

# North Dallas Gazette



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COVER STORY

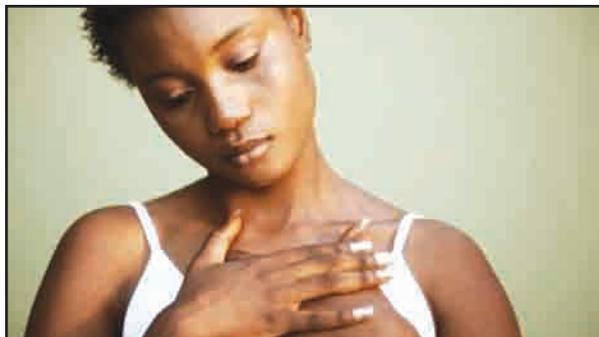
## The Psychology of Black Unemployment



See UNEMPLOYMENT, Page 9

### African-American women may be at greater risk for aggressive breast cancer

Morehouse School of Medicine's latest research explains why African-American women are at greater risk of developing more aggressive and difficult-to-treat forms of breast cancer. Conducted by Veena N. Rao, Ph.D., co-director of the Cancer Biology Program at the



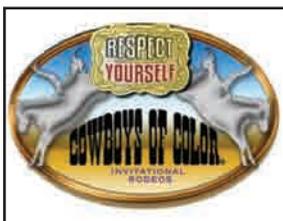
Morehouse School of Medicine, the research provides the empirical evidence for what many long thought to be true.

"Morehouse School of Medicine focuses our research on signature areas that disproportionately affect minority communities

See CANCER, Page 4

### Cowboys of Color National Finals Rodeo educates and entertains "Kickin' In The Dirt" with Jay B & the Zydeco Posse

The Cowboys of Color National Finals Rodeo rides into the Mesquite Championship Arena, Saturday, October 29 at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for Texas BBQ, vendors, music, and folks dressed in their Western Best. The largest multicultural rodeo in the country



highlights the finest ethnic cowboys and cowgirls com-

peting for cash prizes in traditional rodeo events; while cultural entertainers educate about the Western way of life.

This fast-paced action packed rodeo entertains and educates the audience about the forgotten cowboys and minority pioneers who

played a significant role in the settling of the American West.

"This year we are bringing back the Coed Ribbon Roping and Pony Express Relay; always crowd favorites," said Cleo Hearn,

See COWBOYS, Page 12



### Despite health scare, Ross still gets his wings

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

COMMENTARY

### From SCLC's 1967 convention to 2011's King Dedication: Where do we go from here?

By Charlene Crowell  
The storm-delayed ceremonies dedicating a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the nation's capital brought both surviving family members and many of the late Dr. King's contemporaries. Men of the movement such as Rev. Joseph Lowery, Ambassador Andrew Young, Congressman John Lewis, Julian Bond, and Reverends Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton, stood on the national mall with President Barack Obama, Vice-Presi-

dent Joe Biden and several White House cabinet secretaries.

For some, the King Memorial dedication was a much-deserved tribute to a bygone era. Yet it in reality, it was that and more. The principles of freedom, justice, and equality that Dr. King espoused are eternal – not generational. His life provides a glimpse into both what must be overcome and the fortitude to achieve it. For all that has

See KING, Page 3

### 37th Annual Harambee Festival

The 37th Annual Harambee Festival kicks off with the Heritage Parade at 9 a.m. on October 29, starting at Lincoln High School and ending at the Harambee Festival. The Harambee Festival provides an atmosphere of celebration, with a wide variety of activities including a day full of exhibits of arts/crafts, music performances, games for

the children and more. As an alternative to Halloween, the Harambee Festival is an opportunity to interact with the community and learn about the African American culture. Harambee is an East African Swahili word meaning "Let's Pull Together" or "Unity." Harambee is the oldest and largest African American cultural event in

the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex with over 15,000 people in attendance.

The Harambee Festival is open to the public with FREE admission.

Local performances are welcomed, for more information contact Willie Minor or look for Harambee-dallas.org on Facebook. To become a Sponsor and/or make a donation,

please make checks and money orders payable to Harambee Dallas: 501 Wynnewood Village, P.O. Box 410, Dallas, Texas 75224.

The festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 29 from 10 a.m. -7 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center: 2922 MLK Jr. Blvd. Dallas, Texas.

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### People In The News...



Juan Gonzalez



Craig Watkins



Joanne Thambuswamy

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## Juan Gonzalez

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has awarded Texas Woman's University (TWU) a \$300,000 grant for the university's student mentor G-Force program, which is designed to increase college enrollment among first-generation college students in Texas.

G-Force members mentor high school students, participate in college enrollment workshops and help to staff TWU-sponsored Go Centers in area high schools. A Go Center is a physical space in a high school that offers

students admission and financial aid application assistance and other information to encourage greater participation in higher education by potential first-generation college students.

"The TWU G-Force program has been a great success in exposing more potential first-generation students to the college experience," said Dr. Richard Nicholas, TWU vice president for student life. "I am proud that the Coordinating Board is recognizing the achievements of our G-Force program and is re-

warding the students with these funds."

The two-year grant will allow G-Force members who qualify for state work-study — where students are paid for their on-campus or select off-campus jobs with state funds as part of their financial aid — to be hired as TWU student workers and be paid for their mentorship, presenting workshops and Go Center staffing hours. The students, who will work an average of 15 to 20 hours a week, will receive these work-study wages in addition to



stipends from TWU, which range from \$500 to \$1,500 per semester.

"The funds from this grant will allow me to continue to reach and impact high school students through the G-Force," said Juan Gonzalez, a senior computer science major and the TWU G-Force president. "The funds also make it possible for G-force me-

bers to continue to pursue our higher education goals."

TWU currently operates 16 Go Centers in five North Texas counties and the TWU Mobile Go Center, which travels to area middle and high schools. TWU's G-Force is one of the largest in the state with 45 student members. More than 80 percent of TWU G-Force members are first-generation students and the group has an average GPA of 3.0.

In 2010-2011, G-Force mentored approximately 7,500 students in North Texas.

## Craig Watkins

Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins will receive the American Bar Association (ABA) Criminal Justice Section Norm Maleng Minister of Justice Award on October 28 during its fall meeting in Washington, DC. The award is bestowed on a prosecutor who embodies the principles spelled out in the ABA Standards for Criminal Justice, Prosecution Function particularly that "the duty of the prosecutor is to seek justice, not merely to convict." Norm Maleng, for whom the

award was named, served as the King County (Seattle, WA) Prosecutor from 1978 until his death in 2007.

In selecting Watkins, the Award Committee determined that as a prosecutor, he exemplifies the following principles: (1) the prosecutor's obligation to protect the innocent as well as, to convict the guilty; (2) the prosecutor as guardian of the rights of the accused as well as, enforce the rights of the public; and (3) the prosecutor's commitment to the legal and ethical standards must be



unwavering.

In a written statement Watkins said, "I am extremely honored and humbled to receive this distinguished award. The American Bar Association recognizes not only the progress we have made at the Dallas County District Attorney's office over the past four and a half years, but also our commitment to ensure

justice is served."

ABA Criminal Justice Section Chair Bruce Green expressed his overwhelming support for Mr. Watkins' selection to receive the award. "The ABA Criminal Justice Section is privileged to award our Norm Maleng Minister of Justice Award to District Attorney Craig Watkins," said Green. "Since 2007, Watkins through his leadership and entire staff has devoted his office to the pursuit of justice. In tough economic times, he has prioritized prosecuting the most serious wrongdoers, and he has worked to address the under-

lying cause of criminal conduct. Mr. Watkins has built bridges to the community and has exemplified the highest ethical standards. He is well deserving of this award, our highest recognition for prosecutors," Green added.

Watkins will join an esteemed group of past recipients of this award including: E. Michael McCann (2002); Cal Rerucha and David Schwendiman (2003); Charles J Hynes (2005); Norm Maleng (2006); Lt. Col. Stuart V. Couch (2007); Gary Walker (2008); Susan Gaertner (2009); and Barbara LaWall (2010).

## Joanne Thambuswamy

Joanne Thambuswamy carefully analyzed behav-

And although she's at a nascent point in her career goal of becoming a physician, she was selected along with 17 other UT Dallas students to partner with researchers at UT Southwestern Medical Center as part of the Green Fellowship Program. She said her experiences with the program this past year have fur-



thoroughly analyzed behavioral data and conducted diagnostic interviews of research subjects — heavy-duty responsibilities for the UT Dallas student.

thered her research experience exponentially.

"My focus was eating-disorder research, and I was looking at everything from

anorexia to obesity," she said. "Primarily, I studied how anorexia affects social cognition and how feeding behaviors affect habits."

Thambuswamy and her peers delved into a wide array of academic disciplines — from ophthalmology to pediatrics — and were paired with researchers at UT Southwestern Medical Center, where they spent 16 weeks immersed in research.

The Green Fellowship program, now in its sixth year, encourages undergraduates to spend an entire semester on research in a lab with mentors provided by UT Southwestern.

The program is co-directed by Dr. A. Dean Sherry, director of the Advanced Imaging Research Center at UT Southwestern, professor of chemistry and holder of a Cecil H. and Ida Green Distinguished Chair in Systems Biology Science

at UT Dallas. The program is also co-directed by Dr. Nancy Street, associate dean at the Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

"We started by placing four UT Dallas undergraduates at UT Southwestern six years ago," Sherry said. "This year we plan to identify and place 20 of the brightest UT Dallas students in labs at UT Southwestern. The Green Fellows have become very popular at UTSW."

The program is accepting applicants for next semester. Green Fellows' semester culminates in a poster presentation of their work in May, giving students an opportunity to display and share their research findings.

"Honestly, my favorite experience was the poster presentation at the end of the

semester," said Megan Haight, UT Dallas Green Fellow. "It was nice to see

all of the hard work that everyone had put in, and it

See MAPP, Page 13

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

## Texas NAACP passes resolution against Confederate Flag Specialty Plates

The Texas State Conference of NAACP Units passed a resolution during the 75th Annual State Convention calling on all fair minded persons to vigorously oppose all efforts to authorize the use of the Confederate Battle Flag on Texas license plates. Any objective person understands that the Confederate Battle Flag represents repression and is a badge of slavery. This resolution is a part of the ongoing process to stop the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Board from approving state license plates that would glorify the image of the Confederate Battle Flag, a well-known symbol of

discrimination, disrespect and hatred towards African Americans. National Board Member of the NAACP and Texas State President of the Texas State Conference of NAACP Units Gary Bledsoe said, "the Confederate Battle Flag represents one of the worst periods in Texas and American history. A group of people was intimidated and subjugated by official state policy, solely on the basis of race. When anyone reads the Articles of Succession, passed by the Texas Legislature on February 2, 1861, it is clear that the intent of the Texas Legislature towards people of color was to domi-

nate and exploit Americans of African descent for economic gain. This philosophy has been rejected and discredited as public policy by Congress, the Courts, and the Executive Branch. For these facts to be ignored by the current Texas Legislature calls into question their understanding of history and respect for their fellow citizens. It seems that the Texas Legislature is actually trying to win the Civil War in 2011. We hope that people of good will reject this symbol as a travesty to decency and justice."

"The Confederate Battle Flag has and always will be a reminder to

African Americans about the serious harm and deaths caused to those who have come before us" said Mark Crump, Texas NAACP Youth & College Division President, "It would be an insult and a sign that African Americans aren't welcome in Texas if these license plates are approved." It is important to note that the Confederate Battle Flag never flew over the State of Texas.

"Texans must understand that the Confederate Battle flag was never the official flag of the Confederacy. The state archive department makes it very clear that it never

**See NAACP, Page 12**

## KING, continued from Page 1

been accomplished since Dr. King's 1968 assassination, much more work has yet to be pursued.

On August 16, 1967, Dr. King delivered one of many prophetic speeches, though this one is seldom cited. The occasion was the 11th annual Southern Christian Leadership Convention. His keynote address asked the gathering, "Where do we go from here?" In part of that speech, Dr. King responded to his question with more questions.

"One day we must ask the question," said Dr. King, "Why are there 40 million poor people in America?"

Instead of 40 million people in poverty, the figure has now grown to 46 million. For African-Americans, one in four people today lives in poverty. Unemployment rates

for African-Americans are double those of the general population. According to the Economic Policy Institute's analysis of the most recent census data, since 2007, me-

Black or Latino in America.

But like our martyred Martin, we must collectively find the will and way to transform unfair burdens into promising opportunities.



"Where do we go from here?" Dr. King repeated. "First we must massively assert our dignity and worth. We must stand up amid a system that still oppresses us and develop an unassailable and majestic sense of values."

The permanent memorial to Dr. King's incredible life and legacy can also challenge us to make real the work he envisioned but did not live to see:

"I conclude by saying today that we have a task, and let us go out with a divine dissatisfaction.

"Let us be dissatisfied until America will no longer have a high blood pressure of creeds and an anemia of deeds.

"Let us be dissatisfied until the tragic walls that separate the outer city of wealth and comfort from the inner city of poverty and despair shall be crushed by the battering rams of the forces of justice.

"Let us be dissatisfied until those who live on the outskirts of hope are brought into the metropolis of daily security.

"Let us be dissatisfied until slums are cast into the junk heaps of history, and every family will live in a decent, sanitary home.

In 2011, the fight for equality goes on.

*Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at: [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org)*

## The Citizens for Irving Entertainment Center Seek Support

While the citizens of Irving voted for the Irving Entertainment Center years ago, the city has yet to appropriate the necessary funds for the project.

The complex, planned for development next to Irving Convention Center,

is not only expected to bring commerce, restaurants and family-friendly entertainment. It is projected to create 2,000 – 2,500 jobs. This is why advocates of the project are going before officials to form a special purpose

political action committee in order to save it.

The Citizens for Irving Entertainment Center will be holding a 60-day petition drive and need the signatures of 6,000 Irving residents to present to the Irving City Coun-

cil.

Irving residents are urged to contact Anthony Bonds at 214-830-6719 or at [aebond09@yahoo.com](mailto:aebond09@yahoo.com) for literature and information about how to participate in the petition drive.

## CANCER, continued from Page 1

including cardiometabolic diseases, HIV/AIDS, neurological disorders and cancer," said Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D., dean and executive vice president of Morehouse School of Medicine. "Dr. Rao's discovery is in line with our mission to better understand health inequities and developing a cure."

While white women are slightly more likely to get breast cancer, African-American women are more likely to develop aggressive breast cancers with lesser-known treatments and more likely to die from the disease, according to the American Cancer Society. Breast cancer is the second most common cause of cancer-related

death among African-American women. The American Cancer Society estimated more than 6,000 African-American women will die of breast cancer in 2011.

Rao is professor and co-director of the Cancer Biology Program, in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Morehouse School of Medicine and her latest research is published in Volume 226, Issue 12, of the Journal of Cellular Physiology. Her study could lead to the discovery of novel biomarkers that can predict disease progression and validate the increased risk for African-American women in developing these aggressive breast cancers.

Rao's research findings reveal why young African-American women with triple negative breast cancers who have cytoplasmic mislocalization of BRCA1 proteins often develop BRCA1-associated hereditary and sporadic breast cancers. The function of the BRCA genes is to repair cell damage and keep breast cells growing normally. But when these genes contain abnormalities or mutations that are passed from generation to generation, the genes do not function normally and breast cancer risk increases.

Following the discovery of the breast cancer gene in 1994, researchers have come a long way in

unlocking how various forms of breast cancer develop and creating targeted treatment therapies. Rao has spearheaded numerous breakthroughs in breast cancer research including the identification of short form BRCA1 proteins known as BRCA1a and BRCA1b – which are expressed at reduced levels in breast and ovarian cancers. Her team was the first to show mere down regulation of expression of BRCA1 in normal cells results in cancer, BRCA1 nuclear cytoplasm shuttling is a regulated process, BRCA1a induces cell death in breast cancer cells and the first to introduce BRCA1a into triple negative breast cancer by gene

therapy and successfully block tumor development in mice. Since she began her lab work in 1994, Rao has received four patents for her research findings.

"We are showing for the first time that the exclusive non-nuclear distribution of mutant BRCA1 and BRCA1a proteins cause deregulated Ubc9 resulting in breast cancer" said Rao. "BRCA1 serves as a master switch which, by turning off or on Ubc9 binding, controls estrogen receptor activity and cell growth. This discovery will change the current understanding of how BRCA1 functions as a tumor suppressor by bringing in novel concepts and new directions."

## THAMBUSWAMY,

continued from Page 2

was great to talk about my project with people at the fair. I didn't realize how much I had learned until I had to explain"

Haight worked in a neurogenesis lab with Dr. Jenny Hsieh, assistant professor of molecular biology at UT Southwestern. There, she worked on a cancer project studying how certain cancer cells behaved differently when exposed to a specific molecule.

"This really helped me develop confidence as a student that I never knew I had," she said. "I've grown so much academically through this program and feel that nothing is too big for me to take on now."

## Solemn, Festive Ceremony Marks Unveiling of MLK Memorial

By Barrington M. Salmon (NNPA) On a crisp, clear day on the National Mall in Northwest, tens of thousands of Americans gathered to watch the unveiling of the Martin Luther King Memorial.

This was the second attempt by memorial organizers to pull off the official dedication of the 30-foot memorial. The previous date, August 28, fell on the 48th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s March of Washington, but an earthquake measuring 5.8 and Hurricane Irene scuttled those plans. For Dr. Louis Kurtz and his wife Gwendolyn, the sight of the King Memorial meant the culmination of a dream neither thought would become reality.

"It was strictly awesome, well-deserved and awesome," gushed Kurtz, 87, a retired general surgeon from Macon, Georgia. "The speeches couldn't have been better. The speakers were focused and well appreciated. We were here when Dr. King delivered his (I Have a Dream) speech (in 1963) but we didn't know how important it was until later."

Kurtz, 83, a retired nurse, said while she is appreciative and deeply affected by King's work on behalf of African Americans and the entire country, he touched her personally.

"I was a timid soul but he inspired me to speak up and



President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, daughters Sasha and Malia, and Marian Robinson tour the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial before the dedication ceremony in Washington, D.C., Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011. (Official White House Photo by Chuck Kennedy)

speak out," she said. "He also made it alright to be Black."

Based on his imposing frame, James Malloy doesn't look like a man easily brought to tears, but he dabbed his eyes frequently during the ceremony.

"I get filled up," said the 67-year-old grandfather and Durham, N.C. native. "I was here at the March on Washington when I was 18 years old. I rode five hours to get here. Anything that deals with Black people and justice, I'm here. I stayed and prayed and hoped that things would change."

"I want to tell our grandkids who are 12 and 8 of Dr. King's legacy and that the dream isn't dead. I tell a lot of younger people that they should still be pushing. They don't realize that they are

standing on the backs of those who came before them. They are satisfied too easily. They need to elevate. I will pick up mementos and take them home."

Some guests arrived on-site as early as 5 a.m. and by the time the event Children perched on their parents' shoulders had the best view in the house. A number of people used their smart phones, video cameras and cell phones to capture Obama's speech for posterity.

"This is a day that would not be denied," Obama said solemnly. "We are celebrating Dr. King's return to the National Mall. This was a preacher, a man with no official rank or title who somehow gave voice to our deepest dreams."

Obama drew parallels be-

tween the difficulties King faced with his own political struggles during these challenging economic times.

"Fifty years after the March on Washington, our work is not complete," Obama intoned. "Millions are out of work, poverty is on the rise. There are underfunded schools, constant violence and little hope and few prospects for the future. In too many troubled neighborhoods across the county, the conditions of our poorest citizens appear little changed from what existed 50 year ago. Our work is not done."

"Change has never been without controversy. Change has never been easy or quick. We must remind ourselves that such progress did not come easily. It came from the smack of billy clubs, and blasts of fire hoses, the nights of bomb threats. For every victory in the height of the Civil Rights Movement there were setbacks, there were defeats. So on this day when we celebrate a man and a movement that did so much for our country, let us draw strength from those earlier struggles," Obama said.

The president exhorted the crowd to stay the course.

"Those in power will always decry calls for change, call for restraint. Speaking of uncomfortable truths, there are always creative tensions (when engaged in) non-violent actions ... his story tells us

that change can come if you don't give up."

"We can't be discouraged ... at a time when politics is polarized and faith in our institutions is greatly diminished ... I know we will overcome. I

know there are better days ahead," Obama said. "Let us keep striving, let us keep struggling, let us keep climbing to that promised land of a nation and a world that is more fair and more just."

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## Garland NAACP hosting A Forum on the Voter ID Bill

The Garland branch of the NAACP in an effort to inform the public on the Voter ID bill rushed through the special session held in Austin earlier this year. If approved by the Justice Department, the law requiring a

state issued ID will go into effect January 1, 2012.

Dallas County Elections officials and local elected officials are slated to speak. They include Texas House of Representatives: Rep. Stefani Carter - District 102;

Rep. Angie Chen Button - District 112; and Rep. Joe Driver - District 113.

The forum is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25 at Mount Hebron Missionary Baptist Church at 1233 Highway in Garland.

## Campaign Finance in Texas forum

Ordinary people are demonstrating across the country - and right here in Dallas - with the overwhelming message that ordinary people are not being heard. The signs and rhetoric shout frustration that the voice of citizens is being drowned out by the power of large institutions, corporations, unions, and wealthy donors. The Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United vs. FEC*, declaring corporations have the first amendment right to engage in unlimited political expenditures, has added fuel to this fire as more money is flowing into elections than ever before.

To explore the option (pros and cons) of public funding for elections, a forum is being presented by the Collin College Polit-

ical Science Club and Clean Elections Texas on Saturday, October 22, 9 am to noon, at the Collin College Spring Creek Campus Conference Center.

Panelists will include Dennis Simon, University Distinguished Teaching Professor, Department of Political Science at Southern Methodist University, who will talk about campaign finance in Texas, its history and current legislation. Joel Page, a lawyer who actually enjoys reading court decisions and briefs, will explain the legal history of political finance reform and the most recent court decisions. President of Clean Elections Texas, Liz Wally, will give an overview of the public funding option. After a question and answer session, former

elected officials will talk about their experiences raising money to run a campaign and how they view the alternative public financing movement. Confirmed as of this date are: the Honorable Robert Miklos, former State Rep from District 101 and The Honorable Ed Okley, former Dallas City Councilman.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the event will be when, at individual round table discussions, our panelists join others who have run for public office. Students from government classes at Collin College will be attending, so the discussions may be lively. Confirmed table hosts are Jamie Dorris, John Lingenfelder, Steve Love, Larry Praeger, Grier Raggio, Pete Schulte and John Wellik

## Carrollton's Free Festival at the Switchyard needs volunteers

The 2nd annual Carrollton Festival at the Switchyard will take place outdoors on the Downtown Carrollton Square, steps away from the Downtown Carrollton DART station and will feature live entertainment from Third Eye Blind, Bob Schneider, and local favorites including The Killdares, Telegraph Canyon, Slobberbone, The Orbins, David Chicken, and many more.

In addition to the excit-

ing concerts, great food, a beer garden, arts and crafts, live entertainment, interactive games, and activities for children of all ages are planned. The free Kids-World will offer games and rides for all ages, including Booger Wars, Giant Human Hamster Balls, a midway of sports games, and more. Parking is limited - park and ride DART (normal charges apply).

It's not too late to sign up to be a volunteer! Volun-

teers age 16 and older are needed to greet attendees and pass out programs. You will receive a free volunteer t-shirt and plenty of appreciation for helping out.

To fill out a volunteer application form or for more details about the volunteer process and guidelines, visit [carrolltonfestival.com](http://carrolltonfestival.com). For more frequent updates, follow the Festival at [facebook.com/CarrolltonFestival](http://facebook.com/CarrolltonFestival) and on Twitter at [twitter.com/carrolltonfest](http://twitter.com/carrolltonfest).

## DART receives \$12 million grant

The Department of Transportation has awarded Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) with a \$12,000,000 grant to assist with the replacement of their urban transit bus fleet. This project was funded through the DOT's "State of Good Repair" program and

will replace aging, less fuel efficient buses currently operating in the DART fleet.

"I am happy to announce that the Department of Transportation will award DART \$12 million to be used for the replacement of buses in the Urban Transit Bus Fleet that have reached

or surpassed their useful service period. I could not be happier, because improvements in transit opens up job opportunities to more of the Dallas community," Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson said.

## Wind energy sets new record in Texas

The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) released the following statement from Michael Goggin, Manager of Transmission Policy, commenting on the news that wind turbines in the service territory of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT, the main Texas electric grid) set a new output record on Oct. 7. That afternoon, wind generated 15.2 percent of ERCOT's demand for electricity that afternoon, or 7,400 megawatts.

"This new record set by wind on the main Texas grid is good news for consumers," Goggin said. "Wind generation offsets the use of expensive fossil fuels, is pollution-free, and uses virtually no water, unlike other sources of electricity.

"Moreover, this is yet an-

other case showing that large amounts of wind energy can be integrated into existing utility systems reliably.

"Texas is already the national leader in wind power. The number of wind turbines and wind farms there and in other windy states across America is continuing to grow and shows the success of stable federal tax policies, starting with the Production Tax Credit for renewable en-

ergy.

"Wind power is delivering cheap electricity to ratepayers in hard economic times, and it's hard to overstate the benefits of that far-sighted tax policy."

According to ERCOT, wind energy "represents nearly 58 percent of all new generation seen in planning stages over the next few years" in Texas.

## Partner Energy to provide no-cost energy audits for qualifying Oncor customers

Partner Energy, a nationwide provider of energy consulting services will provide no-cost energy audits of commercial, governmental, educational, worship, and nonprofit commercial facilities for qualifying Oncor customers in Texas, announced Partner Energy President Tony Liou.

Under Oncor's Commercial Energy Audit Program (CEAP), Partner will assess a facility's energy performance and identify cost-effective energy efficiency improvements, according to Liou.

"An energy audit is a hands-on assessment of a building's energy usage, its energy using

equipment, and building conditions that may cause excessive energy consumption," said Liou.

"Once a building's energy consumption is understood, the audit identifies and recommends projects that can reduce energy consumption or increase efficiency, as well as the estimated costs to implement, savings and payback period."

"While the ultimate goal is to reduce energy consumption, an energy audit also can help building owners increase asset value through reduced operating costs and increased revenue," added Liou.

Governmental, educational, worship, non-profit buildings served by an Oncor meter as well as commercial office buildings with a peak demand less than 250kW are eligible to participate in the no-cost audit program. For non-qualifying commer-

cial buildings, Oncor, which is the largest regulated electric delivery business in Texas, provides a 50 percent cost-share incentive.

Building owners can apply to participate in Oncor's CEAP program by downloading an application at [www.takeaload-offtexas.com/index.aspx?id=commercial-energy-audit](http://www.takeaload-offtexas.com/index.aspx?id=commercial-energy-audit)

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## DCCCD Art Students Are Welded to Their Work at State Fair

Among the treasures sprinkled through the Discovery Gardens at the Texas State Fair are whimsical flowers, lily pads, coppery cogs and even a childlike crescent moon. They don't bend with the wind, but sunshine brings out shiny metals that reflect the talents of the Dallas County Community College District students who created them. Every piece is made from "found" objects, too – recycled or repurposed materials.

Those students – from the Bill J. Priest campus of El Centro College – literally are welded to their art work. They designed, cut, soldered and polished a va-



*"Sprockitt" by Chris Wood, El Centro College/Bill J. Priest Campus*

riety of metallic creations that blend well in the gar-

dens. From palm fronds and petals to insects and turtles, their work attracts guests and transports them from trees and plants to the moon and back again.

The welding programs offered at El Centro provide career opportunities and a chance to develop a hobby, according to welding instructor Byron Zarrabi, whose giant butterfly and other pieces have

graced the Discovery Gardens in previous years. "Discovery Gardens staff members liked the large butterfly because it complemented their butterfly exhibit. When I told them about our art metals program, they invited our students to install their works in the gardens this year."

He added, "Two instructors – Chris Wood and myself – and three students (Lauren Diane Van Buren, Sarah Bullock and Ismael Bukhari) installed a number of metal sculptures made out of recycled or repurposed materials. It's been a great opportunity for them because they had to produce a piece of art, deal with time lines, meet delivery dead-

lines and install their pieces. They also learned about writing their own biographical information, signing contracts and selling their work. We offer an art program from A to Z."

Some of those works on display in the Discovery Gardens are: "Sprockitt" by Chris Wood; "Sea Fan with Butterflies" by Lauren Diane Van Buren; "The Road" by Byron Zarrabi; "The Squiggles," "Chronos non pari" and "Calisto" by Sarah Bullock; and "Nakhlah Tree of Mary" by Ismael Bukhari. All are for sale.

El Centro's art metals program "is extensive and is designed for serious artists who are interested in metal

work," said Zarrabi. Classes include welding safety tool and equipment; intermediate welding (using multiple processes); metal sculptures; and studio problems in art metals. "We will offer a shorter version of this program as the demand increases," added Zarrabi.

Following the installation in the Discovery Gardens at the State Fair of Texas, Zarrabi was approached by the Cedars Neighborhood Association (a group which is active in the area surrounding the Bill J. Priest campus, where the program is based) with a request to have some of the art metals students place their works in the neighborhood for everyone to enjoy.

## TWU welcomes prospective transfer students to Nov. 5 Transfer Connection

Texas Woman's University (TWU) will host its Transfer Connection information session for prospective transfer students on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 8:30 a.m.

to noon on the TWU Denton campus.

Prospective transfer students who attend the event will receive a \$50 application fee award to apply to TWU.

Students also will attend sessions on admissions and financial aid, meet with advisors and faculty, receive sample degree plans, learn more about TWU services tailored

to transfer students and take an optional campus tour.

Check-in for the Transfer Connection begins at 8:30 a.m. on the second floor of the Administration and Con-

ference Tower (ACT) located on Administration Drive between Oakland Avenue and Bell Avenue in Denton.

Information sessions are scheduled until noon, fol-

lowed by campus tours and residence hall viewings. Free parking is available throughout the Denton campus for the event.

## Jethro Pugh-Two Podners golf tournament raises \$60,000 for UNCF

UNCF—the United Negro College Fund—the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization, in partnership with The Paradies Shops and DFW International Airport's AAC-TION Group, today announced that the 19th annual Jethro Pugh-Two Podners Scholarship Invitational raised \$60,000 in scholarships for Dallas/Fort Worth area low-income college students. Event sponsors included Nestle Waters North America, Coca-Cola Refreshments, Coors, American Airlines and State Farm Insurance.

Since its inception by The Paradies Shops and Jethro Pugh 19 years ago, this benefit has raised more than \$650,000 to provide scholarships that help to reduce financial barriers and increase access to higher education for low-income college students. Scholarships valued up to \$5,000 will be awarded to qualifying students attending one of UNCF's Texas-based private colleges. Students must excel academically and give back to their communities

"We are extremely proud to



*(L to R) are Rick Lillie, Jethro Pugh, Fred Conwright, Diane Stephenson, Gregg Paradies & James Runnells.*

continue our partnership with UNCF, Jethro Pugh and Two Podners with this important event," said Gregg Paradies, president and CEO. "We are honored to assist local students in continuing their education, and we look forward to another great tournament next year."

"The scholarship funds raised from this tournament are vitally important to low-income students – especially those whose college education continues to be threatened by the recession," said Diane Stephenson, UNCF Area Development Director. "We are extremely grateful for the spon-

sors and supporters of the tournament and to The Paradies Shops, Jethro Pugh, Two Podners and DFW Airport's AAC-TION group for investing in our community by helping so many deserving students attend college."

Eligible students must have a financial need, have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, be residents of the Dallas/Fort Worth area, have a financial need and be enrolled full-time at one of UNCF's Texas-based institutions. The application and more information will be posted online later this year at <http://www.uncf.org>

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**Ongoing**

**Free Teen Saturday Classes** for dance, vocal and drama at the N.I.A Kids Center for the Performing Arts, 901 N. Polk Street, Suite 380, Desoto,. Class times vary. Info: [niakids.org](http://niakids.org).

**Toastmasters Intl. Club** Meets every Monday in the Texins Activity Center on the Texas Instruments Campus, 13900 North Central Expressway, Dallas from 5:45 – 7pm. Info: [texins.free-toasthost.org](http://texins.free-toasthost.org) or 214-566-4086.

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

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

**Group Business Seminars** at 4907 Spring Avenue, Dallas, 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.NoLimitNetwork.com](http://www.NoLimitNetwork.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. [www.nbwen.org](http://www.nbwen.org).

**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-fri-ently 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. Info @ 214-942-6698.

**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.

**Oak Cliff Cultural Center,** 223 West Jefferson Blvd. in Dallas, offers Tango classes every Wed-nesday from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple per class. [www.tangocanyen-guedallas.com](http://www.tangocanyen-guedallas.com)

**Through October 23** Nationwide Insurance is donating \$10 to the Dallas/Fort Worth UNCF's **Campaign for Emergency Student Aid** for every auto insurance quote requested by drivers who visit [uncfdallas.org](http://uncfdallas.org) or call 972-744-1422.

**Through October 27** **Concerts in the Garden** at the Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road, Garland, TX, features different bands every Thursday from 7pm-9pm. Tickets \$16/Adults and \$9/Children. Info: [info@dallasarboretum.org](mailto:info@dallasarboretum.org) or 214-515-6524.

**Through October 29** The play **Pillow Talk** appears at the Garland Civic Theatre, 108 N 6th Street, Garland. Show times vary. Tickets \$22. Info: [garlandcivictheatre.org](http://garlandcivictheatre.org) or 972-485-8884.

**Through October 31** Bible Way Community Baptist Church, 4215 N. Greenview Drive, Irving, TX 75062, will be accepting donations for their annual **Operation Christmas Child**

drive to make Christmas special for children living in 3rd World countries. Info: 972-257-3766 or [bwcbc.com](http://bwcbc.com).

**Through November 11** Plano Children's Theater, 1301 Custer Rd, Suite 706, Plano, TX, presents **School House Rock Live Jr.** Show times and ticket prices vary. Info: [planochildrenstheater.org](http://planochildrenstheater.org) or 972-422-2575.

**Through November 23** **Autumn at the Arboretum** with its acclaimed pumpkin patch, activities and fall foliage comes to the Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road, Dallas, TX 75218. Adult tickets \$12. Children tickets \$8. Info: 214-515-6500 or [dallasarboretum.org](http://dallasarboretum.org).

**Through October 28** **Sharing the Journey: Coping with Grief** will meet Fridays, at the Visiting Nurse Association of Collin County office on 2414 West University Drive, #200 in McKinney. The meeting time is 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. No cost to attend, RSVP at 214-733-5500 or [harrisonm@vna-texas.org](mailto:harrisonm@vna-texas.org).

**Through October 23** **West Side Story** will be performed at the Music Hall at Fair Park, 909 1st, Dallas, TX, 75201. Show times vary. Tickets start at \$54. Info: 214-565-0306.

**October 20** **Marsha Ambrosius** performs at the Palladium Ballroom, 1135 S. Lamar, Dallas, TX. Doors open at 7pm. Show starts at 8pm. Tickets \$39.50 - \$42.00. Info: [thepalladiumballroom.com](http://thepalladiumballroom.com) or 214-421-2021.

**October 21** **A Small-Acreage Landowner Resource Management Workshop** from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 460 Pullen Rd., Rockwall.

The stage play **Faces in the Mirror** will be performed at Friendship West Baptist Church, 2020 Wheatland Road, Dallas, from 8pm –

10pm. Tickets \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door. Info: [friendshipwest.org/announcements](http://friendshipwest.org/announcements).

**October 21 – November 20** The Dallas Theater Center presents **To Kill a Mockingbird** at 2400 Flora Street, Dallas. Show times and ticket prices vary. Info: [DallasTheaterCenter.org](http://DallasTheaterCenter.org) or 214-526-8210.

**October 21** Dallas County Democratic Party 11th Annual Fish Fry will be at SOKOL Hall, 7448 Greenview Ave, Dallas, starting at 6:30pm. Tickets \$35 (\$25 for Precinct Chairs). Info: [dallasdemocrats.org](http://dallasdemocrats.org).

**October 22** The **2011 C.C. Russeau Scholarship Black and Gold Scholarship Gala** will be held at the Sheraton Hotel, 400 N. Olive Street, Dallas, TX at 7pm. Black Tie. Tickets \$65/person or \$650/table. Info: [jabari156@gmail.com](mailto:jabari156@gmail.com).

Plano North Metroplex Chapter of The Links, Incorporated hosts a **Youth Summit – “Strong Talented Emerging Minds” Preparing 21st Century Youth for the Future** at Richland College, 12800 Abrams Road, Room #WH115, Dallas, from 8:30 am – 2 pm. Grades 7 – 12. RSVP by 10/17. Info: [spigner-james@yahoo.com](mailto:spigner-james@yahoo.com) or 972-644-6349.

Preston Royal Village, Dallas hosts its **2nd Annual Fall Family Festival**, northeast corner of Preston and Royal in Dallas, from 4pm – 7pm. FREE. Info: [prestonroyalvillage.com](http://prestonroyalvillage.com).

**October 22** The Family & Leadership Empowerment Network is hosting **Small & Micro Business Development & Job Skills Training Program for Upward-Bound, Home-Unstable People** at the Bill J. Priest Economic Development Institute, 1402 Corinth Street, Dallas. FREE. Info and Registration: 214-951-7967.

**October 22-23** **Fort Worth Alliance Air Show**

**WorldFest 2011** comes to Addison Circle Park, 15650 Addison Road, Addison, 12pm – 6pm. FREE. Info: [addison-texas.net](http://addison-texas.net) or 972-450-2851.

**October 22** Help raise money for impoverished communities in Africa at the **Humanitarian Hands 2011 Gala Event** at the Intercontinental Hotel Dallas, 15201 Dallas Parkway, Addison, TX 75001 to. Info: 972-331-6098 and [hhcharities.org](http://hhcharities.org)

The **African Unity Festival 2011** comes to SMU's Hughes Trigg Student Center, 3140 Dyer Street, Dallas at 7pm. FREE. Info: [dfwinternational.org/africanunity](http://dfwinternational.org/africanunity) or 972-661-2764.

**October 23** The Turtle Creek Chorale kicks off its 32nd season with **Mesiah** in concert with Partners in Harmony Mass Choir at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora Street, Dallas, TX) at 8pm. Tickets \$20-\$65. Info: [turtlecreek.org](http://turtlecreek.org) or 214-526-3214.

**The Texas State Veggie Fair** returns to Winfrey Point at White Rock Lake, 950 East Lawther, Dallas starting at 11am. FREE. Info: [texasstateveggiefair.com](http://texasstateveggiefair.com).

**October 24** **2011 United Nations Day Dallas** is at FunAsia Restaurant, 1210 E. Beltline, Richardson, from 6:30pm – 9pm. Tickets \$40. Students \$15. Tables \$300. Info: [dallas-una.org](http://dallas-una.org) or 469-248-7977.

**October 28** Donnie McClurkin's Perfecting Music Conference hosts a **Health and Wellness Fair** at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, 400 N. Olive Street, Dallas, from 11am – 3pm. FREE. Info: [perfectingthemusic.com](http://perfectingthemusic.com).

**October 29** The Irving-Carrollton Branch

NAACP hosts a **Freedom Fund Luncheon** at the Las Colinas Marriott Hotel, 223 W. Las Colinas Blvd., Irving from 11:30am -2pm. \$50 donation to support youth participation in the NAACP's Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics, tutoring at-risk students and scholarships. Info: 214-763-9802.

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters presents **An Evening of Spoken Word with Ruby Dee** at the Dallas Convention Center Theater Complex, Naomi Bruton Main Stage, corner of Canton and Akard in Dallas, at 7:30pm. Tickets \$20-\$25. Info: [tbaal.org](http://tbaal.org).

Dallasblack.com and Wells Fargo present **Home Buying 101: Your Roadmap to Home Ownership** at The Women's Museum, 3800 Parry Ave, Dallas, 10am – 3pm. FREE. Breakfast and lunch provided. Info: [dallasblack.com/wellsfargo](http://dallasblack.com/wellsfargo).

**Cowboys of Color National Finals Rodeo** comes to the Mesquite Championship Resistol Arena, 1818 Rodeo Drive, Mesquite at 7:30pm. Ticket prices vary. Info: [cowboysof-colorrodeo.com](http://cowboysof-colorrodeo.com) or 972-285-8777.

**October 31** Bible Way Community Baptist Church is holding its annual **Fall Festival** at 4215 N. Greenview Drive, Irving from 6pm to 8pm. FREE. Info: 972-257-3766.

**November 12** **Women on the Verge of a Breakthrough Brunch** will be held at the Marriot at Market Center, 2493 N. Stemmons Frwy, Dallas from 10am – 2pm. Tickets \$20 in advance and \$30 after 10/21. Vendors start at \$75. Info: [Teri@anyevent.org](mailto:Teri@anyevent.org).

A Sister's Gift Women's Center presents their **1st Annual Women of Unsung Courage Awards Brunch – 30 years of AIDS** at the TOP Event Center, 1508 Cadiz Street, Dallas at 11:30am. Tickets \$20 presale and \$25 at the door. Info: [asis-tergift.org](http://asis-tergift.org) or 214-421-4274.

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# The Psychology of Black Unemployment

(NNPA) Impact felt deep in the African American psyche

As she watched President Barack Obama lay out his jobs plan for the nation and repeatedly challenge Congress to address the issue immediately, Madelyn Broadus was thinking “finally, somebody is for the people.”

“It seems like for the past 12 years, (the government) is always for corporations and big fat cats. I really feel like he said it right for how we can begin again, the hard-working American people,” explained Broadus, one of the 14 million unemployed people that the president was speaking of during his speech.

A sheet metal worker who specializes in installing heating and air conditioning in commercial and industrial buildings, Broadus has not worked a job since November 2009.

“I went to a five-year apprentice program, and when I was about to come out that’s when the construction industry went flat,” said Broadus, who has existed on unemployment since her last job.

Broadus is not alone as she struggles through long-term unemployment; nor is her situation unique . . . in the Black community.

In fact, a look at employment numbers back to when the United States Department of Labor (DOL) first began segmenting out statistics by race (1972), yields the data that shows the Black unemployment rate has consistently been at least double the national average. In 1982 and 1983, for example, Black unemployment ranged from 17 to 21 percent, while the national rate for that same period ranged from 8.6 to 10.8 percent.

And these numbers, just as today’s 16.7 percent rate for Blacks probably understated the number of jobless, believes sociologist Michael Hodge, Ph.D. He said the numbers do not count those who have just stopped looking.

In fact, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics produces a report called U6, which is a broader measure of labor underutilization. For example, in June of last year, the DOL unemployment rate was 15.7 percent in July of 2010 while the U6 rate (which includes the officially unemployed, discouraged workers, the marginally attached who have fallen out of the labor force and those working part-time because they cannot find full-time work) was 23.6 percent.

The historically high Black unemployment rates even prompted researchers at UC Berkeley to develop a Black Employment and Unemployment Data Brief that is published each month, shortly after the labor department releases its unemployment figures.

The idea behind the brief said Steven C. Pitts, Ph.D., a labor policy specialist with the Center for Labor Research and Education is to make it easy for people to access all the numbers when it comes to Black unemployment. Pitts said the labor department puts out the basic numbers, but Berkeley’s data briefs drill deeper to look at various segments within the Black community.

“The Data Brief has been out 16 months now, and I think what it has done is give people a quick way to get the numbers themselves. It has allowed people to talk with some authority about Black unemployment. It’s also been able to expand the conversation around Black unemployment and economic issues.”

Some of that expanded talk has been about the impact on Blacks in public-sector employment, where Pitts said about 20 percent of Black folk work.

The long-term nature of African American unemployment is one of the reasons Hodge believes there are some deeply embedded causes for the problem in the Black community.

“There are some struc-

tural issues that are causes of the high rate of Black unemployment,” said the chair of the Morehouse College Department of Sociology. “I

the challenges and ills that are prevalent, believe researchers.

“Black America has always had an alternate vision

standing of the work environment, and what social ties matter most for work,” Young said. Consequently, if they do get a job, in order

male unemployment helps to promote single-female-headed houses with fewer economic resources. (Women earn less than men in



Photo credit: New America Media

don’t want to discount discrimination, because (it) is still a factor in the high unemployment of African Americans, but there are some structural factors at work as well. One of which is education. We have a lower rate of high school completion and college graduation, and that is particularly true among Black men today.”

Hodge said the lower educational attainment is directly tied to a lower rate of employment. “Another structural challenge is the shifting of the U.S. economy away from a manufacturing to a service one. He noted that these were the types of well-paid jobs African American males could get without a college degree.

But the economy’s service-ward shift, combined with off-shore outsourcing, discrimination, and inadequate education have left Blacks, especially men, in the precarious position of not being able to find decent jobs that enable them to support families.

And this definitely has an impact on the entire African American community and contributes in unexplored ways to many of

of work and work opportunities . . . and has had an informal, underground economy that’s always been a factor in their lives,” points out Alford Young Jr., a professor of sociology and African American Studies and chair of the sociology department of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

This alternative work often leads to constant thoughts about how to supplement your income, noted Young.

“This is very much a stressor and provides an interesting spin on the longstanding notion that Black people, particularly lower income folk only live for today . . . and have an inability to think about the long run and are not prepared for delayed gratification,” said Young.

In actuality, the sociologist said these individuals are in almost continual survivor mode.

Young added that in this situation there is a cognitive dissonance when it comes to understanding mainstream work.

“When, for a good portion of your adult life, you exist on the margin, you lose our sense of under-

standing of the work environment, and what social ties matter most for work,” Young said. Consequently, if they do get a job, in order

to preserve their dignity on the job such individuals may take actions that are antithetical to keeping the job.

Hodge, of Morehouse, said the other long-term impacts include an increase in crime, and with more people interacting with the criminal justice system, that means more people accruing a record which exacerbates the problem of obtaining a job.

“You see a decline in the value of the community . . . people are losing their homes. Renters move in, who tend not to take care of homes like homeowners.”

But the impact goes even deeper than that, say researchers.

“We are still gender-oriented . . . . Males are supposed to be the breadwinners. When they can’t perform . . . stress is created in a household,” said Morehouse’s Hodge. This can lead to high rates of divorce and domestic violence.

According to Professor Barbara Carter, Ph.D., at Spelman College, economically unstable Black men are less likely to enter into formal marriages and create stable families.

“The pattern of high

part because the ‘gendered’ jobs they occupy typically pay less.)

“Many Black women simply don’t assume that Black men will be able to support them (even if that is still their ideal), and families often socialize their girls to expect to be economically independent. Other women choose to raise their children alone rather than have an official/legal marriage with an economically unstable man,” noted Carter, who is in the Anthropology and Sociology Department at Spelman.

All three researchers also talk about the impact on the psyche of unemployed Blacks, particularly males.

“What you see around you, impacts how you think, and impacts your way of thinking about the world. It creates this cycle that can perpetuate itself; that can be generational and that can be problematic,” said Hodge. “Cornel West, I think, talked about this sense of community hopelessness. And when he talked about that, he talked about how unemployment, no jobs, a

See UNEMPLOYMENT, Page 11

## NDG Gossip: Despite health scare, Ross still gets his wings

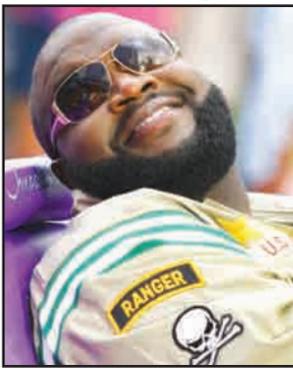
By Tonya Whitaker  
NDG Staff Writer

After suffering two seizures last week, Rick Ross finally made his way to Memphis on Oct. 17 just in time for the premiere of his latest endeavor, the opening of his WingStop franchise. A Twitpic posted Monday showed the rapper posing with D.J. Khaled and Gucci Pucci outside the restaurant. Judging from the picture, it looks as if Ross enjoyed a meal.

As for what caused the Ross' pair of seizures, the verdict is still out and no post-seizure reports have been issued. But, don't think for minute the people close to Ross think those two seizures were a random

event. 50 Cent, an adversary of Ross, told Urban Daily that Rozay "gotta take care of his self [sic]." According to Hip Hop World, Ross' former girlfriend, Elise Neal, said saw this coming because those around Ross ride on his stardom while his health suffers.

"I think (his record label) is pushing him too hard," Neal said of 35-year-old Ross. "I know he's very career driven, but I don't think they take enough time to care about what they're doing to his body ... They don't think about him or his health, pushing him to do all these videos, pushing tours and shows. He is not 20 years old anymore."



Rick Ross

Neal is half correct. Ross has to make the first step, after all that is his body. For Ross' sake, I hope the reason for his seizures come to light. No degree of money is worth your health. I am sure his fans do not want him to be-

See ROSS, Page 12

## Free music, food and fun at Huffhines Art Trails Festival Oct. 22-23

The trails of Huffhines Park will come alive October 22-23 with art, music, food and fun as the award-winning Huffhines Art Trails Festival celebrates its 35th year.

Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, with free admission and free parking. Huffhines Park, at 1500 Apollo Road in Richardson, is adjacent to the city's new Huffhines Recreation Center.

Huffhines Art Trails Festival is an annual fall tradition that features 150 artisans and craftsmen showcasing a wide variety of contemporary, traditional and country crafts -- jewelry to woodwork, metal work to

fiber, painting to photography, pottery to glass -- and fine art.

Besides art and crafts, Huffhines Art Trails offers live entertainment from the Front Porch Stage and dance floor. North Texas musicians and local performing arts groups entertain in the Café Huffhines courtyard.

Along with the fun, feast on festival foods Hill-billy KettleKorn, Mario's Greek Cuisine, Conway's Corny Dogs, Texas Twist Soft Pretzels, Dippin Dots Ice Cream, D & L Catering and Bunch of Nuts. Huffhines Art Trails Festival also features Café Huffhines' delicious Frito

pie, skillet peaches with whipped cream, and apples with caramel sauce and walnuts, and The Bomb Fried Pies and Guacamole featuring pumpkin fried pies.

For the kids, there's a built-in playground and a hay bale maze, and the "Huffhines Hunt" scavenger hunt through the winding trails of the park.

Vote for your favorite pumpkin in the fourth annual City of Richardson Departmental Pumpkin Decorating Contest.

For complete festival details, visit [www.huffhinesarttrails.com](http://www.huffhinesarttrails.com) or call 972-744-4580.

## "Pollyanna" auditions scheduled

Garland Civic Theatre has scheduled auditions for the Children On Stage production of "Pollyanna" on November 5 and 6, 2011. All of the auditions will be

held at 108 North Sixth Street in downtown Garland.

This is a production for youngsters, ages 8 to 18. The cast includes a total of

14 roles available (7 females and 7 males).

Appointments are required for all auditions. Please call 972-485-8884 to schedule your appointment.

Appointments are available from 1 PM to 4 PM each afternoon. A parent must accompany their minor children. Auditioners should bring a headshot and re-

sume to their appointment, but no experience is required. The auditions will consist of "cold reading" from the script. Callbacks will be at 6:00 PM on No-

vember 6, 2011. A fee of \$100 will be due at the first rehearsal for those who are in the cast or crew. Re-

See POLLYANNA, Page 13

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## UNEMPLOYMENT, continued from Page 9

low graduation rate and all types of things like this perpetuate this sense of learned hopelessness. And so once that happens, it's very difficult to pull a community out of that downward cycle."

And because Black America has not escaped the ethos of work concept that permeates the national psyche, Hodge adds, lack of employment impacts one's emotional state.

"I'm not going to say that people have less respect, but we react how we are reacted to. When larger society does not treat you well, there is an attitude not so much of lack of respect but of 'I'll get mine the only way I can get mine.'"

Young believes the impact is different at the various economic levels.

Many in the lower socioeconomic levels, who live and operate in communities where joblessness is abundant, are often wholly divorced from work and work opportunities.

"For those in the stable working class, they are in a precarious category," Young said. "There is a lack of comfort and security at work. At one point you focused on how to have your children advance beyond your status, but now the Black middle class has abandoned that notion. Instead now they are struggling to figure out how to retire."

According to the Los Angeles UCLA Black Worker Center, the demographic of the working class is probably the most invisible in the African American community, and that creates problems when it comes to looking at issues of work and jobs.

For the Black professional class, there is a gender imbalance, which is particularly troubling for women who are interested in connecting in marriage with someone of their same race.

Young also noted that for the professional class, there is a sense of isolation, and that for the lower income there is an emerging

concern about how to make sense of a work world that is increasingly more technology-based.

The University of Michigan professor also noted another future impact that is beginning to manifest itself—the "monitoring" of a growing mass of older African Americans who have never been connected to stable employment and now must be incorporated into the conversation about social security, Medicaid and healthcare.

While the state of unemployment in the African American community is extremely challenging, researchers retain their optimism for the future in part because of the past resiliency and creativity of the African American community. That includes "hustling" (whether legitimately or illicitly) to bring in money. They are also optimistic because of actions that new generations of Blacks are taking.

One of those sets of actions is what Hodge sees among the young college students he observes.

"The Black male students I see have a hustle they are trying to create while they are in school. They set up entrepreneurship opportunities for themselves and their colleagues. They do things to promote themselves."

And they are doing this in large part by harnessing the power of technology, adds Hodge. Their goals, like those of Black entrepreneurs of the past are to give back to the community, partially in the guise of jobs.

On the other end of the spectrum—the mass worker side—are organizations like the Los Angeles UCLA Black Workers Center, which Pitts said are doing much like the legendary A. Phillip Randolph: helping to empower Black workers as a group.

"A. Philip Randolph and the movement of sleeping car porters not only built power—meaning developing leaders such as Ed Nixon who could stand up

to employers and make the demands of workers and who knew their individual fate were linked to the collective—but Randolph also was a strategist and used research and analysis to understand the political landscape and the dynamics of the power that he was up against. He made sure that the porters understood the railroad industry and how it worked; that they understood the boss, his values and motivation; he explored what political tools he had to fight with and those that were needed; he knew the political landscape of the Black community and the labor movement and where they were willing to go. All of that led to their success," said Lola Smallwood-Cuevas of the UCLA Black Worker Center.

"Today Black workers are on their own and in the dark, like so many American workers, and they are struggling in a complex economy overlaid with enormous systems of oppression and greed," continued Smallwood-Cuevas. "At the Black Worker Center, we believe the organization and development of worker/leaders, community strategic alliances, and smart analysis, strategies as well as an agenda out of the grassroots is what is needed."

Researchers also believe that what is needed is to take the conversation about Black unemployment well beyond job training and creation and deep into an understanding of the future world of work as well as how to meaningfully connect youth and adults (including the formerly incarcerated) to this new and ever-changing employment landscape.

The Black Worker Center, also believes the discussion needs to include looking at the labor market and repairing the structural policies and procedures that facilitate creation of "bad" jobs and employment inequities. isaster."



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Welcome to "where are they now" and what in the hell are they doing. Mainstream America is obsessed with the lives of professional athletes. Then they retire or pressure to retire from a career which has only a five to six year life span depending on the sport.

Websites like *Bossip*, *TMZ* and other media outlets prey on the rags to riches to rags stories of professional athletes and entertainers. Take former New York Knick guard Ray

## Fork in the road

Williams who played in the NBA for 12 seasons with the Nets, Hawks, Celtics and Spurs before retiring in 1987.

He was homeless for more than twenty-years and living out of his car until former Boston Celtics, Larry Bird, Kevin McHale and others bail him out with financial assistance. He lost it all to drugs, alcohol, poor investments and his prize possession - his family. He did kept his will to live by fishing every day as a sport and to put food in his stomach.

He got back on his feet with a job offer from the mayor of his hometown

Mount Vernon, New York. He is now a recreation specialist and doing well. Yes, the shock and awe draws us to this story rather than a story like Junior Bridgeman, a former NBA player who also played 12 seasons with the Milwaukee Bucks and Los Angeles Clippers.

Listed in *Forbes* magazine as the 18th richest African-American in the United States, Ulysses "Junior" Bridgeman has a net worth of \$530 million dollars. He owns and operates a 161 Wendy's franchises and 118 Chili's restaurants and is the president and CEO of Bridgeman Foods.

See FORK, Page 13



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**COWBOYS,** continued from Page 1

Rodeo Producer. "We also will have some wonderful musical entertainment to celebrate our Southern heritage.

Offering a touch of the Bayou is Jay B and the Zydeco Posse, who will be playing during and after the Rodeo so plan to stay late and do a little dancing, that's "Kickin' in the Dirt!" for the uninitiated.

Cultural entertainers including: Escaramuza Charra de Guadalupana, Circle L5 Drill Team, Texas Buffalo Soldiers and others will bring history to life at the rodeo.

"God is my source. All that I have comes from him. Our call is to go out and positively impact the community. Reaching and teaching to make a difference in the world," said Farmers Insurance Agent Ricky N. Terrell.

"Cowboys of Color Rodeos offer good role models for youth and I am enthusiastic about our partnership and working together to change lives."

Club Seats are \$50 and include food and beverage in the VIP 8 Second Club; Regular Box Seats are \$30; and Grandstand Reserve Seats are \$18 and in the Corral \$12. Tickets can be purchased at 972.285.8777 or by visiting www.ticketmaster.com. Pre-sell and group discounts are available until the Friday before the Rodeo.

Proceeds benefit at-risk youth programs of ICREA, Inc., a North Texas 501(c)(3) education non-profit. For more information visit: www.mesquiterodeo.com or cowboyoofcolorrodeo.net.

**ROSS,** continued from Page 10

come another rapper who left this Earth too soon because of detrimental health habits.

**Great outing**

I can proudly say I was one of the 3.3 million people who watched the premiere of BET's new comedy, *Reed Between The Lines*. I do applaud BET for attempting to re-establish its image as a place where African Americans can watch quality television programs. For a good stretch, I refused to watch BET because I was tired of seeing hip hop all over the tube. Malcolm-Jamal Warner and Tracee Ross gel in this one; it seems they have a good on-screen chemistry. Warner told USA Today the show is not just

about black love, it is about love.

"BET has always had a hand in perpetuating a lot of the stereotypical images of people of color, and this is really a great time to be at BET because they are looking to do something different and looking to be of greater service to the African-American community," Warner said.

Whatever happens, please do not allow *Reed Between The Lines* to become another show like Boris Kudjoe's NBC flop from last season, *Undercovers*. Quality programming for people of color exists, but few find the time to tune in. You cannot complain that television execs are not trying.

**NAACP,** continued from Page 3

flew over the State of Texas. When we add these facts to the feelings of fear and intimidation necessarily generated in many African Americans upon viewing such public governmental authorized

displays it becomes increasingly clear that the only position for a civilized society to take is to reject the use of such a symbol of hate. The Confederate Battle flag is every bit of offensive as

the swastika."

The Texas State Conference of NAACP Units joins with decent, honorable Texans and other American citizens to denounce the vestiges of hatred and slavery. We ask

that you contact your representatives in the Texas Legislature and Congress to let them know that all symbols of hate are inappropriate in the public domain.

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## TWC reminds unemployment benefits recipients: do not release personally identifiable information

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) warns Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits recipients to be aware of unscrupulous business operators who may try to obtain their personally identifiable information such as date of birth, debit card numbers, Personal Identification Numbers (PIN) or social security numbers. Recipients should only give personal information when filing for benefits online at [ui.texasworkforce.org](http://ui.texasworkforce.org) or

when speaking to an unemployment benefit customer service representative on the Tele-Center phone filing system at 800-939-6631.

Due to reports of suspicious activities to TWC, UI recipients also are reminded that unemployment staff will never call to obtain personally identifiable information, perform home visits or use text messages to contact claimants. TWC wants to ensure that UI benefits go to only those

who qualify and that no one is taken advantage of by someone illegally posing as a TWC staff member or by unscrupulous business operators.

TWC also wants to remind claimants that filing for benefits, as always, is free. Victims of so-called "fee-for-filing" scams could later discover unemployment claims were never filed on their behalf. Claimants should never pay for a government service that is free.

The UI program is funded through employer taxes and provides temporary, partial-income replacement to workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. TWC administers and oversees the collection of taxes from employers and the payment of UI benefits to qualified claimants.

To report possible fraud, call the TWC Fraud and Program Abuse Hotline at 800-252-3642.

## McAlister's Deli to Raise Funds for Breast Cancer Awareness

Dallas-based restaurant franchise company, The Saxton Group, is supporting Susan G. Komen for the Cure through their 27 Texas-based McAlister's Deli locations. They are joining the fight against breast cancer by donating

to the foundation and participating in multiple Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure events.

Throughout the month of October, McAlister's Deli will donate \$1 from every gallon of McAlister's Deli Famous Sweet

Tea sold at all locations directly to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. McAlister's Deli has become well known for its sweet tea, which is one of the concept's strongest sellers. Perfect for fall entertaining, tailgates, and

family gatherings, picking up a gallon of McAlister's Famous Tea for just \$5.50 is a delicious way to support a great cause. Its popularity is expected to garner a very large donation for the cause.

## FORK, continued from Page 11

For twelve years, these two professional basketball players competed against each at least six times throughout a season. They trash talk, knock down 25 foot jumpers, and made game winning free throws while leading their respective teams to victory. They party sometimes after each game discussing, women, cars, salaries and the gossip around the league, even though the conversations were limited when it came to life after

the NBA. First class travel, five-star hotels, and signing autographs; their only concern during their careers even though the checks stop coming real fast.

They were creating more debt instead of preparing for the future while their agents and financial advisers stole them blind. With two years remaining on his contract, Bridgman invested in five Wendy's restaurants and learned all facets of running a fast food restaurant. It fi-

nally paid off as he continues to build his empire by acquiring more Wendy's stores. He has also secured \$10 million loan from GE Capital.

With the NBA lockout in full bloom, the owners and players are still fighting over dollars and non-sense. It makes you wonder how many players are facing having to choose the fork in the road. You can take the

road Ray Williams chose. Or you can follow the one Junior Bridgeman paved for himself.

You can listen to Donald "Spider" Willis each Sunday night from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the Fishbowl Radio Network. For show topics or suggestions you can call 469 335 6668 or email [Entertainment@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:Entertainment@northdallasgazette.com)

## POLLYANNA, continued from Page 10

hearsals begin on November 14 and the performances will be December 28 to December 30, 2011.

"Pollyanna" was adapted by Catherine Chrishom Cushing from the novel by Eleanor H. Porter. It is a special holiday time treat for children and the entire family, this beautiful, classic story, made famous by the Walt Disney film starring Haley Mills, tells of an orphan girl thrust into the home of a maiden aunt and, in spite of the tribulations that beset her, manages to find joy in each day and to

bring light into the sunless lives of those around her. "Pollyanna" is a joyous play and one which is bound to give a better appreciation of the world and people around us. It reflects a humor, tenderness, and humanity that give this timeless story such glowing popularity.

All the shows are at the Granville Arts Center, 300 North Fifth Street in downtown Garland. Visit the GCT website at [www.garlandcivictheatre.org](http://www.garlandcivictheatre.org) or call 972-485-8884 for additional information.



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**October 20, 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.

**October 23**  
Join us for early morning worship at 8 a.m.; Morning Bible Classes at 9:45 a.m.; Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m. and afternoon Worship at 3 p.m.

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**EIRENE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

**October 21, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our "Evening to Elevate" at the North Dallas Hyatt Hotel in Richardson, Texas. Call the church for details.

**October 26, 7:30 p.m.**  
Join us for Bible Study as we study the Word of God; and give Him honor and praise.  
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You're invited to our Wednesday Night Live in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall on Belmont Drive. Also, come to our Corporate Prayer and our Kidz Zone (an environment to equip children to grow and to show God's love.)

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For those in need, come to our Grief Recovery Support Group. Call Tera McFarland at 972-437-3493, Ext 111 or email her at tmcfarland@ndcbf.org for details.  
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**Pastor Tommy Tucker**  
311 East Church  
Lewisville, TX 75057  
214-566-2211

**SAINT MARK MBC IN MCKINNEY**

**October 31, 6 p.m.**  
Join us for our Fall Fun Festival; a safe alternative to Halloween. Prizes will be given for best costumes; please wear Christian costumes. There will be hot dogs and popcorn for all ages. Call the church for details.

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

**SHILOH MBC IN PLANO**

**October 23, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.**  
Join us in Morning Worship as we praise and worship God for His blessings.

**October 26, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our Midweek Service as we worship and praise God for His blessings.

**October 29**  
Register now for our HR Ministry's 2nd Annual Golf Tournament at Twin Creeks Golf Club. Proceeds will be used for scholarships.  
**Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr. Senior Pastor**  
920 E. 14th Street  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-6695  
www.smbcplano.org

**THE NEW LIGHT CHURCH**

**October 23**  
You're invited to worship with us on Sunday Mornings at 9:30 a.m. for Sunday School and 11 a.m. for Morning Worship as we praise and worship God.

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

**VICTORY BIBLE CHURCH INTERNATIONAL, (VBCI DALLAS)**

**October 23, 9 a.m.**  
You are invited to a Life Transforming Service that will change your life as we praise and worship God.

1100 Business Parkway,  
Suite 1007  
Richardson, TX 75081  
972-679-9138 or 214-394-6164

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

**Early Prayer**  
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. Prayer will change people, things and situations.

**October 29, 7 p.m.**  
Come celebrate Hallelujah Night 2011 with us as our Production Department presents the "Life" play; Deaconess Donna Murray is the originator and president. There will be treats, prizes, skits, charades, name that tune, power praise, special guest and more.

**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**



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**Sunday Morning Worship**  
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Allen, TX 75002  
9:30 AM

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



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**Pastors Sam & Gloria Fenceroy**



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

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(Sundays 9 pm - 10 pm)

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



**Sister Tarpley**

Have you ever come to a place in your Christian walk with God that no matter what you do there is such a strong gravitational pull in your life that you can't seem to escape it; this is generally called a black hole.

In outer space black holes are believed to form when stars collapse in on themselves. In your Christian walk, perhaps your "black hole" is because you are relying too much on your power and not on the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you; and you collapse within yourself.

There is deliverance from a Christian's "black hole." "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." **Joshua 1:5 (KJV)**

A black hole is a place thought of as total nothingness. It's a time in a Christian's life when God removes the resources and supports that they normally rely on to feel secure - their careers, finances, friends, family, their health, and so on. But, for Christians, it should be a time of preparation. When Christians find themselves in a black hole experience, they shouldn't just sit and brood. They need to take stock of their life. Take a good look at their relationship with God.

First, ask God if there are any sins, habits, or attitudes that He might be judging in their life. It's important to discern or recognize whether the trial they face is the result of God's discipline for their sin; or if it is preparing them for a future leadership role.

Second, when Christians enter a time of preparation, they should not trust their feelings. They

should only trust God. Most people's feelings will tell them that God has rejected them; to abandon all hope. He has left you utterly alone. Remember, feelings change; but God never changes. Feelings will come and go; God is always with us.

Third, remember that your time of preparation experience is not only intended to refine and define you; it's also intended to influence and change the lives of hundreds or even thousands of other people. God always has a plan for your life and other lives as well. Our adversity is not just for us, but others in our sphere of influence.

Fourth, don't try to hurry the progression of time for the preparation. Keep in mind that when Joseph was in the depths of the pit, there was nothing he could do about it. He couldn't climb out, jump out, levitate out, or talk his way out. All he could do was pray and wait upon the Lord.

Fifth, lean on God. Even when you don't feel like praying, pray anyway. When you don't feel like reading His Word, read His Word. Even when you don't feel like singing songs of faith, sing any-

way. When you pray, don't just talk; listen to what God has to say to you. Be silent before Him and listen for His still, quiet voice.

Sixth, be alert to new truths and new perspectives. During a time of a preparation experience, God often leads believers to amazing new discoveries. A time of preparation can be a storehouse of unexpected riches for the soul.

As you wait on the Holy Spirit to lead you, look outside and see the glory of God. Witness a rain coming down and freezing as it coats the trees, forming little icicles along the twigs and branches. Oh, how beautiful it is.

But, don't forget how dangerous it can be. Branches may split and break, trees may fall; some may recover while others will die. Ice gets heavy and slick and wreaks havoc on so many things, interrupting power, causing accidents, and on and on. So it is with the things of the world.

Sometimes things may

# Taking Stock of Your Life



(L to R) Pastor Billy Joe Forward, Sr. with friends, Rev. Willie & Mrs. Juanita Rainwater, celebrating his 31st Pastor's Appreciation at White Rock Chapel Historical Church in Addison, Texas

appeal to our senses, but they bring with them danger that can break hearts, damage relationships, ruin lives and even result in death. Ask God to help you to remain alert to dangers and snares and to always be ever sensitive to

the Holy Spirit each and every day of your life.

Pray for others and ask God to rescue those who have been overcome by the temptations that beckon, and have fallen. Thank God for protecting all believers in Him and

lifting them up. And don't forget to thank God for

staying close and being there for you, ready to reach out and grab you whenever you look up and cry out. Keep your focus on Him and live your life accordingly.



**Lead Pastor Timothy Jones**

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 Awana (Wednesday) .....7:00 PM  
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# The importance of playing fairly

By Daris Howard

Our coach had warned us that the opposing football team would play unfairly, but he also threatened to pull us from the game if we followed their lead. He promised us it would give us a mental advantage if we played fairly when our opponents didn't. "Put your energy into the game," he said, "not into revenge."

We won the coin toss and lined up to kick. I was the kicker, and, moving at full speed, was first to reach the ball carrier. As I got up from the tackle, I reached my hand out to him. He caustically slapped it away, and, at that moment, I was rammed in the back and slammed to the ground.

It was an absolutely illegal hit, but the refs missed it. The tackler jumped to his feet, doubling up his fists, expecting me to fight. Anger surged through me as I struggled to my feet. But I remembered what coach said and put a thumb up. "Nice hit!"

The opposing player stood there, dumbfounded. As I walked back to our team, Lenny approached me. "I can't believe you didn't clean his clock!"

"I don't want coach taking me out of the game," I replied.

I lined up as defensive tackle and saw the guy that hit me take the position of full back. To myself I said, "Oh, please give him the ball."

My prayer was answered, and he turned to run up my side. I knocked the offensive tackle flat as I came through the line. The full-back saw me and turned, but not fast enough. Lenny joined me on the tackle, and they had a six yard loss. I was just getting up when, once more, someone smashed into my back. This time the ref called a penalty, putting us near the goal line.

They tried a pass with no success, so, on the next play, the quarterback tried to sneak some yardage around the side. One of our defen-

sive backs and I caught him barely a yard outside the goal line. This time, as I got up, I reached my hand to their quarterback, but kept a wary eye. Sure enough, a big tackle sped toward me. I jumped aside, just in time, and he plowed into his own quarterback, who had just stood up. The ref threw a flag.

Their quarterback just laid there, and the opposing coach came onto the field to check on him. The refs had a dilemma. Do they penalize the other team for an illegal hit when it ends up against their own player? As the quarterback finally struggled groggily to his feet, the opposing coach demanded a penalty be assessed. The head ref agreed, and called one on them.

"Not against us, you idiot! Against him!" the coach said, pointing at me.

"Your player made the illegal hit!" the ref fired back.

With fourth and 20 they would have to punt, and as the opposing coach stormed

off of the field, he yelled at me, "You're dead!"

As we prepared to receive, Coach warned me to keep my wits about me. The next play had barely ended when a player came after me. I avoided a direct hit, and another penalty was assessed. Through the rest of the game, many illegal hits came at us, but as we congratulated them or just walked away, something strange started to happen. They not only seemed confused, but lost intensity. Making an illegal hit, and getting no comparable response, took away their energy. In addition, their own supporters seemed disgusted and quit cheering; sometimes even booing their own team's obvious infractions.

I played both offense and defense, and by the time we entered the second half, we were busting through their line with total impunity. Our offense was driving five yards per play, but our defense was averaging six. We won with a final score of 56

to 6.

As we walked from the field, after shaking hands with our dejected opponents, I had learned much about the importance of the mental game of football. But more importantly, I realized how

much better it is to know I played fairly.

Daris Howard, author of "Super Cowboy Rides" and can be contacted at daris@darishoward.com; or darishoward.com

## Bible Way Community Baptist Church



Dr. Timothy J. Wilbert, Sr.  
Senior Pastor

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www.avefchurchofchrist.org

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

Rev. Robert Townsend, Pastor

Contact Info  
Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church  
11611 Webb Chapel Road • Dallas, TX 75229  
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