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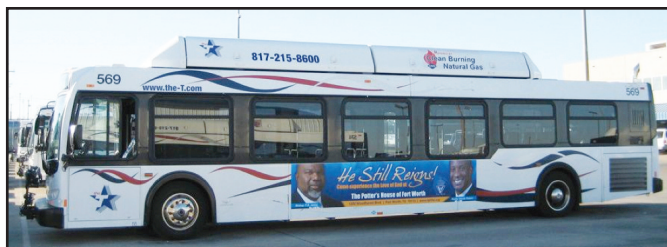
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'God Still Reigns!'

The Potter's House responds to the atheist bus ads by releasing its own message of faith on six buses in Fort Worth.

(NDG Wire) During the month of December when many Christian families celebrate the birth of Jesus, a group of non-believers placed atheist-themed bus ads on four city buses in



Fort Worth. Many local religious leaders felt insulted by the ads, particularly with the timing.

Rather than speak out against the ads, The Potter's House, a 30,000-member nondenominational, multi-

cultural church led by Bishop T. D. Jakes, chose to use the bus advertisements as an opportunity to share its own message of faith. At the beginning of January, The Potter's House kicked off a month long advertising

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The bills are arriving, now what?

(NDG Wire) A thick stack of envelopes has arrived. No, it's not more holiday cards – it's your credit card bills from December. Many consumers who overspent during the holiday season have received the not-so-friendly reminder that it's time to pay up for the fun they had last month.



"There is a simple solution for those facing mounds of holiday debt. Be committed to making a plan and sticking to it,"

said Todd Mark, vice president of education for Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Greater Dallas (CCCS of Greater Dallas). "Maintaining your financial plan and security continues to be critical in 2011, and consumers should do everything they can to eliminate debt."

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twitter



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President Obama's plan to win the future

In his State of the Union on Tuesday evening, President Barack Obama spoke of the need to maintain America's leadership in a rapidly changing world so that our economy is competitive – growing and working for all Americans. To do so, he is putting forward a plan to help the

United States win the future by out-innovating, out-educating, and out-building our global competition. At the same time, the President understands the need to reform the way our government does business



President Barack Obama

and take responsibility for our deficit – by investing in what makes America stronger and cutting what doesn't.

Innovate: The President is calling for new investments in American innovation. The President's

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Nuclear Energy: A part of the solution for African American unemployment?



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Photoshop at its best

For more information see pg. 10
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COMMENTARY

How baby boomers can retire despite a downturned economy

By Charlene Crowell
More than 10,000 baby boomers will turn 65 each day over the next two decades, says AARP, the nation's leading organization on elder issues. The generation that grew up with changes in social mores, music and more now faces a particularly challenging time to leave the workplace.

But what's a person to do with the rest of their lives if they were born between the years of 1946 and 1964? Especially when current economic trends and measures are more down

than up, who can really afford to retire?

Kiss goodbye the days of secure pensions and gold watches for decades of service. According to the Employee Benefit Research Institute, only 15 percent of the workforce today has a traditional pension plan. Instead, 401(k) s in the private sector and 403 (b) s in public and not-for-profit organizations are the likely alternative plans. These benefits are tied to stock market performance. When the market performs well,

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People In The News...



Camille Winbush



Lynette Norris Wilkinson



Dr. Orlando Richard

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Camille Winbush

(NDG Wire) Sigma Gamma Rho is excited to announce that Camille Winbush will be the official celebrity spokesperson for the 14th Annual Nationwide Youth Symposium. Winbush, best known as Nessa from the Bernie Mac show, is a multi-talented actress and singer, and a three time recipient of the NAACP Image Award. Currently, she stars on ABC Family's *The Secret Life of The American Teenager*.

"While not a member of

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Camille Winbush shares Sigma's commitment to making a difference in the lives of young people and she is looking forward to helping us to promote the Youth Symposium and Project Reassurance on a national level," states International Grand Basileus Joann Loveless.

Winbush will be assisting the 88-year old organization in spreading their theme of "H3:

It's all About Me –

Healthy Choices, Healthy Living, Healthy Generations." The actress has videotaped a PSA with several members of Sigma Gamma Rho's youth affiliate group, The Rhoer Club. Alumnae chapters are expected to use the video and other support materials featuring Winbush to promote local events taking place on Saturday, March 12.

Chapters will simultaneously celebrate the National Youth Symposium, which is traditionally set within Sigma Week. Programming will focus on support of First Lady Michelle



Obama's fight against childhood obesity as well as offer panel discussions and other activities to encourage students to excel in or look at

careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

Sigma Gamma Rho is a national partner with the White House's STEM program to promote math and the sciences, particularly among children of color. It also recently formed a unique partnership with the Centers for Disease Control that posits the organization as the only African American sorority to participate in the Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative.

The Youth Symposium

was originated by Sigma Gamma Rho's late past Grand Basileus LaRona J. Morris to give youth tools to combat peer pressure. In its 14th year, the symposium has addressed such issues as teen pregnancy, diet and nutrition and low self-esteem. The Youth Symposium is an annual event occurring during Sigma Week, which focuses on the sorority's community service initiatives. Members of the sorority and its affiliates will participate on the second Saturday of March. Visit www.projectreassurance.org for more information.

Lynette Norris Wilkinson

UNTOLD: The New Orleans 9th Ward You Never Knew, by DeSoto author and New Orleans native Lynette Norris Wilkinson was recently named 2010 "Book of the Year" by the Sankofa Literary Society.

UNTOLD features the riveting true stories of 16 Hurricane Katrina survivors from the New Orleans Lower 9th Ward, an area still devastated more than five years after Hurricane Katrina, and the community where the author grew up. In

the book, survivors not only share their struggles of overcoming Hurricane Katrina, but also share their strong messages of faith, hope, and courage. They share their happy memories of living in the close-knit predominately African-American community located less than five miles from World-Famous Bourbon Street.

The book also shares interesting history of the Lower 9th Ward with stories from men, women, and children of all ages and experi-



ences—including one survivor who survived the chaos of seeking refuge from Hurricane Katrina in the New Orleans Superdome.

The author said she had the God-inspired idea to write the book because she wants the world to know the stories of the people behind the desperate images shown during media coverage of Hurricane Katrina.

"It is the untold truth and positive news about the people of the Lower 9th Ward," says Wilkinson. "These are my roots and my people. How could I not use my gift of writing to do what is within my power to help?"

Ella Curry, Founder of the Sankofa Literary Society and EDC Creations said, "Many books written about

Hurricane Katrina are fiction, but these are true real-life stories. What I love about the book is that it sheds a positive light on a very dark time. It is phenomenal."

The Sankofa Literary Society is a network of organized, independent book clubs, including social clubs, youth clubs, and non-profits. The goal of this initiative is to advance African American literature and increase awareness of its voice in the marketplace. Sankofa Literary Society has more than 1,800 members across the United States.

Proceeds from the book will be donated to an organization helping the residents of the Lower 9th Ward recover.

To read excerpts of *UNTOLD: The New Orleans 9th Ward You Never Knew*, view an interview with the author, or purchase copies of the book, visit www.HurricaneKatrinaStories.com. Join the author on *Facebook.com/LynetteNorrisWilkinson* and *Twitter.com/neworleanswrite*.

Lynette Norris Wilkinson is an award-winning creative and technical writer in the Dallas area.

Dr. Orlando Richard

Racial diversity at a corporation's top ranks may be good for business, according to new research conducted



by a School of Management professor.

Results from Dr. Orlando Richard's study suggest that racial diversity at the top may enhance a company's performance because such companies initiate more aggressive sales and

marketing strategies.

Richard is a professor of organizations, strategy and international management at UT Dallas. He and co-authors Goce Andrevski of Queens University, Walter Ferrier of the University of Kentucky and Jason Shaw of the University of Minnesota surveyed the competitive actions of 115 Fortune 1,000 companies during a three-year period for their study.

Their research paper, "Managerial Racial Diversity, Competitive Aggressiveness and Firm Performance," won a Best Paper Award in July from the Academy of Management.

The survey found that firms with more racially diverse leadership tend to launch more competitive actions such as new product introductions, creative advertising and promotions

and sales incentives than firms with homogeneous management.

In fact, firms with highly diverse management mixes launched 71 competitive actions per year while companies with low diversity leadership introduced only 9, the research found.

Richard, a leading scholar in the area of racial diversity's bottom-line effects, says that previous research has not successfully explained why diversity impacts company performance. The professor and his colleagues believe that racial diversity fosters greater creativity and innovation because it combines an assortment of knowledge bases and experiences.

"We illustrate how racial diversity brings the organization creative variety and alternative knowledge bases, which lead to more competitive actions and ultimately

increased shareholder returns and market share. We also show that racial diversity effects are more powerful in more resource-abundant environments than resource-scarce ones," Richard said.

Unlike previous research that lumps all racial minorities into one category to compare against whites, this study defines diversity as management group representation across five racial categories: whites, blacks, Asians, American Indians and Hispanics.

"We argue that greater distribution across these categories provides more creativity and problem-solving capabilities," Richard said.

The study also found that diversity training may be a useful human resource management tool for organizations concerned with managing a racially diverse organizational setting.

Richard, who teaches MBA and PhD courses in organizational behavior and human resource manage-

ment at the School of Management, said he came up

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We can create a cervical cancer-free America

By Jennifer S. Smith, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Kristen Forbes of Noblesville, Indiana, had recently graduated from college when she was diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer at age 22. After a yearlong, painful battle, she succumbed to the disease, leaving behind a bright future and grieving family members and friends.

Like most of the 4,000 women in the United States who die of cervical cancer each year, Kristen's death was preventable. We now have the medical know-how and the tools to stamp out this major cancer once and for all. What we need now, as our country honors National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month this January, is the will among members of the public health community – government officials and policymakers, medical professionals, insurers, women and others – to make it happen.

Cervical cancer used to

be the leading cause of death for women in the U.S. With widespread use of Pap test screening in the last 50 years, cervical cancer rates have declined significantly, but have leveled to about 12,000 cases each year. This disease should be relatively easy to prevent. We know it's caused by the human papillomavirus, or HPV, a common sexually transmitted infection. Most HPV infections go away on their own, but persistent HPV infections can lead to cell changes that can progress to cervical cancer. Fortunately, with proper treatment, the disease can usually be stopped before cancer develops.

The HPV vaccine is now available and prevents infection from the two types of HPV that are responsible for 70 percent of all cervical cancers. We have an established screening tool – the Pap test – that identifies cell changes that can signal cervical disease or cancer. We also have

newer technology – the HPV test – to help identify women who are at increased risk.

So how can we make sure no more women die of cervical cancer?

First, we need to increase HPV vaccination rates. The HPV vaccine is recommended for routine administration in girls ages 11 and 12, with a "catch up" provision for those up to age 26. Studies show, though, that less than one in two young adolescent girls has received it.

We also need to increase screening rates. At least half of all cervical cancer deaths are due to a lack of screening. Yet about 25 percent of women in the U.S. have not been screened in the past three years. Importantly, women who have been vaccinated still need to be screened to protect against HPV types not targeted by the vaccine.

Also, while the Pap test has led to a dramatic de-

crease in cervical cancer in the U.S., about one third of cervical cancer deaths are caused by screening errors with the Pap test, a problem that more sensitive HPV DNA testing could address. The HPV test is available, in conjunction with a Pap test, for women ages 30 and older.

Most importantly, we need to make cervical cancer prevention a top national health priority. Public health officials and policymakers should support--and fund--programs to educate women about this disease and enable them to access prevention and treatment services. Medical professionals should educate their patients and provide these services, and insurers should pay for them. Women must take charge of their health and get screened and ensure that their adolescent daughters get vaccinated. All of these groups' efforts must be coordinated for

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benefits boom; but conversely, benefits diminish when the market performs poorly.

Also gone are the days when owning a house meant sure-fire wealth building. Eleven million Americans now owe more than their home is worth. Boomers hoping to downsize to smaller spaces may find that while unemployment hovers near 10 percent, prospective homebuyers may be waiting for the job market to improve before making such a large and long-term investment.

When disposable funds are fewer than in workplace years, older consumers can be particularly at-risk to incur debts that tarnish the golden years. Or as the O-Jays sang, it's that 'almighty dollar' that can change you – especially when there's not enough to provide for yourself or your family.

For example, long-time homeowners with title to their homes or nearing the end of mortgage payments might be lured into a reverse mortgage. As a loan against market value, reverse mortgages can be a transaction that enables borrowers to turn

that value into ready cash without selling the property.

However, before signing on the dotted line for a reverse mortgage, borrowers should clearly understand that they are signing an end of life loan. Full repayment is required when either the borrower passes away or no longer lives in the residence for more than a year. Any absence due to year-long extended health care, such as rehab or assisted living facilities will make the loan due.

Overdraft, another debt trap, may offer a convenient way to pay for purchases; but if there is no cushion in the account or consumer checkbooks aren't accurately balanced, overdraft fees that average \$34 per transaction can quickly siphon off disposable income. Even worse, consumers only learn of the charges after the statement arrives. Rather than incur the risk of overdraft fees that each year strip \$23.7 billion from checking account holders, it is better to decline overdraft than to accept it. Unauthorized overdrafts strip fees from Americans 55 and older at the level of \$4.5 billion per year. Nearly \$1 bil-

lion of that comes from people who are heavily dependent on Social Security income.

Even worse than overdraft fees are payday loans that promise quick and easy cash without credit checks. In recent months, many payday lenders began accepting unemployment checks or disability benefits as income. Yet what the marketing and advertising do not share is how only a very small percentage of payday borrowers are actually able to retire their short-term loan in two weeks. The vast majority of payday borrowers – 12 million each year -- become trapped into a turnstile of repeat loans and high-cost fees that result in more money being paid for interest and fees than the amount borrowed. Meanwhile, payday lenders reap \$5 billion annually.

The sobering reality for everyone is that there will always be lenders that would like to take away some of your hard-earned income and savings, just as financial advisors have an array of recommended strategies for preparing for retirement in a

post-recession era.

But it is far wiser for people regardless of age to make regular savings a part of your financial plan. With every paycheck, start and keep saving. Emergencies, unexpected expenses and vacations, can all be managed if dollars are set aside on a consistent basis. If you're unable to begin saving right now, consider saving a portion of any tax refund received this year to offset the amount of money you expect to need over the year. Ideally, everyone should have a personal financial cushion that enables them to maintain their lifestyles without going into debt.

A keen awareness combined with a sensible and practical personal strategy can together chart a path to sustainable financial growth in spite of any market downturn. Or to paraphrase the O'Jays, don't let money – or lenders – fool you.

Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's communications manager for state policy and outreach. She can be reached at: Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org

Beating the Working Woman Blues on a budget

(NDG Wire) Tiffany Fluhme, CEO of Fluhme Beauty, and plastic surgery physician assistant, doesn't believe women have to deny themselves to help balance the checkbook.

"Women are very good at denying themselves luxuries, as well as some necessities, in order to make ends meet," said Fluhme, entrepreneur CEO of Fluhme, a Direct Selling/ Party Plan Cosmetics Company (www.fluhme.com).

"The problem is, when a woman cuts out key items of her beauty and wellness regimen -- makeup, skin care, her gym membership, etc. -- it will definitely have

an impact on how she feels about herself. Her self-confidence can plummet and her sense of well-being can be negatively affected. It can affect her job, her friendships and even her relationships. That's why I think it's important for women to find ways to replace some of the more costly personal care activities with budget-conscious substitutes."

Fluhme believes that women who routinely take care of themselves, tend to feel more confident and possess better self-esteem, which will reflect positively at work and at home. Her tips for beauty and wellness

on a budget include:

Skincare – One of the first things that people cut out when the recession hit was spending money on cosmetic procedures like botox injections and high end anti-aging creams. However, you absolutely don't have to spend a fortune on high-end skin care to see results. There are over-the-counter products available that use very similar and just as effective ingredients as those sold at the dermatologist's offices and plastic surgeon's offices. When shopping for cosmetics online or from your local representative, look for products that con-

tain ingredients such as Retinol, Hyaluronic Acid, Vitamin C, and Matrixyl, and you'll see great results without the exorbitant cost.

Makeup – When using a great affordable skin care line, exceeding your budget on your makeup is unnecessary. Radiant skin calls for light foundations and maybe a great powder to complete your look. Try a great tinted moisturizer with an SPF and a mineral pressed powder. And don't forget, a beautiful shade of lipstick or lip gloss is an instant pick me up for your look and your mood. There are so many options when it comes to makeup. I recom-

mend never doing without, but spending top dollar on high end names just isn't necessary.

Working Out – When the recession hit, many women eliminated their gym memberships, but you don't need a gym to stay fit. Pop in a workout DVD, take a jog around the block, or work out at home with a pair of dumbbells and a jumprope. Exercise releases essential endorphins, which contribute to a great sense of well being.

"Confidence will always work in your favor, in every aspect of life," Fluhme added. "When you let yourself go without the lit-

tle things that can help boost your look and your mood, the rest of your life suffers in little, but meaningful, ways. Sometimes that little extra boost of energy and confidence can help you get noticed by your supervisors at work, or by that new guy in accounting with the nice smile. Just because you have to cut back on your expenses, it doesn't mean you have to cut back on your investment in yourself. Getting through the rough economic times isn't just about the quality of your income, but also about the quality of your life -- and you can have both."

CANCER, continued from Page 3

maximum efficiency and impact.

The elimination of cervical cancer is an eminently achievable goal. To achieve this vision, a new program – Cervical Cancer-Free Amer-

ica (www.cervicalcancer-freeamerica.org) – is driving state and local prevention programs, and ensuring that successful strategies are shared among the states. The initiative is led by the Uni-

versity of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Since the initiative's launch last year, six states – Alabama, California, Indiana, Kentucky, North Car-

olina and Texas – have already joined the effort to become "cervical cancer-free." Major universities and other public health experts are leading the charge in each state, supported by govern-

ment and other leaders.

The movement to eradicate cervical cancer is gaining momentum in our country. But there is more work to be done. Let's join hands and work together to ensure that

no more women like Kristen Forbes lose their lives to this preventable disease.

Smith is director of Cervical Cancer-Free America. Copyright (C) 2011 by the American Forum. 1/11



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Garland to host severe weather program

(NDG Wire) The 2010 severe storm season in North Texas was anything but typical. Tornadoes struck the region as early as January 20 and as late as October 24. Hail storms, damaging winds, and flooding all had their turn across north Texas skies. The toll on life and property was significant, with many casualties and damage in the tens of millions of dollars.

The 2011 severe weather season is fast approaching. Do you have a severe weather plan at your home and your workplace? Can you recognize the clues that suggest large hail, flash flooding, or a tornado is possible? Do you want to become part of the severe weather warning system in your county? As part of its area-wide weather preparedness campaign, the National Weather Service in Fort Worth will answer these and many other questions at the

Skywarn severe weather program on Saturday, February 19, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Granville Arts Center in Garland. The event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Garland Office of Emergency Management.

The 2011 program will discuss thunderstorm formation, severe weather production, and features associated with severe storms. The presentation will also review tornado formation and behavior, non-threatening clues which may be mistaken for significant features, and safety when thunderstorms threaten. The program will discuss spotter operations and recommended reporting procedures. The two-hour presentation will be in multimedia format, featuring numerous pictures of storms and nearly 25 minutes of storm video clips.

"We could not do our job as well as we do without storm spotters. Radar is a great tool, but it only tells us part of a storm's story," said Mark Fox, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Fort Worth NWS Office. "Spotter observations complement the data we use to analyze storms. The combination of spotter reports and radar data gives us the best possible picture of the storms and what's going on inside them."

Even if you do not become an active storm spotter, participants will learn how storms work and the visual clues you can identify when storms are in your area. We will discuss severe weather safety tips. This will better prepare yourself and your family for the threats that storms pose according to Fox.

World's top athletes head to Dallas for Wingstop World Wing-Eating Championship

(NDG Wire) The world's top athletes will descend on Dallas on Tuesday, February 1, to compete in one of the year's biggest sporting events: The Wingstop World Wing-Eating Championship. The winner of the 12-minute all-you-can-eat event will take home the lion's share of a \$10,000 cash purse.

The number-one-ranked eater in the world, Joey Chestnut, will compete in the event. Chestnut, who has consumed 182 wings in 30 minutes in competition, won his fourth consecutive hot dog eating title last year on July 4th in Coney Island, New York. He now looks to open his 2011 Major League Eating season by adding to his legendary body of work.

Looking to beat Chestnut will be number-four-ranked Sonya "The Black Widow"

Thomas, a 100-pound wing-eating specialist from Alexandria, VA. Thomas will have confidence on her side in Dallas, having won four consecutive titles at the National Buffalo Wing Festival (2007-10). Last year she topped Chestnut and a field of 12 other men in Buffalo.

Also competing will be Pat "Deep Dish" Bertolotti and Bob Shoudt, the number-two and number-three-ranked eaters in the world, respectively. Bertolotti, a mohawked chef from Chicago, holds world records in 29 foods including grits, ice cream and jalapenos. Shoudt, who hails from the suburbs of Philadelphia, was formerly known as "Humble Bob" before embarking on an eight-contest winning streak that resulted in a moniker change to "The Notorious B.O.B."

"Wings stand at the very top of the sport fan's list of food choices," said George Shea, chairman of Major League Eating. "So it makes all the more sense for the world's best eater to pay homage to the mighty wing before the Big Game kicks-off. This event will also provide motivation for all those who view Big Game parties as a competitive eating opportunity themselves."

The 12-minute contest will take place prior to the Dallas Stars hockey game at the AT&T Plaza outside the American Airlines Center. Giveaways and other prizes will be on-hand for the crowd in attendance. The winner will take home the first-place prize of \$5,000. The remaining second through six place payouts are as follows: \$2,000, \$1,500, \$750, \$500, \$250.

Crow Collection After Dark: Year of the Rabbit Celebration

(NDG Wire) Hop to it! 2011 marks the Year of the Rabbit, so celebrate spectacularly with a rare glow-in-the-dark dragon and lion dance parade, family-fun activities, martial arts demos, entertainment, late-night karaoke, colorful sights, complimentary candy, fortune telling, bubble tea, green tea, and beer tastings, and more at Crow Collection After Dark: Year of the Rabbit Celebration on Friday, February 18, from 6 p.m. – midnight.

Enjoy free family art activities from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Grand Gallery (supplies limited). Decorate traditional Chinese New Year red envelopes for good luck, and create luminous lanterns. Enjoy harp performances by Anita Hu from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Garden Gallery and a concert by the Four Seasons Choral Society and Chinese Orchestra at 7 p.m. in the Grand Gallery.

At 8 p.m., go outside to see the masterful martial arts moves of the J. K. Wong Kungfu Tai Chi Academy followed by a rare glow-in-the-dark dragon and lion dance parade that will dazzle crowds on Flora Street. Throughout the evening, stroll beneath a 60-foot dragon lit by black lights and suspended in the Crow Collection's indoor Sky

Friday, February 18 6 p.m. – midnight

6 – 8 p.m.	Chinese harp performance by Anita Hu (Garden Gallery)
6 – 8 p.m.	Family art activities plus candy and tea sampling (Grand Gallery; supplies limited)
7 p.m.	Four Seasons Choral Society and Chinese Orchestra concert (Grand Gallery)
8 p.m.	Glow-in-the-dark dragon and lion dance parade plus kung fu demos (Flora Street)
9 p.m.	Chinese fortune telling (Jade Room)
10 – 11:30 p.m.	Karaoke with DJ Mark Ridlen and Asian beer sampling (Grand Gallery; supplies limited)

Bridge Gallery.

Forecast the future with free Chinese fortune telling beginning at 9 p.m. in the Jade Room. Late-nighters and songsters can stick around for multimedia karaoke with DJ Mark Ridlen while sipping Asian beer (with valid ID) from 10 – 11:30 p.m. in the Grand Gallery.

Complimentary candy and Chill Bubble Tea and green tea tastings will be offered from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Grand Gallery (limited supplies). Full-sized beverages may be purchased for \$3. Asian beer sampling will be available from 10 – 11:30 p.m. (must be 21 with valid ID; limited supplies).

Free and open to the public, Crow Collection After Dark: Year of the Rabbit Celebration is presented in partnership with Chill Bubble Tea and the Dallas Observer. In the event of inclement weather, some activities may be canceled or moved indoors.

For more information, call 214-979-6430 or visit crow-collection.org.

African Leadership Luncheon upcoming in February

(NDG Wire) The African Leadership Luncheon will feature Herbert Austin, Regional Director of SBA who will share how to qualify for new funding authorized by Congress for small business loans. The program will also include:

- Dallas Economic Development Office - new visa opportunities for businessmen who have funds to invest in Dallas
- State Farm - business opportunities with State Farm
- Pfizer - how to obtain

free medicines for your low-income community members

- DFW Int'l announcements - new Guides, African Film Festival, etc

The luncheon is sponsored by State Farm and is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 5 from 12 noon till 2 p.m. The African

Leadership Luncheon will be held at the Ibex Ethiopian Restaurant located at 12255 Greenville Ave (Greenville and LBJ), Dallas. Ticket prices are \$15 and include lunch. Call with a credit card at 972-661-2764 or \$20 at the door or on the day of the event.

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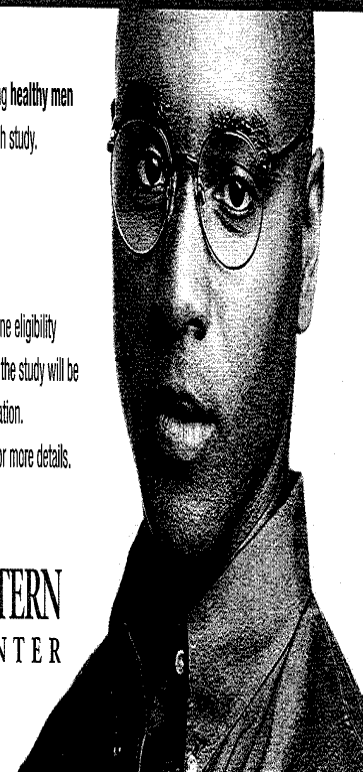
UT Southwestern Medical Center is seeking healthy men to serve as volunteers in a research study.

Volunteers must be:

- Male
- Age 21-55

Volunteers will be screened to determine eligibility for this research. Volunteers who complete the study will be paid for their time and participation.
If interested, please call 214-645-6975 for more details.

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SMU College Readiness Summer Camp 2011

(NDG Wire) This summer students are invited to participate in the Southern Methodist University (SMU) College Readiness Summer Camp 2011. Any interested students may apply for a slot to attend the five day camp that will inform, inspire and leave a

positive impression in their minds about pursuing a college education. The camp is scheduled for June 14-18.

During this camp, students will hear motivational speakers who have beat the odds and soared to heights they never

imagined. Workshops will provide needed tools and to prepare for college. Topics will include college admission, financial aid, and more. Students will meet hundreds of students from around the state and live in college dorms to experience stu-

dent life. All attendees will compete for \$10,500 in scholarship funding as well.

After the camp, the SMU staff will stay connected with the class and mentor them throughout their college years.

Urban League Greater Dallas and American Red Cross Honor Black History Month with Life Saving Blood Drive

(NDG Wire) The Urban League of Greater Dallas and its auxiliaries, the Urban League Young Professionals and GUILD have partnered with the American Red Cross as part of Black History Month to sponsor a blood drive. Please do your part to honor African American physician Charles Drew, a pioneer in blood plasma research by donating blood.

Dr. Drew is best known for developing the techniques used today to

collect process and store blood products. He was not a well known physician at the time but Dr. Drew took successful test tube blood experiments and transformed them into mass blood production techniques. He was soon recognized as a leading authority on blood collection and plasma processing.

Continuing his legacy, African Americans fulfill an important role as blood donors. More than half of the African American pop-

ulation has type O blood. This gives that population a unique opportunity to support the community blood supply.

For more information and/or to volunteer for the blood drive, please call Claudia Fowler at (214) 607-6461 or sign up at redcrossblood.org. Individuals who are 17 years of age, meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on their height) and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate

blood. Please bring your Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive ID when you come to donate. It must be 56 days since your last donation.

The blood drive is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Southwest Center Mall located at 3662 W. Camp Wisdom Road in Dallas.

For more information, or to schedule your donation, please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org.

Students Against Violence Everywhere receives \$25,000 Grant

(NDG Wire) The Allstate Foundation presented a \$25,000 grant to Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) to assist SAVE chapters in Texas in their efforts to increase youth safety and promote teen safe driving. This grant from the Allstate Foundation will support the SAVE program in schools and community agencies. Teen safe driving awareness campaigns will be conducted during key times of the year including holidays, Teen Safe Driving Month (May), prom, graduation, and back to school.

With support from Allstate agents and employee volunteers, SAVE chapters will be able to provide leadership in their schools and communities to ensure that all students will be encouraged and empowered with healthy life skills while engaging in educational activities and opportunities to promote teen safe driving and youth safety.

SAVE is a peer-to-peer organization that focuses on the power of positive peer influences. According to a recent Allstate Foundation survey, Shifting Teen Attitudes: The State of Teen Driving 2009, peers are a major influence on

teens – both positive and negative. Some of the concerning statistics that SAVE chapters will address include:

- Eighty-two percent of teens reported using cell phones while driving.
- Nearly half (48 percent) of girls admit they are likely to speed more than 10 mph over the limit, versus 36 percent of boys.
- Seventy-seven percent of teens admit they have felt unsafe with another teen's driving.

"This generous grant from The Allstate Foundation will assist students in finding real solutions to the issues of teen safe driving that they face each day," stated SAVE's executive director, Carleen Wray.

"By empowering teens to become smart driving activists in their schools and communities, we hope to reverse the staggering statistics," said Joseph P. McCormick, Allstate Sr. Corporate Relations Manager.

"Through The Allstate Foundation's partnership with SAVE, we're working to develop innovative, teen focused approaches to raise awareness of the issue and, ultimately, to help save lives and reduce injuries."

UT Dallas offers GRE Prep Course

(NDG Wire) The University of Texas at Dallas is of-

recruitment at the UT Dallas School of Management, says

Parker says.

Almost all graduate programs in the U.S. and abroad require a GRE score as part of the application. Parker says scores typically are good for five years, so undergrads who are thinking they might be interested in grad school in the near future would be wise to take the GRE while their test-taking abilities are sharp. "It doesn't hurt for anyone thinking they might want to go back to school to get this done sooner rather than later. It's just one less piece of the puzzle of admissions you'd need to worry about," he says.

The prep course's eight classes, all to be held on the UT Dallas campus in Richardson, will cover all GRE content as well as test-taking strategies. Participants also will have access to an online self-paced math refresher course. Information about math portion of the prep class is at [\[dallas.edu/somResources/eLearning/eLearningCurrent/math.php\]\(http://dallas.edu/somResources/eLearning/eLearningCurrent/math.php\).](http://som.ut-</p>
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Enrollment is capped at 50 participants; cost is \$150. A text, *Practicing to Take the GRE General Test, 10th Edition*, is required.

In addition, preparation for the Graduate Management Admissions Test continues to be offered at UT Dallas. The GMAT typically is preferred by business schools although many, including UT Dallas' School of Management, will accept a GRE score.

"What we're finding," Parker says, "is a lot of people who haven't been on a campus in 10 or 15 years are scared of their ability to score well on standardized tests. This course helps ease those fears, getting them over that 'test paranoia' hurdle." To register or for questions, contact Parker at jparker@utdallas.edu, 972-883-5842.



James Parker

fering the GRE Prep Course, designed for those interested in enrolling in graduate school.

The 16-hour prep course for the Graduate Record Exam will be held from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Feb. 15. James Parker, the assistant director for graduate

the teacher for this prep class, Tomas Davis, is well-regarded by students who have taken his prep classes in the past. "Tomas knows his material, but even more importantly, he knows how to get people to understand the material covered in the test so they score well or improve on a poor score on the GRE,"

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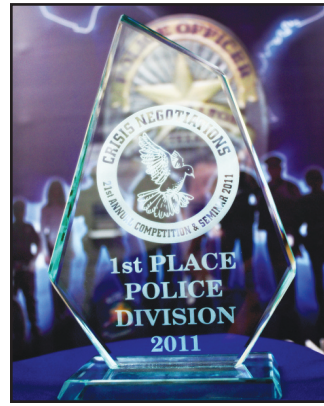
Crisis negotiation team wins first place

(NDG Wire) The Carrollton Police Department Crisis Negotiations Team is utilized in conjunction with the SWAT team during critical incidents involving barricaded persons, hostage situations and other events with persons in crisis. Their job involves negotiating with or talking to the subject to try and reach a peaceful

resolution.

Each year, the Negotiations team attends a week-long training conference in San Marcos, TX sponsored by the Texas State University Department of Criminal Justice. This training includes a day-long scenario in which the team's skills and training are tested by having to nego-

tiate with a hostage taker. The team's performance is judged by a variety of judges from Law Enforcement, Corrections, Universities, and Federal Agencies. Out of approximately 20 teams that competed from across the United States, the Carrollton Police Department Crisis Negotiations Team placed 1st in the Police



Division.

Team members were rated high in areas such as team-work and professionalism, which is mirrored by Carrollton Police Chief Rex Redden who said, "This is a very critical area and important to the successful resolution of serious incidents since it always involves human

life. It's good to know we have such a well prepared and capable group."

The team consisted of Officers Jeremy Chevalier, Bill Hardin, Paul Wilford, Robbie Huckaby, Philip Hare, Matthew Burnham, Wes Rutherford, and Sergeants Shawn Henderson and Mike Losack.

Wiley College students and choir visit Hamilton Park UMC



(Back Row Wiley College Student (r) Wiley College Alumni & supporters (Front Row) Wiley Chaplin Dr. Michelle; (m) Hamilton Park Church Mother, Mrs. Roberta Johnson (96 years) (r) Hamilton Park, Church Father, Mr. I. B. Foote (103 years)

By Valder Beebe
Visiting Hamilton Park UMC for the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration they spotlighted the power, impact and history of Wiley College founded in 1873 during turbulent times for Blacks in America. Wiley College opened its doors just south of Marshall with two frame buildings and an overwhelming desire to succeed in a climate fraught with racism and Jim Crow laws.

For over 130 years, Wiley College has been a center of learning for all who sought to enter its doors. Primarily, however, it has served African Americans and other minorities. The College was founded in 1873 by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the purpose of providing education to the "newly freed men" and preparing them for a new life.



Wiley College students perform during a Martin Luther King Day Celebration at Hamilton Park UMC

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Every Saturday

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

Every Tuesday

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

Ongoing

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

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 for location.

DFW Financially Empowered Women meet monthly for lunch or dinner and a fun, informative seminar on various financial topics. Info: 469-942-0809 or meeetup.com/378.

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

No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch

1st Thursday at 1 pm in Plano Must RSVP at www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com or 972-898-5882.

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

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

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

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

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

January 27

North Dallas Texas Democratic Women at 6:45 p.m. Topic: **A Call to Action How Democrats Can Succeed in the Next Election Cycle** at the Northaven United Methodist Church located at 11211 Preston Road (between Forest and Royal).

Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber's State of the City Address at the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas, info: irvingchamber.com or 214-217-8484.

The **2011 Irving State of the City dinner** is set for the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas, 500 W. Las Colinas Blvd. Info: www.irvingchamber.com or 214-217-8473.

Jan. 27-30 & Feb. 2-6

The NFL Experience coincides with Super Bowl XLV at the Dallas Convention Center, 650 Griffin St. in Dallas. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for children 12 years and younger. www.superbowl.com

January 28

M.I.N.G.L.E. Football Edition is a professional networking luncheon featuring a panel of former NFL players turned entrepreneur, January 28, 2011 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You can register online for \$40-\$50 at www.themarketinglady.com/events. The event will be held at Studio Movie Grill 11170 N Central Expressway in Dallas.

The South Dallas Picture Show: A Free Senior Cinema Program at South Dallas Cultural Center 3400 S. Fitzhugh Avenue Dallas. At 10 a.m. the film is *The Vernon Johns Story* starring James Earl Jones as Rev. Vernon Johns, the predecessor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and the man credited with getting Dr. King involved in the civil rights movement.

January 28-30

Funnyman **Earthquake** will make stop at the **Addison Improv**, 4980 Beltline Road #250 in Dallas. Tickets are \$22.

January 29

Conversaciones @ Your Library in Irving features conversation tables available weekly for English language learners to practice conversational skills. Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd, Irving from 12:15 to 2:15 pm FREE. Info: ahipp@cityofirving.org or 972-721-2606

Plano Symphony Orchestra is performing Scheherazade, one of Rimsky-Korsakov's most popular works, with special guest Jae Hyuck Cho on piano at 8:15 p.m. The event is scheduled for St Andrew United Methodist Church at 5801 W. Plano Pkwy, Plano. Advanced tickets start at \$9; add \$2 at the door. To order call 972-473-7262 or www.plano-symphony.org

Comedian Kevin Hart's Laugh at My Pain slated for Verizon Theatre in Grand Prairie. www.verizontheatre.com

January 29-30

Sci-Fi Expo celebrating **Women of Sci-Fi** is slated for Saturday and Sunday in the Plano Convention Center, 2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy., from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. General admission tickets are \$10 per day, and \$20 for the Priority Pass, good for both days. Children ages 10 and younger are admitted free to the convention when accompanied by a paid adult. Parking is free. www.scifiexpo.com

January 30

The Plano Symphony Orchestra will present *Gone With the Winds*, begins at 3 p.m. at the Courtyard Theatre, 1509 Avenue H, in historic downtown Plano, and will feature the woodwind section of the Plano Symphony Orchestra. Pre-concert lobby activities

begin at 2 p.m. and include the Instrument Petting Zoo and arts and craft. Tickets for the event range from \$7 to \$11. Info: 972-473-7262 or visit www.plano-symphony.org.

January 31

Incoming Freshman Night at Frisco ISD high schools - check with campus for time and location.

February 4

The 20th annual Super Bowl Gospel Celebration is slated for Music Hall at Fair Park, 909 First Ave. in Dallas at 7:30 p.m. superbowlgospel.com

Super First Friday for Super Bowl XLV weekend in downtown Dallas to take place at the Magnolia Hotel, 1401 Commerce, starts at 8 p.m. Ladies 23 and older and men 25 older will be admitted. www.superfirstfriday.com

February 5

African Leadership Luncheon from 12 noon till 2 p.m. at the Ibex Ethiopian Restaurant located at 12255 Greenville Ave (Greenville and LBJ), Dallas. Ticket prices are \$15 and include lunch. Call with a credit card at 972-661-2764 or \$20 at the door on the day of the event.

Urban League Greater Dallas and American Red Cross **Honor Black History Month with Life Saving Blood Drive** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Southwest Center Mall 3662 W. Camp Wisdom Road, Dallas

February 6

P. Diddy Live Grand Finale Tour at the Palladium Ballroom is scheduled. DJs include Go DJ HI C and MC Qua on the Serato and Mic. The show is for ages 21 and older. Buy tickets at

www.aeglive.com.

February 7

Meals on Wheels volunteer training is 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Visiting Nurse Association's headquarters on 1440 W. Mockingbird Lane in Dallas.

February 12

UNCF's 12th Annual Red Hot & Snazzy Gala is 6 – 11 p.m. at Union Station, located at 400 South Houston Street in Dallas

The Dallas Contemporary member's preview of new exhibit from artist **Michel Verjux**.

February 13

House of Blues Gospel Sundays is debuting **Sunday Gospel Brunch Kertina Dauway 'aka' Lady Diamond** at the World Famous House of Blues at 12:30 p.m. www.houseofbluesdallas.com

February 18

Crow Collection After Dark: Year of the Rabbit Celebration from 6 p.m. – midnight. Info: 214-979-6430 or visit crowcollection.org.

February 19

Skywarn severe weather program on from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Granville Arts Center in Garland. The event is free and open to the public.

African American Read-In from 11:00-1:30 at Cornerstone Baptist Church located at 1819 Martin Luther King Blvd in Dallas. Info: 214-426-5468.

Victory Covenant Community Ministry Valentine Ball at 7 p.m. at the Waxahachie Civic Center 2000 Civic Center Lane, Waxahachie, Texas 75165

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Nuclear energy: A part of the solution for African American unemployment?

(NNPA) The latest unemployment numbers reveal that African Americans seeking work still are among the hardest hit by the economic downturn. The 16 percent unemployment rate among African Americans hovers around a 25-year high, and remains six percentage points above the national average.

With unemployment concerns top of mind, leaders in the African-American community are joining President Barack Obama in calling for additional federal support for new job opportunities in the clean energy sector, including nuclear energy. This fast-growing sector offers the promise of thousands of well-paying, long-term jobs in communities across the United States.

During President Obama's State of the Union address on Jan. 25 he pledged a push for 80 percent of the country's electricity to come from clean energy sources such as nuclear, clean coal and solar sources.

There is a broad coalition ready to support nuclear expansion and leverage the benefits derived from more nuclear energy plants. Recently, at a meeting of more than 50 leaders from business and academia from within the Hispanic and African-American communities along with labor and industry representatives to focus on how safe, reliable nuclear energy facilities can benefit minority communities. The open dialogue, hosted in Washington D.C. by the Clean and Safe Energy (CASEnergy) Coalition, focused on workforce development, educational partnerships, and supplier opportunities for minority communities and businesses.

Such a discussion is timely given continued trends in unemployment. Unlike many sectors that are contracting, there are numerous employment op-

portunities available in the energy sector, especially in nuclear energy. During the past few years, more than 15,000 new jobs have been created in anticipation of building new nuclear projects around the country. These jobs are well-paying, with university, community college, and labor training programs that are preparing the next-generation workforce in many disciplines. Clearly, there is an increasing need for long-term partnerships between business, labor, and minority groups to best leverage these job opportunities.

Nuclear energy is an economic success story – a story all Americans should be part of. One of the great values of nuclear energy is its ability to transform communities with new jobs and economic development. The 104 reactors in operation around the country each contributes an average of \$430 million a year in total economic output for their local communities. That money comes in salaries, materials, and state and local taxes for better schools, roads, hospitals,

and other infrastructure.

Each plant requires 400 to 700 workers to run it. Additional training for some of those jobs can take as little as two years, with the prospect of an immediate payoff. Average annual starting salaries in the industry range from \$65,000 to \$80,000. What's more, unlike many positions in today's economy, jobs at nuclear plants can't be shipped overseas. And, the nuclear energy industry is hiring now: nearly 40 percent of the nuclear energy workforce will be eligible to retire during the next five years, meaning the industry will need to hire as many as 20,000 workers to replace those that leave.



New jobs in the nuclear energy sector are available to minority communities through the pursuit of the workforce training and feeder programs available at historically Black institutions such as Clark Atlanta University and South Carolina State University. Industry and labor strive for a diverse workforce and supplier network, and programs are in place to help achieve this goal.

These are the jobs of the future, powered by a clean energy portfolio, as nuclear power combines with emerging energy alternatives such as solar and wind to produce power that our digital economy demands.

And, because nuclear power plants generate virtually no air pollution, the communities around them don't have to trade air quality for jobs. According to a report released by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation in 2004, more than 70 percent of African Americans live in counties in violation of federal air pollution standards. But, because nuclear plants emit no greenhouse gases or air pollution during the production of electricity, they can produce jobs and en-

ergy while protecting our air quality.

The economic and environmental benefits of nuclear power are important to note when considering policies to support a clean energy future. First, as the cleanest form of 24/7 base-load power, nuclear energy is needed to responsibly meet our rising electricity demand—forecasted to grow by 28 percent by 2035. Second, as part of a sustainable energy policy, we need energy sources such as nuclear power that limit carbon emissions and other pollutants. Nuclear energy generates about 70 percent of all low-carbon electricity our nation uses every year.

Work is well underway building two new reactors near Waynesboro, Georgia, the nation's first advanced reactor technology. More than 1,500 people already are at work at the state's largest construction project ever. At peak construction, about 3,500 new jobs will be created, along with up to 800 full-time positions once the reactors are producing electricity.

President Obama supported this project earlier this year when he an-

nounced a federal loan guarantee that will help Georgia Power gain access to financing for that project at lower rates. Democrats in Congress also support nuclear energy, led by Congressman James Clyburn, a leader within the Democratic party who is also supporting the expansion of nuclear energy's role in the nation's electricity mix. They are among several leaders, in both political parties, active in this effort.

The diverse group of leaders gathered at CASEnergy's first business and minority roundtable speaks volumes about the shared desire to identify new career options and business opportunities for our respective communities. Now is the time to fully engage the African-American community so it is fully aware of the benefits that the nuclear energy sector has to offer—both by way of job creation and clean electricity production. You are encouraged to join in the discussion to make sure others are involved to help strengthen the network, ensuring our communities are in the best possible position to act on the opportunities presented.



'Round about DFW

Through March 8

The Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Center in Richardson, will host a painting collection of Lisa M. Cardenas *Metaphoric Landscapes: Then and Now* exhibition at in the Green Mezzanine-Gallery. www.eisemanncenter.com

Jan. 21-Feb. 27

The Dallas Children's Theatre presents *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs* at the Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. in Dallas. Friday shows begin at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday shows at 1:30 and 4:40 p.m. Tickets start at \$14. www.dct.org

Jan. 28

The Garland Civic Theatre will showcase *The Sugar Bean Sisters* through Feb. 19, with Thursday performances on Jan. 27 and Feb. 3 at the Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth St. in downtown Garland. Tickets are \$15 for the "preview" Thursday

and \$20 for other performances. Call 972-205-2790 for tickets.

Jan. 29-Jan. 30

Sci-Fi Expo celebrating *Women of Sci-Fi* is slated for Saturday and Sunday in the Plano Convention Center, 2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy., from 11 a.m. to 6

p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. General admission tickets are \$10 per day, and \$20 for the Priority Pass, good for both days. Children ages 10 and younger are admitted free to the convention when accompanied by a paid adult. Parking is free. www.scifiexpo.com

Feb. 10

Award-winning romance writer **Francis Ray** and harpist **Geoffrey Ricketts** will appear at the Allen Public Library, 300 N. Allen Drive, at 7 p.m. Thursday, February 10. Their presentation is free.

Gazette Gossip

By Tonya Whitaker
NDG Staff Writer

Just thinking like a man

One of **Steve Harvey's** ex-wives has some dirty things to say about her ex. The Young, Black and Fabulous.com reported Jan. 21 ex-wife No. 2 Mary Harvey revealed the comedian cheated on her with a woman named Terry. It was also at this time that Steve Harvey began his relationship with his current wife, Marjorie. Two days later, on Jan. 23, Mary Harvey again

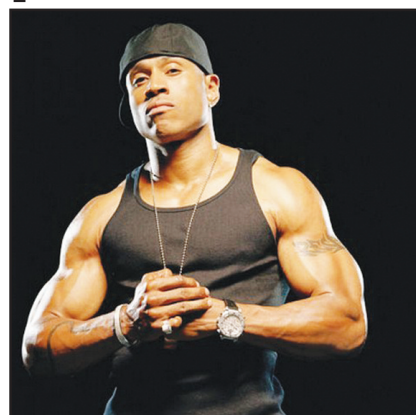
took to the internet to let the whole world know what a dirty dog she thinks her ex-hubby is. Mary claims that Steve kicked her out of the house and left her and their son, Wynton, broke and homeless. I am going to put on the breaks here. I am tired of folks putting their mess out on the street like that, especially when children are involved. The entertainer's attorney, Bobbie Edmonds of Fort Worth, issued a statement Jan. 24 on behalf of Steve Harvey stating, "We are saddened that

the ex-wife has resorted to such devious and selfish behavior, with a reckless disregard for their minor son..." Steve Harvey is accused of not being faithful. If he was, he is wrong. Sister girl, move on and stop sounding like an angry black woman. If not for yourself, do it for the sake of your child.

Keep on walkin'

A note to **Kim Kardashian**: If you sound too desperate, you will run men away. On Sunday, the reality star

posed a photo of her current beau NBA player Kris Humphries as a youngster and said, "I want my son to look like this." She announced her relationship with Humphries last month! I hope she was not serious, and if she was, Kim K has issues. Maybe she should pick up Steve Harvey's *Act Like a*



LL Cool J

Lady, Think Like a Man.

Photoshop at its best

LL Cool J is still fine as ever, but something just ain't right about his face. He is a very attractive brotha, and wish he would stop with all the Botox and plastic surgery. Just look at the latest edition of *Men's Fitness*. LL is 43 years old and does not look a day older than he did in *Krush Groove*.

Read more Gazette Gossip in the latest edition of *The North Dallas Gazette*, now on newsstands.

Local cause attracts entertainers, athletes to events during Super Bowl

By Tonya Whitaker
NDG Staff Writer

As North Texas inches closer to hosting Super Bowl XLV on Feb. 6, some locals see this as a perfect time to bring awareness to issues they advocate.



Vivica Fox

Down in south Dallas, actress Vivica Fox (*Two Can Play That Game* and *Set It Off*) has placed her stamp of approval on a 228-hour Super Bowl celebration to help We Are Graduating, or WAG — a long-standing education program created by Bruce Carter — and other nonprofits.

Several events are planned for the Ultimate Super Bowl Week, including prize giveaways, fashion shows, singing and beauty contests, pool parties and a host of celebrities. In addition to Fox, slated to appear are Michael Jai White (*Why Did I Get Married? I and II*), Regina King (*Southland*), Miguel Nunez, comedians Guy and Joe Torry, Kim Whitley and Omar Gooding.

Carter said legendary artist Frankie Beverley and Maze, Teddy Riley, Guy, BlackStreet and Keith Sweat have also offered to come and perform.

Events begin Jan. 27 at Southwest Center, 3362 Camp Wisdom in Dallas, and ends Super Bowl Sunday. Opening ceremonies start at 5 p.m. with happy hour and a buffet. At 7 p.m., dominoes tournament hosted by comedienne Kiana Dancie and Tommy Ford (*Martin*) is planned. Also, at 7 p.m. Madden tournament will take place.



Michael Jai White

Former Dallas Cowboy Michael Downs is the scheduled host. Starting at 9 p.m. is a teacher appreciation party. The winners of the dominoes and Madden tournaments will win a brand new car.

Celebrity hairstylist Shereese L. Slate has been selected as the celebrity host for the "Next Top Hairstylist" competition Feb. 3.

"I am honored to have been selected as the host for the 'Next Top Hairstylist' competition and look forward to sharing the knowledge that I have gained throughout my 25 years of experience with the many

contestants," Slate said.

The "Next Top Hairstylist" competition will provide the unique opportunity for an aspiring hairstylist to obtain classroom and hands-on experience, while being mentored by a seasoned and licensed hair professional. Benefiting the Future Moms of America program, this exciting competition will feature daily competitions



Shereese Slate

and participant eliminations. Slate will have the daunting task of selecting and crowning the coveted "Next Top Hairstylist" who will re-

ceive a one-year scholarship to attend a hair and beauty college, a monthly \$500 stipend, paid expenses for books and supplies, and a free hairstyling booth space for six months following graduation from a professional hairstyling program.

For the complete schedule of events, registration information and the WAG program, visit www.theultimatesuperbowlweekend.com

Visit www.northdallasgazette.com for more information on the events leading to Super Bowl XLV.

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New fine meat and wine retailer opening in Plano

(NDG Wire) Matador Meat & Wine, located at 8200 Preston Rd. (Preston & Headquarters) in Plano, Texas announces the grand opening of its inaugural store on Jan. 27.

Matador Meat & Wine is a custom cut butcher shop and wine store that allows the customer to specify his/her desired cut of

meat at the thickness they prefer. Very few pre-cut pieces of meat will be available. Instead, only the "primal" portions of the product will be displayed. He/she specifies the cut of meat they desire plus the thickness and fat trim. The meat is then cut directly in front of the customer on authentic butcher blocks en-

suring the customer receives EXACTLY what it is he/she desires.

Matador Meat & Wine will offer Certified Angus Beef (CAB) and Prime grades of grain fed beef from Omaha Greater Packing Company, located in Omaha, Nebraska and locally raised all natural, hormone free beef from Open

Range Cattle Company in Paradise, Texas. Locally raised beef will be "hung" on the side creating an "old school" butcher shop feel. In addition to the beef, Matador Meat & Wine will offer seasonally available free range chicken, premium pork, gourmet sausages, gourmet hamburger patties, and a 60+

label selection of domestic wine.

The wine selection is entirely domestic with the exception of a true French champagne. Matador Meat & Wine will offer wines of 19 different varietals not commonly found around the Metroplex ranging from \$11.99 to \$199.00 per bottle.

Along with an impressive storefront, Matador Meat & Wine will also offer home delivery to a limited area. Wine can be delivered, however at this time, only within Collin County.

Matador Meat & Wine can be found on Facebook and Twitter as well as www.matadormeats.com.

New Affordable Care Act Rules to Fight Fraud

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced new rules authorized by the Affordable Care Act which will help stop health care fraud. The provisions of the Affordable Care Act implemented through this final rule include new provider screening and enforcement measures to help keep bad actors out of Medicare, Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The final rule also contains important authority to suspend payments when a credible allegation



of fraud is being investigated.

"Thanks to the new law, CMS now has additional resources to help detect fraud and stop criminals from getting into the system in the first place," CMS Admin-

istrator Donald Berwick, M.D. said. "The Affordable Care Act's new authorities allow us to develop sophisticated, new systems of monitoring and oversight to not only help us crack down on fraudulent activity scamming these programs, but also help us to prevent the loss of taxpayer dollars across the board for millions of American health care consumers."

Specifically, the final

rule:

Creates a rigorous screening process for providers and suppliers enrolling Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP to keep fraudulent providers out of those programs. Types of providers and suppliers that have been identified in the past as posing a higher risk of fraud, for example durable medical equipment suppliers, will be subject to a more thorough screening process.

Requires new enrollment process for Medicaid and CHIP providers.

Under the Affordable Care Act, States will have to screen providers who order and refer to Medicaid beneficiaries to determine if they have a history of defrauding government. Providers that have been kicked out of Medicare or another State's Medicaid or CHIP will be barred from all Medicaid and CHIP programs.

Temporarily stops enrollment of new providers and suppliers. Medicare and State agencies will be on the look out for trends that may indicate health care fraud – including using

advanced predictive modeling software, such as that used to detect credit card fraud. If a trend is identified in a category of providers or geographic area, the program can temporarily stop enrollment as long as that will not impact access to care for patients.

Temporarily stops payments to providers and suppliers in cases of suspected fraud. Under the new rules, if there has been a credible fraud allegation, payments can be suspended while an action or investigation is underway.



HUB Vendors Wanted

Delta Dental is seeking Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) vendors in Texas to assist us in providing the following services for the Texas Dental Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP):

Translation Services:

- Translate (6th grade reading level if applicable) or proofread member materials for grammatical or typographical errors in any language deemed appropriate by Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Expected volume per item is approximately 7,000 – 10,000 words.
- Translate member materials to Braille and/or audio formats for use by visually impaired members. Expected volume per item is approximately 7,000 – 10,000 words.
- Receive and/or place approximately 100 monthly calls for members and providers in Spanish and/or any other language deemed necessary by HHSC.
- Offer face-to-face translation services as deemed necessary.

Communication and Media Services:

- Produce newspaper advertisements, pamphlets, and brochures as required by HHSC.
- Provide graphic and ad design services as required by HHSC.

Health Services:

- Develop health care education materials.

Printing, Fulfillment and Related Services:

- Provide printing services for the following materials and their respective, approximate volumes:
 - Member materials in large and/or Braille print: 1,000 – 3,000 items
 - Member welcome letters/ID cards: 70,000 – 80,000 items
 - Provider directories: 70,000 – 80,000 items
 - HIPAA inserts for EOC: 280,000 – 320,000 pages
 - Packet envelopes: 70,000 – 80,000 items
 - Evidence of Coverage/Member Handbook: 70,000 – 80,000 items
 - Provider Manual-hard-copy and CD: 500-1000
- Provide fulfillment and storage services for the above-mentioned items and volumes.
- Manage mailing, courier and/or delivery services for the above mentioned items and volumes.
- Ability to handle changes to format and content as requested by HHSC.
- System must be capable of receiving HIPAA compliant transaction in the format determined by Delta Dental and/or HHSC.
- Ability to meet aggressive turnaround times.

If your company is interested, HUB certified and can meet the criteria for any of the services listed above, please contact Anitra Callahan at (916) 861-1942 or by email at acallahan@delta.org. **Responses must be received no later than February 28th, 2011.** If your company is selected, you must provide evidence of bonding and insurance as required by HHSC.

GOD, continued from Page 1

campaign on six Fort Worth city buses bearing the simple, yet powerful statement, "God still reigns."

"Our atheist brothers have a constitutional right to voice their belief or disbelief in God," said Derick Faison, campus pastor of The Potter's House of Fort Worth. "As believers we also enjoy that same privilege. We understand that all men need God, and God loves all people, even those who insist on rejecting Him. Knowing that is true, we must be diligent and passionate about sharing the message of God's love."

The Potter's House extended its ministry to Fort Worth with a special New Year's Eve service at the end of 2009. Services were temporarily held at the Fort Worth Convention Center, and in October of last year, the inaugural service was held at its new location at the corner of Interstate 30 and Woodhaven Boulevard.

Located at 1200 Woodhaven Boulevard in Fort Worth, Sunday services are currently being held at 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the youth sanctuary. The main sanctuary is being renovated

and expected to open this spring.

The Potter's House of Fort Worth actively participates in the Tarrant County Meals on Wheels Program, and offers Children's Church, Youth Ministry, Evangelism Ministry, and Financial Budgeting and Planning Assistance. There is also a dental office and medical center located on the property. Once all renovations are complete, the complex will be an epicenter for the community, providing services for the mind, body, and spirit.

RICHARD, continued from Page 2

with the idea for the paper about five years ago. He has been conducting similar research for about 13 years and already had the racial diversity and company performance data, but asked Andreovski to collect the competitive action data for a three-year period.

A short version of the 40-page paper has been

published in the Academy of Management's Best Paper proceedings and is available to all members of the organization. It will soon be available in libraries and the general public.

"As organizations become increasingly diverse and as the representation of racial minorities in the U.S.

workforce rapidly grows, practicing managers are curious as to how racial diversity will affect their bottom-line performance," Richard said. "This study provides a more complex relationship than a simple linear relationship between racial diversity and firm performance."

Personal benefits should prevail over healthcare reform banter

By Royce West
Texas Senate

In recent days we've seen the U.S. House of Representatives follow through on some members' campaign promises by passing a symbolic bill that would repeal the landmark Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. And while Texas has joined 20 other states in suing the federal government claiming the unconstitutionality of the healthcare reform bill passed

by Congress last spring, polls now show that more and more Americans are starting to realize that the much-maligned healthcare law may not be so bad after all.

Most would agree that it's a good thing that children can no longer be denied health insurance due to pre-existing conditions. And so far, there's been no report of seniors returning the \$250 checks issued last summer to offset Medicare Part D

"donut hole" prescription coverage costs.

But in the midst of the partisan rancor, the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI), in its recent report to the Legislature, concluded that the law's provisions "should make it easier for many low-income Texans to obtain private insurance." However the help that could be available through the healthcare reform law is not limited to low-income Texans. Now, young adults up to

age 26 can be added to their parents' employer-based health plans and insurers can no longer impose lifetime or annual benefits caps on subscribers.

Texas actually stands to benefit from healthcare re-

form more than most states. The report says that more than 6.4 million Texans (26.1%) were uninsured throughout 2009. The total for Dallas County for 2007 was even higher at 30.8 percent. The national average is

16.7 percent. Also, fewer Texas residents had private insurance coverage in 2009 (53.8%), than in 2007 (56.9%). And from 2001 - 2009, the number of working

See **BENEFITS**, Page 16

OBAMA, continued from Page 1

Budget will help increase the nation's R&D investments, as a share of GDP, to its highest levels since President Kennedy. He is issuing a challenge to America's scientists and engineers to invent new clean energy technologies that will lead the world. To incentivize these innovations, the President is calling for 80 percent of America's electricity to come from clean sources by 2035, including wind, solar, nuclear, clean coal and natural gas. He is also putting forward measures to ensure that the U.S. is the first country to put 1 million advanced technology vehicles on its roads.

Educate: The President understands that tow in the future, we have to win the race to educate our children. Building on the success of Race to the Top, he is calling on Congress to re-define and right-size the federal role in education, by replacing No Child Left Behind with a new law that raises expectations, challenges failure, rewards success, and provides greater flexibility for schools to innovate and improve results for their students. The President is also pledging to prepare an additional 100,000 science, technology, engineering, and math teachers by the end of the decade. To help restore America's global leadership in higher education, the President will continue efforts to strengthen the Pell Grant program and is calling on Congress to make permanent his American Opportu-

nity Tax Credit, worth \$10,000 for four years of college.

Build: The President is calling for a new effort to ensure that the U.S. has the fastest, most reliable ways to move people, goods, and information - from roads and airports to high-speed rail and high-speed Internet. He is proposing efforts to repair and rebuild America's infrastructure and put forward a National Wireless Initiative to help business extend the next generation of wireless coverage to 98 percent of the population.

Reform: The President is working to reform government so that it is leaner and smarter for the 21st century, removing barriers and creating new incentives for growth. The President has ordered a review of regulations to remove needless burdens, while ensuring common sense standards to protect the American people. He also asked for efforts to merge, consolidate and reorganize federal agencies to make America more competitive. The President is urging reforms to further reduce the rate of health care cost growth, in-

cluding medical malpractice liability. And to ensure that the U.S. remains the best place for businesses to invest, President Obama calling to reform our corporate tax system, eliminating loopholes and lowering the corporate rate without adding to the deficit.

Responsibility: The President recognizes that both parties and both houses of Congress must come together to reduce our deficits. As a step toward achieving that goal, he is calling for a five-year freeze on all spending outside of security, Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. This freeze will require substantial cuts, including to programs the President supports, to allow for the investments in education and research that our economy needs. He called for a bipartisan effort to strengthen Social Security to safeguard it for future generations, and wants both parties and both houses of Congress to work together to cut spending wherever it may be appropriate, including health spending, defense spending and spending in the tax code.

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Texas employers add 20,000 jobs in December

Texas unemployment rate remains well below national average

(NDG Wire) Texas total nonfarm employment was up by 20,000 jobs in December, representing the addition of 230,800 jobs since December 2009. At 8.3 percent for December, the Texas unemployment rate remains well below the 9.4 percent U.S. unemployment rate for December. Annual job growth in Texas is also strong at 2.3 percent, as compared to the U.S. growth

rate of 0.9 percent.

"The annual job growth rate in Texas has steadily risen every month during the past 12 months and now stands at 2.3 percent for December," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. "At the same time, Texas employers added jobs and our state ended the year with an increase of 218,200 jobs since January."

Goods-Producing industries showed strong gains in December with Construction adding 8,700 positions for a total of 32,300 jobs added over the year; Manufacturing adding 3,100 jobs for a total of 28,000 jobs added over the year; and Mining and Logging adding 1,400 jobs for a total of 29,400 jobs added over the year.

"Texas job growth

across many industries offers employment opportunities for Texas workers," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "Staff at TWC and at more than 245 Workforce Solutions offices across the state stand ready to assist those job seekers who remain unemployed."

Leisure and Hospitality reported its second consecutive month of job gains with

the addition of 6,600 positions in December, up by 25,000 jobs since December 2009.

Additionally, Other Services, which includes automotive, computer, office machine and appliance repair and maintenance, and service industries such as barber shops, funeral homes and business associations, increased by 3,400 jobs in December.

"The Texas labor force expanded for the fourth consecutive month, currently at more than 12.2 million individuals," said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. "Job growth in the Goods-Producing industries was positive, with annual growth rates of 14.8 percent in Mining and Logging, 5.8 percent in Construction and 3.4 percent in Manufacturing."

BILLS, continued from Page 1

"Just like trying to lose weight in the New Year, paying off holiday debt, or any debt from 2010, is going to take some time," Mark said. "The first thing you should do is sit down and make a budget. Once you've figured out all of your expenses, decide how much money you can devote to debt each month, and set a goal for paying it off."

If the influx of holiday bills seems overwhelming, CCCS of Greater Dallas invites consumers to contact them for a free session with a professional credit counselor to figure out a budget for the New Year. For consumers who are eager to eliminate holiday debt on their own, CCCS of Greater Dallas suggests the following tips to get started:

Set a goal. Decide how

much money you can devote to holiday bills after adding up expenses like rent or mortgage payments, utility bills, food, transportation costs and tuition. Set a goal to pay it off – whether it's three to six months or more.

Prioritize your debt. Make the largest payments on the highest interest credit cards first, which will save you money over time. Don't forget that you need to be paying a little (at least the minimum payment) on all debts to keep the accounts current.

Cut out unnecessary items until your debt is paid. If you owe thousands of dollars in holiday debts, now is the time to cut out all extra expenses. Eat at home or pack your lunch, find free activities for the family, and make smart

purchases for things you need. Cutting out extra expenses like eating out could also help you achieve some other New Year's resolutions, such as dropping a few pounds.

Pursue a part-time job. If you just don't have the funds to pay off your debt with your current salary, consider taking on a part-time job. If you can

find a part-time opportunity in our current economy it would be wise to make the sacrifice of your time to get yourself financially fit for what could continue to be an economically unstable year.

For help in becoming debt free and making smart financial decisions in 2011, contact your local CCCS office for a free budget re-

view and credit counseling session, as well as more information on financial edu-

cation and free debt seminars, at 800-249-2227 or visit www.cccs.net.

TXU adding 500 jobs in call centers throughout the state

(NDG Wire) Irving-headquartered TXU Energy has announced it is adding 500 jobs between the company's existing call center in Irving and two new call

centers opening in Lubbock and Abilene. Nearly 100 new jobs will be added in Irving with 250 new positions being created in Abilene and 150 in Lubbock.

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DALLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

NOTICE OF ENTRY LEVEL DEPUTY SHERIFF'S EXAM

Registration begins Monday,
January 24, 2011 through
Monday, February 7, 2011. Visit
our website @ www.dallascounty.org.
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9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Monday – Friday**

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are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-
0567 or they may be submitted
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On Going, 7 p.m.
Wednesday Night Live at our
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Join us for food, fun and fel-
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February 12, 7 p.m.
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Annual Parent and Youth Con-

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Their 2011 Theme: "Press To-
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and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to
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On Going

Join us in prayer early in the
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Friday at 1-661-673-8600,
Code # 142219 and please put
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Thursdays, 7 p.m.

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Senior Pastor**
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Morning Worship – 11:00 a.m.

Evening Service – First Sundays – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday Night Live (Prayer, Praise and Proclamation) - 7:00 p.m.

**Pastor Shaun Rabb &
Co-Pastor Marian Rabb**



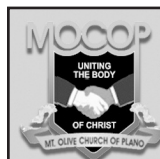
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KGGR 1040 AM, Monday - Friday @ 5:25 pm - 5:30 pm



**Sister
Tarpley**

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it:" **Psalms 127:1(a) (KJV)**

Imagine spending years building an expensive home with the finest materials and craftsmanship that could be found. It is a work of art and the project is almost complete. The day arrives to move in, but, a building inspector arrives and hands you a notice that condemns your home because it doesn't meet city code.

Many Christians who invest years in the workplace will one day stand before the Lord and realize they were building their house, but not the Lord's house. God looks at our motives behind our actions. Before Christians act, we must ask, "Why are we doing this?" Has God called us to this task or is the real motive something else? Perhaps its financial, control or prestige.

"Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." **1 Corinthians 3:12 & 13. (KJV)**

Note: Is this a wakeup call for you? **RECALL NOTICE** - The Maker of all human beings is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to the serious deflected in the primary and central component of the heart.

This is due to a willful malfunction in the original prototype units called Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units.

This defect has been technically termed, "Sub-sequential Internal Non-Morality," or more commonly known as SIN, as it is primarily expressed.

Some symptoms are:

Loss of direction, foul vocal emissions, amnesia or origin, lack of peace and joy, selfish or violent behavior, depression or confusion in the mental component, fearfulness, idolatry, and rebellion.

The Manufacturer, God, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this SIN defect.

The Repair Technician, Jesus, generously has paid the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required.

The toll free number to call for repair in all areas is: 1-800- P-R-A-Y-E-R. Once connected, please punch one to place your burden of SIN through the **REPENTANCE** procedures.

Next punch 2 for **ATONEMENT** from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component. No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it

with: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control.

Please see the operating manual, the **HOLY BIBLE**, for further details on how to keep the maintenance up on these fixes.

As an added upgrade, the Manufacturer has made available to all repaired units a facility enabling direct monitoring and assistance from a resident Maintenance Technician, The **HOLY SPIRIT**.

Repaired units need only make Him welcome and He will take up permanent residence on the premises!

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids the Manufacturer's warranty, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on **JESUS**.



Ms. Marian Fielding (a Stanford Law student in California) and Ms. Candace Yarbough (a Dallas attorney), friends, enjoying a recent birthday party.

merous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on **JESUS**.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the burning furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility.

--Author Unknown

Remember always: If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it. And in . . . Happy or sad moments, **praise God**. . . difficult moments, **seek God**. . . quiet moments, **worship God**. . . painful moments, **trust God**. . . every moment, **thank God**. **Pray for me as I pray for you.**

Botanical Illustration Exhibition Showcases Local Artists at Texas Discovery Gardens

Earth, Petal, Wing / Tierra, Pétalo, Ala : A Collection of Scientific Illustrations and Botanical Paintings

Texas Discovery Gardens' latest art exhibit



opens Friday, Jan. 28 and celebrates nature in watercolor and acrylic. Earth, Petal, Wing showcases the interpretation of natural subject matter by Cynthia Padilla and Julio Suarez,

Texas-based artists who share a passion for nature and the natural sciences and an appreciation for the fragility and simple beauty

See GARDENS, Page 16



Ramon Hodridge, Minister

Avenue F Church of Christ

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www.avefchurchofchrist.org

Early Sunday Morning 8:00 am
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Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday ... 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday Closed

Contact Info

Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church
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Wednesday Bible Study
7:30pm

GARDENS, continued from Page 15

found in nature.

Using varied artistic tools, Padilla and Suarez present paintings, drawings and prints based on direct observation of natural science subjects. These include seashells, flowers, feathers and insects taken from nature journals, notebook sketches, plein air renderings and personal pho-



tography. The works are naturalistic, realistic and

stylized and demonstrate the versatility of the creativity of the two artists and their respective approaches to self-expression.

Cynthia Padilla is an international botanical artist and natural science illustrator.

Julio Suarez is a visual artist and art educator with an in-

terest in botany and the natural sciences. The exhibition is curated by Janet Reynolds.

The exhibit will run Jan. 28 through April 24 with an opening reception scheduled for Jan. 28 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission to Texas Discovery Gardens is free for the reception.

BENEFITS, continued from Page 12

Texans with employer-based healthcare coverage dropped by 18 percent.

In compiling its report, TDI held statewide focus groups made up of average citizens, small business owners and their employees. Results of these and other studies show that only 34.2 percent of small businesses (2-49 workers) offer healthcare coverage, compared with 94.0 percent of businesses with 50 or more employees. Small business owners and their workers expressed frustration that "average, working, responsible, citizens

could not afford insurance coverage." So while Texas continually boasts of its attractive, business-friendly climate, healthcare coverage for many employees and even small business owners is sorely lacking.

For millions of Texas workers at small and large companies alike who do not have healthcare coverage, cost was named the most prohibitive factor. Employers also cite the increasing costs of insurance coverage. Cost was identified again as the reason why lower-income families are less likely

to be insured.

Healthcare law detractors don't mention the fact that the feds now subsidize small business owners for up to 35 percent of their costs in providing coverage. And come 2014 (God forbid - a successful repeal), the government will help families with incomes from 133 percent to 400 percent of the poverty level with insurance costs through tax credits.

Some state leaders who want no part of the new healthcare law would pass on Texas creating its own health insurance exchange that will

allow its citizens to comparison shop for the best coverage options. But both advocates and experts say that such a move is not in state's best interest. Wisely, a Texas House committee chair filed a bill that will establish an exchange. That idea has the support of the Texas Association of Business.

Nearly everyone has felt the impact of high healthcare costs. I'd be curious to know just how many of Texas' 6.4 million uninsured support party-line vows to repeal what some derisively call Obamacare.

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Charles S. Wattlely
Senior Pastor

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9:30 a.m.
Worship Celebration
10:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY
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7:30 am & 10:30 am
9:00 am Sunday School

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Young Adult Ministry 7:00 pm

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Bible Study 7:00 pm

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Service: Every 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sunday at 10:45 a.m.
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www.smbcplano.org

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Sunday School
9:30 am

Wednesday Night Service
8:00 pm

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