven initiative, when the Student Advisory Council included it in a submission of recommendations to The University of Texas System. Since then, Vice President for Public Affairs Amanda Rockow has worked with election officials in Collin County to bring a polling station to the

University.

In summer 2009 the Vote Center pilot program was presented to Collin County election officials, and they decided it was time to try voting at NSERL.

"I'm thrilled that our Collin County students and the surrounding community will have the opportunity to vote on the UT Dallas cam-

pus," said Rockow. "We are hopeful that NSERL will be a popular polling place on November 3 and that this relationship with Collin County will continue long into the future."

Collin County estimates that there are 499 eligible voters living on the UT Dallas campus. The Richardson campus is split between two counties: Collin County to

the north and Dallas County to the south. Students who live 200 feet north of Drive A live in Collin County and, if registered to vote in Collin County, are eligible to vote in Collin County elections; faculty and staff who reside in Collin County and are registered to vote there may also vote at NSERL. Dallas County poll locations are available at

their Web site. Students in doubt should consult their voter registration cards.

Technology is enabling Collin County voters to find polling places via the Internet or cell phone. Voters can search for a Vote Center on the County's election Web site, or from Oct. 31 through Election Day, Collin County will provide a text service which provides up to three

Vote Center addresses based on the zip code provided by users. Interested persons should sign up for election information emails to receive service instructions.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at NSERL and other locations across Collin County; visit the Collin County Election Information Website for more information.

## OPTION, continued from Page 3

sources of savings with a public plan.

The other reason that a public plan would have lower costs is that it could use its size to secure lower prices from providers. If the plan paid rates that were tied to Medicare re-

imbursement rates, it could shave 5-10 percent off the price of care. This would further reduce the cost of insurance to patients.

The industry obviously hates the idea of giving the public the option of getting lower cost care. This

would provide a direct threat to their profit margins. As it stands now, most states have highly concentrated insurance markets with two or three insurers having the bulk of the market. A strong public plan would provide real

competition. It would reduce the market share of private insurers and cut their profit margins. This would be a true disaster for the industry.

But the insurance industry has helped to put the stark choices directly in

front of us. We can either allow the industry to keep operating along its current lines, adding layers of needless bureaucracy to the health care system coupled with the bloated salaries that characterize the financial sector more

generally, or we can give people the option of buying into a lower cost public alternative.

As the insurance industry study reminds us, the choices are unaffordable health care or a public insurance option.

# FREE job search classes offered at Plano libraries

(NDG Wire) Plano Public Library System will offer two job search classes this month at Haggard and Schimelpfenig libraries.

A Job Seeker Seminar, presented by Plano Public Library Foundation, is offered on Tuesday, Oct. 27 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Road. Advanced job seeking strategies will be

presented, including effective networking, getting a resume beyond human resources screening, interview preparation, matching achievements to job requirements and maximum effectiveness of a resume.

A Job Search class is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Schimelpfenig Library, 5024 Custer Road. Job seek-

ers will learn of resources available online and in the library to find job openings, using e-mail to give a great first impression and tips on preparing for an interview.

Participants will also re-

ceive information about Tutor.com, a database available to library cardholders, which offers online real-time help with writing resumes and cover letters.

For more information,

visit [www.planolibrary.org](http://www.planolibrary.org), or call Schimelpfenig Library

at 972-769-4200 or Haggard Library at 972-769-4250.

## Texas unemployment rate remains well below national rate

(NDG Wire) The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly to 8.2 percent in September, up from 8.0 percent a month ago, and continued to trend well below the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 9.8 percent.

The Texas Civilian Labor Force continued to increase remaining above the mark of 12 million workers for the third consecutive month. Total non-agricultural employment in Texas fell by 44,700 positions in September.

"The Texas job market continued to tighten as most industries experienced job losses in September," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. "While unemployment in Texas remains well below the national rate of 9.8 percent, this serious national recession continues to affect us adversely in Texas."

Other Services, which include automotive, electronic, and commercial repair and maintenance, had the largest over-the-month gain adding 8,800 jobs. A total of 9,400 jobs have been added to the payrolls of Other Services since September 2008. Mining and Logging posted a gain for the first time this year, adding 2,100 jobs. Educa-

tion and Health Services employment growth remained positive in September with the addition of 2,700 jobs. Information employment grew by 800 jobs last month.

"The Texas labor force is growing as more people enter the job market, but job seekers are hampered by fewer jobs," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "TWC and our workforce boards located around the state remain committed to helping out-of-work Texans acquire skills and find jobs."

The largest job losses occurred in the Leisure and Hospitality industry which was down 16,900 positions, followed by Professional and Business Services, down 16,500 jobs. Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 13,000 positions in September.

"Job gains in Mining and Logging, Education and Health Services, and Other Services were offset by losses in most industries in September," said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. "To help connect workers with available jobs, staff at more than 240 workforce centers across the state is available to provide job-search assistance and other services."



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### PUBLIC NOTICE

**2008 - 2009 Comprehensive Annual Performance Evaluation Report For Community Development Activities in Allen**

The City of Allen is making the Comprehensive Annual Performance Evaluation Report available for public review and comment. The CAPER is a summary of accomplishments of the Community Development programs from the last year October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008.

A public hearing to provide an overview of the CAPER and last year's CDBG program will be held before the City Council on November 24, 2009. Copies of the draft CAPER are available for public review and comment at the following locations from October 29, 2009 through November 23, 2009.

- Allen City Hall, Planning and Development Dept. – 305 Century Parkway
- City of Allen Web Site – <http://www.cityofallen.org/planning/Templates/cdbg.htm>

Please address all questions and comments to City of Allen, Planning and Development Dept., ATTN: CDBG Administrator, 305 Century Parkway, Allen, TX 75013. Phone (214) 509-4160. Email: [lbattle@cityofallen.org](mailto:lbattle@cityofallen.org).

Notice: Persons with disabilities who would like special assistance or need special accommodations for the public hearing should call the Planning and Development Dept. at (214) 509-4160.

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[www.garlandpurchasing.com](http://www.garlandpurchasing.com)

## Church Happenings

### DAYSTAR DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES October 2009

**8:30 am – 11:30 am**  
Visit Helen's House every Monday and Friday to receive, to give, to comfort and most of all to fellowship. The give-a-way of food, love and household items is given freely to all those who could use a little touch.

**Apostle Minnie  
Hawthorne-Ewing  
Senior Pastor**  
635 W. Campbell Road  
Suite 210  
Richardson, TX 75080  
972-480-0200

### EIRENE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

**November 3-December 15,  
Tuesdays only,  
6 pm – 8 pm**  
Come to a FREE YWCA Financial Empowerment Workshop. Refreshments will be provided and there will be prizes for graduates. You could win a \$25 gift certificate. To register for the workshop call 214-584-2344.

**Rev. Terrence Autry,  
Senior Pastor**  
701 E. Centennial Blvd  
Richardson, TX 75081  
214-991-0200

### FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN On Going, 9 am-4 pm

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

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

### FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES

**November 8, 3:30 pm**  
Pastors and friends are invited to worship with us during our pastor's "7th Annual Appreciation Service." Choirs are asked to render an A-selection.

Confirm your attendance by November 3rd. Guests will include New Believers M.B.C., Destiny's Place Ministries, Miracle Temple Church of Deliverance, Greater Mt. Olive COGIC, and Dallas International Street Church. Artists include Psalmist Christi Tillman and Gospel Rapper Minister Ty Jones, all from Dallas. The anniversary will be @ the Old Friendship West Baptist Church, 616 W. Kiest Blvd. Dallas, TX 75224. Call Minister Sheaniqua Batty @ 214-780-7856 for details.

**Bishop Gregory Crawford  
Founder/Senior Pastor**  
3121 Nandina Drive  
Dallas, TX 75241

214-780-7856

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

**OF HAMILTON PARK  
November 25, 9 am-10 am**  
Come to our Leadership Conference with speaker Bro. Gary Finney in Room 205.

**November 25, 10:30 am  
To 12:30 pm**  
Join us for our Ushers, Nurses Guild and Candy Strippers Annual Day in the Sanctuary.

**Dr. Gregory Foster,  
Senior Pastor**  
**Rev. Anthony Foster  
Pastor**  
300 Phillips Street  
Richardson, TX 75081  
972-235-4235

### FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, THE COLONY

**November 15, 1 pm**  
Come to our Christian Business Expo after morning worship.

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

### MT. PISGAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**November 6, 6 pm-10 pm**  
Our Singles' Ministry presents: Living Single, Faithful to the End, Ecclesiastes 3:1; and "A Night of Jazz" at the Verona, 13330 Noel Road (across

from Dallas Galleria), Dallas, Texas

**November 7, 8:30 am  
TO 4 pm**

Come to our "A Date with Ruth and Boaz" and other workshops on Relations, Finance, Self, Health, Divorce and Single Parenting at our main campus. Call Rosylin Johnson for fees and details @ 972-241-6151

**Rev. Robert Townsend,  
Senior Pastor**  
11611 Webb Chapel Rd.  
Dallas, TX 75229  
972-241-6151

### NEW MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

**October 24, 9 am**  
The Youth and Drama Ministries present *Is It of Man or Is It of God*, The Life of Joseph. If you are interested in acting, speaking, or working behind the scenes, please meet with us in the Family Life Center.

**October 25, 4:30 pm**  
The Youth Ministry and Teens for Christ will sponsor a trip to "Dark Rail Hell House 19." Interested teens should register at the Shepherd Road entrance after 7:30 am & 10:30 services.

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

### OAK CLIFF BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

**October 25, 2 pm**  
We are hosting a FREE College Fair for graduating seniors in our Christian Education Building. Schools are: FAMU, Spelman College, Prairie View A & M, Alabama State, Tennessee State, Jackson State, North Carolina A&T, Houston – Tillotson University, Dillard University, Hampton University, Paul Quinn, Xavier University, Morehouse, Tuskegee University and University of Arkansas Pine Bluff. For information call 214-672-9100 ext. 4169.

**Dr. Tony Evans,  
Senior Pastor**  
1821 W. Camp Wisdom  
Road  
Dallas, TX 75232  
214-672-9100

### SANCTUARY OF PRAISE FELLOWSHIP OF PLANO

**November 1, 2 pm-5 pm**  
Come to our FREE Community Clothing-Give-Away for area residents.

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Sunday Morning Services  
8:15 AM: Story Elementary  
10:45 AM: Story Elementary  
1:55 PM: Excellence - Allen, TX

Wednesday Night Live  
Meal Prayer Service + Bible Study  
7:00 PM  
200 Belmont Dr - Allen, TX

Pastor W.L. Stafford Sr.  
LaDea Tasha Stafford

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Sunday Worship Service 11:00AM  
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Shaun Rabb, Senior Pastor

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Sunday Morning Worship  
10:00 am  
Wednesday Nights  
7:15 pm

Pastors Sam & Gloria Fenceroy

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Broadcasted on KWRD 100.7 FM THE WORD  
(Sundays 9 pm - 10 pm)

Hear Pastor Sam on: "Truth Made Simple"  
KGGR 1040 AM, Monday - Friday @ 5:25 pm - 5:30 pm



*"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)*

Lately, I have been talking to some Christians that are going through trials and tribulations in their life.

At this time of tremendous stress because of job losses, loss of the main 'bread winner' of the home, massive home foreclosures, downsizing on jobs, companies going out of business and the overall state of our economy, many people

are in a state of fear, and yes, this does include Christians.

However, fear is the enemy of faith; and fear is a great bondage to anyone. Satan wants Christians especially to live in bondage to the past and even the future. But God wants His children to live in the freedom of His love and His power in the present. The Apostle Paul said, *"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are*

# God's Peace Defeats Fear

*the children of God:" Romans 8:15.*

In order to be, the leaders that God calls us to be, as Christians, we must conquer fear and put it to death, once and for all. We must remember this is a spiritual battle that we are fighting, and it can only be won with spiritual weapons.

As Christians we must replace our fear with God's peace; it surpasses understanding. Jesus told His followers, *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the*

*world." John 16:33.*

In times of a Christian's trials and tribulations he/she must trust God more than ever before. Apostle Paul told the Christians that were being persecuted in Rome, *"And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen." Romans 16:20.* The God of peace is our conquering King; the peace of God is our sure weapon against fear and Satan. Before going to the cross for the sins of this world, Jesus told His disciples, *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto*

*you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27.*

Fear is a natural response to trials, tribulations, adversity and failure, but God's peace is the supernatural response that He gives by His grace. Just as Jesus had authority over the wind and waves, He has authority over the storms in your life. He has authority over your doubts, fears and shame.

Doubts, fear and shame are some powerful weapons of Satan that he uses against

Christians. But Jesus, who is all powerful, stands against Satan's power against Christians, and He says with complete and absolute authority, *"Peace, be still,"* speaking to the storms in the life of those that believe in Him. The Peace of God shatters the weapons of Satan and sends our enemy fleeing.

When the problems in your life are getting you discouraged, have faith in God and His word.

Learn to appropriate the peace of God that He has already provided for you today.

## Plano students reach out to children in Zambia

(NDG Wire) Following her first year as fourth grade teacher, Jessica Johnson spent her summer vacation working with a school in Lusaka, Zambia. The Chifundo Mission School is located in Chianda, a "slum community" on the outskirts of the capital of Lusaka.

Almost 400 children walk over a mile to come to school each day. The children are all provided a lunch at school, and for many children this was their only meal of the day. The children range in ages from

3 to 18 and are in grades based on the year they started school and their learning ability.

Johnson described the founder of the school, Dorothy Phiri, has someone with a heart for teaching each child about the love of Jesus and in the process providing them with a free education.

Over the 2009-2010 school year the third, fourth and fifth grade classes at Plano Christian Academy will be able to touch the lives of 35 sixth graders and their teacher, Cephas, at the

Cifundo School in Zambia. Each third, fourth and fifth grader will be paired up with one or two students and become pen pals for the year. Parents are asked to encourage their child to pray specifically for their pen pal(s) and also for the Chifundo Mission School, staff members, and the community of Chianda.

Johnson traveled to Zambia as part of a missionary team from McKinney Memorial Bible Church. Each person was responsible for raising over \$3,000 for the airfare, lodg-

ing, meals and materials for the trip.

Medically trained members of the group worked at a mission hospital offering their much needed services to the Zambian people.

The impact of the AIDS epidemic in Zambia is staggering. Zambia has more than one million orphans in a country of 11 million people. Most of these children have lost their parents due to AIDS. Approximately 90,000 children live on the streets of the cities. Roughly 80 percent of those in hospitals have AIDS.



Sister Shirley Tarpley and her granddaughter Tyanna Donnise Lott.



**Avenue F Church of Christ**  
1026 Avenue F • Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-8833  
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

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

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

*Ramon Hodridge, Minister*



**Friendship Baptist Church**  
4396 Main Street The Colony, Texas 75056  
(972) 625-8186  
website: www.fbc-online.net

**Schedule of Services:**  
**Sunday**  
Early Morning Worship-3:00 a.m.  
Sunday School Classes-9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship-11:00 a.m.

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

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

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

**Office Hours**

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

**Contact Info:** Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church  
11611 Webb Chapel Road • Dallas, TX 75228  
Office: 972 241 8151  
Email: info@dallasmpisgah.org  
Website: www.dallasmpisgah.org

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8:00am & 10:30am  
Wednesday Night Bible 7:30pm

# SUSPECTS,

continued from Page 5

the Criminal Justice System and are appreciative of the opportunity to participate with them in this important process."

Simmons and Scott, both of whom have consistently maintained complete innocence, testified on their own behalf at their back-to-back 1997 trials, and presented evidence that they were not involved in the murder. They both have now also passed polygraphs as to their complete lack of involvement.

The case was originally brought to the attention of the DA's Conviction Integrity Unit by students at the Texas Center for Actual Innocence at the University of Texas at Austin and the students at the University of Texas at Arlington Innocence Network. The case became a full-fledged joint investigation between the Dallas County District Attorney's Conviction Integrity Unit and the Dallas Police Department's Cold Case Unit last summer.

# CELEBRATION, continued from Page 1

to be thankful. Their hope is that guests will sense the spirit of thanksgiving in the midst, and join us in the days to come as they give honor to their past, and demonstrate hope of the future while celebrating the anniversary. It's all to the Glory of God!

The Celebration at a glance:

Sunday, November 1 is Communion Sunday and the official start of the Church's 130th Anniversary Celebration. At 3:30 p.m., they will worship and celebrate with a "Musical."

Invited guest choirs include Mt. Pisgah Baptist -

Dallas and First Baptist Church Hamilton Park, as well as the Voices of St. Mark. A reception will follow at the Cotton Mill at 610 Elm St, McKinney.

Wednesday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m., they will worship and celebrate with churches in the community: Pastor Kevan Brown - Bethlehem Christian Church and Pastor Cedric Barksdale - Good Hope Baptist Church. Senior Pastor Lee A. Edwards of the First Baptist Church - Erwin Street will be the guest preacher.

Sunday, November 8 is the Anniversary Sunday.

They will worship at 10:45 a.m. Pastor Charles S. Rainey of the Northside First Baptist Church, Garland, will be the guest preacher. At 3:30 p.m., they will worship and fellowship with Pastor B. R. Daniels and the Beth Eden Baptist Church of Fort Worth.

Don't miss this exciting time of praise and worship as they celebrate 130 Years Walking, Witnessing and Worshipping In Faith!

For information call the church office at 972-542-6178, or visit on the web at [www.saintmarkbc.com](http://www.saintmarkbc.com).

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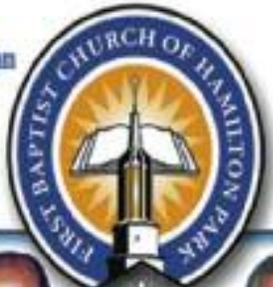
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Monday School: 7pm  
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm

Website: [www.ibccjoy.org](http://www.ibccjoy.org)

Worship Services 7:30am & 10:30am  
Sunday School 9:30 am  
Wednesday Night Service 8:00 pm





Dr. Gregory Foster Senior Pastor  
Rev. Anthony Foster Pastor

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Dr. Leslie W. Smith, Senior Pastor

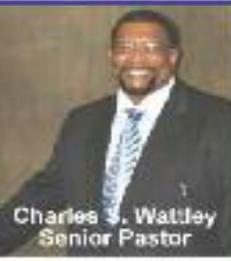
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Pastor Isaiah Joshua, Jr.  
Celebrating 15 Years

2009 Theme:  
Excellence through Prayer, Praise, and Participation

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Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Mid-week: Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Children's and Youth Worship Service: Every 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>, Sunday at 10:45 a.m.  
AWANA: Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
Contact Information: 972-423-6895  
[www.smbcplano.org](http://www.smbcplano.org)

Charles S. Wattleby Senior Pastor

**SUNDAY**  
Education Ministries 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Celebration 10:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**  
Family Ministries 7:00 p.m.

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**New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas**



Dr. Robert E. Price, Sr. Senior Pastor

**Sunday Service**  
Morning Worship 7:30 am & 10:30 am  
9:00 am Sunday School

**Monday Service**  
Men's Ministry 7:00 pm  
Women's Ministry 7:00 pm  
Young Adult Ministry 7:00 pm

**Wednesday Service**  
Intercessory Prayer 6:15 pm  
Bible Study 7:00 pm

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