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# Thousands of rich Americans live in taxpayer-subsidized public housing complexes

By Drew Johnson  
Urban News Service

Tens of thousands of high-income Americans live in low-income housing, according to a federal audit.

More than 25,000 families inhabit federally subsidized housing, even though their incomes exceed limits for public-housing eligibility, according to a probe by the inspector general for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Critics say these over-income residents cost taxpayers more than \$100 million annually and displace disadvantaged citizens who need public housing.

In order to be eligible for public housing, a family must satisfy a formula that combines family size, gross family income and the area's median income.

Once families move into public housing, however, authorities often let them stay indefinitely, no matter how high their income grows.

As a result, one Manhattan family living in public housing earned \$498,000 in 2014 – \$431,000 more than the \$67,000 income ceiling allowed. The family paid just \$1,574 a month for a three-bedroom apartment in the financial district, where equivalent monthly rents exceed



Housing complexes meant to serve the economically disadvantaged are often being occupied by well-heeled tenants. (Photo: Urban New Service).

\$5,000. Like others in HUD's audit, this family was not named. The report lacks identifying details.

HUD has tried to bar high-income residents from low-income housing. Through a rule issued in 2004, it empowered local public housing authorities to write guidelines that would force tenants to move if their incomes surpassed federal eligibility thresholds.

Few housing programs, however, enforce such regulations. Among the 15 housing authorities in HUD's audit, all admitted they still let over-income families stay in subsidized housing.

"The bureaucrats in charge of the public housing programs have no in-

centive to kick people out, once they begin earning too much money to live in housing projects," said David Williams, the president of the Washington, D.C.-based Taxpayers Protection Alliance. "Taxpayers are left paying millions of dollars to subsidize the housing for people who make hefty, six-figure incomes."

HUD's audit supports Williams' perspective. It found that 1,936 families who earned more than \$100,000 lived in public housing in 2014.

One family in Lake Linden, Michigan, collected \$401,000 in take-home-pay, even though no one earning more than \$29,600 was sup-

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AT&T & NDG team up for the #ItCanWait movement!

Local students awarded scholarships for texting and driving essay contest.

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## DPT offers Broadway Blues

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COMMENTARY

## Hope is waiting for the Supreme Court

By Marian Wright Edelman

Baldo came to the United States from Michoacán, Mexico, in 1988, when he was 17 years old. He lives in Pasadena, California, with his wife and their two U.S. citizen daughters, ages nine and 13.

While in the United States, he trained as an electrician and, for nearly 20 years, worked for the same company installing electrical wiring and residential security systems. He

lost his job in March 2014 when his employer discovered that Baldo was undocumented.

Baldo's employer told Baldo that he hated to lose him and that he would like to rehire him as soon as Baldo obtained work authorization. Baldo's current work as an independent contractor has created financial difficulties for him and his family, as he can no longer rely on a weekly paycheck and cannot count

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Dr. Michael S. Raisinghani



Lilly Weiss



Will Power

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## Dr. Michael S. Raisinghani

Dr. Mahesh (Michael) S. Raisinghani, Ph.D, MBA, MSc is the President and CEO of RGI, Inc. and a tenured management professor in the Executive MBA program at the TWU School of Management.

Dr. Raisinghani introduced the keynote speaker at the Texas Woman's University's (TWU) Induction Ceremony for the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) at TWU in Denton, Texas.

He earned his leadership certificate from the Center for Creative Leadership



and is a Project Management Professional (PMP), Certified E-Commerce Consultant (CEC), and a Certified Information Security Manager (CISM).

He was the invited

speaker on Innovation at the EU-Russia Summit held in Finland in May 2011, and the Project Management Institute's annual conference in Mexico in June 2011.

Dr. Raisinghani was awarded the 2015 Distinction in Distance Education award, the 2008 Excellence in Research & Scholarship award and the 2007 G. Ann Uhlir Endowed Fellowship in Higher Education Administration.

He was also the recipient of TWU School of Management's 2005 Best Professor Award for the

Most Innovative Teaching Methods; 2002 research award; 2001 King/Haggard Award for excellence in teaching, research and service; and a 1999 UD-GSM Presidential Award.

He has taught graduate courses at the European University in Switzerland, Turku School of Economics in Finland and Purdue University's German International School of Management and Administration in Germany. He has served as an External Examiner for theses and dissertations in Australia, South Africa and the USA.

Dr. Raisinghani is an en-

thusiastic and high energy presenter using active learning techniques. His research has been published in several academic journals such as IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management, Information & Management.

Also, International Journal of Web-based Learning and Teaching Technologies, Information Resources Management Journal, International Journal of Innovation and Learning, Journal of E-Commerce Research, International Journal of Distance Education Technologies, Journal of IT Review,

Journal of Global IT Management, Journal of IT Cases and Applications Research.

In addition to the Journal of Emerging Trends in Computing and Information Sciences, International Journal of Service Science, Management, Engineering, and Technology, International Journal of Management Information System, Management Information Systems Review, and International Journal of E-Services and Mobile Applications among others and interna-

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## Lilly Weiss

The Dallas Arts District (DAD) is more than a place. To be effective, it has to be taken care of, provided for and led. The Dallas Arts District is a nonprofit organization that keeps you connected to the hundreds of events that are happening in the cultural center of Dallas. The DAD recently named a new Executive Director, which is a big deal for her and a big deal for North Texas! Here are some facts that you need to know about Lilly Weiss, your next arts czar.

Lilly Weiss landed her



first faculty job at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in 1978. At that time, the vision of the Dallas Arts District was just beginning to take shape, but

Lilly was there for the highs and lows to witness the birth of a new era in North Texas. In an interview with the Dallas Observer, she summarized her personal dream long before she even began interviewing for the job. "I would like to walk my grandchildren down through the Arts District and have this be so much a part of Dallas and an important part of the community that I can proudly say, 'This, I helped build.'"

Here are just some (yes, just some) of the awards that Lilly has received as a dance educator and high school administrator: Na-

tional Young Arts Foundation Distinguished Teacher Award, Distinguished Teacher by the Commission on Presidential Scholars ten different years by eleven students, SURDNA Arts Teacher Fellowship, the Texas Dance Educator Award, Bates Dance Festival Teacher Fellowship and named Distinguished Teacher from the Rockefeller Foundation. In the Dallas Arts District, there are dozens of educational programs serving thousands of students. It's very good news that Lilly is at the helm so that these programs can grow and flourish.

Spread over 20 square blocks and encompassing 68 acres, DAD's stakeholders are a unique mix of the arts, science, recreation, commerce, residents, education and faith. The person in Lilly's job helps ensure that these groups are working together toward a clear goal, and she's the perfect person for the role. During her tenure at Booker T., Weiss worked with the Center to create an innovative elective course in arts administration, teaching students the business side of the cultural sector so they're prepared for the stage or the

board room. She was also instrumental in Sammons Lunch Jam, a partnership where students can perform in one of the Center's magnificent venues for the downtown Dallas work crowd.

DAD recently launched a comprehensive initiative with the Seattle-based design firm NBBJ to update the district's community development plan to replace the Sasaki Plan. What does this mean? As a member of the public, you will better be able to get to and explore a beautiful, inviting Dallas Arts District.

## Will Power

Will Power, theatre artist-in-residence at SMU Meadows School of the Arts, is one of 21 national performing artists announced as recipients of the fifth annual Doris Duke Artist Awards, presented by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF). Appointed in recognition of their creative vitality and ongoing contributions to the fields of dance, jazz and theater, awardees will each receive \$275,000 in flexible, multi-year funding as well as financial and legal counseling, professional development activities and peer-to-peer learning opportunities provided by Creative Capital, DDCF's primary partner



in the awards.

Will Power is an award-winning playwright and performer who combines classic folklore with modern elements. His work sends audiences on a path of self-discovery by discussing complex themes and attempting to answer the questions people are

afraid to ask. His musical Stagger Lee (2015) spanned the 20th century, tracing mythical characters in their quest to achieve the American Dream. Its deep-seated themes of racism and power were translated through Joplin-inspired tunes, R&B and hip-hop. Other plays include Fetch Clay, Make Man, which recently enjoyed a successful run Off-Broadway at the New York Theatre Workshop; Steel Hammer with SITI Company (Humana Festival); The Seven (winner of Lucille Lortel Award for Best Musical, New York Theatre Workshop, La Jolla Playhouse); Five Fingers of Funk! (Children's Theatre Company); Honey Bo and The Goldmine (La Jolla

Playhouse); and two acclaimed solo shows, The Gathering and Flow, which toured over 70 cities in the U.S., Europe and Australia.

Power's numerous other awards include a United States Artist Prudential Fellowship, the TCG Peter Zeisler Memorial Award, a Jury Award for Best Theatre Performance at the HBO U.S. Comedy Arts Festival and the Trailblazer Award from The National Black Theater Network.

"I am thrilled and honored to receive a 2016 Doris Duke Artist Award," said Power. "As an artist, the road is often unpredictable and nothing is guaranteed. I have tried to the best of my ability to travel this road and create stories the best I can."

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# Black liberals are hypocrites when it comes to the N-word

By Raynard Jackson  
 NNPA Columnist

Once again, two nights ago, liberal hypocrisy was on full display at the White House Correspondents’ Association’s (WHCA) annual dinner. The dinner was begun in the early 1920s and usually the incumbent pres-

ident and vice president of the United States attend. It is supposed to be a time of merriment and humor; but over time, it has become more and more of a liberal lovefest for the journalistic community in Washington, D.C.

Members of this group brag about their supposed

storiéd history, but as is habit with liberal journalists, they only tell you what they want you to know. The first thing one should do is take special note of is the first word in its name. I rest my case.

What’s not included in their own historical narrative is the fact that they did

not allow women to join until 1962. WHCA leaders were forced to change that policy figuratively at gunpoint.

In 1962, iconic journalist, Helen Thomas urged President Kennedy not to attend the dinner unless the WHCA

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## HOPE, continued from Page 1

on getting work every week. The lack of a reliable income makes it difficult for Baldo to plan for his family’s financial future.” -Brief filed by immigrants’ rights, civil rights and labor groups in U.S. v. Texas

The futures of Baldo and his family and millions of other immigrant families are on hold until the U.S. Supreme Court makes a decision in U.S. v. Texas expected in June. Texas and 25 other states filed a lawsuit in February 2015 to block President Obama’s November 2014 executive action to help keep immigrant families together. The Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) and expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiatives would help parents and young adults remain in the U.S. temporarily to work, further their education, and support their families. Baldo’s story is documented in one of the 19 friend of the court briefs filed on behalf of more than 1,000 organizations and individuals supporting the President’s executive actions.

The Children’s Defense Fund joined 75 other education, health and child advocacy organizations in one of these briefs. The National Immigration Law Center says the multiple briefs in this case “demonstrate the severe, nationwide harm — to millions of individual families, to the safety of our communities, and to local and national economic well-being — produced by the injunction barring implementation of the Obama administration’s DAPA and expanded

DACA programs.”

DAPA would allow immigrant parents like Baldo with citizen children to seek protection from deportation, get a work permit, and keep their families together. The brief shares more about his story: “Baldo’s financial difficulties are compounded by his fear of being forced to return to Michoacán, where he has not lived in nearly 30 years. He has heard from family members about kidnappings and other drug cartel-related violence, and would not feel safe returning to Michoacán. Given the risk of harm, he would not want to take his daughters there, but he also would not want to be separated from them.”

An estimated 16 million people in the United States have mixed-status families like Baldo’s. One in five undocumented immigrant adults has a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse and about 3.8 million undocumented immigrants have children who are U.S. citizens. Broad documentation shows how deportation can result not only in separation of children from a parent but also food insecurity, challenges in accessing health care, housing instability, and sometimes entry of children into foster care. Families lose the financial stability provided by their formerly employed parent and the local economy suffers lower tax revenue. The very real threat of a parent’s removal is causing millions of U.S. citizen and lawful permanent resident children emotional, psychological, and educational harm. DAPA would allow a parent like Baldo to return to

his former job and stay with his family for at least three years without fear of deportation, with the opportunity for renewal.

By expanding DACA, the Department of Homeland Security would offer deferred action to more young people brought to the United States as children before their sixteenth birthday. They must have continuously lived in the U.S. since January 2010 and every day since August 15, 2012, have a high school diploma or equivalent, or be in school.

The friend of the court brief of educators and children’s advocates which CDF joined cites two young women who benefited from the initial DACA initiative. Tonya had dropped out of high school in Arizona, discouraged after her parents re-

turned to Mexico, but DACA gave her an incentive to complete her GED and enroll in a medical assistance training program. With DACA support and the needed identification, college student Jessica was able to volunteer at a hospital, apply for an internship at a medical school, and take the MCAT, hoping to move on to her dream of medical school.

I hope the U.S. Supreme Court will seize this opportunity to move our nation forward, prevent family break up, end the stressful hardships countless families face, and give hope and stability to millions of families, children, and young adults who would benefit from the President’s executive actions.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children’s Defense Fund.

**Goal: \$15,000**

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Tina Deal is relying on her faith and the generosity of friends and strangers, during one of the most challenging times of her life. Recently she has endured both health and financial crisis.

Visit [NorthDallasGazette.com](http://NorthDallasGazette.com) and search for Tina Deal to learn how you can help!

# Planned Parenthood teen pregnancy prevention highlighted in May

Texas has the fourth highest rate of teen births, and the highest rate of repeat teen births in the United States. May marks National Teen Pregnancy Prevention month, and Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas is focusing on award-winning programming and proven healthcare options to prevent unintended teen pregnancies.

Planned Parenthood education and outreach pro-



Spot Us / Flickr

grams employ a three-part approach that engages parents, educators, and peers to

reduce teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections in the communities we

serve. All of PPGT's community health education programs are donor and grant-funded. Planned Parenthood provides them at no cost as a community resource.

"Parents are our best allies in helping teens stay safe and healthy," said Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas CEO Ken Lambrecht, "When young people talk to their parents about sex, they delay sexual

behavior, and make healthier, safer choices.

Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas' community health education program reaches over 14,000 Texans each year. Talk F!rst (or ¡Hable Primero!) workshops provide skills and strategies for parents to move from "the talk" into a conversation to support well-informed and positive decisions about their sexuality and sexual health.

TACT (TeenageAge Communication Theater) uses a teen acting troupe to stage dramatizations of common teen challenges to model positive choices for young people in North Texas. Nobody's Fool is a series of workshops for young people in the Waco area. All three encourage abstinence, promote parent-teen communication, and deliver medically accurate and age-appropriate information.

# MDHearingAid providing free hearing screening by phone in May

CHICAGO — MD-HearingAid, North America's largest provider of affordable FDA-registered hearing aids with prices beginning under \$200, today announced a partnership with the National Hearing Test to provide free hearing screening by phone beginning May 1.

The limited-time offer, coinciding with Better Hearing & Speech Month, eliminates the usual \$5 fee and can be redeemed by registering for a free access code at [www.md-hearingaid.com/hearingtest](http://www.md-hearingaid.com/hearingtest).

Developed with funding from the National Institutes of Health, the National Hearing Test (NHT) provides a way to screen hearing with a scientifically validated test without leaving home. It is conducted completely by phone and provides anonymous results to

the user within 10 minutes. The NHT is an independent organization with no commercial ties to specific service providers or hearing aid manufacturers.

Test participants listen to three-digit sequences and then use the phone keypad to enter what they hear. Participants whose results indicate "slightly below normal" or "substantially below normal" hearing ability are provided information on how to obtain a more complete evaluation by a certified hearing professional in their local area.

Those who can benefit from hearing instruments have the option to order one-size-fits-most MD-HearingAid digital hearing aids that eliminate numerous fitting and adjustment appointments required with custom hearing aids.

"Fewer than half of the

more than 36 million Americans with significant hearing loss have had their hearing tested. Yet untreated hearing loss frequently leads to a serious decline in quality of life including social isolation, problems on the job, and even symptoms of dementia," said Dr. Sreekant Cherukuri, founder and CEO of MD-HearingAid. "This test is a simple, affordable and accurate screening that can help users determine whether they need a full in-office evaluation of their hearing."

To date, nearly 40,000 people have screened themselves for hearing loss using the National Hearing Test. Of these, 81 percent had significant hearing loss in at least one ear. Follow-up studies showed that 38 percent of those surveyed went on to have or plan to have a

professional hearing exam, with 28 percent of those having obtained hearing

aids or planning to do so.

In addition, 77 percent of all callers surveyed said tak-

ing the National Hearing Test raised their awareness of hearing health.

## RAISINGHANI, continued from Page 2

tional/national conferences.

He has edited/co-edited seven books, including "Evaluating the Impact of Technology on Learning, Teaching, and Designing Curriculum: Emerging Trends", "Dynamic Advancements in Teaching and Learning Based Technologies: New Concepts", and "Research Methodologies in Engineering of Software Systems and Information Systems: Philosophies, Methods and

Innovations", published by IGI Global Publishers.

He has over 20 years of consulting experience in Fortune 500 Companies in the IT, banking, and service sectors, and provides management and technical consulting and training to all levels of professionals in both established businesses and new business ventures.

Dr. Raisinghani serves on the board of Global IT Management Association and on the education task

force of the World Affairs Council. He also serves as a Member of the Board of Advisors of Ability Connection, Coscend Communications Solutions and CRMG, Inc.

He is included in the millennium edition of Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in America, Who's Who among Professionals, Who's Who among America's Teachers and Who's Who in Information Technology.

Dr. Raisinghani can be Emailed at [mrasinghani@twu.edu](mailto:mrasinghani@twu.edu) or Phone at (940) 898-2930.

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## Duncanville Police, Fire to host Fire Truck Pull to benefit Special Olympics Texas on May 21

Those looking to test their strength or show it off in front of the community will have their chance to do just that when the Duncanville Police Department and Duncanville Fire Department hosts its annual Fire Truck Pull at Armstrong/Kidsville Park on Saturday, May 21 as a means to raise funds for Special Olympics Texas programming for athletes

with intellectual disabilities in the Greater Dallas area. Check-in and walk-up registration begins at 9:00 a.m. The first pull is slated for 10:15 a.m. Registration can be completed in advance online here.

The event is open to the public and is put on by the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR), SOTX's largest grass-root fundraiser, and is presented

by Metro Fire Apparatus Specialists, Inc. and W&B Service Company.

The Fire Truck Pull requires teams of 12 friends, family members and colleagues to put their biceps and working together to pull an actual 55,000-pound Duncanville fire truck for 75 feet. The challenge wraps up with an awards ceremony for the Fastest

Public Safety Team, Fastest Civilian Team, Most Money Raised and Fastest Youth Team.

The entry fee is \$25 per person or \$300 per team (12 people). If there are fewer than 12 on a team, please indicate so that "fill-ins" can be found.

Participants will receive a free hamburger, courtesy of In-N-Out Burger.



Contestants can test their strength against a fire engine in a competition to benefit Special Olympics on May 21.

## HOUSING, continued from Page 1

posed to inhabit its public apartment.

A San Francisco family earned \$437,000 a year, according to the HUD investigation, but refused to give up its subsidized housing.

One family with \$6.1 million in assets lived in subsidized housing in Puerto Rico intended for a family earning less than \$20,000 a year.

This situation is most pronounced in New York City,

where 10,250 units managed by the city's housing authority are occupied by residents whose earnings exceed eligibility limits.

Investigators also found that 1,219 over-income residents dwell in subsidized housing in Puerto Rico.

Taxpayers spend \$104 million a year to subsidize people in federal housing, even though they make too much money, according to

investigators.

"It is outrageous that taxpayers are footing the bill for millionaires' housing," said Rep. Vern Buchanan (R - Florida). "This type of abuse hurts truly needy families."

About 580,000 low-income families currently await vacancies in federal housing, HUD estimates.

This frustrates Lilia Cruz, who has lived in a Connecticut housing project for 18 years.

"I don't think it's fair,"

said Cruz, who says she lives on less than \$8,000 a year. "It's ridiculous that those people live in public housing when they can afford to move out and open up a place for someone who really needs a place to live."

Milan Ozdinec disagrees. As HUD's deputy assistant secretary for public housing and voucher programs, he sees value in letting affluent residents retain their units, even if they shut out needy families.

"The existence of over-income families aid [public-housing authorities] in meeting their obligation to deconcentrate poverty and also serve to stabilize neighborhoods, because families working towards self-sufficiency serve as good role models to other tenants," Ozdinec wrote in a June 2015 letter reacting to the inspector general's findings.

Ozdinec also expressed concern that forcing high-income families to leave pub-

lic housing could affect their ability to stay employed and disrupt their children's learning, if they were forced to change schools within academic years.

Buchanan sponsored legislation requiring HUD to verify the income of public-housing residents and make them move once their earnings surpass the ceiling.

The bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously in February but is stalled in the Senate.

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TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK | MAY 2-6, 2016

OUR EVERYDAY HEROES



# Dallas ISD teacher awarded President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition Community Leadership Award

The President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition has selected Sharon Foster of James Bowie Elementary to receive a 2016 President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition Community Leadership Award. The award is given

annually to individuals or organizations who improve the lives of others within their community by providing or enhancing opportunities to engage in sports, physical activities, fitness, and nutrition-related programs.

Foster was honored with this prestigious award due to her efforts in creating a healthy and physically active school environment for her school and the school community. She was assisted by the Alliance for a Healthy Generation,

Healthy School's program, Let's Move Active Schools and Fuel Up to Play 60 resources.

"Sharon has worked to consistently promote opportunities for individuals to lead healthy lifestyles through physical activity

and/or healthy nutrition," says Shellie Pfohl, Executive Director of the Office of the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition. "Because of Sharon Foster, James Bowie Elementary efforts and contributions, their community can em-

brace a more active lifestyle. Together, we are all working to make our nation a healthier one by helping individuals across the nation live vibrant, vivacious, and productive lives."

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## SMU's 'Third Rail' Series will tackle topics others won't

Tapping into frustration over political and personal incivility, and the inability to work toward middle ground on contentious topics, SMU's Center for Presidential History and the Cary Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility are launching The Third Rail Series Monday evening, May 9, to analyze and discuss deliberately touchy issues.

Free and open to the public, the first program will feature SMU scholars Maria Dixon Hall, Matthew



Wilson and Jeffrey Engel discussing the unusual anger and extremism revealed in the current presidential campaign. Engel will moderate a debate between Hall and Wilson on the topic, "The 2016 presidential campaign has revealed unusual anger and extremism: Should political

discourse be less sensitive to identity politics?"

By definition, a voter is embracing identity politics if any single interest – such as race, gender, or position on a particular social issue – decides their support for or opposition to a candidate regardless of the candidate's views on other topics.

The "Third Rail" discussion will begin at 7 p.m. in McCord Auditorium in Dallas Hall, preceded by a light coffee service at 6:30 p.m. Parking will be available and free passes will be

emailed to registered guests before the event. Seating is limited, and not guaranteed. Register online.

Maria Dixon Hall, associate professor of corporate communication and public affairs, will argue for sensitivity to identity politics in political discourse; Matthew Wilson, associate professor of political science will argue for less sensitivity, and Engel, who is director of the Center for Presidential History at SMU, will guide the discussion and encourage audi-

ence participation.

"America faces profoundly difficult issues," Engel said. "Race, inequality, guns, injustice and war only begin to start the list. But what is most troubling of late is our inability as a nation to discuss problems that plague us without resorting to angry rhetoric or retreating to silence when we would like to say more.

"SMU's new Third Rail Series is designed to break the silence," Engel said. "We intend to support our

university and our city in discussing the topics others won't, addressing the issues we've become too frightened to debate, using the direct language many have become too fearful to employ."

In each "Third Rail" session, two members of the SMU faculty will discuss one of the toughest issues of our day, and also engage with the audience, "in a thoughtful and respectful manner befitting a great University," Engel added.

## NJCAA's Men's Tennis Championship headed to Collin College

Collin College will host the National Junior College Athletic Association's (NJCAA) Men's National Tennis Championships, May 16-20. This will mark the 15th consecutive year Collin College has hosted

the event.

The tournament draws the top junior college teams from around the nation to compete for the title of NJCAA Men's National Champion. Residents are encouraged to

come out and see some great tennis action at tournament sites around the Collin County area, including Collin College's Spring Creek Campus, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano, and The

University of Texas at Dallas, 800 W Campbell Road in Richardson.

"This is the largest college athletic event that occurs in Collin County," Tournament Coordinator Craig Leverette said.

"There will be more than 30 schools from across the country vying for both the Division I and Division III titles. Many of the players that compete in the event will be playing in some of the top NCAA programs in

the next year or two.

An electronic tournament program for the tournament will be available at [www.collin.edu/athletics/national\\_tourn/](http://www.collin.edu/athletics/national_tourn/) on Friday, May 13.

## El Centro College display inspired by 'Ragtime The Musical'

Thirteen El Centro College Art students, under the direction of Omar Hernandez (Art Program Coordinator), designed 15 framed art pieces using various mediums that will be on display during the entire run of "Ragtime The Musical." The musical, which is showing at Music Hall at Fair Park, runs May 24- June 5.

The exhibition is made up of work from Digital Art I, Digital Art II and Drawing II. Their assignment was to create a composition after studying the history of the musical - including but not limited to: previous posters, stage settings, and time period references in general or create a composition inspired from the musical's cultural theme or a specific character.

Single tickets for "Ragtime The Musical" are now on sale online at [www.DallasSummerMusicals.org](http://www.DallasSummerMusicals.org).

Artwork at right by Brian Burkhart



### State of Colorado, District Court, Jefferson County AMENDED SUMMONS FOR DECLARATION OF INVALIDITY OF MARRIAGE for Case No: 15DR1696 in Division P, Honorable Ryan Paul Loewer; Federico Cordovez, Petitioner vs Favour Johnson aka Thelma Arnold, Respondent

To respondent: Favour Johnson aka Thelma Arnold:

This Summons serves as a notice to appear in this case.

You are notified that the petitioner named above has filed a lawsuit against you to determine invalidity of marriage. Within 35 days after this Summons is served on you, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Colorado Code of Civil Procedure, to the Petition. Your response must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is: 100 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden, CO 80401 and to Katherine Windler, the petitioner's attorney whose address is 3737 Gill Drive, Denver, CO 80209. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

You may be required to pay a filing fee with your Response. The Response form (JDF 1270) can be found at [www.courts.state.co.us](http://www.courts.state.co.us) by clicking on the "Self Help/Forms" tab. The Petition requests that the Court enter an Order affecting your marital status, distribution of property and debts, issues involving children such as child support, allocation of parental responsibilities (decision making and parenting time), maintenance (spousal support) attorneys' fees, and costs to the extent the Court has jurisdiction. If you fail to file a Response in this case, any or all of the matters above, or any related matters which come before this Court may be decided without any further notice to you.

This is an action to obtain a Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage as more fully described in the Petition.

Dated this 18th day of APRIL 2016

# Irving library invites families to enjoy Screen Free Week

According to recent research, American adults spend on average 7.4 hours with screens daily, teens spend 9 hours, while children ages 8 to 12 years watch them for nearly 6 hours. Another study shows nearly one in three children under 2 years have a television in their bedroom.



Tim Pierce / Flickr

This is despite persistent warnings by the American Academy of Pediatrics that infants and children under 2 years should not be exposed to screens.

have grown accustomed to them. Children are given smartphones to stay connected, and handheld games to be quiet in the car or at restaurants. Adults use these devices to check emails or chat with friends through

social media. But if you notice it's hard to disconnect, here are a few tips to start weening your family from screens.

• Create media-free zones in your house by removing electronics, especially tele-

visions, from bedrooms.

• During meal time, turn off the television and ban handheld electronics at the table.

• Avoid using the television for background noise. Only turn it on when you plan to watch a show or movie.

• Limit serious computer or console game playing to the weekends.

### Screen-Free Week Events at Valley Ranch Library

Valley Ranch Library will host programs the week of May 2 to 6 as part of this

year's Annual Screen Free Week.

• 4 p.m. Monday - Sidewalk Chalk Art

• 4 p.m. Tuesday - Bubble Bonanza

• 7 p.m. Wednesday - Family Fun Night: May the Fourth Be With You (Star Wars event)

Wars event)

• 4 p.m. Thursday - Game Day

• 4 p.m. Friday - Wimpy Kid event

For more information about these programs, please call the Valley Ranch Library at (972) 721-4669.

## Kicking in for the kids...



On March 19, Kohl's Department Stores District Manager, Franky Pipes, and her team of store associates, presented Children's Health with a check for \$330,817 to support the Children's Health Kohl's Play Well Stay Well outreach program. The program promotes safe play when walking or biking, on playgrounds and in the sun.

## AWARD, continued from Page 6

Bowie Elementary Principal Caroline Wilson had high praise for Foster.

"As the National School Ambassador, Sharon has consistently advocated the importance of health, nutrition and fitness to our

school community," Wilson said. "She has overwhelmingly spearheaded the efforts at our school which have positively resulted in our achievements of the 2015 National Gold Recognition Award for The Al-

liance for a Healthier Generation and the 2015 National Recognition with Let's Move Active Schools".

This year, in honor of its 60th Anniversary, the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition presented the Community

Leadership Award to 60 recipients across the country for making sports, physical activity, fitness, and nutrition-related programs available in their communities.



Sharon Foster of James Bowie Elementary to receive a 2016 President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition Community Leadership Award. Photo Courtesy: Dallas ISD

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**GRAPEVINE**

**Simon Kidgits Club**

Grapevine Mills is hosting the ultimate way for families to stretch their entertainment dollars this summer with the Simon Kidgits Club! On Friday, June 17, Simon Kidgits Club members are invited to a free screening of Disney's "Finding Dory." The screening is limited to the first 385 Kidgits members and 190 adults to sign up.

**IRVING**

**Art Extravaganza**

Children ages 12 and under will participate in an

exciting community art project at Lee Park Recreational Center on May 21. All supplies and light refreshments will be provided. Cost is \$10 per person. Registration deadline is May 12.

**McKINNEY  
Main Street  
McKinney named  
quarterfinalist for  
"America's Main  
Streets" Contest**

McKinney's Main Street program has been named a quarterfinalist for the 2016 "America's Main Street" contest by Independent We Stand, the national small

business movement. Voting for the top Main Street program will take place at MainStreetContest.com through May 29. The winner will be announced June 3 and awarded \$25,000.

"Historic Downtown McKinney is the heart of our city. Our historic square defines this community and offers a strong sense of place. Downtown McKinney is where we gather to celebrate, relax and spend time with families and friends and money spent at our independently-owned small businesses stays in our community," said Amy Rosenthal, Director of

McKinney Main Street. "Downtown McKinney offers economic and quality of life benefits that helps distinguish us as one of the leading Main Streets in America."

**Disney's Aladdin JR**

From April 28 - May 8 at the Church Street Auditorium in McKinney a North Texas Performing Arts feature sharing the story of when the street urchin, Aladdin, vies for the attention of the beautiful princess, Jasmine.

He uses a genie's magic power to become a prince in order to marry her. Iago,

Jafar, the Genie and more are here in Disney's Aladdin JR., a musical adventure filled with magic, mayhem and the power of love.

**PLANO  
Collin College  
graduation**

Collin College will honor the Class of 2016 with a commencement ceremony at 7 p.m., Friday, May 13 at the Allen Event Center, 200 E. Stacy Road in Allen.

Phil Dyer, former mayor of Plano and retired president of Legacy Texas Bank will deliver the commencement address.

**SOUTH DALLAS  
Workplace skills  
seminar**

The MLK Regenerated Hope Program is a FREE two-day seminar designed to enhance your workplace skills. Presented by Ms. Loujeanne Guye, come and enjoy classes that discuss financial literacy, business readiness, customer service, and computer skills.

Light refreshments and lunch will be provided. Space is limited so you must call 214-670-8418 to register.

**LIBERALS,** continued from Page 3

changed their policy on female membership in the organization. They agreed and Kennedy attended the event.

The other thing the WHCA won't tell you is that in their more than one century of existence, they only had one Black journalist to head the group, Robert M. Ellison of the Sheridan Broadcasting Network, and have only had one Black on their board (April Ryan, White House correspondent and Washington bureau chief for American Urban Radio Networks).

In recent years, WHCA has begun to hire noted comedians to provide the entertainment for their dinner. They have hired comedians like Sinbad, Jay Leno, Jon Stewart, and Al Franken, to name a few.

For this year's dinner, they hired comedian Larry Wilmore (who is Black), the host of "The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore" on Comedy Central.

Wilmore was an unmitigated disaster. But what was even more disastrous than Wilmore's performance was the deafening silence from liberals to his act.

You can view his unedited performance on C-SPAN's website. His ending was what got everyone's attention and not in a good way.

Speaking directly to President Barack Obama, Wilmore said, "But behind that joke is the humble appreciation for the historical implications for what your

presidency means. When I was a kid, I lived in a country where people couldn't accept a Black quarterback. Now think about that. A Black man was thought by his mere color not good enough to lead a football team. And now to live in your time, Mr. President, when a Black man can lead the entire free world. Words alone do me no justice. So, Mr. President, if I'm going to keep it 100, Yo, Barry, you did it, my nigga!"

Obama grinned from ear to ear and gave Wilmore a bear hug.

If a White comedian, especially a conservative one, had called the first Black president "my nigga" he would have been immediately excoriated and rightfully so.

When Trump questioned Obama's birth certificate, the media gave the issue wall to wall coverage. The Democratic National Committee (DNC), the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), the National Association of Colored People (NAACP), the Urban League, Al Sharpton, Joy Reed, Melissa Perry, etc. all demanded every Republican official to immediately "repudiate" Trump; and if they didn't, these liberal groups and individuals implied that these Republicans somehow agreed with Trump's position.

I find it totally hypocritical now that these same liberal groups and individuals

have all come down with a severe case of laryngitis.

As of this printing, the WHCA has not issued so much as an apology to the president or the American people for the total and incomprehensible disrespect Wilmore showed towards our first elected Black president.

What have we, in the Black community done, to create an environment where a person, let alone a Black person, feels comfortable calling the president of the United States "my nigga?"

If we can't condemn a Black for using this insidious word, how can we justify criticizing others for doing the same thing?

How can we criticize Jennifer Lopez or the Quentin Tarantino, the director of the cult classic "Pulp Fiction" and "Django Unchained" for using it? How can we criticize former West Virginia Senator Robert Byrd for using it on the senate floor or during an interview with "60 Minutes?"

Instead of Obama nervously laughing at Wilmore's description of him, he should have immediately taken to the microphone and denounced Wilmore on the spot.

So, to all my liberal media friends, especially the Black ones, the next time Trump makes a statement you disagree with, I don't want to hear your moralizing lectures about racism and civility.

The next time a Republi-

can official makes a stupid, racially-charged comment about Obama (and they will), I hope those same liberal members of the media will also get a sudden case of laryngitis like you did over the Wilmore foolishness.

I know why Republicans are silent on this issue—they have absolutely no credibility within the Black

community. But liberals "claim" to love Black folks, but yet they can't muster enough courage to take a principled stand and denounce Wilmore's performance.

What a shame this moment has found them totally unprepared for the moment that could have been their finest hour (Jackson out, \*\*drops

mic\*\*).

*Raynard Jackson is founder and chairman of Black Americans for a Better Future (BAFBF), a federally registered 527 Super PAC established to get more Blacks involved in the Republican Party. BAFBF focuses on the Black entrepreneur. For more information about BAFBF, visit www.bafbf.org.*

Murchase a table for \$90 to Jazz At The Muse featuring Shelton & Geno On Piano and receive a complimentary Congo Street CD

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## Dress Performance Theatre Series presents Linda Hopkins' Broadway Blues Cabaret

NDG readers can WIN tickets to see singer and songwriter, Liv Warfield, make her TBAAL debut in the hot blues, jazz and Broadway cabaret in homage to the legendary sassy Tony award-winner, Linda Hopkins.

The Soul Train Award nominee for Best New Artist and the newest member of Prince's New Power Generation, the feisty and soulful songstress is

"sheerly delightful and a commanding performer and force" waiting to take center stage at the Muse!

This entertaining tribute to legendary actress, blues and gospel singer Linda Hopkins is produced by Jiles King and hosted by TBAAL board member Albertus Lewis, Jr. Visit on our Facebook and Instagram pages for more details on how to WIN your free tickets.



## South Dallas Cultural Center's annual Black Women's Film Festival May 13-14

The South Dallas Cultural Center's annual Black Women's Film Festival features a collection of short films curated by the New

York based, New Negress Film Society. Each film will be produced by an emerging black woman filmmaker and will feature some

unique genres and perspectives. There will be a talk-back session with the visiting filmmakers after the closing credits. The festival

is scheduled for May 13-14 at 8 p.m. each evening.

The film line-up includes: *Afronauts* Directed by

See FILM, Page 11

## WIN tickets to enjoy Marlin Hill headlining Comedy Night at the Muse

Who is the young hilarious comic that's even got Hollywood talking? It's the one in a million, MARLIN HILL!

Opening for national artists like Patti LaBelle and Jamie Foxx, this co-

median's impersonations is nothing short of amazing. He's a real show stopper!

NDG readers can visit our Facebook and Instagram pages for details on how to win tickets for two!



7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CITY OF DESOTO PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### MUSIC IN THE PARK SERIES

ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE! NO COOLERS PLEASE

	<b>Don Diego</b> Thursday, May 19 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM Town Center Amphitheater 211 E Pleasant Run Rd DeSoto, Texas 75115	Don Diego is a contemporary jazz fusion saxophonist, vocalist and keyboard player who mixes instrumental covers of modern and classic R&B with rap and pop vocals.
	<b>R. L. Griffin</b> Saturday, May 21 <sup>st</sup> 7:00 PM Town Center Amphitheater 211 E Pleasant Run Rd DeSoto, Texas 75115	R.L. Griffin is a major figure on the Dallas blues scene. Not only is he a fine entertainer and recording star, but he owns the R.L.'s Blues Palace #2. He is also a disc jockey on KJDA 730 AM where he spins classic blues and R&B tunes.
	<b>Ivory Jazz Band</b> Thursday, May 26 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM Town Center Amphitheater 211 E Pleasant Run Rd DeSoto, Texas 75115	Ivory Jazz spans across all genres of music and encompasses an eclectic musical style that offers something for everyone. Offering tunes from the musical genres of soul, jazz, funk, pop, and R&B, Ivory Jazz can rock any crowd.
	<b>Crawfish Festival</b> Saturday, June 4 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 - 12:00 PM Town Center Amphitheater 211 E Pleasant Run Rd DeSoto, Texas 75115	Come and enjoy tons of delicious, spicy crawfish, great food, live music, vendors and games. Revel in the best Zydeco bands and enjoy the infectious rhythms of the Bayou. This will be a friendly, relaxed and fun community event.

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# Black Violin strung everyone along for an unprecedented ride

By Tracee Bond  
NDG Special Contributor

Black Violin, simply stated, is just what it says it is. The problem is there was nothing simple about this duo of classically trained instrumentalists who were so high strung on their violins that the audience was left with a complex state of emotions driven by the innocence of the music that shattered every single stereotype known to man given this situation. What situation? The situation whereby two young black males meet in a seventh grade orchestra class in Miami, Florida and spend the next 20 years honing their craft into an international success playing to standing-room only crowds as the headliner at sold out



venues.

The Kessler Theater, an amazing sound studio, was the perfect venue for the acoustical tribute with arrangements featuring Bach, Bruno Mars, Sam Smith, Marvin Gay and classical selections such as Ava Maria and Virtuoso. When it seemed there could be absolutely no more surprises, Wil B starting belting out his own notes, in a

deep, sexy voice that could make a run for his money with his diverse instrumental talent. Special highlights were his solo serenades with his violin, and of course, other selections from Black Violin's own CD which included Addiction and Stereotypes. Their final gift to the crowd was an amazing musical tribute to Prince and the crowd was in full party mode at that

time.

Wilner Baptiste (Wil B) and Kevin Sylvester (Kev Marcus) are equally talented, thirty-something musicians who shared the stage with a genuine respect for one another during individual and collective collaborations. Their mission is positive and their talent is undeniable. In addition, there's much to be said about the drummer, Nat Stokes and DJ Espy whose raw talent solidified the entire presence of the group.

From the moment the lights went down, Kev Marcus played his violin with a smile that never broke regardless of the genre of music he played, and Wil B spoke with the bass of a community activist who communicated his frustrations and appreciation of

life through melodic temperaments. Beyond the music, these young, black brothers have a message that is loud and clear. They want young people to realize that they earned full scholarships to college by thinking outside the box, breaking stereotypes and doing things in a way that no one has ever done. This path has allowed them to pay their own bills, travel around the world, be musical guests for President Barack Obama and share the stage with other famous musicians such as Alicia Keyes, Kanye West and Linkin Park. In their own words, they took on a classic foundation and added their own spices, sauce and stank. It seems to be a true recipe for success.

With so much energy and

enthusiasm, it is hard to believe this was their 69th show of the year. Call it youthfulness if you want, but I'm afraid it has to be attributed to a strong sense of self and the positive message Black Violin is giving back to the community that surrounds them.

DFW should be grateful for the opportunity to have witnessed the rare treat and hopefully after touring internationally to Berlin, Milan, London and Brussels, we will be put back on the calendar for another chance to be woefully and appreciatively, strung along once again. In the meantime, the wise thing to do would be to grab any or all of their CD's which include titles such as *Classically Trained*, *Unleashed I and II*, *Ringtones* and *Stereotypes*.

## DeSoto Parks & Recreation presents Music In The Park

DESOTO – Back by popular demand for the seventh year in a row, the DeSoto Parks & Recreation Department presents Music In The Park, a series of free outdoor concerts in the Outdoor Amphitheater at DeSoto Town Center. Here's the line-up:

Don Diego - Thursday, May 19th at 7pm Don Diego is a contemporary jazz fusion saxophonist, vocalist and keyboard player

who mixes instrumental covers of modern and classic R&B with rap and pop vocals.

R. L. Griffin – Saturday, May 21st at 7pm R. L. Griffin is a major figure on the Dallas Blues scene. Not only is he a fine entertainer and recording star, but he owns the R. L. Blues Palace #2. He is also a Disc Jockey on KKDA 730 AM radio where he spins classic blues and

R&B tunes.

IvorY Jean Band – May 26th at 7am IvorY Jean spins across all genres of music and encompasses an eclectic musical style that offers something for everyone. Offering tunes from the musical genres of soul, jazz, funk, pop, and R&B. IvorY Jean can rock any crowd.

Crawfish Festival – June 4th 6 to 10 pm – The public is invited to enjoy tons of de-

licious, spicy crawfish, great food, live music, vendors and games. Revel in the best Zydeco bands and enjoy the infectious rhythms of the Bayou. This will be a friendly, relaxed and fun community event.

All Music In The Park concerts are free, family friendly events that take place in the Outdoor Amphitheater at DeSoto Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run

Road. The Outdoor Amphitheater is located behind the DeSoto Public Library and there is plenty of free parking available in the parking garage on Hampton Road. Concessions will be available for purchase, no

coolers please. Bring your lawn chairs and get ready for some great entertainment. For more information on DeSoto Parks & Recreation's Music In The Parks series, please call Saddle McCallan at 972-230-9651.

## Great gift ideas for this Mother's Day

By Ruth Ferguson  
NDG Editor

Why not simply start with a **handwritten thank you note!** From now through the end of May, anyone can post a photo of their handwritten note or use a template to create a digital thank-you letter to Moms. See examples here: [www.thankyounoteproject.com/mom](http://www.thankyounoteproject.com/mom).

So right now a hot beauty trend is blood orange and my favorite item so far is



the **Double Moisturizer - Honeysuckle Blood Orange Custard** (\$29.99 on [FragranceNet.com](http://FragranceNet.com)). It smells wonderful and it really lasts, this should be at

the top of your Mother's Day shopping list. The extra perk is you are supporting a local business: Farmhouse Fresh in Frisco!

For the tech savvy mom, **Dell's Inspiron 11 3000 Series** – looks snazzy when she is on the go with this very lightweight 11" laptop. At less than 3/4-inch thin, Mom can take this laptop from the office to the soccer field with ease.

**Clinique's Sweet Pots – Sugar Scrub and Lip**

**Balm.**, is a cheerful dual-sided duo containing a sugary exfoliator on one side, and a moisture packed balm on the other.

If you are making her a pampering gift basket, include the **Wamsutta Micro Cotton Bath Towels**, \$14.99 at Bed Bath and Beyond.

Keep your eye on the website for a list of restaurants to take Mom out for a special brunch or dinner this Sunday!

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# Dallas ranks 1st among largest U.S. cities in size of women-owned businesses

The Center for an Urban Future recently published a groundbreaking new study, with support from Capital One's Future Edge initiative, that reveals a dramatic surge in women entrepreneurs in the nation's 25 largest cities.

The report reveals that Dallas ranks first in average revenues per women-owned business, based on an analysis of the nation's 25 largest cities. It also shows that the number of women-owned businesses in Dallas increased by 58.1 percent over the past five years, more than double the rate of growth for male-owned businesses in Dallas (24.5 percent).

The report finds that Dallas was fifth among the 25 most populous cities in the growth rate of women-owned businesses over the past five years and fifth in the total number of women-owned firms.

The report also shows that Fort Worth had the second highest growth rate among the nation's 25 largest cities.

The report documents that the number of women-owned businesses in the 25 largest American cities increased by 43 percent over the past five years, far outpacing the overall growth in women-



owned businesses nationally (27 percent). Indeed, of the 25 most populous cities in the U.S., only one had a slower growth rate in women-owned businesses than the nation.

Among the findings of the report:

- Of the 25 largest cities, Dallas ranks first in revenues per women-owned businesses, with \$198,599 in average sales. San Antonio was second, with \$191,223 in average sales, followed Fort Worth (\$186,435), Houston (\$181,122), and San Francisco (\$175,766).

- Dallas was fifth among the nation's 25 most populous cities in the 5-year growth rate of women-owned businesses. Among the 25 largest cities, Memphis had the fastest growth in women-owned businesses between 2007 and 2012, the most recent year

for which data from the U.S. Economic Census is available. The number of women-owned businesses in Memphis increased by 116 percent. Fort Worth had the second highest five-year growth rate, with women-owned firms growing by 78 percent, followed by Atlanta (65 percent), Houston (62 percent), and Dallas (58 percent).

- In terms of the overall numbers of women-owned businesses, New York City tops the list, with 413,899, followed by Los Angeles

(192,358), Chicago (123,632), Houston (102,813) and Dallas (52,798).

- 91.3 percent of all women-owned businesses in Dallas have no paid employees, slightly higher than the national rate (89.5 percent).

Other findings include:

- Over the last decade, from 2002–2012, the number of women-owned businesses in the United States increased by 52 percent. This amounts to 928 new businesses every day, adding over 1,290,245 jobs and \$90,191,545 billion in payroll to the nation's economy.

- Ninety percent of all women-owned businesses in the U.S. have no paid employees.

- If only one quarter of the existing 8,842,742 women-owned businesses in the United States with no employees added a single employee in the next

three years, it would result in more than 2.2 million new jobs.

- The cities with the slowest growth in women-owned businesses over the past five years include San Diego (which experienced

a 20 percent increase in the number of women-owned businesses), San Francisco (27 percent increase), Boston (31 percent), San Jose (32 percent), and Seattle (32 percent).

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## FILM, continued from Page 9

Frances Bodomo – 16th July 1969: America prepares to launch Apollo 11. Thousands of kilometers away, a ragtag group of Zambian exiles is trying to beat America to the Moon.

Seventh Grade Directed by Stefani Saintonge – Everyone is growing up except Patrice. But when a raunchy ru...mor threatens her best friend's reputation, she's forced to join the party and embrace adolescence.

Cakes Da Killa: NO HOMO Directed by Ja'Tovia Gary – Born Rashard Bradshaw, Cakes Da Killa is a 22 year old hip hop artist. As an openly gay

man he is not your run of the mill rapper, but he just might be your new favorite.

Pain Revisited Directed by Dyani Douze and Nontsikelelo Mutiti – This audiovisual project reimagines the black body in pain as an agent of potentiality through art and collaboration.

Tickets for this two day festival are \$5 during the early bird special and \$10 at the SDCC box office.

The South Dallas Cultural Center is located at 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave in Dallas.

For more information call 214-670-0058.

# D/FW Minority Supplier Development Council supplies powerful connections to millions of dollars in business opportunities in North Texas

Coming up on May 9 and 10 at the Irving Convention Center, more than 1,200 businesses from the area will participate in the largest regional Business Expo connecting corporations and public sector agencies with certified minority-owned businesses – ACCESS 2016 BUSINESS EXPO. This event is a major contributor to the overall yearly figure in business transactions between Council certified Minority Businesses and corporations. The Dallas/Fort Worth Minority Supplier Development Council (D/FW MSDC) reported \$7.1 Billion in Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) revenues in 2015.

This year's ACCESS corporate signature sponsor, Energy Future Holdings (EFH); and Minority Business Enterprise sponsor, TES (Telecom Electric Supply) are a great testimony of

how minority certification opens doors to business opportunities by providing powerful connections between large corporations looking for highly competitive suppliers and minority business enterprises with solutions to meet corporate needs.

“At Energy Future Holdings, we believe diversity fuels innovation and makes our business communities stronger. With our headquarters in Dallas, we are committed to the health of the North Texas and national economy by fostering relationships and expanding our network of diverse local suppliers,” shared John Young, EFH's chief executive officer. “The D/FW MSDC plays a significant role in facilitating our connections to certified Minority Business Enterprises in the area. These businesses continue to demonstrate their value by meeting our

supply chain needs with innovative, yet cost effective, solutions.”

Fred Moses, Founder and President of TES, stated: “The ACCESS Business Expo is one of the most valuable resources the Council offers its MBE's to market its companies. There is not another avenue or event that offers minority businesses the opportunity to make the business contacts that are available at ACCESS. ACCESS provides in one setting, over 100 buying entity representatives, specifically at ACCESS to meet certified, capable minority owned businesses. The result: Powerful connections for real results.”

ACCESS 2016 will host more than 70 confirmed State of Texas agencies recruited by State Senator Royce West. The attending State Agencies will be conducting On-the-Spot Bid

Opportunities. Last year, the State Agencies awarded over \$2.6 million in contracts at the two-day event.

ACCESS 2016 will also feature an Opportunity Board designed to maximize connections; a Business Solutions Pavilion, offering small business solutions and product demonstrations; and more than 40 major corporations seeking diverse suppliers.

True to this year's ACCESS theme of Supplying Powerful Connections, Margo J. Posey, D/FW MSDC President stated: “We are excited about the growing awareness and continued support in the business community of the value of diversity in the supply chain. Buying entities understand that minority owned businesses bring a wealth of talent and solutions to the table, as well as provide a way for them to positively impact the econ-

omy in our area.”

Posey added: “In 2015, 78 North Texas Cities were impacted by D/FW Minority Business Enterprises. Over 70 local Buying Entity Members, procured /contracted business with D/FW MSDC certified MBEs, resulting in \$7.1 Billion in reported revenues and 125,600 employment positions by D/FW MSDC MBEs. Growing these numbers by providing business opportunities and creating powerful connections at the ACCESS Business Expo impacts and grows the entire North Texas community.”

The two-day Expo features corporate and MBE roundtables and one-on-one business matchmaking between corporations, public sector entities, and minority business suppliers looking to discuss immediate and near-term opportunities. Last year 203 one-on-one

sessions were held by 33 buyers from 15 buying entities. Additionally 528 attendees participated in 121 round table sessions.

The Social Media Experience, a Media Lounge with exclusive interviews for the Council's YouTube Channel and the Cyber Lounge are additional features of ACCESS. “Each year we continue to challenge ourselves to create multiple opportunities for exhibitors, sponsors and attendees to meet, connect, identify opportunities and conduct real business. If you want to participate in the conversation surrounding ACCESS 2016 in real-time, be sure to follow our Twitter @dfwmsdc and use #ACCESS2016DFW,” said Posey.

Registration and sponsorship information is available at the Council's website at [www.dfwmsdc.com](http://www.dfwmsdc.com) or by calling 214-630-0747.



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# Poll shows most Americans do not support pay transparency

So what do American's have to hide when it comes to paycheck info? Apparently quite a bit because they do not think private companies should be obligated to share what they pay their employees and they do not think those companies should share the info internally.

Not surprising to see men are not in favor of this, given the potential for pay inequity to be disclosed, but women are also opposed to this. Is it possible fear of being embarrassed is helping to keep the pay inequity going?

More than seven in ten Americans do not think private companies should be required to publish the salaries of its employees nor do they believe private companies should disclose the wages of its employees internally. When it comes to disclosing one's personal salary, about two-thirds of Americans oppose such

publication, according to an Exclusive Point Taken-Marist Poll, commissioned by WGBH Boston for its new late- night, multi-platform PBS debate series Point Taken. However, Americans favor including a range of salary or wages in new job postings instead of a fixed rate of pay.

The national survey was conducted by The Marist Poll in advance of this week's Point Taken episode, airing tonight at 10 p.m. and streaming on pbs.org/pointtaken. The series is hosted by Carlos Watson, Emmy Award winning journalist and OZY Media co-founder and CEO.

72 percent of Americans do not think private companies should be required to publish salaries and believe most people's salaries should remain private. Racial differences exist. White residents, 79 percent, are more likely than non-

white Americans, 61 percent, to say companies should not publicize the amount each employee earns.

What do Americans think would be the result of making salaries public? 58 percent of Americans think doing so would cause conflict between employees rather than increasing fairness of pay within the company. White residents, 63%, are more likely than non-white residents, 51 percent, to think publically releasing salary amounts would cause friction within companies.

When it comes to internally disclosing the salaries of a company's employees, 73 percent of Americans report salaries should remain private for most people. Here, gender differences are present. Men, 79 percent, are more likely than women, 67 percent, to say employees' wages should not be published within companies for everyone to

see.

"There's no doubt that when it comes to publishing wages, most Americans think it's a sensitive topic and a private matter," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion.

"The issue of salary transparency and compensation are headline news this year", says Denise Di-Ianni, series creator and Senior Executive in Charge. "Questions of gender and racial disparities in compensation warrant a deeper dive. Point Taken will take the conversation further in tonight's debate."

When it comes to disclosing their own salaries, 66 percent of U.S. residents say they would prefer that information not be made public. More than three in four Americans, 77 percent, favor the inclusion of a range of salary or wages in new job postings.

## Online training program for entrepreneurs

A new online-training program for entrepreneurs called "The Hive" (createbuzznow.com/join), where notable branding, marketing and business strategy experts help small-business owners get and keep customers, is available from the consulting firm CREATE Buzz.

"Think of it as your local coffee shop where all the best business strategists and marketers just happen to be hanging out just waiting to share the best kept secrets of business gold," says Pamela Herrmann, co-founder with Patty Dominguez of CREATE Buzz (www.CreateBuzzNow.com), which is changing the way small businesses connect with customers – both online and offline.

"The vibe inside The Hive is casual, fun and so approachable," Dominguez says. "We believe business



doesn't have to be stuffy even if you are dropping some theory-based analysis on what it takes to make your marketing dollars convert more sales."

Targeted in The Hive are key business strategies that will ensure a solid foundation for your business. At the same time, business owners will learn the latest in "what's working now" in marketing tactics that will garner them the highest probability of a return on their marketing investment.

"We have personally con-

sulted with business owners, from Wall Street to Main Street, and just about every type of business in between," says Herrmann, author of "The Customer Manifesto: How Business Has Failed Customers And What It Takes To Earn Last-

ing Loyalty."

"We know exactly what business owners require to achieve smart marketing moves," says Dominguez, who co-hosts with Herrmann the Customers For Life podcast. "And we know exactly how to leverage customer loyalty in the digital age."

Pamela Herrmann and Patty Dominguez co-founded CREATE Buzz (www.createbuzznow.com), an online training experience that helps business owners and their employees develop powerful, positive and practical customer engagement habits that build loyalty.

**LET US HEAR FROM YOU!**

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**BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, CARROLLTON (A PLACE TO BELONG)**

**May 8, 9:45 a.m.**

You're invited to our Sunday Morning "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship Service at 10 a.m. See what God is doing through and with us; you will be blessed.

**May 8, 12 Noon**

How do you impact others? Join us Sunday at noon in Bible Study; Pastor Larry Gardner will teach a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 2, Chapter 5."

Learn how to introduce others to Christ and make Him known to them; to help others know and grow in God's word; and to give others clarity and direction.

**May 11, 7 p.m.**

Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Pastor Larry teaching a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 2, Chapter 5." Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you. It's Time to Grow; Ephesians 4:12 & 13.

Dr. Terrance Woodson, Senior Pastor  
1944 E. Hebron Parkway  
Carrollton, TX 75007  
972-492-4300  
[www.bethelbiblefellowship.org](http://www.bethelbiblefellowship.org)

**CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON**

**May 8, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

You're invited to join us for morning worship as we praise and worship God for His blessings.

**May 11**

Join us at 12 Noon with Rev. Viveca Potter teaching on the Word of God; come back at 6:45 p.m. for Corporate Prayer and stay for Senior Pastor Autry at 7:30 p.m. teaching on the Word of God. Our youth will come for Food and Fellowship at 7 p.m. followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Terrence Autry,

Senior Pastor  
701 Centennial  
972-991-0200  
Richardson, TX 75081  
[www.Christcommunityrichardson.org](http://www.Christcommunityrichardson.org)

**FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"**

**May 8**

You're invited to our main campus at 200 West Belmont Drive; followed by our Sunday Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 and bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

**May 11, 12 p.m.**

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word at the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 West Belmont Drive in Allen. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all, be prepared to grow.

**May 22, 8 a.m.**

**Every 4th Sunday**  
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Hype Sunday Worship (first service only) on our main campus at 200 West Belmont Drive and be blessed; followed by our Sunday Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 and bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.  
Senior Pastor  
5705 Cheyenne Drive  
at Bolin Elementary School in Allen 75002 for Sunday Morning Worship and the Admin. Building Address is 200 W. Belmont Drive Allen, TX 75013  
972-359-9956  
[www.theship3c.org](http://www.theship3c.org)

**INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH, Let's Go Fishing! MATTHEW 4:19**

**May 8, 7:30 and/or 11:30 a.m.**

You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

**May 9, 7 p.m.**

Join us in Monday School as we grow in God's Word and learn what God has to say to us.

**May 13, 7 p.m.**

All men, you're welcome to our Men's Friday Night Service for fellowship and learning what God requires of men as leaders of households and in the community.

Pastor Rickie Rush  
7701 S Westmoreland Road  
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972-372-4262  
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**MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)**

**May 8, 10 a.m.**

Join us for Sunday Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory; and don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church. Call the church for details.

**May 11, 7 p.m.**

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Pastor Sam Fenceroy  
Senior Pastor and  
Pastor Gloria Fenceroy  
300 Chisholm Place  
Plano, TX 75075  
972-633-5511  
[www.mocop.org](http://www.mocop.org)

**MT. PISGAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**May 8, 10 a.m.**

You're invited to join us in our Worship Service at our new home, 1020 Sherman Street in Richardson, Texas. Call the church for details.

**May 9, 9 p.m.**

Join us for our Intercessory Prayer Ministry and our Monday's Conference calls.

R. W. Townsend, Senior Pastor  
1020 Sherman Street  
Richardson, TX 75081  
972-241-6151  
[www.dallasmtpisgah.org](http://www.dallasmtpisgah.org)

**NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH**

**May 8**

You're invited to join us for Early Morning Services at 7:30 a.m., followed by Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

**May 11, 7 p.m.**

Join us each week, our Bible Study sessions are designed to be encouraged by God's good plan for your maturity and His glory. Dr. Tommy L. Brown  
Senior Pastor  
9550 Shepherd Road  
Dallas, Texas 75243  
214-341-6459  
[www.nmzb.org](http://www.nmzb.org)

See CHURCHES, Page 16



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# For Such a Time as This



**Sister Tarpley**

Send email to: [businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com) to sign up for Sister Tarpley's weekly electronic newsletter.

*"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to a royal position for such a time as this?" - Esther 4:14-15.*

The Bible tells the story of Esther, a Jewish orphan living in the land of Persia after her people were taken into captivity from Jerusalem.

Raised by her cousin Mordecai, she lived during the time of King Xerxes who reigned over Persia that stretched from India to Ethiopia.

A proclamation was sent out to bring all the virgins to the king's palace from the surrounding regions to replace Queen Vashti who

found disfavor with the king and was deposed.

Esther was one of the young women taken and was ultimately selected to be the next queen.

Mordecai had a high ranking position in the government that allowed him to learn of a plot by Haman, an official of the king, to kill all of the Jews.

Now, the only way this order would not be carried out was if Esther asked for an audience with the king to request that the plot be abandoned on her behalf.

However, to request an audience before the king was a serious matter. If he refused to give her audience, the penalty was immediate death. It was at this time that Esther made her famous statement, "If I die, I die."

Esther realized this could be the reason God created her - to save her people from destruction.

However, out of concern for Esther, Mordecai explained the situation to her, "For if you remain silent at

this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish."

Mordecai was giving her a choice. Either she will be

used by God or someone else will be used to save their people.

Everyday you and I are given a choice. Are we willing to be the person God uses to impact the future

destiny of a people? Many of us are silent Christians simply letting the status quo reign while we sit quietly by watching.

Who knows that you were created for such a time as this to be a catalyst to stand in the gap for some situation in your workplace, community or nation?

Be faithful to your calling.

Remember, "I can do ALL things through CHRIST who strengthens me."

Thank God for your strength and protection. Thank Him for your Lord

and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Whenever that old devil comes at you with temptations, remind him that you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you and has saved you.

Because of that, you can rebuke Satan by standing on the Scripture and leaning on Jesus for your help. He was the perfect example of this as He countered Satan's temptations with Scripture.

Open your eyes, ears and heart to God's Word and His prompting. Thank God always in the name of Jesus for His help.



Ms. Christina Jones at her induction into the National Society of Leadership and Success at Texas Woman University in Denton

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**NDGtv** North Dallas Gazette takes a moment to reflect on the past with **Historical Perspectives from Sister Tarpley**

Hear what it was like growing up in a very different Dallas when Booker T. Washington was a black school. Sister Tarpley graduated from there and went on to college and later became a city councilmember in Carrollton.

Look for NDGTV at [NorthDallasGazette.com](http://NorthDallasGazette.com)

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**Wednesday Night Live**  
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Pastor Dr. W. Stafford, Sr.

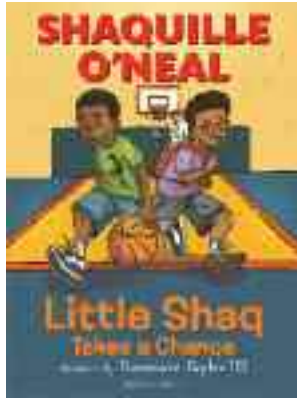
# NDG Book Review: Little Shaq Takes a Chance

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

“Here, try this.”

Ugh. That’s advice you almost never take because you hate new things. You know what you like, you know what you don’t – and there are plenty of things that fall into the last category. But, as in the new book “Little Shaq Takes a Chance” by Shaquille O’Neal, illustrated by Theodore Taylor III, unless you try something, how do you know for sure?

Little Shaq loved his mother’s cooking, so when he and his cousin, Barry, came home from the rec center and Little Shaq’s



mom promised something good for supper, Little Shaq was almost drooling.

Man, Mom’s cooking was the best!

Everyone was hungry at the table that night. They all waited eagerly, stomachs

growling, as Little Shaq’s mom carried in a plate full of.... rolled-up things! Sushi!

Little Shaq had never had sushi, but he was sure he wouldn’t like it. It wasn’t cooked and he had to eat it with two sticks. There was no way he was going to do that, so he had peanut butter sandwiches that night for supper.

The next day at school, Ms. Terpeny reminded Little Shaq and his classmates about the upcoming Art Show. It was going to be really fun! She spread lots of art materials on a table in the classroom and said that the theme for the show was

“What We Love.”

Little Shaq’s friend, Aubrey, drew a picture of her dog.

His other friend, Rosa, made a portrait of her kitten.

Little Shaq’s crayon drawing of a basketball looked more like an orange. This wouldn’t be easy. Little Shaq hated art; though his friends were really talented, he didn’t think he was any good at it. There was no way he was going to do it, even though his mom always said to “keep an open mind.”

But then, he got an idea. Little Shaq was a natural at basketball. Maybe he’d be a

natural at something else, too...

I don’t wanna. I can’t. I won’t.

You say those things all the time to yourself and you hear them often from your kids. Neither of you “wannas” because change is hard, but “Little Shaq Takes a Chance” shows that trying new things can also be fun.

Using a story-within-a-story method and characters from his last book, author Shaquille O’Neal offers kids a lesson in growing – not just up, but inside. O’Neal’s young namesake and title character is hip and funny – illustrations by

Theodore Taylor III made me laugh - but Little Shaq shows a surprising lack of confidence in this book. He works things out, of course, and gets his old swagger back – and in the meantime, your kids will get a lesson-not-lesson to learn.

This is a book for boys and girls and basketball fans. A kindergartener might like it for storytime but the real aim, I think, is for grade-schoolers and kids who are just starting to enjoy chapter books. If you’ve got one of those around, “Little Shaq Takes a Chance” is one they’ll want to try.

## Social Security is a weapon in helping homeless veterans

Carolyn W. Colvin, the Acting Commissioner of Social Security, and other leaders in the fight to end homelessness gathered today to continue the ongoing battle against homelessness among veterans, seniors, and other vulnerable populations.

“Social Security plays a key role in reducing homelessness, and our benefit payments help people to secure and maintain stable housing,” Acting Commissioner Colvin said. “Social Security is the most successful anti-poverty program in our country’s history and collaborates with other federal, state and local agencies to ensure that veterans, people who are disabled, have lost a loved one, or are retiring have access to our benefits and services.”

Acting Commissioner Colvin joined with federal



Despite the smile on his face Flickr photographer Eric Shoemaker stated, “You are looking at the face of a VERY unhappy man.” Those were his words to me.”

and state officials to discuss initiatives to end homelessness and outreach programs to vulnerable populations, including veterans, at a forum called “Ending Homelessness: Lessons Learned from the Commonwealth of Virginia.” Representatives from the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Sub-

stance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, and the Virginia Housing Alliance participated in the discussion.

In 2015, Virginia announced that it had ended homelessness among veterans. Many federal and state agencies are looking to replicate best practices from Virginia’s success in their

respective states.

Social Security has collaborated with other federal agencies to develop key strategies for connecting veterans and other individuals experiencing homelessness to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) benefits. Through partnerships across the country with the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) initiative, the agency receives more complete disability applications. They have a higher rate of approval on the initial application because someone is helping the applicant, especially homeless people who have difficulty documenting their cases and getting their medical records. SOAR is a national project, funded by the SAMHSA, designed to increase access to SSI and SSDI for eligible adults

who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and have a mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder. The SOAR project provides training on how to complete the SSI/SSDI application to service providers working with individuals experiencing homelessness.

Veterans are at an increased risk of both homelessness and disability. Social Security offers several initiatives to accelerate processing disability benefit claims from veterans.

Since 2005, the agency has provided expedited processing of disability applications for wounded warriors who have suffered an injury or illness while serving on active duty after October 1, 2001.

Beginning in 2014, disability applications for

those with a Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation rating of 100% receive expedited processing for Social Security disability benefits. Social Security worked with the VA to set up a data exchange to identify these veterans when they first apply for Social Security or SSI benefits. The agency is proud to support President Obama’s efforts to take care of veterans who have sacrificed so much.

For more information about wounded warriors and veterans who have a compensation rating of 100%, please visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/veterans](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/veterans).

For additional information about the SOAR project and initiatives to help people experiencing homelessness, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness)

**CHURCHES,**  
SHILOH MBC  
IN PLANO (WHERE  
COMMUNITY  
BECOMES FAMILY)

**May 7, 10 a.m.**  
You’re encouraged to attend our FREE Faith & Finances Housing Workshop to discuss Federal, State of Texas and City of Plano programs to increase new home own-

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ership. Call the church for details.

**May 8, 10 a.m.**  
Join us as we praise and worship God in our Morning Worship Services. You will be blessed.

**May 11, 7 p.m.**  
You’re invited to our Wednesday’s Bible Study to

learn more about God’s Word. Come and be encouraged by God’s plan for your maturity and growth; it’s all for His glory and His honor.

**May 9-15**  
Celebrate with us our Annual Women’s Day Program all week, ladies are asked to wear white with hot pink scarves that will be available for purchase after Worship Service in the Fel-

lowship Hall. Call the church for times, weekly activities and details.

Our church ministries offer opportunities for motivation and growth; join us and see.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.  
Senior Pastor  
920 E. 14th Street  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-6695  
[www.smbcplano.org](http://www.smbcplano.org)

**WESTSIDE BAPTIST  
CHURCH,  
LEWISVILLE**

**May 8, 7:45 and 10:45  
a.m.**

You’re invited to join us for Sunday Morning Worship Service, as we praise and worship God for His many blessings.

**May 11, 12 Noon**

Join us for Prayer and Bible Study with Pastor Bessix teaching on the word of God and praying for the sick.

Minister Thomas Bessix  
Senior Pastor  
900 Bellaire Blvd.  
Lewisville, TX 75067  
972-221-5668  
[www.wbcchurch.org](http://www.wbcchurch.org)