

North Dallas Gazette



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Avoiding the red on Black Friday

BY GORDON MCKINLEY

According to the National Retail Federation, in 2010, Black Friday spending reached an estimated \$45 billion. Almost 212 million shoppers visited stores and websites over Black Friday weekend, with the average shopper spending \$365.34



(National Retail Federation).

With Black Friday 2011 consumers face the challenge of balancing their spending so they take advantage of deals from local retailers while staying in the black themselves. Since we have some experience helping people stay in the black

See FRIDAY, Page 12

Brilliant First Lady Michelle Obama

BY DR. BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS, JR.

(NNPA) At a time when there is so much doubt about the future and apprehension about the global economy, it is refreshing and reassuring to millions of people across America and throughout the world to witness the stead-



Michelle Obama

fastness of leadership that daily exudes from the First Lady of the United States of America. Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama has evolved into one of the most admired First Ladies in the history of America.

It is said that what the economy needs more than anything else today is to re-

gain a sense of economic "confidence" by both producers and consumers. But when it comes to how the majority of people feel about First Lady Michelle Obama, there is no lack of confidence and there is no hesitation to salute her dedication to family, nation and to the uplift of hu-

See OBAMA, Page 5

COVER STORY

Black Sheep



A resident of Rahat, a bedouin community outside of the southern city of Bersheva. She can document her family's history in Israel going back 200 years.

See SHEEP, Page 9



Jamie Foxx One Night event is rescheduled for earlier date

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

COMMENTARY

Minorities losing homes at rates double that for whites

BY CHARLENE CROWELL

A new report by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) shows foreclosure rates in 2011 have more bad news for communities of color. As of February 2011, low and moderate-income African Americans who received mortgages between the years 2004 and 2008 are now experiencing foreclosures at a rate about 80 percent higher than those of low and moderate-in-

come whites. For higher-income Latinos, the foreclosure rate for loans secured during these same years is more than three times that of higher-income whites.

The report, *Lost Ground*, also finds that communities of color still suffer from foreclosure disparities by race and ethnicity that cannot be explained by objective risk factors alone. Although white families have experienced the majority of

See LOSING, Page 3

Christmas at the Anatole Celebration

The Hilton Anatole will soon begin its transformation into a holiday wonderland as it kicks off the first annual *Christmas at The Anatole*. Enter through the Tower Lobby and you will be greeted by a twenty foot tall red metallic Christmas tree adorned with gold ornaments and nearly 3,000 white LED lights creating a fiery twist on a holiday



classic. This sits atop an antiqued gold mirror riser, the whole spectacle is framed by two five foot red triple ornament wreaths and the scene is filled in using scattered apothecary jars in various styles overflowing with gold and red ornament assortments.

As you stroll into the

See CHRISTMAS, Page 11

The North Dallas Gazette staff wishes each of you a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Our next issue is December 8.

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People In The News...



Cedric and Shellye Lyons



Renee Higginbotham-Brooks



Beverly W. Jackson

See Page 2

Cedric and Shellye Lyons

Last month at the "Grow Your Business through Government Contracting" event in Dallas, American Express OPEN(R), the small business division of the financial services company, recognized three small business owners for their remarkable achievements in government contracting with the second annual Victory in Procurement (VIP) Awards.

"Small businesses have the power to drive this economy. Their success is America's success," said Karen Michelle Mirko, director of

customer advocacy at American Express OPEN. "We are celebrating three business owners for their diligence, persistence and success in selling to the world's largest customer. These owners are the shining examples that small businesses need to see so that they too can grow their business."

At the event, active contractors had direct access to government buyers -- including the largest federal buyer, the Department of Defense -- via VIP Contract

Connections, buyer/seller meetings. Local buyers, like the City of Dallas, and prime contractors also met with business owners to discuss contract opportunities. There were close to 30 procurement officials from the federal, state and prime contracting levels at the event.

A woman-owned small business, The Lyons Group, which provides graphic and



web design, printing, advertising, integrated online marketing and social networking, as well as virtual

paralegal and administrative support for small to emerging businesses, walked away with a federal government contract from the Department of Interior. In 2010 alone, the federal government spent \$98 billion on products and services supplied by small businesses, including \$34.4 billion with small, disadvantaged firms and \$17.5 billion with women-owned small businesses.

All business owners had

the opportunity to meet government procurement officials, network and learn from fellow business owners as well as experts, and receive free business counseling through SCORE(R) Roundtable Coaching.

The awardees were recognized in the categories of Government Contractor of the Year, Woman Contractor of the Year and Teaming Contractor of the Year. Candidates provided details about their work and success in government contracting via a detailed application, which was evaluated by a panel of judges.

Renee Higginbotham-Brooks

Renee Higginbotham-Brooks, Fort Worth Attorney and Vice Chair of the Howard University Board of Trustees received the prestigious Wiley A. Branton Award. She was honored at the Eighth Annual Wiley A. Branton/Howard Law Journal Symposium Luncheon November 4, 2011 at Howard University in Washington, D.C. The Luncheon was co-sponsored by the National Bar Association.

The award is named for Wiley A. Branton, a prominent attorney, noted civil rights activist and former

Howard University Law School Dean.

This award honors Higginbotham-Brooks for her commitment, service and contributions to the field of law and civil rights. Upon accepting the award she remarked that she had never met Mr. Branton but because she had gone to law school with his son she knew quite a lot about him. "Based on his experiences," she said, "I know how important it is to give back and my advice to you is whatever door you walk through, take someone with you always. That's

how you build power and strength and continuity in your goals and objectives. Always stay close to your law school and university...be supportive of them because they really hold the future and are the key to all of us achieving in the future."

She has also received the Howard University Distinguished Alumni Award and the City of Fort Worth, Texas Outstanding Woman of the Year Award.

Higginbotham-Brooks earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Howard graduating Phi Beta Kappa,

magna cum laude. She received a Juris Doctorate degree from Georgetown University School of Law.

Higginbotham-Brooks was Chair of the powerful three-member Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission from 1991 to 1994. She was the first African American and female member of the Commission which regulates the \$9 billion industry. She was appointed by former Texas Governor Ann Richards. In 1994, she



served on the Board on the prestigious Texas Department of Commerce directing economic development initiatives for the State.

Higginbotham-Brooks,

a native of Martinsville, Virginia, is the mother of two grown daughters. She is involved in her community through memberships in various organizations including the Links, Inc., NAACP, Women's Political Forum and the United Negro College Fund. She also offers her legal expertise to the public through local cable, radio and community workshops.

She opened her law office in 1987 in Fort Worth, Texas and specializes in municipal bond finance in Tarrant, Dallas and Harris Counties.

Beverly W. Jackson

If you watch the GRAMMY Awards while connecting with other



As a founding member of the Recording Academy's digital strategy team, Jackson has played a significant role in achieving recent record-breaking viewership increases for the GRAMMY Awards, which are notable for incorporating social media into the iconic television broadcast.

Jackson was named on iMedia 25 - 2011 Internet Marketing Leaders and Innovators this week. The annual list of cutting-edge creatives, strategists,

and technology innovators with big ideas, who get results and collaborate openly to push internet marketing forward.

Within her industry, Jackson is known as a specialist with a knack for sorting through the digital clutter and noise to identify the most relevant and useful tools for marketing. Jackson puts her insights to work, overseeing both traditional and digital marketing programs, placing an emphasis on building, and engaging with, fan communities. She also works to increase the brand's overall footprint through a diverse array of initiatives that include live content streaming, exclusive video-on-demand, and integrated brand partnerships. Jackson also places a high emphasis on

analytics, using data to fine-tune social media initiatives.

In addition to her work with the GRAMMY Awards, Jackson is also known for sharing her social media insights across the industry as a co-curator for the MLOVE Con-Festival, which brings together 200 thought leaders and innovators to discuss the powerful potential of mobile to act as a catalyst for community, change, and inspiration.

Prior to joining the Recording Academy, Jackson worked as director of partnerships for the X Prize Foundation. She also has sales experience, having worked at both Octagon Worldwide and the House of Blues. Jackson began her career working

as a communications manager at J. Walter Thompson.

She tweets at @bevjackson.

music fans via social media, you're playing on Beverly W. Jackson's turf.

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Texas Redistricting – What Happened?

RECAP BY LONE STAR PROJECT

The Federal Court in San Antonio released interim maps for the 2012 Elections for the Texas State Senate and State House late last week. Parties to the pending lawsuit filed brief responses to the plan. The final plans – probably with little or no change – will likely be ordered soon.

Overall, the interim State Senate and State House plans reunite large minority neighborhoods that were split apart in the State's plan, as part of the GOP effort to undermine minority voting strength. While the Court pursued a strictly non-partisan course, the natural result of keeping communities of interest together results in more districts where Democrats can run with a realistic chance to win.

A detailed analysis of the entire state will be done when the map is made final. However, in response to several specific inquiries to the Lone Star Project, here's a rundown on the Court-drawn State Senate and State House districts in

the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

State Senate

The Court essentially reversed the Legislature's version of SD10 and returned the district to its original configuration. Davis won the district in 2008 by building a strong coalition of African American, Hispanic and like-minded Anglo voters. Since then, she has proven to be one of our state's most capable legislators and most talented politicians. Davis has attracting the support of not only Democrats but independents and moderate Republicans as well. With Davis's District 10 now intact, she will need to run a strong and effective campaign, but is the clear favorite for re-election in 2012.

Expect intense, near hysterical, insistence by local and State Republicans that they can win in the Court-drawn SD10 that is nearly identical to current district. However, if Republicans thought they could win the district in its original configuration, they would not have dismantled it

during the legislative session.

Senate District 10

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have dismantled it during the legislative session

State House

The Court essentially threw out the Republican State House plan and redrew the House map using the 2001 boundaries as the starting point. The result is a map that much more accurately represents the minority population growth and the political behavior of Texas.

Under the Court's interim plan, President Barack Obama
See REDISTRICTING, Page 12

Corrections

In the November 17, 2011 edition, on page 1 the Trustee files second complaint against Irving ISD Superintendent Bedden, Trustee Dr. Steven Jones named was erroneously spelled Stephen.

Also, on page 9 Bill Betzen's name was misspelled.

LOSING, continued from Page 1

foreclosures, the share of home losses is much higher for families of color, even within the same income categories. Moreover, African-Americans and Latinos were much more likely to get the most dangerous types of mortgages even if they had good credit – indicating they could have qualified for a sustainable mortgage.

CRL estimates that the nation is not even half-way through this continuing crisis. Among homes purchased between 2004 and 2008, 3.6 million are at serious and immediate risk of foreclosure. Additionally, another 2.7 million mortgages made during this same years have already

foreclosed.

The report includes information on foreclosures and delinquencies by state and by metro areas. It is available at: www.responsiblelending.org.

The awful irony of this still-unfolding saga is that many people are trying to blame affordable housing lending as the culprit for today's weak housing market. But the "exploding" loans that were marketed so aggressively during the subprime boom were not part of any governmental initiative.

Minority homebuyers were steered to mortgage products prone to foreclosure: brokered loans, non-traditional adjustable rate

mortgages and loans with pre-payment penalties. Loosely regulated lenders and Wall Street firms marketed these loans aggressively and approved them without regard to the huge exposure to financial risk, whether the loans were sustainable, or if borrowers could have qualified for a less costly loan.

Had borrowers of color been offered mortgage loans that were sustainable, far different results would have occurred. Family wealth could have increased; investors could have benefited; and local governments - highly-dependent upon property tax revenues - would not be facing severe

budget deficits. Most importantly, the nation might not have suffered the worst recessionary economy of this generation.

Homebuyers, especially those of color, could have gotten better loans. Far more borrowers would have been more successful. And those who offered these risky loans should have known better.

Our nation just didn't need this saga of "coulda", woulda', shoulda'".

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

The Citizens for Irving Entertainment Center Seek Support

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

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

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

political action committee in order to save it.

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

cil.

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

Don't lose sight of diabetic eye disease

Diabetes affects nearly 26 million people in the United States. In addition, another 79 million people are estimated to have pre-diabetes, a condition that puts people at increased risk for diabetes. All people with diabetes, both type 1 and type 2, are at risk for diabetic eye disease, a leading cause of vision loss and blindness.

"The longer a person has diabetes the greater is his or her risk of developing diabetic eye disease," said Dr. Suber Huang, chair of the Diabetic Eye Disease Subcommittee for the Na-

tional Eye Institute's (NEI) National Eye Health Education Program. "If you have diabetes, be sure to have a comprehensive dilated eye exam at least once a year. Diabetic eye disease often has no early warning signs, but can be detected early and treated before noticeable vision loss occurs."

Diabetic eye disease refers to a group of eye problems that people with diabetes may face as a complication of the disease and includes diabetic retinopathy, cataract, and glaucoma. Diabetic retinopathy, the most common diabetic eye

disease, is the leading cause of blindness in adults 20-74 years of age. According to NEI, 4.1 million people have diabetic eye disease and its prevalence is projected to increase to 7.2 million by 2020.

While all people with diabetes can develop diabetic eye disease, African Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Hispanics/Latinos, and older adults with diabetes are at higher risk of losing vision or going blind from it. All people with diabetes should have a dilated eye exam at least once a year to detect

vision problems early. In fact, with early detection, timely laser surgery, and appropriate follow-up care, people with advanced diabetic retinopathy can reduce their risk of blindness by 90 percent.

Clinical research, supported in part by NEI, has shown that maintaining good control of blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol can slow the development and progression of diabetic eye disease. In addition to regular dilated eye exams, people with diabetes should do the following to keep their health on

TRACK:

- Take your medications.
- Reach and maintain a healthy weight.
- Add physical activity to your daily routine.
- Control your blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol.
- Kick the smoking habit.

"Don't lose sight of diabetic eye disease," added Dr. Huang. "Don't wait until you notice an eye problem to have an exam because vision that is lost often cannot be restored."

For more information

on diabetic eye disease and tips on finding an eye care professional or financial assistance for eye care, visit www.nei.nih.gov/diabetes or call NEI at 301-496-5248.

Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners suspends McKinney doctors license

The Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners issued a Temporary Emergency License Suspension



against a McKinney chiropractor, David Russell. The suspension is based on Russell's two arrests in the last two weeks on Sexual Assault of a Child charges. The Enforcement Committee felt this action necessary to insure the protection of the public.

A hearing on the suspension is scheduled for November 30 in Austin at the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

U.S. Surgeon General declares Thanksgiving as "Family Health History Day"

United States Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin has declared Thanksgiving 2011 as the nation's eighth annual "Family Health History Day," when families can share information by using the My Family Health Portrait website to gather their family's health history in one place.

"An important first step in preventing illness and disability is learning about health conditions in our families that may put us at increased risk for diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, some cancers, Alzheimer's Disease, mental illness and many others," said Dr. Benjamin. "Discussing health information with other members of your family can often uncover conditions and explanations for health problems which you never knew

about, simply because no one ever asked."

My Family Health Portrait is available on the Office of the Surgeon General's website at <https://familyhistory.hhs.gov>. This tool is secure, free and takes about 20 minutes to create your unique family health portrait. Information can be shared with other family members who may not be home for Thanksgiving. They can build on your *Family Health Portrait* by adding their health information and can choose to share with you.

When you complete the questions, the website creates a personalized "family health tree" that can be saved to your home computer. From there, families

See FAMILY, Page 16

Parkland stroke program recognized among best

Stroke team saves lives by providing quick, effective treatment to stroke patients

Parkland Health & Hospital System was recently designated as a Primary Stroke Facility Level II. This is Parkland's second time receiving the state designation as a primary stroke center.

"This means we continue



to demonstrate excellent quality stroke care and improved outcomes for our stroke patients," said Jennifer Cross, advanced practice

nurse and stroke program coordinator.

Parkland succeeded in all of The Joint Commission's eight quality indicators of ischemic strokes, which occur when an artery to the brain is blocked. Some indicators include whether a patient is discharged on anti-thrombotic therapy, received stroke education or assessed for rehabilitation.

Cross said Parkland is one of few hospitals with continuous 24-hour stroke care. The stroke team expects to see more than 700 stroke patients by year's end.

"From the emergency department to the ICUs to the

neurology floors, our stroke care is second to none," Cross said.

Parkland's statewide stroke care designation lasts through November 2013. The state of Texas determines eligibility for designation as a primary stroke center based on whether the fa-

cility is in good standing with The Joint Commission, an independent, not-for-profit organization that accredits and certifies U.S. health care organizations and programs. The state requires its primary stroke centers to maintain Joint Commission stroke center certification.

How women can learn to celebrate this natural transition with invaluable tips from experts

Menopause affects women from all around the globe – it may be different for each one but it will definitely have some kind of an effect on them. The key is to minimize the negative effects so that this will be a time of celebration rather than a time of dread.

Doctors Lovera Wolf Miller and David C. Miller are the authors of *Womenopause: Stop Pausing and Start Living* (O-Books) and they wrote it for just this reason. Their book is filled with the latest scientific information and solutions to help women feel their best during this vital time – more like a makeover geared to feeling fit, feminine and fabulous in four weeks!

Unfortunately, our culture has become obsessed with maintaining the appearance of youth – which does nothing to help the anxiety level of the 6,000 women a day reaching menopause right now! Their list of concerns just keeps growing:

Will I lose my looks? Can I keep this weight off? Is my health going to deteriorate? Am I still sexy? Can I still be smart? Can I continue to be me?

Womenopause provides readers with a guide to help them create their own 'designer' treatment plan that is tailored to their individual needs, and it covers everything from bone preservation, hormones, hot flashes, breast health, brain power, skin, fitness, sleep, sex – a multitude of things that women deal with while going through menopause. This book doesn't profess to be a 'cure' but it certainly is an invaluable tool. It cuts through all the hype and ill-informed opinions that have plagued women for years, keeping them on a roller coaster ride of 'trends of the day' – and instead offers real solutions that work!

Please visit their informative websites at: www.womenopausebook.com and www.womenopauseinteractive.com.

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DART makes plans to "Stuff a Bus" for charity

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) employees will hold their annual holiday "Stuff a Bus" campaign to assist people in need Friday, December 2.

Customers are invited to stuff a 40 foot long DART bus by donating unwrapped toys, canned food, socks and blankets at the Mockingbird Station parking lot, 5465 E.

Mockingbird Lane, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. This effort supports two DART-employee initiated campaigns, Santa Cops and Comforting of the Souls. Look for a specially marked bus when making donations.

The toys and food will assist DART Police "Santa Cops" as they provide meals and gifts for area families. New adult socks

and blankets will help DART Northwest Bus Division's "Comforting of the Souls" aimed at Dallas area nursing homes.

The Dallas Weekly, North Dallas Gazette, El Hispano News, Telemundo of Dallas, and stations KKDA-FM "K-104" and KNRB "Smooth R&B 105.7" are helping to sponsor DART's "Stuff a Bus" campaign.

Women's Empowerment Explosion Conference planned for Dec. 3

Women throughout the Metroplex are invited to the inaugural Women's Empowerment Explosion Conference 2011 hosted by the South Dallas Business & Professional Women's Club, Inc.

The conference will provide an opportunity for women to network with other professional women for the purpose of enhancing their own businesses. "What we are trying to achieve with this conference is to educate and motivate women concerning business. We will have seven excellent speakers that will come and talk to attendees about leadership, entrepreneurship, technology and service," says attorney Gwen Hunt, who serves as the Economic Development and Empower-



ment Committee Chair for the South Dallas Business & Professional Women's Club, Inc. "We also want to thank our partner in this endeavor, Nationwide Insurance. They have the same vision we have which is to empower women."

Since its inception in 1954, the South Dallas Business & Professional Women's Club, Inc. has worked to create and develop opportunities and encourage training in the business and professional

worlds for women and youth while fostering united action for improved social and civic conditions through activities in the United States and Africa.

The conference will be held on Saturday, December 3 from 9 am to noon at The Black Academy of Arts and Letters located inside the Dallas Convention Center Theater Complex at the corner of Canton and Akard Streets in Downtown Dallas in Ballroom T-314. Admission is free and does include complimentary continental breakfast.

For more information and to register for the Women's Empowerment Explosion 2011, log onto www.womensempowermentexplosion.com or email info@womensempowermentexplosion.com.

Delivery planned for signed petitions opposing rumored federal budget cuts

Concerned members of the community are delivering petitions as last effort to share their concerns about proposed budget cuts considered by the Super Committee. The petitions are scheduled for delivery to Representative Jeb

Hensarling's Dallas office by members of the Texas Alliance for Retired Americans on Tuesday, November 22.

From news reports on what the Super Committee is considering the group feels no deal would be the best that

working people and retirees can get.

Texas Alliance for Retired Americans is prepared to celebrate "no deal" or continue the fight against cuts through the December 23 Congressional deadline.

OBAMA, continued from Page 1

manity. As we are about to enter into the heated national political debates and campaigns of the 2012 national election year, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama will be under intense pressures to maneuver through what may be one of the most difficult periods of time to maintain resilience and hope.

I am encouraged and optimistic, however, that President Obama will be re-elected if millions of us do what we are supposed to do and that is go out and vote in record numbers 12 months from now. The pivotal role of women who will vote and the critical role of the youth vote will help to determine the outcome of 2012 elections. Herein is where Mrs. Michelle Obama can be and will be an invaluable asset to President Obama's re-election campaign. Recently, the First Lady spoke to grassroots campaign workers at the Obama 2012 National Headquarters in Chicago. It was reported that she was enthusiastically received by the campaign workers not only for her charm and motivational spirit, but also for Mrs. Obama's grasp of the challenges ahead of campaign. As a result of her spending

time with the workers in the Chicago campaign office, the staff and volunteers were thoroughly reinvigorated. David Axelrod, President Obama's key political strategist, affirmed, "Her mission is to energize folks and give them encouragement to go out and to the work."

According to U.S. News & World Report, the First Lady "has attended dozens of events with and for veterans and earlier this month announced a program at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce headquarters in Washington to get 100,000 vets hired by American firms." Michelle Obama continues to be a strong advocate for the support of veterans and their families across the nation. She also is helping to champion passage of the President's American Jobs Act to put millions of Americans back to work. While the U.S. Congress is taking too long to act or vote on many of the provisions of the American Jobs Act, the clear articulation of support for the Jobs Act by the First Lady helps to arouse a groundswell of national support for Congress to act on this important pending legislation.

"Women for Obama" is an initiative by President Obama's re-election cam-

paign. The purpose of this initiative is to galvanize millions of female voters to be active in the 2012 elections on behalf of President Obama. The honorary chair of "Women for Obama" is First Lady Michelle Obama. In 2008, President Obama received a plurality of votes from the majority of women voters. A CNN exit poll showed that Obama received more than 56% of the female in 2008. A large percentage of independent swing voters are also women and the calculus of victory in 2012 will hinge on the largest turnout of female voters and young voters in every state.

At a youth get-out-the-vote (GOTV) rally last month at Ohio State University both the President and the First Lady emphasized the importance of the youth vote in

helping to continue to change America for the better. The crowd of college students gave a thunderous affirmative response to a question posed by Michelle Obama about the readiness of students and young voters to rise to the occasion again with a large voter turnout. She asked, "Can we do this?" The crowd shouted back with a tremendous roar, "Yes we can!" The Obama 2012 Re-election Campaign made the right move in establishing "Greater Together: Young Americans" initiative that is focused on registering and mobilizing millions of young voters to support President Obama. The National Youth-Vote Director for Obama 2012 Re-election Campaign is Valeisha Butterfield-Jones, a young dynamic leader, who is proving to be another important asset to the

President's re-election efforts. The point here is the First Lady is leading the way and young leaders and activists are being inspired every day to defy the negative pundits who are underestimating the growing national support for President Obama.

First Lady Michelle Obama is brilliant, determined, caring, effective and very resourceful. All of us should be responding by lending a helping hand, giving of

our time, energy and money, and to make our own contributions to push forward for more progress to ensure the re-election of President Barack Obama. Let's determine the future by how we act today.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is Senior Advisor to the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO) and President of Education Online Services Corporation and the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN).

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Ron Brown Scholar Program seeks Black students

The Ron Brown Scholar Program seeks to identify African-American high school seniors who will make significant contributions to society. Applicants must excel academically, exhibit exceptional leadership potential, participate in community service activities and demonstrate financial need. The applicant must be a US citizen or hold a permanent resident visa card. Current college students are not eligible to apply.

Each year, a minimum of ten students will be designated Ron Brown Scholars and will receive \$10,000 annually for four years, for a total of \$40,000. The recipients may use the renewable scholarships to attend an accredited four-year college or university of their



Ronald H. Brown
(1941-1996)

choice within the United States. Ron Brown Scholarships are not limited to any specific field or career objective and may be used to pursue any academic discipline. More than 250 students have been designated as Ron Brown Scholars since the inception of the Program.

Ron Brown Scholars are

selected in the spring prior to entering college. Applications are screened during the month of February by Ron Brown Scholar Program staff. In March, finalists are invited to participate in a weekend selection process in Washington, D.C. at the expense of the CAP Charitable Foundation. Finalists are interviewed by members of the Ron Brown Selection Committee and are expected to participate in several Selection Weekend activities. Scholarship winners are selected on the basis of their applications, interviews and participation in Selection Weekend activities.

The deadline to apply is January 9, 2012.

For more details, visit: www.BlackStudents.com/ronbrown scholars

CTC presents regional premiere of *Atlas of Mud*

The Collin Theatre Center presents the regional premiere of *Atlas of Mud* by Jennifer Fawcett.

and seating is general admission. Tickets can be purchased at www.collintheatre-center.com.

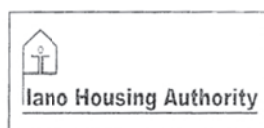
chased at www.collintheatre-center.com.



Atlas of Mud is a mythical allegory about finding hope in a world turned unrecognizable. Set 10 years after the world flooded and people fled to the boats, it is the story of desperation to find land. Guarded by the military, one boat holds special cargo: seeds to plant when land is found, birds to find the land and a child called Mud.

Atlas of Mud contains some adult language and situations and may not be appropriate for children.

Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 1-3 and 7-10 at 8 pm and at 2:15 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 4 and Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 10-11. All shows will be at the Black Box Theatre at Collin College's Spring Creek Campus, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano. Tickets are \$10



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Plano Housing Authority, Texas (PHA) invites qualified and experienced firms to submit a proposal for a Roof Replacement and Repairs contract for 24 single story homes and Administrative Building.

Proposal packages will be available at the PHA Administrative Building located at 1740 Ave. G. Plano, TX 75074 beginning Thursday, December 1, 2011 from 8am until 6:30pm. PHA business hours are Monday through Thursday, 8am until 6:30pm. You may also send an email requesting a delivery and read receipt to bmcDonald@planoha.org to request a copy of the proposal.

Request for Proposals (RFP) will be received until 9am, Thursday, December 15, 2011 at PHA's Administrative Building, 1740 Ave. G. Plano, TX 75074. RFP's may be submitted in person or by mail. PHA is not responsible for mail delivery service. You may also submit your proposal by email requesting a delivery and read receipt to bmcDonald@planoha.org by the same deadline. A non-mandatory Pre-Proposal Briefing will be held Monday, December 5, 2011 at 10am at the PHA Administrative Building Community Room, 1740 Ave. G. Plano, TX 75074.

PHA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to waive any informalities in the solicitation. The Plano Housing Authority will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or age.

Visit our website www.planoha.org

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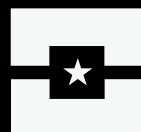
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IT ALL BEGINS HERE.

Free Christmas on the Square Saturday

Snow will once again be blowing into Carrollton on the first weekend in December, bringing with it a time of Christmas celebrations. Cancel the flight north and enjoy the snow in the Downtown Carrollton Square from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 3.

Tube down a snow hill



gifts and stocking stuffers. Visit and take pictures with Santa Claus, and enjoy the many vendor arts and crafts booths. Sponsored by the Old Downtown Carrollton Association.

For more information, call 972-242-4490 or visit olddowntowncarrollton.com.

and stroll the shops, decked out for the holidays, offering wonderful

Irving ISD Middle Schools and Jet Terry Giving Thanks

Dallas Maverick Jason Terry, along with volunteers from Century 21 Mike Bowman, Inc. and Albertsons gave Thanksgiving dinners to 100 families in need on Saturday from at Lady Bird Johnson Middle School.

On the same day, another 450 Thanksgiving

baskets were given to underprivileged families. The donations were made possible through a partnership between Irving Bible Church and Houston Middle School.



Angie Gaylord, Principal, Mike Bowman and Jason Terry

Festive holiday entertaining drink recipe

BY LAWSON ROBERTS

It's the most wonderful time of the year! It also happens to be one of my favorites! I'll go ahead and admit it, even after being in the entertaining business as long as I have, I simply adore the art form of entertaining guests. There is no better time to do it than over the holidays.

Greet your guests with a signature cocktail upon arrival. This absolutely sets a festive tone to the evening. I always enjoy bubbles during the holiday season. A very

simple and yet colorful champagne cocktail is the poinsettia.

Poinsettia

- 1.5 ounces Tri-ple Sec
- 1/4 cup cranberry juice
- 1/2 cup prosecco or champagne

Pour triple sec and cranberry juice into a chilled champagne flute.

Top with prosecco or champagne.

Lawson Roberts is a renowned and seasoned spe-



cial events producer with more than 15 years experience.

Young Dallas resident to be featured in holiday parade

Kicking off the holiday season in Dallas, platinum recording artist Jordin Sparks will take part in the 24th annual Children's Medical Center Holiday Parade on Saturday, Dec. 3. Sparks will contribute to the magic of the parade by making an appearance and performing a special song.

At the parade, Sparks will sing "The Cure," a song off of her latest album "Battlefield," which is the theme song for Children's Medical Center's original dramatic



See PARADE, Page 13

*M*aking a mark on history...

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Help DART give the gift of hope to a person in need!

Friday, December 2
Mockingbird Station Parking Lot
6 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Stuff a Bus
Bring new, unwrapped toys and canned food to help DART Police "Stuff a Bus" and provide meals and gifts for area families.

Comforting of the Soul
Bring new adult socks and blankets to help the DART Northwest Bus Division "Comfort the Souls" of area seniors.

DART thanks the following promotional partners for their generous support.

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EL PASO NEWS

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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: frisco.texas.gov.

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

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

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

Through November 30

Head Start of Greater Dallas is holding its **2nd Annual Coats for Kids Drive** at drop-locations throughout Dallas. Cash and coat donations are accepted. Info: hsgd.org or 972-283-6472.

Through December 9

God Always Provides is hosting its annual **Food and Toy Drive** at various locations throughout the Dallas area. Info: Godalwaysprovides.org or 214-350-6400 ext. 204.

Through December 22

Dallas Children's Theater and the Kathy Burks Theater of Puppetry Arts team up to presents **The Nutcracker** at the Rosewood Center, 5938 Skillman Street, Dallas. Showtimes and ticket prices vary. Info: kathyburkspuppets.com, dct.org or 214-740-0051.

Dallas Children's Theater presents **Madeline's Christmas** at 5938 Skillman, Dallas. Showtimes and ticket prices vary. Info: 214-978-0110 or dct.org.

Through January 1

Come see The Trains at North-Park presented by the Bank of Dallas. Showtimes vary. Tickets \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Info: Northparkcenter.com

Through January 8

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

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

The Galleria Mall, 1635 at the North Dallas Tollway, is hosting its annual **Holiday Magic on Ice** show in its Center Court on all levels at noon.

FREE. Info: Galleriadallas.com.

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 26

Holiday Market with Santa Claus at Traders Village Kids of all ages can have their photo taken with Santa. Get into the spirit of Christmas with thousands of dealers who are selling holiday gifts and more for all tastes and budgets. Traders Village, 2602 Mayfield Rd. in Grand Prairie, event is FREE. INFO: dfwinfo@tradersvillage.com or 972-647-2331

MetroPCS Fair Park Holiday event with gift market, children's crafts, Tree Lighting Ceremony, and fireworks at Fair Park, 1300 Robert B. Cul-lum Blvd 11 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Home For The Holidays with the FW Symphony - Christmas carols, the Dorothy Shaw Bell Choir, a family sing-along, and a cameo appearance by Santa at 330 E. Fourth Street, Suite 200 in Fort Worth from 2 - 8 p.m. The cost is \$27 - \$79

INFO: mbailey@fwsymphony.org or 817-665-6500

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 2

Free Old-Fashioned Christmas at AW Perry Homestead Museum - Enjoy an old-fashioned Christmas evening at the A.W. Perry Homestead Museum (1509 N. Perry Rd) for free from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Info: cityofcarrollton.com/museum or call 972-466-6380.

Broadway at the Bass presents Irving Berlin's White Christmas - Get ready to discover a delightful new show that's as fresh and rare as newly fallen snow! The classic holiday tradition White Christmas comes to the stage at last. as a brand new Irving Berlin musical direct from Broadway and opening at Bass Performance Hall at the Bass Performance Hall-Maddox-Muse Complex in Fort Worth at 7:30 p.m. 817-212-4200

December 3

The MetroPCS Dallas White Rock marathon hosts its **Rockin Pasta Dinner** at the Omni Dallas Hotel, 555 South Lamar Street, Dallas, from 6pm – 8pm. Tickets \$20. Info: runtherock.com or 972-498-1136.

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

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

The **42nd Annual MetroPCS Dallas White Rock Marathon** begins at 6:30am at Fair Park, 1300 Robert B. Cul-lum Boulevard, Dallas. Registration varies. Info: Runtherock.com or 972-498-1136.

December 6

Arrow Child and Family Ministries is holding a **Foster/Adopt Orientation** at 1225 North I35, Suite 100, Carrollton, from 6pm – 9pm. FREE. Info: arrow.org or 972-360-3700.

December 9

Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce **25th Anniversary Celebration Gala** invitation to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce at the Omni Convention Center Dallas, 555 S. Lamar St., 6-11 pm the cost is \$100 INFO: info@gdaacc.com or 972-241-8250

December 10

African-American Authors Book Circle Reads Langston - The African-American Authors Book Circle will discuss the works of Langston Hughes. Selected read is reader's choice. The African American Authors Book Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. Light refreshments will be served at

the West Irving Library, 4444 West Rochelle Road in Irving - 10:30 a.m. to noon. INFO: ahipp@cityofirving.org or 972-721-2691

Jazz in the Sanctuary - A sacred music concert the whole family can enjoy

at the Stults Road Community Church, 8566 Stults Rd at 7 pm Donations requested. Info: charles_w_winslow_jr@yahoo.com or 214-815-3606

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.'s **Annual Cold and Classy Christmas Extravaganza** at the African American Museum at Fair Park. Tickets are \$30. Info: Forrest Jackson @ 469-865-5372 or www.DallasAlphas.com

December 10 -11

KwanzaaFest comes to Fair Park's Automobile Building, 1010 1st Street, Dallas, 10am – 7pm Saturday and 11am – 6pm Sunday. Admission FREE. Parking \$10. Info: johnwileyprice.com or fairpark.org.

December 15

An Evening of Spoken Word Open Mic at the S Dallas Cultural Center at 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas starting at 7 p.m. it is FREE. INFO: 214-939-2787

December 18

Latin America Christmas is the only DFW metroplex Christmas event that encompass Latin America's diverse cultures and holiday traditions. Its musical ensembles from many nations of the Americas present the inspiring traditional Christmas rhythms of villancicos, aguinaldos and posadas. Location: Unity Church of Dallas, 6525 Forest Lane (between Preston and Hillcrest) in Dallas, TX 75230 Presented by: DFW International Community Alliance at 2 p.m. The event is INFO: president@dfwinternational.org or 972-661-2764

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Black Sheep

BY NICOLE SCOTT

"Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies whom the Lord shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in lack of all things and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee" Deuteronomy 28:48

When reading this Biblical passage, one cannot help but wonder if it is referencing those of African descent. It seems wherever you find our people, be it North America, Europe, the Motherland or even the Holy Land we are the oppressed, the tail instead of the head.

Listening to the leading CNN, Newsweek and Primetime headlines about Israel might leave one surprised to learn Israel is one of the world's leading metropolitan and technologically advanced countries. Israel has the second largest number of startup companies in the world and the largest number of NASDAQ listed companies outside of N. America. In 2010, it ranked 17th among the world's most economically developed nations, according to the International Institute for Management and Development's World Competitiveness Yearbook. It ranked first as the world's most stable economy in the face of crises and first in rate of research and development. For a country only 63 years young, this is impressive. But, for all of its accomplishments and progress Israel has made remarkably little strides in closing the gap of racial inequality.

For those looking outside of Israel, when the word discrimination arises, most minds immediately revert to the conflict between Jews and Arabs. Quite naturally, since this is the primary focus by mainstream media. However, many are not aware and would be shocked to learn of the

deep-seated intraracial discrimination, which has become so prevalent in Israeli society. Of course if most Israelis were asked, many would probably deny it. "What, me racist, my people suffered the Holocaust" --- as if somehow being the descendant of those once persecuted provides an exemption from being capable of racism. But, all one has to do is check the history of Israel.

In 1996, blood banks throughout the state of Israel indiscriminately discarded all blood donated by Ethiopian citizens. News of this sparked outrage throughout the Ethiopian community. This continues to lead to the hesitance of many Ethiopians to donate blood. The motivation for throwing out the blood - - fear it was likely contaminated with AIDS. That was 15 years ago. Things have progressed... or have they?

Just two years ago, three Orthodox private schools in the city of Petach Tikvah denied 100 Ethiopian children admission. The schools claimed Ethiopian children require more time and funds than other children. The majority of Ethiopian youth attend religious state schools. Schools where many times the quality is sub par. Unfortunately, a standard that often defines the quality of life for the majority of Israel's Ethiopian population.

Evidence racism in Israel has now become institutionalized includes a 2010 report by the Central Bureau of Statistics showing Ethiopians total approximately 105,000. This means Ethiopians comprise around 2 percent of the Israeli population. However, 47 percent of Ethiopian adults, almost twice that of other Israelis, do not participate in the workforce on any level. Only 38 percent of Ethiopian women participate as opposed to 68 percent of their counterpart. More than 90 percent of

Ethiopian immigrants employed work in menial, low paying or manual labor type positions. The majority of Ethiopian immigrants who have professional degrees or degrees of higher education have trouble finding employment. Some suggest the disparity can be attributed to Ethiopians migration from what many consider a third world country and agrarian culture. However, Black American Jews have encountered the same racial barriers.

Aaron Stewart, a computer technician, worked for some of the leading hi-tech companies such as Texas Instruments in the United States. Stewart decided after almost two years of searching for a job within his field to return to the U.S.

"It was a hard decision but I couldn't support my family. I had a lot of prospects. A lot of places would call after receiving my resume and sound really interested. They would tell me over the phone I'm just what they're looking for but when I would get to the interview they would have a completely different demeanor."

Jaclyn Scott, Israel's first African-American attorney, even four years later is still struggling to find comparable employment. She recently registered with her local unemployment office for assistance to find work. However, they informed her the only job they could find for her was as a caretaker for the elderly

paying 22 shekels an hour. That equates to about \$6.00 per hour. Not exactly the

Black American Jews recount similar experiences of not being able to find work

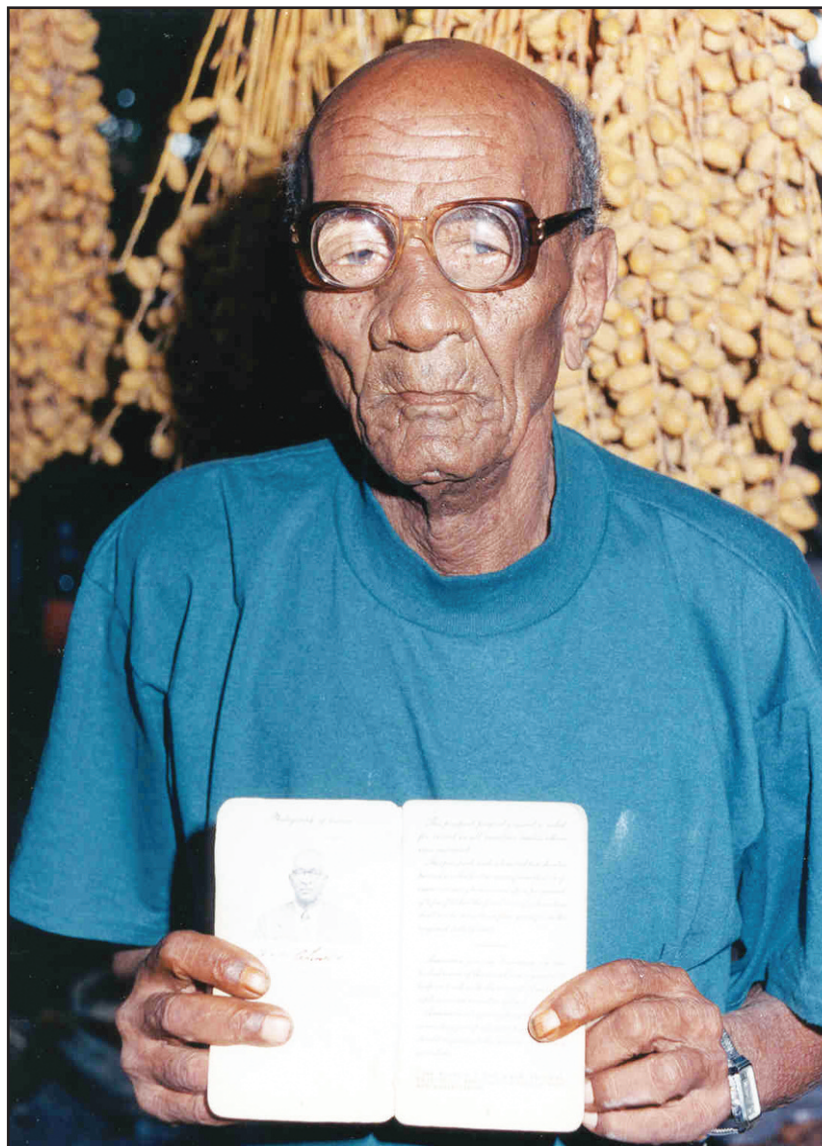
street and stopped by one of your neighbors asking, "are you lost?" Answering the door to your home and asked if the owner or head of the house is available. Sitting in the lobby awaiting an interview and someone walk out, passes by looking back and forth never stopping to inquire if maybe you are the 9:30 appointment. This despite the fact you are the only person present. My all time favorite, "you speak really good English". Wow, are you serious? That is somewhat reminiscent of Harry Reid's explanation as to why Barack Obama could become America's first Black president.

No Israel, like so many nations, has yet to cross its Rubicon of race. In 2011, the unspoken rule of law remains, "if you are Black get back." Proving that Israel's best kept secret is not that this

tiny nation, roughly the size of New Jersey, is the world's 9th leader in millionaires. Unfortunately, those same people who cry, "never forget" are actually perpetrators of the same oppression and bigotry they profess to be victims of.

No, this truth does not quite wash down well with a glass of King David but as we say in Israel - - "ma la'asot" - - what to do. It is what it is.

Nicole Scott is a NDG Contributor based in Israel. The sources used by Nicole includes: Central Bureau of Statistics (Israel), Israel Association for Ethiopian Jews, Jewish Virtual Library.



A man from Jericho. He is holding his father's passport who was born in Israel in 1884.

salary someone with her credentials was expecting.

These are not isolated experiences. But, if one needs further convincing, simply walk into any bank in Israel, any school, any hi-tech company in Tel Aviv, Haifa or Ra'anana or any courtroom or law firm. There are no Black managers, principals, executives, lawyers or judges. In fact, the only Black faces seen are those pushing mops and brooms or occasionally a security guard. Anything more can be akin to a solar eclipse - - a rare and beautiful phenomenon.

From the Sea of Galilee's city of Tiberias down to the Bersheva Negev, countless stories of

in their profession. They share stories of instances where their children encounter racism within the school system.

This is something that I personally have battled with all of my sons. Phone calls to parents, meetings with teachers and the principal because once again my son was called "cushie". It seems every country has its version of the word nigger. All the more reason for Blacks to disown this word - but I digress.

For Black American Jews, confronting this Jim Crow racism can be overwhelming. It is almost as if you have stepped back in time 50 years. Walking down your neighborhood

DCT's Madeline's Christmas is a delightful treat for the family

BY LATRISHA
MCDUFFIE +2

Okay, I will admit I was not particularly excited about taking four kids to the theatre on a Friday night. But I managed to get all four to the bathroom and in the car dressed in their Sunday best.

Let me begin by offering a big MERCI to the Dallas Children's Theatre's (DC) for a magical night of live theatre. This charming and enchanting production of *Madeline's Christmas*, based on the stories by Ludwig Bemelmans was a welcomed change to the usual

offerings of Christmas blockbuster films.

The day begins, "In an old house in Paris, that was covered with vines lived twelve little girls in two straight lines." Miss Clavel takes the twelve little girls on their morning walk happily singing of course to the zoo where everyone gets the flu! Well, everyone except for the ever-resilient *Madeline*. Saddened that they may not be able to go home for Christmas, the girls and Miss Clavel take to their beds. But on Christmas Eve, the adventure be-



gins when there is a knock at the front door.

DCT's production of *Madeline's Christmas* features catchy songs, dishes that magically put themselves away, teacarts that move under their own power, falling snowflakes and silhouetted flying carpets against the Paris sky. Randel Wright manages to convey the charm and child-like innocence of

Bemelmans' illustrations on stage.

Even the one boy in my merry band of bandits loved it. My 9 year-old twin daughters enjoyed the performance so much each wrote a review.

Kendall shared:

My favorite part of the play is when the girls go for a magic carpet ride. I also enjoyed the realistic view of the stars in Paris. Sarah Youngblood played a fantastic *Madeline*. She was energetic, fun, funny, and had a great personality.

Madison wrote:

My favorite songs were *Abracadabra* and *We're Flying*. The funniest part was when the magician was frozen! The set and cast were great. I would definitely go again.

As you can see fans of all ages will love this play. *Madeline's Christmas* is on stage through December 22. The Dallas Children's Theater Rosewood Center for Family Arts is located at 5938 Skillman Street in Dallas. Ticket prices range from \$14-\$26, call the box office at 214-740-0051 or visit www.dct.org.

Joyeux Noel (Merry Christmas)!

Jamie Foxx One Night event is rescheduled for earlier date

The AT&T Performing Arts Center's "Evening with Jamie Foxx" is rescheduled for Thursday, December 1 at 8 p.m. due to scheduling conflicts while shooting with Quentin Tarantino on his new film. Academy

Award winner and multiple Golden Globe nominee, Jamie Foxx will be in Dallas for a one night, intimate interview at the Winspear Opera House.

Foxx, whose real name is Eric Bishop, is a native

Texan from Terrell. He is most famous for his stand-up comedy and roles in films such as *Collateral*, *Ray* and *Ali*. In 2004, he became the first actor to receive three Golden Globe nominations and four SAG Award nomi-

nations in the same year.

Foxx fans will not want to miss this one night event, which allows them to take part in a personal question and answer session. Also, Foxx will discuss how he has juggled a successful act-

ing and music career for nearly 20-years.

Tickets range from \$20 to \$150 and can be purchased online at www.attpac.org, by phone at 214.880.0202, or in person at the AT&T Performing

Arts Center Box Office at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora Street (Monday through Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm; Sunday 11 am – 4 pm), or at the remote Box Office at Park Place Lexus Plano at 1025 Preston Road.

Dunkin' Donuts Black Friday coffee contest

Dunkin' Donuts is helping people kick off the holiday shopping season by putting the "K" in Black Friday, brewing up a special Twitter promotion. Their giveaway provides fans with the chance to win an early holiday gift – a Keurig® brewer and a box of Dunkin' Donuts K-Cup® packs.



Beginning at 5 a.m. on Friday, November 25, tweet @DunkinDonuts with hashtag #DDKCUPPACKS and share how Dunkin' Donuts K-Cup® packs keep you running throughout the holiday season. Dunkin' Donuts will randomly select one winner per hour until 10 a.m. (five winners total) to receive a Keurig® brewer and Dunkin' Donuts K-Cup® packs.

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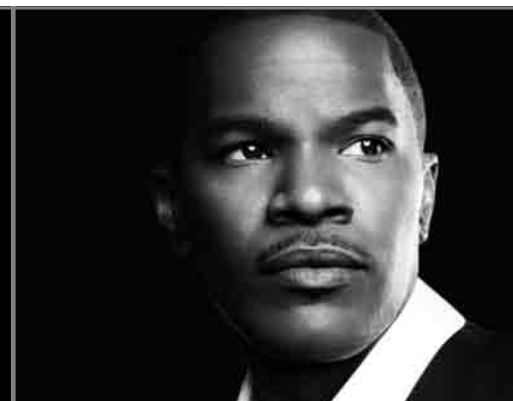
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Get ready for the holidays with 2nd Choice Resale Market an indoor flea market

The holidays are here and 2nd Choice Resale Market is ready to help deal seekers with all of their holiday needs. Avoid the holiday rush at major retailers and head on over to 701 E. Pioneer Parkway Suite B in Arlington for super deals and super value. 2nd Choice Resale Market is Arlington's premier indoor flea market and resale store

offering a wide range of products including home decor, gently used and new furniture, appliances, electronics, audio equipment, clothes, shoes, fashion accessories and a host of other goods to buy.

2nd Choice Resale Market offers clients no credit check financing or 90 day same as cash and an easy layaway plan, just in time

for the holidays. They even have daily deals and free popcorn and snow cone for customers.

For more information and to browse the online catalog visit www.2ndchoiceresale.com or call 817-801-5400 or visit 2nd Choice Resale Market at 701 E. Pioneer Parkway Suite B (at the intersection of Spur 303 and N. Collins).



Sports
Talk with
Spider

High school football in Texas is legendary as alumni, students and football fans seek an enjoyable game, hot chocolate and sportsmanship at the end of the night.

Cities and towns become ghost towns of Friday and Saturday nights as teams travel to neutral sites to compete against each other. Yes, at the end of the game, there are losers. However, character and respect are built on the field during this time.

Last Friday, Mesquite defeated Garland by the score 24-21 in overtime at Cowboy Stadium as Jose Salas kicked a 39-yard field goal. These two high schools began a year apart, Mesquite 1901 and Garland 1902. They have competed against each other for over seventy-years. Parents, grandparents, and cousins have played or coach against one another. They now enjoy laughing and joking over a

Building character is better than being a character

cup of coffee at the local diner to claim bragging rights.

Over the years, the games have featured knockout battles. The two cities have a love/hate relationship that extends past football. However, the show of support was present when each team won state championships in 1999 and 2001.

These two teams battled for three hours on Friday night. But, at the end of the day they shook hands and old friendships rekindled. The Garland fans offered the Mesquite fans good luck wishes against their next opponent.

Respect and class must be taught not bought. This "me" generation of athletes is driven by fame via ESPN, YouTube, and Facebook. They need to understand sportsmanship is an extension of the game. An athlete must have character, instead of being a character.

Dallas Skyline and Desoto have met four consecutive

years in the second round of the playoffs, and it has become personal each year. The trash talking starts with the head coaches, includes Facebook accusations from players, and results in fights breaking out at parties.

Some of these antics carried on at the end of the game Saturday night. Security had to restrain the coaches. Meanwhile, players had face-to-face screaming arguments like a back alley brawl. Even the fans commence to argue in the parking lot like a scene from Judge Mathis courtroom.

The two teams are so talented, sometimes the football game seems secondary due to personalities and egos. What a game with over 915 yards of total offense, hard hitting and a crowd of 12,000 standing to capacity.

National media coverage was present due to the ranking of both teams. The rivalry resembles that of the universi-

See CHARACTER, Page 11

New Dallas black hair/skin care line to launch nationally

Natural Epiphany Hair and Skin Care Solutions has announced the nationwide launch their all natural hair and skin care line. Known as the little brand that could, the company's products landed on the shelves of many stores and salons throughout the state of Texas without any major backing of investors.

The Natural Epiphany brand began with one prod-

uct named the "growin grease" which has steered the family brand into a full line of successful hair and skin care products that remedy hair and skin care problems solely with the assistance of Mother Nature.

Natural Epiphany carved out a niche by meeting the demands of African Americans by providing safe and natural products

for relaxed and natural hair that works well for men, women and children.

With the growing success rate of their word of mouth and aggressive street campaigns, 2,000 clients later; the company stands faithful to their street motto - "You wanna grow some, get some!"

For more details, visit www.natural-epiphany.com

CHRSTMAS, continued from Page 1

Tower Common Area, your gaze will be directed skyward at the floating oversized and jeweled ornaments, but be assured that there is no ignoring the elephant in the room (or in this case, elephants)! The iconic Anatole Elephants will be wearing, for the first time, custom holiday saddles and headaddresses creating an outstanding photo opportunity for families. In addition, the standing art sculpture by Seward Johnson, a long-time fixture in the common area, will be refreshed in the holiday spirit and transformed into an artist and flocked tree Candyland setting. It truly is a landscape you need to see to appreciate. No Christmas would be complete without a gingerbread house, but the Anatole took this concept to the extreme when their little elves crafted a magnificent, life-size gingerbread house from the existing Children's Corner retail store.

No matter where you go on the first floor level, from the atrium to the Jade Entrance and even the Counter

Offer and Media restaurants, your spirits will be held high, as wreaths, oversized jeweled ornaments and even a custom crafted Menorah float through your periphery. Adding to the spirit of the season, always, is The Anatole's unwavering legacy of luxury. The Atrium Lobby will be filled with a twenty-five foot tall traditional Christmas tree overflowing with a bevy of various ornaments in regal royal purple to tie into the color scheme of the circular stained glass ceiling it will be centered under, and a two tiered, foliage inspired chandelier floating in the Jade Pavilion will catch viewer's attention as it twinkles with jewel toned ornament accents.

The Jade Pavilion promises to be a popular area on holiday weekends through December! A festive holiday afternoon tea* is offered in the traditional style from noon until four on Sundays, for those who care for some of the finer holiday customs. Santa Claus will sit atop his

throne and greet the area children on Saturdays from 11am-4pm, and if your little helper wants to come early and have Breakfast with Santa*, they can on Saturday morning from nine until eleven at the Media Grill.

An overview of some other holiday offerings from the Anatole that are being cooked up include: special menu offerings of seasonal items, desserts and drinks in all restaurants and lounges; a fine-dining experience at Nana for Christmas Eve dinner, Christmas Day brunch, and New Years Eve dinner, as well as a weekly festive holiday wine pairing called "Friday Night Flights" in The Nana Bar; for the kids, or the kids in all of us, classic sweet s'mores beautifully crafted and roasted over at the Anatole Fire Pit by their gourmet chefs.

For more details, specific times, reservations and locations, please call the hotel concierge at 214-748-1200 or visit <http://www.christmasattheanatole.com/>.

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will be closing soon:

GAME #	GAME NAME / ODDS	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1315	Cash Extravaganza Overall Odds are 1 in 3.98	\$5	12/09/11	06/06/12
1238	Solid Gold Overall Odds are 1 in 4.22	\$10	12/10/11	06/07/12
1339	Green And Gold Overall Odds are 1 in 3.87	\$5	12/30/11	06/27/12
1325	5 Times Lucky Overall Odds are 1 in 3.98	\$5	02/01/12	07/30/12
1328	Fat Cat Tripler Overall Odds are 1 in 4.45	\$2	02/01/12	07/30/12
1332	Money Tripler Overall Odds are 1 in 4.68	\$3	02/01/12	07/30/12
1338	Super 8's Overall Odds are 1 in 4.60	\$1	02/01/12	07/30/12

TEXAS
LOTTERY

For detailed odds and game information, visit txlottery.org or call 1-800-37LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas Education. © 2011 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

FRIDAY, continued from Page 1

here at Comerica Bank, we took the time to put a few tips together.

Have a plan, then prioritize. Before hitting the stores unprepared, decide on a budget for your holiday purchases. To get started, make a list of all the people you'd like to buy gifts for this holiday season. Then prioritize the list, starting with your closest family and friends. When budgets are tight, inexpensive but thoughtful gifts, like cards, homemade or baked items can be just as meaningful for people farther down your list.

Stick to your budget.

Once you have your holiday shopping budget determined, exercise self-control and stick to your plan. The easiest way to do that is to leave the credit cards at home and only bring cash with you. When the money runs out, you're shopping expedition is over. Remember, the whole purpose of sticking to your spending allocation is so you don't end up racking up credit card debt and interest charges that could take months, or longer, to repay.

Research before you shop. Remember that not all

advertised deals are as good as they seem. Research the item to make sure it's a good product, and research the prices with other retailers, too. Bring ads with you to avoid any disputes, and try bringing ads to competing retailers...they may have a "lowest-price" guarantee, or decide to honor the advertised price to earn your business.

Don't put yourself into debt for a good deal. A great deal is always good to come by, but if it puts you further into debt, it may not be a smart purchase. If you put something on your credit card

you can't afford, the deal quickly disappears as you accumulate interest charges on the purchase. A good rule of thumb is if you can't pay it off by your next paycheck, it's probably not a good idea to buy it.

Read the fine print.

When looking at advertisements, don't forget to read everything, even the tiny print at the bottom. Look out for abbreviations like AR (after rebate) and MIR (mail-in rebate). Getting the deal you want might take a little more work or time than you thought, but oftentimes a lit-

tle extra work pays off.

Avoid the crowds and shop online. Many online retailers offer special sales on Black Friday, and sometimes they'll kick in at midnight. There are no crowds or lines, and you can shop from the comfort of your own home.

Get exclusive deals. Follow your favorite retailers on social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook, and subscribe to their e-mail list. Retailers may send you an extra coupon for the store, or have a coupon or free shipping code for online purchases. Loyal customers

often are the first to know about special sales and promotions that can save you money.

Ask for gift receipts.

Even though you think you might have found the perfect gift for a family member or friend, he or she may disagree. Include the gift receipt with your present in case it needs to be returned or exchanged.

Gordon McKinley is Vice President and Manager of Comerica Bank's NorthPark Banking Center. Comerica Bank is the largest U.S. bank headquartered in Texas.

REDISTRICTING, continued from Page 3

received 50 percent or more of the vote in 60 of the 150 districts. Obama scored in the high 40's in seven other districts making them competitive for Democratic candidates. It is not unreasonable to predict that Democrats will pick up a dozen or more seats in 2012.

North Texas

The most dramatic changes to the state house map

were made in Dallas County.

House District 107 currently represented by Republican Kenneth Sheets is now a strong majority minority district, and Sheets home is in District 114. HD107 is a near certain pick up for Democrats.

House District 105, currently represented by scandal plagued Republican Linda Harper-Brown, is also reconfigured as a majority minority district where Obama received

just over 50 percent of the vote. She clearly is endangered.

House District 108 retains the strongly Republican Highland Park and University Park, but nearby Democratic leaning neighborhoods have been added to the district. Obama received over 49 percent of the vote in District 108, putting incumbent Republican Dan Branch in danger in the general election, particularly if

former Democratic Member Allan Vought runs in the seat.

In Tarrant County, the broad political dynamics remain the same, with three districts favoring Democratic candidates and eight favoring Republicans.

House District 90 remains a center city Hispanic opportunity district with Lon Burnam as the incumbent. Representative Marc Veasey's District 95 remains a strong

African American opportunity district based in southeast Fort Worth. Congressional?

We simply don't know yet. The Court is expected to release an interim congressional plan very soon. Predicting the congressional plan is difficult due to the addition of four new districts, which will require greater changes to existing districts than in the State House or State Senate plans. The legal battle centers on the

State's decision to reduce the number of minority opportunity districts in Texas from 11 out of 32 to only 10 out of 36. A Court-drawn plan that includes 12 or more minority opportunity districts will rightly be considered a victory. The growth in the Hispanic and African American populations in Texas warrant as many 14 minority opportunity districts.

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Texas Private Employers Add 13,500 Jobs in October

Texas' private sector continued to grow in October, adding 13,500 jobs. Texas' total nonfarm employment has expanded by 231,600 jobs over the year to reach an estimated 10,616,500 positions in October. Overall, Texas added 2,500 jobs over the month. Texas has experienced positive annual job growth in the past 18 months with annual growth rates above 2.0 percent for the last five consecutive months.

Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 8.4 percent in October, down slightly from 8.5 percent in September, and re-

mains below the national unemployment rate of 9.0 percent.

"Private employers continue to invest their capital in the growing Texas workforce," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. "The private sector has added an impressive 286,200 jobs since October 2010, for a growth rate of 3.4 percent."

Over the year, nine of the 11 major industries have added jobs. Mining and Logging employment climbed for the 11th time in the past 12 months with an estimated increase of 4,500 jobs in Octo-

ber. Over the past year, Mining and Logging has grown by 20.5 percent. This major industry has grown by 33,900 jobs since January 2011.

"Several of our major industries are continuing to grow, including the Education and Health Services industry," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "That industry has expanded by more than 6,000 jobs for the third consecutive month."

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities added 6,500 jobs in October 2011, growing by 53,900 jobs over the year. Leisure and Hospitality added

14,900 jobs over the month, for a total of 35,600 jobs since October 2010. Government employment declined by 11,000 jobs in October, bringing the number of Government jobs lost over the year to 54,600 jobs.

"Texas' unemployment rate is going down even as its civilian labor force has grown to more than 12.3 million," said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. "We encourage those looking for work to utilize Workforce Solutions services to connect with job opportunities in our growing industries."



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PARADE, continued from Page 7

documentary series "Children's Med Dallas," which aired on WFAA-Ch.8 this summer.

Eleven-year-old Dema'J McCoy will serve as a Grand Marshal in Children's Medical Center's 24th annual holiday parade (www.childrens.com/parade) on Dec. 3. The award-winning, nationally syndicated tradition

draws more than 350,000 people to downtown Dallas.

Dema'J had his leg amputated after surviving a car crash in 2010. The driver of the other car was texting while driving. Today, Dema'J loves playing sports and hopes to play basketball for his school in a couple of years.

The parade is a free event

and open to the public, however, reserved seating tickets may be purchased online at www.childrens.com/parade. Tickets are available for bleachers positioned along Commerce Street and City Hall Plaza, starting at \$25. All proceeds from ticket sales will benefit Children's Medical Center Dallas.

For those not purchasing

reserved tickets, sidewalk seating is available along the parade route, and officials recommend arriving before 7 a.m. to secure a good spot. The parade begins at 10 a.m. CST.

For more information about the parade, please visit www.childrens.com/parade or call 214-456-8360.

CHARACTER, continued from Page 11

ties of Texas and Oklahoma.

The taunting and trash talking should have ceased once the game was over. The two teams should have met midfield to exchange hand-

shakes and congratulations to each other. The key components for scheduling these games are the coaches agreeing on a neutral site. This ensures there is no edge for ei-

ther team.

Maybe next time they will pick a boxing ring for the game.

Listen to Donald "Spider" Willis on Sport Talk with

Spider each Sunday from 7:00pm to 9:00pm CST on fishbowlradionetwork.com. For suggestions and show topics call 469-335-668.

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**November 27 and
December 4**

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.

December 7

You're invited 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 27 and
December 4**

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.

December 7, 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**

**December 2011
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Visit Helen's House Mondays and Fridays 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 27 and
December 4**

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

December 7, 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

**FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN
CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN
"The Ship"**

**Monday – Friday
9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

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

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.

**November 27 and
December 4, 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.

December 7, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday Night Live in the Joyce 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.)

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"**

**November 27 and
December 4**

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

December 7

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 27 and
December 4, 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**

December 2, 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.

December 3, 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.

December 5

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 27 and
December 4**

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.

December 7, 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

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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 27 and
December 4**

You're invited to our Education Ministries at 9:30 a.m. and our Worship Celebration at 10:45 a.m.

December 10, 12 p.m.

All Senior Saints are invited to our Double Nickel (55 and above) Luncheon @ the Newsome Center on Am-scott Street in McKinney. Activities include lunch, bingo and door prizes. Come and bring a friend. If you are homebound, we will deliver to you. Please call 972-542-6178 no later than the Friday, December 9th this month) before the luncheon and leave a message with your name, address, phone number and how many meals you need.

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

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

December 2

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.

December 7, 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 27 and December 4
You're invited to our Worship Services at 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

December 5, 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 27 and
December 4**

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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**November 27 and
December 4**

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**WORD OF LIFE CHURCH OF
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Early Prayer

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

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.

December 6, 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.

Dr. Gregory Voss,
Senior Pastor
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**Sister
Tarpley**

This is the time of year that is set aside to be thankful for the blessings of God; a time to give generously to others so that they may benefit from some of your blessings from This Holiday Season is not only a good time to share food with others, but the Word of God as well because of the stresses that people may face. What better way to help a fellowman than to give him/her hope and inspiration.

Being Thankful to God:

When emergencies arise, we are usually thankful for phone numbers that we can call for immediate help. The following numbers are more effective than 911! We can truly be thankful when we are sad because we can call – John 14. When we have sinned, we can call – Psalm 51. When people have failed you, call – Psalm 27. This time of the year when you feel like an outcast, call – Roman 8:31 – 39. If you

are seeking God's peace, call – Matthew 11:25 – 30. If you require courage for a task, call – Joshua 1. Feeling depressed, call – Psalm 27. If your bank account is empty, call – Psalm 37. If you lose faith in mankind, call – 1 Corinthians 13. When you are losing hope, call – Psalm 126. When you need to know Paul's secret for happiness, call – Colossian 3:12-17. This stressful time of the year, if you want to know how to get along with other people, call – Romans 12.

Alternate Numbers That You Can Call:

For dealing with fear, call – Psalm 3:47. For security, call – Psalm 121:3. For assurance, call – Mark 8:35. For reassurance, call – Psalm 145:18.

The good news is that all of these numbers may be phoned directly, no busy signal and no operator assistance is necessary!

A good statement, "Feed your faith and you will starve your doubt to death."

Entwined They Stand.

One of the wonders of the world is the Redwood Forest in California. Several of the trees are the oldest, largest, and tallest living things in the world. A number of the trees are more than three hundred feet tall and more than 25-years old. Thank of that! They have weathered the ravages of time, holding up against all the combative elements. They stand tall in spite of opposing forces.

People that don't know will immediately jump to the conclusion that the Redwoods have a deep root system. To the contrary, their roots are shallow. What holds them? What supports them? Their root system entwines and locks each tree to the tree around it. **They Stand Together.** That is the secret to their Herculean (extra ordinary) strength.

When the wind and hail and upheaval threaten, no tree stands alone but rather is strengthened and supported by the others. Each is needed for the support of the

whole grove of trees. The Redwoods can truly say, "United we stand, divided we fall."

How true this is for all Christians, especially now. We need the help of others. One of the blessings of the church is its fellowship in which we have the entwining of each Christian and of the Lord. Locked together, Christians with their faith, can withstand the storms and stresses of life. Unquestionably, "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him *that is* alone when he falleth; for *he hath* not another to help him up." **Ecclesiastes 4:9 & 10. (KJV)**

This Holiday Season, be a winner. A Winner is always part of the answer; a loser is always part of the problem. A Winner always has a program; a Loser always has an excuse. A Winner says, "Let me do it for you;" a Loser says, "That's not my job." A Winner sees an answer for



Pastor Billy Forward, Sr., White Rock Chapel Historical Church and Chaplin for the City of Addison, Texas; and Dr. Gregory Voss, Senior Pastor of Word of Life COGIC in Carrollton, Texas; and the M.C. at a banquet honoring Pastor Forward with the Bernice Freeman Award.

every problem; a Loser sees a problem for every answer. A Winner says, "It may be difficult but it's possible;" a Loser says, "It may be possible, but it's too difficult."

After Thanksgiving Feasting comes the loafing

BY REV. JAMES L. SNYDER

Why is it on Thanksgiving we give ourselves permission to gorge ourselves to the point of semi-consciousness? The difference between consciousness and semi-consciousness is that with semi-consciousness you feel like you have been run over by a semi-truck.

Of course, a great thing about Thanksgiving is the fabulous dinner spread, surrounded by family and friends. It is truly a time to give thanks to God for the manifold blessings he has showered on us throughout the year. Although there have been a few drought times during the past year, God's showers of blessing always came at the right time.

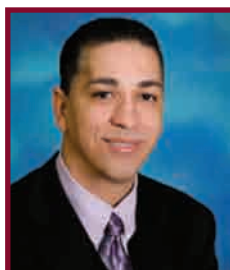
The second great thing about Thanksgiving is the day after. The business community refers to this day as Black Friday. They

mean, of course, it is a day when they turn their ledger from red to black.

Whoever invented the shopping frenzy associated

with the day after Thanksgiving should be congratulated and offered the Nobel Peace Prize. Black Friday

See FEASTNG, Page 16



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FAMILY, continued from Page 4

may update the information at any time. Your information remains private. The federal website does not retain the information once the tool has been used to assemble it.

Prepare for a Thanksgiving Day conversation by making a list of your rela-

Offering your doctor, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner your family health history can enable them to recommend specific tests or treatment plans to prevent or delay disease.

"On this Thanksgiving holiday, I hope you and your family will take a few



tives including your parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, and cousins. Because some health conditions skip generations, be sure to talk to your older relatives who may know additional family history.

minutes to create a family health portrait," Dr. Benjamin said. "Learning your family's health history is a valuable investment to make in your health and your family's health."

FEASTING, continued from Page 15

in our home is when my wife and our daughters leave the house early in the morning to spend the entire day shopping and I get the opportunity to black out for the entire day. If I may say so, it is a glorious day of loafing.

I have found the best way to assist my digestive system is to spend the day loafing. And I have managed to bring loafing to a finely developed art. It has taken years for me to get to this point of expertise. Throughout the years, I have developed the finesse associated with total loafing that should be recorded somewhere.

In case someone gets the wrong idea about all of this, let me assure you that loafing has certain health benefits. The key here is to practice loafing when your wife is out of the house shopping the entire day, which is why Black Friday was invented.

It is a proven fact that most of the people in our country today are over-

worked and totally stressed out by their lives. In spite of all the technology available to us, we are a nation that has forgotten how to rest.

Years ago in our country, when we were more Christian than we are today, we set aside Sunday as the day of rest. That has completely gone by the wayside as we became a culture of 24/7 activity. The only solution all our experts have come up with is to pop a pill and keep on going.

A friend of mine has a marvelous saying, "Either come apart and rest a while, or you will simply come apart." I like that.

Jesus said something similar. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30 KJV.)

We have learned how to

feast and our buffet table is loaded with goodies. Perhaps it would be a good time to take some time to rest and let our soul settle and digest the rich blessings of God.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship in Silver Springs Shores. Info: 352-687-4240, jamesnyder2@att.net or www.whatafelowship.com.

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