

North Dallas Gazette

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Special transit pass available for Super Bowl, related events

Four-day ticket allows access to trains, buses across region

(NDG Wire) Public transit will be relied on heavily to move the thousands of visitors in town for the Super Bowl and related events next month. To help customers get to events on trains and buses, the region's public transportation

providers are offering a special four-day regional transit pass that is valid Feb. 3-6.

With this \$30 pass, customers will be able to ride buses and trains from any of the three public transportation agencies in North Texas for those four days. Avail-

able beginning Jan. 17, the commemorative pass comes with an official NFL Super Bowl XLV lanyard and pass holder. Fans who buy the passes on SBXLV.Clickand-Park.com or by calling 214-

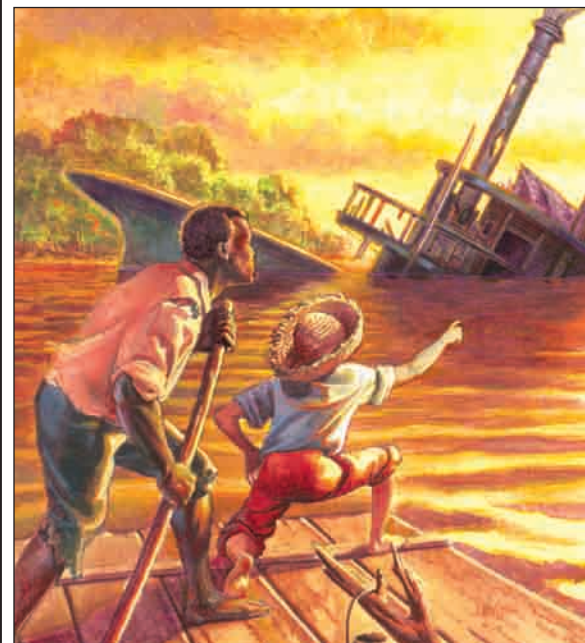
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COVER STORY

Agitation over the removal of the n-word from *Huck Finn*



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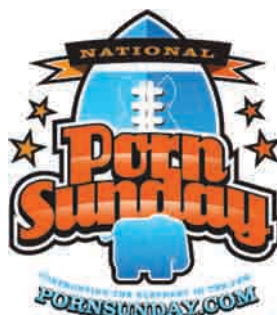
Dallas churches to participate in Punt, Pass and Porn event

(NDG Wire) On the day of America's biggest game, more than 300 churches will tackle one of America's biggest problems by observing National Porn Sunday on Feb. 6.

"It's the Sunday of the Super Bowl, and the game generates huge numbers," organizer Craig Gross said.

"It is estimated that 95 million will watch the Super Bowl, but research shows that 40 million Americans visit porn sites every day. The porn revenue is larger than the revenues of the professional football, baseball or basketball leagues in this country."

Gross started XXX-



church.com, a revolutionary web network that exists to help people who are in over their heads with pornography. XXXchurch is the ministry that created National Porn Sunday.

The focus of Porn Sunday is to get churches and

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Super Bowl events around town

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

COMMENTARY

The ink is all but dry on Texas Voter ID law

By Sen. Royce West

A routine by comic Bill Cosby weaves the tale of a daily walk to school in telling kids how hard he had it growing up. It was five miles each way, Cosby said, "uphill, both ways." Such is the task facing Texas Democrats' attempt to block potentially harmful revisions to Texas' election laws that are so important to Republicans, that Gov. Rick Perry declared it an "emergency" item, putting it on a fast-track through legislative timelines.

Former President Bill Clinton once said that elections have consequences and Democrats will soon pay the price for staying home for the midterm elections. Passing what will be the country's toughest voter ID law was made easier when more than 20 Democrats were ousted on the way to Republicans gaining a 101-member super-majority in the Texas House. This means Republicans can convene and pass legislation without a single

See VOTER, Page 3

Did you know that blacks celebrated the start of the Civil War?

By Dr. Frank Smith Jr. (TriceEdneyWire.com) For White America - both North and South - the firing on Fort Sumter April 12, 1861, was a cause for tribulation and anxiety. But, for free and enslaved Black Americans, the onset of the Civil War was



a cause for celebration and a time for jubilee.

The Northern press fretted over whether the

union could be saved. The Southern press railed on about the threat to the demise of the South's "Peculiar Institutions" - slavery - while the Black Press rejoiced in headlines, such as, "The Coming Hour",

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People In The News...



Kuae Kelch Mattox



Dr. Patricia Mathes



Cymphonique Miller

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Kuae Kelch Mattox

The National Board of Mocha Moms, Inc. recently announced Kuae Kelch Mattox is the new National President of Mocha Moms, Inc. The organization sincerely thanks former president, Dee Dee Jackson, who has resigned, for her years of service "as she has done a great deal for this organization and has contributed to its growth."

Kuae Mattox is no stranger to Mocha Moms, Inc. She became a Mocha Mom in 2001 and joined the National Board as Director of Media and Publicity in 2003. During

her tenure, she has increased the visibility of Mocha Moms and highlighted the stories of numerous mothers of color who have made the choice to modify or eliminate their employment to spend more time raising their children. Mocha Moms, Inc. has been featured on *NBC Nightly News* with Brian Williams, *ABC's Nightline*, *Good Morning America* and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, as well as in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Essence*, *Ebony* and *JET*.

Mattox has also served for

the past three years as National Co-Director of Community Service and has been instrumental in developing and implementing our current national community service initiative, "Closing the Gap in Minority Health, Prosperity and Achievement." She is the founder and former president of the Essex County, NJ chapter of Mocha Moms, Inc., which was chartered in 2002. Kuae is an Emmy-nominated journalist with more than 20 years experience in the print and broadcast media. She is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Montclair Early Childhood Corporation, which oversees the Montclair



Community Pre-K, an award-winning, nationally recognized program based on the theory of multiple intelligence developed by Harvard professor Dr.

Howard Gardner.

Mattox holds a B.A. in Print Journalism from Howard University, where she was Campus Editor of the critically acclaimed student newspaper *The Hilltop*, a member of the Society of Professional Journalists, the Frederick Douglass Honor Society and the Golden Key National Honor Society. She also holds an M.S. in Journalism from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, where she was awarded a fellowship with the Alfred I. DuPont Center for Broadcast Journalism.

Mocha Moms, Inc. was founded in 1997 by four mothers of color in Maryland who saw the need for a growing segment of stay at home mothers of color to connect and support each other. Today, the fast growing national, non-profit organization has 100 chapters and more than 3,000 members in 28 states throughout the country, as well as partnerships with such organizations as the America's Promise Alliance, the Black Women's Health Imperative, the National Institute for Literacy, the National Marrow Donor Program and PBS Kids.

For more information, visit www.mochamoms.org

Dr. Patricia Mathes

Dr. Patricia Mathes, a professor at Southern Methodist University, received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Baylor Alumni Association in a presentation on Friday, Jan. 21, in Waco. Former Texas governor Mark White—a 1962 Baylor graduate and 1965 law graduate—was emcee of the event.

The Distinguished Alumni Award, presented annually since 1965 as the highest honor the Baylor Alumni Association bestows, recognizes Baylor graduates whose records of service in their professions and vocations have merited the honor and acclaim of peers and colleagues.

Mathes is Texas Instruments Chair of Evidence-Based Education, Professor of Teaching and Learning, and Director of the Institute for Evidence-Based Education at

SMU. She earned her bachelor's degree from Baylor in 1984, a master's degree in education at the University of Houston, and her doctorate in education and human development from Vanderbilt University. She has served on the faculties at the University of Texas/Houston Medical School, the College of Education at Florida State University, and the Peabody College for Teachers at Vanderbilt.

Mathes is an internationally respected reading expert. The research she began in 1991, funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education, proves it is possible to reduce the incidence of reading disabilities to less than 1 percent, and she has developed a curriculum to do just that.

During the alumni association's Hall of Fame awards



event, eighteen other awards were presented to alumni and friends of Baylor University. A partial list is below. For more biographical information about the recipients, go to the current issue of the *Baylor Line*, the magazine of the Baylor Alumni Association at <http://www.baylorline.com/>.

Distinguished Alumni Award

- Dr. Gerald Cobb '50, MS '55, Chair of the Board, Woodforest National Bank,

Houston

- Timothy Hale '84, Senior Vice President of Design Management and Marketing, Fossil, Sherman

- Michael Johnson '90, Thirteen-time Olympic and World Champion, San Rafael, Calif.

- Dr. Patricia Mathes '84, Director of the Institute for Evidence-Based Education, Southern Methodist University, Richardson

- Maj. General David Rubenstein, MHA '89, Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, San Antonio

W. R. White Meritorious Service Award

- Carroll Dawson '60, General Manager, Houston Rockets, retired, Houston

- Calvin Smith, Executive Director, Western Heritage Museum Complex at New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs, Pueblo, Colo.

- Bob '46, MA '47, (posthumously) and Anna Smith Wright '47 (unable to attend), Partners, Wright Brand Foods, retired, Vernon

Price Daniel Distinguished Public Service Award

- Marvin Watson '49, MA '50, U.S. Postmaster General, retired, Jackson Hole, Wyo.

Abner V. McCall Religious Liberty Award

- Dr. Derek Davis '72, JD '73, MA '88, Dean of Graduate School, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Waco

Abner V. McCall Humanitarian Award

- Dr. Calvin McKaig '58, MD '64, Physician, retired, Arlington

George W. Truett Distinguished Church Service

Award

- Marv Knox, Editor, Baptist Standard, Coppell

- Dr. Randall O'Brien, President, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.

Herbert H. Reynolds Outstanding Young Alumni Award

- Brian Clark, MS '00, Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Little Rock, Ark.

- Kristen Cox '94, President and CEO, 16x9 Production, Austin

- Chase Palmer '96, JD '98, Attorney, Palmer Law Firm, Marshall

- Sophia Young '06, WNBA Player, San Antonio Silver Stars, San Antonio (unable to attend)

First Families of Baylor Award

- The Abney Family

Cymphonique Miller

Nickelodeon has picked up a sitcom pilot starring young Sony Music recording artist Cymphonique.



The 14 year old Cymphonique Miller is set to star

in *How to Rock Braces and Glasses*, based on a new book series from Alloy Entertainment.

How to Rock Braces and Glasses stars Cymphonique Miller as Kacey, a popular girl whose status takes a dive after she's saddled with braces and glasses. Now shunned by the mean girls, Kacey finds a new way to shine -- through her music. *How to Rock Braces and Glasses* was developed at Alloy as both a book and TV property simultaneously. (The book series is due to be published in September.)

Teen sensation Cymphonique is the daughter of music mogul, entrepreneurial businessman and philanthropist Percy Miller also known as Master P and the little sister of the multi-talented entertainer and college student-athlete, Romeo Miller.

Cymphonique also provides a voice on Disney's *Phineas and Ferb* and starred in the features *Scarecrow Joe* and *Opposite Day*. Her acting abilities range from comedy to drama. As a singer, she has toured with Ashley Tisdale, Raven Symone, Demi Lovato and JoJo. Cymphonique is on an "All That" national school

tour where she performs and speaks to thousands of students about the importance of education, dealing with peer pressure and bullying.

Cymphonique has tapped into the fast paced growing music markets targeting young people with her cool clean swagger.

After her internet exposure and national school touring, she is in high demand. She has built stardom through the internet, like other popular artists such as Soulja Boy, Drake, Cassie, and Justin Bieber.

With her new songs, *Daddy I'm A Rockstar* and

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\$69* DIVORCE

Criminal Defense

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

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- Child Support / Paternity
- Custody Modification
- Restraining Order
- Protective Order
- Name Change / Adoption
- Domestic Violence

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Where did all the Haiti money go?

By Nicole C. Lee, Esq.

When a 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti on January 12, 2010 the world community came to its aid. Millions of private citizens in this country and around the world reached into their household budgets and gave generously to the Haitian people who were grappling with the devastation.

We sat in front of our televisions and watched men digging for their families. We gave more. We heard doctors lament the lack of supplies. We gave more. In March, the United Nations member states and international partners met in New York and passionately pledged more than \$5 billion over the next 18 months to help Haiti recover.

Despite the billions of dollars pledged from private citizens and world governments, a serious health scare has arisen. With poor sanitation, malnutrition, little safe drinking water and no sewage systems, the over-crowded temporary housing tent communities provide an ideal breeding ground for cholera.

One independent report has conservatively estimated that there is one toilet

for every 273 people in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. Throughout Haiti, a year after we opened our hearts and wallets, the latrines are not cleaned on a regular basis and human waste spreads into the streams by the frequent rains. Now, a year later, limited water distribution continues, with little development of sustainable, municipal water-filtration systems.

In the face of these conditions, Haiti remains the non-governmental organization (NGO) capital of the world. Before the earthquake, there were more than 5,000 organizations on the ground in Haiti. From the International Red Cross to Save The Children to any number of church and civic organizations, Haiti is replete with people of good will who are there to make it a better place to live. Each of these organizations conducted their own fundraising campaigns after the earthquake and collected millions of dollars.

With millions of dollars at our disposal do we really lack the ability to support basic sanitation and clean water? Do we lack the ability to stop a preventable,

deadly water-borne disease right off our coast? What happened to all of the money?

Many of the charities on the ground have reported they are setting aside a portion of their donations (sometimes up to 70 percent) for the "reconstruction" period. It's clear from the outpouring of support many of those who donated from their own scarce family budgets believed they were giving to save lives immediately. In the face of a preventable public health emergency, like cholera, many will be surprised that more than half of their donations continue to sit in U.S. banks.

My organization has attempted for nearly a year to get the Red Cross to account for the money they collected for Haiti. In a recent meeting, I was told that 70 percent of their donations remain in "reserve" to be used for longer-term reconstruction.

Long-term development to secure transitional and permanent housing, build infrastructure outside of Port-au-Prince and promote public health campaigns are all extremely important issues. But if the Red Cross,

whose mandate and expertise lie in emergency and crises management, is not responding to continued immediate emergencies on the ground, then who is? Who is responsible for the deteriorating quality of life and preventable suffering faced by those most affected by the earthquake?

We have asked the House oversight Committee, to hold a hearing on large private NGOs and USAID partner organizations to ask one simple question: "What happened to all of the money?" Though significant promises of donations have been made, many communities of earthquake survivors continue to face challenges in accessing even the most basic of services. Our repeated requests to determine where the money went have fallen on deaf ears.

We need to know who is responsible for coordinating the money donated to Haiti? Who is holding the thousands of NGO's on the ground accountable for the money they collected from U.S. families and families around the world? Moreover, who is pressuring the

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Democrat's "yea" vote.

Others will also feel the repercussions. Republicans are pushing through a bill for which testimony provided no projections on actual implementation costs. Analysts say this unfunded mandate will pass along costs to county governments. And while we mull the reality of laying off thousands of teachers, our colleagues don't mind diverting resources to solve a problem that doesn't exist.

On the new session's second day, Senate Republicans passed a rule to bypass the longstanding tradition requiring 2/3 of members' approval for bills to come up for a vote. Less than a week later, Senate Bill 14 cleared committee in an evening-long hearing. The next evening, the bill passed the full senate on a party-line vote.

SB14 will require Texas voters to display a current government-issued photo ID to cast a ballot. Republicans claim a new law is needed to prevent election day fraud by those who show up at polling sites bearing fake voter registration cards. No evidence exists that validates claims of massive voter fraud of this type. Democrats support laws that insure the integrity of the ballot. But SB14 does not address known improprieties surrounding mail-in ballots.

Evidence does exist that minorities, the elderly and disabled are more likely to be without a driver license or state-issued photo ID. And throughout debate, Senate Democrats foretold the hardships that SB14 could cause would-be voters.

In parts of Texas, citi-

zens must drive more than 100 miles to a Department of Public Safety (DPS) location to obtain a state ID. There's no DPS office in 77 of Texas' 254 counties. Newly-married or recently-divorced women could have problems with names on voter registration cards that don't match those on state IDs. And missing accepted forms of identification can deny or delay the issuance of state-issued ID to applicants.

Eight states require voters to present photo identification. None are as restrictive as SB14 looks to be. Neither Indiana nor Georgia laws, both high-profile cases, repel voters like SB14 will. Georgia allows use of an expired state-issued driver license and any valid photo ID issued by the federal government, state agency, county

or municipality. Indiana permits use of a photo ID issued by any state or federal agency or a photo ID issued by a state university. Michigan law says voters without a state photo ID can use a current out-of-state license or ID, or a college or high school picture ID.

Democrats may have to depend on the U.S. Justice Department to reject a photo ID law they view as unfair. Any changes to voting laws must pass federal pre-clearance due to Texas' history of voter suppression.

Call some Texans un-American and you may have a fight on your hands. But on the night of the State of the Union Address when the president sought to rally the nation around a theme of unity, Texas' leadership treaded down a path that would only further divide.

Our kids are getting fatter...and hungrier?

(NDG Wire) If the war against childhood obesity was a race, America would still be at the starting line.

Childhood obesity has tripled in the past 30 years. About one out of every three children or teens is overweight or at risk of being overweight. Because children's bodies are still developing, the damage to organs triggers medical problems extending throughout their lifetimes, according to a report issued by First Lady Michelle Obama's Task Force on Childhood Obesity.

Nearly 75 percent of Americans will be overweight or obese by 2019, and that condition will drag

down the economy and impoverish the nation. What's worse is that our nation is growing fatter at the same time it is growing hungrier. Another study by New York's Food Research and Action Center describes another dilemma -- a new definition of hunger that actually describes how families can become obese at the same time they are going hungry.

"The term the scientists used is 'food-insecure,'" said **Erin Baker**, founder of **Erin Baker's Wholesome Baked Goods** (www.bb-cookies.com), a bakery that combines the appeal of baked goodies with nutritional benefits to help fight

obesity. "It describes the condition that hits a huge sector of the population. Low-income people tend to seek out cheaper food which in most cases is fast food, the result is a high calorie diet with poor nutritional value -- just a lot of empty calories void of fruits, vegetables and grains.

Baker's own journey started with being 20 pounds overweight and not feeling well most of the time as a result. She regarded food as an afterthought, but soon embarked on her own personal campaign to change her food and feel better. That campaign, combined with her 17 years in the natural food market, has

inspired her advocacy of the fight against childhood obesity. She recommends the following steps for people who want to help reverse the trend toward obesity in their families' lives:

- **Fruits, Vegetables, Grains** -- Providing a diet that includes six to nine servings of fruits, vegetables and grains per day will change your family's life. It will give them more energy, enable them to exercise more effectively and truly give everyone the fuel they need.
- **Preparation** -- It's easy to let the fast-paced nature of American life become the tail that wags the dog with regard to you and

your family's nutrition. Each meal should be thought of as sustenance, and you should ask yourself every day, "What is this meal doing for my body and my family's bodies?"

- **Food as Fuel** -- The cooking show revolution on cable has America's mouths watering for tasty new dishes, but if you want to actually be healthier, you should also regard your food as the stuff that fuels your body. You wouldn't try to fuel your car with garbage. It wouldn't work. Why do you think your body is any different?

"I hear all the time about how people just don't have time to prepare decent

meals anymore, and how they'd never have time for lunch if it wasn't for the drive-thru," Baker said.

"What we feed ourselves and our families is killing us, killing our kids and one day soon, it might actually serve to cripple our nation. Our families need to eat the right foods to truly satisfy the appetite...this will curb the tendency to eat the junk foods that cause obesity. There is a fine line between being unhealthy and being sick, and we have a whole country just about to cross that line. But in the face of these new studies, we really need to focus and change our habits now and start eating healthier."

New Healthy Choice entrees help incorporate dietary guidelines into everyday life

Single-serve frozen meals combat 'portion distortion' and overconsumption of calories

(NDG Wire) ConAgra Foods announced this week four new Healthy Choice® Café Steamers® meals and nine recently improved All Natural Entrées. ConAgra Foods and its Healthy Choice brand have a solution for incorporating the dietary guidelines into people's everyday lives in a way that's practical, simple and economical.

"One of the leading nutritional problems identified in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans is the imbalance of calories in versus calories out, with the overconsumption of calories strongly linked to portion distortion and calorie density," said Mark Andon, Ph.D., vice president, Nutrition, ConAgra Foods. "Independent research shows that frozen single-serve meals, such as our new Healthy Choice entrées, can help people lose weight better and more rapidly than healthy eating plans that don't include frozen single-serve meals. Frozen single-serve meals offer portion and calorie control, and are generally lower in calorie density." (1-4)

Like all Healthy Choice frozen meals, the new varieties parallel the dietary guidelines in a number of ways. With nearly 70 delicious options, Healthy

Choice frozen meals are low in fat and saturated fat, include many whole-grain and meatless selections, are controlled in sodium and cholesterol and, importantly, are appropriately portioned with the calorie content clearly labeled. Each new single-serve frozen entrée contains between 220 and 360 calories, and no Healthy Choice meal exceeds 500 calories. Additionally, the meals are low in calorie density and calorie-dense foods have been identified as a major issue contributing to obesity.

New Asian Inspired Healthy Choice Café Steamers meals include Lemon-grass Chicken & Shrimp, Kung Pao Chicken, Pineapple Chick-en, and Beef Teriyaki. The existing All Natural Entrées product line has been updated with a one-step steaming tray to unlock a fresher taste and more vibrant flavor. The contemporary recipes include Asian Potstickers, Pumpkin Squash Ravioli, Portabella Spinach Parmesan, Three Cheese Marinara, Portabella Marsala Pasta, Tortellini Primavera Parmesan, Roasted Red Pepper Marinara, Creamy Basil Pesto, and Lobster Cheese Ravioli. Suggested retail prices of Healthy Choice frozen meals range from \$2.00 to \$3.29.

Hunt's tomatoes: Because of the tomato's popularity and nutritive value, the 2010 Dietary Guidelines outline a new red-orange vegetable sub-group that provides a greater focus on tomatoes. This new guideline can be met easily by consuming just one more serving of tomatoes each day. Also, encouraging greater tomato consumption may help increase overall vegetable intake since canned tomatoes, such as Hunt's®, are readily available year round, widely accepted by consumers, convenient and economical. Canned tomatoes can also offer nutritional benefits. According to a study reported in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, lycopene absorption is two to three times greater in canned tomato products than in raw tomatoes.

Orville Redenbacher's Gourmet Popping Corn: Beyond mealtime, calorie and portion control are also important when it comes to snacking. According to the dietary guidelines, snacks account for 25 percent of the calories consumed in the U.S. and can lead to weight gain. Orville Redenbacher's® 94 percent fat-free SmartPop!® popcorn, available in 100-calorie mini bags, is a low-fat, whole-

grain snack that can help people stick to reduced-calorie eating plans while still feeling full and satisfied.

When compared with other 100-calorie snacks, popcorn offers the advantages of whole grains and fiber to

help control hunger, which in turn can help prevent overeating and make losing weight easier.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

GAME #	GAME NAME / ODDS	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1251	Triple Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.85	\$3	02/10/11	08/09/11
1234	Cool Cash Tripler - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.90	\$5	02/24/11	08/23/11
1289	Candy Cane Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.20	\$3	02/24/11	08/23/11
1246	Gold Fever - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.98	\$5	02/25/11	08/24/11
1292	Season's Gold - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.82	\$5	02/28/11	08/27/11
1226	Totally Topaz 7's - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.56	\$7	04/06/11	10/03/11
1247	Flying Aces - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.49	\$2	04/06/11	10/03/11
1252	Cash Vault - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.88	\$5	04/06/11	10/03/11
1254	Houston Texans - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.82	\$5	04/06/11	10/03/11
1273	Match & Win - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.88	\$3	04/06/11	10/03/11
1281	Super 7's - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.38	\$1	04/06/11	10/03/11

TEXAS LOTTERY

For detailed odds and game information, visit txlottery.org or call 1-800-37LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas Education. © 2011 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

Gallery 219 at Eastfield presents 'Crowd of Drifters'

(NDG Wire) Gallery 219 at Eastfield College presents Trish Igo and Jill OBriens "Crowd of Drifters: The Collection" with a special viewing of the documentary film "still, life" by Tania Khalaf and Meta Newhouse from Feb. 4 – Mar. 3; Reception: Feb. 4, 6 – 8 pm.

Since 2005, artists Trish Igo and Jill OBrien have collaborated on a series of work examining their emotional relationship to animals. As others have adopted unwanted strays, Igo and OBrien have adopted the neglected remains of pets, strays, and injured or dying wildlife. They compulsively collect, name, photograph and even prepare these lost animal lives for a proper rest. And then they present the

document of these rituals to us, so that perhaps we too will sense the loss of life and regain a more intimate understanding of the beings with which we share this world. Visually haunting, Igo and OBriens work serves as a reminder of our own mortality.

In conjunction with the exhibition, a documentary film by Tania Khalaf and Meta Newhouse will be on view. The documentary film explores the curious and compassionate process performed by Trish Igo and Jill OBrien as they collaborate to make work about our relationship to these animals. Khalaf and Newhouses film won Best Short Film at the Austin Film Festival in 2005.

Trish Igo holds a Master

of Fine Arts from the University of North Texas. She is currently an Adjunct Professor in the College of Visual Arts & Design at the University of North Texas and was recently invited to collaborate with New York digital ecoartists, Ecoarttech on their commissioned exhibition, Fluid Frontier.

Jill OBrien holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of North Texas. She is currently an Adjunct Professor in the College of Visual Arts & Design at the University of North Texas. Her work has been included in numerous regional and national exhibitions including Snap to Grid at the Los Angeles Center for Digital Art, Los Angeles.

Texas Sculpture Association's membership exhibition planned

February 4, –
March 12, 2011
Opening Reception -
Friday, February 4,
6:30-9:00 p.m.

(NDG Wire) The Oak Cliff Cultural Center is opening its 2011 art exhibition season with the Texas Sculpture Association's *Annual Membership Exhibition*. The exhibition will be on view at the Oak Cliff Cultural Center from Feb. 4 – Mar. 11. An opening reception will be held on Feb. 4 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Both the exhibition and the reception are free and open to the public.

The exhibition features various artworks composed from a wide

array of media by 48 participating artists from across the state, all who are members of the Texas Sculpture Association (TSA). The artists selected for this exhibition include: Al Moore, Amber Block, Andrea Davis, Andrew Bachenheimer, Anne Neal, Annelies Christian, Art Wells, Cassandra Fink, Chris Lattanzio, Cynthia Daniel, Dan Dudley, Deana Hinchcliff, Diana Chase, Diana Morrison, Dottie Whiplash, Dr. Adriana Cobo-Frenkel, Eli Lorenz, Elizabeth (Sissy) Bingham, and Tony Collins.

This annual event is a staple for TSA, giving its members an opportunity to showcase their work.

The TSA is a statewide non-profit organization that provides sculptors the opportunity to learn more about the art of sculpture and share their artistic vision with the general public. "The success of the arts resides not only with the artist, but with the relationships that are built in the communities.

Located in a historic storefront in the vibrant commercial district of Jefferson Avenue in Oak Cliff, the Oak Cliff Cultural Center opened its doors in August 2010. The Oak Cliff Cultural Center is open Tuesday – Friday 3-9 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Plano Animal Shelter Neuters Cats for a Nickel on Feb. 24

(NDG Wire) The City of Plano Animal Services Division will have nickel neutering for male cats on Thursday, Feb. 24 as part of Spay Day USA 2011. Appointments must be made in advance for this one-day event held at the Plano Animal Shelter, 4028 Plano Parkway.

To qualify cats must have written proof of current rabies vaccinations and must be in a pet carrier, labeled with the owner's name. If the cat is not cur-

rent on his rabies vaccination, a vaccination can be given for \$10.

Plano residents are required by law to register cats with Animal Services for \$10 each and it can be done at the same time. Seniors and qualified low-income residents can register at a discounted rate of \$5 per pet. In January, the City began charging an additional \$10 fee for each pet registration not renewed within 13 months of the last registration.

Microchipping will also be available for an additional \$15 fee per cat. This year the FVRCP vaccination will also be administered for \$5 each.

Spay Day USA originated through the Doris Day Animal Foundation and is now an annual campaign by The Humane Society of the United States.

Space is limited, so make an appointment today by calling 972-769-4374.

MILLER, continued from Page 2

All That, Cymphonique is opening the doors for a new sub-genre called "Hip Rock Pop". With her amazing vocals and mesmerizing dance skills, Cymphonique has been compared to the likes of Beyonce, Rihanna, Janet Jackson and Miley Cyrus. She's more than a 'triple threat', this young entertainer has been trained in ballet, jazz, tap, and hip hop, and is also a competitive kick box champion and martial arts specialist.

Cymphonique is an Honor Roll student who takes pride in studying hard, making good grades, and never taking anything for granted. In addition, she is the founder of BYOU and Fabulous Girls Charity which helps bring aware-

ness to kids with cancer. Not only does she make good music for the fans, she is conscientious of her song lyrics and the effect of the message she sends to young people that can make a difference and change lives.

DART approves agency's first CNG bus order

(NDG Wire) In the latest phase of its clean transit fuels program, the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) board has approved one of the nation's largest compressed natural gas (CNG) bus orders.

The \$210 million contract with North American Bus Industries, Inc. of Anniston, Alabama will allow the agency to purchase up to 452 new 30-foot and 40-foot heavy duty, low floor buses to replace the current fleet of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and clean diesel buses which began service



in 1998. The new buses are scheduled to be in service in 2013. The full fleet conversion should be complete in 2015.

DART plans to award a contract in April for the construction of four CNG fueling stations. The stations will be located at its bus and Paratransit maintenance facilities.

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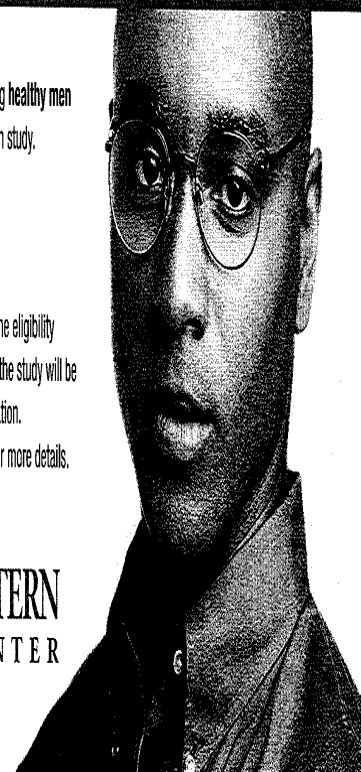
Volunteers must be:

■ 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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Educators urge lawmakers to support the Make Education a Priority resolution

(NDG Wire) Members of the Texas Association of School Boards and the Texas Association of School Administrators visited Austin on Monday together to ask Texas lawmakers to Make Education a Priority while building the state's budget.

Superintendents and trustees specifically dis-

cussed the devastating impact proposed cuts would have on Texas schools and the state's future.

About half of all Texas public school districts have adopted the Make Education a Priority resolution, which urges lawmakers to hold education as the highest priority when developing the

state's budget for the next biennium. The Make Education a Priority campaign was started by the Aledo Independent School District as a way to increase public awareness about the problems with the way public schools are funded in Texas.

The initial drafts of the state budget proposed by

the House and the Senate include approximately \$10 billion reductions to Texas public schools over the next two years. This reduction comes after years of district belt-tightening, since the target revenue froze revenue for schools at 2005-06 levels. In light of the proposed state funding cuts, local

school districts across the state are facing crippling choices such as teacher layoffs and school closures.

A world-class public education system is critical to Texas' economic success. Such severe funding cuts for the public schools charged with preparing our future

workforce and state leaders is shortsighted. TASB and TASA members recognize the challenges awaiting lawmakers, but we urge them to Make Education a Priority when considering budget decisions: please do not balance the state's budget on the backs of Texas students.

Caruth Institute's Reduce Auto Theft program gets award

(NDG Wire) Reduce Auto Theft in Texas (RATT), a grant program within the University of North Texas at Dallas Caruth Police Institute, recently was presented the "Outstanding Crime Prevention Agency of 2010" award by the Texas Chisholm Trail Crime Prevention Association.

Michelle Lanham and Katheryn Fredericks staff the program located in the Caruth Institute's offices at

the Jack Evans Police Headquarters building. Lanham joined the Caruth Institute staff in September 2008 as the RATT Task Force program manager. She has been with the RATT program for 15 years and is a founding member of its staff.

RATT is one of 28 grant programs funded by the Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA), a division of the Texas Depart-

ment of Motor Vehicles.

The primary objective of RATT is to decrease vehicle theft and burglary in the state by raising public awareness about the crimes among Texas drivers as well as educating members of law enforcement and organizations concerned with vehicle crimes about services and materials available through the ABTPA.

"The Reduce Auto Theft in Texas program has

been an invaluable asset in raising public awareness and addressing automobile thefts," said Dallas Police Deputy Chief Randy Blankenbaker.

"Since 1993 there has been a 60 percent reduction in auto thefts statewide, a decline that could not have been accomplished without the contribution of this innovative program. The Dallas Police Department is proud to work hand in hand with program officials to reduce auto-related crimes in Texas. Congratulations to the University of North Texas at Dallas, the

Caruth Police Institute and the program's administrators and staff for winning this prestigious award."

Richard Smith, interim executive director of the Caruth Police Institute, said he was "very proud that our Reduce Auto Theft in Texas staff was recognized for their outstanding work by the Texas Chisholm Trail Crime Prevention Association.

"Michelle and Katheryn are dedicated to making our community safer by providing practical information to residents and visitors on how to protect themselves from auto theft

and auto burglary. Their good work has touched the lives of thousands of people in Dallas and throughout the North Texas region. We are very thankful they are on our team," Smith said.

The Texas Chisholm Trail Crime Prevention Association (TCTCPA) is one of nine regional associations making up the Texas Crime Prevention Association. TCTCPA presents awards to nominated individuals and organizations at the conclusion of each calendar year to recognize superior crime prevention efforts.

TWU to host Executive MBA information session in Plano Feb. 10

(NDG Wire) Texas Woman's University (TWU) will host an information session showcasing its Executive MBA program Thursday, Feb. 10 at the Sockwell Center in Plano.

The session will take place from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Austin Room at the center, located at 6301 Chapel Hill Blvd. across from The Shops at Willow Bend.

TWU's Executive MBA program is designed for middle- and senior-level managers who want to enhance their career skills. Classes are open to men and women, and students will be able to earn their degree in just 15 months by taking courses online and on selected Saturdays. Students will pay regular TWU tuition and

fees.

For more information, visit www.twu.edu, call 1-

800-283-2291 or email EMBA@twu.edu.



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Deputy City Manager LaShon Ross named Plano Interim City Manager

(NDG Wire) Mayor Phil Dyer has announced the appointment of Deputy City Manager LaShon D. Ross to the position of Interim City Manager effective February 1, 2011. Ms. Ross will serve in this capacity until a permanent re-



LaShon Ross
Photo credit: City of Plano

placement for retiring City Manager Thomas H. Muehlenbeck is announced. Muehlenbeck will end his tenure January 31, 2011.

Ross joined the City of Plano as Human Resources Director in March 2001, serving solely in that capac-

ity until February 2009 when she was promoted to Assistant City Manager. She was named Deputy City Manager for the Community Services Business Center in July 2010 and in this capacity currently has oversight responsibilities for the

Library System, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Human Resources Department, and the Office of Risk Management.

Ross received her Bachelor's of Business Administration from Texas A&M – Texarkana, com-

pleting a Masters of Science in Counseling at Southern Methodist University in 2010. Prior to coming to Plano she served as Human Resources Director for the City of Texarkana, Texas for twelve of the thirteen years she was employed there.

Bob Ray Sanders speaks at MLK celebration

Fort Worth Star-Telegram associate editor and columnist Bob Ray Sanders was the featured

speaker at UT Dallas' annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration last month.



Veteran journalist Bob Ray Sanders was introduced by aspiring journalist Danelle Adeniji, a graduate student in the emerging media and communication program in the School of Arts and Humanities.

(NDG Wire) – Super couple Tony and Lauren Dungy has shared many experiences during their marriage, from a Super Bowl championship several years ago to the publication of their thoughtful, lesson-filled books for children and parents.

Celebrating the release of their newest book in January, *You Can Be a Friend*, the Dungys are featured presenters Feb. 5, during a special BooksmART program presented by the Dallas Museum of Art.

The free program will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Dallas, located at 1928 Ross Ave.; the general public is invited to attend.

Tony Dungy, wife to take part in Dallas museum presentation



Tony and Lauren Dungy

The Dallas County Community College District is a partner this year for DMA's Arts and Letters Live series and a community partner for the BooksmART event; a number of DCCCD students and employees will attend the Dungy program.

During a weekend filled

with Super Bowl activities and celebrations across the metroplex, the Dungys' lecture and book signing provide parents with an opportunity to share the day with their children and explore the lessons of *You Can Be a Friend*.

The book, which can be purchased in the DMA gift shop, follows *You Can Do It!* in a series that explores the importance of family, friends, confidence, determination and the belief that anything is possible when people – especially children – dream big. (The book signing will be conducted at the museum, following the lecture at the church.)

Tony and Lauren Dungy are active members of several community-based organizations that include All Pro Dad, iMom, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Mentors for Life, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Tony Dungy is a former NFL player and retired head coach of the Super Bowl XLI champions, the Indianapolis Colts; he currently serves as an NFL analyst for NBC-TV.

Although the event is free, reservations are recommended; call (214) 922-1818, (214) 922-1818 during business hours for tickets or visit www.tickets.dallasmuseumofart.org/public/.



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Black history belongs to all of us. It's not just other people's stories from the past. It's how these stories are passed down, reflected upon and used to start new chapters. In our schools, in the workplace and in the community, new leaders are taking a stand and creating positive change every day. This shows us that Black History is alive and well. And this is why we celebrate. Wells Fargo honors Black History and all pioneers of progress.

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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 Meetings 4th Thursday, 6:45 p.m. Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Rd (between Forest & Royal Lanes).

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

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

Through March 26

The PDNB Gallery, 1202 Dragon St. in Dallas, will host **Neil Leifer: For the Love of the Game**, every Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Photographs Do Not Bend Gallery. Leifer, a longtime *Sports Illustrated* photographer, showcases the greatest moments of professional sports since he began shooting pro football at the NFL Championship Game in 1978. The exhibit is free.

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

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 4 – March 11 Texas Sculpture Association's Annual Membership Exhibition at The Oak Cliff Cultural Center.

February 4 - 5

Black Academy of Arts and Letters presents **Jazz at the Muse** with **Oscar Williams** at the Clarence Muse Café at 9 p.m. at the Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex, at the corner of Canton and Akard streets in Dallas. Admission is \$15. Call 214-743-2400 for tickets.

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.

The Irving Black Arts Council from 5-7 p.m. is hosting in the Main Gallery at the Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd, the **FREE Artists reception for Creativity Unleashed**. The mixed media art exhibit will feature local artists: Mathew Jacob Barnes, Erica Davis, Valarie Evans, Marcello Pope, Dr. Charles V. Shelton Jr., Tonia Witherspoon and Alisha Young.

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

February 20

The Family Symphony Sundays Series interactive concert **"Brass-a-Palooza"** will introduce patrons to the trumpet, French horn, trombone, and tuba The concert is at 3 p.m.; Pre-Concert Lobby Activities at 2 p.m. at the The Courtyard Theatre, 1509 Avenue H, Plano. Tickets are \$7 to \$11 order at www.planosymphony.org or 972-473-7262.

February 19-16

The annual two-day **Spring Master Composter Training Course** will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Senter East Building,

228 Chamberlain St. To register, call 972-742-2296, or visit www.cityofirving.org/begreen, select "Educational Opportunities" and select "Master Composter Training." A refundable deposit of \$20 is required for registration. Registrants must attend both days to receive their deposit at end of the course.

March 3 – 6

Sesame Street Live "Elmo's Healthy Heroes" Verizon Theatre at Grand Prairie, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie, TX 75050

March 5

The University of Texas at Arlington African American Alumni Association will honor the recipients of the **2011 Outstanding African-American Alumni Award** from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Hilton Arlington, 2401 E. Lamar Blvd. in Arlington. Recipients are Gary Bailey ('77), Rickie Rush ('82) and Lauretta Hill ('93). RSVP by Feb. 23. Tickets cost \$50 and are available for purchase at www.utablackalumni.com. Tickets will not be available for purchase at the door.

March 6

Comerica Collin County Marathon Info: www.collinmarathon.com.

March 12

1st Annual Ladies of Verity Teddy Bear Brunch will feature food, fun and inspiration on from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Cascade Event Center 5909 Stone Creek Drive The Colony, Texas 75056. Everyone will have the opportunity to make their very own cuddly friend...complete with birth certificate and take home carrier! For more details and ticket information, go to www.NoahsArkTeddyBearWorkshop.com or call 214-614-8468.

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Agitation over the removal of the n-word from *Huck Finn*

By H. Lewis Smith

The removal of the n-word from Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* has caused complete outrage, shock, and outcries of sorts all across the American landscape. If the term is removed from historical texts,

in the past, not erasing them.

The effort should be to show our current generations the ignorance that was acted out in the past, the sickness the use of the n-word bores in all, and how to effectively proceed today

by eradicating the n-word from their use. The truth in history is suppose to make us stronger and serve as a fundamental building block for improvement, however, when one looks at Hip Hop culture, the opposite is manifested.

The truth of the matter is that when it comes to slavery and the n-word, history has ALWAYS

of Jim as it did of Huck and society in general.

Just as with today's contemporary blacks, the n-word rolls off the tongues of

someone who hates him. And I repeat - a TRULY free person - which is very significant. A point seemingly lost upon today's

sanitization of history. Much about the n-word's sinister history has been suppressed and erased from the academic approved his-

tory. Where is the outcry and concern? Does it need to be pointed out that mental enslavement is the worst form of slavery?

Millions of Black African Americans - men, women, AND children - were viciously beaten, raped, castrated and/or murdered and categorizing them as n**gers in some twisted way was suppose to make all committed acts okay. Clearly, a 300-year African-American Holocaust took place and yet the term is not being used anywhere in American History; there has been no out break of hysteria, remove the n-word from *Huck Finn* and you would think the sky is falling. The hypocrisy of it all is asphyxiating.

There is a blanket of sorts enveloping certain aspects of slavery and the n-word with the blessings of both black and white America simply because they can't handle the pain of it all. This quandary makes it even more paramount to understand the pain that black children, whenever grossly outnumbered in a classroom, are experiencing - having to suffer through a reading of *Huck Finn*, and how unfair it is to subject them to such an ordeal. Why is it that so many Black African Americans are willing to sacrifice their very own in their anxiety to preserve and protect their use of the scurrilous n-word (n**ga)?

H. Lewis Smith is the founder and president of UVCC, the United Voices for a Common Cause, Inc. (www.theunitedvoices.com); a writer for the New England Informer Online; and author of "Bury that Sucka: A Scandalous Love Affair with the N-Word". Follow him on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/thescoop1](https://twitter.com/thescoop1)

"The effort should not be to erase the past, but to embrace it - in all its good and bad - and learn from it, leaving the negative aspects in the past, not erasing them."

many rather easily and effortlessly. However, the problem is that blacks tend to forget or downplay the original meaning of the n-word as it applied to their ancestors. A "n**ger" was looked upon as lacking human qualities, 3/5 of a person, sub-human and a bestial savage beast who needed to be tamed. N**ger was symbolized as something inferior to the rest of humankind, a place where anyone of black origin belonged. Hence the phrase, don't forget your place, n**ger. Black African Americans who embraces the term makes a mockery of the sacred memories, struggles and sacrifices of their dearly beloved ancestry.

To be succinct, mentally and emotionally scarred descendants of slavery are so severely psychologically disturbed that they have become immune to the idea of debasing themselves and think nothing of defining themselves with a word that is drenched in ignorance, death, terror and bloodshed. Excuses that are being tendered, otherwise, serves as testimony of a lack of intestinal fortitude to deal with reality.

As irony would have it, Mark Twain illustrates a point that a truly free person would never want to wear the name given to him by

black users of the pejorative term and those who condone such use.

Many rap artists like Jay-Z, Lil Wayne, Soulja Boy and a host of others use the word in their music to supposedly entertain their audiences. Their songs may seem harmless because they use the word in a context of camaraderie and friendship. However, there are inherent and chilling similarities to the self-destructive messages in gangsta rap and the indoctrination techniques used in the days of chattel slavery to corrupt the minds of an enslaved race of people.

The founder of BET made a fortune by spreading a culture of gangster rap, with its glorification of violence, denigration of women, saggin' pants, use of the n-word and the perpetuation of a dysfunctional vocabulary that all but ensured that countless young Black people will never be able to get through a job interview. Not a murmur of concern erupted from the Black community; the n-word is removed from *Huck Finn* and the floodgate opens up denouncing the dismissal of the incorrigible term; this goes beyond the comprehension of logic.

The *Huckleberry Finn* "n-word" episode pales in comparison to perhaps the most blatant distortion and

tory books limiting at least 95% of contemporary Americans' knowledge of the word as being nothing more than a racial slur, to demean, degrade and insult. N**ga which is a ghetto vernacular for n**ger is so stigmatized that trying to redefine it suggests that all the death, terror, bloodshed and mental abuse associated with it never happened. But the fact is it did. Hip hop culture serves as a shining example of what happens when one is left in the dark about their history, a history that has been sanitized and



distorted.

He who forgets the past is doomed to repeat it. There was not only a physical enslavement of a people, but the aspect regarding the barbaric and brutal methods used to MENTALLY enslave them as well, has been whitewashed, sanitized and virtually expunged from the teachings of American his-



H. Lewis Smith

which were written during and work to convey the reality of the times - depicting the distorted face and broken planes of America's overall past psyche, how can we expect children to learn real history, and hence, the meaning and importance of societal progress, if it is sanitized or veiled...resonates from the voices of the malcontent.

I agree with those who are concerned about history being distorted and sanitized, but my concerns extend far beyond *Huckleberry Finn*. As belated scholar Dr. Asa Hilliard would constantly say about present day historical literature, "We have a truth problem." Indeed we do! The effort should not be to erase the past, but to embrace it - in all its good and bad - and learn from it, leaving the negative aspects

been sanitized and distorted in efforts to lighten the deliberate blows of hate, hostility and genocide that were carried out against blacks. It's as if the historians are saying slavery was bad, but not that bad. Honestly, it is somewhat an irreverence to be sanctimonious about the removal of the n-word from *Huck Finn* and fail to exhibit the same concerns about American history overall.

In the time when Mark Twain wrote the classic, slaves were not perceived as having the same human qualities as whites. Even though "n**ger" has always been used as a derogatory term, it became so commonly accepted that it was used synonymously with the word "slave" or just common reference to blacks. As such, it rolled just as easily off the tongue

Super Bowl Edition of 'Round about DFW

Through February 10
Super Bowl XLV stadium
tours are scheduled from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington. Cost \$40.

February 3 - 5
Comedians **Shawn and Marlon Wayans** will perform at the Arlington Improv at 8 p.m. on Thursday and 8 and 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Cost is \$35.

February 3 - 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

Art of Football with Steve Sabol comes to the Milan Gallery, 505 Houston St. in Fort Worth. Free

Superbeamers presents **Super Bowl XLV celebrity weekend** at the Beamers Club, 2443 Walnut Hill Drive, and Escapade 2000, 10707 Finnell St., both in

Dallas. Performers include **Chef Umberto** with sounds from DJ Kayotik on Thursday at Beamers; **Drake** with Play-N-Skillz at Escapade and **Ludacris** at Beamers on Friday; **Chris Brown** at Beamers and Lil Wayne with Play-N-Skillz at Escapade on Saturday; and Sunday's finale with **Nelly, Ludacris** and **Jermaine Dupri** at Beamers and **Lil Wayne** and **Drake** at Escapade. www.superbeamers.com

Big Tex Entertainment presents **Dallas First Down Weekend**. **P. Diddy's** official Super Bowl bash with special guests **Jermaine Dupri** and **D.J. Prostyle** from *BET's 106th and Park* from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. at the Main Street Event Center (Purgatory), 2208 Main St. in Dallas. Dress to impress. Arrive early as lines begin as early as 8 p.m. On Saturday and on into Sunday, rappers **Rick Ross** and **Nicki Minaj** invade the Main Event Center from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. Call 214-264-1887 or visit <http://dallasfirstdown.eventbrite.com/> to purchase tickets.

February 3
Pepsi Super Bowl Fan Jam concert will broadcast live on VH1 at 8 p.m. from the Verizon Theatre in Grand Prairie. Lineup includes **Kid Rock, Duran Duran** and **Jason Derulo**. Tickets start at \$95.

February 4
All-Star Comedy Jam presented by **Shaquille O'Neal** will take place at the Majestic Theatre at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m.

February 4 - 7
Cincinnati Bengal wide receivers **Terrell Owens** and **Chad Ochocinco** will celebrate Super Bowl XLV with the **T.O. and Ocho Weekend Affair**. At 9 p.m. on Friday, NFL and entertainers will join T.O. at Skye Bar Dallas, 1217 Main St. in downtown Dallas. Entertainment provided by D.J. G.T. Tickets start at \$60. Ochocinco plans the most happenin' after Super Bowl celebrity party to the House of Blues, 2200 Lamar St. in Dallas, starting at 9 p.m. Dallas' D.J. Phil and D.J. Big Daddy and rapper

Biz Markie is the slated entertainment. Tickets start at \$40 and ticket sales for the Ochocinco gathering ends at 5 p.m. on Sunday. www.tochowweekend.com

February 4 - 5
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 - 6
New Orleans Saint **Darren Sharper** and **106 and Park's** Terrence J Pre-Game Super Bowl Party is scheduled for 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the Skye Bar Dallas, 1217 Main St. www.skyebardallas.com

February 5
If you missed Biz Markie's gathering during last year's NBA All-Star game in Dallas, join Markie, D.J. Hi-Ci and D.J. Phil for the **Damn That DJ Made My Day Part II** party Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Wish Ultra

Lounge, 3001 Knox in Dallas. Half-price admission before 2 p.m. Tickets start at \$30. www.groovetickets.com.

Super Teen Saturday hosted by Eagles quarterback **Michael Vick** will take place at Cirque, 1930 Pacific Ave. in Dallas. The party, co-hosted by actress and model **Melyssa Ford** and former Dallas Cowboy **Kevin Smith**, is an alcohol-free event for teens 14 to 17. Tickets are \$20. www.threeringsweekend.com

ESPN Magazine NEXT Big Tailgate comes to Sundance Square in Fort Worth. Event is free. Participate in interactive games and check out the giant belt buckle of steel, as well as the steel Texas made from recycled steel from Texas Stadium and area high schools.

The Professional Football Players Mothers Association to sponsor **Dancing With the NFL Players** from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Atrium at the Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth St. in

Garland. Tickets are \$100 and benefit the Boys and Girls Club. Slated to attend are **Donovan McNabb, Andre Gurode, Thurman Thomas, Larry Johnson** and **Vince Young**. www.pfpma.org

February 5 and February 6
30Something Dallas will host **Super Ball XXX: An extraordinary eXample of eXceptionalism** Super Bowl Saturday event from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. at the Magnolia Hotel, 1401 Commerce St. in downtown Dallas. www.30somethingdallas.com

February 6 - 7
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.

Read more entertainment online at www.northdallasgazette.com. Submit entertainment announcements to assignmenteditor@northdallasgazette.com

Gazette Gossip

By Tonya Whitaker
NDG Staff Writer



Will and Jada Smith

Attitude check
Esteemed writer **Terry**

McMillan must have lost her mind last week when she went off on Twitter about **Will and Jada Pinkett-Smith** "pimping and exploiting" the power couple's children, Willow and Jaden. Read more about this foolishness at www.northdallasgazette.com

Somebody help her
Rihanna ruffled the feathers of some when - during a conversation with a friend

about the singer's new red hairstyle - she used a derogatory word to refer to female genital. When she was asked about the inappropriate rant, she said "bite me." A fan told a newspaper that "Rihanna is a role model" to kids. Since when?

1+1 = 3????
I don't know what to say about **Toni Braxton**. Last year, she filed for bank-



Toni Braxton

ruptcy and lost two homes. The *Wall Street Journal* re-

ported Friday the Grammy-award winning singer's million-dollar home will go into foreclosure. Get this, she is hell-bent on staying in a home she cannot afford. She told the court she ain't

leaving. What part of this does she not understand? You think you have financial problems, check out how much in the red Braxton is at www.northdallasgazette.com.

BET and CENTRIC celebrate Black History Month

(NDG Wire) This Black History Month BET and CENTRIC will pay tribute to the range and richness of the African American experience with a lineup of programming celebrating the cultural contributions of black America.

The carefully curated lineup of thought-provoking black films, BET News specials and compelling original programming include: the 4th Annual BET HON-

ORS; the Network movie premiere of Tyler Perry's "Daddy's Little Girls," "Cadillac Records," "Mr. 3000" and "Sounder"; and, new 106 & PARK and BET NEWS joint project MODERN BLACK HISTORY HEROES.

CENTRIC-BET's adult-focused channel-programming will include: a new series of interstitials LEGENDS OF BLACK MUSIC (featuring Quincy Jones);

OBAMA IN GHANA, the remarkable documentary that chronicles President Obama's historic trip to the Republic of Ghana; THE COSBY SHOW: A LOOK BACK, a retrospective on the first family of black television; the esteemed mini-series SHAKA ZULU; and, Valentine's Day movie marathon celebrating "black love" and much more.

Additionally, BET will premiere all-new episodes

of hit series THE GAME and LET'S STAY TOGETHER while BET.COM pays homage to the remarkable accomplishments of African-American civil rights leaders with daily online video vignettes, BLACK IN TIME.

BET HONORS - Premieres Monday, February 21 at 8 p.m. on BET. Hosted by actress Gabrielle Union,

See BET, Page 16

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CRL: Wall Street created toxic mortgage market

By Charlene Crowell

As the 112th Congress begins and new committees are formed, our nation's marathon housing crisis seems far from over and no sure cures to its billion-dollar economic effects have been identified. In the meantime, agencies and laws intended to expand affordable housing nationwide have now come under attack. So-called 'risky borrowers', the Community Reinvestment Act and two government-sponsored enterprises, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, have all been accused of creating the lengthy downturn in housing and more than 2.5 million foreclosures.

Even a long-awaited report from the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, presidential appointees charged to provide an objective and thorough review of the still-unfolding dilemma sharply split along partisan lines as to the causes and effects of the economic crisis.

But according to the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), an independent and nonpartisan research and policy organization, the culprits and leaders in the still-unfolding foreclosure crisis were clearly Wall Street firms that "securitized" subprime mortgages. A CRL Capitol Hill brief summarizes the findings. As Wall Street securitizers expanded the subprime market, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's market share diminished substantially. GSE losses were caused not by risky borrowers but by risky loans, frequently loans that went to borrowers with relatively higher incomes.

In part, the new brief advises, "It's well known that toxic subprime loans started the foreclosure crisis, and the disaster spread to other mortgages approved without properly qualifying borrowers. The facts show that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were fol-

lowers, not leaders in the events leading up to today's foreclosure epidemic."

'Securitization', the process of bundling thousands of mortgage loans into investment pools and then re-selling pieces to investors enabled loosely-regulated lenders, says CRL, to make loans and then quickly sell them to private firms that created mortgage-backed securities.

CRL also refutes widespread charges of risky borrowers and Community Reinvestment Act loans as causes for the still-unfolding housing crisis. The truth is that 94 percent of subprime mortgage loans were made by institutions not covered by CRA.

"Mortgage loans purchased by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac – including loans to lower-income borrowers – are performing better than the private market. As of June 2010, 13.35 percent of GSE loans to borrowers with credit scores

under 660 were 90+ days delinquent or in foreclosure. By comparison, the Mortgage Bankers Association reports that the serious delinquency rate for subprime loans was over 28 percent", says CRL.

To read the full CRL Capitol Hill issue brief, visit: <http://www.responsiblelending.org/mortgage-lending/policy-legislation/congress/wall-street-not-fannie-mae.html>

Lawmakers would be well-advised to focus on the facts and to seek sustainable answers instead of new villains. Before the housing bubble burst, modest increases in African-American homeownership were

achieved. Now, the effects of the extended housing crisis have erased those same gains.

According to the Center for American Progress, in the third quarter of 2010, the homeownership rate for African Americans was 45.0 percent. The homeownership rate for Latinos was 47.0 percent, and the homeownership rate for whites was 74.7 percent.

Further, as the national unemployment rate hovers near 10 percent, communities of color are suffering more. The unemployment rate for African Americans was 15.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2010, compared to 12.9 percent for

Latinos, 7.3 percent for Asian Americans, and 8.7 percent for whites, also according to the Center for American Progress.

What all Americans need – regardless of race or ethnicity – are solutions to shared problems, access to fair lending, and reasonable, transparent terms for all lending products.

Somebody should deliver that message to Congress.

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

HAITI, continued from Page 3

international donor nations to make good on their promises to help to Haiti?

Indeed, there is very little coordination of the aid to Haiti. The Interim Commission tasked to coordinate and assure transparency of

donations has been nearly silent. There is no central NGO leadership to create a coordinated effort that will assure that there is at least clean water, decent sanitation and proper housing. We all have hope for Haiti's fu-

ture. And yet, Haiti's present is still at risk.

Lee is the President of TransAfrica Forum and a human rights attorney who lived and worked in Haiti. Copyright (C) 2011 by the American Forum. 1/11

TRANSIT, continued from Page 1

269-2401 may have the passes shipped via FedEx or pick them up at will call at QuickTrip Park.

To ride the TRE to the game on Sunday, February 6, 2011, only, the regional transit pass will cost \$20 (lanyard and pass holder not included) and must be purchased at the TRE CentrePort Station the day of the game. The regional transit pass will be required to board the bus at CentrePort Station to the stadium. DART and T passes will not be accepted as fare payment for the bus from CentrePort to the stadium.

The pass allows customers unlimited rides on Dallas Area Rapid Transit light rail (Red, Blue and Green rail lines), all DART buses, the Trinity Railway Express commuter line, and all services from the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T) and the Denton County Transportation Authority.

The pass also includes transit service to Cowboys Stadium for the big game. On game day, customers can ride the TRE to TRE's CentrePort/DFW Airport Station, where they will transfer to one of The T's shuttle buses to ride to the stadium.

The special regional transit pass can be purchased in advance beginning at SBXLV.ClickandPark.com. The pass will also be sold at the DART Store, 1401 Pacific Ave. in Dallas, and the Fort Worth Intermodal Transportation Center, 1001 Jones St. beginning Tuesday, February 1 through Friday, February 4. The pass will be on sale at QuickTrip Park starting January 24.

Passengers who wish to ride TRE and The T's buses to the game only on Sunday, Feb. 6, but haven't already purchased the special four-day regional pass, may ride TRE free to the TRE CentrePort Station, and purchase the pass for \$20 at the station

prior to boarding the bus to the stadium. This game-day only special regional transit pass will not include the lanyard and pass holder. A special regional transit pass will be required to board the bus at CentrePort to the stadium.

TRE passengers returning to Dallas from the Super Bowl on Sunday, February 6 are advised to plan carefully the time of their return trip from Cowboys Stadium since the last DART light rail trains depart downtown Dallas around midnight. Passengers destined only to downtown Dallas will have Green Line service from Victory to Pearl as late as 1:27 a.m.

For TRE passengers returning to Fort Worth on game day, The T's trolleys will run from the downtown Intermodal Transportation Center until the last TRE train arrives, and make passenger stops at the downtown hotels. The T's other trolley service will end at midnight.



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.

BLACKS, continued from Page 1

and declared for "Emancipation or Extermination". Yes, there were Black newspapers during slavery - since March 16, 1827.

The Weekly Anglo-African, April 13th, 1861 heralded: "Better be a DEAD MAN, than a live slave! Better to die fighting, than to live to breed children for the shambles! Death slays only the body; the spirit, [disenthralled], will pass on, working out its immortal destiny. Rather say we, 'Ten Reigns of Terror' than one year of bondage! Better a thousand guillotines, than one fugitive returned. 'let the Union go to pieces, if the slaves go free'".

Black leaders faced the reality and inevitability of the consequence of the coming sectional conflict with resolution, while white leaders were in denial of the unions transformation and the certain demise in the preservation of slavery. Frederick Douglass editorialized in his Douglass Monthly on May, 1861, just one month after the start of the war: "God be praised! That it has come at last. We should have been glad if the North, of its own proper virtue, had given this qui-

etis to doubt and vacillation. She [the Union], did not do it, and perhaps it is best that she [the Union], did not. What her negative wisdom withheld, has now come to us through the vengeance and rashness of slaveholders. Another instance of the wrath of man working out the purposes in praise of eternal goodness!"

Free and Enslaved Blacks transformed a Civil War for reunion into a war for liberation. It would take five years of fratricidal conflict for White America to arrive at the meaning of the war that was clear to Black America at its beginning - the reaffirmation of the founding universal human principle of America that all men are created equal. "This [the Civil War] is but another step in the drama of American progress. We say progress, for we know that no matter what may be the desires of the men of Expediency who rule, or seem to, the affairs of the North, the tendencies are for Liberty. God speed the conflict. The strife will be deadly, but the end is certain. It matters not whether the government is successful, whether the union is preserved, the ideas under-

lying the struggle will triumph", Weekly Anglo-African, April 20th, 1861.

April 12, 2011 will mark the 150th Anniversary of the firing on Ft. Sumter and the start of the American Civil War. The African American Civil War Memorial Foundation will commemorate the beginning Civil War with celebrities reading from Civil War period newspapers, speeches, and other documents announcing the coming of the war and its profound effect on the ending of slavery in America. We will also have celebrities read from selected press responses to the election of President Lincoln and the anti-slavery platform of the Republican party of 1860.

The African American Civil War Memorial lists the names of 209,145 Black union soldiers who joined President Lincoln to save the Union and keep it united under one flag. The monument, located at the corner of 10th and U Streets NW Washington, D. C., was built by a private foundation that operates a museum. On July 18, 2011 the museum will host a Grand Opening for its newly renovated 5,000 sq.

ft. space with new exhibits, artifacts, and state of the art educational programs adjacent to the monument.

Dr. Frank Smith Jr. is executive director of the African American Civil War Museum and Monu-

ment.

Little Known Stories of Blacks and the Civil War is a four-part Black History Month Series, sponsored by The African American Civil War Museum and Monument and the Association

for the Student of African American Life and History (ASALH). For more information: <http://www.afroamcivilwar.org/our-story.html>, call (202) 667-2667 or Email: Info@amcivilwar.org.

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THE UN-COMFORT ZONE: More Powerful than You Know

By Robert Evans Wilson, Jr.
"Writing is not a job; it's a hobby!" thundered my father when I told him my plans for college. "You need to get a profession: medicine, law, engineering or accounting."

I cheerlessly acquiesced and enrolled in a Pre-Med program, but at the end of my first year, after struggling through Chemistry, I changed my major to Philosophy. When I told Dad, he grunted, "That and fifty cents will get you a cup of coffee." He passed away shortly after that but his words echoed in the back of my mind for years.

After graduation I searched for a job in writing. At the same time, I wrote short stories like crazy, and sent them off to dozens of

magazines. Years passed and I failed to find a job in writing, so I supported myself by waiting tables and bartending. Meanwhile, rejection letters from the magazines began piling up, and I was beginning to get discouraged.

Then one day, I met a friend for a beer in a bar near the campus of my alma

mater. When I visited the restroom, some graffiti written on the wall with an arrow pointing to the toilet paper dispenser caught my eye. It read: "Bachelor of Arts Degrees - take only one, please!" Rather than laugh, I grimaced and thought, "Boy, does that sound like my

See ZONE, Page 13

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Texas Back to Work Secures Jobs for 10,000 Texans

(NDG Wire) Texas Back to Work has exceeded a goal by helping more than 10,000 individuals find employment, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) announced today. Funded by the 81st Texas Legislature and supported by Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, the initiative provided up to \$2,000 in wage subsidies to Texas employers per qualified new-

hire employee. Qualified individuals included those who were receiving or had received Unemployment Insurance benefits within the last year.

"I'm pleased that this innovative program is helping so many Texans get back to work," said Lt. Gov. Dewhurst. "Texas Back to Work is providing job opportunities, income and training for

thousands of newly hired employees. It is also helping small businesses and saving Texas taxpayers money in the process."

To date, 10,158 individuals have secured jobs with 2,721 employers who have received wage subsidies for hiring qualified out-of-work Texans.

"Texas Back to Work enables thousands of busi-

nesses to hire workers whom they might not have been able to employ otherwise during this difficult economic time," said TWC Chairman Tom Pauken. "This TWC initiative succeeds by partnering employers with qualified workers."

Employers can still sign up for Texas Back to Work by contacting their local workforce development

board. Local contact information is available at <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/txback2work/txback2work.html>. TWC's 28 local workforce development boards provide employers with workforce recruitment assistance, pre-screening of qualified applicants and training programs. More than 1.8 million customers were served in more than

245 workforce centers across Texas last year.

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

ZONE, continued from Page 12

Dad."

Five years had gone by, and other than a few freelance jobs writing advertising copy, I had not made a penny from writing. I was beginning to re-think my life, when I recalled the encouraging words from my ninth grade English teacher.

She had assigned my class with several essays to write. I remembered the glowing paragraphs of praise she wrote in bright red ink at the top of all my papers. There must have been a dozen of those compositions, and just recalling them gave me hope. I thought, "At least one person in the world believes in my writing."

It was just the encouragement I needed, and I doubled my efforts to find work. Soon I was getting a great deal more freelance work. Enough that I was able to quit working in restaurants. Enough to make a down payment on a house. Then whenever I needed a boost in confidence, I would think again of those dozen glowing paragraphs of praise written in bright red ink at the top of my essay papers.

Suddenly everything seemed to gel. I sold my first book; I won several very important advertising awards; and three colleges were asking me to teach a class in

copywriting. I was feeling very grateful and once again thought of my ninth grade English teacher and those glowing paragraphs of praise written in bright red ink. I decided to look her up and give her a call.

When I got her on the phone my first shock was that she did not remember me. I was certain I had been one of her favorites. My second was when she told me that she never wrote paragraphs of praise. "There were simply too many papers to grade to write more than a word or two," She said. "I would write 'Nice Work' or 'Good Job,' but never anything more."

Unconvinced, when I got off the phone, I went up to the attic and dug out the box that held my old school work (yes, it's true - I'm a total pack rat - especially when it comes to things I've written!). It took a while, but I finally found those old papers. She was right; there were no paragraphs. And, there was far less than a dozen - only two. About the only thing I remembered correctly was the bright red ink. I did, however, rate more than one or two words. On the first one she wrote, "Nicely written - well thought out." On the other, "Good Sense of Humor!"

Nine words. Nine little words that were so heartening that over the next 15 years they grew into hundreds in my mind. Nine words that motivated me to stick to my dreams. My

point? Even the least bit of praise can be powerfully motivating. So, don't keep it in - use your power!

Robert Evans Wilson, Jr. is a motivational speaker and humorist. He works

with companies that want to be more competitive and with people who want to think like innovators. For

more information on Robert's programs please visit www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com.

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED
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CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES
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Dist/Div: Fort Worth

Contract 6220-66-001 for FLEXIBLE PAVEMENT STRUCTURE REPAIR in TARRANT County, etc will be opened on March 09, 2011 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$900,102.80.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 35500

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Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)
Fort Worth District | District Engineer
2501 Southwest LP820 | Ft Worth, Texas 76133
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OF CHRIST IN PLANO**

February 3, 12 Noon

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

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

**DAYSTAR
DELIVERANCE
MINISTRIES**

**On Going
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

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

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

**EIRENE CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

February 6, 4 p.m.

Join us for Super Sunday Celebration! Our 12th Anniversary Big Game Party at the Studio Movie Grill, 11170 Central Expressway. Call the church for tickets and details or RSVP at BigGameParty@eireneccf.org

Pastor Autry
701 E. Centennial Blvd.

**Richardson, TX 75081
972-991-0200
www.followpeace.org**

**FELLOWSHIP
CHRISTIAN
CENTER CHURCH IN
ALLEN "The Ship"**

**On Going,
9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Monday – Friday
Prayer Lines for those in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567 or they may be submitted via email to: prayerline@theship3c.org

On Going, 7 p.m.
Wednesday Night Live at our main campus on Belmont Drive.

February 6, 4:30 p.m.
Join us for food, fun and fellowship at our Super Bowl Party at our main campus on Belmont Drive.

February 12, 7 p.m.
FCCC Marriage Takes 3 Sweetheart Banquet will be held at the Southfork Hotel in Plano. Attire is Semi-formal. Call 972-359-9956 for tickets and details.

**Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr.,
M.Div.**

Senior Pastor
305 N. Alder Drive, in
Allen for Sunday
Morning Worship.
Church Address is
200 W. Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

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

**On Going,
Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.**
Let your children join us for fun, fellowship and Bible learning at our Annie Pearl Foster Children Center in Room 238.

February 6, 4 p.m.
Join our Male Chorus for Super Bowl Fellowship in our Fellowship Hall.
**Dr. Gregory Foster,
Senior Pastor**
300 Phillips Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-235-4235
www.fbchp.org

**NEW LIFE IN JESUS
CHRIST MINISTRIES**

On Going
You're invited to our Sunday School Service at 9:30 a.m., our Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m., our Wednesday's Bible Study at 7 p.m. and our Friday Night Service at 7 p.m. as we worship and praise God.

**Pastor A. L. Felton, Jr.
Senior Pastor**
17720 Dickerson Street
Dallas, TX 75252
972-380-4100
www.nljcm.org

**NEW MOUNT ZION
BAPTIST CHURCH
OF DALLAS**

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

On Going
Let your child or children at-

tend TTS (Test Taking Skills) for math classes for TAKS (5th – 12th Grades) and special TTS for math Class (5th – 8th Grades.) Call 214-235-3190 or 214-541-8292 for time, place and other details.

February 6, 3:30 p.m.
Join us at Greater Mount Sinai Baptist Church, Rev. Stephen Jones, Pastor, and praise God with them.
**Dr. Robert Price, Sr.
Senior Pastor**
9550 Shepherd Road
Dallas, TX 75243
214-341-6459
www.nmzb.org

**NORTH DALLAS
COMMUNITY
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH**

On Going Help
God never expected us to bear our burdens alone; our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide emotional and spiritual care when you need them. Call 972-437-3493, Ext. 153 for details.

**Dr. Leslie W. Smith,
Senior Pastor**
1010-1020 S. Sherman Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-437-3493
www.ndcbf.org

**PROFESSIONAL
ACHIEVERS FOR
COMMUNITY
EXCELLENCE (PACE)**

February 20, 4 p.m.
PACE, in partnership with the Carrollton Library at Josey Ranch Lake at 1700 Keller Springs Road in Carrollton will host its "Annual Read In."

Come hear the works by African American authors. Various readers will recite and perform excerpts of stories, poems and songs. FREE books will be given (while they last) and light refreshments will be served.

**Roxanne Forrester,
Publicity/Historian**
www.historian@pacedfw.org

**SAINT MARK MBC
IN MCKINNEY**

On Going
Join us each Wednesday for Prayer at 6:30 p.m. and for Family Ministries at 7 p.m.

**February 12, 12 p.m.
And on Going Every 2nd
Saturday of the Month**

All Senior Saints are invited to our Double Nickel (55 and above) Luncheon @ the New-some Center on Amscott Street in McKinney. Activities include lunch, bingo and door prizes. Come and bring a friend. If you are homebound, we will deliver to you. Please call 972-542-6178 no later than the Friday, February 11th this month) before the luncheon and leave a message with your name, address, phone number and how many meals you need.

**Dr. Charles Wattle
Senior Pastor**
1308 Wilcox Street
McKinney TX 75069
972-542-6178
www.saintmarkbc.com

**SHILOH MBC
IN PLANO**

**On Going
Wednesdays, 7 p.m.**

You're invited to our Mid-Week Service as we praise and worship God for His blessings.

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

**THE NEW LIGHT
CHURCH**

On Going
You're invited to worship with us on Sunday Mornings, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Join us every Wednesday at 6:30 pm for Girls in Action meeting. Girls 6-17 are encouraged to explore Christ and the Word of God.

Shaun Rabb, Senior Pastor
9314 Elam Road
Dallas, TX 75217
214-391-3430
www.newlightchurchdallas.com

**WORD OF LIFE
CHURCH OF
GOD IN CHRIST**

On Going
Join us in prayer early in the morning at 6 a.m. on Monday - Friday at 1-661-673-8600, Code # 142219 and please put your phone on mute.

Thursdays, 7 p.m.
You're invited to hear anointed men and women bring the Word of God.

**Dr. Gregory Voss,
Senior Pastor**
2765 Trinity Mills Road
Building 300
Carrollton, TX 75006
214-514-9147

NEW LIGHT CHURCH



9314 ELAM ROAD - DALLAS, TEXAS 75217
www.newlightchurchdallas.com
Office: 214-391-3430

"O' Taste and See that the Lord is Good."



Our Soul Food Buffet:

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
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**



FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH

A Kingdom Building Church
200 BELMONT DRIVE - ALLEN, TX 75013
(972) 359-9956 - www.theship3c.org



Sunday Morning Worship
Story Elementary
1550 Edelweiss Drive
Allen, TX 75002
9:30 AM

Wednesday Night
Live Service
200 Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
7:00 PM



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NIGHT

Last Sunday, Every Month
7:00 pm
Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 am
Wednesday Nights
7:15 pm

Call Pastor Sam on:
"Vision & Truth Live" Radio Program
Broadcasted on KWRD 100.7 FM **THE WORD**
(Sundays 9 pm - 10 pm)
Hear Pastor Sam on: "Truth Made Simple"
KGGK 1040 AM, Monday - Friday @ 5:25 pm - 5:30 pm



Sister Tarpley

This is the start of Black History Month; again I will highlight some facts and accomplishments of African Americans. Some will be ones that are most requested and talked about from past years. Some readers have mentioned that they had learned a lot of Black History facts from reading my columns during the month of February.

It is my strong belief that as we honor the accomplishments of African Americans world-wide, we honor God and our ancestors. Too many of our Black children have forgotten or have never been taught that they are where they are in life because of our ancestors. Our ancestors suffered, prayed, honored God, endured many hardships and died so that future generations' lives would be better. Many young Black children (and, I am sad to say, some older Black people also)

have the misconception that it is not necessary to honor the accomplishments of Black Americans that have made a huge difference world-wide. They wrongly believe and have said so, we have gotten over that part of history in America, and we have overcome. Let us not forget to honor and thank older Black Americans, especially this time of the year. Listen to what they have to say (over the years they have learned many things that will be helpful to young Black children, if they are willing to learn).

Little Known Black History Facts

(By Tom Joyner, Renowned Radio Personality and Dr. Henry L. Gates, Writer. These facts are published by McDonald's Corporation. Copyright 2000)

Since the "Entertainment World" is all a buzzed about The Oscars, and how many nominations there are in each

category, and speculating who will win what, I thought that it is good to know that **Maya Angelou** was the first Black woman to have a screenplay produced, "Georgia, Georgia," which she also directed. In 1970, she was the first Black woman to have a non-fiction book on *The New York Times Best Seller List*; it was the first volume of her autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. And she was the first Black woman to be a conductor on a San Francisco streetcar. The Harlem Renaissance was a flowering of African American creativity that exploded in America in the 1920's. **Langston Hughes** (a postal stamp was made to honor Hughes) and **Countee Cullen** wrote poems, **Nella Larsen** and **Jean Toomer** wrote novels, and **Zora Neale Hurston** wrote about Black folk life. **Aaron Douglas** painted extraordinary pictures, and sculptor **Augusta Savage** turned stones into portraits. Broadway

was open to Black musical theater with zestful singing, dancing, and comedy. The whole country was moving to the rhythm of a **Black dance** called the "Charleston." In politics, **Marcus Garvey** was calling for Black self-reliance and identification with African heritage. **W.E.B. Du Bois** was fighting against segregation and for civil rights for people of color. This much energy, talent, and creativity infused the whole nation with a unique new vigor and originality.

Reading this column today, it is good to know that **The Stone Churches of Lalibela** in Ethiopia are one of the architectural wonders of the world. A group of eleven buildings, they are hewn from volcanic rock. But they are not carved from stone standing above ground. Astonishingly, they were cut into the earth, so that what one first sees is their roofs—level to the ground. It is said that the churches date from the twelfth century. Their



(L to R) Mrs. Yvonne Williams, a Dallas County Precinct Chairman and Mrs. Rose Fielding enjoying a birthday party.

original purpose is unknown, but the network of underground passages suggests they could have been either palaces or fortifications. The religious tradition is that they were built by angels in one night during the reign of King Lalibela, one of the early members of the Zagwe Dynasty. They now house Ethiopian Orthodox monks and a collection of

Christian art treasures.

Samuel Cornish, he founded the first African American newspaper, "Freedom's Journal." The first issue appeared on March 16, 1827 with a strong civil rights stand. With world-wide use of our cell phones, it is good to know that **Henry T. Sampson** invented the **Cellular Phone** on July 6, 1971.

PASS, continued from Page 1

pastors talking about pornography and sexual addictions, what Gross calls the "elephant in the pew."

"We're using the visual of an elephant because porn is an issue that needs to be discussed but that the church usually avoids," he said. "This is a problem in the church that cannot be hidden any longer."

The heart of the Porn Sunday service will be a 35-

minute video featuring a message from Gross and the per-

"This is a problem in the church that cannot be hidden any longer."

sonal stories of several current or former National Football League players, including quarterbacks Matt Hasselbeck of the Seattle Seahawks, Jon Kitna of the Dallas Cow-

boys and Josh McCown, who has been on five NFL teams but most recently played for the Hartford Colonials of the United Football League.

Research shows the average child first sees pornography at age 11. For this reason, Gross has designed the Porn Sunday service to be appropriate for children of middle school age and up.

Gross and the XXXchurch team will be in

Dallas the week leading up to the Super Bowl. They will appear at a service at 11 a.m. CT Feb. 6 hosted by Presence Church at the Addison Conference Center at 15650 Addison Road.

This year, reflecting the international nature of the problem, churches from every continent except Antarctica are participating in Porn Sunday. The list of participating churches can

be found at <http://www.porn-sunday.com>.

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11:00a.m. Morning Worship
Wednesday 7:00p.m. Bible Study
Friday 7:00p.m. Prayer/Victory Service

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Worship Services

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

Office Hours

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

Contact Info **Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church**
11611 Webb Chapel Road • Dallas, TX 75229
Office: 972-241-6151
Email: info@dallasmpisgah.org
Website: www.dallasmpisgah.org

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

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

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Two Sunday Worship Services:
8:45am & 11:00am

Wednesday Bible Study
7:30pm

BET, continued from Page 10

this year's show recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding African Americans by honoring legendary actress Cicely Tyson (Theatrical Arts), Academy Award-winning actor and comedian Jamie Foxx (Entertainer), supermodel/entrepreneur Iman (Service), publishing mogul Linda Johnson Rice (Media), world renowned musician/composer Herbie Hancock (Musical Arts) and accomplished historian/educator Lonnie G. Bunch (Education).

The show's star-studded lineup includes performances by Trey Songz, Ne-Yo, Lalah Hathaway, Yolanda Adams, Keyshia Cole, Guy, Tank, Angelique Kidjo, Naturally 7, Chick Corea Quartet and appearances by Tyler Perry, Cedric the Entertainer, Anika Noni Rose, Hill Harper, Nicole Ari Parker, Boris Kodjoe, Jimmy Jam and Noah Gray Cabey.

MODERN BLACK HISTORY HEROES -

Premieres Tuesday, Feb. 1 at 5 p.m. on BET. BET NEWS, in partnership with 106 & PARK, brings us MODERN BLACK HISTORY HEROES, a conversation with four African-Americans leaders from various walks of life making black history today. Each week 106 & PARK will introduce viewers to one of our modern day heroes and invite the audience to submit their own modern black history hero and acknowledge African-Americans making a difference in local communities.

BET.COM PRESENTS BLACK IN TIME - Every day during the month of Feb., BET.COM will post video narratives of civil rights leaders. From Medgar Evers and the march on Washington to the legendary Tuskegee Airmen, BET will pay tribute to 28 moments that pushed the civil rights movement forward and redefined our nation.

OBAMA IN GHANA - Premieres Sunday, Feb. 20 at 9 p.m. on CENTRIC. This engaging documentary chronicles the first family's historic trip to the Republic of Ghana, Africa's first nation to gain independence from colonial rule. Viewers see the first family's emotional visit to Ghana's slave dungeons on the cape coast, as well as a special pageant of traditional chiefs in honor of President Obama.

TYLER PERRY'S "DADDY LITTLE GIRLS" - Premieres Monday, Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. on BET.

"CADILLAC RECORDS" - Premieres Sunday, Feb. 27 at 4:30 p.m. on BET.

SHAKA ZULU - Premieres Saturday, Feb. 5 at 11 a.m.* on CENTRIC. This sweeping 1986 miniseries captures the rise and fall of an African emperor with brilliant detail. Prophecy is mixed with recorded fact regarding Shaka's birth, exile, innova-

tions in warfare, assumption of the throne, building of the Zulu Empire, first contact with Europe and the events that led to his downfall. Powerful performances by Cele and Dudu Mkhize (as Shaka's iron-willed mother, Nandi) give this sprawling epic the drive and emotional scope of a Shakespearean drama. It was a pop culture phenomena when originally aired in 1986.

THE COSBY SHOW: A LOOK BACK - Premieres Saturday, Feb. 26 at 7:00 p.m.* on CENTRIC. Honoring the first family of black television, the Cosbys, our retrospective of the phenomenally popular 1984-1992 family comedy, THE COSBY SHOW comes complete with memorable clips, bloopers and comments from series stars, producers and Bill Cosby himself.

For more information, please visit www.bet.com and www.centrictv.com.

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7:00 AM
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MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
7:00 PM
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Charles S. Wattley
Senior Pastor

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

WEDNESDAY
Family Ministries
7:00 p.m.

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Dr. Leslie W. Smith,
Senior Pastor

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas

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

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

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

Dr. Robert E. Price, Sr.
Senior Pastor

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Isiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor

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Glory of God

Worship Times: 8 and 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Mid-week: Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Youth Church: Every 3rd, 4th, and 5th
Sunday at 11:00am
AWANA: Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Contact Information: 972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

Worship Services
7:30am & 10:30am
Sunday School
9:30 am

Wednesday Night Service
8:00 pm

Dr. Gregory Foster Senior Pastor
Rev. Anthony Foster Pastor

Our Mission
To fulfill The Great Commission until Christ comes.

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