

North Dallas Gazette



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Trustee files second complaint against Irving ISD Superintendent Bedden

OUR VIEW

The November 14 agenda for the Irving Independent School District's (Irving ISD) Board of Trustees included S. Jones Complaint v. the Superintendent of Schools for the Executive Session. Dr. Stephen Jones, elected to

the board last May, filed a second complaint against the superintendent, Dr. Dana Bedden. Several community leaders question whether these concerns are legitimate or a personal agenda against the superintendent play-



Dr. Dana Bedden

ed out publically?

Dr. Jones discussed his complaints in the Executive Session, which is closed to the public. The only individuals with full knowledge of the complaints are the trustees and Dr. Bedden. Phone calls

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Cease the Grease program recycles cooking grease for fuel

BY HELEN CANTRIL-DULAC, SPECIAL NDG CONTRIBUTOR

A Thanksgiving dinner without turkey is almost inconceivable. Being a native Texan, a holiday dinner without a deep fried turkey is even more unbelievable. Because deep fried turkeys



are moist and delicious, family cooks may find they have no turkey leftovers. However, they may have five gallons of fry oil leftover. The last thing cooks need to worry about is what to do with all of that oil, because the football game is about to start. Relax and watch the game.

This will allow your fry oil time to cool.

After celebrating the Dallas Cowboys' victory, pour the cooled fry oil back into the original container. Another option is to use any plastic container with a screw top lid. We all know

See GREASE, Page 5

Study: African-American women the most optimistic about future opportunities

Though often stressed over money, work, and lack of free time, across ethnicities, American women exhibit optimism with regards to their future and their daughters according to findings in Nielsen's report: Women of Tomorrow: U.S. Multicultural Insights.



With the face of the United States changing, the attitudes and behaviors of women from all backgrounds is increasingly important. Hispanics are now the fastest growing ethnic group, a trend that has tremendous ramifications

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COVER STORY

Hispanic leaders working together to create a proposed single-member district map for Irving ISD Board of Trustees



Pastor Norris McGill

See LEADERS, Page 9



Sandusky is nothing but a dirty old man

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

COMMENTARY

NAACP provides testimony at Congressional forum on state voter suppression efforts

The NAACP provided the following testimony this week during "Excluded from Democracy: The Impact of Recent State Voting Law Changes," a congressional forum on state voter suppression efforts across the country. Texas is one of the states that has passed a photo identification requirement. Below is an excerpt of the NAACP's testimony related to the photo identification laws.

"There are racially discriminatory voter dis-

enfranchising proposals, at the federal, state and local levels, which would require all voters to show some form of federally or state-approved photo identification before being able to cast their vote. These proposals fly in the face of our right, guaranteed by the Constitution, to cast a free and unfettered ballot, as well as the recently reauthorized 1965 Voting Rights Act, which mandates that no

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People In The News...



Terri Quinton



Rosie Peterson



Salma Gottfried

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Terri Quinton

Dallas and Fort Worth area minority businesses, corporations, public sector agencies and minority business advocates will be honored at the Dallas/Fort Worth Minority Supplier Development Council's annual E Awards Dinner, Friday, November 18 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel. The event starts with a reception at 5:30 p.m. immediately followed by the awards dinner at 7:00 p.m.

The Council, who won the 2011 National Regional Council of the Year award a

few weeks ago, annually recognizes companies and individuals who have made significant strides in minority supplier inclusion, utilization and growth opportunities. This year's E Awards theme is "Showcasing Business Excellence".

"These awards continue to be significant, especially in these challenging economic times," said Dennis Miller, Chairman of Board of The Council and Senior Vice President, Controller for jcpenny. "We really appre-

ciate and applaud the firms and individuals who will receive these honors," Miller said. "These firms believe in excellence and have succeeded because of their commitment. They have demonstrated excellence."

This year's nominees include

- Executive Advocate of the Year – Donna Weaver Erhardt



and Floyd Williams of Verizon; Larry Caldwell, PepsiCo; Dennis Miller, jcpenny; Cheryl Stevens, Energy Future Holdings; Grey Spoon, DFW International Airport; Jill Lacy-Green, CoreLogic; Jennifer Wimbish, Cedar Valley College; John Rau, American Airlines; and Lynn Scott, Alcatel-Lucent

- Minority Business Enterprise Advocate of the Year – Terri Quinton, Alliance of Diversity Printers; Betty Manetta, Argent; Juan Rodriguez, Balfour Beatty; Leonel Gutierrez, MCCR;

Tammy Coen, Rose International; Jeremy Lopez, Pursuit of Excellence; and Don McKneeley, Texcorp

- Corporate/Public Sector Advocate of the Year – Sandra Wicker, Army & Air Force Exchange Service; Becky De La Cruz and Tanya Whitehead, AT&T; David Grimes, BNSF; Jennifer Wimbish, Cedar Valley College; Rozalind Dickerson and Perfecta Gallegos, City of Dallas; Alex Alvarez, CoreLogic; Carmen Garcia, DART; Tommie Lyle and Annie Holmes, DISD;

See QUINTON, Page 11

Rosie Peterson

Rosie Peterson, director of Institutional Diversity Initiatives at UT Dallas, has been named chair of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA) board.

Ms. Peterson started at UT Dallas in 2004 after nearly 22 years of professional experience serving individuals with special needs or those in medically underserved areas. She was the assistant di-

rector of the Sickle Cell Research Center from 2004 to 2008. Over her career, she has written grant proposals, individually and collaborative, to fund more than \$4 million in project activities related to sickle cell disease and organizational capacity building.

"Working with



the sickle cell disease community-based organizations has always been a passion of mine," said Ms. Peterson. "Strong community-based programs will ensure that affected individuals around the country will receive appropriate treatment, services and support."

"The passion that I have for service comes from a deep sense of respect for the individ-

uals, parents and families who face a daily struggle of how to cope with the many issues caused by this devastating disease," Peterson said. "I would like to use my experience and passion for SCDAA to become the voice that commands the respect it deserves to support services and inspire the research to find a cure for this disease."

SCDAA has partnered with government, private and other not-for-profit

agencies and programs at the local, state, and national levels for more than 35 years to help people with sickle cell disease.

Peterson has received numerous awards and recognition for her professional and volunteer work. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama, and is certified as a managed-care professional by the Professional Academy of Health-care Management.

Salma Gottfried

The Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau (DCVB) has appointed Salma Gottfried as its new senior vice president, marketing.

Gottfried is responsible for the overall direction and execution of DCVB market-

ing and public relations efforts. She'll develop and implement a long-term strategic plan that creates awareness and successfully positions Dallas as a premier U.S. destination locally, nationally and internationally to both the meetings and leisure travel markets. Additionally, Gottfried will work closely with various hospitality stakeholders to promote DCVB initiatives and the importance of the tourism industry locally.

"I, along with local community leaders and industry partners, am excited to introduce Salma as the DCVB's new senior vice president, marketing," said Phillip Jones, President and CEO of the DCVB. "Her previous experience managing some of the

world's most recognizable brands and familiarity with the hospitality industry are invaluable. Salma's creativity, enthusiasm and track record of innovation make her the ideal candidate to position the Dallas brand for future success."

Gottfried joins the DCVB following a 14 1/2-year stint with Dallas-based advertising agency Dieste, where she most recently served as executive director, brand leadership. In various roles with the company, she drove key advertising initiatives in consumer markets that increased sales and demonstrated ROI for brands including, but not limited to: Procter & Gamble's Gillette, Head & Shoulders, Iams and Duracell; Levi's; Southwest Airlines; Gatorade; Frito Lay; and Nationwide Insurance.

Gottfried began her career in the hospitality industry with the Loews Anatole Hotel (currently the Hilton Anatole Hotel) in Dallas be-

fore being promoted to director of public relations and advertising for the Loews Anatole Hotel and director of advertising for the corporate chain where she led all advertising efforts.

"I'm thrilled to begin this new opportunity with the DCVB," Gottfried said. "Dallas is my home, and I see many exciting opportunities for both the Dallas brand and our city on the horizon. The Dallas CVB is a great organization, and I look forward to working with staff, our members, city staff, and civic and industry leaders to position Dallas as the top meetings and leisure destination in the country."

A native of Mexico City, Mexico, Gottfried is fluent in both English and Spanish. She has previously served on the PR and press committee for the Travel Industry Association of America and the public relations committee for the DCVB.

Gottfried earned her Bachelor of Business degree in marketing from Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

An avid photographer, Gottfried's work highlight-

ing abstract architecture has been published by Mentor Series Worldwide photo treks and is featured in multiple venues in Dallas and Costa Rica.



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NAACP, continued from Page 1

state or municipality shall in any way infringe on our right to vote.

While supporters of these initiatives purport to be combating "voter fraud," (a "problem" which, as numerous studies have shown, is not really a problem), what these laws are in fact doing is creating a barrier to keep the up to 21 million Americans, or 11% of the entire voting-eligible population, who do not have government-issued photo IDs, out of the ballot booth. Sadly, a disproportionate number of these people who do not have eligible government-issued IDs are racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly or low-income Americans. A full 25% of African Americans who would otherwise be eligible to vote do not have a qualified photo ID.

For example, under the new Texas law, voters are allowed to use a concealed handgun license as proof of identity, but precludes voters from using a student ID, even if the student ID was issued by a state university. As the Texas Department of Public Safety recently noted, African Americans are significantly underrepresented among the state's handgun license holders. Of the more than 100,000 concealed handgun licenses issued in Texas last year, only 7.69% were issued to African Americans, even though African Americans constitute 12.1% of the state's voting age population. In contrast, African Americans are more likely to attend a public university in Texas than whites. According to the 2009 American Community Survey, 8.0% of voting-age African

Americans in Texas attended a public university compared with only 5.8% of voting age white.

These proposals re-create new obstacles in voting akin to a modern day "poll-tax" by forcing Americans to pay for government approved ID. Many of our most vulnerable citizens do not have or cannot easily obtain the paperwork needed to obtain a photo ID, such as passports, birth certificates or naturalization papers. Furthermore, obtaining a photo ID may require taking as much as a day off of work or traveling far distances, both of which may prove to be almost insurmountable chores. The requirement that all voters present a state issued photo ID before being able to cast a regular ballot will disproportionately disenfranchise African Americans and other racial and ethnic minority Americans, as well as the elderly, individuals with disabilities, Americans living in rural areas, students, Native American voters, the homeless, and low-income people who are less likely to have or carry a photo ID.

To add insult to injury, these proposals would do little or nothing to prevent actual instances of voter fraud. Nothing in the legislation addresses actual documented problems of election and voter fraud, such as the improper purges of voters, distributing false information about when and where to vote, stuffing ballot boxes, and tampering

with registration forms, most of which are perpetrated by corrupt election officials, not voters. Rather, many of these proposals appear to be a blatant attempt



to change the political outcome of elections. In North Carolina, for example, an estimated 270,000 African American voters lack a photo ID; the Presidential victor of North Carolina in 2008 won the state by less than 14,000 votes.

Sadly, the trend toward requiring a photo identification is growing, as more state legislatures pass new photo identification requirements or make existing requirements more stringently restrictive. 29 states currently have laws on the books requiring all voters to show some form of identification before voting. Of these, 14 must show an identification which contains a photo of the voter; in the remaining 15 states non-picture IDs are acceptable. 8 of the 14 states currently have extremely strict voter ID laws, which require a voter to show a government issued photo ID to vote. In most of those states, if the voter cannot or does not produce a photo ID, he / she is allowed to cast a provisional ballot, which is counted only after the voter

returns to election officials within a certain time frame (usually just a few days) with a photo ID. I should point out that the strict voter ID laws in 2 of these states, Texas and South Carolina, can only take effect after the state receives pre-clearance from the US Department of Justice under the Voting Rights Act.

In 2011, 47 states either already had voter ID requirements on the books or saw voter ID laws introduced. Of the 47 states, 20 states did not have any prior voter ID laws, and 14 states saw moves to toughen existing voter ID laws to require photo identification. Of these proposals, 15 failed, 6 were enacted, 5 were vetoed, 4 were carried over to the 2012 session and 4 states still have proposals pending. I should also point out that in Mississippi, a state in which a proposed voter photo ID law had been defeated in the state legislature, voters approved a photo id amendment to their state Constitution just last week, in a vote on November 8, 2011.

Esteemed Members of Congress, you will most likely hear much about the impact of new state photo identification laws, as they tend to be the most widespread legislative development this session in a season packed with attempts to disenfranchise eligible American voters. Suffice it to say that we at the NAACP will continue to vehemently oppose these modern day offenses to democracy that add up to nothing more than a good old fashion pole tax, just like those outlawed by the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Citizens for Irving Entertainment Center Seek Support

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

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

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

political action committee in order to save it.

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

cil.

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

Men, women 'of a certain age' urged to keep a close eye on vision problems

To repurpose a phrase from Carl Sandburg, middle-aged vision problems tend to "come on little cat's feet." Decades pass with no obvious changes in our eyesight. Then, one day, your GPS fails you during a road trip and you reach for an old-school paper map. You unfold it, try to read the microscopic names of cities and highways, and think: *This has got to be a practical joke.*

It's no joke. You've simply confirmed that visual acuity tends to slip with age. The fuzzy map thing probably is caused by presbyopia, a hardening of the lens inside the eye that keeps us from focusing properly. It often appears around age 40 and is no biggie. A cheap pair of reading glasses from the drugstore should fix you right up. If they don't help, contact lenses, glasses or refractive surgery probably

will.

In fact, most people have no reason to fear the majority of common vision problems, which also include farsightedness, myopia (nearsightedness), astigmatism and cataracts and dry eye syndrome. But it's important to recognize that we may be developing these conditions so we can treat them before they get worse.

We also need to know the signs of more serious problems such as diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa, all of which can lead to blindness. Here are some basic facts about common vision problems and how they can be recognized and treated.

•Near- and far-sightedness. These very common conditions can occur at any age, but often develop as the eyeball changes shape over time. Preferred treatments



include prescribed vision correction and simple outpatient surgery.

•Astigmatism. Also caused by structural irregularities in the eye, astigmatism is characterized by blurred vision and can accompany near- or far-sightedness. Less serious cases may require little if any treatment, but tell your doctor if you experience serious blurring, headaches or eye discomfort.

•Cataracts. These clouded or opaque areas of the eye's lens affect about 60 percent of people over 60. Common symptoms are blurry vision, poor night vision and "muddy" looking colors. Cataracts have many causes, including heredity, German measles, some medications, eye injuries and exposure to intense heat. Surgical removal is the only treatment.

•Glaucoma. Glaucoma

is damage to the optic nerve caused by increased pressure from excess fluid inside the eye. Symptoms can include aching in the eyes, loss of peripheral vision, "haloing" around lights and gradual worsening of vision. It's not curable, but can be controlled with medication or surgery.

•Retinitis pigmentosa. This group of degenerative retina diseases is characterized by poor low-light vision, tunnel vision and extreme light sensitivity. Insulin-dependent diabetics are a major risk group for the disease. It also has a strong hereditary link. Treatments include using a laser to seal leaking or bleeding blood vessels in the retina or, in severe cases, removing the vitreous humor.

•Macular degeneration. Macular degeneration affects the retina in a way that leads to drastic loss of pe-

ripheral vision. The disease occurs in "dry" and "wet" forms. The most common early sign of the dry form is painless, blurred vision. There's no cure, but some evidence suggests that certain vitamins and minerals may slow it. Early indicators of the wet form include visual distortion of straight lines. Wet macular degeneration may be treated with laser therapy.

Many forms of eye disease respond well to treatment, vision correction or surgery. But for those with severe vision loss or blindness, the Texas Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) may be able to help with adaptive technology, rehabilitation or training to adapt to work and daily life. To see if you may be eligible, visit DARS' Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired website at www.dars.state.tx.us/dba.

Make Your Thanksgiving Food Delicious and Safe

The leaves are falling, the days are getting shorter and pretty soon it will be time to whip up your favorite mashed potatoes and roast the turkey for Thanksgiving. As Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the holiday season this winter, it's important to remember safety precautions for you and your family while the house is full and a lot is going on. Use these tips from USA.gov to keep your Thanksgiving safe and fun:

•Cooking for a group can be much more challenging than a normal meal. When family comes together for Thanksgiving, it can be hard to keep track of who is in charge of the kitchen and to make sure all the food is cooked properly. Make sure you know how to prevent bacteria from getting into the food and causing food borne illness. The U.S. Department of Agriculture offers advice on storing and preparing food for groups whether you're cooking in advance or making food the day of the event.

•Everyone may have his or her personal favorite Thanksgiving dish, but for most, nothing is as impor-



tant as the turkey itself. Making sure you have the perfectly tasting and displayed turkey can also be stressful. Not sure what size to get? A good rule of thumb is to allow one pound per person. Whether you're using a fresh or frozen turkey, there are important guidelines to follow in the days leading up to Thanksgiving and while preparing the turkey.

•While cooking, remember the rest of your family around you. Make sure young children are out of the way of the oven and other hot cooking appliances. If you are cooking outdoors, monitor your food closely to prevent a fire. You can review more Thanksgiving Day cooking tips ahead of time so you don't need to worry later

on.

•While dinner's cook-

ing and you're spending time with the family, you can fill the kids in on where Thanksgiving came from and why America honors this important holiday. President George Washington first recognized Thanksgiving, but it didn't become a commemorative holiday each year until President Abraham Lincoln issued an official proclamation.

Whether you're hosting Thanksgiving or just con-

tributing to the meal, remembering these food

safety tips can help keep your holiday happy.

20 Years after Magic - HIV/AIDS is Still an Issue

BY WENDELL HUSTON

good year because I am HIV negative."

(NNPA) Hall of Fame basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson brought his HIV/AIDS awareness campaign to Chicago this week to celebrate the 20 years he has lived with the deadly disease. And although Johnson did not come to Chicago his presence was felt loud and clear at a South Side Walgreens where free HIV testing took place.

Charles Jenkins, 56, said he is a regular customer at Walgreens, 11 E. 75th St., so it only made sense to get tested while there. "I'm an old man now but back in my younger years I was a 'player.' I slept with my fair share of women and did not always use condoms," he recalled. "Back then AIDS was not considered a big deal because mainly gay men had the disease. Every year I get tested just to be on the safe side. And like every year since I started getting tested five years ago, this was a

The MJF arranged for free testing from the West Coast to the East Coast in predominately minority communities where HIV education and testing is needed the most, said Amelia Williamson, interim president of the Magic Johnson Foundation.

"It is time for the Magic Johnson Foundation to communicate the impact we have had in urban communities across the US. Point Forward Day is about getting involved and giving back like Magic has done," Williamson said. "It is time for all of us to stop spectating and start doing! Through our continued work in educational empowerment, it is our hope to cyclically cultivate, inspire and help to achieve self sufficiency in underserved communities."

Besides Chicago, other cities that participated in the Point Forward Day were Atlanta, Dallas, Los Angeles, **See MAGIC, Page 15**

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1st Annual Gingerbread house decorating contest, display and auction in Carrollton

A. W. Perry Homestead Museum (1509 N. Perry Road) is holding its first ever gingerbread house decorating contest, display and auction.

Individuals, businesses, schools, religious institutions, scouts, homeowners associations, everyone is encouraged to enter! Complete contest rules and entry forms are available online at cityofcarrollton.com/museum, Carrollton Libraries or either Carrollton Recreation Center. The gingerbread houses will be on display to the public at the Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs Road) November 18-20. Event sponsors include the A. W. Perry Homestead Museum Society, Sam Pack's Five Star Ford, Silver Star Mercantile Co., and Lakeview at Josey Ranch.

Proceeds from the entries and auction benefit the programs of the Perry Homestead. The Perry Homestead hosts a number of free and

low cost programs for all ages, including the annual Old-Fashioned Christmas, Mother's Day Concert, Movies on the Lawn, and



Family Fun Saturdays. The Museum also provides tours at no charge to the public, area schools, and community groups.

There are three ways to participate:

Enter the gingerbread house-decorating contest. Cash prizes will be awarded to the best gingerbread creation in each category. Register by November 14.

Visit the gingerbread house display at the Josey Ranch Lake Library. View and enjoy all the fabulous entries during Library hours

November 18-20. Free!

Bid on your favorite gingerbread house for a chance to win and take it home with you.

First place prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Business/Professional \$100, Adult \$75, Teen \$50 and Youth \$25. All professional category entries will be auctioned off by way of silent auction to the highest bidder. All amateur entries with the exception of the youth category will be auctioned off by way of teacup auction. Anyone entering a gingerbread house who would like their entry returned to them may choose to make an additional donation of \$15 to keep it out of the teacup auction. Only pre-registered entries will be accepted and space is limited. Register by November 14. Pre-registered and completed gingerbread creations must be dropped off at the Josey Ranch Lake Library on Thursday, November 17 from 2-6pm.

Buying Your First Place? Then HGTV is looking for you!

MY FIRST PLACE, HGTV's hit series, is looking for first-time homebuyers and their real Estate agents in the greater Dallas/Fort Worth area.

The show's producers are looking for fun, high-energy people who are just starting the home-buying process for their first place and would like to share their story with HGTV. The goal is to capture all the joys, trials and tribulations



tions of looking for, bidding on and buying your first Home.

Taping is underway, but it's not too late to apply. Ideal candidates will be enthusiastic buyers a unique story to tell and a desire to share their experiences.

Singles, couples and families are all invited to apply.

Candidates who complete taping will receive a monetary gift as part of the show and also a DVD copy of their episode to document their first home-buying experience for all time.

To request an application, email Imain@highnoontv.com or call 303-872-8692.

Plano maintain 'AAA' rating status

City Manager Bruce Glasscock has announced the City of Plano \$46.4 million General Obligation Refunding & Improvement Bonds has attained a coveted „AAA“ rating status from the nation's three major rating companies.

The refunding bonds total \$20.540 million and will be used to refund outstanding Series 2002 and 2003 bonds for a 6.4% net present value savings. As a result of the refunding, the City was able to recognize \$1.374 million in net present

value of savings from cash flow on the refunded bonds. The new money issue of \$25.860 million will be utilized for public improvements including streets, equipment and a recreation center.

Moody's Investors Service, Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor's have each assigned a „AAA“ rating to the bond series, confirming Plano's historically strong financial profile, sound management practices and economic outlook.

“These ratings support

the continuing work by our City Council and municipal staff in fostering a stable financial climate for our businesses and residents,” said Glasscock. “The „AAA“ rating demonstrates our strong capacity to meet our financial commitments. It also reflects the health of our financial management and operations supported by our ability to develop and maintain effective budget forecasting and contingency planning. We are proud to have held this prestigious rating status continually since 2000.”

Lisa Blue Baron and Mike Kaeske Donate \$50,000 for legal services to the poor

Lisa Blue Baron, of Baron and Blue, and Mike Kaeske, of the Kaeske Law Firm, announced their gift of \$50,000 to the Dallas Bar Association's 2012 Equal Access to Justice Campaign benefiting the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP). The annual Campaign raises funds to provide free legal assistance to low-income Dallas County residents with civil legal needs. This gift is the lead gift to date and is recognized at the highest level of the Campaign—The Champions of Justice.

“Government funding for legal aid continues to drop, while the need for pro bono grows. The poor in our community are counting on lawyers like us to keep access to justice alive,” says Blue Baron.

“First and foremost, we want to help people, but we also hope that our gift will inspire others,” says Kaeske. “No matter how great or small a donation, support is



Ms. Blue Baron and Mr. Kaeske

needed for DVAP clients. DVAP's mission is our mission—to open doors, right wrongs and change lives.”

Blue Baron and Kaeske are nationally known for their representation of victims of serious injuries. Blue Baron's accomplishments in trial courts have been recognized, including being named in the Top 50 Women Litigators in the U.S. by the National Law Journal.

Kaeske worked closely with Lisa and her late husband, Fred, at Baron & Budd, where he trained as a courtroom trial lawyer. The

Kaeske Law Firm has a national practice based in Austin and Dallas, Texas, and Mike continues to devote his professional life to representing seriously injured victims and their families.

“The Dallas Bar Association is thankful for Lisa and Mike's kindness and generosity,” said Dallas Bar Association President Barry Sorrels. “Lisa has donated not only her time, but she has also encouraged others to support pro bono work. Lisa and Mike's generosity is far-reaching and we truly appreciate this gift.”

Methodist Dallas Medical seeking community input on expansion plans

Methodist Dallas Medical Center will host a community town hall meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 30, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss plans and timelines on the recently announced expansion of a six-story trauma and critical care center.

The 248,000-square-foot expanded trauma and critical care center will include 58 new emergency rooms, six trauma suites, eight surgical suites, a 36-bed critical care unit, and the ability to expand to 11 stories for future growth. This expansion pro-

gram is scheduled to begin construction in early 2012 with completion expected in summer 2014.

The public meeting will

be held in Hitt Auditorium at the hospital campus. The auditorium is located at the hospital entrance near 221 W. Colorado at Bishop.

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TEXAS LOTTERY

Dwyane Wade supports St. Jude Thanks and Giving Campaign



NBA superstar, Dwyane Wade, along with St. Jude patients, star in the new national TV spots that will air next week.

St. Jude Thanks and Giving campaign is a national program to build awareness and raise funds for lifesaving research and treatment conducted at the hospital for children fighting cancer and

other deadly diseases. NBA superstar, Dwyane Wade, along with St. Jude patients, is starring in the new national TV spots that will air this fall.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is the nation's leading pediatric re-

search and treatment center devoted solely to children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases. The Thanks and Giving Campaign kicks-off the week of Thanksgiving and runs through the holiday season. This is the Hospital's major

fundraising and awareness campaign bringing together celebrities, media and more than 60 of the nation's leading brands and top companies to help harness the generous spirit of Americans during the holiday shopping season.

Sistas of Color share blessings with the less fortunate

BY TONYA WHITAKER
NDG STAFF WRITER

With the holidays fast approaching, most use this time to give back to communities stricken with poverty and misfortune.

For Sistas of Color, giving back is a year-round event.

The tight-knit group of women continually seeks ways to bring joy to the faces of children and adults in difficult financial situations.

"Cathy Tucker, Founder; Martella Craig and I talked about what we can do to give back to the community. This is how we got started," said Jackie Ervin, president of the nonprofit. We have 12 members, and we do whatever we have to do help people in our community."

An annual event for Sistas of Color is the group's collaboration with Transportation Unlimited bus service to Dallas and Coaches Corner Night Club in Dallas. Each year they help feed the homeless on Thanksgiving. Ervin said Transportations Unlimited has used its bus service for 14 years to shuttle homeless individuals in Dallas and Fort Worth to the Thanksgiving feast.

Ervin said last year – Sistas of Color's first year of participation in the Thanksgiving



The members of Sistas of Color, bottom row from left, are Yalonda Mitchell, Barbara Sloan, Veronica Harris, Cathy Tucker, and Martella Craig. Top row from left are Delmetric Braggs, Miecia King, Arhonda Jones, Jackie Ervin, and Eve Wooten.

feeding – more than 600 individuals were fed during the event.

"We joined on last year to give them something when they walk out," Ervin said.

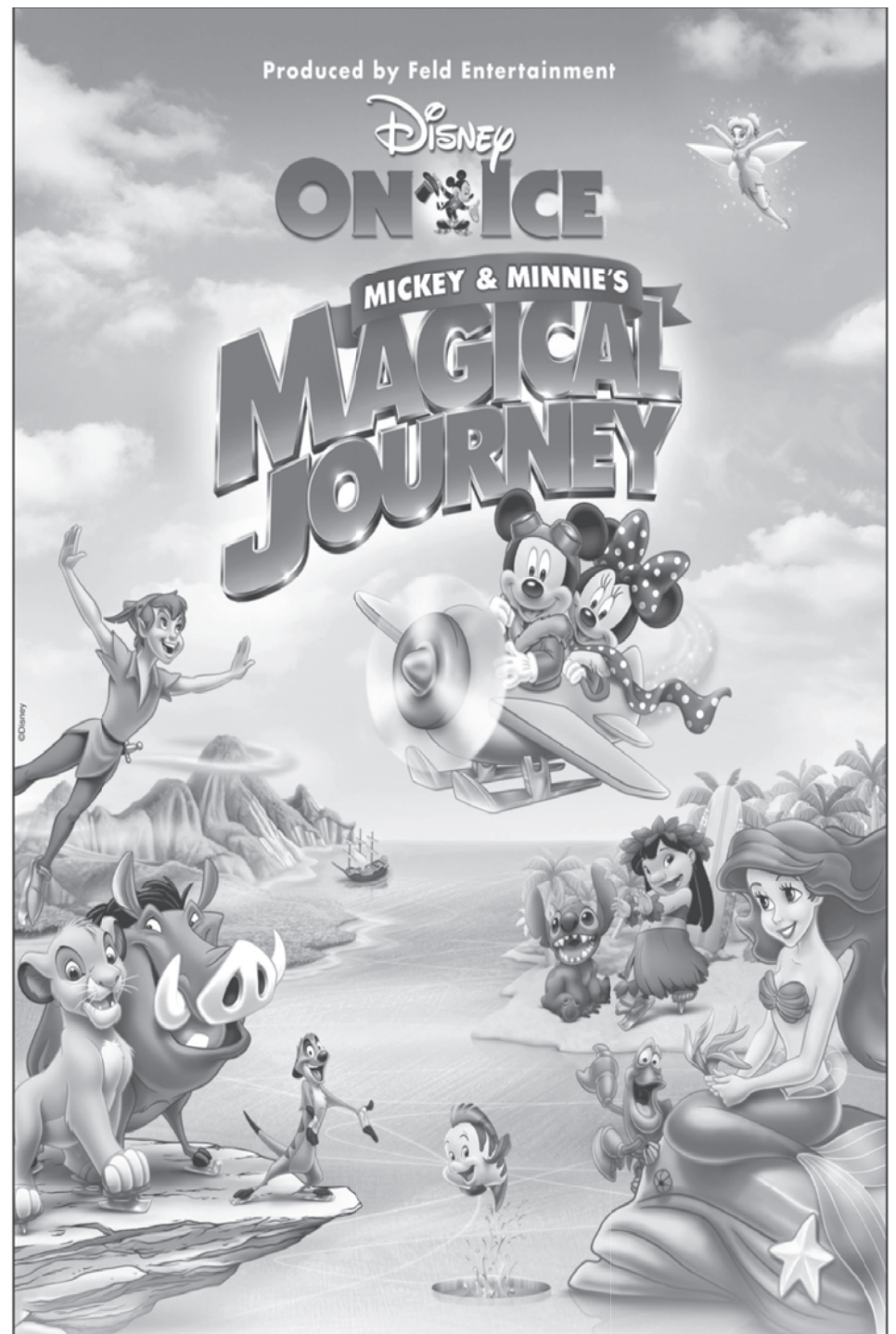
Once individuals receive their meals, they also receive socks, gloves and stocking caps on Thanksgiving Day.

Beyond Thanksgiving, Sistas of Color participates in several programs that serve the elderly, women, and children, including distributing bags to individuals at the senior citizens home, organizing an Easter egg hunt for the youngsters, and handing out backpacks for students in Dallas ISD. For the first time, this year, the group took a bus of

seniors to the State Fair of Texas.

The last two years, the women have participated in the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Walk in Dallas. Ervin said participating in the walk is near and dear to her. One of the group's members – and Ervin's sister – is a breast cancer survivor.

The group meets monthly at Coaches Corner, 7439 S. Westmoreland Road in Dallas. Anyone interested in learning more is welcome to attend an upcoming meeting for detail information. In addition, the nonprofit's programs need donations and volunteers. Contact Ervin at www.sistasofcolor.com.



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Texas Regional Medical Center at Sunnyvale celebrated the delivery of its 1,000th baby

Ava Noelle Strickland was born Oct. 28 to parents Kerresha and Lavontase Strickland of Mesquite. Here she is with Mom and Dad, and big sister Bailey.

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://texas.freetoasthost.org/>

Through December 22

Dallas Children's Theater presents **Madeline's Christmas** at 5938 Skill-

man, Dallas. Showtimes and ticket prices vary. Info: 214-978-0110 or dct.org.

November 17

The World Affairs Council hosts **The State of Women Internationally: Where are We and Where are We Going?** Conference at the Rosewood Crescent Hotel, 400 Crescent Ct, Dallas, at 6pm. \$20 - \$35. Info: 214-965-8412 or dfwworld.org.

Targeted Job Fairs has a **Tech, Engineer & Security Clearance Job Fair** at the Plano Centre, 2000 Spring Creek, Plano, from 11am – 3pm. FREE. Info: targeted-jobfairs.com or 1-800-662-9869.

The Dallas Regional Chamber is holding the **Sustainable Innovation Summit 2011** at the Adolphus Hotel, 1321 Commerce Street, Dallas, from 7:30am – 12:30pm. Admission \$90 for members and \$180 for non-members. Info: 214-742-8200.

The House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar Street, Dallas, hosts **Game: The R.E.D. Tour** featuring rap artist The Game. Doors open at 7pm. Show starts at 8pm. Ticket prices vary. Info: houseofblues.com or 214-978-2583.

November 18

7th Annual Real Girls Real Women Luncheon Venus Williams will be the speaker for the event this year at the Hilton Anatole Dallas. Doors open 11:30 a.m., Program 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

KIKI J from K104 hosts **Rap Legends Live** featuring Mystikal, Bun-B, Too Short and Outlawz at the Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston St, Fort Worth. Doors open at

8pm. Tickets \$35 - \$85. Info: centralticketoffice.com or 800-462-7979.

The World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth presents **Borderless Economics: Chinese Sea Turtles, Indian Fridges and the New Fruits of Global Capitalism** at the Rosewood Crescent Hotel, 400 Crescent Ct, Dallas, at 11:30am. Registration \$45-\$650. Info: wacmarketingintern1@dfwworld.org or 214-965-8412.

Catholic Charities of Dallas, Inc is holding its **Hope for the Holidays 2011** fundraising event at 1805 Market Center Blvd, Dallas, from 6pm – 10pm. Tickets \$35. Info: ccofdallas.org or 214-520-6590.

November 19

Mother Daughter Banquet at the Mattie Nash Myrtle Davis Recreation Center, 3710 North Hampton Rd, Dallas, from 6pm – 9pm. Tickets \$55, \$10 per additional daughter. Info: 469-285-0876 or mother-daughterbanquet.eventbrite.com

November 19

Etsy Dallas presents its **4th Annual Jingle Bash** at the Palladium Ballroom, 1135 S. Lamar, Dallas, from 1pm - 8pm. FREE. Info: handmadebash.com/jingle_bash.html or 214-421-2021.

Holiday Celebration at the Park at Firewheel in Garland is 3 – 6 p.m. followed by Santa's Grand Parade & Tree Lighting from 6 – 7 p.m.

Santa on Ice Welcome Party Stonebriar Centre welcomes Santa back to town with a party 6:30 – 8 p.m. There will be music and festivities, compliments of Stonebriar Centre.

The City of Dallas presents its annual **City Lights Holiday Festival** at the Main Street Garden, 1902 Main Street, Dallas, from 6pm to 10pm. FREE. Info: downtowndallas.org/dallas_city_lights_2011.

Anthem Strong Families presents the **Engage Couples Workshop** at Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch, from 8:45am – 5pm. \$40/couple. Includes \$60 discount on marriage license fee. Info: tonij@anthemstrongfamilies.org or 214-426-0900.

November 19-20

The City of Plano is hosting its **33rd Annual Christmas Craft Fair** at the Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy, on Saturday from 10am – 5pm and Sunday from 12pm – 5pm. FREE. Info: 972-941-7250 or planoparks.org.

November 20

As part of its FAITH Campaign, Bible Way Community Baptist Church, 4215 North Greenview Dr, Irving is holding a special **I WILL** Day service. FREE. Info: 972-257-3766.

Nov. 5-Jan. 8

"John Marin: Modernism at Midcentury" at Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth

November 20

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 920 E. 14th St, Plano, presents its **71st Annual Thanksgiving Musical featuring the Family Choir** at 6pm. Info: smbc-plano.org or 972-423-6695.

As part of its FAITH Campaign, Bible Way Community Baptist Church, 4215 North Greenview Dr, Irving is holding a special **I WILL** Day service. FREE. Info:

972-257-3766.

November 21

The International House of Blues Foundation is hosting **IHOBF's 2011 Bringin' Down the House Musical Competition** at the House of Blues, White Swan Building, 2200 Lamar Street, Dallas. Doors open at 5pm. Show starts at 6pm. Tickets \$10. Info: 214-978-2583.

November 22

Resounding Harmony begins its fourth season presenting **Wishes from the Heart** benefiting the Make a Wish Foundation at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St, Suite 100, Dallas, at 8pm. Tickets \$25 - \$50. Info: resoundingharmony.org or 214-871-4550.

November 24

Capital One City Bank and Dallas YMCA team up to host the **44th annual Turkey Trot** at 1500 Marilla, Dallas. Registration is at 7am. Race begins at 9am. Registration cost varies. Info: the.trot.org or 214-954-0500.

Turkey Trot in downtown Dallas

November 25

The Parade of Lights in Fort Worth's Sundance Square

November 25 – 26

The Texas East COGIC Music Department presents its **2011 Thanksgiving Weekend Music Convention** at Christ Holy Temple Church of God in Christ, 2423 South Buckner Blvd, Dallas, at 7pm. FREE. Info: 469-852-2380.

November 26

Demi Lovato – We the Kings comes to the Verizon

Theatre at Grand Prairie, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie. Doors open at 6pm. Show starts 7:30pm. Tickets \$39.50 - \$49.50. Info: 972-854-5050 or verizontheatre.com.

The **MetroPCS Fair Park Holiday** comes to Fair Park, 1200 S 2nd Ave, Dallas, from 11am -7:30pm. FREE. Participating museums will also be offering free or reduced admission at various times. Info: 214-421-9600 or fairpark.org.

November 27

As part of its FAITH Campaign, Bible Way Community Baptist Church, 4215 North Greenview Dr, Irving is holding a special **TAXI Day** service. FREE. Info: 972-257-3766.

November 29

The City of Plano is holding a **Love and Logic Seminar** at the Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano, from 8:30am – 2:30pm. Graduate level credit and CEUs are available. Registration is \$99/person. Info: 800-338-4065 or loveandlogic.com.

December 4

As part of its FAITH Campaign, Bible Way Community Baptist Church, 4215 North Greenview Dr, Irving is holding a special **Hallelujah!** service. FREE. Info: 972-257-3766.

Dallas White Rock Marathon

December 4, 11, 21

The **Turtle Creek Chorale's** annual holiday show **My Favorite Things** on at 8 p.m. at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center (2301 Flora Street, Dallas). Info: www.turtlecreek.org or 214-526-3214

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Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community

Hispanic leaders working together to create a proposed single-member district map for Irving ISD Board of Trustees

BY: JACKIE HARDY,
NDG CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

In October the Irving Independent School District (IISD) Board of Trustees agreed to accept proposals to change the current election process in how voters choose their Board of Trustees. Meanwhile, the district faces ongoing public pressure from leaders and Hispanic community activists.

"The landscape in Irving has changed and a responsible government who places the needs of those they serve above their own

group of people in Irving have been trying to implement a change. They (Board of Trustees) want to see what ideas the public can bring for the single-member district so we are trying to get ideas from people who have been working with maps or with some type of experience with maps to determine the best way to do the maps," said Father Portillo in a phone interview.

According to both Father Portillo and Carlos Quintanilla, community activist and founder of accionamerica.com, they are bringing in individuals like Bill Benson. He has experience developing maps in other cities. The City of Irving's current maps is being reviewed to ensure the proposed maps comply with requirements outlined by the IISD Board of Trustees.

Quintanilla indicated plans to submit their proposed single-member

navidez to re-establish his lawsuit. Rather than getting into a lawsuit with the Irving Independent School District, spending taxpayer money, and diverting part of that money that should be used for students and the school system makes me optimistic that they will do the right thing," said Quintanilla.

The 2009 case brought against IISD by plaintiff Manuel Benavidez claimed the current at-large voting system violated Section II of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The District prevailed in court, but the legal fees were \$247,058.22 paid to the Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP firm. In the Memorandum of Opinion, the presiding U.S. District Judge, Honorable Sidney Fitzwater ruled the plaintiff did not prove the minority group in the school district is "sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single member district."

The fight to change the current voting system within Irving ISD is not a new topic. The Irving Chapter of the NAACP has also fought for this change. It is the goal of Tony Grimes, President of Irving NAACP, that the proposed change for single-member districts led by the Hispanic community will be inclusive of all minorities. Currently, the NAACP has remained neutral on this topic. They want to ensure the newly proposed single-member district maps will be in the best interest for all minorities within Irving.

"We will make sure we are involved when they bring their suggested proposal to the Board and that



Pastor Norris McGill, Antioch Christin Church

we are available to communicate our satisfaction or dissatisfaction. My thought is that they will be inclusive of all minorities," said Grimes in a phone interview.

"We want to present a plan that is fair and equitable for everyone. When we talk about single-member district it is not only Hispanics benefiting from single-member districts, but everyone benefits because if you live in South Irving, you (candidate) are going to represent the interest of South Irving. If you live in Las Colinas or North Irving you are going to have a representative that is going to represent the interest of your district," comments Quintanilla.

Quintanilla also expressed they are encouraging multiple maps from other interested parties to submit their own proposals to the Board. He welcomes anyone who wants to help them develop a new single-district map.

One of the main arguments made against single-member voting districts is the voter turn-out among minorities of Irving is often-times historically

low; therefore, changing to a single-member district will not guarantee minority representation. Many Irving community activist and leaders especially those within the African American community believe that played an enormous factor in why former Irving ISD Board of Trustees Nancy Jones, formerly of Place 1 and AD Jenkins, formerly of Place 2 lost their seats in the recent Place 1 and 2 elections.

"If we had support of the folks last time they would still be there; we did not get folks out to vote for whatever reason," added Grimes.

Grimes acknowledged if there is no representation of African Americans on the school board it is not necessarily due to the voting system. African

stated it is a challenge to get the younger citizens to vote and the Hispanic voting population typically is younger. The leaders within the Irving Hispanic community are confident the 2010 Census data will show an increase in the Citizens Voting Age Population (CVAP) within Irving and those Hispanics who are within the CVAP will vote in significant numbers.

Quintanilla explained, "We saw an increase in the last election more than 1,700 Latinos voted and that is an increase. The people who were out working on Election Day will agree it was the first time they saw a large number of Latinos coming out to vote on Election Day. I think that is good and as time goes on Hispanics are not just going to vote for Hispanics. They are going to vote for the most qualified, the person that makes the most sense to them.

The person who is going to look out for them; and for that person who will basically convince them they should vote for them."

Quintanilla also pointed out that the Hispanic community are law-abiding taxpayers who want to be a dynamic and vibrant part of Irving. They also desire a quality education for their children. Therefore, their community should have political representation like everyone else.

"What we are doing is opening up the process, there's no guarantee a Hispanic will win but it will level the playing field," added Quintanilla.

For more information on issues affecting the Hispanic community visit www.accionamerica.com, or call 214-524-1011.



Father Pedro Portillo

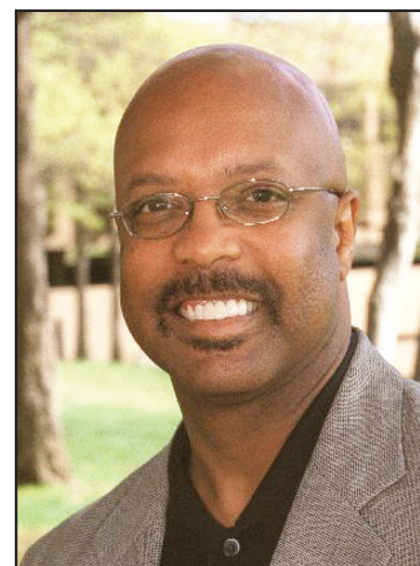
will change with it to the end that it reflects the needs of all the people under its care," a written response from Pastor Norris McGill of Antioch Christian Church.

Irving leaders of faith like Father Pedro Portillo of the Santa Maria de Guadalupe church and other community leaders will continue to collect information and consult with experts. They are also seeking input from demographers to create a single-member district map. The ultimate goal is to present the map to the IISD Board of Trustees for their approval.

"For the last 16 years a

district map to the Board by the end of November. Quintanilla is particularly optimistic the Board will agree to the proposed changes to the existing voting maps.

"There has already been a precedence that has been established in the city of Irving in the Manuel Benavidez case versus the city of Irving. In that case, the Judge looked at the voting age population and population forecast. The judge said let's wait and see the 2010 Census data. If the 2010 Census numbers show an increase of the Hispanic numbers, then revisit the case. This left the door open for Be-



Tony Grimes (NAACP)

American turnout at the polls is also a contributing factor.

The *Dallas Morning News* in June cited a Pew Hispanic Center expert estimates 43 percent of Hispanic Texans are eligible to vote. This is compared to 77 percent of Caucasian voters. The article also

NDG Gossip: Sandusky is nothing but a dirty old man

BY TONYA WHITAKER
NDG STAFF WRITER



Jerry Sandusky

Judging by the actions of the Penn State faithful, football is more important than the upbringing of a child. How could someone allow scum such as Jerry Sandusky come in contact with children knowing he previously took advantage of young boys and not say anything? Yes, Mike McQuery, I am talking about you.

The "dirty old man" spoke publicly for first time since he was exposed a week ago. During the Nov. 14 interview on *Rock Center with Brian Williams*, Sandusky told Bob Costas he has

touched children in a non-sexual manner, but he denies committing any crime. The former Penn State defensive coordinator faces 40 counts of sexual abuse.

Costas, one who always asks the right questions, hit a sour note by asking Sandusky if he was a pedophile. Did you really think, Bob, he was going to tell the world yes?

What sicko would want to shower with little boys and horse around with them while y'all butt naked in the shower? If you are a pedophile or not, that is just wrong! There isn't anything wrong with loving children, but I can think of a zillion other ways to do it without being in your birthday suit.

What is the point?

NFL hall of famer Emmitt Smith and his wife, Patricia, appeared in an interview on CBS 11 on Monday night. The teaser suggested that Smith would reveal some deep, dark secret about himself on television. Instead, the segment, called *The Real Emmitt Smith*, al-

lowed the running back to recall how he got orientated with The Potter's House and T.D. Jakes, to discuss how his marriage is going, to discuss his faith in God, and let the public know how he and



Emmitt Smith

Pat keep their five kids in line.

Twenty-four hours removed from the interview, and I am still trying to figure out the intent of the interview. Was it for ratings for CBS 11? Winning souls? Slow news day? It was an OK piece, but I question the motive behind it.

New jazz artist on the scene

Demoine Kinney, native of Dillon, SC has just released his first single, "More Than Anything" from his forthcoming new album, "Demoine Kinney Presents Instrumental Worship". The single, which Demoine co-produced with Doug Toles, Sr, is the kick-off for the up and coming album.

This marks Kinney's first studio album, as he's turned his focus to his first love, his saxophone. He has many talents, but has been under the radar as a saxophonist. Demoine says, "I'm a true worshiper at heart and playing my sax is a gift that I must share with the world."

Kinney has a passion to bring a positive message to all audiences young and old with his unique style of sharing his testimony



Demoine Kinney

through his saxophone. He realized early in his career that there are some people who need to be reached through music. Although he's a hilarious Christian comedian and actor as well, his first love is music. Today, he is known to be an amazing saxophonist, and receives requests to perform all over the country.

After losing his father at the age of six, he was given

the gift of music and carries his sax everywhere he goes. He tried to separate his gifting at one point, but soon realized that they were not given to exchanged one for another but used together in ministry. He now utilizes all the gifting to minister to the world.

When Mr. Kinney plays his sax, fans say that it's as if you can literally hear the words to the songs being played and the passion behind each breathe. They say it will give you chills. Music is a universal language and allows Mr. Kinney to witness to anyone with his vibrate notes. But his greatest gift is the heart that he has to serve God.

For more details, visit www.DemoineKinney.com

Southwest Region Pop Warner Football Tournament and Cheer/Dance Competition in Dallas November 25-26

The North Texas Pop Warner Football League will host the Southwest Region Pop Warner Championship Football Tournament and Cheer/Dance Championships November 25-26. The top-rated Pop Warner flag and full-contact football teams in the six-state region (Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma), along with their top-performing cheerleaders and dancers, will compete in various sites in the Dallas area, including Cotton Bowl Stadium in Fair Park.

This marks the first time in 15 years that North Texas

has hosted the Southwest Region Championships. The deciding champions in each category earn the right to compete in the 2011 Pop Warner National Cheer & Dance Championships Saturday, December 3 through Saturday, December 10 at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida.

The Pop Warner Little Scholars program has long showcased young athletic talent, many of who has proven to be the next shining stars at the high school, collegiate and professional levels. The press conference will formally announce and briefly profile the teams in

each age group vying for the right to compete in the National Pop Warner Football Championships.

Teams will represent various age/weight categories, from ages 5 to 15. The games will be played at both the Cotton Bowl and Bishop Lynch High School, while the Cheer/Dance Competition will take place at the Fair Park Coliseum.

"This means the world to us because we're highlighting the future College-Bound and NFL players," said Ken Green, a board member for the North Texas Pop Warner Football League.

Turtle Creek Chorale presents My Favorite Things

The Turtle Creek Chorale presents their annual holiday show *My Favorite Things* on Sunday, December 4th at 8:00 p.m., Sunday, December 11th at 8:00 p.m. and Wednesday, December 21st at 8:00 p.m. at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center (2301 Flora Street, Dallas, TX 75201).

The Turtle Creek Chorale's combination of naughty and nice - beautiful music laced with merriment has made the Turtle Creek Chorale Holiday Show a Dallas favorite for over 20 years.

Celebrate the beauty of the season as this 200-voice internationally recognized men's chorus performs favorites like *Angel Carol*, *We Need A Little Christmas*, *The First Noel*, *Jingle Bells*, *O Holy Night*, *Silent Night*, *Peace Peace*, and more.

The Turtle Creek Chorale invites everyone to bring a new, unwrapped toy for the 22nd annual toy drive benefiting Children's and Parkland Hospitals.

Gary Williams, coordinator of the toy drive says, "The hospitals count on these donations. Every boy and girl, especially those in hospitals, must know Santa remembers them! We believe Turtle Creek Chorale

patrons are the real Santa Claus!"

Tickets range from \$20-65 and may be purchased online at www.turtlecreek.org, by phone at 214-

526-3214, or in person at the Turtle Creek Chorale office in the Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Boulevard, Suite #306, Dallas.

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Irving recognized as one of the nation's top digital cities by Center for Digital Government

Republic's Center for Digital Government and Digital Communities Program has announced the top-ranked digital city governments in the 10th anniversary Digital Cities Survey. The survey focused on results achieved by cities, via the use of technology, in operating efficiencies and realizing strategic objectives despite current fiscal constraints.

"Cities that are investing in technology are capturing

cost savings that are critical to continuity of operations and their ability to meet higher demand for services," said Todd Sander, director of Digital Communities. "The highest-ranking cities in the survey showed great strides in consolidating, enabling shared services, government transparency and communications interoperability. We applaud these innovators as they work in the spirit of collaboration to provide ex-

traordinary value to constituents despite budget setbacks."

The City of Irving was 4th in the 125,000 - 249,99 population classification! Irving was the highest ranking city in Texas across all categories. Other who made the list included: Fort Worth, San Antonio, El Paso and Flower Mound. The survey was open to all U.S. cities with a population of 30,000 or more.



**Sports
Talk with
Spider**

Turn on the TV channel these days and the topic of discussion is job, jobs, jobs for American citizens. From the President of the United States to local city governments are trying to find jobs to keep America going. Politicians are selling promises of hope and prosperity to anyone that listens because it is an election year.

This time of the year is when many individuals are seasonal or part time workers in NBA arenas and the surrounding sports bars, restaurants and entertainment venues. The monies help them maintain basic living conditions and have extra dollars for the upcoming holiday season.

The news flash on the ticker that the NBA players rejected the latest labor proposal from the league's owners and are now pre-

The NBA is a turkey and bum humbug for the 2011-2012 season

pared to turn to the courts to settle the labor impasse, a move that could further jeopardized the 2011-12 season.

For five months, these millionaires and billionaires have been meeting on how to divide the pie which was awarded to the players in the 1999 CBA (collecting bargaining agreement).

The 57-43 split or the Basketball Related Income (BRI) was great for the players but now the Big Chief, David Stern demanded that there will be a 50-50 proposition for the 2011-2012 season. The players said no thanks. So the players disbanded the CBA and filed an anti-trust suit against the owners.

A great poker bluff that may backfire or go down in history as a great move for the players. Meanwhile, the single mother of three who works the concession stands at Arco Arena in

Sacramento cannot wait for the court to decide her fate. She needs the income to provide food on the table.

The father of four depends on the security job at the United Center in Chicago to afford Christmas presents for his family. These folks are the middle-class Americans who pay the salaries of the players and put the owners in Forbes magazine year after year. Maybe these Americans should start camping out in front of every NBA arena and copy the Occupy Wall Street template. Then let those around the world see how the NBA take care of its own

You can listen to Donald "Spider" Willis on Sport Talk with Spider each Sunday from 7:00pm to 9:00pm CST on fishbowl-radionetwork.com. For suggestion and topics call 469-335-6668 or email dwillisdw@yahoo.com

Kentucky-based network marketing company to refund \$1.3 million to Texas customers

A Lexington, Kentucky-based direct sales firm has agreed to repay up to \$1.3 million to its Texas customers. The agreement resolves the Texas Attorney General's investigation into potential Deceptive Trade Practices Act violations by Fortune Hi-Tech Marketing, Inc. —

including allegations that the firm operated an illegal pyramid scheme.

Qualified customers may obtain additional information about the settlement and submit a refund claim to the company by downloading a claim form from the Attorney General's Consumer Protec-

tion Division at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov. Claims must be submitted to Fortune Hi-Tech Marketing no later than Nov. 28, 2011.

In a typical illegal pyramid scheme, a purchaser or investor pays a fee for the opportunity to

See REFUND, Page 13

QUINTON, continued from Page 2

Heather Herndon Wright, Beckie Hoyt and Ben Ezzell, Energy Future Holdings; Akilah Ferguson, Ericsson; Lina McCabe, FedEx Office; Susan Zablocki, jcpenny; Samuel Evans, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics; Grace Hastings, Oncor Electric Delivery; Indria Hollingsworth, Parkland Hospital; and Jean Lacefield, PepsiCo;

- Corporate/Public Sector Buyer of the Year — Terry Rea, Atmos Energy; David Grimes and Chuck Debolt, BSNF; Theresa Harris, DISD; Heather Herndon Wright, Ben Ezzell, Beckie Hoyt and Tracy Williams Dennis, Energy Future Holdings; Akilah Ferguson, Ericsson; Theresa Almand, jcpenny; Philippe Seidler, Luminant; Pat Hall and Terry Kesterson, Oncor; Steve Nguyen, Raytheon; and Cindy Jamison, Texas Instruments

- Corporate/Public Sector Volunteer of the Year — Marilyn Stewart, Alcatel-Lucent; Heather Herndon Wright, Energy Future Hold-

ings; Bonnie Jones, jcpenny; and Samuel Evans, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics

- Construction Corporation of the Year — Austin Commercial; Balfour Beatty; Brassfield & Gorrie; Hensel Phelps; Hill & Wilkinson; Manhattan; and TD Industries

- MBE Construction Company of the Year — 3i Construction; Con-Real; GCC Enterprise; MEB Construction; and Ram Mechanical

- MBE Suppliers of the Year Class I, II, III, & IV — Alliance of Diversity Printers; Alsar Construction; Altep; Azteca Enterprises; Bracane Company; Bridge-work Partners; Cantu Foods & Marketing Corp; Castle Business Solutions; CMI; Con-Real; EW Wells Group; Excel Global Partners; Garland Glass and Mirror; II Granito; Janitorial System; Joy Promotions; Link America, Logisticorp; MRP Make Ready Plus; OMS Strategic Advisors; Pecos Construc-

tion; Phillip/May Construction; Pinnacle Technical Resources; Qnet; Rose International; Stanfor Precision; Telecom Electric; The CRC Group; The Design Factory; The Paper Plate; Three PDS; Torrez Paper Company; Tx TinMan Enterprises; Urban Intimates; WDC Solutions; and York Telecom Corporation

- MBE Volunteer of the Year — Cemetrix; MEB Construction; Rose International; Tarrant County and Texcorp

- Corporation of the Year — Alcatel-Lucent; American Airlines; BSNF; CoreLogic; Energy Future Holdings; jcpenny; Lockheed Martin Aeronautics; Novations; Oncor Electric; PepsiCo; Texas Instruments and Verizon

- Public Sector Agency of the Year — Army & Air Force Exchange Service; City of Dallas; DISD; DART; DFW International Airport; Parkland Health and Hospital System; Raytheon and Tarrant County

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Ad@bigdogsyouth.org

*B.I.G. D.O.G.S. Youth Organization,
1425 W. Pioneer Drive Ste. 140B Irving TX, 75061*



What Thanksgiving is truly all about

By Daris Howard

If a person is asked what they are most thankful for, nearly one-hundred percent of the time they mention family. Thus it was appropriate that one particular Thanksgiving, I found my-

self in the birthing room at a hospital, waiting for the arrival of my second child. We thought she would never come, but Thanksgiving morning found us putting our turkey back in the deep freeze as we headed for the sterile environment of the

hospital.

The smell of rolls, pies, and cranberry sauce gave way to the odors of disinfectants. The sounds of parades and football games on TV were replaced by the hum of an obnoxious monitor broken only by intercom voices

calling doctors and nurses to assignments. The nervousness I always feel when a child is born, nervousness for my wife's and my child's safety - makes me giddy, and sometimes I talk excitedly. (Actually, I talk stupidly is more like it.) So, as we sat

watching the monitors, I started joking about how, since our little girl was going to be born on Thanksgiving, I could call her my little turkey. I joked about the different names we could name her, most of which, if mentioned here, might give me a

night sleeping on the couch. My poor wife started laughing and yelling at me at the same time, telling me that laughing during contractions made it hurt worse, and finally she took her pillow and hit me.

See THANKSGIVING, Page 16

WOMEN, continued from Page 11

on media, retail and manufacturers now and in the years ahead. Optimism was highest among African American and Hispanic women, especially when it

came to how they viewed the opportunities they have had compared with those of their mothers.

The optimism does not stop with the women of

today: they are extremely positive about the outlook for the women of tomorrow – their daughters – and expect them to have more opportunities available to

them than they themselves have now.

Despite the stereotype that men are the primary users of media and technology, American women are

heavy users of technology – even if they aren't early adopters. Women of all ethnicities use media in similar ways, with one key exception: smartphones. Just 33

percent of Caucasian women have a smartphone in their household, compared to penetration rates in the 60s for women of other ethnicities.

GREASE, continued from Page 1

we should not pour the oil down the kitchen sink or the storm drain, but what should we do with it? Many folks keep buckets of used fry oil in their garage waiting for the answer to that very question.

The wait is over my friends now the used fry oil can be recycle into biodiesel. Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) Cease the Grease Program collects

used fry oil and has it processed into clean burning biodiesel. This program is growing. The Cease the Grease hopes to collect used fry oil from EVERY Dallas resident and produce enough fuel to power over 1,000 Dallas County School buses.

The City of Dallas accepts used fry oil year round at one of the many Cease the Grease recycling

stations. Find your closest location by using the locator on the website <http://www.ceasethegrease.org/earl/find.html>. To better serve Dallas residents, we have convenient recycling stations throughout the city. We are always looking for new drop off sites. Let us know if your church or organization would like one of these spiffy recycling stations

nearby.

If neighbors or family members are pouring grease or oil down the storm drain or sink, remind them there is a super cool recycling option now available. Cooking oil and grease poured down the drain can clog sewer pipes and cause stinky, smelly overflows. Oil and grease poured down the storm drain will eventually make

its way to the Trinity River and may harm wildlife.

DWU has been working hard to teach Dallas residents on proper fats, oils and grease disposal. We are grateful for a 94% reduction in sewer overflows caused by oil and grease and want to thank YOU for doing the right thing. Keep your eyes open for the November water bill insert featuring Earl the Plumber.

Do not give your money to Earl because of clogged pipes with cooking oil and grease.

Please visit the website, www.ceasethegrease.org for more information and find out how much it will cost for Earl the Plumber to unclog a greasy pipe at your home. Remember to Cease the Grease for a Happy Thanksgiving!

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Eastfield receives grant from TWC

Eastfield College has partnered with a medical office consortium to provide job training using a \$97,698 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The businesses partnering in the

grant include ACRC Trials; North Texas Institute of Neurology and Headache; Syzygy Fort Worth, LLC; Lynne Gerlach, DDS; Lone Star Vision; EpiCentre Legacy; Tarpon, PA; and Village Health Partners.

The grant will be used to custom train 127 new and incumbent workers. The grant will provide training to increase the skills levels of employees in Electronic Medical Records (EMR), software applications, and medical

billing and coding. The training will help participating medical practices keep pace in offering excellent care and enable a successful conversion to the new EMR system. Those trained will include medical assistants, front

office clerks and billing clerks. Upon completion of training, workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$18.09.

TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton will present a check to Eastfield College

President Dr. Jean Conway and representatives from the partnering businesses at Eastfield College in Building W – Foyer, located at 3737 Motley Dr. in Mesquite on November 17.

IRVING, continued from Page 1

made to Drs. Jones and Bedden were not returned.

Billy Rudolph, Press Secretary for Irving ISD did confirm the matter was discussed but did not know the details of Dr. Jones' concerns. Rudolph indicated the only concern he was aware involved the monies spent to remodel the superintendent's office to include a conference room. However, each incoming superintendent's budget includes allowance for decorating their office. There is no indication Dr. Bedden exceeded the estimated \$75,000 budget.

Rudolph pointed out that during the election season, Dr. Jones was escorted from Dr. Bedden's office.

Once elected Dr. Jones filed his first complaint. This complaint reportedly included an allegation Dr. Bedden used district property to campaign against Dr. Jones election. There were no actions resulting from the first complaint. The same happened with the latest complaint.

Community activist Anthony Bond feels these ongoing complaint filings are racial motivated. According to Bond during his campaign, Dr. Jones reportedly referred to Irving ISD as "black world" in reference to the African American superintendent, and the two school board trustees Nancy Jones and AD Jenkins (both lost re-election bid).

Bond described these two complaints filed by Dr. Jones as "frivolous and very personal, with nothing to do with educating our children." He points out this is the first time a superintendent in the district has faced two complaints from trustees within less than six months. Bond candidly shares he believes Dr. Jones is "terrorizing" Dr. Bedden with unjustified complaints.

When reached by phone, former trustee AD Jenkins indicated he does not personally know Dr. Jones, but is concerned the concerns are not being handled inappropriately.

"I have never seen someone go after a superintendent," Jenkins stated.

There should be a way the two men could resolve any issues privately, in a professional manner, without drawing this level of public attention. Jenkins would prefer the real focus remain on serving the children of Irving ISD.

Nancy Jones lost her place on the board to Dr. Jones. During the campaign, she told Dr. Jones his portrayal of Dr. Bedden as "very aggressive with him" does not match the Dr. Bedden she helped the district hire during her tenure. Jones found Dr. Bedden to be approachable and available for dialogue both as a member of the board and since she left. Jones is concerned to see two com-

plaints filed within six months.

Dr. Bedden has made an effort to serve all of the students of the district including Hispanic, African American, Asian and Muslim according to Bond.

The North Dallas Gazette has made several

attempts to speak with Dr. Stephen Jones for input on this story and others, including the cover story on page 9. Unfortunately, he has never returned a phone call to share his vision for the district or concerns with the community we serve.

REFUND, continued from Page 11

receive profits in the future. Those payments are primarily derived by inducing others to join the operation and pay a fee – rather than from the sale

of an actual product or service. Fortune Hi-Tech's customers complained that the defendant falsely represented the earnings they would achieve if they be-

came one of the defendant's independent representatives.

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ceptive trade practices in the future and requires the defendant to refund up to \$299 to each qualified Texas customer, up to a total of \$1.3 million.

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November 20
Join us for Early Worship at 8 a.m.; Bible Classes at 9:45 a.m.; Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m. and afternoon Worship at 3 p.m.

November 23
Come to our Bible Study Class at 10:30 a.m. and our Evening Bible Classes at 7 p.m.
Brother Ramon Hodridge, Minister
1026 Avenue F
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

**BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY
BAPTIST CHURCH**

November 20
Join us for 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.

November 23, 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**

November 21
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Visit Helen's House Monday to receive, to give, to comfort and to fellowship. The give-a-way of food, love and household items is given freely to all those who could use a little touch.

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

**EIRENE CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

November 20
You're invited to our Morning Worship at 8:30 a.m.; and 11 a.m. as we worship and praise God.

November 23, 7:30 p.m.
Join us for 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

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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

November 20, 9:30 a.m.
Join us for Sunday Morning Worship at Story Elementary School, 1550 Edelweiss Drive, Allen, TX as we praise God for His blessings.

November 23, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Wednesday Night Live in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall on Belmont Drive. Also, come to our Corporate Prayer and our Kidz Zone (an environment to equip children to grow and to show God's love.)

December 2, 8:30 p.m.
You're invited to our Spiritual First Friday's Open Mic Night at First Baptist Church of Allen's Youth Building, 303 E. Main Street in Allen.
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

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

December 9, 7 p.m.
You're invited to an evening of humor, music and fellowship hosted by comedian, Jonathan Slocumb, featuring First Church Choirs, Anointed Flames Mime Ministry and a music selection by First Church Associate Pastors, led by Pastor Gregory Foster. A fellowship reception will follow the program.
Dr. Gregory Foster, Senior Pastor
300 Phillips Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-235-4235
www.fbchp.org

**MT. PISGAH MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH
"The Rock"**

Tonight, November 17, 6 p.m.
Join us for our last night of the Rock's Fall Refreshing with guest Dr. Tellis Chapman from Galilee MBC, Detroit, MI. Call the church for details.

November 20
Join us for Sunday Worship at 7:45 a.m.; and 11 a.m. as we give God excellence praise without excuse.

November 23, 12 p.m.
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.
Pastor Robert Townsend
11611 Webb Chapel Road
Dallas, TX 75229
972-241-6151
www.dallasmtpisgah.org

**NEW MOUNT ZION
BAPTIST CHURCH**

November 20, 7:30 a.m.
You're invited to our Early Worship Service as we praise God for His blessings. Then join us at 9 a.m. for Sunday School.
Dr. Robert Price, Sr.
Senior Pastor
9550 Shepherd Road

Dallas, TX 75243
214-341-6459
www.nmzb.org

**NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

November 18, 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.

November 19, 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.

November 19
Call Elaine Logan at 972-437-3493, Ext. 105, about our Meeting of Growing Kid's God Way; this is placing the language of God in the souls of your children, in Room D-222. You may also email her at elogan@ndcbf.org
Dr. Leslie W. Smith, Senior Pastor
1010-1020 S. Sherman Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-437-3493
www.ndcbf.org

ROCKBRIDGE CHURCH

November 20
You're invited to join us for Prayer with Pastor at 8:30 a.m.; Sunday School at 8:30 a.m.; and Worship Celebration at 10 a.m.

November 23, 7 p.m.
Join us for 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

**ROCK OF FAITH
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Early Morning Prayer
Real Men Pray; all men, join our Circle of Faith Men Intercessory Prayer Ministry in prayer, early in the morning at 6 a.m. on Monday - Friday at 1-712-775-7400, pin # 828877 #1 and please put your phone on mute. Prayer

will change people, things and situations.

Pastor Tommy Tucker
311 East Church
Lewisville, TX 75057
214-566-2211

**SAINT MARK MBC
IN MCKINNEY**

November 20
You're invited to our Education Ministries at 9:30 a.m. and our Worship Celebration at 10:45 a.m.
Dr. Charles Watley, Senior Pastor
1308 Wilcox Street
McKinney TX 75069
972-542-6178
www.saintmarkbc.com

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

November 20
Register now for our HR Ministry's 2nd Annual Golf Tournament at Twin Creeks Golf Club. Proceeds will be used for scholarships. Call the church for details.

November 20, 6 p.m.
You're invited to our 71st Annual Thanksgiving Musical featuring The Family Choir. Our theme "A Glimpse ... of Yesterday." Scripture, Jeremiah 6:15 "Stand in the ways and see, ask for the old ways, where the good way is, and walk in it."

November 23, 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**

November 20
You're invited to our Worship Services at 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

November 21, 7 p.m.
Join us for Monday School as we worship and praise God.
Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S. Westmoreland Road

Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.ibocjoy.org

THE NEW LIGHT CHURCH

November 20
You're invited to worship with us on Sunday Mornings at 9:30 a.m. for Sunday School and 11 a.m. for Morning Worship as we praise and worship God.

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

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Richardson, TX 75081

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GOD IN CHRIST**

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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.

November 22, 7:30 p.m.
You're invited to our Pastoral Care Night as Pastor Voss bring the Word of God; and we worship and praise Him.

December 4, 4 p.m.
Join us in celebrating four years of Pastoral Service by Dr. Gregory Voss. Guests include St. Andrew COGIC, Supt. Clarence Harden, Pastor; Faith Memorial Church, Bishop Larry Jefferson, Pastor; Hamilton Memorial Baptist, Rev. Henry Thomas, Pastor and El Shaddai COGIC, Rev. Edward Taylor, Pastor.
Dr. Gregory Voss, Senior Pastor
2765 Trinity Mills Road
Building 300
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(972) 359-9956 - www.theship3c.org




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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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KGGR 1040 AM, Monday - Friday @ 5:25 pm - 5:30 pm



Sister
Tarpley

With so many disasters happening world-wide today, I see and hear of people all stressed out. Disasters and things such as world economies (the United States is one of them), hurricanes, storms, floods, mudslides, earthquakes, companies going out of business and finances. The coming Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, etc.

With each disaster and/or event, people have lost jobs, homes, loved ones, and sometime even their faith. There was one incident where some church members were questioning God about their pastor being electrocuted while doing His work.

I begin to think, why some individuals seem to survive an illness, a catastrophe or a disaster better than others? How can people minimize the stress in their lives from an unforeseen set of circumstances?

When they find themselves in trials or tough circumstances, they bravely overcome them.

I remembered the biography of one man that overcame his disappointments and trials to become a successful individual. At 16 years old with \$3 in his pocket, he moved to New York City. He slept on a rooftop until he got a job as a dishwasher. He applied for a job that was listed in an ad but he wasn't a good reader and didn't get the job.

He was disappointed but he didn't let that stop him from striving to improve his lot in life. He was determined to succeed; determined to fulfill his ambition. That man is Sidney Poitier. Not only is he one of the best actors in this world, but he was the first Black actor to win an Oscar; other Blacks have since followed in his foot steps and won an Oscar, but not many.

There are people that continue to live in spite of their disappointments and

their grief and failure, when they are treated unfairly or betrayed, they not only survive, they confront their stresses and sorrows in ways that deepen their lives. They go on with grace, distinction and courage. It has been said that the trials of life are far less important than how one deal with them. By adopting a special outlook on life, many others can learn to be a survivor.

Survivors learn to: **Make happiness a habit.** They enjoy life even when troubles spring up. They learn to accept large and small victories. It has been said that no one is born happy. Everyone makes his own happiness. Survivors **accept change.** They realize that change and problems will come whether we want them or not. They learn from the problems in their life. At times what looks like a disaster may turn out to be the best thing that happened to them.

Survivors **don't give up.** They do what has to be

done, no matter how overwhelming the odds are.

Survivors **reach out to others.** They cherish involvement with others. They are givers. Duke University researchers found that one of the best predictors of health, happiness and long life is the tendency to reach out to people. Survivors **live in the present.** "Life lies in letting go, in giving up your grievances," writes Mildred Newman and Bernard Berkowitz in *How To Be Your Own Best Friend*. They warn that if we spend our energies being angry with the people who once disappointed us, we won't have any energy left for what we need now.

"Not one of us can bring back yesterday or shape tomorrow," adds Fredrick Buechner in *The Hungering Dark*. "Only today is ours and it will not be ours for long; and once it is gone, it will never in all time be ours again."

Survivors are **not afraid to dream.** People go about



Dr. Patricia Franklin-Blackmon, Ass't Director of Student Services, Carrollton-Farmers Branch I.S.D.

their tasks without weariness if they have a goal and a belief in what they are doing. They have a purpose, a dream.

It is always worth the effort to be a survivor. This longing to beat the odds, to

conquer our own weakness, has carried humanity through its long history. It is the cry of the heroic in all of us.

There is a saying that I like, "I am too blessed to be stressed."

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Miami, and New Orleans. In 1991, Johnson, a point guard for the Los Angeles Lakers, shocked the world when he announced he had tested HIV positive. "Because of the HIV virus that I have attained, I will have to retire from the Lakers today. I just want to make it clear, first of all, that I do not have the AIDS disease," he said during an emotional news conference. In Chicago, Blacks are disproportionately affected by HIV, according to the city's Health Department. Additionally, city health officials said Blacks represent only 36 percent of the city's population yet account for 55 percent of recently diagnosed HIV infections. Of the 22,650 people living with HIV/AIDS in Chicago, 54 percent are Black, 27 percent are White, 16 percent are Hispanic, and 3 percent are of another race.

Nationally, the problem is much worse. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that at the end of 2010, more than 1.1 million adults and adolescents were living with HIV infec-

tion in American and HIV continues to be a leading cause of death. In 2005, HIV was the fifth leading cause of death among people aged 35 to 44. The impact is greater on Blacks and Hispanics.

According to the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV was the third leading cause of death for Blacks aged 35 to 44, the fourth leading cause for Hispanics 35 to 44 and the fifth leading cause of death for Whites 25 to 44.

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How to celebrate Thanksgiving when your nest is empty

By Kate Forgach

Have your children all flown the coop with nary a look backwards? For some, Thanksgiving is pretty lonely when your own flesh and blood can't make it home for even a brief visit. On the other hand, you might delight in your freedom

from turkey tyranny. Either way, if you're a Baby Boomers lacking nestlings for the first time, you'll likely need to adjust holiday plans to better suit your new lifestyle.

After experiencing Thanksgiving without family several years, I came up with several ways to celebrate the holiday

without feeling abandoned. They include

Host an Orphan's Dinner - It really helps to remember you're not alone in this boat. There are plenty of people who'd greatly appreciate an invitation to socialize while enjoying a touch of turkey. I threw such a party last year and

asked everyone to bring a dish to pass. The only thing I had to buy and prepare was the turkey, which made it even easier than being a parental unit in this scenario.

Retire to a Restaurant - Celebrate kicking the turkey habit by dining out at one of the many eateries that do all the

work for you. You'll enjoy the football games much more if you don't have to leap up every 15 minutes to baste a bird. And, you can take advantage of cheap gift cards at such sites as GiftCardGranny to reduce your bill up to 30 percent.

Kate Forgach is a Baby Boomer consumer specialist for Kinoli Inc. She has written about senior issues for 11 years as a Cooperative Extension specialist and for a wide variety of newspapers and magazines.

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When the nurse came in the monitor had gone clear off of the chart. She was concerned until I told her I was telling my wife jokes. She was very stern with me. "Don't make her laugh," she said threateningly, "or I might just give you a taste of it yourself!" I'm not sure what she meant, but I knew by her tone that I didn't want to find out.

I don't know if it is just me, but I think labor room nurses are an interesting lot. The whole time the woman is in labor they never smile, never joke, never laugh, and act like a storm cloud hangs over them. Then, once the baby arrives, it is as if the

cloud lifts and they are born again and they smile and laugh and joke and celebrate. I asked one of them about it once and she said it is because they are all women and they feel empathy for the lady having the baby. The nurse I asked poked me in the chest and said, "You just have a baby sometime, buster, and you'll feel the same way."

For some reason a man in the birthing room is never the most popular person. It is like they think all the grief in the world, at that moment, is our fault. I've even seen male doctors told off for an unintentional remark, like "this might hurt a little",

when he should have said something like "this may hurt so much you will want to kick me through the wall".

My wife had been going to a female doctor. The doctor called the day before Thanksgiving and asked how things were going. At that point, already a week overdue, it seemed like the baby was not in a particular mood to change addresses, so the doctor went to Salt Lake to be with family. That was all it took for the baby to decide to make her grand, or should I say, prolonged, entrance onto the stage of life.

Thus we found ourselves with a doctor we didn't know, nurses that at first

acted like either they or myself had been sucking on lemons, and a noisy monitor that had an attitude, but our little Thanksgiving bundle was finally born. To celebrate, the now-happy nurses brought us freezer burned turkey, dried out stuffing, and barely edible cranberry sauce, but it didn't really matter because the true meaning of Thanksgiving was locked deep in my heart when the sweet little bundle was placed in my arms.

Daris Howard, author of "Super Cowboy Rides" and can be contacted at daris@darishoward.com; or visit his website at <http://www.darishoward.com>

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