

North Dallas Gazette



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Texas submits acknowledged 'highly misleading' voter ID data

Last week the state of Texas submitted additional information to the U.S. Department of Justice regarding Senate Bill 14, the so-called "voter ID" bill. Due to Texas' history of discriminatory voting practices, Texas is subject to Section 5 of the

federal Voting Rights Act, meaning that any change to a voting practice in the state must first be approved - or "precleared" - by the Department of Justice prior to it going into effect.

The information submitted was in response to

the Department of Justice's repeated attempts to determine the racial background of Texans without photo IDs. In other words, who will be negatively impacted by the new voter ID requirement? The state's letter concedes that the data it

provides is "inaccurate and unreliable" and "highly misleading" due to a number of limitations. As a result, attempts by the Department of Justice to determine whether Senate Bill 14 will have a dis-

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COVER STORY

The verdict is finally in as Irving ISD moves to adopt a 5-2 single-member/at-large mixed voting system



Irving ISD High School Students at the special school board meeting on January 12, 2012.

See VOTING, Page 9

New Beginning Center Bowling Tournament set to strike domestic violence

New Beginning Center is gearing up to strike domestic violence during its 9th Annual Bowling Tournament sponsored by Honeywell. The event is scheduled for January 28 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. at Plano Super Bowl, 2521 Ave K in Plano.



"Our mission is to bring an end to domestic violence in our community and the bowling tournament helps raise funds to support this mission. Our goal is two-fold: to raise funds to support the services provided by the agency and to build aware-

ness about the agency and its mission of ending domestic violence," said Jennifer Morrison, Executive Director of New Beginning Center in Garland.

This will be the 9th year for the event that usu-

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Joyful Noise: Can we all just get along?

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

COMMENTARY

Pastor calls for National Anti-Payday Lending Campaign

BY CHARLENE CROWELL

An activist New Jersey pastor has decided to take his economic-focused gospel across the country. Rev. Dr. DeForest Soaries, senior pastor of the 7,000 member First Baptist Church of Lincoln Garden in Somerset, NJ is launching a national effort against one of the most predatory lending products: payday loans.

This church-based movement was inspired by

hundreds of contacts and phone calls Soaries received following his appearance in a 2010 CNN documentary, *Almighty Debt*. Hosted by Soledad O'Brien, the documentary shared the financial struggles of Lincoln Garden members facing foreclosure, finding student financial aid and adjusting to long-term unemployment.

According to CNN, the documentary also became the network's second-high-

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New \$2 Powerball® game launched

Bigger starting grand/jackpot prizes, better odds of winning and more chances to win \$1 million await Texas Lottery® players when sales for the new Powerball game began Jan. 15. The first drawing for the new game occurred on Wednesday, Jan. 18. The cost to play the game increased from \$1 to \$2 per play.

Starting jackpots for the new *Powerball* game doubled to \$40 million and a matrix change will provide better odds of winning. Players will continue to choose five numbers from one to 59, but the pool of *Powerball* numbers will drop from 39 to 35. Odds of winning the grand/jackpot prize will improve to one in 175,223,510, and overall

odds of winning any prize will improve to one in 32.

The new *Powerball* includes opportunities for players to win \$1 million or more. The second-tier prize, awarded for matching all five numbers, but not the *Powerball* number, increased from \$200,000 to \$1 million.

"We believe our players will enjoy the price-point

variety the new \$2 *Powerball* game provides, as well as the excitement of the bigger jackpots, better odds and more chances to win \$1 million," said Texas Lottery Commission Executive Director Gary Grief. "Players who prefer to spend \$1 per play can still participate in the *Lotto Texas*® and *Mega Millions*® drawing games."

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People In The News...



Muge Acik



Fatima "TNT" Maddox



Donald W. Tucker

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Muge Acik

UT Dallas doctoral student Muge Acik was recently named a silver award winner at the Materials Research Society's meeting for excellence in academic achievements and materials research.

Graduate students from universities including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard, Princeton, Yale and Johns Hopkins competed at the Society's national conference, which is held twice a year.

Acik's research focuses

on the engineering and chemistry of carbon materials, including graphene oxide sheets. By better understanding the material, it is hoped that new materials can be created to improve electronic devices and energy storage.

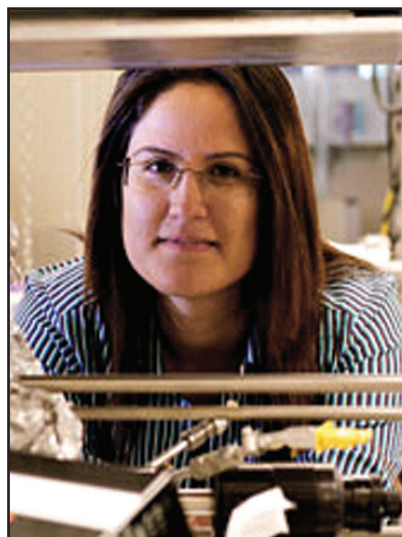
Acik's application included information about her research and a recommendation letter summarizing her academic background. Competitors presented their research in the final step of the competition.

"It was a very competitive process, but that's the

reason I applied," Acik said. "I wanted to complete my personal achievements in graduate school by comparing my research with materials science and engineering graduate students from other universities."

In 2010, Acik and her colleagues at UT Dallas published an article in the journal *Nature Materials* detailing research on single sheets of reduced graphene oxide and how they responded to high temperatures. This work uncovered unusual optical properties.

Hundreds of students apply to attend and present



their work at the conference. Acik was one of only

J. Chabal.

"Her selection among

25 selected as Graduate Student Award winners.

She said she was motivated by Professor Manish Chhowalla at Rutgers University, whom she worked for on a collaborative research project. She was also encouraged to apply by her mentor at UT Dallas, Dr. Yves

the top Stanford, Harvard, Princeton and MIT students underscores the quality of the materials science students at UT Dallas," said Chabal, head of the Materials Science and Engineering Department and Texas Instruments Distinguished University Chair in Nanoelectronics. "It also highlights the competitiveness of UT Dallas among the best of the Tier One universities."

Acik will complete her doctorate in January and plans to pursue a career as a process engineer at Texas Instruments.

Fatima "TNT" Maddox

Dallas will witness history when Fatima "TNT" Maddox takes the court with the Harlem Globetrotters at American Airlines Center in Dallas on Saturday, Jan. 28 — a doubleheader at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

TNT will lead an impressive rookie class as the first female Globetrotter since 1993 and only the team's ninth in its 86-year history. TNT played for the accomplished Dawn Staley at Temple University and most recently honed her basketball skills professionally in Sweden. She impressed the Globetrotters this past summer with

her "explosive" ball handling.

TNT joins other standout Globetrotter rookies in Dallas, including Jacob "Hops" Tucker. At 5-10, Tucker sports a 50-inch vertical leap, and his YouTube videos have garnered well over four million views. His internet fame helped him secure an invite to the 2011 College Slam Dunk Contest, which he eventually won on ESPN.

The 2012 Globetrotter rookie class has a total of three seven-footers including 7-4 Jermaine "Stretch" Middleton. Stretch is the third-tallest player in team history

and is scheduled to appear in the Dallas games.

Tickets to see the world's most famous basketball team in Dallas are on sale now at www.harlemglobetrotters.com, the American Airlines Center box office, or by phone at 800-745-3000.

Current Globetrotter stars Big Easy Lofton, Scooter Christensen, Handles Franklin, and many others will team up with the world class rookies for nearly 270 games on the North American portion of the World Tour, bringing the Globetrotter magic to over 230 cities in 46 states, the District of Columbia, and five Canadian provinces. Player rosters are

subject to change.

The Original Harlem Globetrotters will celebrate their 86th consecutive year in 2012, continuing a world famous tradition of ball handling wizardry, basketball artistry and one-of-a-kind family entertainment that continues to thrill fans of all ages. Throughout their history, the Globetrotters have showcased their iconic talents in 120 countries and territories on six continents, often breaking down cultural and societal



barriers while providing fans with their first-ever basketball experience. Proud inductees of the Naismith Me-

morial Basketball Hall of Fame, the Globetrotters have entertained hundreds of millions of fans—among them popes, kings, queens, and presidents—over more than eight thrilling decades.

For the latest news and information about the Harlem Globetrotters, and to purchase tickets and team merchandise, visit the Globetrotters' official Web site: www.harlemglobetrotters.com.

Donald W. Tucker

Institutional racism is a particularly vile form of discrimination. Not only does it



limit the advancement of qualified personnel through the ranks of an agency, but it also threatens to undermine our whole system, which is based partly on a belief in equality. What is even worse, however, is that this form of

racism is particularly difficult to track or pinpoint. Law enforcement agencies have their own culture, which often imposes certain rules upon its members. Chief among these is the rule that one should never "tell on" a fellow agent.

Although Donald W. Tucker's book *The Complex* is a thrilling ride through the world of corrupt federal agents who want nothing less than to control the American government, one of the more substantial themes of the book is discrimination. All four heroes in the book have experienced discrimination at some point in their careers. All of them have an accomplished past including the main character, Wes Charles, who was responsible for one

of the largest counterfeiting busts in United States history. Despite all of their accomplishments, they remain overlooked and under appreciated.

Donald Tucker spent his career working for federal law enforcement agencies, including the United States Secret Service. Consequently, he is able to convey the frustration that minority agents feel when supervisors with questionable motives diminish their work, while he interweaves timely and relevant issues into his spellbinding plot.

In *The Complex*, the old guard is still alive and well, with right wing zealots and bigots are still taking their seats at the table. The question, which is left open for the reader to decide, is how exactly to rid an agency of undesirables when prejudices from the past are still so firmly entrenched within its culture. *The Complex* is as

thought provoking as it is entertaining, utterly compelling its readers as the story unfolds on the page before them.

This is the second book for the author Donald Tucker, who owns a private investigation agency. The first was his autobiography, *The Two Edged Sword*. Tucker worked with the Federal Bureau of Narcotics in Chicago after earning a BA degree in sociology/criminology from the University of Iowa. He later transferred to the U.S. Secret Service, where he held several supervisory positions and eventually promoted to special agent in charge of the U.S. Secret Service Office for the State of Arizona. Tucker also earned a presidential appointment as the U.S. Marshal for Arizona and was selected as Chief of Court Security in Washington D.C. For the U. S. U.S. Federal Court System nationwide, before returning to Arizona and

becoming a PI.

For more information

contact Donald Tucker at dt-tips@cox.net.

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Letters to the Editor

Foul language still on airwaves

I wrote a letter last March, which was published in the *North Dallas Gazette*. In it, I criticized actress Melissa Leo, who (during her acceptance speech at the Oscars) used an obscenity. Apparently, Sir Elton John was not among those who read what I had to say, for

while at the red carpet prior to this year's Golden Globe Awards, he too used an obscenity.

For a performer that has been in the spotlight for over forty years, you would think Sir Elton would know better. Apparently, he doesn't. But what

See AIRWAVES, Page 11

If Dr. King were alive today

Everything within me makes me believe that if the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were alive today, he would use every non-violent strategy in the book to protest the decision on Jan. 12, 2012 by the Irving ISD Board of Trustees. They voted to change the election system

to a 5-2 single member district configuration instead of a 7-0 configuration the majority minority community requested.

Several political experts have advised me that the 5-2 configuration will not pass the preclearance of the US Justice Department.

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est rated program that year with 13.8 million viewers. Now in 2012, what began as a 90-minute television program has become the impetus for a year-long advocacy effort with four specific objectives:

, Education – information distributed through churches, barbershops, community centers;

, Direct Action – coordinating a series of protests in front of payday stores;

, Alternatives to payday loans – identifying viable alternatives available through credit unions, minority banks and other lenders; and

, Public policy - working with local leaders to initiate actions to restrict payday and other predatory practices.

In the January 2012 edition of the American Bar As-

sociation's journal, Pastor Soaries said in part, "Too many Americans find themselves in the perfect storm of diminishing economic opportunity and legal predatory financial practices that have a reverse Robin Hood effect – stealing from the poor to benefit a few voracious enterprises."

"What is needed is a national campaign that addresses the aggressive efforts of promoting payday lending and luring customers into their web of debt", continued Soaries.

Over the past decade, the ills of payday lending have been a focus of the Center for Responsible Lending. Through a series of state-based efforts partnering with local advocates, 17 states and the District of Columbia have enacted payday re-

forms, saying 'no' to triple digit interest rates and downward spiraling debt. Additionally, federal law protects military members and their families from the typical 400 percent interest rates of payday loans.

In recent years, however, the growth of new versions of small-dollar, short term loans -- Internet and bank payday loans -- threaten to circumvent all of these hard-fought consumer victories. In particular, bank payday loans lead to 175 days of indebtedness for the average borrower – twice as long as the maximum length of time the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has advised.

With many banks allowing up to half of a customer's monthly direct deposit income, or up to \$750, an average 44 percent of a bank

payday customer's next deposit is used to repay bank payday loans. For older borrowers already living on fixed incomes, the average bank payday loan repayment from a Social Security check was 43 percent. Senior customers are also 2.6 times more likely to have used a bank payday loan than bank customers as a whole.

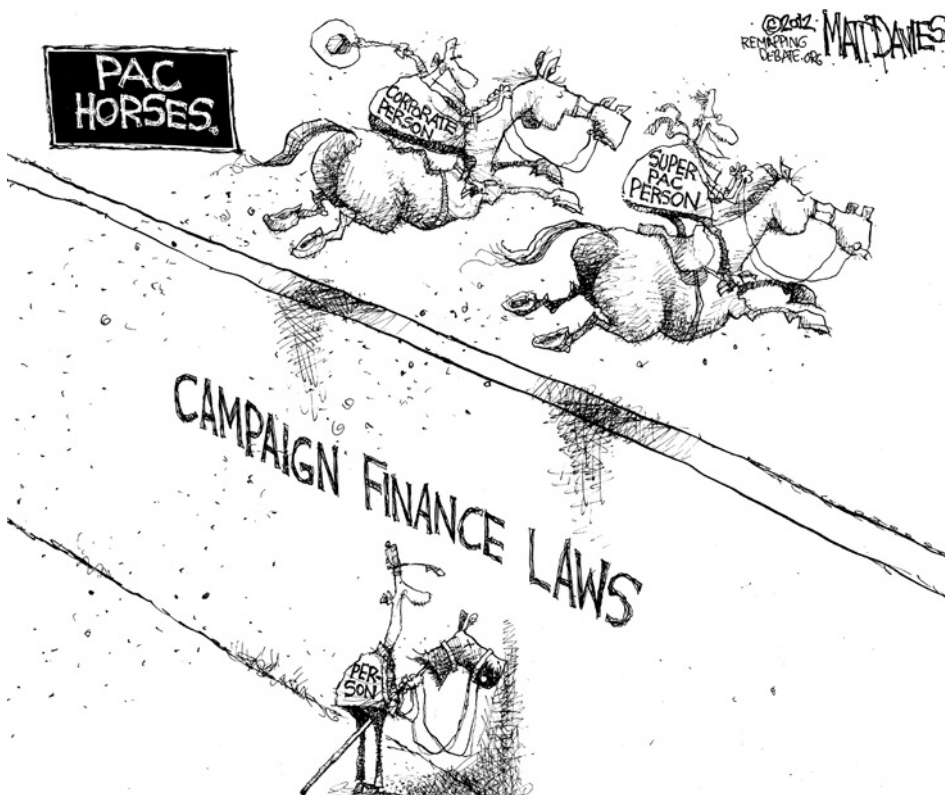
Even without bank payday loans, more than 13 million older adults are considered economically insecure, living on \$21,800 per year or less. One-fifth of older households have annual incomes below \$50,000 but report spending more than 40 percent of their income on debt payments.

CRL research has shown that communities of color are particularly vulnerable to payday loans. Across the country, the concentration of storefront lenders is typically greater in black and brown communities. Additionally, Missouri is the only state outside the Deep South with the greatest number of payday stores per capita.

Persons and organizations desiring to join the advocacy effort are advised to contact Pastor Soaries at: fbc@fbcsoomerset.com.

CRL is ready and willing to work with Pastor Soaries, other clergy and community leaders to eliminate the financial degradation wrought by payday loans. Let 2012 be the year our community is freed from this 'almighty debt'.

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



FDA approves Berlin Heart for children with heart failure

Wait times for young patients needing the device will shorten dramatically, doctor says

Young patients with heart failure seeking treatment at Children's Medical Center (www.childrens.com) will not have to wait as long to receive a mechanical device designed to keep their hearts beating since the technology was officially approved Friday by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The mechanical cardiac assist device, commonly called a Berlin Heart, received FDA approval to be marketed under certain use restrictions. Up until now, the tool had been treated as an experimental device.

Known as Compassionate Care Use, artificial Berlin Hearts provide mechanical circulatory support, extending the life of heart patients for up to one year until an appropriate heart match is found. Since 2000, pediatric heart surgeons across the U.S. have had to appeal to the FDA for approval on a case-by-case basis under Emergency Use regulations because the Berlin Hearts were only approved for adult patients.

The FDA's approval Friday will greatly benefit children with heart failure

who need the tool to survive while they wait for heart transplants, one Children's Medical Center physician said.

"For the ones who need it, it's tremendous," said Dr. William Scott, co-director of the Heart Center and director of the cardiology division at Children's Medical Center. "Currently, the device is considered experimental. You can't get it quickly and have to go through an (Institutional Review Board) protocol – so it's been treated as if it was a research project.

"The fact that we don't

have to do that now – that we can turn around and get it as we would any other medical device – is tremendous," said Scott, who is also a professor of pediatrics at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and director of that institution's cardiology division. "The ability to get it here will dramatically shorten the amount of time you wait."

The Berlin Heart consists of one or two external air-driven blood pumps, multiple tubes to connect the pumps to the heart and a driving unit. There is no

other device that will work on a young patient experiencing heart failure and needing a heart transplant, Scott said.

"I don't think we will necessarily use it more," Scott said of the device now that the FDA's approval has been granted. "We've used it every time we needed to. It's just that we will be able to get it more quickly now."

Children's Medical Center lauds the FDA for its approval of the devices. Children's is one of the leading pediatric hospitals in the nation for heart trans-

plants, and in the past year has had as many as five patients on the device at one time.

The device saved the life of Rylynn Riojas, a 2-year-old Children's Medical Center patient who was in dire condition while waiting for a new heart. She received a Berlin Heart several months ago that will keep her alive while she waits for a heart transplant. Rylynn's struggle was featured in the Children's Medical Center TV documentary *Children's Med Dallas*.

High numbers on high blood pressure

High blood pressure is huge in America. Analysts at HHS' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, or AHRQ, reviewed the latest available numbers. AHRQ's Karen Davis:

"One in every 4 adults, representing some 55 million Americans, was treated for high blood pressure in 2008" (7 seconds)

And that's only the ones who know it and got treated. Because high blood pressure has no symptoms, the real total would have to include people who have high blood pressure and don't know it.

High blood pressure can lead to heart attack and



stroke.

But it can be controlled – even prevented – by proper eating and physical activity. The researchers found those who exercised vigor-

ously

30 minutes or more, at least three times a week, were one third less likely to have high blood pressure.

Learn more at hhs.gov.

Vaccine Cuts Shingles Risk for Folks 60 and Older

Given the chance to relive some aspect of their youth, most Texans over 60 would go for something like their 1969 Miss Conroe pageant win or their game-winning jumper in the '57 district championship game, not being tormented anew by the varicella zoster virus.

If that bug's name doesn't ring a bell, it's probably because we know it better for the diseases it causes: chickenpox and shingles. Chickenpox, of course, is most common among children, who suffer through a week to 10

days of miserable itching, headaches and fever. During that time, our parents console us with extra ice cream rations and assure us that, "You'll never catch this again."

Unfortunately, this isn't quite true. While chickenpox itself seldom recurs, the zoster virus often lies dormant for decades, then returns in the form of the less well-known but generally more serious disease, shingles.

Shingles' name comes from the Latin word, *cingulum*, which means belt or girdle. (One of the disease's most common effects is a swathe of painful, fluid-filled blisters or lesions around one side of the waistline.) These chickenpox-like blisters also can appear elsewhere on the body, often on the side of the face, around the eye or on the forehead.

In most cases, these symptoms go away in a few weeks and leave no scars. However, some people have a condition called post-herpetic neuralgia that can last for months. Very rarely, shingles can lead to hearing problems, blindness, brain inflammation or even death.

According to research cited by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), al-

most one third of the U.S. population will get shingles at some point in their life with risk increasing significantly past the age of 60. About a million cases of shingles occur in the United States every year with half affecting the 60-and-older age group. About 50 percent of people living to age 85 will have shingles.

Vaccinating against shingles, the CDC says, can significantly cut the risk of getting the disease, with the prevention effect increasing over time. That's why CDC and many other public health agencies encourage adults who've had chickenpox (that's about 99 percent of us) to consider getting a shingles shot, especially if we're 60 or older.

A Few Things to Consider

As compelling as these statistics about shingles vaccinations – and the growing volume of advertising in their favor – can be, The Texas Department of State Health Services and the CDC say it's important to know a few more facts before making your decision. For example, shingles vaccine (Zostavax) may pose risks to your health if:

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GAME,

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Players will also be able to participate in the revamped *Power Play*® feature for an extra \$1 per play. Power Play will now offer set increases for non-grand/jackpot prizes, including the chance to win \$2 million for the second-tier prize.

Jurisdictions participating in Powerball include 42 states, Washington D.C. and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Texas with drawings held on Wednesday and Saturday nights at 10:12 p.m. Proceeds from Powerball benefit Texas education.

For more information, visit the Texas Lottery website at www.txlottery.org.

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Urban League of Greater Dallas and Atmos Energy partnership launch energy assistance programs

The Urban League of Greater Dallas and North Central Texas today announced a new partnership with the Atmos Energy Corporation to provide home weatherization and utility assistance to qualifying natural gas customers served in North Central Texas.

"Atmos Energy proudly supports community based initiatives to help our cus-

tomers lower their natural gas usage and to pay their utility bills," said Dan Alderson, Director of Energy Assistance for Atmos Energy Corporation. "The programs will provide funds to weatherize homes, assist with gas line replacements and pay utility bills for those who qualify."

Atmos Energy's donation of \$120,000 to the League will provide free

home weatherization and utility assistance to qualifying natural gas customers in North Central Texas. The program funds will be used to improve the energy efficiency of Atmos Energy customer's homes using the most advanced technologies and testing protocols available in the housing industry. Energy efficiency measures performed through this program in-

clude weather stripping, caulking, ceiling insulation, gas water heater replacement, pipe insulation and gas piping repair or replacement.

"We are excited to work with Atmos Energy to increase energy assistance to the utility's customers in Dallas, Irving, and Garland," said Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, Ph.D., president and CEO of the

Urban League of Greater Dallas. "In addition to weatherization, the program is also designed to supplement payments made by the elderly, disabled or low income customers who are unable to pay the full cost to heat their homes."

"Through this partnership, the Urban League will now be able to provide assistance to our customers

with their gas utility bills," said Sandra Doyle, director of public affairs for Atmos Energy's Mid-Tex Division and Urban League board member.

The Mid-Tex Division of Atmos Energy Corporation, based in Dallas, Texas, serves approximately 1.5 million natural gas utility customers in north and central Texas.

Urban Journalism Workshop applications accepted

The Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Journalists (formerly the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators) will present its 23rd annual Urban Journalism Workshop for high school and college students at Lincoln Humanities and Communications Magnet, 2826 Hatcher Street, beginning in January 2012.

This 12-week workshop is open to students in Dallas, Tarrant, Ellis, Collin and Denton counties. Students receive hands-on experience working with seasoned professionals who have gained a reputation locally and nationally, as well as internationally.

The program, which emulates one started by George Curry, Gerald Boyd and other members of the Greater St. Louis Association of Black Journalists in St. Louis, was started by then-Dallas Morning News editor Rochelle Riley and has graduated students who have gone on to anchor newscasts, edit newspapers, open public relations firms and produce radio shows.

Curry visits the Dallas workshop students annually to conduct his "basic training." Mr. Boyd died of lung cancer in 2006. "We're excited about continuing the tradition that was started almost 30 years ago," said Eva Coleman, one of the instructors for the program. "I am looking forward to working with students this year."

Coleman, who is an established journalist, will be overseeing the radio and television segments of the workshop, pulling together experts in the field.

Smith, who has been with the program since its inception, took over as director in the mid 90s and continued through 2004, and returned in 2007.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the students will participate in a closing ceremony where they will present a newspaper, television and radio broadcasts, a website and a special project. For

more information about the workshop, contact Smith at 214-428-8958.

Applications must be turned in by January 20, 2012.

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Dallas Bar hosts free divorce legal clinic for low-income

The Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP), a joint initiative of the Dallas Bar Association and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, will hold a free Divorce Legal Clinic for Dallas County residents who meet certain financial guidelines, on Tuesday, January 24, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the *Belo Mansion* (2101 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75201).

Volunteer attorneys will provide free divorce legal assistance for low-income Dallas County resi-

dents to assist with their simple uncontested divorces. To qualify for assistance, residents must apply for help and meet certain financial guidelines, including:

- Must be a Dallas County resident and
- Must be a legal resident or citizen of the USA and
- Must have an agreement on property division and a minimal amount of property and
- Spouse must not contest anything about the di-

vorces and

- Must be no family violence within the prior two months and

- Must be able to attend three daytime classes.

If residents need assistance before or after the Divorce Clinic, they can attend one of the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program's other legal clinics held in the Dallas area eight times each month. For a full listing of the clinic, log on to www.dallasbar.org/dvap.

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Plano Named 'Best Family-friendly City' for 2011

In the 25th anniversary issue of *Dallas Child Magazine*, the City of Plano is named 'Best Family-friendly City or Suburb' of the year. The 2011 Best for Families list is a feature of the magazine that recognized 13 different business, cultural and educational entities in Dallas/Collin and surrounding

counties for their excellence.

Dallas Child Magazine left it up to their readership to determine what they deemed 'best' in terms of places for families to eat, play and live. The readers praised Plano for having a real 'sense of community' within the city. Voters also concluded

that the city '...offers a great mix of education, events, entertainment, and great dining options.'

North Texas parents have come to rely on *Dallas Child Magazine* as the best guide to children's activities and establishments, and a most comprehensive resource for family issues.

The White House Internship: A public service leadership program



The White House Internship Program provides a

unique opportunity to gain valuable professional experience and build leadership skills. This hands-on program is designed to mentor and cultivate today's young leaders, strengthen their understanding of the Executive Office and prepare them for future public service opportunities.

The White House Internship Program's mission is to make the "People's

House" accessible to future leaders from around the nation.

The application period for the Summer 2012 White House Internship Program is now open. Applicants have until January 22, 2012 to apply for a Summer 2012 White House Internship.

For more info visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/internships> for more details.

Dallas' Great "I'm Married & In Love" search 2012

The Valder BeeBe Show second annual Great "I'm Married & In Love" search is underway. They are seeking happily married couples. Contestants should share about their love and marriage adventures by submitting their story via www.valderbeebeshow.com. Five couples will be profiled, with one winning couple se-

lected.

The contest is sponsored by The Valder Beebe Show creators James & Valder Beebe. The Beebes will celebrate their 27th wedding anniversary on Valentine's Day this year. The prize sponsor this year is LoneStarIdol.com.

Entries will be accepted until January 31, 2012.



James & Valder Beebe

First baby for 2012 is a real Success

Success Nwamaka Ojeh's name suggests she destined for great things. And her birth Sunday, Jan. 1, proves she's a star already.

Success was the first baby born at Texas Regional Medical Center at Sunnyvale in 2012, arriving at 8:24 a.m. She's the fifth child of Nigerian natives Edith and Mathew Ojeh of Mesquite.



Edith Ojeh holds her newborn daughter, Success Nwamaka Ojeh, who was Texas Regional Medical Center at Sunnyvale's first baby for 2012. They are surrounded by the baby's father, Mathew; and the baby's siblings.

Black Women Get Free Invitation To Join National Professional Women's Organization

The National Association of Professional Women (NAPW) is seeking more African American women to join their nationwide network. Free to join, NAPW is the nation's largest organization of its kind with thousands of professional and entrepreneurial women as members.

Members already consist of a diverse array of cultures including many Asians, Hispanics, Native Americans, and African



Americans, but the organization seeks to become even more diverse.

Benefits include:

- Connecting with over 150,000 professional wo-

men interested in network-

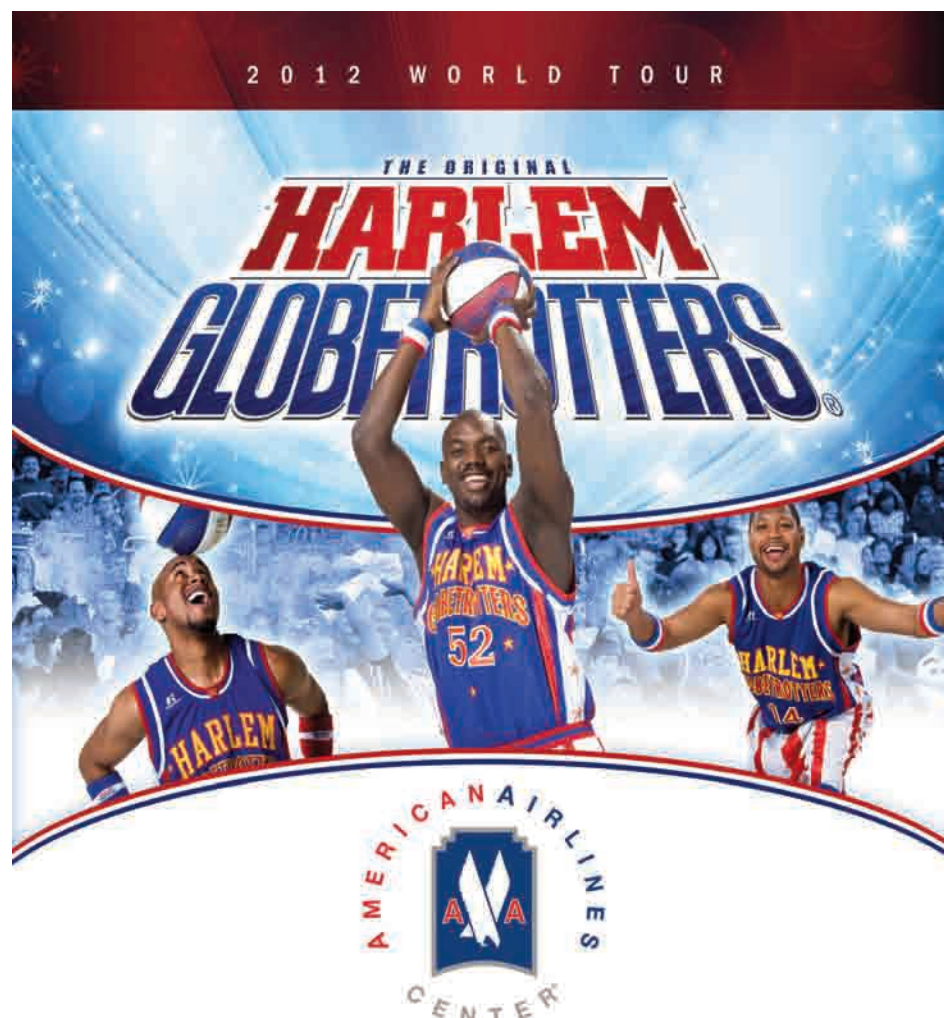
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- Joining the Mentor/Mentee Program.

All are encouraged to sign up FREE at www.BusinessWomen.org.



SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

2 PM & 7 PM

Group discounts available for groups of 10 or more. Call 214-665-4274 or groupsales@americanairlinescenter.com

Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster outlets, Ticketmaster.com, the American Airlines Center box office or charge by phone at 1-800-745-3000.



Ongoing

Every two weeks on Monday the Plano City Council holds its **City Council Meeting** at the Plano Municipal Center, Council Chambers, 1520 K Avenue, Plano, from 7pm – 9:30pm. FREE and open to the public. Info: planotx.org.

Harwood 609, 609 Harwood Street, Dallas, has **Salsa Night** every Thursday night starting at 9:30pm. Info: harwood609jazz.com or 214-740-0609.

Be Fit Frisco presents weekly **Fitness in the Square** sessions Thursday evenings 6:30pm – 7:30pm at Simpson Plaza in front of City Hall, 6101 Frisco Square Blvd, Frisco. FREE. Info: friscotexas.gov.

The Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood Street, Dallas, hosts **Jazz in the Atrium** every Thursday 6pm – 8pm. Performance included with general admission \$10 and under. Info: dallasmuseumofart.org or 214-922-1200.

Harwood 609, 609 Harwood Street, Dallas, hosts an **All You Can Eat Sunday Brunch with Smooth Jazz Sounds of Majik Touch** every Sunday at 11am. Info: harwood609jazz.com or 214-740-0609.

Want to become a better public speaker? **Toastmasters International** has helped people for decades in a mutually supportive, positive, and fun environment. See what it is like for FREE!!! Mtgs are every Monday at 5:45 p.m. Info: 214-566-4086 or <http://texins.free-toasthost.org/>

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce general membership event, Monthly every 2nd Thursday, 6:30 p.m., at various locations within Collin County. Speakers, Power Networking, Business Referrals, and more! www.ccblackchamber.org or call 469 424-0120.

Through January 20

The Oak Cliff Cultural Center presents **La Virgen de Guadalupe Art Exhibit**

at the Oak Cliff Cultural Center is open Tuesday – Friday, 3-5 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Through January 28

The Lady: An exhibition inspired by the myth of the Lady of White Rock. The seventeen local artists featured in this show found the story and its mystifying protagonist extremely appealing and created paintings, photographs, and mixed media small-scale works of art for display in this exhibition at the Bath House Cultural Center

Through January 24

Dallas Holiday & Home Expo at the Dallas Market Center

January 21-22

28th Annual KidFilm® Festival taking place at the Angelika Film Center, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas

January 23-April 2

Intermediate Sign Language Classes will be offered on Monday nights from 5:30-6:45 p.m., in the Britain library, 631 Edmondson. Classes are free to families of deaf students, \$10 for district employees and \$20 for all others. For more information, call 972-600-3821

January 26

Barbara Petsel is the guest speaker at the bereavement luncheon hosted by the Visiting Nurse Association from noon to 1 p.m. at the Church of the Incarnation on 3966 McKinney Avenue in Dallas. FREE but RSVP @ 214-689-2633

January 28 – December 8

New Life Skills Certificate program for African Women each Saturday morning from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Audelia Branch Library located 10045 Audelia Rd. (at Church St.) in Dallas. Info: hellen.fissihale5@gmail.com

January 27 – April 29

Texas Discovery Gardens' gallery space unveils a new **exhibition, "Echoes of Remembered Gardens,"** by Dallas artist Susan Lecky; admission applies. \$8/adults, \$6/ages 60+, and \$4/ages 3 to 11. Free for members or on Tuesdays (butterfly house admission regular price).

January 20-21

Houston-based discount retailer Spec's Wines, Spirits and Finer Foods recently announced the completion of its first store in Dallas, located at the Walnut Hill Lane exit off N. Central Expressway. To commemorate this occasion, Spec's is inviting everyone in the area to a two-day Grand Opening Celebration from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

January 21

Chamber Music International will present a spectacular, One-Night-Only Concert at 8 p.m. at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, 1220 W. Belt Line Rd. in Richardson. The concert will feature virtu-

oso violist Atar Arad performing two of his own Caprices and the Fantasia Cromatica for Solo Viola by Bach/Kodaly. Tickets start at \$10 and may be purchased by calling 972-385-7267 or go online to www.cmi-now.org.

The annual Prosper Parks Trout Derby is 9 to 11 a.m. at Frontier Park, info at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/>.

January 22

The Japan-America Society of Dallas/Fort Worth will host author and playwright Margi Preus in a presentation about her award-winning book *Heart of a Samurai*. The program, which is free and open to the public, will take place from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the University of Texas at Dallas in the McDermott Suite of the McDermott Library.

Fly A Sim Everyone gets the exciting opportunity to fly a real jet simulator! Flights offer full motion, sound and visuals. 972-242-5999

January 26

Garland Mayor Ronald E. Jones will host his monthly "Mayor's Evening In" event from 5 to 7 p.m. The Mayor hosts "Evening In" events to broaden his accessibility to the citizens of Garland. This month's event will be held at the Mayor's Office, 200 North Fifth Street. It is necessary to schedule an appointment. For more information, call 972-205-2471 or email edattomo@garlandtx.gov.

January 28

"Come to the Tropics" Day from 10 am to 2 pm at Texas Discovery Gardens. Stroll through our tropical

butterfly house, which is temperature controlled to replicate a rainforest. Pick up your special passport at the front desk and "visit" the countries where we get our butterflies (including the Philippines, Costa Rica, Colombia, and more). We'll stamp your passport at each table as you enjoy tropical and cultural themed activities. Admission is \$8/adults, \$6/seniors and \$4/children ages 3-11. Info: http://texasdiscoverygardens.org/events_and_classes.php and 214-428-7476 x 343.

January 27-29

ZestFest 2012 brings together the spiciest exhibitors and products from around the country at the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas, 500 W Las Colinas Blvd., Irving

February 4

Royal Comedy Tour featuring Sommore, Arnez J, Earthquake, Mark Curry, and Tony Rock on tap for the Verizon Theatre. www.ticketmaster.com.

Advanced Real Estate Techniques a full day workshop at Marriott Residence Inn, 7642 LBJ Freeway (at Coit Road), Dallas from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. EARLY Registration - thru Jan. 31 (11:30 pm) - \$175 or Advance Registration - after Jan. 31 & at the door* - \$ 225. <https://www.wepay.com/events/87339>

February 7

At the request of the Garland City Council the public hearing for the **Envision Garland 2030 Comprehensive Plan** was rescheduled to allow for additional Council review.

February 11

Plano Symphony Orches-

tra's 2012 Valentine Gala with Limelight, an Emerald City band and with guest appearance by Broadway star James Moyer. Silent and live auctions items include a gourmet dinner for 20, handcrafted jewelry, and much more at 6 p.m. at Marriott at Legacy Town Center in the Trinity Ballroom, 7120 Dallas Parkway, Plano. Info: 972-473-7262 or www.planosymphony.org, tickets are \$130.00 per person.

February 17

Old School 94.5 Love Train Tour featuring the OJays, Chaka Khan, and hosted by Tom Joyner slated for American Airlines Center at 6 p.m. www.ticketmaster.com.

February 22

Hand In Hand is a program designed for adults to enjoy with their preschooler. Each week enjoy stories, music, activities and c... Dallas Museum of Natural History. 214-428-5555

DFW Writers Workshop For over 30 years, members have met to read and critique each others work. 817-685-1649

March 2-4

Opening celebration of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge

April 1

2nd Annual Academy of McKinney & Plano Theatres 2012 AMP Awards at The Courtyard Theatre located at 1520 Avenue H in Plano.

April 19

DFW International Dinner with the Mayors at the Fairmont Hotel - 1717 North Akard Street Dallas at 6 p.m.

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Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community

The verdict is finally in as Irving ISD moves to adopt a 5-2 single-member/at-large mixed voting system

BY: JACKIE HARDY,
NDG CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

Irving Independent School District (IISD) held public hearings at the following high schools: Irving, MacArthur, and Nimitz to allow residents the opportunity to express their support or opposition to change the existing at-large election process.

The recent debates over changing the current at-large voting system to single-member districts have been passionate as well as intense over the last few months. This debate also has considerable significance as it could potentially set precedence for other cities to model facing this same issue.

Currently all seven Board of Trustee seats are elected by an at-large voting process. Outrage within the minority community resurfaced after African-American school board members Nancy Jones, formerly of Place 1 and A.D. Jenkins, formerly of Place 2 were replaced by their opponents Steven Jones and Gail Conder Wells, who are White. Concerns specifically within the minority community sparked a hot-debate on how an all-white school board could effectively oversee the needs of a district where over 80 percent of their student population is minorities. Hispanics comprise a little over 70 percent of the student population, according to the Irving ISD website of the ethnic breakdown of its student body.

Manuel Benavidez, Irving resident, filed a lawsuit against Irving ISD in 2010 claiming the at-large voting election process used by the district violated Section II of the Voters Right Act of 1965. Benavidez lost the case, but the presiding Judge Sidney A. Fitzwater concluded after results from the 2010 Census are released Benavidez "may be able to obtain the relief he seeks – trustees elected from single-member districts – without the need for another lawsuit."

"Judge Fitzwater made it clear that the results from the

2010 Census would be important in any future considerations about this matter. Hence it was prudent for us to take the time and wait until the 2010 Census was completed. And that is what we did. We waited until we had that data available. And you [referring to the members in the audience] need to understand the 2010 Census was different than pass Cen-

founder of the Irving NAACP.

Pastor J. Don George, founding pastor of Calvary Church located in Irving addressed the Trustees during the public hearing at MacArthur High School by stating "I support an electoral system which will give an increased opportunity to people of color to serve on the Board of the Irving ISD. It is to be woefully naïve or

tion, faculty. All I can tell you is I am a very proud Latina and I am a very proud woman and I haven't lived yet to see the first female President, but you don't see me complaining about that, it's just the way it is. I hope I live that long, but maybe not..." a comment made by Celeste Gonzales, Irving resident and educator who also believes there are more pressing issues the Board should be addressing like teachers not being able to exercise In School Suspension due to overcrowding.

The debate over moving to single-member districts was not the only topic being discussed in these public hearings. However, the discussion and debate focused on the adoption of the two proposed maps. One map entailed a 5-2 single-member and at-large voting map; the other an all 7 single-member district voting map. According to Heather Ashley, school board President, the two proposed maps were the only viable options in being compliance with the law.

Law versus morality continues to be the underlying debate that many Irving residents, activists, and community leaders based their argument with respect to adopting 7 single-member districts versus the 5-2 single-member/at-large districts. Many expressed it was the morally right thing to implement all single-member districts because it is the only way to ensure a minority can be elected.

Leaders like Irving City Councilmen Dennis Webb of District 3 urged the board to approve single-member district because had it not been for the adoption of single-member districts within the City of Irving he would not have been able to win his current seat as a city councilman.

Asusena Reséndiz, President of Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, also spoke on her personal experience of

how having individuals in her life that embraced diversity and inclusion of all people. These individuals helped to open doors to career opportunities and accomplishments for her.

In the special meeting called by the Trustees on January 12, the board voted 6 to 1 to approve a 5-2 single-member/at-large voting district. Based on the new boundaries of the proposed 5-2 map; respectively Districts 4 and 5 reflect a Hispanic majority of Citizen Voting Age Population thus allowing the potential for two seats to be filled by a Hispanic.

Dr. Steven Jones of Place 1 was the only Trustee who voted against the 5-2 proposed voting map. In the meeting Jones expressed his concern that this change would not improve student achievement. Dr. Jones feels the playing field is already leveled, and does not want to limit the candidate pool.

Ronda Huffstetler of Place 7 and Valerie Jones of Place 4 were the only Trustees in sup-

minority on this board. And I would tell you every time I came to a meeting, and every time I spent time at dinner with them on an educational trip or on a decathlon trip I learned more about different cultures. I learned more about the thought processing and I learned how to be collaborative with other people and I am so grateful. But when I think back about those four, it is so sad to me that we didn't at any time ever have a white, a black, a Hispanic at the same time sitting at that table discussing the children that are in this community," Huffstetler said.

Dr. Dana Bedden, the first African American Superintendent in district history, petitioned the audience to remember the students of Irving ISD are the most important component in this debate. Dr. Bedden also had several students from the front-row to stand and encouraged the attendees going forward to remember those seven students and all the other



Rene Castilla, Citizens for Progressive Irving

suses. It didn't provide the same level of detail as the 2000 Census, so we had to wait an additional period of time while that data was developed using the American Community Survey documents. That's the reason we have been slow in dealing with this," responded Jerry Christian of Place 6 in last Thursday's meeting called by the Board of Trustees.

A governing school board that has been slow to implement changes which parallel the change of the human landscape of its district, is a sentiment many community leaders and activist expressed at the public hearings held in the early weeks of January.

"The Irving school district is 103 years old and in those 103 years we have had one Hispanic serve on the school board and to my knowledge only three African Americans. There have been no other ethnicities in its 103 years. It's time to diversify the school board," declared Anthony Bond, community activist and

horribly racist to believe people of color will diminish the effectiveness of our school board. It's time to make a change."

Many opponents for single-member districts feel it is an unfair assumption that racism is the motivation behind their opposition. Several opponents who spoke against single-member districts during the public hearings shared their reasons for opposition to this change.

"I feel like every member of the school board should be accountable to every voter and if we have single-member district system rather its 7-0, 5-2; or however it comes out than there are going to be factions on that Board. There are going to be Trustees that I won't be able to vote for and certainly won't be accountable to me or other voters," added opponent and Irving resident, Bob Harper in a phone interview.

"I am exhausted of hearing how old the District is and how we haven't had as many perhaps people of color on the school board, in the administra-



Irving ISD Board of Trustees (l-r: Jerry Christian, Dr. Steven Jones (not pictured), Ronda Huffstetler, Heather Ashley, Gwen Craig, Gail Conder Wells, & Valerie Jones)

port of 7 single-member districts. Both Huffstetler and Jones shared their feelings on why an all single-member district was the right decision. Huffstetler spoke to her own personal experiences that helped her embrace diversity and shared how she came to a truth regarding her own prejudices.

"I am the only board member that has served with all four minorities; not another board member has served with all four of them and isn't a shame that it took 90 years to have a

34,851 students they represent.

"I thought it was really interesting to see just how passionate everyone is about the topic and I think the board members know what they are doing so I trust that the decision they made will help change things for the better," commented Emily Petrosky, one of the students in attendance at Thursday's meeting.

The next step for the district is submitting their approved map to the Department of Justice for final approval.

Joyful Noise: Can we all just get along?

BY LATRISHA MC
DUFFIE

Joyful Noise, directed and written by Todd Graff, features the one and only Queen Latifah and the queen of country music Dolly Parton in the economically depressed town of Pasashau, Georgia.

The Pacashau Sacred Divinity Church suffers the loss of its beloved choir director (Kris Kristofferson) due to a sudden heart attack. Pastor Dale (Courtney B. Vance) selects Sister Vie Rose Hill (Queen Latifah), a modest, conservative nurse to replace him, rather than the late director's widow, G.G. Sparrow (Dolly Parton). Feathers are more than a little ruffled.

G.G.'s grandson Randy's (Jeremy Jordan) songs are not all intended for God's glory. He is also trying to sing his way into the heart of the 16-year-old Olivia (Keke Palmer) who is Vi's daughter. His kindness to Olivia's brother, Walter (Dexter Darden) who suffers from Asperger syndrome, certainly scores Randy's points.

Graff, who previously directed and written several musicals including "Camp" and "Bandslam" jumps between subplots like a Tyler Perry movie, between cat-fights, songs, and long walks to school. It seems that before writing the plot, Graff sat down and only read the cliff notes of a made-for-TV movie written by someone working for the Christian Broadcasting Network. There is a caveat: although Joyful Noise will appeal to a wholesome evangelical audience, it will raise a few questions. One subplot Christian audiences will undoubtedly question is the inclusion of a sexual relationship between two choir members. The events, which follow, open the door for an interesting discussion on if bad things are a direct punishment from God for disobeying His Top 10?

Other questions the film explores includes: Should

churches replace traditional music with contemporary music? Can any song, including "Yeah" by Usher, by turn into a gospel song? Really? Can you? Is it okay to leave your family if en-

Graff does not provide any answers to the many questions raised in the movie, leaving the door open for "judgment" of the audience. However, Joyful Noise does entertain, in-



listing in the army for two more years? Also, why does God allow people to be born with Asperger's syndrome like Vi's son Walter? Do all Southern women talk in metaphors using animals? "There's always free cheese in the mousetrap, but trust me, the mice there ain't happy."

spire, and leave audiences humming a few new contemporary gospel songs.

Joyful Noise received a PG-13 rating, because not all language is appropriate for young audiences – or church sanctuaries. The storyline also includes a sexual reference. Running time: 118 minutes.

New book discusses Black community's quiet struggle with depression

Terrie M. Williams, public relations advisor to the stars will discuss her ground-breaking book, *BLACK PAIN...It Just Looks Like We're Not Hurting (Real Talk For When There's Nowhere To Go But Up)*, on Saturday, January 21 at 2 p.m. at The South Side on Lamar's Blue Room located at 1409 S. Lamar, Dallas, Texas 75215.

Williams knows that Black people are hurting. She knows because she is one of them. She had made it. She consulted with some of the world's most famous people including Eddie Murphy, Miles Davis, Janet Jackson and others. Yet she was in constant pain, overeating, waking up in terror and never finding relief. For thirty years she put on her game face of success and took care of clients while ne-



glecting herself. Finally she collapsed and had to seek help. She had hit rock bottom. She learned her problem had a name depression and that thousands suffered from it, not just her. *BLACK PAIN* is her way of addressing this devastating condition.

"I discovered my condition had a name -- depression. As I healed, my mis-

sion became clear: break the silence of this crippling taboo and help others who suffered," said Terrie Williams. "I knew that through my own experiences and conversations with regular folks and celebrities alike, that someone had to shine a light on this destructive darkness."

Williams said, "Today I want to offer hope and transformation to those who are hurting. You can heal and take back your life and my new books shows you how."

This opportunity to meet Williams is made possible by Executive Travel/Accommodations and the Keeping It Real Book Club.

Attendees must purchase a copy of the book *BLACK PAIN*. To RSVP and get your copy email WCtr538@aol.com or call 214-298-3347.

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Recognizing Outstanding Teens

Teen Graffiti Magazine is seeking nominations for its Outstanding Teens feature, which recognize the unselfish contributions of young people who dedicate themselves to making our community a better place and whose compassion and caring may go unnoticed by the greater community. Help us show our youth we are proud of their actions and that their community really is one of the best communities for young people.

Each month, students are selected based on their service to a local organization or cause. In order to be considered, a student must be in grades 7 through 12 and perform a service to the community that is not school-related.

Residents who work with youngsters age 12 through high school, whether in schools, government, organizations, faith communities or other organizations, are asked to nominate teens whose ac-

tions and behaviors make the community a better place. Not only will these outstanding individuals be featured in "Teen Graffiti Magazine," but they will also receive a nomination ribbon and a certificate.

The nomination period is December 26, 2011 through February 17, 2012. For more information and a nomination form, go to www.teengraffiti.com. For more information, call (972) 496-9457.

TEEN GRAFFITI Teen Writers Wanted!

Teen Graffiti Magazine is looking for talented young writers to be published as guest columnists for our Teens Speak column. This is an opportunity for gifted, young journalists to write about a topic of their choosing that is relevant to today's teens.

Teens Speak: We are looking for crisp writing about timely, youth-oriented issues of interest to middle and high school age teens (12-18). The essay

must be no more than 600 words. Only manuscripts written by teens between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age will be considered. Submit articles via e-mail as a text document to, editor@teengraffiti.com or contactus@teengraffiti.com

Please include your name, address, age, grade, school and e-mail address. Please put "Teens Speak Submission" in the subject line and include a short one

or two sentence bio about yourself (ie: Jane Doe is a 9th grader at Lincoln High School. She enjoys reading and playing tennis). Parental consent is required and must be included.

If you have a photo or artwork that would complement your story, e-mail it in a jpeg format or by mail to: Teen Graffiti Magazine, Teens Speak, P.O. Box 452721, Garland, TX 75045-2721

Multi-Devices = A Multitasking Success

BY: CHERYL
PEARSON-MCNEIL

Have you ever wondered what in the world you did before having a cell phone, a laptop or tablet?

Today, our BFF gadgets allow us to multitask and Nielsen's most recent State of the Media: Consumer Usage Report, shares a few interesting insights that may explain how you can cook dinner, go out for a run and find out if it was Blue Ivy or Ivy Blue Carter that Beyoncé and Jay-Z named their baby girl.

The television still reigns supreme and is the most popular device. Two hundred-ninety million people in the U.S. own at least one television, and 85.9 million households have upgraded cable services such as broadband TV. The report shows 288 million viewers use their televisions – with the internet and time-shifted television

at 143 million and 111 million, respectively. And because multitasking is an art, Americans, still manage to find time to watch an average of 32 hours and 47 minutes of television weekly. Blacks still over-index, watching nearly 50 hours of television a week.

According to the report, multicultural consumers make up the bulk of the smartphone market. Forty-eight percent of Blacks chose them as the preferred mobile device.

Thirty million people (ages 2+) use their mobile phones to watch video, and spend an average of seven minutes weekly watching their favorites. These are the top video sites visited on a mobile phone:

1. YouTube
2. FOX
3. ABC

And 37 percent use their phones for easier access to social media. The iPad and gaming consoles (3 percent) are also devices

used for social media according to the report.

Computers have allowed us to multi-task, as well. According to the report, 192 million people in the U.S., use home/work PCs or laptops. In the U.S., 94 domains; 2,905 pages; 830 Facebook pages are viewed per person per month online. A whopping 97 percent of U.S. PC/laptop users access social media and 4 in 5 internet viewers visit social networks and blogs.

So, there you have it. If you are seeking ways to simplify your life this year, you should invest in multiple devices and gadgets. Trust me, they are your friends and are here to make your lives just a little bit easier.

Cheryl Pearson-McNeil is senior vice president of Public Affairs and Government Relations for Nielsen. For more information and studies go to www.nielsenwire.com.



**Sports
Talk with
Spider**

A small start-up enterprise open in New Orleans, Louisiana on December 17, 2011 with several thousand employees looking to make a buck or two during these economical times. Everyone from congressmen to street sweepers and even the taxi drivers were excited about this new company. This despite the "business" only operating for two and half weeks.

The drawback about the company is that it went out of business January 10, 2012, when the remaining fans of

The bucks stop here

Alabama and LSU left town after the BCS National Championship game. The financial opportunity for the citizens of New Orleans was to cash in on a plethora of sporting events whose economic lifeline depends on tourism, conventions and sporting events.

The business economic outlook was extremely productive as 300,000 sports fans ascended on the Crescent City. New Orleans was alive with a Mardi Gras atmosphere while hosting nine sporting events in a 23-day period. These events added \$600 million to the city's economy.

The first day of business

was December 17 as Louisiana-Lafayette defeated San Diego State by the score of 32-30, before a crowd of 42,000 which is a bowl record for the New Orleans Bowl which is one of the lesser paying bowl in the country.

Even the New Orleans Hornets, minus Chris Paul and David West brought in 40,000 fans to entertain the bowl participants between December 28 and January 7. This was excellent timing for David Stern and the NBA brass to scheduling these home games. Kudos also goes out to the civic leaders,

See BUCKS, Page 16

AIRWAVES, continued from Page 3

about the children who were watching this? They were given clues as to what Sir Elton was saying. And I bet you their parents wouldn't use that kind of language in front of them.

Obviously, an example needs to be made to the

people whom millions look up to. If the likes of Melissa Leo and Sir Elton John are going to continue using foul language, and expect to get by with it, then we as a people need to turn off the television sets and distance ourselves

from it.

A.J. Chilson,
Princeton, Texas

Editor's note: Legendary actress Meryl Streep was bleeped during her acceptance speech as well.

**WELLS
FARGO**



One person's vision can change how we see the world

When we want to see the influence Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had on the world, we don't have to look far. We can see his legacy of equality and progress from the playground to the workplace to the White House. And our goal is to have you also see it at Wells Fargo – in our commitment to empowering communities through financial education programs and volunteering. Dr. King taught us that one person's vision can change how everyone views the world.

Wells Fargo honors the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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Together we'll go far



Life Skills Program for New American Women

VOTER, continued from Page 1

DFW International Community Alliance, in partnership with the Dallas Public Library, is pleased to announce an educational program for New American women: The Life Skills Certificate. The free Saturday morning workshops will begin on February 4 at the Audelia Branch Library, and will continue from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. throughout the year. These classes will introduce steps toward success in the United States and are especially designed for foreign-born women who have lived in the US for five years or less. To apply please call Hellen Fissihiae at 972-352-8556.

The subjects to be covered in the program include family health & wellness, nutrition, using the public library, obtaining an ID or drivers license, USA culture, raising a special needs child, financial literacy (opening a bank account, using a credit card), domestic violence and family security issues, job skills, partnering your children's education, parenting for success, steps to American citizenship, entrepreneurship, and much more. Classes will be offered in English, Amharic, Tigrina, French, Kuryndi, Burmese, Dzongkha and Arabic. The Life Skills Program for New American Women is funded by a grant from The Dallas Women's Foundation and is partnered by the United Eritrean American Families and the Mutual Assistance Association for the Ethiopian Community.

Tekeste Woldezghi, president of the United Eritrean American Families of Dallas says "Our organization is thrilled to be part of this unique DFW International initiative that enables immigrant women to become active participants in the DFW metroplex as well as in their own communities. Forty four percent of the region's residents are New Americans, and this trailblazing initiative will serve as an instrument of change in the lives of women and their families." Mac Mekonnen, chairman of the Mutual Assistance Association for the Ethiopian Community appreciates "the support extended by the Dallas Women's Foundation that will facilitate newly arrived Ethiopian women's understanding of the American way of life and will serve as springboards as they establish their new homes in this great nation of immigrants."

DFW International Community Alliance is the portal for global North Texas, a network of 1,600 of the regions ethnic and internationally-focused civic, community and educational organizations. Its mission is to build mutual understanding and respect by linking diverse international cultural communities. The organization promotes and links North Texas global groups through its website and cultural calendar at www.dfwinternational.org/.

For more details about DFW International Community Alliance, see www.dfwinternational.org/media_/ or call 972-661-2764.

criminary impact are limited by the quality of the data.

It is for this reason that Senator Rodney Ellis (D-Houston) sent an October 10, 2011 letter to the Secretary of State and the State Demographer asking the two agencies to work together to produce the requested data. Unfortunately, this did not take place, and the resulting information submitted to the Department of Justice was, in the state's own words, "highly misleading."

"I am extremely disappointed that the state felt comfortable submitting data that even they admit is 'inaccurate and unreliable' and 'highly misleading.' There should be a higher standard for information that attempts to dispel concerns about voter ID's likely discriminatory impact," said Ellis. "Had the state followed my recommendation utilized the State Demographer, I am certain that the Justice Department would have better data to work with."

"It is obvious that supporters of Voter ID have virtually no reliable data on its impact on minority voters, so it is clear the Justice Department should reject preclearance of the law, just as they have done for South Carolina's attempt to weaken minority voting rights," said Ellis.

KING, continued from Page 3

ment. And our school board knows that. So it begs the question, why did the Board vote to do this?

Dr. King always said, "We want all of our rights, we want them here, and we want them now!" In spite of what our African American Superintendent is saying to me here in his emails, I wholeheartedly disagree. I believe the Spirit of Dr. King just woke me up and is urging me forward to do everything I can to non-violently oppose what our Irving ISD Board has done. I vow to do everything in my power including protests, marches, sit-ins, sick outs and boycotts to get the attention of these White board members who continue to oppress the majority - minority community in the Irving ISD.

In Irving ISD, 9 out of 10 students are Black, Hispanic or Asian. The 5-2 single member district configuration still does not ensure fair representation of these groups in the Irving ISD.

I am praying to God to allow the Spirit of Dr. King to guide me as we fight against this injustice here. If you have any questions, please call me at 214-830-6719. God Bless You All!

Anthony Bond,
Irving Community Activist

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BOWLING, continued from Page 1

ally attracts about 200 bowlers and spectators to the Plano Super Bowl. A raffle will be available that includes prizes from restaurants and entertainment tickets and many others. There will also be the friendly competition between those in the tournament. Prizes will be given to the highest scoring team and individual, best dressed team, most strikes, best team spirit and a few other fun categories. Registration is now open for teams of 6 or individuals that would like to participate in the tournament. Booth space is available to vendors who would like to sell or display their products or services.

"This bowling tournament is a great way to have fun while making an impact on hundreds of families that are adversely affected by family violence each year," said Morrison.

According to The Texas Council on Family Violence, an alarming trend in North Texas shows escalating deaths of innocent children and family members in domestic violence murders. In Texas, 142 women were killed in domestic violence murders in 2010. This was a sizable increase of deaths from the previous year.

To register or get a booth log on to <http://new-beginningcenter.give-zooks.com/events/new-beginning-center-s-strike-against-domestic-violence> or contact Steph-anie at development@newbeginningcenter.org or 972-276-0423.

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January 25, 2012 @ 2:00 p.m.

Contact:

Jimmy Smith

Mail to:

Eagle Contracting L.P.
P.O. Box 1600, Keller, TX 76244

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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/
BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Dallas

Contract 0009-11-223 for RESURFACE HIGHWAY in DALLAS County will be opened on February 07, 2012 at 1:00 pm at the State Office. Contract 0095-13-034 for FULL DEPTH CONCRETE PAVEMENT REPAIR in DALLAS County will be opened on February 08, 2012 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Pre-qualified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Pre-qualification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 39070 State Office

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

Dist/Div Office(s)

Dallas District | District Engineer
4777 E. Hwy 80 | Mesquite, Texas 75150-6643
Phone: 214-320-6100

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

**AVENUE F CHURCH
OF CHRIST IN PLANO**

Mondays – Fridays
Call 972-423-8833 for AF-
FECT, Inc. or email: AFFEC-
TxInc@aol.com for counseling
services, resources and assis-
tance for job readiness and
training programs for individu-
als. For couples we offer serv-
ices for marital relationships
and for ex-offenders we offer
programs for getting back into
the work force.

January 19, 12 Noon

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

January 29, 10:45 a.m.

Take charge of your life and
your health, come for our Wor-
ship Services and stay for our
FREE Blood Pressure Clinic.

Brother Ramon Hodridge,
Minister

1026 Avenue F
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833

www.avefchurchofchrist.org

**BIBLE WAY
COMMUNITY
BAPTIST CHURCH**

January 22

Join us in Sunday School at
9:35 a.m.; and Sunday Worship
at 11 a.m. as we worship and
praise God. The Word of God
transforms lives.

January 25, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Bible
Class as we study the Word of
God and give Him honor and
praise.

Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Sr.
Senior Pastor
4215 N. Greenview Drive
Irving, TX 75062
972-257-3766
www.bwcbc.com

**DAYSTAR
DELIVERANCE
MINISTRIES**

**January 2012, New
Days, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**
Visit Helen's House Tuesdays
and Fridays (exceptions are bad
weather and holidays) to re-
ceive, to give, to comfort and to
fellowship. The give-a-way of
food, love and household items
is given freely to all those who
could use a little touch.

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

**EIRENE CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

**January 22, 8:45 a.m.
and 11 a.m.**

Join us in Morning Worship as
we honor and praise God for
His blessings.

January 25, 7:30 p.m.

You're invited to Bible Class as
we study the Word of God and
give Him honor and praise.

Pastor Autry
701 E. Centennial Blvd.
Richardson, TX 75081
972-991-0200
www.followpeace.org

**FELLOWSHIP
CHRISTIAN CENTER
CHURCH IN ALLEN
“The Ship”**

**Monday – Friday
9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

TheShip3C's Prayer Lines for
those in need are 972-649-0566
and 972-649-0567 or they may
be submitted via email to:
prayerline@theship3c.org

January 22, 9:30 a.m.

Join us in our Sunday Morning
Worship at Story Elementary
School, 1550 Edelweiss Drive,
Allen, TX. We will praise God
for His blessings.

January 25, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednes-
day Night Live in the Joycie
Turner Fellowship Hall on Bel-
mont Drive. Also, come to our
Corporate Prayer and our Kidz
Zone (an environment to equip
children to grow and to show
God's love.)

January 29

It's Super Sunday at F3C; join
us and experience the joy of
praising and worshipping God
to the fullest.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr.,
Ed.D.
Senior Pastor
1550 Edelweiss Drive
In Allen for Sunday
Morning Worship.
Admin. Building Address
Is 200 W. Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

**MT. PISGAH
MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH
“The Rock”**

January 22, 10 a.m.

Join us in celebrating the New
Year in Sunday Worship as we
give God excellence praise
without excuse.

January 25

Come to our Noonday Bible
Study to learn more about the
Word of God; and at 7 p.m. for
our Wednesday Night Bible
Study.

January 29

You're invited to our Ministry

Fair in our Education Building.
Call the church for details.

Pastor Robert Townsend
11611 Webb Chapel Road
Dallas, TX 75229
972-241-6151
www.dallasmtpisgah.org

**NEW MOUNT ZION
BAPTIST CHURCH**

January 24, 6:30 p.m.

There are Reading and Math tu-
toring classes for grades 1-6,
call for details and bring your
children.

January 29, 6:30 p.m.

We have the 2012 Youth Study
Kick-Off Class and teachers are
needed; call Sis. Donna Bolden
for details and bring your chil-
dren.

Dr. Robert Price, Sr.,
Senior Pastor
9550 Shepherd Road
Dallas, TX 75243
214-341-6459
www.nmzb.org

**NORTH DALLAS
COMMUNITY
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH**

**January 22, 9:30 a.m.
and 11:30 a.m.**

You're invited to join us for
Sunday Worship as we give
God praise for His blessings.

January 27, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Single
Parent Support Group. Call
Pastor Cooper at 972-437-3493,
Ext 104 or email him at
rcooper@ndcbf.org for details.

January 28, 12 Noon

For those in need, come to our
Grief Recovery Support Group.
Call Tera McFarland at 972-
437-3493, Ext 111 or email her
at tmcfarland@ndcbf.org for

details.

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

ROCKBRIDGE CHURCH

January 22

Join us in Prayer with Pastor at
8:30 a.m. and stay for Worship
Celebration at 10 a.m. as we
honor and praise God for His
blessings.

January 25, 7 p.m.
You're invited to Bible Study
and Awana as we worship and
praise God.

Timothy Jones,
Lead Pastor
21 Prestige Circle
Allen, TX 75002
214-383-9993
www.rockbridgechurch.com

**SAINT MARK MBC
IN MCKINNEY**

January 22, 9:30 a.m.

Join us in our Education Min-
istries; and stay for our Worship
Celebration at 10:45 a.m.

January 24 and 26, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Wellness
Ministry as we honor and praise
God for His goodness.

January 28, 9 a.m.

Join us at the Community
Health Fair Blood Drive hosted
by our church. Call Kimberly
Simmons for details at church.
Save a life, give blood.

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

**SHILOH MBC
IN PLANO**

**January 22, 8 a.m.
And 11 a.m.**

Join us in our Morning Wor-
ship times and stay for our
Sunday School at 10 a.m.

January 22, 11 a.m.

Come to our Youth Worship
Services in our Chapel and our
Children's Worship Services in
our Annex each month.

January 25, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Midweek
Service as we worship and
praise God.

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

**THE INSPIRING BODY
OF CHRIST CHURCH**

January 22, 7:30 a.m.

Join us as we worship, honor
and praise God's Holy name.

January 23, 7 p.m.

Come to Monday School as we
study the Word of God and
worship and praise His name.

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S. Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.ibocjoy.org

**THE NEW LIGHT
CHURCH**

January 22, 2012

You're invited to worship with
us on Sunday Mornings at 9:30
a.m. in Sunday School and 11
a.m. in Morning Worship as we
celebrate, praise and worship
God.

Shaun Rabb, Senior Pastor

9314 Elam Road
Dallas, TX 75217
214-391-3430
newlightchurchdallas.com

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

January 22

You are invited to a Life Trans-
forming Service that will
change your life as we praise
and worship God for His bless-
ings.

1100 Business Parkway,
Suite 1007
Richardson, TX 75081

**WORD OF LIFE
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Early Prayer

Join us in prayer early in the
morning at 6 a.m. on Monday -
Friday at 1-661-673-8600,
Code # 142219 and please put
your phone on mute. Prayer
will change people, things and
situations. God is moving in
powerful ways in early Morn-
ing Prayer.

January 24, 7:30 p.m.

You're invited to our School of
The Prophets as Pastor Voss;
who is also a prophet, bring the
Word of God; and we worship
and praise His Holy name.

January 26, 7:30 p.m.

Join us in our Gift Stirring
Night as Saints of God bring
God's Word and reveal their
God-given talents.

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

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

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

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

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Pastor Sam Fenceroy

Pastor Gloria Fenceroy

- Sunday School for all ages 8:30 am
- Sunday Morning Prayer 9:30 am
- Sunday Service 10:00 am
- Wednesday Night Service 7:00 pm

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**Sister
Tarpley**

On Monday, January 16, 2012, our nation celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1968, for his contributions to our nation and to the world.

His famous speech in Washington, I Have A Dream, is well known, but perhaps less known are other quotes that are just as thought provoking as his most talked about speech.

Listed are other quotes, from Dr. King that are worth pondering: "A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus." "A lie cannot live." "A man can't ride your back unless it's bent." "A man who won't die for something is not fit to live." "A nation or civilization that continues to produce soft-minded men purchases its own spiritual death on the installment plan." "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom."

"A right delayed is a right denied." "A riot is the language of the unheard." "All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence." "All progress is precarious, and the solution of one problem brings us face to face with another problem." "Almost always, the creative dedicated minority has made the world better."

"An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." "An individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law." At the center of non-violence stands the principle of love."

"Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through con-

tinuous struggle. And so we must straighten our backs and work for our freedom." "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." "Discrimination is a hellhound that gnaws at Negroes in every waking moment of their lives to remind them that the lie of their inferiority is accepted as truth in the society dominating them."

"Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness." "Everything that we see is a shadow cast by that which we do not see." "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

"Have we not come to such an impasse in the modern world that we must love our enemies - or else? The chain reaction of evil - hate

begetting hate, wars producing more wars - must be broken, or else we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation." "He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it." "History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people."

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals." "Human salvation lies in the hands of the creatively maladjusted." "I am not interested in power for power's sake, but I'm interested in power that is moral, that is right and that is good." "I believe that unarmed truth

and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

"I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made straight and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together." "I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be

able to sit together at the table of brotherhood." "I look to a day when people will not be judged by the

color of their skin, but by the content of their character." **Other quotes of Dr. King continues next week.**



Sister Tarpley on the Word of Life float that was in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in Carrollton, Texas.

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Las Colinas Group, LP

VACCINE, continued from Page 4

•You are pregnant.

•Your immune system has been weakened by HIV or other disease that affects the immune system.

•You take steroids or other medicines with immunosuppressive effects.

•You've ever had a serious allergic reaction to gelatin, the antibiotic neomycin or anything else in the vaccine. (Your doctor can identify those substances and help you assess any potential risk.)

•You've had cancer that affects the lymphatic system or bone marrow, or you've received chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

And, in any case, consult with your physician before receiving the shingles vaccine.

Research indicates that



the shingles vaccine is effective for at least six years, but may last much longer. Clinical tests have found no major risk of serious health problems, though a chickenpox-like rash sometimes occurs near the vaccination site. The most common side effects are redness, pain and tenderness, itching and headache.

Another point to consider is cost. Not all health insurance plans cover the vaccine, which currently is in short supply and can have an out-of-pocket cost

\$150 or more per shot. Check with your physician and insurance provider if cost is an issue or your health plan does not cover the vaccine. They may be able to direct you to alternative sources of immunizations.

For more information on shingles, including affordable sources of vaccinations, you can call your local health department or the Texas Department of State Health Services Immunization Branch at 800-252-9152.

BUCKS, continued from Page 11

the private sector and corporate sponsors like, Toyota, Mercedes Benz, R&L Carriers and Allstate Insurance for stepping up to the plate. Allstate's commitment to the Sugar Bowl and the people of New Orleans has generated \$1.3 billions within the last nine years.

The board of directors of this start-up company is the New Orleans Saints. They played two regular season games with a needed win over archrival Atlanta. The Saints ended the regular season with a win over Rookie of the Year candidate Cam Newton and the Carolina Panthers.

They know how to keep their stockholders happy with quarterly profits and a winning product as they defeated the Detroit Lions in the first round of the playoffs, as they make their run to another Super Bowl appearance. Three home games produce an average attendance of 77,000 and offer a massive impact on retail and restaurants in the city.

The buck(s) stop in New

Orleans, a city that is still in the shadows of Katrina and the Gulf Coast Oil spill. However, with the "going out of business sign" in the window it will begin again in 2013 when the Super Bowl comes to town.

You can listen to Donald 'Spider' Willis each Sunday from 7:00pm to 9:00pm on the Fishbowl Radio Network.com. For topics or opinions you can call 469 335 6668 or email dwillisdw@yahoo.com

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