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New data reveals older Americans could save with Medicare Part D

(NDG Wire) With the Annual Enrollment Period for Medicare Part D beginning on November 15, CVS/pharmacy and the National Council on Aging (NCOA) are urging older adults and their caregivers to review their Medicare



Part D options in order to find the lowest cost plan that meets their needs.

Because there is confusion about the number and variety of prescription drug plans, free online tools such as the CVS/pharmacy Medicare Part D Savings Calculator

com/medicare) simplifies the comparison process. This can help seniors more readily identify the plan with the lowest overall

"Plan review can seem cumbersome, but complet-

See MEDICARE. Page 4

REAL **Holiday Helpings** from Bobby Flay



See FLAY, Page 9

Free to the community holiday series of Dallas Black Dance Theatre

For more information see pg. 10

Black male unemployment comparable to 'Great Depression'

BY PHAROH MARTIN

(NNPA) While the nation is reeling over doubledigit jobless rates showing up for the first time in decades, Black males are looking at numbers almost twice as worse.

Almost one in five Black

men 20-years-old or older are without a job, according to figures released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics earlier this month.

The seasonally-adjusted October unemployment rate for Black males is above 17 percent whereas the jobless rate for White adult males and females is under double digits at 9.5 percent and 7.4 percent, respectively. At 12.4 percent, joblessness for Black women also skews above the national rate, which is currently at 10.2 percent, approaching the December 1982 level of 10.8 percent.

The disparate rates of Black male unemployment have teetered near recessiontype numbers above eight percent since 2001 but since April the rates have surged

See UNEMPLOYMENT Page 11

Our next issue is Thursday, December 3, as we take the time off to celebrate **Thanksgiving** with family and friends. The NDG staff wishes each of you a safe and happy holiday.

Amen! Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond and Ella



Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond

MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN NNPA COLUMNIST

On November 4, 2009, about 4,000 babies in strollers, young children, parents, youths, teachers, child care providers, doctors, and grandparents rallied and strolled all around our U.S. Capitol. We told

Congress that millions of children must not be left worse off after health reform and that the effective and cost effective Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) should be kept and improved rather than eliminated as the

See HAMMOND Page 12

Obama in China, China in Africa

BY JULIANNE MALVEAUX

(NNPA) - President Barack Obama has taken his populist style to China with a town hall meeting with students in Shanghai that was also streamed on the Internet. Meanwhile, journalists and others in China chafe against restrictions that prevent their free speech and unfettered use of the Internet.

While the President is to be hailed for "taking it to the people" in China, the more substantive aspects of

his visit will need to address the economic tension between the United States and China. China would have us participate in trade agreements that limit tariffs on Chinese goods, but the Obama Administration, its hands full with domestic economic issues, has not vet tackled issues of trade policy. Further, the administration can count on opposition from protectionists and free trade opponents in

See CHINA, Page 3

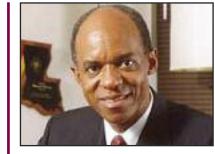
INSIDE...

People In The News	2
Op-Ed	3
Health	4
Community News	
Education	
Spotlight	ç
Arts & Entertainment	
Business Service Directory1	1
Career Opportunity1	
Church Happenings	
Sister Tarpley	
Church Directory	

People In The News...



Dr. Elba Garcia



William Jefferson



Reggie Smith

See Page 2

Dr. Elba Garcia

(NDG Wire) Parents Step Ahead is hosting its annual Parent of the Year Gala December 4, at the Crowne Plaza Dallas Market Center.



Former Dallas City Council members Dr. Elba Garcia and Mr. Domingo Garcia are cohosts.

"We are pleased to have Dr. Elba Garcia and Mr. Domingo Garcia serve as cochairs for the Parent of the Year Gala," said Lupita Colmenero, founder of Parents Step Ahead. "As prominent members of the Hispanic and DFW community, their support and tireless efforts to make this gala a success will be a tremendous asset as we seek to honor the importance of parental involvement and advance Par-

ents Step Ahead as the leading organization in empowering parents."

The Parent of the Year Gala honors and celebrates parents who are making a difference in their children's educational and personal development. During the school year, Parents Step Ahead hosts school-based seminars for parents in the DFW area. Parents are eligible for the recognition based on program participation and two essays - one written by the parent on the importance of parental involvement in a child's life, and the second by their child on why their parent or guardian should be parent of the year. A committee comprised of local and national community and corporate leaders selects the winning essays.

Elba Garcia, former Dallas City Council member for District 1, is not only a community leader, but is also a mother and homemaker, a dentist with her own private practice, and a role model for Hispanic women. She was elected to City Council in 2001, where she represented the interests of her own district, carried out the duties of mayor pro tem and served on numerous committees and task forces. including chair of Public Safety, vice-chair of Trinity River, Finance, Audit and Accounting, and

Housing. Additionally, she chaired the City of Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force. Other committees which she has previously served on include the Minority and Municipal Affairs; Arts, Education and Libraries; Government & Minority Affairs; Health, Human & Youth Services; and the Homeless Task Force.

Domingo Garcia is a former mayor pro tem for the City of Dallas and state representative for Texas. He has also been an editorial columnist and a successful trial lawyer for over 20 years. In 1983, Garcia established his own law firm, The Law Of-

fice of Domingo Garcia, P.C. in Dallas.

Domingo Garcia served in the Dallas City Council from 1991 to 1995. In 1993, he became the first Latino elected mayor pro tem for the city of Dallas. He served in the Texas Legislature from 1996 to 2002. As a representative he served on the criminal jurisprudence and Judicial Affairs Committees. He passed numerous bills to help students go to college, prevent dropouts, law enforcement and civil rights.

The gala includes a reception with silent auction, awards ceremony and seated dinner. For more information visit www.parentsstepahead.

William Jefferson

(NNPA) Former U.S. Rep. William Jefferson, the first African-American elected to Congress from Louisiana since Reconstruction, was sentenced on Nov. 13 to 13 years in prison on charges of corruption.

District Judge T.S. Ellis III in Alexandria, Va. handed down a sentence that was a little more than what the defense had hoped for and significantly less

than the prosecution requested. According to the Associated Press, Ellis said that he took the past service of Jefferson, a Democrat, into account when deciding his sentence but said that, "public corruption must be dealt with severely."

Jefferson's sentence is the longest given to a congressman, the AP reported. Former Republican congressman from California, Randy Cunningham, was



sentenced to more than eight years for taking bribes amounting to \$2.4 million.

Jefferson, 62, on the advice of his lawyers, did not make a statement and barely spoke during the pro-

ceedings, the AP reported. He did confirm for the judge that he had read the sentencing reports and was satisfied with the service of his legal team.

Prosecutors filed a motion to have Jefferson taken into custody immediately. The defense asked that he be allowed to remain on bond until an appeal can be made and, if that's not possible, that he be allowed to turn himself in to begin his sentence on Jan. 4, so he can spend Christmas with his family. Ellis did not rule

on the issue on Nov. 13.

In August, Jefferson was convicted on 11 charges of receiving nearly \$500,000 in bribes in a scheme the prosecutor, Mark Lytle, claims would have brought Jefferson billions if it had been completed. Jefferson must return the \$470,653.47, the AP reports, that a jury determined was distributed to shell companies held under Jefferson family control.

Jefferson's lead attorney, Robert Trout, has asked Ellis to request that

Jefferson be assigned to a "low-security prison camp" facility in Pensacola, Fla. Ellis agreed to request a low-security facility, but "said only that he would recommend a facility close to New Orleans," according to the AP.

An appeal for Jefferson, who served nine terms in Congress, must be filed within 10 days. Jefferson is free on bond until the resolution of a Nov. 18 hearing, during which Ellis will hear arguments about whether Jefferson is a flight risk

Reggie Smith

(Black News Wire) The United States Distance Association Learning (USDLA) recently elected Reggie Smith III as President of the Association. The non-profit organization, formed in 1987, promotes the development and application of distance learning for education and training, and serves the needs of the distance learning community globally. With this ascendency to the Presidency of USDLA, Reggie Smith becomes the first African-American member to assume this vaulted position. Earlier in the year Smith also received national recognition by receiving the 2009 Black Engineer of the Year Award (BEYA) for Commu-

nity Service.
"We welcome Reggie



Smith as our new president. Reggie brings knowledge and a level of acumen that will assist the association in its continued efforts to promote the development and application of distance learning," said John G. Flores, Ph.D., USDLA Executive Director.

Reggie Smith currently works for Booz Allen Hamilton and has been involved in distance education

since 1991 along with serving on several committees for USDLA since joining the board of directors in 2004. Smith, who has worked as a deputy director of Learning Technologies for Alion Science & Technology and vice president of operations for Magicsoft, is also a recognized authority on media and telecommunications issues, having received numerous awards and served as keynote or presenter at several national and international conferences, including VIRTUAL EDUCA International Conference, the e-Learning Conference & Expo, the TeleCon East, West & European Expos and the 22nd Annual Black Media Coalition's Confer-

"Being the first African-American president to the Board of Directors of the United States Distance Learning Association, shows that USDLA understands the value in diversity and what it can contribute to its longevity," said Smith. "My background has enabled me to understand the total picture not just the technical perspective because it is not just about the technology but how it enables user communities to connect the dots and truly harness the knowledge continuum globally."

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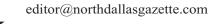
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Racism in the age of Obama

Experts says it's time to dump racial family stereotypes

BY TONY PANACCIO NDG SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

In an era that has seen an African American elected president, it seems difficult to believe that racism is still alive.

Recently, Louisiana Judge Keith Bardwell refused a couple a marriage license on the basis that they were an interracial couple, and the reason he cited was that "most of black society does not readily accept offspring of such relationships, and neither does white society."

"Let's not forget that our President is the son of a white American mother and a black Kenyan father," said Anita Royston from Five Sisters Publishing www.5sisterspublishing.com, co-author of Our Black Fathers, Brave Bold and Beautiful! and the grandmother of five happy bi-racial children. "According to the US Census Bureau, there were 1.67 million interracial married couples in America in 2002, where one spouse was either white or black. Compared to two decades ago when that number was only 697,000, interracial marriage is more than just a sign of the times. It's a statistic that trumpets the fact that love trumps race."

Royston believes that the story about Bardwell's refusal, which led to his recent resignation, is not the rule, but rather, the exception, and that the discourse about race and family should be more positive.

"In this world we are more alike than different and our essence and experiences should not be diminished, devalued or ignored because they are opportunities to learn," Royston said. "In addition, all of us can draw inspiration and wisdom from one another regardless of our socioeconomic status, ethnicity, gender, race or marital status."

Royston also believes that the United States is at a critical point in its development as a culture, and that it is time to stop using stereotypes as a way of defining minority cultures.

"Race is a subject we dance around in society, but we need to dispel the dangerous stereotypes that threaten to unhinge our American culture from within," she said. "Stories of strength, wisdom, challenges, fears, failures, transformation, survival and triumphs happen in every race, in every corner of the world. We still grapple with the reality of an African-American president and his sometimes

struggle to gain respect from the American people."

When it comes to the trials and tribulations of black fathers in a nation where racism can still present obstacles, Royston believes that telling the stories of those who succeed is a way for the country to transcend its differences.

"The American family is not, nor should it be perceived to be, about color," she added. "Families are about mothers, fathers, children and extended family members.

Black fathers have more than their share of challenges to escape trends and conditions that vex them. Our fathers had to create a life where their children were embraced, if not by society, then at least they were determined to be there for us."

CHINA, continued from Page 1

Congress.

It is difficult to deny China's growing influence on the world stage. It is the third-largest trading nation, emits the most carbon gasses (to the detriment of the rest of the world), and actually has the most cell phone subscribers in the world. The growing middle class and increasing prosperity have been amazing, but there is still enormous poverty in China, and human rights is much further down on its government's list of priorities than economic growth.

Even as President Obama travels to China for an official state visit, Chinese economic leaders are just returning from Egypt, where a twoday forum on China-Africa Cooperation was held.

China has agreed to increase aid to Africa, reduce or cancel debts on African countries, and make increased investments in the African economy. Is this a good or bad thing?

Some African leaders say

they pay too high a price for the \$10 billion in cheap loans they will get because of this new initiative. They say the pattern of trade is that African raw materials go to China and cheap Chinese finished goods flood Africa. In addition, some Chinese investment comes at a high price - last year China invested \$9 billion in Congolese infrastructure, and got control of mining deposits in return. Investments in oil and gas fields isn't free -China adds control of some of Nigeria's, Cameroon's and Gabon's oil reserve in exchange for their petrochemical companies' significant investment.

In fairness to China, its interest in Africa is not new. but dates back more than five decades. It is only now, as the Chinese economy expands so rapidly, that they have fully engaged in the African continent. Bilateral trade between the two countries was \$107 billion in 2008. Trade has risen by

more than 30 percent in the past eight years. African imports are free from tariffs in China.

Still, as China expands its reach in the African continent, some in the US are alarmed about its meaning in both economic and strategic terms. Can African countries ever truly be independent if they have no economic independence? If foreign powers own critical natural resources, how does it affect African countries' ability to grow? Is the United States being shortsighted in limiting our own involvement in African economics?

We have attempted to address the underdevelopment of the African continent with AGOA (the African Growth and Opportunity Act), but many describe that legislation as good but insufficient. We should not necessarily compete with China for influence in Africa, but it would be to our strategic detriment if China were the dominant foreign power on

African soil.

The issue of China's African involvement is not likely to come up in conversations with President Obama this week, nor should it, necessarily. But President Obama may be too magnanimous when he says, "the notion that we must be adversaries is not predestined". There are economic issues that must be resolved, and in these matters there are often clear winners and losers. Despite the reality of globalization, no nation can afford fully free trade when it imperils its own workers from finding and keeping employ-

China's failure to revalue the yuan, pegged to a weaker dollar, undermines US economic viability. And as China's influence grows, in Africa and elsewhere, what does that mean for the influence of the United States?

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

Cholesterol and cancer: answers and some new questions

Study shows low cholesterol as a symptom of cancer, rather than a cause

(NDG Wire)The American Association for Cancer Research hosted a press briefing last week.

A pair of studies in Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention lay to rest the decades-long concern that lower total cholesterol may lead to cancer, but in fact lower cholesterol may reduce the risk of highgrade prostate cancer.

Dr. Demetrius Albanes, a senior investigator at the National Cancer Institute, said early studies suggested that low cholesterol could increase the risk of certain types of cancer.

"Our study affirms that lower total cholesterol may be caused by undiagnosed cancer. In terms of public health message, we found that higher levels of 'good cholesterol' (HDL) seem to be protective for all cancers, which is in line with recommendations for cardiovascular health," said Albanes.

The researchers ob-

served 29,093 men for 18 years, making it the largest and longest study of its kind. They noted 7,545 cancer cases. Low total cholesterol blood levels were associated with an 18 percent higher risk of cancer overall, similar to the increases seen in previous studies, but this risk disappeared when the researchers excluded cases that occurred in the early years after the original blood draw.

This finding suggests that the low total cholesterol levels did not cause cancer, but rather were the result of underlying cancer, said Albanes. Higher levels of HDL cholesterol were associated with a 14 percent decreased risk of cancer even after excluding nine years of early cases.

In an accompanying study that looked specifically at risk for high-grade prostate cancer, Elizabeth Platz, Sc.D., M.P.H., associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and co-director of the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at the Johns Hopkins University, found a link between low cholesterol and decreased risk of high-grade prostate cancer among 5,586 men older than 55.

Specifically, if men had total cholesterol of less than 200 mg/dL, they had a 59 percent reduced risk of high-grade prostate cancer, defined as a Gleason score eight to 10. No association was seen for prostate cancer overall or for prostate cancer with a lower Gleason score. Platz said that the study supports another benefit of keeping cholesterol low among men in this age group.

"High-grade prostate cancer is less common than prostate cancer overall, but it is a subset of prostate cancer that is more likely to progress," said Platz.

Discussion of the benefits of lower cholesterol inevitably leads to the discussion of the role of statins, which have produced one of the great public health success stories of the past few decades as cholesterol and, subsequently, heart disease rates have both fallen

Statins have been enormous money makers for their industry manufacturers and with two already off patent, and the largest seller, Lipitor scheduled to go off patent next year, researchers did leave open the possibility that industry leaders may seek a new indication for these blockbuster drugs.

"Until there is evidence from randomized trials, men should not take statins in order to prevent highgrade prostate cancer," said Eric Jacobs, Ph.D., strategic director of pharmacoepidemiology at the American Cancer Society. Jacobs, who wrote an accompanying editorial in the Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention issue. He said a randomized trial among men without prostate cancer would need to be very large and might not be feasible.

"One possibility, however, would be a randomized trial among early stage prostate cancer patients opting for surveillance rather than immediate treatment, to see if statins could lower risk of prostate cancer progression," Jacobs said.

Top 10 ways to prevent or delay Alzheimer's

(NDG Wire) November is Alzheimer's Awareness Month, and the recently released World Alzheimer Report declares that more than 35 million people worldwide will have dementia by 2010.

- 1. Quit smoking
- 2. Get moving, exercise regularly
- 3. Maintain a healthy weight
 - 4. Control high blood

pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol

- 5. Eat foods rich in Omega 3 fatty acids and avoid transfats
- 6. Learn to relax and reduce chronic stress
- 7. Get regular and restful sleep
 - 8. Avoid head injuries
- 9. Keep your mind active
- 10. Avoid excessive alcohol and illicit drug use

MEDICARE, continued from Page 1

ing a plan comparison each year is an essential step toward saving," said Mitch Betses, R.Ph, vice president of Retail Pharmacy Operations at CVS Care-

"Tools like the Medicare Part D Calculator are designed to simplify the process to help older adults and their caregivers select a plan that provides them with the greatest value and peace of mind."

An analysis by CVS pharmacy of more than 10,000 older Americans using the Medicare Part D Savings Calculator last year revealed plan participants could save an average of \$612 in annual drug costs just by switching to their optimal Medicare Part D plan.

"This data underscores the importance for older adults and their caregivers to review Medicare Part D plans each year," said Wendy Zenker, vice president of the NCOA Benefits Access Group. "With the number of changes to Part D plans from year to year, Medicare beneficiaries can expect to see significant savings and receive better coverage, if they compare and shop around."

To help simplify the process further, CVS/pharmacy recently launched a campaign to help millions of seniors and their care-

Remembering the Three C's: Cost, Coverage and Convenience

CVS/pharmacy and NCOA recommend considering three factors when evaluating plans:

- Cost What is the plan deductible, monthly premium and prescription co-pay for the prescriptions you regularly take? Evaluate the total cost and not just the co-pays. And, identify in advance if you fall into the doughnut hole.
- Coverage Are the prescription medications you regularly take covered in the plan? Are there restrictions such as prior authorization? Each year insurance plans change, including premiums, co-pays, and the list of covered drugs. Your own prescription needs change as well
- Convenience Can you fill the prescription at the pharmacy of your choice?

givers realize savings on 2010 prescription costs through education and assistance in Medicare Part D plan comparison. On November 12, CVS/pharmacy and the NCOA began offering Medicare Part D educational events throughout the Annual Enrollment period at senior centers across the country.

Consumers can also go online at CVS.com/medicare to use the free Medicare Part D Savings Calculator. CVS pharmacists are also available throughout the enrollment period to provide plan comparisons in stores.

Before starting the plan selection process, consumers should review their current medications with their pharmacist. Often, prescription costs can be lowered by switching to a generic alternative, consolidating pills or by switching to an over the counter alternative. Having these changes in place before selecting a plan can help in choosing the most afford-

able option and potentially avoiding the doughnut hole – the gap in coverage if your prescription costs reach \$2,830.



Art club offers original art at small prices

(NDG Wire) Add a splash of color to your home this holiday season with original works of art by students in the Brookhaven College School of the Arts fine arts program. Hundreds of one-of-a-kind items will be available Dec. 2 and 3 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the lobby of the Student Services Center, Building



Shop through a variety of ceramic, jewelry, painting, print and photography pieces created by students enrolled in fine arts courses throughout the fall semester. Prices start under \$10 - cash and checks only. All sales fund the Art Club's student scholarships and activities.

For more information, contact Susan Mollet, club sponsor, at 972-860-4138.

Cease the grease: free cooking oil disposal

(NDG Wire) Tired of calling the plumber? Why not fix the problem before it starts? Choose to not pour grease down the drain and prevent pipe blockage. Stop by the City of Carrollton Central Service Center (2711 Nimitz Lane) from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, November 30 or Tuesday, December 1 to properly dispose of grease and cooking oil for free. Proper dis-

posal of grease will keep it out of the sewer system and away from causing damage to sewage and drain pipes and the environment.

City of Carrollton Water Utilities asks that citizens choose to never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets: always scrape grease and food scraps from plates, pots, pans, utensils and grills into a can or the trash for disgrease down the garbage disposal. Put baskets /strainers in the sink drains to catch solids and empty them into the trash. If everyone takes preventative measures there will be less plumbing issues in homes and no sewage overflows into parks, yards or streets. For information, contact Water Utilities at 972-466-3425.

DART alters schedule for Thanksgiving

(NDG Wire) Most DART services will operate on a Sunday schedule in observance of the Thanksgiving Day holiday, Thursday, Nov. 26 and a modified schedule on Friday, Nov. 27.

DART bus and light rail services will follow a Sunday schedule on Thursday and a Saturday schedule on Friday. The Trinity Railway Express (TRE) commuter rail service will not operate on Thanksgiving Day. On and the I-635 HOV lanes; Friday, it will follow a modified schedule.

The following High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes will be closed: the HOV lane on I-30 (East R.L. Thornton) and on I-30 West (Tom Landry Freeway); the reversible S-ramp at the southern end of the I-35E (Stemmons) HOV lane; the reversible HOV ramp between the US 75 and the section of the I-35E/U.S. 67 (South R. L. Thornton/Marvin D. Love) HOV lanes from downtown Dallas to Loop 12.

The remaining portion of the Stemmons HOV lanes, the HOV lanes on LBJ Freeway, the US 75 HOV lanes, and the HOV lanes on I-35E/U.S. 67 from Loop 12 to Camp Wisdom Road will, as usual, be open

DART Paratransit Services for customers with disabilities will operate on a holiday schedule on Thanksgiving Day. The Paratransit Scheduling Center will be closed on Thursday and Friday. This means regular subscription trips are canceled on Thursday and Friday. Customers may call on Wednesday, Nov. 25 to schedule service for Thurs-

day, Nov. 26 through Tuesday, Dec. 1. Customers should call 214.515.7272 and choose Option 3 to schedule their trip. Next day scheduling is also available using DART's voice mail booking application and automated X-Press Booking feature.

DART administrative offices and the Customer Care Center -- which handles complaints, commendations, suggestions, and lost and found -- will be closed on both Thanksgiving Day and Friday.

DART's Customer Information Center will be closed on Thanksgiving Day but will open Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for your trip planning needs at 214.979.1111. Route and schedule information is alwavs available at www. DART.org.

Methodist Dallas Medical Center first in Metroplex to perform kidney transplant on HIV positive patient

(NDG Wire) Methodist Dallas Medical Centerrecently made history when it became the first in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex to perform a kidney transplant on an HIV positive patient. The patient, a 40-year old African American male, is healthy, well, and enjoying a life free from dialysis for the first time in six years.

The surgery was performed by Dr. Richard Dickerman, with transplant surgeons Dr. Jose Castillo-Lugo, Dr. David Nessar, and Dr. Freda Levy. Dr. Nicholas Bellos was the infectious disease specialist managing the

HIV disease and related posttransplant care. "The transplant performed on this HIV patient represents Methodist's total commitment to the transplant effort including liver and pancreas," says Dr. Dickerman. "It requires effort from surgeons, staff, nephrologists and infectious disease specialists to take on a difficult patient population." He adds this effort began as an idea of the late Dr. Karl Brinker, former medical director of transplant services at Methodist, and was brought to fruition under the leadership of Dr. Castillo and Dr. Bellos.

"The main concerns with transplanting HIV patients have to do with drug interactions between the HIV medications and the transplant drugs which have to be managed carefully to prevent rejection and/or toxicities," says Dr. Bellos, MD FIDSA, FACP an infectious disease specialist on the medical staff at Methodist Health System, adding Methodist had been working on the protocol for several

"The benefit for the HIV transplant patient is they can be transplanted and treated locally, rather than having to undergo the transplant in a different location and return to Dallasfor follow-up care." Dr. Bellos adds that Methodist has an excellent transplant program for non-HIV impacted patients with a very good success rate.

For the patient, who learned he was HIV positive in 2003, his hope was restored when he received the transplant he thought he would never have. He is back to work and looking forward to returning to school to study Spanish and psychology, and receive his teacher's certificate. "I thought I would suffer with kidney disease and be on dialysis the normalcy. Now I have that and much more."

rest of my life," he says. "All I wanted was some sense of

Ring in the season with the Brookhaven Handbell Ensemble

(NDG Wire) The Handbell Ensemble and Campus Bells of Brookhaven will present their Holiday Handbell Concert Dec. 5 at 7:30

p.m. in the Performance Hall at Brookhaven Col-

The show will feature Christmas carols, marches, ragtime music and jazz, all performed on handbells and handchimes.

Directed by Bonnie Riddle since its inception in

1983, the ensembles boast members of college-age through senior adult, who hail from all across Dallas-

See HANDBELL Page 12



Seven students who attend the Dallas County Community College District have been honored as 2009-2010 Muse Presidential Scholars

(Dallas) – Seven Dallas County Community College District students have been named 2009-2010 Muse Presidential Scholars, based on their academic achievement and leadership potential. They are: Joshua Lay of Addison, Brookhaven College; Edwin Hampton of DeSoto, Cedar Valley College; Sarah Davenport of Mesquite, Eastfield College; Letitia Sanchez of Dallas, El Centro College; Yolanda Nava of Dallas, Mountain View College; Tanya Mousa of Irving, North Lake College; and Christina Vasques of Garland, Richland Col-

"With the generous support of John and Lyn Muse, the scholarship is awarded to one student from each of DCCCD's seven colleges; it recognizes students who show academic achievement and who have a clear sense of purpose, a strong work ethic and potential for leadership," said Betheny Reid, associate vice chancellor for development and president of the DCCCD Foundation, which administers the scholarship program. "We are grateful to the Muse family for their continued support,

and we know that our Muse Presidential Scholarship recipients are honored to receive this award."

Recipients of the 2009-2010 scholarships recently had an opportunity to meet the Muse family and each other during a special gather this fall.

Lay, a former U.S. Marine, is a political science major at Brookhaven, where he has earned a 4.0 grade point average. After a successful career in sales management, he plans to earn his bachelor's degree and attend law school.

Hampton, a first-generation college student, believes in the value of a community college education. He currently serves as vice president of the Cedar Valley College African American Student Association and as secretary for the CVC Student Government Association. He has earned a 3.5 GPA and plans to transfer to Baylor University, where he will pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Davenport, a California native, is the fourth of nine siblings who helped her widowed father whenever she could with family responsibilities as she was growing up. The Eastfield College student works on campus, has earned a 3.26 GPA and plans to transfer to the University of North Texas, where she will earn a bachelor's degree in human services. She would like to work with children from broken homes

Sanchez, a 2009 graduate of the El Centro College Middle College High School, has served as a volunteer for charitable organizations such as Bryan's House, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty for Animals and Pennies for Patients. She is continuing her studies at El Centro, has a 3.4 GPA and has been nominated to become a member of the national two-year academic honorary Phi Theta Kappa.

Nava, an education major at Mountain View College, is an active member of DCCCD's Rising Star program and has served as a volunteer mentor for "Project I Am"; she also helps recruit Dallas high school students to attend college. She plans to transfer to Texas Woman's University, where she will pursue a degree in education.

Mousa, originally from

the west African country of Gambia, is the first person in her family to attend college. A business major at North Lake College, she is serving as parliamentarian for the NLC Student Government

Association; is a member of the college's Student Leadership Institute; and is a volunteer for Relay for Life. Mousa wants to pursue a bachelor's degree in economics and sociology. Vasquesis working on her associate's degree in early childhood education at Richland College and hopes to become either a kinder-

See SCHOLARS Page 7

Spring 2010 registration at TSTC

(NDG Wire)—Registration for the spring semester at Texas State Technical College Waco continues from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays through Wednesday, November 25. It resumes weekdays after the Thanksgiving holiday through Monday, December 21, and continues after the winter break on Monday, January 4, and runs until Friday, January 8.

Spring classes begin Monday, January 11.

Students will have the

option of a new degree plan in Computer & Digital Forensics through the Network Security Technology program. The associate degree plan is a two-year course of study in computer forensics, where students learn to specialize in the gathering of electronic data stored or encrypted on digital media.

Other new degree programs include Solar Energy, Aircraft Dispatch, Power Line Technician and Photonics, a specialization of Laser Electro-Optics.

Students seeking financial aid for the spring semester should contact the TSTC Financial Aid Office immediately at (254) 867-4814, as processing can take several weeks. The TSTC Waco Web site — www.waco.tstc.edu— provides additional details, dates and an online application.

To register or find out more, call toll-free at (800) 792-8784 or direct (254) 867-2360.

ARE YOU THE NEXT MARRIOTT SCHOLAR?

2010 application season has begun; \$500,000 awarded annually supports diverse students pursuing hospitality careers

The Hispanic College Fund (HCF) and UNCF - the United Negro College Fund are accepting applications now through Feb. 16, 2010 for the Marriott Scholars Program for the 2010-2011 school year. Eligible students can apply for renewable scholarships of up to \$9,000 annually in tuition support for up to four years. "We're excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for the Marriott Scholars," said J.W. "Bill" Marriott, Jr., chairman and CEO of Marriott International, Inc. "My parents were committed to building and investing in the lives of our young people and future

leaders. The Marriott Scholars program supports their vision and encourages students to explore the many career options within our industry." In 2007 in partnership with HCF and UNCF, the Marriott Foundation launched the Marriott Scholars program, which awards grants totaling up to \$500,000 annually to students pursuing degrees in the areas of hospitality management, hotel management, culinary and food and beverage. "The Marriott Foundation's investment in these young men and women will both help them prepare for careers in the fast-growing hospitality industry and produce the college-educated professionals that the industry needs to grow and to contribute to the communities it serves," said Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D., president and CEO of UNCF. "UNCF salutes the Marriott Foundation for their generosity and their forward-looking commitment to education and prosperity." "We are thrilled to have Marriott as a partner in our scholarship program for the fifth year in a row," said Idalia Fernandez, president of the Hispanic College Fund. "Their continued support of our programs truly

See SCHOLAR, Page 12



Now is the Time for... 2010 Spring Registration at MVC!

Payment Plan Options
Distance Learning (online courses)
Financial aid, grants, and scholarships available
Weekend and evening options
Continuing Education (non-credit) courses
Certificate programs, Career Preparation and Workforce Development

Classes begin January 19, 2010
Online: Register at http://econnect.dcccd.edu
Call: 214-860-8600
Visit Admissions Office in room \$2042



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Trident and Smiles Across America team up to teach oral health care to Dallas kids in need

(NDG Wire) Dr. Jones, Professor and Chair of the Department of Public Health Sciences at Baylor College of Dentistry joined Trident®, Smiles Across America®(SAA) and the kids of Bonham Elementary

School, to highlight the importance of oral health care for children living in Dallas and nationwide.



(L To R) Steven Crane, DDS, Assistant Professor, Baylor College of Dentistry Texas A&M Health Science Center; Daniel Jones, DDS, PhD, Chair and Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, BCD TAMHSC; Mark Martinsen, dental student, BCD TAMHSC; Nora Kweik, dental student, BCD TAMHSC; Grace Snuggs, DDS, Associate Professor BCD TAMHSC; Robin Peterson, Administrator-in-Training, Daniel Burnham Elementary School; Beth Truett, President and CEO, Oral Health America; Michael Hinojosa, EdD, Superintendent, Dallas Independent School District; Jen Hull, Brand Manager, Trident.



The Dallas County Community College District Foundation hosted a gathering this fall to recognize the new 2009-2010 Muse Presidential Scholars. Pictured from left to right are Betheny L. Reid, the district's associate vice chancellor of development and DCCCD Foundation president; Dallas businessman John Muse, founder of the Muse Presidential Scholars Program, and his wife, Lyn, DCCCD Foundation board executive member; Muse Presidential Scholars Yolanda Nava, Joshua Lay, Letitia Sanchez, Edwin Hampton, Christina Vasquez and Sarah Davenport; and DCCCD Chancellor Wright L. Lassiter Jr.

SCHOLARS, continued from Page 3

garten or first-grade teacher for the Garland Independent School District. She has earned a 3.9 GPA and works as a site director for the YMCA of Dallas after-school program. Vasques plans to transfer to Texas A&M University-Commerce to complete her bachelor's degree in education.

For more information,

contact Eddie Miranda, director of communications, in the DCCCD Foundation office at (214) 378-1541 or Ella Shaw, scholarship manager, at (214) 378-1533.



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ViewPoint Bank - West Plano 5400 Independence Pkwy, at Spring Creek

Ongoing

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

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

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

Group Business Seminars at 4907 Spring Avenue, Dallas, (214) 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.; 3rdFriday 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.TheNo-LimitNetwork.com or 972-898-5882.

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

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

Thru November 29

35th Annual Texas Renaissance Festival at 21778 Fm 1774 Plantersville. Info www.texrenfest.com 800-458-3435

Thru December 4

Adriatic First Fridays Art Walk 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Art walk, live music, sidewalk sales, free food samplings. Admission is FREE. Every 1st Friday on Virginia Pkwy. 972-540-2739.

November 19-22

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

November 19

3rd Annual Women's **Business Initiative Holi-**Extravaganza at Firewheel Town Center, Garland from 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. Cost is \$10, RSVP to Jami Manners at 469-326-7477 or jami.manners@garlandchamber.com

Get Smart Money Management Classes 6:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m. at UNCF headquarters: 4315 South Lancaster Road, Dallas. RSVP by phone at 214-915-4626 or www.ulgdnctx.com/programs/education

November 20

UNCF's North Texas Scholarship Luncheon 11:30 a.m.- 1:00p.m. featuring keynote speaker U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Ronald Kirk at Hyatt Regency DFW. Sponsorship, tickets and more 972-234-1007, info: diane.stephenson@uncf.org or www.uncf.org/dallas.

MTBC's "Beyond Business **Intelligence:** Connecting People and Data in the Enterprise" Featuring Bill Pritchett, Regional APO manager, Microsoft 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Renaissance Hotel, 900 E. Lookout Dr., Richardson

Hope for Rwanda Dinner & Auction 6 p.m. at McKinney Performing Arts Cen-

November 21

PLAN Fund 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 2801 Swiss Ave, Ste 120, Dallas. Cost is \$45 www.planfund.org or call 214-942-6698.

Women Helping Women is a conference to raise awareness of domestic violence from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Spring Creek Campus of Collin College Conference Rooms A & B, 2800 E. Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano. Registration fee is \$10.00 and includes continental breakfast. The net profits from registration fees and donations for door prizes will be split among three shelters. Cash or checks only on day of the event. Info: www. NDDW.org/Women Helping Women.html or Lenna Webb 972-732-7712.

November 21 thru January 3

Trains at Northpark - A favorite holiday attraction, the exhibit travells the United States at various landmarks, and is the most elaborate tov train attraction in all of Texas, with locomotives on a journey across America, past miniature landmarks including Mount Rushmore, Dallas' skyline, New York City's Times Square and Washington, D.C.

November 27

Jazz Friday featuring Cat Garner Trio 7:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m., 13342 Midway Rd., Ste. 250, at ArtFest International, Dallas. Tickets: \$10 -\$25. Email steph anie@stephaniestips.com

High School Battle of the **Drumlines** Ellis Fieldhouse-Jesse Owens Complex, Dallas 7 p.m. -10 p.m.

UAPB Alumni Welcome Reception at Hyatt Regency-Downtown Dallas 7 p.m. -10 p.m.

TSU Alumni Welcome non-members and \$30 for Reception Crowne Plaza-Downtown Dallas 7 p.m. -10 p.m.

November 28

HBCU College/Job Fair at Fair Park Tower Building 3750 Midway Plaza, Dallas, 11 a.m. − 1 p.m.

Dallas Lone Star Classic Football Game Cotton Bowl Stadium 3750 Midway Plaza, Dallas, Kickoff 1 p.m.

November 29

House of Blues Sunday Gospel Brunch Emcee /Host, Kertrina Dauway and her Gospel Ensemble will be live in concert. Gospel music and a Southern Breakfast Buffet. Info: 214-978-2583 and www. houseofblues.com, 2200 N. Lamar, Downtown Dallas

December 2-6

Dallas Black Dance Theatre's inaugural winter series Preeminent Dance at 7:30 p.m.in the AT&T Performing Arts Center Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre. Mayor Tom Leppert and his wife, Laura Leppert will serve as honorary chairs of the series, which ends on December 6, 2009. Preeminent Dance will feature choreography from Elisa Monte's Pigs and Fishes, Asadata Dafora's Awassa Astrige/Ostrich and Ben Stevenson's Camouflage. Tickets start at \$10 www.dbdt.com or (214) 880-0202.

December 2

Richardson Chamber of Commerce's Women in Leadership Luncheon "Completing the Package: Do You Ever Really Finish?" Featuring Dr. Sherry L. Dean is Executive Dean of the School of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts at Richland College.

The event will be at the Richardson Woman's Club, 2005 North Cliffe Drive, Richardson from 11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Cost is \$35 for

members.

Richardson Chamber of Commerce hosting "Completing the Package: Do You Ever Really Finish?" at 11:30 a.m. featuring Dr. Sherry L. Dean, Executive Dean of the School of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts at Richland College.

December 3

Christmas on the Square in Downtown Garland 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

December 3-5 and 10-13

Theatre Brookhaven will premiere the one-act satirical play The Real Inspector **Hound** General admission is \$8, with tickets at \$6 for students, staff and adult seniors. Tickets can be purchased through the Brookhaven College box office at 972-860-4118 or BHC BoxOffice@dcccd.edu.

December 5

Capital One Bank Adolphus Children's Parade Benefiting Children's Medical Center on Commerce Street at 10 a.m.

Richardson of Chamber hosting Brown Bag Lunch**eon** for only \$5. The topic is "Is Your Business in Danger" featuring Greg Gullota, Vice President of Sales, Merchant Pro Express. Richardson Chamber of Commerce, 411 Belle Grove Dr.

The Handbell Ensemble and Campus Bells of Brookhaven will present their Holiday Handbell Concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Performance Hall Brookhaven College.

December 6

Dick's Last Resort Kids' Christmas Party 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. for kids from fifty families of deployed troops from surrounding bases. There will be all kinds of holiday fun for these kids along with free burgers and hot dogs. Even Santa will be on hand to give out great gifts to the children. Info 214.747.0001.

December 9

MTBC Brown Bag Lunch at 411 Belle Grove Drive, Richardson "Is Your Business in Danger?" Featuring Greg Gullota, Vice President of Sales, Merchant Pro Express

Richardson Chamber of Commerce hosting "Is Your Business in Danger" at 11:30 a.m. featuring Greg Gullota, Vice President of Sales, Merchant Pro Express.

December 12

The Élan Circle of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra League hosting the 21stannual "Deck the Hall - A Celebration of Music for Children" concert featuring a performance by Emmy Award-winning music guests, The Biscuit Brothers at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$45 and can be purchased starting November 2, 2009 at www.deckthehall.org or by calling 214-208-8297.

December 31 – January 3

Lone Star Circus® presents BANQUISTA! at the Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St., Dallas. Tickets 214/740-0051, or www.lonestarcircus.org.

January 23, 2010

The Fifth Dimension will perform at 8:15 p.m. at the Eisemann Center - 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. The reserved seating tickets \$14- \$80; Special rates for groups of ten or more; Add \$2 at the door. More info: call the Plano Symphony Orchestra at 972-473-7262 or www.PlanoSymvisit phony.org to order tickets.

February 26, 2010

UNCF 2010 Annual Meeting Luncheon at the Hilton Anatole Hotel

Sponsored By:



Proud 10 be All Active at&t Partner In The Community **Proud To Be An Active**

holiday helpings from Bobby Flay

Turkey Cuban



(Family Features) It's time to heat things up and set the holiday table for delicious food. Chef Bobby Flay has teamed up with Hellmann's® and Best Foods® Mayonnaise to help parents prepare a holiday meal of real, nutritious ingredients the whole family will love.

Complement your holiday dinner with deli-

cious sides that satisfy family and guests alike. Roasted New Potatoes with Blue Cheese Ranch Dressing and

Oven Roasted Apple-Cranberry Crisp with Creamy Spiced Chantilly

Serves: 6

- 1/2 cup very cold heavy cream
- 3 tablespoons light brown sugar
- 1/4 cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods® Real Mayonnaise
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 cup plain granola
- 5 granny smith apples, cored and cut into eighths (about 2-1/2 pounds)
- 1 cup fresh or frozen, thawed cranberries
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar

Combine the cream and brown sugar in a bowl and whip to soft peaks with a large whisk or hand-held mixer. Whisk together the mayonnaise and cinnamon in a medium bowl and fold in the whipped cream until combined.

Preheat oven to 375°F. Combine the apples and granulated sugar in a medium baking dish and roast until slightly soft, about 15 minutes. Stir in the cranberries and cook until the apples are very soft and golden brown and the cranberries have popped and released their juices, about 15 minutes longer.

Green Onions are sure to please even the pickiest of palates. For an appetizing main dish even the kids will eat, try "Stuffing" Crusted Turkey Cutlets. Finish the meal with a simple, seasonal dessert like Oven Roasted Apple-Cranberry Crisp with Creamy Spiced Chantilly.

Lost when it comes to leftover ideas? Celebrate the day after the holiday by using your leftover turkey and traditional holiday sides to create a Turkey Cuban. For a simple twist on the classic day-after turkey sandwich, mix some mayonnaise with leftover cranberry relish to create a creamy cranberry sandwich spread.

For more real food recipes, tips and videos from Bobby Flay featuring simple, nutritious food you can feel good about feeding your family, check out the Real Holiday Helpings Web series at www.hellmanns.com



Oven roasted apple-cranberry crisp with creamy spiced chantilly

Divide the fruit into 4 bowls or goblets and sprinkle with the granola. Top each with a large dollop of the spiced chantilly mayonnaise.

Substitution: This recipe is also great when substituting 5 peaches for the apples and 1 pint of fresh raspberries for the cranberries.

"Stuffing" Crusted Turkey Cutlets

Serves: 4

- 2 cups panko breadcrumbs or regular dried bread crumbs
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh flat leaf parsley Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods® Real Mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
- 4 turkey cutlets about 1/2-inch thick
- 1/4 cup canola oil, divided

Combine the panko and breadcrumbs on a large plate and

season with salt and pepper.

Whisk together the Mayonnaise, Dijon and poultry seasoning in a small bowl and season with salt and pepper.

Season the turkey cutlets on both sides with salt and pepper. Brush one side of each cutlet with some of the Mayonnaise mixture and coat in the breadcrumbs.

Heat 2 tablespoons of the oil in a large nonstick sauté pan over high heat until the oil begins to shimmer. Place 2 cutlets in the pan, breading side down and cook until golden brown and a crust has formed, about 3 minutes. Flip the cutlets over and continue cooking until the bottom is golden brown and the cutlets are just cooked through, about 2 minutes longer.

Turkey Cuban

Serves: 2

- 1/4 cup Dijonnaise
 - tablespoons leftover cranberry relish Salt and freshly ground black pepper
 - 4 slices good quality Italian bread
 - 8 slices thinly sliced Swiss cheese
 - 4 slices thinly sliced deli ham
 - 6 slices leftover sliced turkey, white or dark meat
 - or a combination
- 8 dill pickle slices
- 4 tablespoons Hellmann's® or Best Foods® Real Mayonnaise

Whisk together the Dijonnaise and cranberry relish in a small bowl and season with salt and pepper.

Put the bread on a flat surface and spread each slice with some of the Dijonnaise mixture. Top 2 of the slices of bread with 1 slice of the cheese, ham, turkey another slice of cheese and pickles (in that order). Place the remaining bread on top, mayonnaise side down.

Heat a hot skillet over medium heat or a panini press. Wrap a brick in heavy duty aluminum foil (if not using a panini press).

Spread 1 tablespoon of the mayonnaise on the top of each sandwich and place in the skillet if using or in a panini press, mayonnaise-side down. Place the brick on top of the sandwiches and cook until the bottom is golden brown, about 2 minutes. Remove the brick, spread the top of the sandwiches with the remaining mayonnaise, turn over, place the brick back on top and cook until the bottom is golden brown and the cheese has melted, about 2 minutes longer. Cut in half and serve warm.

With real, simple ingredients including eggs, oil and vinegar, Hellmann's® or Best Foods® Real Mayonnaise is a great complement to any post-holiday sandwich.



"Stuffing" Crusted Turkey Cutlets

Tickets selling quickly for The Boxer at Collin Theatre Center

(NDG Wire) Collin Theatre Center will present *The Boxer*, written and directed by Matt Lyle, December 3, and continuing thr-ough Sunday December 13, 2009.

The Boxer is a unique theatrical event inspired by the classic silent films of Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton.

It is is a silent play complete with title and dialogue projections, live musical accompaniment, outrageous physical feats and a modern take on classic comedy.

Leave behind your modern life and don't miss the chance to see the play critics have hailed as



"...a small classic not to be missed .. Hilarious at it is, *The Boxer* ...gets better the more you think about it", and the winner of six Column Awards, the *2007 Dallas Observer Award* for Best New Playwright, and 3 DFW Theater Critics Forum Awards including best new play.

Tickets are selling quickly and some performances are already sold out.

The Boxer will be pre-

sented by the Collin Theatre Center at Collin College, in the John Anthony Theatre, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano 75074.

Performances are December 3-5 and December 9-12 at 8:00 pm, with matinees on December 6th and 12-13 at 2:15 pm. Tickets are \$8 for general admission and \$6 for students and senior citizens (55+). Group rates are available.

For tickets, show times and other information call the Collin Theatre Hotline at 972-881-5100, or visit us on the web at www.collintheatrecenter.com.

Collin Theatre Center honors Poe with free play

(NDG Wire) The Collin Theatre Center is hosting a free production of the play *Dream*, written and directed by Jon Christie.

Performances are slated for 8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 20, Saturday, Nov. 21 and Monday, Nov. 23. Matinee performances are set for 2:15 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 21-22. All performances are free and open to the public.

Dream will be in the ALT Lab Theatre located at the Spring Creek Campus,



2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.

The play honors the works of Edgar Allen Poe. It follows an employee of a struggling café — The Raven—who decides to put on a talent show to hopefully save the café. She depends on the talents of a rap

artist, a beatnik and an ordinary guy.

Dream is held in conjunction with Collin College's Book-in-Common program. In October, the program welcomed best-selling author Matthew Pearl to talk about his novel The Poe Shadow, which described the fictional circumstances behind and following Poe's mysterious death in 1849.

For information call the Collin Theatre Center Hotline at 972.881.5100.

The Vincent Tucker Radio Show is added to the United Kingdom's based Magic Hitz Radio!



Vincent Tucker

(NDG Wire) CWC Entertainment Group L.L.C. announced this week that "The Vincent Tucker Radio Show" will be heard on the United Kingdom-based Magic Hitz Radio Network (MagicHitzRadio.com) every Friday at 7 p.m. EST / 6 p.m. CST.

Graham Jackson, Owner of Magic Hitz Radio added the following statement: "We're glad that we have a quality program such as *The Vincent Tucker Radio Show* to add to our station!"

Listeners can look forward to hearing Vincent "Young Heartbreak" Tucker and his crew starting this Friday.

Free to the community holiday series of Dallas Black Dance Theatre

(NDG Wire) The Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) takes you *Behind the Scenes* for their annual Holiday Noontime Performances November 23-25, 2009 at the Dallas Black Dance Theatre's studios located "Where the Arts District Begins" at its Downtown Dallas studios.

Behind the Scenes is an intimate way for patrons to find out about upcoming performances of Dallas Black Dance Theatre and to get to know all four performing ensembles of DBDT.

On November 23 and 24, DBDT gives audience members a sneak peak of the upcoming *Inaugural Winter Series: Preeminent Dance*, including Hope Boykins' *intertpret* and Troy Powell's *Lambarena*.

On November 25, DBDT II – Dallas Black Dance Academy's Performing Ensemble brings its excitement and youthfulness to the state-of-the -art studios of Dallas Black Dance Theatre.

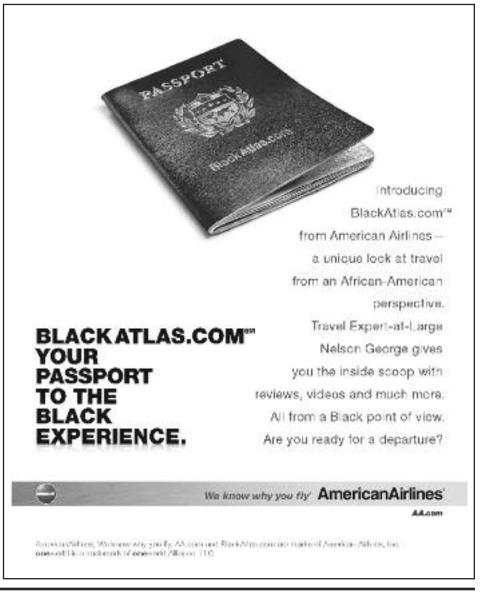


DBDT II will perform select pieces from nationally recognized choreographers Christopher Huggins, Cleo Parker Robinson, and Allyne D. Gartrell.

Bloom is one enssemble of DBDT II, and it brings youthful professionalism with the performance of *First Come First Serve*, choreographed by DBDT veteran dancer Nycole Ray.

New to the Holiday Noontime Performance series is the Dallas Black Dance Academy's Junior Performing Ensemble. Director, Bravitta Threat leads the newest ensemble with the performance of Respect.

Performances are free and held from 12:00 pm to 1:00 p.m. Seating is limited. For reservations call 214-871-2390. The Dallas Black Dance Theatre is located where the Dallas Arts District begins, at 2700 Flora Street.



Social media use by business professionals could help businesses

(NDG Wire) Business.com unveiled results of its 2009 Business Social Media Benchmarking Study. Based on insights from 2,948 professionals across North America, the study provides extensive information on how businesses and business people use social media in the workplace.

Key survey findings in-

• Webinars and podcasts are top social media resources for business professionals, used by 69 percent of those who turn to social media channels for business information.

• Facebook is the dominant social network on which consumer-focused companies maintain one or more profiles, cited by 83 percent of respondents versus 45 percent for Twitter. Business-to-business (B2B) companies, however, maintain a presence on both platforms, with 77 percent maintaining a profile on Facebook and 73 percent on Twitter.



· Current trends to restrict access to social networks like Facebook or Twitter at work need to be re-thought in light of the business value in such ac-

· Among respondents using social media for business purposes in their dayto-day jobs, 62 percent visit company or brand profiles on social networking sites and 55 percent search for business information on

these sites.

 Consultants marketing communications professionals are the most active

users of social media as a resource for business information, particularly

micro (<10 employees) and small businesses (10-99 employees). professionals have the lowest participation rate.

 Both companies and employees are scaling a massive learning curve with social media.

• The average company

in this study was planning, developing or running seven different social media initiatives. 65 percent of respondents staffing those inithemselves,

tiatives and 71 percent of companies have less than two years of experience with social

facebook

media for business.

· Building brand aware-

ness and brand reputation

are two of the top social

media success metrics, but

nearly two-thirds of companies focused on these metrics have little to no insight into performance via standard or easily accessible re-

"We are constantly analyzing trends to determine exactly what tools business professionals leverage most for purchasing," said Ben Hanna, Ph.D., vice president, marketing, Business.com. "This survey was a way for us to benchmark where businesses, and business people, are finding value in social media in order to further enhance our site offerings and better serve our users."

Mayflower transit recognizes achievements of Norco **Moving And Storage**

(NDG Wire) Norco Moving and Storage of Irving, Texas, an agent of the nationwide household goods carrier Mayflower

Transit, was honored recently by the van

for exceptional professional performance. Announcement of the recognition, conferred as part of van line's annual awards program, was made by Mayflower President Richard H. McClure.

Norco Moving and

Storage received the Mill i o n Dollar

Club Award, \$1 million level recognizing Mayflower revenue pro-

Global innovation enables successful learning solutions for clients worldwide (NDG Wire) Raytheon

Professional Services LLC, (RPS) a subsidiary of Raytheon Company, has won Workforce Management magazine's 2009 Optimas Award in the Global Outlook category.

The annual Optimas Awards recognize compa-

nies whose workforce management initiatives achieve business results and streamline global operations and efficiencies. RPS won for the success of its global training operations that supclients

worldwide.

Raytheon wins 2009 Optimas Award from

Workforce Management magazine

"Our investment in developing best-in-class tools and processes, coupled with our integrated learning systems

proach, has enabled our global clients to realize greater business results," said David Letts, RPS vice president and general manager. "It's gratifying when these program advances are recognized by organizations such as Workforce Management."

DEPRESSION, continued from Page 1

to around 17 percent, numbers which are comparable to the Great Depression of the early 1930s, according to Dr. Rodney Green, chairman of the economics department Howard University and the executive director of the Howard University Center for Urban Progress.

"There has been a consistent pattern of Black male unemployment rates that are twice the unemployment of White, even in good or bad times," Green said. He said this is due to continuing discrimination against Black males in the labor market and also a split in the labor market where job loss is greatest in industries that employ large numbers of African-Americans such as construction, service and retail.

The typical cliché is 'last hired first fired'. The pattern usually holds true in many of these recessions that Blacks and Hispanics get hit very hard early in the recession and are slower to recover once the economy starts picking back up. And if we start getting job gains, it still won't favor Blacks and Hispanics until later in the recovery, said Roderick Harrison, a fellow at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies who is an expert on labor markets.

The brunt of job losses have been faced by people without college degrees and Black males have lower rates among groups that hold college degrees.

"Men in this recession, generally of all races, are getting hit harder than women particularly because of the loss of jobs in industries that have traditionally been male-dominated such as finance, construction, real estate, manufacturing", explained Harrison, on why men of either race are seeing higher unemployment percentages than their female counterparts.

"Job losses are greater in industries and occupations that employ people without college degrees," Harrison said. "Professionals and people with college degrees, with the exception of finance and real estate, have been better protected. They tend to have greater job stability."

So what must be done to decrease black male employment in an economy that many experts predict will long continue to be a jobless recovery?

Both Harrison and Green agree that education is key African-American males. More must be done to increase Black men with college degrees.

"The major disadvantages that Black males, and to a certain extent, females face can and only will be overcome by closing education gaps. That is clearly the biggest contributor to the differentials in unemployment rates." Harrison said.

Another thing they suggest is to organize politically against employment racism because unless there is major change in the current structure there is not much that can be done on the ground level in the short term.

"It will take a sustained movement of workers against discrimination in

the labor market," Green said. "They will need to wage a sharper struggle against employers who think nothing about throwing people out of work while giving themselves bigger bonuses."

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HAMMOND, continued from Page 1

House health reform bill would do.

Among the very moving speakers was Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond from Boston, founder of the Boston Ten Point Coalition and co-Pastor with his wife, Rev. Dr. Gloria Hammond, of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. He brought with him and shared the wonderful story of his beautiful and fortunate granddaughter Ella.

"Good morning! And would everybody say 'Good morning, Ella.' Ella's feeling a little shy and a little bit tired because we got up at 3:30 this morning to come and be at this rally in Washington all the way from Boston but we were not going to miss this!

I'm here because I'm a pastor and a physician and this issue of child health care is near and dear to my heart. And Ella's here because her story tells us why equity in health care is so important. This little girl that you're looking at was in a very different place three years ago when she was born.

"She was born to my youngest daughter four

months premature and she came into the world at the weight of one-and-a-half pounds. In those first few days and weeks she fought for her life.

She fought against large bleeds on both sides of her brain, a cardiac problem that required surgery. She had eye problems that made it almost impossible for her to see. She had a gastrointestinal infection that made it necessary for her to be isolated from the other babies.

"It was one battle after another and often we had several battles going on at the same time. And I remember that day when the doctor and the nurse and the social worker called our whole family into the conference room and they said, 'We just want to let you know that Ella will probably have trouble walking, or she may have trouble using her arms, or she may not be able to control her emotions very well, or she may be partially blind, or she may have other kinds of trouble.'

They told us it was less than a 10% chance that she would grow up to be healthy and normal. And I still remember the tears and the prayers and the long days and the longer nights that we spent.

"I remember when we finally were able to take her home. I remember when we were able to put her into an early intervention program and I thank God for the day that they kicked her out of that program—I hope that's the first and the last time that she's ever kicked out of an educational program—but they put her out because she was doing too well. That's a real blessing."

He continued, "As a man of faith I am so grateful to God for the people who prayed for us and prayed with us and for the dedicated team of doctors and nurses and professionals who cared for Ella through four long months, but as a man of faith I am also deeply troubled that the result might have been very different if my daughter had not had excellent prenatal care and if her in-

surance had not made it possible for Ella to get treatment that cost several hundred thousand dollars without leaving our family bankrupt.

And I want every child in America to have the same opportunity for a good life, a full life, and a healthy life.

I love this country, and I don't love it just for its amber waves of grain or its purple mountains' majesty, or its democracy or its opportunities. When I say, 'I love this country,' it means I love the people in this country, and especially its children!

That's what it means to love your country! And I love the fact that their ancestors and they come from every country and every corner of this world. I love the fact that we're a rainbow of colors and a riot of cultures.

And I love them enough to want each and every one of them to have the same things that my

On Thanksgiving, be thankful and

provide a feast best suited for pets

family has. And so that's why all of us together, right here and then in Congress, we're gonna ask them to do three things. Tell your neighbor, 'Three things.' Tell another neighbor, 'Three things!' We want 'em to tear down the iron curtain that keeps six million children from being able to get the same insurance through CHIP or Medicaid that they've already qualified for. Somebody say, 'Yes!' We wanna guarantee every child access to all of the health services that they need and I don't care whether they've got Medicaid or they've got CHIP or they've got private insurance or they've got the insurance that our elected representatives get. Every child's life counts!

Last thing we want tell your neighbor, 'Get rid of the jigsaw puzzle!' You go from one state to the next, and in one state a child is covered and in the next state the child is not covered. That's not right! Here's what we want: We really want every child to have access. And we don't want our children to be collateral damage while we fix our health care system. That means we want an America where every child, no matter their race, their class, or their ethnic background has access to a healthy start. It's the least we can do in this one nation under God.

Now when we leave here, Ella and I are gonna go talk to our Senators and our Representatives like many of you, and what are we gonna ask for, Ella? Great care for God's kids. Great care for God's kids!"

Amen, Rev. Hammond and Ella!

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child has a successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

HANDBELL, continued from Page 5

Fort Worth. Ringers perform secular, popular and original music on more than five octaves of handbells and chimes

The Handbell Ensemble was the winner of the National Exemplary Award for Handbells or Handchimes in Music Education for the 2007-2008 school year and performs multiple concerts each semester.



(NDG Wire) As pet owners head into the season of special gatherings, celebrations and holiday tidings, the North American Pet Health Insurance Association reminds pet owners to protect their pets.

Pets ingesting rich and fatty foods, chocolates, or other unsuitable or unintended items, can create a thankless holiday visiting the veterinary emergency hospital.

As pet owners, we need to provide extra care and attention to their pet during this time of year, according to Dr. Ingmire, (of Mokena Animal Clinic, Chicago). "It is important to plan and consider our pets as we head into the holiday season. Our pets are certainly aware of this special time of the year and want to be a part of all of the celebrations. Without consideration of our pets, trouble and mischief can ensue. Even a well-behaved pet that feels slighted or confined during festivities may get into trouble that normally would not happen during other times of the year." According to Dr. Ingmire.

Pet owners need to be mindful of the following:

- Do not provide any forms of chocolate
- Do not provide table scraps or foods not specifically prepared for our pets

- Secure or remove garbage and food scraps from the kitchen before sitting down to dine
- Adjust your pets' feeding time to occur as you are serving dinner for special occasions and add a special pet treat as part of the pet meal
- Plan and provide short periods of special one-onone time for walks and just

See PETS, Page 16

SCHOLAR, continued from Page 6

demonstrates Marriott's 'spirit to serve.' Thanks to these scholarships, this year, dozens of young Latinos will grow one step closer to the hospitality career of their dreams!" Applicants interested in applying for the Marriott Scholars program must

meet the following eligibility requirements. Candidates must be:

- A U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States
- enrolled full-time in an accredited four-year college or university with a hospital-

ity management program as an incoming college freshman, first year freshman or community college transfer;

• pursuing or planning to pursue a degree within the hospitality management, hotel management, culinary or food and beverage field; and

• possess a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.

As a part of the program, Marriott International managers and executives from the hotels and corporate offices will provide career guidance, mentoring, development and internship opportunities to scholarship recipients. Congratulations to the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Scholars including the following three from Texas:

Jamar Fletcher, Univer-

sity of Houston in Houston, Texas

John Loredo, Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX

Ariana Miller, University of Houston in Houston, TX

Apply at www.uncf.org/scholarshipsor www.hispanicfund.org.

Kroger job fair Friday, Nov. 20, from 11 a.m. - 5

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tion for the January opening of its first Marketplace concept store in the Dallas area, Kroger will host a job fair at 12221 Custer Road in Frisco. Kroger anticipates

(NDG Wire) In prepara- hiring up to 350 employees, including store managers, department heads, and hourly associates (full- and part-time), to run the Collin County store. Subsequent job fairs are planned for December 5 and 12, and January 2.

The 123,000-square-foot store will offer features unique to a Kroger Signature store along with an expanded variety of grocery and deli

products, gourmet and chefprepared foods, a wine shop, large floral section and fuel center. The marketplace will have linens, upscale kitchenware and the latest toys. The store will also feature a Fred

Meyer Jeweler store.

For more information

about the job fair, visit www.krogerworks.com.

Advertising Account Manager

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- Able to telemarket effectively
- Willing to coldcall efficientlySkilled in Microsoft Word and Outlook
- Able to demonstrate good people skills
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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DE-PARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Fort Worth

Contract 6202-94-001 for ROADSIDE MOWING in TARRANT County, etc will be received on December 15, 2009 until 10:30 am and opened on December 15, 2009 at 11:00 am at the District Office for an estimate of \$243,073.84.

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

NPO: 31426

State Office Constr./Maint. Division 200 E. Riverside Dr. I Austin, Texas 78704 Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s) Fort Worth District | District Engineer 2501 Southwest LP820 | Ft. Worth, Texas 76133 Phone: 817-370-6500

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPART-MENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT

until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Fort Worth

Contract 0013-10-076 for TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSTALLATION in TAR-RANT County will be opened on December 09, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Contract 0902-00-111 for MINOR BRIDGE REPAIRS in

TARRANT County will be opened on December 08, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Contract 0902-48-737 for CONSTRUCT CURB RAMPS FOR ADA in TARRANT County will be opened on December 08, 2009 at 1:00 pm at

the State Office.

Contract 1330-01-060 for SEAL COAT in TARRANT County, etc will be opened on December 09, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the State Office. Contract 2266-02-135 for TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSTALLATIONS in TAR-RANT County will be opened on December 08, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 31377

> State Office Constr./Maint. Division

200 E. Riverside Dr. I Austin, Texas 78704 Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)

Fort Worth District | District Engineer 2501 Southwest LP820 | Ft. Worth, Texas 76133 Phone: 817-370-6500

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

RECENT **JOURNALISM GRADUATE?**

Trying to Get Your Foot in The Door?

Community Newspaper seeking part time writer to cover community events. Must be familiar with AP style. Bilingual English/Spanish a plus

> Please call 972-606-3890 and leave a message, or send resume to: AssignmentEditor@ NorthDallasGazette.com

Church Happenings

AVENUE F CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 12, 12 – 2 pmOur Sisters in Christ presents a FREE "Couture of the Season" Holiday Tea and Fashion Show @ The Plano Centre, 2009 E. Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano, TX 75074. For information and to RSVP call Sis. Brandy Walton @ 214-597-2913.

Brother Ramon Hodridge Minister 1026 Avenue F Plano, TX 75074 972-423-8833

DAYSTAR DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES November 2009 8:30 am – 11:30 am

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

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

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC IN DENTON COUNTY November 21, 3 pm

Our Alumnae Chapter presents E.M.B.O.D.I. (Empowering Males to Build Opportunities for Developing In-

dependence). This is a program designed especially for African American males that are 10-14 years @ The Legends Academy, 2021 W. University Drive in Denton, Texas. Topics for discussion are: Manners, Etiquettes & Nobility by Former NFL Wide Receiver Jake Reed; Self Image by Entrepreneur and School Principal Terrance Watts; Goal Setting by the first African American Councilman in Little Elm, Texas Curtis Cornelious; and Leadership by National Director of Government and Community Relations for Boy Scouts of America Willie Iles, Jr. For details call Vicki Byrd @ 940-*453-4603 or Karen Moore* @ 214-529-0401.

EIRENE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

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

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

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

On Going, 9 am-4 pm Monday – Friday

Prayer Lines for those in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567.

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

November 25, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Join us for our Ushers, Nurses Guild and Candy Stripers Annual Day in the Sanctuary.

Pastor Gregory Foster, 300 Phillips Street Richardson, TX 75081 972-235-4235

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, THE COLONY

November 22, 6 pm

Come to a Citywide
Thanksgiving Service that
will be hosted by the First
UMC @ 4901 Paige Road

in The Colony. Call 972-625-8186 for details.

Pastor C. Paul McBride,
4396 Main Street

The Colony, TX 75056

972-625-8186

PISGAH MBC "The Rock" Last Night, November 19, 5:45 pm

Prayer Workshop
Join us for our Fall Refreshing Revival with Pastor Tellis J. Chapman of
Galilee MBC in Detroit,
MI preaching and Pastor
O' Wendell Davis, Union
Chapel MBC in
Huntsville, AL. At 7 pm
our "Time of Refreshing
Begins."

Pastor Robert Townsend 11611 Webb Chapel Road Dallas, TX 75229 972-241-6151

NEW MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH November 21, 9:30 am- 12 Noon

Come to a FREE Medical Power-of-Attorney and Living Wills Clinic.

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

SHILOH CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST IN MELISSA

November 22, 4 pm

Come and celebrate our 70th Church Anniversary with us as we continue to be a "Beacon of Light" in the Collin County Com-

munity.

Pastor Paul Jackson 1707 W. Harrison Street Melissa, TX 75454

972-838-9377

RESTORATION DE-LIVERANCE TEMPLE

November 20-22, 2009

Come to our Unity & Faith Full Gospel Association 1st Annual "Bridging The Gap" Thanksgiving Revival Service with International Presiding Bishop Donald McKnight and the dynamic speaker Pastor W.L. Stafford, Sr., M.Div. from Fellowship Baptist in Allen and featuring U7FFGA CA State Youth

Bishop & Pastor Tucker 8238 Scyene Road Dallas, TX 75227

group.

WORD OF LIFE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Tonight,

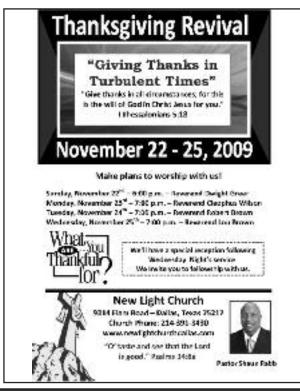
November 19, 7 pm Join us for our anointed Thursday Night Prophecy Service to be encouraged by Words from Heaven.

November 24, 7 pm Don't miss this anointed and spirit-filled service with world renowned Bishop Jude Asonibe and Pastor Sheila Asonibe.

Pastor Gregory Voss, 2765 Trinity Mills Road Suite 305 Carrollton, TX 75006 214-514-9147











Sister Tarpley

This Holiday Season, if you think that you're not important to God, ponder this:

An elderly woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which she carried across her neck. One pot had a crack in it while the other was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived half full. For two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. The perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter fail-

The Cracked Pot

ure, it spoke to the woman.
"I'm ashamed of myself;
this crack in my side causes
water to leak all the way
back to your house." The
old woman smiled, "Did
you notice that there are
flowers on your side of the
path, but not on the other
pot's side?"

"I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives interesting and rewarding. You must take each person for what they are and look for the good in them. Smell the flowers on your side of

the path. Live, Give, Love excuse? Abraham was old. and Be Thankful! Jacob was insecure. Leah

Stop Making Excuses! You will give your life for something – the question is what? Sports, a hobby, fame, wealth; these do not bring lasting satisfaction. Service is the pathway to joy and fulfillment! It's through ministry that we find meaning; life is meant for ministry. As we serve God's purposes, our lives take on eternal importance. Paul writes, "all this makes you more significant, not less, because of what you are a part of. (1 Corinthians 12:14,

If you aren't involved in something greater than yourself you just exist, God wants you to learn to love and serve others unselfishly. He wants you to make a difference in His world: What matter is not how long you live, but how effectively you live!

If you're not involved in God's service what's your

excuse? Abraham was old. Jacob was insecure. Leah was unattractive. Joseph was abused. Moses stuttered. Gideon was poor. Samson was co-dependent. Rehab was immoral. David had an affair resulting in all kinds of family problems.

Elijah was suicidal. Jeremiah was depressed. Jonah was reluctant. Naomi was a widow. John the Baptist was eccentric. Peter was impulsive. Martha worried a lot. The Samaritan woman had several failed marriages. Zacchaeus was crooked. Thomas had doubts. Paul had poor health and Timothy was timid. That's quite a variety of misfits, yet God used each of them – and He will use you too, if you stop making excuses. Author Unknown.

The Value of Age and Wisdom: "But he forsook the counsel which the old men gave him, and took counsel with the young men that were brought up with



Father & Son: Burton and Jorge (Little George) Fielding

him, that stood before him." 2 Chronicles 10:8 (KJV)

Age and wisdom doesn't always equate with one another, but they often do. Today, young people tend to discount input from older people. However, God has placed wisdom in older people that the young can learn

a great deal from. Do not despise input from those who may be considerably older than you. God has placed a level of wisdom in them that can help you avoid major mistakes, especially in times like these. Reference Readings, 2 Chronicles Chapters 10 through 12.

CareCenter Ministries 22nd Annual Thanksgiving Outreach



(NDG Wire)
CareCenter Ministries is holding its 22nd annual
Thanksgiving
Outreach Saturday, November
28 to serve the working poor,

disadvantaged and homeless people of Dallas.

A traditional Thanksgiving dinner will be served, and there will be live music, children activities, free winter clothing, and prizes. CarCenter Ministries is committed to reaching out

to the community to assist its neighbors in ways that will have an immediate and long term impact on their lives.

The Thanksgiving Outreach is a collaboration of churches and volunteers giving of their time and resources to reach out to the underprivileged, needy and homeless. CareCenter Ministries' goal is to develop fellowship, share resources, celebrate our broad cultural diversity and give thanks to God for our city.

The Outreach program

is Saturday November 28 noon – 4 p.m. at the Gospel Tabernacle Church located at 445 South Masters, Dal-

For information: 214-824-9852, carecenter.ministries@yahoo.com, www.carecenterministries.org



Avenue F Church of Christ

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

Early Sunday Morning	8:00 am
Sunday Bible Class	9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:45 am
Evening Worship	3:00 pm
Wednesday Rible Class	7.00 pm

Ramon Hodridge, Minister

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







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

Church Directory

PETS, continued from Page 12

providing focused attention during special occasions

• Our pets will adjust better to the additional activities taking place in the home, if a little bit of special attention is provided.

"Providing rich human foods is just a bad idea and it can cause Pancreatitis and general internal illness. Pancreatitis is an inflammation of the pancreas, and it can be life threatening. When a pet is diagnosed as having pancreatitis, he/she becomes more susceptible to developing it again so you want to avoid your pet ever having it. The best way to protect our pets so they can enjoy a healthy and happy life is to avoid feeding human foods. If your pet becomes ill with bloody vomit and diarrhea after consuming turkey or ham or getting into the garbage, take your pet to your vet-

erinarian immediately," continued Dr. Ingmire.

Other cautionary "tails" to share during holidays in-



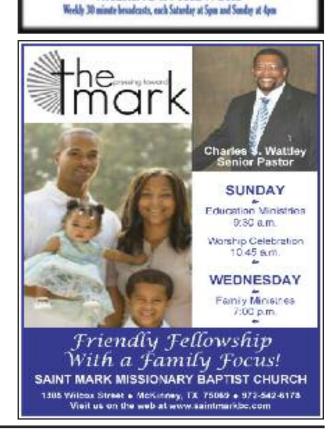
clude avoiding poinsettias and tinsel, especially with cats in the house. Dogs can become ill after consuming Christmas tree standing water, though generally not life threatening. On the other hand, there are many positive examples of great things pet owners can do to correctly spoil their pets. Provide a special holiday trip to the groomer or provide a nice shampoo wash and dry at home. Hang a stocking with correct treats and toys. A new toy with a bit of cat nip is okay for our feline friends.

with your veterinarian for the preferred 24 hour emergency pet hospital in your area for care after hours and have the phone number with your other important emergency information.

Founded in 2007, the North American Pet Health Insurance Association is

committed to educating and promoting the values and benefits of pet health insurance to North American pet owners, the general public, and the veterinary industry. For more information, visit www.naphia.org or call 412-319-7730 / 412-908-9766.





"WALKING IN THE WORD"

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21 Prestige Circle | Allen, TX 75002 214.383.9993 www.rockbridgechurch.com SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 A.M.

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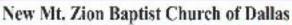


Lead Pastor, Timothy Jones



-437-3493

1019-1020 South Sherman Street - Richardson, TX 75081 www.ndcbf.org



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

Dr. Leslie W Smith.

Senior Pastor

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

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



Dr. Robert E. Price, Sr. Senior Pastor

A Praying Church Family

"Watchmen on the Walls"

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