

# North Dallas Gazette

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## Criminal, Civil Medicaid Fraud Teams Protect Texas Taxpayers

BY GREG ABBOTT  
TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is committed to protecting taxpayers. With that goal in mind, we are focused on eliminating waste, fraud and abuse in the \$21 billion

Medicaid program, which provides taxpayer-funded health care to low income Texans.

There are two fronts to our ongoing battle against Medicaid fraud.

On the criminal side, the Medicaid Fraud Con-

trol Unit (MFCU) investigates and prosecutes health care providers and vendors who bill taxpayers for services that were never rendered. The criminal component of our Medicaid fraud prevention team includes 147 investigators

and investigative auditors, of which 58 are commissioned peace officers who conduct complex fraud investigations from nine field offices across the state.

One important aspect

See MEDICAID, Page 4

SPOTLIGHT

## The ABCs of Retirement Planning



See ABC's, Page 9

Our next issue  
is Thursday,  
January 14, 2010  
as we take the  
time off to  
bring in the new  
year with family  
and friends. The  
NDG staff wishes  
you a safe and  
happy holiday.

## Simple Tips to Stay Looking Your Best

IVY N. CARTER  
NDG CONTRIBUTING WRITER

No matter how tough times are, women still want to look good. But what's a girl to do when she's pinching pennies?

Fortunately, a tight budget doesn't mean sacrificing looking your best. Here are some tips to help the budget-wise woman con-

tinue her swaggerific look:

1. *Switch Make-up Brands.* Yes, making a switch to a less expensive brand of make-up can save you money and keep you looking good for less. Brands such as Covergirl™, Almay™ and MAC™ sell for a starting price of \$6.00 for lipstick. Switching to a store brand or brands such as

NYC™ or Wet N Wild™ start at less than a buck. These less expensive brands of make-up have eye shadow, foundation, nail polish, eye-liners and other cosmetic needs for the woman who is on a budget but still wants to look good.

2. *Call Your Sister*

See TIPS Page 12



Princess Tiana becomes Disney's  
First African American Princess

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

TRUTH CLINIC

## Significant Highlights of President Obama's First Year

BY JAMES W. BREEDLOVE

On November 4, 2008, Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States. Just before midnight on an unusually warm night in Grant Park, Chicago, President-elect Obama gave an inspiring victory speech before an estimated crowd of 240,000 ecstatic cheering supporters.

Considered one of the most widely-watched and

repeated political addresses in history, Obama's speech focused on the major issues facing the United States and the world, all tied with the singular thread of our common humanity regardless of any artificial or arbitrary distinctions.

"If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the

See HIGHLIGHTS, Page 12



Dallas Maverick's Dirk Nowitzki at a previous NBA Jam Session playing around with the Harlem Globetrotters

## NBA All-Star Jam ready to roll into DFW

(NDG Wire) Make a New Year's resolution to attend one of the "don't miss" events of 2010 - the NBA All-Star Jam Session Presented by Adidas. This family-fun event is one of the highlights of the NBA All-Star activities set for Feb.

11-13 at the Dallas Convention Center.

The Jam Session features over 11 acres of NBA All-Star excitement, where the chance to meet & collect FREE autographs from

See JAM Page 5

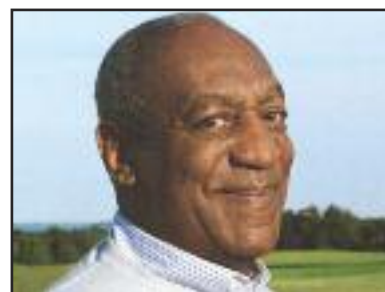
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## People In The News...



Percy Sutton



Bill Cosby



Amanda Alys

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## Percy Sutton



(NNPA) Percy Sutton, best known outside New York for his involvement in the civil rights movement and founding a communica-

tions empire, died on December 26. He was 89.

Sutton was born in San Antonio, the youngest of 15 children of a former slave and his wife. According to the *New York Times*, Sutton received education at three historically Black colleges or universities, including Prairie View A&M in Texas, Tuskegee University in Alabama, and Hampton University in Virginia, but did not complete a degree at any of those schools. He served with the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II.

Although he did not have an undergraduate degree, Sutton was admitted to Columbia Law School through the G.I. Bill and on the merit of his solid undergraduate performances. Because he had to work while attending school, he transferred to Brooklyn Law School. He was in class all day, and worked through the night at the post office and as a subway train conductor, the *New York Times* reported. He went for three years, with little sleep, to finish school and become a lawyer.

After a stint with Air Force intelligence during the Korean War, according

to the Associated Press, Sutton returned to New York to work as a lawyer.

Sutton's involvement with the civil rights movement included involvement with the NAACP that earned him a police beating at age 15. As an attorney, he became an advocate for the cause and longtime attorney for Malcolm X and his family. The *New York Times* notes Sutton was arrested for civil disobedience while protesting the police shooting of the unarmed Amadou Diallo in New York in 1999.

Sutton was also a politician, and served as Manhattan borough president from

1966 to 1977 and a state assemblyman for one term starting in 1964. According to the *New York Times*, Sutton was instrumental in securing funding for the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem and worked to establish open admissions for the City University of New York. He was also the first serious Black candidate for mayor of New York City.

"Percy Sutton was a true hero to African Americans in New York City and around the country," President Barack Obama said in a statement. "His life-long dedication to the fight for civil rights and his career as

an entrepreneur and public servant made the rise of countless young African Americans possible."

Sutton's business ventures centered around communications and media, and at one point included an interest in the *Amsterdam News*. He also owned radio stations in 18 cities across the United States, cable television systems and some national television programs. He was married three times, twice to Leatrice O'Farrell Sutton, his surviving spouse. He is also survived by a son, Pierre Sutton, and a daughter from his second marriage, Cheryl Lynn Sutton.

## Bill Cosby

(NNPA) Boys & Girls Clubs of America is joining forces with Bill Cosby in support of the comedian/educator's latest CD project, *Bill Cosby Presents the Cosnarati: State of Emergency*.

The youth development organization is set to host a series of LISTENing parties across the country, to foster community dialogue and promote the album's socially conscious themes—

self-respect, education and service to others—which embody the principles championed by Boys & Girls Clubs. These sessions kicked off December 12 and 13 across America, and will be greeted with a phone call from Cosby and the Cosnarati.

"Boys & Girls Clubs of America is excited that Clubs are hosting LISTENing parties to mobilize their communities around very



poignant issues that are affecting youth nationwide,"

says Judith J. Pickens, the organization's Sr. VP, Program & Youth Development Services. "We believe this is the perfect opportunity for the Clubs to not only engage teen members, but to also foster dialogue and action throughout the community."

With some 4,300 Boys & Girls Clubs across the United States, the organization counts among its diverse alumni actor Denzel Washington, Olympic Gold Medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey, actress Jennifer

Lopez, President Bill Clinton and Cosby himself. "Thank you Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Your support of the Cosnarati LISTENing Parties gives the true meaning of 'it takes a village,'" said Cosby.

Released November 24 and executive produced by Cosby, *State of Emergency* is produced by Cosby's longtime musical colleague William "Spaceman" Patterson and special guest rappers/activists Jace the Great, Brother Hahz and Supa Nova Slom. To con-

tinue the dialogue and further combat the social issues addressed on the CD, Cosby developed the LISTENing parties. Visitors to billcosby.com can sign up to host or attend LISTENing parties in their own neighborhoods. Party hosts will receive a *State of Emergency* pack, which will include a CD, the album lyrics, a list of talking points and a copy of the CD's companion book, the Cosby co-written *Come On People: On the Path From Victims to Victors*.

## Amanda Alys

British supermodel and actress Amanda G Alys began her career at the tender age of 17, when she was head hunted by the world famous Unique Model Management agency. Within two weeks Alys was shooting her first campaign for Vidal Sassoon.

With her beauty and grace in high demand, she is often flying round the world for numerous shoots and runway assignments to London, Paris, Milan and New York.

Alys is the face of many campaigns and the cover of numerous magazines including: *Elle Magazine*, *Women to Women*, *Photo Magazine* and *Fashion News*. Her modeling career has lead her into hosting and interviewing the likes

of Richard Branson as well as into the world of acting.

Kind hearted and beautiful, Alys is actively involved with CAMFED, which raises money to educate underprivileged Af-

rican girls, and she also raises money for the African Film Commission.

Formally bi-coastal, we are lucky Alys is stateside now. Having modeled for such fashion greats as Vidal Sassoon, Vivian Westwood, Alexander McQueen, Calvin Klein, John Paul Gaultier, Emporio Armani, YSL and Galliano. Alys can be seen on the big screen acting in one of Italy's favorites *Christmas in Beverly Hills* with Christian di Sica.

Alys is producing and hosting a new TV show called *Model House*, where five beautiful hosts

embark on an exciting adventure to search for 10 girls to star in the film *Model House*. In each episode a lucky girl gets a dream made true and learns something. At the finale of each episode the girl from that town or state fights to get chosen to go through to the final. You can see the Model House hosts here: <http://www.modelhousethefilm.com/hosts>. The show hasn't even aired yet and has been featured twice on the UK's biggest breakfast show *Good Morning Television*.

You can follow the show on the *Model House* Blog <http://modelhouseblog.wordpress.com/> or the *Model House* official Website, where the top 10 contestants win prizes every week. Those who enter on the website are guaranteed an audition for the show:

<http://www.modelhousethefilm.com>

Alys is one talented lady from actress, to host, to

model, to TV producer, and you will see much more of her in 2010.



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# North Dallas Gazette

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

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# One Terrible Decade

BY HARRY ALFORD

(NNPA) The first decade of the 21st Century (2000 – 2009) was not a subtle period. It will probably be reported in future history as being a very challenging, morally challenging, moment for America. I have come up with my Top Ten Events of the Last Decade:

Number One - 9/11/2001: Not since Pearl Harbor has America been more shocked and surprised. It showed us that we must always be vigilant and conscious of exactly who are our enemies. I was on Capitol Hill (in the Senate Russell Building) when it went down and witnessed the smoke bellowing from the Pentagon; tanks going across the Key Bridge; traffic at a complete standstill; cell phones cut off; etc. This was, without doubt, the worst day of my life.

Number Two – The Big Recession: The worst aspect of this dire economic situation is that it isn't over yet. African-Americans are losing one third of our net worth right before our eyes, and the effects will be painful and long-term.

Government sponsored enterprises (Freddie Mac and FannieMae) failed us by knowingly accepting fraudulent and worthless mortgages with our tax money. The crooks (sub-prime mortgage writers, Wall St. bankers, hedge fund pirates, etc.) have gotten away with the crimes

and we, the tax payers, are taking the hit. The worst thing is that many of the crooks were made whole with more of our tax money. They double dipped us and now laugh in our faces.

Number Three – Katrina: Never has our government neglected such a large group of citizens in time of crisis. All they had to do was turn on a television to precisely know the pain and horror our brothers and sisters in the Gulf Region were going through. They sat and did nothing until all the damage was done. This started the hunger for "change" in America. It was a total disgrace!

Number Four – President Barack Hussein Obama: It hit us all by surprise. We elected an African-American with a Muslim name as the leader of the free world. The fruit of the Civil Rights Movement has hit a new high. The Black vote (98 percent for Obama) clearly made the difference 43 years after the passing of the Voting Rights Act.

Number Five – The Patriot Act: 9/11/2001 and other events have caused a governmental paranoia that is infringing on many of our liberties. We just don't know the full extent of what we have lost or will lose. Wire tapping, rendition, water boarding, profiling, checkpoints, etc., are in full swing. "Big Brother" has actually

arrived.

Number Six – Bush vs. Gore: This election shot my blood pressure way up. Gore won the popular vote but Bush had the Electoral College votes (or did he?) Florida became an issue of debate which was finally settled by the US Supreme Court, which was basically assembled by the Republican Party. This taught us another lesson about our nation. It was something else not to be really proud of.

Number Seven – Dotcom Bubble: This was another major theft by Wall St. gangsters. They played a well organized Ponzi Scheme on American stock holders, basically pension funds. There were too many new companies for a person to keep up with, and what in the world were they selling or making? We still haven't figured it out.

One Dotcom CEO asked us to seat him next to our guest speaker at our annual luncheon. The speaker was a Fortune 50 CEO. During that time period he persuaded the speaker to buy some debentures he was selling. The speaker later told me that in two months they made \$40 million off the debentures. The Dotcom CEO wired us \$500,000 dollars one day to thank us for the seating arrangement. The CEO is presently in jail along with many other Dotcom hustlers. Pension funds were left hold-

ing the bag when Enron, Worldcom and others all went down.

Number Eight – Iraq War, Part 2: Saddam Hussein was given 13 more years of dictatorship and oppression when our military could not adequately supply food and other quartermaster type supplies to its troops. The discriminatory process against Black suppliers hindered our readiness. Finally, the Military Industrial Complex made its move by propagandizing our citizens, manipulating our politicians and returning to war. We are still paying for this one too.

Number Nine – Afghanistan War: The reasons are understandable, but the prosecution of this conflict is taking way too long – almost to the point of failure. Let's finish it!

Number Ten – Passing of Michael Jackson: He was a culture molder and brought joy to billions of people around the world. We will never see another Michael! Question: Why did the FBI have a file on Michael and why did they help the prosecutors in his infamous trial? Perhaps it was too much money for one Black man.

Good bye decade and good riddance!

Harry Alford is the co-founder, President/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce®: [www.nationalbccc.org](http://www.nationalbccc.org). [halford@nationalbccc.org](mailto:halford@nationalbccc.org).

## Santa announces legislative "Naughty and Nice" list based on grades from AFP-Texas' 2009 Legislative Report Card 10 DFW-area legislators earn an "A"

(NDG Wire) Americans for Prosperity-Texas released its 2009 Legislative Report Card to taxpayers Dec. 21. And Santa Clause read the names of legislators who made the "Nice" list by earning an A for the 81st Texas Legislative Session and those

who made the "Naughty" list by earning a D or F.

"A number of legislators earned good grades this year. As result of their work, Texas is doing relatively well," said AFP State Director Peggy Venable. "Texas remains the beacon of fiscal sanity in this

country because of the leadership of these legislators. Our legislative leaders -Governor Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, and Speaker Joe Straus, along with all of those legislators who earned high marks - deserve recognition for steering

Texas in the right direction."

Rep. Myra Crownover (R-Dist. 64), Rep. Kelly Hancock (R-Dist. 91), Rep. Linda Harper-Brown (R-Dist. 105), Rep. Will Hartnett (R-Dist. 114), Rep. Jim Jackson (R-

**See SANTA, Page 14**

# Winter putting a chill on your exercise routine?

## Here are 7 ways to fight back

TEXAS HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES  
COMMISSION

Humans do not hibernate, but many of us find it a seductive idea when trees are bare, winter skies hang dark and low, and streets are a mire of grey, melting slush.

In this dreary weather, it can be draining to deal with life's basic activities — much less optional stuff like our daily fitness routines. That may be why people exercise about a third less in winter, even though physical activity is a surefire mood lifter for most. So, how to prevent our spirits and exercise levels from plunging into a steady downward spiral?

Here's some simple,

proven advice from fitness pros:

**1. Ease into the cold.** Many early morning exercisers dread a straight transition from a warm bed to cold, piercing winter air. So take time to warm up before you head outside. (This also focuses your mind and delivers oxygen and nutrition to your body.) Jog or walk around the house a few times. A warm shower also helps some people ease through the transition. Others swear by tumbling their workout clothes in a warm dryer before heading outside. Whatever works for you!

**2. Split your workout.** Reduce the weather's impact by dividing your exercise into indoor and outdoor

sessions. For example, run or bike for 20-30 minutes, then go inside and finish up with some yoga, Pilates or weight training.

**3. Beat the sundown.** If darkness makes you feel sleepy and unmotivated, try moving your workout to mid-day rather than before or after work. Even if you can't work out as long as usual, you'll find yourself skipping fewer days — and perhaps enjoying the change in routine. If early or late are your only options, go to a well-lighted gym or health club. You may also find it energizing to have other people around.

**4. Join or form a workout group.** There's nothing like peer pressure to

recharge your motivational battery. When you exercise with friends or family members, you can encourage each other (confirmation calls the night before a scheduled morning workout are helpful for many), use conversation as a distraction from the cold weather, invent new exercise routines and devise friendly competitions to keep things interesting.

**5. Have a post-exercise reward in mind.** This need not be anything fancy or expensive. Just make it a simple, relaxing pleasure (for example, a visit to your favorite coffee shop on the way to work) that you can look forward to while you exercise — and that you don't get if you bail on the

workout.

**6. Eat healthier.** This is good advice year-around, but especially during a season when energy and alertness are at a premium. Simply put, you feel better — and more up to exercising — when you cut down on fats and sweets and front-load your diet with fresh fruit, vegetables, whole-grain products and protein-rich foods.

**7. Count your steps.** Even when bad weather limits your outdoor activities or makes it harder to get to the gym, you still can fit more physical activity into a normal day at work. Get a pedometer and shoot for a goal of 6,000 to 10,000 steps a day. If you're coming up short, try walking the

stairs in your office or parking garage, getting up from your desk for occasional strolls or walking to a friend's desk to talk rather than sending an e-mail. Even if you aren't working up a sweat those extra steps can make a big difference in your fitness level.

Just so we're clear: No one's saying these seven steps will make it fun to run three miles with sleet pellets melting in your hair. But they can help you keep exercising when every instinct is telling you to burrow into the sofa with the TV remote in one hand and a drumstick in the other. In a season when a strong will is as crucial as a strong pair of legs, that's a real accomplishment.

## MEDICAID, continued from Page 1

of the MFCU's investigative work focuses on protecting Medicaid patients who reside in nursing homes. Together with local law enforcement officials, the MFCU has conducted criminal investigations into illegal conduct by nursing home employees who neglected or abused their patients. We have also cracked down on staff members who abused their positions by stealing from their elderly patients' bank accounts. These enforcement efforts both protect nursing home patients and ensure that taxpayers are not footing the bill for illegal conduct.

Our work to reduce improper Medicaid expenditures has a civil component as well. In 1997, the Texas Legislature passed a law that encourages whistleblowers to expose and therefore prevent unlawful billing practices by Medicaid vendors. Thanks to a legislatively mandated expansion in 1997, our Civil Medicaid Fraud (CMF) section has become an entire division with more than 50

employees.

The majority of CMF cases pursued in Texas state courts involve the improper reporting of drug prices by pharmaceutical companies. State and federal law requires that drug manufacturers report the prices at which they sell their products to various providers, including pharmacies, wholesalers and distributors. The Texas Medicaid program uses this pricing information to estimate the costs Medicaid providers pay to acquire the drug manufacturers' products. Medicaid providers bill the state run program for these costs so the program uses the sales data to ensure taxpayers get the best possible price. Medicaid providers bill the state run program for these costs, plus prescription dispensing fees, and Medicaid reimburses the providers. When a manufacturer reports inflated prices, the taxpayers are paying too much for Medicaid provided prescription drugs.

Nationally, most of the cases alleging Medicaid

fraud involve illegal marketing practices such as off label marketing and kickbacks. Off label marketing occurs when a drug manufacturer markets a drug for

purposes other than those approved by law, primarily those approved by the Food and Drug Administration. CMF participates in national investigations of this

conduct, and is also leading the nation in actively litigating against manufacturers who illegally market their products.

CMF is also pursuing

matters against manufacturers of unsafe products and pharmacy benefit managers that fail to comply with Texas Medicaid laws and regulations.

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# Go Green and Get Tropical: Recycle your Christmas tree, cell phones/PDAs

(NDG Wire) Enjoy a tropical vacation January 9, 2010 without leaving Dallas and do a good deed for Mother Nature while you're at it. Texas Discovery Gardens and Preservation Tree Services have teamed up for the third annual Christmas tree recycling event.

This year the Texas Discovery Gardens is hosting their annual drop-off the same day as their "Come to the Tropics" Mass Butterfly Release in the new Rosine Smith Sammons Butterfly House and Insectarium. Be a part of the tropical fun as they release 100 butterflies into the living museum. If you have a live Christmas tree, donate your tree to be chipped into mulch for Texas Discovery Gardens to use in its 7.5 acres of native and adapted plants. And if you have an old cell phone/PDA,

please bring it to be recycled too.

Chase those winter blues away by participating in an exciting, once in a lifetime event – a mass tropical butterfly release! At 10:30 a.m. on January 9, visitors will be able to release a shiny blue Morpho, glowing green Malachite, black and red Postman or any of a number of colorful species of tropical butterflies into the Rosine Smith Sammons Butterfly House and Insectarium. Stay for the day and enjoy an educational guided tour of the Butterfly House lead by "Captain Chrysalis" at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tropical music, entertainment and fun activities will be featured throughout the building and grounds until 5 p.m.

Guests are invited to wear their favorite tropical shirt — bright patterns some-

times attract butterflies to land on you. Bring the camera and look for butterflies flying through the conservatory and roosting among the leaves of our more than 60 species of tropical plants.

Tickets for the opportunity to release a butterfly cost \$15 (age 5 and up) and will go on sale at 10 am. If you just want to watch the release or come later in the day to join in the fun, normal butterfly house admission will apply. Activities go on all day.

The Garden is also partnering with Recycle to Eradicate Poverty and will accept used cell phones/PDAs all day. As part of Chiapas International, Recycle to Eradicate Poverty recycles cell phones/PDAs to create micro-finance loans to bring women and children out of poverty.

From 10 am to 4 pm on Jan. 9, drop off your live Christmas tree (and old cell phones/PDAs) at Texas Discovery Gardens - 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., through Gate 6 at Fair Park (follow signs to the back of

the gardens at Ranger Circle). All ornaments, tinsel, lights, nails and stands need to be removed prior to dropping off.

Preservation Tree Services will chip the trees for Texas Discovery Gardens to

use throughout 2010. It keeps trees out of landfills and provides an excellent mulching material for the Gardens. Mulch helps retain moisture, protects plants against the cold and absorbs necessary nutrients.

## JAM, continued from Page 1

NBA players and legends is just the beginning. Jam Session is non-stop basketball action!

Fans can shoot, slam, dribble and drive all day, compete against their friends in skills challenges, or get basketball tips from NBA players and legends. Young fans can hang out at Kids Zone - with hoops and interactive activities that are the perfect size for kids' slam dunks, three-pointers and jump shots.

For fans who want NBA entertainment, Jam Session features the NBA's favorite players, celebrities, mascots and dance teams as they hit center court in a variety of basketball competitions, including the NBA All-Star Celebrity Game and the NBA All-Star Practice. NBA All-Star Jam Session allows fans to gain access to the NBA All-Star.


The event will be held at the Dallas Convention Center:

Thursday, February 11, 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Friday, February 12, 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Saturday, February 13, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Tickets are on sale at Ticketmaster.com, American Airlines Box Office or by calling 800-4NBA-TIX. TICKET PRICES: Adults: \$20; Children (3-12): \$12; Senior/Military (with valid ID): \$12; Children (2 and under): FREE




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IT ALL BEGINS HERE.

# Collin County's first university center readies for January opening

(NDG Wire) Next month, Collin College will unveil its first brand new site in nearly 15 years as the Collin Higher Education Center officially opens for spring semester. However this time, the students will not be the usual freshmen and sophomores seen at the college's other six locations.

The new site is a university center, featuring junior- and senior-level college classes as well as master and doctoral programs from area universities. The universities include Dallas Baptist University (DBU), Texas A&M University-Commerce (A&M-Commerce), Texas Woman's Univ. (TWU), The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) and the University of North Texas (UNT).

According to the college's board chairman, the concept for the center evolved from the needs of the community. "A decade ago, local residents needing upper-division undergraduate courses or graduate school could commute to a university after work. Today, that is nearly impossible with North Texas highway congestion," Dr. J. Robert Collins said. "Now, a full spectrum of degree programs will be available in the heart of Collin County."

The opening is a special celebration for the college district as the first campus was established in McKinney nearly 25 years ago. The

new 125,000-square-foot facility is located on the northeast corner of Central Expressway and the Sam Rayburn Tollway/State Hwy. 121 on 5.5 acres of property donated by the McKinney Economic Development Corp.

"This is a watershed moment for the residents of North Texas, Collin College and our university partners," said Collin College president Cary Israel. "This is also sound educational policy for the State of Texas because we are not following the trend of several other community colleges that have created their own baccalaureate degrees. Instead, we believe collaborating with exceptional universities is a better means to achieve that goal."

The Collin Higher Education Center will serve as a multi-purpose facility housing administrative departments and the university programs. It will also provide space for meetings and training for the growing district as well as outside bookings.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the plan for the new degree programs in October, and college and university partners officially inked the agreement establishing the center in November.

The center is welcome news for Collin College students like Pamela Ringener,

who works at American Airlines and home schools her 14-year-old child, has neither the time to drive to a university nor the ability to move her family to earn a bachelor's degree. Now, she can pursue a bachelor's degree in business administration at the new university center.

"I thought it would be a smart next step," she said. "I loved the business administration class I took (at Collin College), and I've always wanted to go into management."

Research confirms that many local residents share Ringener's interest. In a recent study, 35 percent of Collin County residents were interested in bachelor's degrees and 65 percent were interested in master's degrees. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor, the number of job openings that require a bachelor's or master's degree will increase by 16.5 percent and 18.9 percent, respectively, by 2016.

Registration for spring classes is underway. Programs include the following:

## Bachelor's Degrees

Accounting and Information Management, *Bachelor of Science*, UT Dallas

Alternative Dispute Resolution, *Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences*, UNT

Business Administration, *Bachelor of Science*, UT Dallas

Child Development, *Bachelor of Science*, TWU

Communication, *Bachelor of Arts and Sciences*, DBU

Computer Science, *Bachelor of Science*, UT Dallas

Criminology, *Bachelor of Arts*, UT Dallas

Interdisciplinary Studies (Elementary Education), *Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science*, A&M-Commerce

Math (with Teacher Certification), *Bachelor of Science*, TWU

Non-profit / Volunteer / Community Resource Management, *Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences*, UNT

Nursing (RN to BSN), *Bachelor of Science*, TWU

Psychology, *Bachelor of Science*, A&M-Commerce

Spanish, *Bachelor of Arts*, A&M-Commerce

## Master's Degrees

Accounting and Infor-

mation Management, *Master of Science*, UT Dallas

Administration (Education), *Master of Education*, TWU

Business Administration, *Master of Business Administration*, UT Dallas

Counseling, *Master of Science/Education*, A&M-Commerce

Curriculum and Instruction, *Master of Education*, A&M-Commerce

Engineering Systems (Construction Management), *Master of Science*, UNT

Engineering Systems (Engineering Management), *Master of Science*, UNT

Higher Education, *Master of Education*, UNT

Management with Human Resource Concentration, *Master of Arts*, DBU

Professional Development (Leadership Studies), *Master of Arts*, DBU

Special Education, *Master of Education*, TWU

Teaching, *Master of Arts*,

DBU

## Doctoral Degrees

Educational Administration, *Ed.D.*, UNT

Higher Education, *Ph.D./Ed.D.*, UNT

Students attending the Collin Higher Education Center will follow the respective university policies and procedures including admission criteria, tuition and fee rates and financial aid.

For more information on the Collin Higher Education Center, visit [www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu) /checc or call 972.599.3100.

Collin College serves more than 46,000 credit and continuing education students annually and offers more than 100 degree and certificate programs. The only public college in the county, Collin College is a partner to business, government and industry, providing customized training and work force development.

## How to get in the news without committing murder

(NDG Wire) Join the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Journalists Jan 12, 6:30 p.m., at Harwood 609 Restaurant, 609 North Harwood in downtown Dallas.

Learn how to access the media, when and how to conduct a press conference, what to wear for photos, how to effectively utilize social media networks and... other media protocol.



Open to the public. RSVP to receive media guide-info@cheryl-smithonline.com

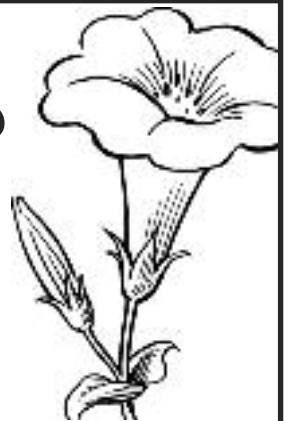
Meet & greet 6:30 p.m., followed by a short business meeting and then the Forum, which will include presentations from former NBC anchor Ramona Logan, Dallas Morning News columnists

Norma Adams Wade and James Ragland and Elite News Publisher Jordan Blair, and a number of other media professionals.

The deadline has been extended if you are an aspiring journalist, you can still apply for the DFW/ABJ Urban Journalism Workshop.

Download the application at [www.dfwabjonline.org](http://www.dfwabjonline.org) and mail it in immediately.

# Register today!



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# Dallas Black Dance Theatre Performing Ensemble, Bloom, to perform at 2010 Orange Bowl

(NDG Wire) The Dallas Black Dance Theatre's performing ensemble, Bloom, will be headed to the 2010 Orange Bowl, January 2, 2010, to perform as a part of the Orange Bowl dancers during the half-time show of the Iowa State vs. Georgia Tech national conference game.

Sponsored by FedEx, the Orange Bowl will be played in Land Shark Stadium, home of the Miami Dolphins, on January 5, 2010. The ensemble will have the opportunity to participate in pre-performance educational programs and workshops, in addition to

learning the choreography for the halftime performance.

Bloom is the performing ensemble of the Dallas Black Dance Academy, the official school of Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Established in 1997 by Founder/Artistic Director Ann Williams, this company represents the top students of the Dallas Black Dance Academy. Students ages 11 to 15, who have intensively trained at the Academy and have excelled in the Dallas Black Dance Theatre Summer programs are invited to audition for Bloom. The group has trav-

eled nationally and internationally, most recently participating in a cultural exchange performance in Uganda, Africa, at the 2008 Kwetu Festival. Under the direction of Ms. Nycole Ray, a veteran dancer of Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Bloom members have each excelled in their dance talents through participating in Academy classes throughout the year.

Bloom will be taking 10 young ladies to perform at the Orange Bowl. Members who will be performing include: Alissa Anderson (age 12), Brianna Bryant (age 14), Destiny

Goodman, (age 13), Alysia Johnson (age 13), Daijhia Kirk (age 15), Key'Aira Lockett (age 15) – a Texas Commission on the Arts Young Masters Candidate; Ari Surles (age 13), Sydney Todd (age 15), Amari Wells (age 15), and Kassidy Blaire Green (age 15). The members come from across the Dallas Metroplex and attend school at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Garland High School, W.E. Greiner Middle School, Bishop Dunne Catholic School, Frankford Middle School, West Mesquite High School,

Desoto High School and Downing Middle School.

"We are so excited to have been invited to participate in the 2010 Orange Bowl. Bloom is a group of some of our most talented young dance students at the Academy. They will do

Dallas Black Dance Theatre and Dallas proud," said Williams. Parents and volunteers of the Academy worked to raise all of the funds required for the groups travel and accommodations to Miami.

## DFW International Airport receives Recovery Act Grant

(NDG Wire) Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D) welcomed the news from Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood that Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) has been selected to receive a \$2.3 million grant in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) funds.

"As the only Member of Congress from North Texas to vote for the Recovery Act, I am pleased to see

these funds come to DFW," said Johnson. "The Federal Aviation Administration's most recent data shows that DFW is the fourth-busiest airport in the U.S., and this grant money will be put toward improvements that are critical to maintaining and enhancing capacity and safety at DFW."

The \$2.3 million grant will be used to rehabilitate a runway critical to the airport's capacity. With this grant, all of the Federal Avi-

ation Administration's Recovery Act dollars have been committed, and many Recovery Act projects will remain under construction well into 2010.

"Thanks to Congresswoman Johnson's courageous vote, Recovery Act dollars are putting people back to work in good-paying jobs making needed improvements at airports across the country," said Secretary LaHood. "Without this money, many of

these airport authorities would not have had the resources to hire workers and get these projects started."

Construction on the DFW project is expected to begin in early January and will include the rehabilitation of various concrete slabs and joint repairs on the 13,400-foot runway. This work will help enhance safety by eliminating the opportunity for debris to develop along the runway surface.

## Kick-off the season with a new green routine

(Family Features) A change in seasons brings a chance for families to make changes in their routines. A new season is a great time to "green your routine" and establish simple, everyday eco-friendly habits with your family.

Green living expert and mother of three, Beth Aldrich, encourages families to try little things to make a difference every day and to look for products and adopt practices that

work for them and the environment.

- Keep your family's eyes healthy while helping the environment by purchasing new "green" Airwear eyeglass lenses. Now manufactured using 100 percent recycled water and packaged in 100 percent recyclable cardboard, the lenses are greener than before.

- Switch the light bulbs in your house to energy-efficient, inexpensive, com-

pact fluorescent bulbs. If every household in America exchanged five light bulbs, the energy savings would be equivalent to taking 8 million cars off the road.

- Clean out the clutter by recycling old school papers and giving away outgrown clothes. Before going shopping for anything new take inventory and identify what can be reused so you only replace what you really need.

In addition, Aldrich in-

vites other environmentally-conscious people to submit the creative ways they are making their world a greener, more sustainable place through the "Lighter.Safer.Greener." contest. The grand prize is the latest in Airwear eyewear for their entire family. To enter the contest, and for more of Aldrich's simple, attainable green-living tips, visit [www.LighterSaferGreener.com](http://www.LighterSaferGreener.com).

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Get real-time bus schedule information on your mobile device. Now you'll know when you can spend a few extra minutes in the office—and when it's time to run to the curb. Got a favorite route? Set it as a bookmark so you can check it later, fast and easy. The bus now stops at [m.DART.org](http://m.DART.org).



**Ongoing**

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

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

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

**Group Business Seminars** at 4907 Spring Avenue, Dallas, (214) 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.; 3rd Friday of the month 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for those interested in starting your own business, it is a Brown Bag Lunch with Free Parking

**No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch** 1st Thursday at 1 p.m. in Plano Must RSVP at [www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com](http://www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com) or 972-898-5882.

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

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

**Through December 31**

**Dinosaurs in December** at Museum of Nature & Science, Dallas 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Admission \$6.00-\$9.50; Info: 214-428-5555, [www.natureandscience.org](http://www.natureandscience.org)

**December 31**

**New Years Eve with Christopher Titus**, Addison 8:00 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

Admission \$40-\$65; Info: 972-404-8501, [www.improvclubs.com](http://www.improvclubs.com)

**Kwanza Celebration** at South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Avenue Dallas TX beginning at 7:30 pm. Free.

**Through Jan. 3**

**Deck the Halls** at Dallas' Old Red Museum at 100 S. Houston St., 214-745-1100 or [oldred.org](http://oldred.org).

**ICE! and Lone Star Christmas in Grapevine** The thrilling, chilling, one-of-a-kind holiday attraction ICE! returns to Gaylord Texan Resort for the 2009 Christmas season featuring the Dr. Seuss classic, How The Grinch Stole Christmas! This year, ICE! tells the story of The Grinch by recreating cherished scenes from the book in intricately carved, larger-than-life, interactive ice sculptures set in a walk-through world of ice. Some of the sculptures weigh in at more than two tons each. ICE! Returning to the Dallas/Ft. Worth area for its sixth season, and includes a 50-foot rotating Christmas tree, magical train sets, a life-sized gingerbread house, and 1.5 million twinkling lights. For more information visit [www.gaylordtexan.com](http://www.gaylordtexan.com).

**January 1**

**The Comerica Bank New Year's Parade** on January 1, 2010 at 2:30 p.m., will help celebrate Downtown Dallas' revitalization while welcoming thousands for the annual AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic.

The family-friendly event begins in Downtown Dallas (Ross Ave. from Harwood to Lamar, to Houston, ending at All-Star Waynext to the American Airlines Center). [www.comericabankparade.com](http://www.comericabankparade.com)

**January 2,**

**74th AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic** will be played at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington. Kickoff is set for 2:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale at [www.attcottonbowl.com](http://www.attcottonbowl.com) or by calling Amy or Kelly at 888-792-BOWL or 214-638-BOWL.

**January 4**

**Business Empowerment Sessions** Gain the skills and insights you need to start or grow your business! Prominent guest speakers cover various entrepreneurial topics that range from marketing tactics and sales strategy to legal concerns and book-keeping. January 4, 7pm at Christian Chapel Imani Center - 14119 Montfort Drive, Dallas 75240. Call 214-942-6698 for information.

**January 9**

**Paramount's Laser Spectacular** Featuring music of Michael Jackson at the Majestic Theater, Dallas, at 6:30 p.m. Admission \$29.50-37.50 Info: 214-880-0137

**Neil Sperry's Home Landscape School** at the Plano Centre at 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. Dr. Steve George from Texas A&M and Neil Sperry team teach this all day program that instills principles of good design, use areas of the landscape, bed design, plant selection and placement, effective use of color. Admission \$169 for one; \$219 for two from the same household. Info: 972-562-5050 or visit [www.neilsperry.com](http://www.neilsperry.com)

**January 10**

Plano Family Symphony Sundays Series presents **Per-cussion Junction** at 3 p.m. at

The Courtyard Theatre, 1501 Avenue H, Plano. TICKETS: Call 972-473-7262, prices range from \$7 - \$11.

**January 12**

**Staffing Issues in Today's Marketplace** featuring Clifford Clegg, StaffOne at the Richardson Chamber of Commerce. Bring your lunch, beverages provided. Pre-registration required. Limited Seating. Cost: \$5 members and \$10 non members.

**January 15 - February 7 Southwestern Exposition and Stock Show & Rodeo** One million people from around the world will come to the Will Rogers Memorial Center for the nation's oldest livestock show and daily performances of the world's original indoor rodeo. The carnival midway thrills the young and not so young while fashions, home furnishings as well as farm and ranch equipment will be offered by more than 200 exhibitors. Food for every taste - including a new destination restaurant called Diego's Cantina - will be found over the entire Will Rogers Complex. The Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo - this thing is legendary!!! For times and ticket information, please visit [www.fwssr.com](http://www.fwssr.com)

**January 15**

**2010 MLK Candle-Lighting Ceremony** at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community at 7 p.m. The ceremony will be hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. -Alpha Sigma Lambda Chapter. The 2010 Keynote Speaker is Rev. Dr. Jerome McNeil of Christian Chapel Temple of Faith. Admission is free. See [www.mlkcelebrationdallas.org](http://www.mlkcelebrationdallas.org)

**January 16**

**Learn how to be a successful business owner** when The PLAN Fund provides the key resources and valuable entrepreneur training

which is vital as you start and grow your small business. The event is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; cost is \$45 per person. Call 214-942-6698 or visit [www.planfund.org](http://www.planfund.org).

**January 17**

**27th Annual Black Music /Civil Rights Movement Concert**, at Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$30, \$20 \$15 Info: 214-743-2400

**January 18**

**Cowboys of Color Rodeo** from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. at the Will Rogers Coliseum Fort Worth, Admission \$16.00; Info: 817-877-2420

**January 23**

**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. Call the Plano Symphony Orchestra at 972-473-7262 or visit [www.PlanoSymphony.org](http://www.PlanoSymphony.org).

**January 31**

Plano Family Symphony Sundays Series presents **Silly Strings** at 3 p.m. at The Courtyard Theatre, 1501 Avenue H, Plano. TICKETS: Call 972-473-7262, prices range from \$7 - \$11.

**February 11-13**

**NBA All-Star Jam** family-fun event is one of the highlights of the NBA All-Star activities set for Feb. 11-13 at the Dallas Convention Center. Tickets are on sale at Ticketmaster.com, American Airlines Box Office or by calling 800-4NBA-TIX. TICKET PRICES: Adults: \$20; Children (3-12): \$12; Senior/Military (with valid ID): \$12; Children (2 and under): FREE

**February 18**

Nokia Theater Presents **Mariah Carey** in Grand Prairie, the show begins at

7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale for \$59.75-\$150.73; Info 214-373-8000

**February 19-20**

**6th Annual Weekend Festival of Black Dance**, at Naomi Bruton Main Stage, in Dallas 8 p.m. Tickets \$10.00 Info: 214-743-2400

**February 21**

Plano Family Symphony Sundays Series presents **Brass-A-Palooza** at 3 p.m. at The Courtyard Theatre, 1501 Avenue H, Plano. TICKETS: Call 972-473-7262, prices range from \$7 - \$11.

**February 26,**

**UNCF 2010 Annual Meeting Luncheon** at the Hilton Anatole Hotel

**March. 5**

**Savor Dallas Arts District Wine Stroll** will feature wine and food tasting in the beautiful Dallas Museum of Art - Seventeen Seventeen Restaurant; Meyerson Symphony Center; Nasher Sculpture Center; Winspear Opera House; and Wyly Theatre (from 5-7pm); plus wine, food, music, and art in the exciting new Dallas Center for the Performing Arts Park, featuring the restaurants of One Arts Plaza: Dali Wine Bar, Fedora Restaurant and Lounge, Jorge's, Screen Door, and Tei-An (5-8pm). Details at [www.savordallas.com](http://www.savordallas.com)

**March 7**

Plano Family Symphony Sundays Series presents **Gone with the Winds** at 3 p.m. at The Courtyard Theatre, 1501 Avenue H, Plano. TICKETS: Call 972-473-7262, prices range from \$7 - \$11.

**March 18**

House of Blues is hosting **Black Rebel Motorcycle Club** at 7 p.m. at 2200 North Lamar St. White Swan Bldg Dallas; Info 214-978 -2583

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# Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community

# The ABCs of Retirement Planning



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

**A**re you financially ready for retirement? If you're feeling concerned about your standard of living after retirement, you're not alone.

Only 13 percent of workers say they are confident about having enough money for a comfortable retirement, according to the 2009 Retirement Confidence Survey conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI).

Yet only 44 percent have taken the time and effort to complete a retirement needs calculation, the basic planning step for determining how much money they are likely to need and how much they need to save to meet that goal.

Why is that? "It can be an overwhelming process, and people often don't know how to start," says Jim Johnson, vice president of Advanced Markets for Allianz Life. "And especially in the current economy, many people may feel they just can't afford to set aside any more income."

But, no matter what your age, it's important to take the time to look beyond today's uncertainty in order to build a sound financial future for yourself and your family.

Whether you make plans on your own or choose to work with a financial planner, it's time to start by following these ABCs.

## The Basics

### A: Ask yourself these questions.

Where do I want to be, financially? Goals can include secure retirement income, a home or a financial legacy for your family. Think about what kind of retirement lifestyle you want; write down your specific goals.

Do I know how much I'll need in order to achieve those goals? According to the EBRI:

- 42 percent of all workers think they need to accumulate at least \$500,000 by the time they retire to live comfortably in retirement.

- 19 percent feel they need between \$250,000 and \$499,999, while 28 percent think they need to save less than \$250,000 for a comfortable retirement.

- Workers who have performed a retirement needs calculation are twice as likely than those who have not to expect they will need to accumulate at least \$1 million before retirement.

### B: Be mindful of your risk tolerance.

Every investment strategy has a level of risk. Generally speaking, the higher the risk of losing money, the higher the expected return. Less risk translates into a smaller return. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) recommends that you look at these factors to help you determine your risk tolerance:

*Financial goals* — how much you want to accumulate.

*Current financial position* — can you afford to invest in riskier options right now? Take less risk if you cannot afford to lose your investment or have its value fall.

*Time horizon* — how long can you leave your money invested? If you will need your money in one year, consider taking less risk than if you won't need it for 20 years.

### C: Choose an investment strategy.

Once you understand your goals and level of risk tolerance, choose a strategy to achieve those targets. There are three basic strategies involved in investing: protecting your money, earning income and growing more money. The best strategy is a balanced combina-

tion of the three.

*Protection.* If you've saved enough for a house or car and you want to be sure the money will be there when you need it, a savings account or money market securities will keep that money safe.

*Income.* If you want a predictable stream of income, investing in bonds or bond mutual funds provide income from the interest payments.

*Growth.* Investing in companies through stock mutual funds can help grow your money, but this depends on the stock performance, and is usually considered a long-term option.

"Finding the right balance is key to reaching your financial goals," said Johnson. "A financial professional can help you find a balance that allows you to accumulate enough assets to retire the way you want and have enough income to maintain a comfortable lifestyle."

Johnson says that one simple way to help maximize retirement funding is to take advantage of retirement contributions that get fully matched by your company.

Another option is an annuity. "An annuity is a con-

tract between you and an insurance company," said Johnson. "In exchange for your premium payment, the insurance company guarantees you income, starting immediately or at some time in the future." This potential income can be a supplement to Social Security.

There are generally two types of annuities, fixed and variable. With a fixed annuity, the insurance company guarantees a minimum rate of interest during the time your annuity is accumulating. You are also guaranteed the option for periodic payments over either a definite period of time (such as 20 years) or indefinite, such as your lifetime.

Both fixed and variable annuities have two phases, one in which they help build your assets and another in which they help turn those assets into a stream of income. Clients assume the

risk with a variable annuity, whereas a fixed annuity is guaranteed.

"With variable annuities, you have the chance to buy additional protection benefits that offer more guarantees," said Johnson. "In very basic terms, optional riders for income, accumulation and death benefits, guarantee a certain amount of payment for an additional fee, regardless of the current value of your initial investment."

**The Bottom Line.** You owe it to yourself and to your family to plan for your future. "Financial planning is a long-term commitment — a marathon that will evolve over time. So it's never too early to start and it's not as hard as you might think," said Johnson. A professional financial planner can help you work through the ABCs and get you on your way to a more secure retirement.



## Basic Tools You Can Use

There are a number of online tools to help you decide how much you'll need to save for various needs.

- The Ballpark Estimate, a single-page worksheet created by the American Savings Education Council, can help you calculate what you'll need to save each year for retirement. You can find it at <http://www.choosetosave.org>.

- The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority has a college savings calculator, at <http://apps.finra.org>.

- The Social Security Administration has a benefits calculator to estimate your potential benefit amounts. [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

- The Securities and Exchange Commission has a roadmap tool that will help you work through the basics of investing for the future. [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

- This aggregator site has multiple respected sources, including CNN Money, TIME and Allianz. It offers a variety of calculators, tools and links to other sites for basic information on personal finance: <http://www.financefromatoz.com/us/>

# Disney Live! Rockin' Road Show in Dallas on January 3

(NDG Wire) Mickey Mouse and his pals set the stage for fun as they put on a show January 3 only, in *Disney Live! Rockin' Road Show!* Produced by Feld Entertainment, this stage spectacular features classic

Disney characters in a brand new adventure with an original storyline that will delight the entire family.

Audiences will join their favorite Disney friends as they hop on Mickey's

bus to search for special acts to add to their stage show. Kids will sing along to cool songs, jump out of their seats to dance to the beat and laugh out loud with Mickey, Minnie, Goofy, Donald, Buzz

Lightyear, Cinderella, Tigger and more! Everyone's a part of this show-stopping, zany adventure—right in your hometown!

The shows are scheduled for 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. at the The-

ater at American Airlines Center. Tickets available at [www.disneylive.com](http://www.disneylive.com) or by calling 800-745-3000. Tickets may also be purchased at Ticketmaster Ticket Centers, including Macy's and Fiesta stores, or by purchas-

ing them at the arena's box office. All seats are reserved. Tickets are \$60 (Front Row), \$45 (VIP Floor), \$35 and \$25.

For more information, visit [www.disneylive.com](http://www.disneylive.com).

## The Idolatry of Black America

*New book examines African-Americans' relationship to leaders, government*

(NDG Wire) In his provocative new book, *The Idolatry of Black America* Eddrick High seeks to enlighten readers about what idolatry is, how it affects black America today, and why African-Americans must repent. High examines what he calls "the striking similarities between the children of Israel who were led out of captivity in Egypt and the Black community that gained freedom during the Civil Rights Movement under the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," detailing the ways in which black Americans continue to engage in idolatry of their government and leaders.

High's unprecedented book primarily focuses on examining the statements and

positions of various civil rights leaders throughout history and combining those stances with the messages of the Bible. High points to the fact that, although many of these leaders call themselves "Reverend" and claim to be spreading a biblical message, oftentimes their political views are in direct opposition to the Bible's word.

*The Idolatry of Black America* seeks to unequivocally prove that the root of the contradictions between the messages of civil rights pioneers and those of the Bible is the result of people worshipping the government as God. "Readers will be shown through various examples that many of today's civil rights leaders blame almost every challenge facing

the Black community on the government while at the same time almost totally depending on the acts of government to solve every problem," High writes.

Employing research and unflinching criticism, *The Idolatry of Black America* is sure to open new dialogue about the delicate balance between the advancement of civil rights and strict adherence to biblical messages. Discover more in the pages of this provocative, unique new book.

Eddrick High is the pastor of the New Creation Christian Church and has owned a martial arts studio for the past eight years. Born and raised in Atlanta, he grew up in an environment of welfare, food stamps and

government housing, never allowing his surroundings to limit the possibilities of his future. Having been featured in local, national and interna-

tional television interviews, High is dedicated to sharing his message of "life without limitations" with readers of all walks of life. *The Idolatry*

of *Black America* is his first published book, and he plans to publish more in the future.

For information, visit [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com).

## Princess Tiana becomes Disney's First African American Princess

BY TERRELL MENDENHALL  
NDG ENTERTAINMENT  
CONTRIBUTOR

Disney's latest princess is a beautiful woman with a very unique voice, who in the end of course finds her prince.

But there is something unique about this sparkling animated film. princess Tiana is Disney's first African American princess.

Ten-year-old Elizabeth Dampier of Madison Mississippi plays the role of Princess Tiana in the fairy tale movie *Princess and the Frog* "finally there is something that young black girls, can embrace and that is huge" said Floydian White a recent moviegoer.

Tiana's story shows similarities to other Disney princesses such as Snow White, Disney's first princess featured on the big screen in 1937, and 72 years later Disney makes history again.

*Princess and the Frog* draws inspiration from the 18th century but Disney transferred the story to early 1920s in New Orleans, Louisiana, changed her name, her race and almost everything else.

Tiana is a waitress and a talented chef who dreams like her father of someday opening her own restaurant. She eventually kisses a frog and turns into one. She journeys into the dark

bayou in search of a cure from a Voodoo queen. She is guarded by a goofy firefly and a trumpet playing alligator, and when it's all over the frog turns into a handsome prince called Prince Naveen.

*The Princess and the Frog* earned a big giant leap from family audiences as the animated film was No. 1 at the box office with \$25 million in its first weekend of nationwide release. The Disney musical and hand drawn animated tale currently dominates the cartoon world and will hopefully lead to future quality animated films with a diverse cast.

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## All My Sons moving relaunches its charity initiative site

(NDG Wire) The Dallas Moving Company, All My Sons Moving and Storage recently changed the look and feel of its Charity Initiative site to include up-to-date information on the programs it supports. "We are constantly looking for ways to help out in our community," said Orlando Gomez, an All My Sons Moving representative.

The site gives its viewers insight into recent charity projects from its over 38 offices and in some instances even shows the benevolence in action through pictures and video. "We love throwing our support behind community projects and campaigns. Often we provide pro bono services to those less fortunate as well," said Gomez.

## ALDI to hold cashier hiring event for Dallas area stores Jan. 5

*Grocer bringing more than 400 jobs to Texas in first full year*

(NDG Wire) Known for offering wages and benefits significantly higher than the industry standard, ALDI will host a hiring event for cashiers on Jan. 5. The select assortment discount grocer will accept applications for cashiers to work in ALDI stores located throughout the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex that will begin opening in the spring of 2010.

The cashier position pays \$10 per hour and includes full benefits (medical, dental, vision) plus 401k. The hiring event is scheduled for 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. It will be hosted at two locations:

Crowne Plaza - Arlington, 700 Avenue H East, Arlington, TX 76011  
Crowne Plaza - Park Central Dallas, 7800 Alpha Road, Dallas, TX 75240

## Christmas Tree Roundup

(NDG Wire) Residents will have an opportunity to properly dispose of their fresh-cut Christmas trees for recycling during Irving's annual Christmas Tree Roundup. Bare Christmas trees will be collected as part of the city's weekly brush/bulky waste pickup Dec. 28-Jan. 8.

For more information, call 972-721-2232. Residents also may take Christmas trees to any of the following drop-off locations Dec. 26-Jan. 10:

CottonwoodPark, 4051

N. Story Road

SouthwestPark, 2800 Shady Grove Road

Drop-Off Recycling Center, 8555 Home Depot Drive (The Home Depot parking lot)

Hunter Ferrell Landfill, 220 W. Hunter Ferrell Road (drop off daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1)

All Christmas trees collected will be mulched and made available for a nominal fee at the city landfill. Call (972) 264-3772.

## Five tips for the "wise" leader

*Expert reveals how wisdom can bolster leadership skills*

BY TONY PANACCIO  
NEWS & EXPERTS  
SYNDICATE

According to the 2009 Frost & Sullivan CEO survey released recently, the top three leadership objectives that CEOs value in the coming year are vision, strategy and innovation. Executive coach Per Winblad thinks that one of the guiding principles of our history – wisdom – will be the driving force for the development towards our future.

"Wisdom is the engine," said Winblad, author of *The Wisdom of Leadership: Timeless Principles for Greater Purpose, Prosperity and Peace of Mind*, from Lighthouse Hill Press ([www.perwinblad.com](http://www.perwinblad.com)). "Without wisdom, every other part of the leadership equation risks to go awry. Many leaders think that wisdom is an esoteric, subjective quality that either you have or you don't, but wisdom CAN be learned, if you know the path. We have all the potential to become wiser, but it will take time, reflection, honesty and the willingness to constantly learn and grow."

Winblad offered CEOs five tips to get them on the path in 2010:

**Make a choice** – Becoming a wise and inspiring leader starts with a decision to make a difference and to lead a life that really matters. This choice gives us the courage to dare to strive for something higher and better, to live for a cause, a purpose, a vision and to be determined to carry it through.

**Make your core values clear and align your life with them** – One of Sweden's great philosophers, Alf Ahlberg said, "Our world is full of knowledge but lacks wisdom." Wisdom is not the same as knowledge, experience or

intelligence. Rather, wisdom is how we use those qualities in an ethical and morally sound way. It's a deep insight of what is true, right and lasting, something that every human being has to value during a lifetime. Wisdom enables us to take our knowledge, experience and intelligence, and use it to make sound choices and good decisions.

**Create a balance** – The next key is to create a balance in life between work, family, friends and personal interests - regularly sharpening the blade of the ax. Chasing worldly fame and fortune is in demand in the world we live in. Nevertheless, they are, as King Solomon, considered by many to be the wisest leader ever, could have expressed it, good servants

but poor masters. When we pursue worldly success as objectives for our lives and leadership, we will never get enough. Solomon expresses it like this: "He who loves money shall never have enough. The foolishness of thinking that wealth brings happiness! The more you have, the more you spend."

**Listen and learn** – If you want to be a wiser leader, develop your willingness to listen and learn. Wise leaders learn from what others say to them. They are keen to find out what other people have to say. They ask many questions. There are two very good reasons for listening to other people. We are learning ourselves this way, and people open up to us if we listen to them. When we

listen, we are showing respect for our co-workers and fellow man.

**Take time for solitude** – Regularly take time to be alone with yourself for receptive silence and reflection. Set aside time for personal reflection and some deeper thinking. Look back on how you have been living and leading. Look forward to what kind of leader you want to become. This will help you to see the bigger and longer perspective of your life and leadership.

"Wisdom comprises the foundation for your leadership," Winblad added. "It helps to crystallize the other qualities of vision, strategic thinking and innovation, so that you can do more than visualize success – you can achieve, sustain and enjoy success."

## LEGAL NOTICE

**This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on February 1, 2010. You have until July 31, 2010, to redeem any tickets for this game:**

Game #1125 **Weekly Bonus** (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.41

**These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on March 3, 2010. You have until August 30, 2010, to redeem any tickets for these games:**

Game #1024 **Super Set for Life** (\$20) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.08

Game #1156 **9's in A Line** (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.80

Game #1158 **Pure Gold** (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.87

Game #1162 **Cash Frenzy** (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.81

Game #1171 **Fiesta** (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.72

Game #1194 **Cadillac® Escalade™ Cash** (\$5) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.44

Game #1203 **Lucky 13** (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.62

The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$599. Prizes of \$600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$1,000,000 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at 1-800-377-LOTTO or visit the Lottery Web site at [www.texaslottery.com](http://www.texaslottery.com) for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, prizes, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education. ©2009 Texas Lottery Commission. All Rights Reserved.



## HIGHLIGHTS, continued from Page 1

dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer.

It's the answer spoken by young and old, rich and poor, Democrat and Republican, black, white, Latino, Asian, Native American, gay, straight, disabled and not disabled - Americans who sent a message to the world that we have never been a collection of Red States and Blue States: we are, and always will be, the United States of America.

It's been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this day, in this election, at this defining moment, change has come to America."

Even then, President-elect Obama recognized that the way forward would not be smooth and the promised change would not come instantly. He cautioned, "There will be set-

backs and false starts. There are many who won't agree with every decision or policy I make as President, and we know that government can't solve every problem. But I will always be honest with you about the challenges we face. I will listen to you, especially when we disagree. And above all, I will ask you join in the work of remaking this nation the only way it's been done in America for two-hundred and twenty-one years - block by block, brick by brick, calloused hand by calloused hand."

President Obama has in fact been stymied at every juncture on any change initiative that he embraced. Among the pressing issues he has had to face are the ideological divide within his own Democratic Party, the vitriolic demonizing of the Republican opposition, the many urgent and untenable calamities associated

with the economic meltdown, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, climate change, and healthcare reform.

While his path seems fraught with unsolvable problems it is remarkable how much he has achieved since taking office less than year ago.

First, his governance team is as diverse as possible including former rivals and political opposites.

Healthcare reform has been approved by both the House and the Senate and it is increasingly likely that early in 2010 the President will be able to deliver on his promise to bring tens of millions of uninsured Americans under some form of insurance umbrella.

The significance of this is that since 1912 seven presidents including Theodore Roosevelt have tried to pass comprehensive health insurance reform and

failed.

No administration for almost 100 years has been able to convince both houses of congress to pass universal health care.

Guantánamo has not been closed, but it is in the process of closing. Guantánamo is part of a chain of politically embarrassing detention camps that includes Abu Ghraib in Iraq, the military prison at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan and other secret locations which are part of a tightly linked global detention system with no accountability in law. President Barack Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum dated December 15, 2009 formally closing the detention center and ordering the transfer of prisoners to the Thomson Correctional Center in Illinois.

The President has scrapped the Star Wars missile defense program in Eu-

rope that was expensive, ineffective and needlessly provocative to European allies.

While unemployment still hovers in the 10 plus percent range hundreds of billions of dollars in stimulus money have been infused into the economy to prevent a total collapse. Controversy remains over the measures taken to support the auto, housing and financial industries but most economists believe that the consequences of inaction would likely have proven catastrophic without the government intervention.

We saw our nation's standing on the world stage restored and validated when President Obama received the Nobel Peace Prize.

During the campaign for the presidency Barack Obama was the candidate offering hope and change not only to America but to

the world. Over the past year he has been tested and challenged. He has not faltered but has responded with tempered coolness and clarity of judgment and purpose on both domestic and global issues.

Overall, Obama has been a serious, mature, deeply intelligent presence on the national and international scenes. After eight long years of the dangerous form of insanity emanating from the White House it's comforting to know that we have a president who is an adept politician willing to use intelligence and persuasion to calm our fears and inspire confidence that the broken bonds of trust between government and the people can be repaired.

Commit a New Year's gift of prayer on behalf of our President.

*Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: [www.truthclinic.com](http://www.truthclinic.com)*

## TIPS, continued from Page 1

**Friends.** The average cost of a manicure and pedicure may start at \$40 - \$50 for a single setting. A facial and make-up application can cost almost \$100. As a savvy saver, you can call your friends over and have your own beauty party. You and your friends can enjoy catching up while you pamper each other with a mani/pedi, make-up applications, facials and other beauty treats. If you and your friends are not pampering inclined you can contact your local Mary Kay or Avon representative and receive a complimentary facial and discounted beauty products.

**3. Mix and Match.** Ever looked into your closet and thought, 'I have nothing to wear.' Well the truth be told you may have more options for new looks than you think. The key is to switch your pieces around to make new looks. Take that top that you always wear with those jeans and put it with some shorts, a skirt or a dif-

ferent pair of jeans. Try using accessories to highlight different colors in clothing. Also consider borrowing your best buddy's clothes if you have a hot night out. Either way you can create different looks for yourself without buying anything new.

**4. Workout Out and About.** Being fit is one of the most important reasons to stay looking your best. Unfortunately, many people give up their memberships in order to pay more important bills. You do not have to give up extra cash to stay fit. Try going to a park or high school and use the path or track to do cardio exercise. Take the stairs in buildings you enter including the mall. Buy small weights, a mat and fitness DVD at your local retail stores such as Target™ or Wal-Mart™. Get with a work-out buddy and make a plan of action to stay fit for less.

**5. New Hair Approach.** Going to a good salon can

range from \$50 and up depending on the services you are getting. To save money visit a beauty school to have simple styles done and for a fraction of the cost of a real salon. If you are weary of in training stylists, consider going to your local beauty store purchase over-the-counter relaxers for you to apply. Also wash and style your own hair using style magazines. Call your friend or relative who is great with hair but not licensed and catch up while she does your hair. You may even want to consider wearing a stylish wig until your finances are back on track, allowing you to change your look as many times as you want all for \$20-\$30 per wig.

Just because the economy is going through a recession does not mean you have to participate. Try new and inexpensive products and services which you might not have dared to try before. You can still remain looking like a true diva and all on a budget.

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# Texas unemployment rate down in November to 8.0 percent

(NDG Wire) The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 8.0 percent in November, down from 8.3 percent a month ago, and continued to trend well below the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November at 10.0 percent. The Texas Civilian Labor Force reached its highest level ever at 12.1 million workers in November.

Total nonagricultural employment in Texas increased by 17,300 positions in November for a total of almost 70,000 jobs over the past two months, while the nation as a whole lost 122,000 jobs.

"Texas employers added a significant number of jobs in most industries during October and November," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom

Pauken. "Job growth coupled with a lower unemployment rate indicate movement in a positive direction for Texas."

During November, Mining and Logging employment increased by 5,100 jobs, Financial Activities employment rose by 4,700 jobs, and Professional and Business Services added 3,300 positions. Leisure and Hospitality employment increased by 4,800 positions in November.

"Job growth in the last two months has been encouraging, however we know many Texans still are out of work," said TWC Commis-

sioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "TWC and staff at the

28 workforce boards remain committed to serving Texas claimants with job-search assistance and training available to all job seekers."

Education and Health Services employment grew by 4,600 jobs in November, marking 14 consecutive monthly employment gains in that industry. Since November 2008, employment in Education and Health Services increased by 60,000 jobs, a 4.6 percent gain.

"Seven of 11 industries

recorded job growth in November, most notably the consecutive months of job growth in Education and Health Services," said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar.

"Texans searching for work can continue to find assistance at workforce centers across the state."

The Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest un-

employment rate in the state at 5.3 percent (not seasonally adjusted), followed by the Lubbock MSA with 5.4 percent, and the Midland MSA with 5.6 percent.

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## Free job search workshop by Career Transition Ministries

(NDG Wire) On Saturday January 16 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Career Transition Ministries is hosting a free job search workshop. Free lunch and materials will be provided also. The workshop will be hosted at the Heights Baptist Church located at 201 W. Renner Rd. at US-75 in Richardson.

The all-day workshop will teach proven job search skills including finding your job focus, resume critique and development, effective networking skills, 30-second elevator presentation, interviewing techniques, 2-minute verbal resume, and more.

Pre-registration is recommended due to limited seating.

To register, send an email with name, phone and email address to: [jobseekers@theheights.org](mailto:jobseekers@theheights.org), or call Liz at 972.231.6047 x218. More info at [www.theheights.org](http://www.theheights.org).

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## SANTA, continued from Page 3

Dist. 115), Rep. Phil King (R-Dist. 61), Rep. Jodie Laubenberg (R-Dist. 89), Rep. Jerry Madden (R-Dist. 67), Rep. Tan Parker (R-Dist. 63), and Rep. Ken Paxton (R-Dist. 70) were among only 48 legislators who earned an A on AFP's report card and earned a spot on Santa's "Nice" list.

"Taxpayers have one thing on their Christmas list - less government and more liberty - and Santa made his list accordingly," said Venable.

Grades for AFP's Report Card were determined on a numerical basis based by the legislators' votes on key issues that relate to AFP's mission statement and AFP-Texas' "Defending the American Dream Agenda" (see it at [www.afptx.org](http://www.afptx.org)). AFP tallied votes on issues ranging from fiscal responsibility and limiting government growth, to appraisal reform.

Santa announced today that four State Senators and 44 State Representatives earned a coveted spot on the "Nice" list, including six House members who earned A+ grades. Those on the ill-fated "Naughty" list include 17 State Senators (three D's and 14 F's) and 27 State Representatives (22 D's and five F's). The complete list-

ing of numerical grades and the votes considered are available on the AFP-Texas website.

"Legislators who rated well used fiscal restraint in spending, and that will serve Texans well in the future as Congress is cramming more unfunded mandates to the states," Venable said. "Even Santa has tightened his belt in these tough economic times, so we commend Texas legislators who have done the same."

"What better time than the holidays to let citizens know which legislators protected their constituents' pocketbook and liberty in the 2009 legislative session," Venable continued, "and which legislators were generous with other people's money and used it to grow government."

Legislators who received A's on the AFP-Texas report card voted in a manner which promoted individual liberty, lower taxes and fewer onerous regulations.

"It is no coincidence that we are releasing our state legislative report card list this week, as Congress is poised to pass one of the most expensive and expansive pieces of legislation in my lifetime," Venable said. "We are bankrupting our children and grandchildren."

"Texas is doing well as the No. 1 state in the country for business relocation, for having more Fortune 500 companies than any other state, and thanks to sound fiscal and regulator policies, Texas has created more jobs than all other states in the country combined," said Venable.

AFP is encouraging legislators on the "Naughty" list to adopt the principles of AFP's Defending the American Dream Agenda if they want to continue to see Texas in the No. 1 spot in the nation. They are being encouraged to read the AFP-Texas booklet "Keeping Texas Competitive, Prosperity in the Lone Star State."

"Government doesn't provide prosperity - businesses do," said AFP-Texas Advisory Board chairman Ben Streusand from Houston.

"As Congress has put us over \$12 trillion dollars in debt, it is appropriate to recognize that Texas has a strong economy as result of those in leadership who have followed the right course," Streusand added.

To see the full report card, including the legislators who made the "Naughty" list, visit [www.afptx.org](http://www.afptx.org).

## Reality Football League to hold try outs in Arlington

(NDG Wire) The National Reality Football League (NRFL) will hold try-outs for players who want a shot at playing in the league and being on television. The try outs will be held at Maverick Stadium in Arlington, on the campus of the University of Texas at Arlington January 23, 2010.

The NRFL is the creation of Todd Knapp. The league will be a reality show consisting of six teams from six different areas of the country.

Players will be selected to their team by the votes of fans after viewing profiles on the Web site including film from previous games.

The players will receive time on television including the possibility of cameras following them to work and their every day lives

Some of the players will also be endorsing products thereby receiving more money for their participation.

The NRFL is inviting in former college football players and present day semi-pro and minor league football players to the try-out for a chance to be on the reality show.

The try outs will consist of the opportunity to have a profile created along with a combine-type of workout which will help fans make their decisions.

Further, the NRFL will have over \$10,000 worth of prizes and cash to give away for contests such as strongest football player, longest field goal, fastest player and quarterback challenge.

There will also be a dance competition to put

together a dance team for the Dallas area. All area dancers are invited to participate.

For more information about the NRFL, visit [www.realityfootballusa.com](http://www.realityfootballusa.com) or call the league office at 321-591-3535.

Players wishing to register for the Dallas area try-out can contact Todd E. Jones at 817-994-253 or via email at [todd@dfwfootball.net](mailto:todd@dfwfootball.net).

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

# Completing the Community through Faith

## Pastor draws on Negro spirituals for personal spiritual development

(NDG Wire) In his first book, *The Turner E.A.G.L.E. Technique For Incarnation Centered Spirituality: A Five-Fold Path To Spiritual Wholeness* author and theologian Lee W. Turner guides readers in developing a spirituality that addresses transcending the difficult conditions some African American communities face.

"I have written this book for ... those who, like me,

find injustices in every area of their lives - perpetrated by (a) population who call themselves Christian," says Turner.

In the book, the author describes how a strong discipline of the Christian religion could empower African Americans to overcome oppressive social and political conditions. Turner presents a process of personal spiritual development, "in which the Incarnation of

Jesus and Negro spirituals are the focal points." The Negro spiritual represents an expression of the Christian religion which led to spiritual wholeness under conditions of abominable slavery and subjugation, explains Turner.

"I think there is a social climate in the community of most cities that suggests there is a search for a lifestyle that could lead to wholeness in life," the au-

thor says. "The social climate indicates that there is a serious breakdown in spiritual development and positive values for a complete life in a community."

Dr. Patricia Dingle of Abiding Faith Ministries calls Turner's message "timeless." She adds, "(His) writing is poignant, honest and straight to the point. The Turner E.A.G.L.E. Technique will serve to uplift your spirit and put you on

the right path."

Dr. Lee W. Turner is the pastor of Greater New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist church in Waxahachie, Texas. He is also the founder of Lee Turner Ministries. He holds a doctorate in theology from Andersonville Baptist Seminary in Camilla, Ga. In addition to serving as a pastor, Turner spent many years teaching science and math in Texas and Washington, D.C., and

also worked as a licensed chemical dependency counselor. Turner is a past president of the NAACP of Waxahachie, Texas, and he received the Torchbearer Award from the organization for his outstanding community service. This is his first book. For more information, please visit [www.turnereagletechnique.org](http://www.turnereagletechnique.org).

For more information, visit [www.trafford.com](http://www.trafford.com).

## Relax and enjoy local festivities ride DART to "New Year Week" family fun

(NDG WIRE) Save money on transportation during the holidays by riding Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) to various events with your family and friends.

Plan your trip by using the online DART Trip Planner at [www.DART.org](http://www.DART.org) or call DART Customer Information at 214.979.1111.

Dec. 31

Big D NYE is the place to be on New Year's Eve to ring in 2010. Victory Park will be transformed into the Times Square of North Texas with live music, fireworks and the countdown to midnight. Information: [bigdnye.com](http://bigdnye.com). Via DART Rail Green

Line to Victory Station.

Jan. 1

The Comerica Bank New Year's Day Parade will "Celebrate Entertainment" and downtown revitalization while welcoming visitors to the city for the AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic.

The parade begins at 2:30 p.m. at Trammell Crow Center in the Arts District and concludes at American Airlines Center.

Information: [comerica-bankparade.com](http://comerica-bankparade.com). Via DART Rail Red Line, Blue Line or Green Line to Pearl, St. Paul, Akard, and West End stations; Via DART Rail Green Line to Victory Station.

Note: DART bus and light rail services will follow a Sunday schedule on New Year's Day. TRE does not operate on New Year's Day.

Through Jan. 3

The Trains at NorthPark takes you across America aboard the most elaborate toy train exhibit in Texas. More than 40 Lionel-type O-Gauge and G-Gauge locomotives chug along 2,500 feet of winding track past miniature landmarks including the Dallas skyline, Mount Rushmore, New York City's Times Square and Washington, D.C.

The exhibit is open during regular shopping hours

and is located on Level One between Macy's and Dillard's.

Also, enjoy story time at Santa's Village, the interactive Scrooge puppet show, and Sounds & Sights of the Season daily. All this and more await you at NorthPark Center, Central Expressway at Northwest Highway.

Information: 214-361-6345 or [northparkcenter.com](http://northparkcenter.com). Via DART Rail Red Line to Park Lane Station, then NorthPark Shuttle (Route 702).

Jan. 3

*Disney Live! Rockin' Road Show* is coming to Dallas for an exclusive one-day

engagement at American Airlines Center. Join your favorite Disney characters - Minnie, Goofy, Donald, Buzz Lightyear, Cinderella,

Tigger and more - as they hop on Mickey's bus to search for acts to add to their stage show. Catch one of three fun shows at 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Information: [disneylive.com](http://disneylive.com). Via DART Rail to Victory Station. No TRE service on Sundays.

Through Jan. 4

The Science of Spying is a fascinating look at the gadgets and techniques used in the world of modern espionage. Do you have what it

takes to be a professional spy? Find out with interactive displays that will teach you how to decode hidden messages, tune into secret conversations, crack a safe, reveal a liar and of course - create a disguise.

When you've learned all that, you're ready for your first undercover mission. It's fun for the entire family at the Museum of Nature & Science at Fair Park, 3535 Grand Ave. Information: 214.428.5555 or [natureand-science.org](http://natureand-science.org).

Via DART Rail Green Line to Fair Park Station and MLK, Jr. Station.



Ramon Hodridge, Minister

### Avenue F Church of Christ

1026 Avenue F • Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-8833  
[www.avefchurchofchrist.org](http://www.avefchurchofchrist.org)

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

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



Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

### Friendship Baptist Church

4396 Main Street The Colony, Texas 75056  
(972) 625-8186

website: [www.fbc-online.net](http://www.fbc-online.net)

#### Schedule of Services:

##### Sunday

Early Morning Worship-8:00 a.m.

Sunday School Classes-9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship-11:00 a.m.

##### Tuesday

Early Bird Bible Study

- 6:00 p.m.

##### Wednesday

Morning Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting and Evening Bible

Study - 7:30 p.m.

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### Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church

#### The Rock

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Rev.  
Robert Townsend, Pastor



Come Experience A  
Church that Believes  
in Giving God  
Excellence Without  
Excuse

#### Worship Services

Sunday Worship ..... 7:45 am & 11:00 am

Sunday School ..... 9:45 am - 10:45 am

Wednesday Bible Study ... 12:00 noon & 7:30 pm

#### Office Hours

Monday & Friday ..... 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

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

Saturday & Sunday ..... Closed

#### Contact Info:

Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church

11611 Webb Chapel Road • Dallas, TX 75228

Office: 872-241-8151

Email: [info@dallasmtpisgah.org](mailto:info@dallasmtpisgah.org)

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

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Two Sunday Worship Times  
**8:00am & 10:30am**  
Wednesday Night Bible 7:30pm

# Four Seasons Market to Celebrate the New Year with Free Champagne Jan. 2

(NDG Wire) The Four Seasons Market at Firewheel Town Center is celebrating the new year by offering a free glass of French champagne for early visitors to the market on Saturday, Jan. 2.

The free glass will be available at the Calais Winery booth. Other special New Year's Day offerings include:

Smoked turkey legs (\$6.25 each), sausage sticks (\$3.25 each) and award

winning smoked pulled pork vacuum bagged and frozen in one and two pound bags (\$9.00 per pound) for take home from Double Throw Down BBQ;

Brisket by the pound (3 pound minimum) at \$9.99 a pound. (Pre-order at 469-235-8141 or email orders@brisketheaven.com.)

Sale prices on all Country Living specialty food items from The Joy Farm Country Store;

French sandwich on a

baguette and a cup of homemade soup for \$7.50 from Florine Bowman; and \$5 off of all necklace and earring sets from 2009 merchandise priced at \$15 or more from Bella Rose Jewelry.

Among the food and beverage vendors who plan on attending Saturday are Calais Winery, Double Throw Down BBQ, Joy Farm, Round Rock Honey, Magnolia Seafood, Down Home Spices, Dallas Spice Market, Florine Bowman,

Stephanie's Premium Bakery, Brisket Heaven and Nana's Bananas.

Other vendors include Beaded Image, Bella Rose Jewelry, StellaJade, Biscuit Head Baking Company and Essentially Naked.

The Market runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday and is held indoors at 305 Riverfern Avenue at the north end of the Park in Firewheel Town Center, near the children's playground and adjacent to the

Parkside at Firewheel Apartments and Townhomes.

It replicates a European-style market where customers can not only meet local farmers, artisanal food

producers and craftsmen, but sample and purchase their products in a colorful, family-friendly venue.

For more information visit [www.fourseasonsmarkets.com](http://www.fourseasonsmarkets.com).

**ROCKBRIDGE CHURCH**

21 Prestige Circle | Allen, TX 75002  
214.383.9993  
[www.rockbridgechurch.com](http://www.rockbridgechurch.com)  
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 A.M.

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Lead Pastor, Timothy Jones  
& First Lady, LaTonya Jones

**The Inspiring Body of Christ Church**

7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.  
Dallas Texas 75237  
Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888

Sunday Services: 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 12:30pm.  
Monday School: 7pm  
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm



Pastor Robert G. Back

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

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[www.ndcbf.org](http://www.ndcbf.org)




Dr. Leslie W. Smith,  
Senior Pastor

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Serving the Plano Community for 125 Years  
Founded 1884


920 E 14th Street Plano, TX



Pastor Isaiah Joshua, Jr.  
Celebrating 15 Years

2009 Theme:  
Excellence through  
Prayer,  
Praise, and Participation

Worship Times: 8 and 11 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Mid-week: Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Children's and Youth Worship  
Service: Every 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>, Sunday at 10:45 a.m.  
AWANA: Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
Contact Information: 972-423-6895  
[www.smbcplano.org](http://www.smbcplano.org)



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

**Sunday Service**  
Morning Worship  
7:50 am & 10:30 am  
9:00 am Sunday School

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

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



Dr. Robert E. Price, Sr.  
Senior Pastor




**A Praying Church Family**  
"Watchmen on the Walls"

214-341-6459 (Phone) • 214-342-8403 (Fax)  
9550 Shepard Road  
Dallas, TX 75243

[www.nmzh.org](http://www.nmzh.org) (Website) • [newmzhc@aol.com](mailto:newmzhc@aol.com) (Email)

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

Wednesday  
Night Service  
8:00 pm

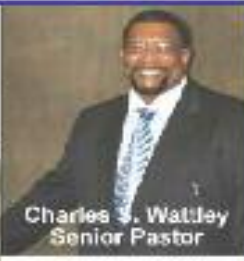
Dr. Gregory Foster Senior Pastor  
Rev. Anthony Foster Pastor

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Charles S. Wattley  
Senior Pastor

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

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

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