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## 2012 North Texas Juneteenth Golf Tournament Results

The 2012 Inaugural North Texas Juneteenth Golf Tournament took place this week at the MH Wright Park municipal golf course in Greenville. The tournament was organized by Phalconstar Communications and the ET Club, a fundraising arm for Beehive Lodge



Ray Williams Sammy Morrone and Johnny Courts

#105, PHA. Texas A&M University-Commerce athletics was the major sponsor for the event.

First place finishers were Clinton Hobdy and Slack Brown with a 69. Second place finishers were Ronnie Poteet and Jerry Deaton who shot a

See JUNETEENTH, Page 3

## Are Black women the key to lowering suicides by veterans?

BY CAMERON SEARCY,  
NDG INTERN

At a time when suicides by military veterans are surging, the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs is seeking help by examining a group with the lowest suicide rate in the

nation: Black women.

When a soldier returns home from war, they often face a difficult struggle to adjust to civilian life. The psychological effects of warfare, coupled with the difficulty in expressing their inner turmoil, are a



leading factor in the high rate of depression suffered by returning soldiers. Unfortunately, these dispirited veterans too often believe the only solution to life after war is suicide.

See SUICIDES, Page 8

## Fireworks at the Cotton Bowl

Featuring fireworks from inside the historic Cotton Bowl, MetroPCS Fair Park Fourth will offer fun for all ages from 4:30 - 10 p.m. Wednesday, July 4, at Fair Park (1300 Robert B. Culum Blvd.). Presented by Friends of Fair Park, the free event is



the City of Dallas' official Independence Day celebration. Highlights will include a patriotic program featuring the Dallas Wind Symphony, live music, reduced admission to Fair Park's museums from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m., kids activities,

See FIREWORKS, Page 5



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COVER STORY

## Irving ISD honors eight at the District's First Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony



Akin Ayodele

See HEALTHCARE, Page 9



Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter blends history and grotesque in this thriller!

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

COMMENTARY

## Dallas' plan to steal our land

BY ROBERT PITRE

Fighting the monster called disenfranchisement has been on the agenda of African Americans since post slavery days. With every new step we take for equality and justice we are often slapped in the face with a social, moral or even blatant disregard to the simple fact that we are all equal and deserve the same rights as our White counterparts. Unfortunately, yet again, the City of Dallas seems to think that we do not matter as they are seeking to gain community sup-

port and votes for the 2012 Capital Bond Program. They allege this will preserve and restore streets and other related assets, protect lives and property from flooding and promote economic development to continue and grow the tax base. The bond amount Dallas is seeking is \$600 million.

That's right, Dallas is seeking \$600 million dollars that will be shared throughout virtually all districts in Dallas. This is their

See STEAL, Page 3

## INSIDE...

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| People In The News .....   | 2     |
| Op/Ed .....                | 3     |
| Community News .....       | 5     |
| Cover Story .....          | 9     |
| Arts & Entertainment ..... | 10    |
| Business .....             | 11    |
| Classifieds .....          | 12    |
| Career Opportunity .....   | 13    |
| Church Directory .....     | 14-16 |
| Sister Tarpley .....       | 15    |

## People In The News...

See Page 2



Angela Blair



Shakeela J. Hunter



Debra Austin

Happy 4th of July! Our next issue is July 12th. Visit [NorthDallasGazette.com](http://NorthDallasGazette.com)



## Angela Blair

Come out to see the award-winning singer and actress Angela Blair in concert at "An Evening with Angela Blair and Friends," sponsored by AB Entertainment on June 29th at Sandaga 813, 813 Exposition Ave (near Fair Park). Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with a lavish buffet for guests, exciting giveaways, comedy and so much more. American Idol contestant George Huff will also perform along with international jazz saxophonist Keith Anderson, plus other

celebrities as Blair brings a message hope one to domestic violence survivors, one of her many philanthropic causes.

DFW doesn't want to miss this one night only performance of Dallas' best singers and performers. Guests will surely be pleased with the vocal styling of Blair and Friends as she sings tracks from her debut CD, *It's All About Love* (CDBABY.com).

Tickets are on sale now, \$25 – Presale, \$30 – at the door and \$50 – VIP (Lim-

ited VIP tickets are available) at <https://angelablair-june29th-es1.eventbrite.com/?srnk=1>.

Angela Blair, a native of Dallas, is an award-winning singer, actress and songwriter. She has received countless honors including, Texas' Female Vocalist of the Year, one of UK's Greatest Voices You've Never Heard, the 2005 Kraft Gospel Talent Search Grand Prize Winner, sponsored by *Essence*, Kraft Foods & Sony Urban Music, during the annual *Essence* Music Festival. Blair has performed on the

Louisiana Superdome Main Stage, on BET's *Bobby Jones Gospel Show*, Super Bowl 46 in a tribute to the late Phyllis Hyman and other shows throughout the country.

Her first CD, *It's All About Love* is currently available on CDBaby.com. Blair has shared the stage with many great artists like Mary J. Blige, Black Eyed Peas, Alicia Keys, Aretha Franklin, Beyoncé, LL Cool J, Albertina Walker, Earth Wind & Fire and more.

She has graced the pages of several magazines

including *JET*, *EBONY*, *Essence* and many more. She is also a noted actress and producer with roles in hit stage plays, comedy series and *Leap of Faith*, starring Steve Martin, as well as a philanthropist supporting diabetes research, ending domestic violence to name a few.



## Shakeela J. Hunter

The University of Texas at Arlington (UT Arlington) announced the appointment of Shakeela J. Hunter, formerly of The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as the University's first director of student financial literacy.

Hunter will help shape the University's new Student Money Management Center, which is aimed at ensuring that students have the opportunity to learn how to manage budgets and debt, save, prevent identity theft and plan for retirement – all be-

fore they earn their college degree.

The initiative is part of UT Arlington's ongoing efforts to ensure student success. It also follows a 2011 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board rule directing general academic institutions to offer students training in personal financial literacy and provide students the knowledge and skills they need to make important financial decisions.

Concerns about college costs and student debt loads have increased in recent

years. Nationally, the average college student graduates with about \$25,000 in loan debt. The average debt load for UT Arlington students, however, is about \$18,800. About two-thirds of UT Arlington students borrow money to pay for college.

The addition of a student financial literacy director is among the many initiatives the University has undertaken to help students afford their college education. UT Arlington has not increased tuition and fees or room and board for the 2012-2013 academic year. About two thirds of students receive

some form of financial aid to help pay for college, and two-thirds hold at least one job while attending college.

Hunter helped launch UI's University Student Money Management Center in the Student Financial Services office in 2010 to assist the university's 70,000 students with their personal financial needs. She recalls how, as the national econ-



omies dipped into recession, students whose parents had lost jobs struggled to keep current on tuition payments. "I'm passionate about stu-

dent score."

Hunter earned her undergraduate degree in finance

See HUNTER, Page 13

## Debra Austin

In good economic times, business owners want to aggressively grow their



companies and maximize their opportunities. Con-

versely, in bad economic times, they want to minimize their losses and not lose what they've worked so long and hard to create.

To that end, Debra Austin, owner of the local The Growth Coa-ch® franchise, is helping businesses in Dallas, Richardson, Plano, Wylie, Rowlett, Sachse, Garland, among other areas, succeed in today's increasingly unpredictable econ-

omy. "Economic storm clou-

ds have served as a huge wake-up call for many business owners to get their act together – to become more focused, effective and strategic," said Austin. "While it's always more advisable to work on the leaky roof or foundation when it's sunny, the black storm clouds have motivated business owners in droves to seek out business coaches and their proven and guaranteed coaching processes."

Austin has made a career out of consulting and coaching businesses for more than 15 years. Her role has primarily been as a consultant helping small businesses implement strategies, design compensation plans and marketing plans. In March 2012, Debra turned her attention to working with local business owners and leaders and helping them run their busi-

nesses more effectively and efficiently while balancing their professional and personal lives.

"We've seen an amazing response from business professionals who are ready, now, to take steps to gain that balance. We are excited about the opportunity to engage them in our process and see the life-changing results," Austin says.

Today, she helps business owners achieve greater success and satisfaction by helping them with "between the ears" types of issues and to overcome limiting beliefs, bad habits and bad business practices. The process helps owners learn to run a business, be better leaders and managers and think and behave more strategically – and make more money working fewer

hours. They are given the structure and discipline on a

regular basis to think, create

See AUSTIN, Page 5

## \$69\* DIVORCE

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

## STEAL, continued from Page 1

effort to correct issues developers and Dallas officials ignored when land was purchased from African Americans in and around the State Thomas area. They refused to create infrastructure – plumbing and sewage drainage – for the area, which grossly decreased the land value and forced African American home and landowners to sell their land and property for little or nothing. When they started to build on the land purchased for pennies on a dollar they did not make the necessary changes needed and now Dallas is seeking to use the bond money to repair or correct those issues.

The problem that I am having with the bond program is that African American home- and landowners in the area around the University of North Texas (UNT) campus, which is located on Houston School Road now University Hill Road, are being excluded from the program. It seems like Dallas is seeking to have a repeat of the State Thomas area. They will not allow us to receive basic infrastructure and they are attempting to corner us and tell us who and what can be built on our property. Dallas has an opportunity to develop 600 plus acres of land around the UNT campus area, of which the majority of landowners are African American.

This is blatant disenfranchisement. Our Dallas City Councilman Tennell Atkins, who is chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Southern Dallas Economic Opportunities

and vice-chair of the Economic Development Committee, has already said to landowners that his interest is not to help us. He said that he can create his legacy in District 8 from the developers and not from the existing landowners. This is the man we elected to represent us and yet he is turning his back on the landowners. The home- and business owner associations voiced our complaints about not receiving adequate funding for infrastructure. However, Atkins has shown that his alliance is with developers. The money the City of Dallas is seeking to put into the bond election for improving our infrastructure needs is approximately \$5 million for basic infrastructure around the UNT campus area.

They want to keep our property values extremely low so they can come back in and buy our land for little or nothing. They did it in the State Thomas area and the areas around Fair Park. Dallas is one of the few cities in the United States that has a large percentage of African American landowners with hundreds of acres of land within the city limits. But they want to deny us loans and the opportunity to build on our own properties. We already had water and gas but when they built the six lane road in front of UNT they did not include the necessary waste water system or sewer lines because they wanted to limit the ability for landowners to develop their properties.

The African American

community in Dallas has continually been redlined. They make it difficult for us to get loans to create African American owned businesses, to support our community and to thrive. This despite their indications they want us to thrive, meanwhile our district suffers from a high unemployment rate. If the \$5 million for basic infrastructure is increased to \$10 million to develop the 600 plus acres of land, then we would be able to create thousands of jobs, housing, commercial and other needed opportunities in the area. The City of Dallas' and Atkins' plan is to keep our property value down. African Americans own three-fourths of the land in front of the UNT campus from Camp Wisdom up University Hill (formerly Houston School Road) to West Wheatland Road.

The City of Dallas is trying to keep our property values low so they can use part of the \$40 million dollars in the bond for acquisition of land around UNT. The same \$10 million we need would also benefit 400 plus acres of land in the City of Lancaster. We would have over 1,000 plus acres of land that will benefit the UNT area. Dallas Authority Rapid Transit

(DART) is planning to start its Blue Line construction from the Ledbetter station to UNT Park and Ride station in 2013 with a targeted completion of 2015. This is a \$250 million project and the \$10 million basic infrastructure would benefit this project as well.

*Robert Pitre*

I encourage everyone in Dallas but particularly in District 8 to go to find out more information on this new bond program. You can visit the Capital Bond website at <http://2012bondprogram.dallascityhall.com/> for more information on the bond program.

Mr. Robert Pitre is a businessman and concerned citizen in Dallas' District 8.

*Editor's note: Councilman Tennell Atkins was contacted but could not provide a response to the Mr. Pitre's concerns prior to our print time due to final council session before the July break.*

## JUNETEENTH, continued from Page 1

71 and third place trophies were awarded to Danny Jones and Brent Money who finished with a 72.

Prize sponsors for the inaugural Juneteenth event included Shenaniganz of Rockwall, Steve & Jan Reid, CCS Fashion & Footwear, ACN Technology – Cecilia Aguirre and Country Market Natural & Essential Foods. "Competition for prizes was very tight," says Ray Williams one of the event organizers.

Stan McKee took home a \$100 cash prize for Closest-to-the pin, while Danny Jones won an all expense



*Stan McKee Takes a Swing*

paid party day at Shenaniganz of Rockwall. "We had a lot of fun," Williams said.

Other sponsors included Dicks Sporting Goods, McDonalds /Al-

berto Romero Enterprises, Wright Park Golf Course, Daugherty Tax Service – Joy Chenault, Primerica – Tom Chenault, Sam's Southern Eatery, Office Solutions, Free Discount Pharmacy Cards, Clarissa's Gifts, LF Graphco, Red-Box Movies, Pete Haayen's Allstate Insurance, Aerobic Water and Country Market Natural & Essential Foods.

"We were really pleased with the success we had in Greenville," said Johnny Courts with the ET Club.



## Leave the pets at home this Fourth of July

The Fourth of July is a time to celebrate our country's freedom with family and friends. But while we're enjoying the festivities, food and fireworks, it can be stressful and potentially hazardous for our pets.

Even though you may want to share the excitement of picnics, pool parties and pyrotechnics with your pets, they'll be safer and happier confined safely at home in quiet and familiar surroundings.

By planning ahead and following the tips below, you can ensure that everyone in the family, including those with fur and four legs, enjoys this Independence Day.

Loud, crowded fireworks displays are no fun for pets, so leave them at home in a calm, sheltered and escape-proof part of your house. Make sure they have their favorite toys to play with, and put on some soothing music to help block the sound of neighborhood noises. Don't take them along with plans to

leave them in the car. It's far too hot this time of the year, even in the evenings, and a pet can suffocate in a matter of minutes. Leaving the car windows partially open doesn't provide enough air, but could allow your pet to be stolen, to escape or get hurt trying to get away.

Never use fireworks around pets. Exposure to lit fireworks could result in severe burns and/or trauma to the face and paws of curious pets. Even unused fireworks can pose a danger. Many types contain toxic substances, including potassium nitrate, arsenic and other heavy metals.

Never leave pets outside unattended. Even in a fenced yard, panic can lead a pet to escape and get lost, or become injured while trying to seek safety.

Make sure that your pet is always wearing identification and has been microchipped in case he does get lost.

If your pet normally fears



*This Fourth of July will be happier for you and your pets if you leave them safe at home during the holiday festivities. (Photo: Jonnie England)*

loud noises such as thunder, he'll react the same way to fireworks. Consult your veterinarian in advance for ways to reduce your pet's anxiety.

Keep your pets away from alcoholic drinks, sunscreen, insect repellent and citronella candles, all of which can cause severe illness or worse.

## 3rd Annual Clean Air Action Day Set for July 7

Weekends may mean a two-day break from the office for many, but in the height of ozone season the region never gets a break from the risk of high ozone levels. For the first time, the annual Clean Air Action Day falls on a Saturday, and North Texans are ready to do something extra for clean air.

For the third year, North Texans will join in taking action for clean air between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. July 7 and log commitments at [www.air-northtexas.org](http://www.air-northtexas.org). Whether weekend plans include entertainment and fun, chores, errands, work or all of these, clean air choices can be part of the mix. There are nearly 20 different ways individuals can reduce ozone-causing pollution on July 7 and beyond.

There are clean air choices for how North Texans:

**Get from place to place -** Carpooling; riding mass transit; bicycling; walking; calling for a low-emitting taxi or limousine; using vehicle-approved biofuels; choosing a clean vehicle option if purchasing a new vehicle.

**Drive when more air-friendly travel options do not meet needs -** Combining trips; avoiding idling; maintaining consistent driving

speed by avoiding quick accelerations and hard braking.

**Tackle weekend chores -** Pursuing energy efficient home improvements; switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs; using an electric, hand or alternative-fuel lawnmower; confirming vehicle emissions and safety inspection is current; ensuring regular vehicle maintenance such as tire pressure checks and oil and filter changes are up to date.

**Explore North Texas -** Buying local or in more walkable areas where less driving is required; choosing entertainment and dining in areas where less driving is required.

**From big to small efforts, the common goal is awareness, which leads to action -** awareness of the current air quality to protect health and awareness of strategies that reduce ozone-causing pollution.

The region is making progress in improving air quality, but much more work must be done to reduce ozone levels, protect the health of North Texans and preserve the economic vitality of the region. Improving North Texas' air quality requires action from the public and private sectors and residents.

## Women's hearts and vitamin E Two women exercise outside

Vitamin E may not be the way to prevent heart failure. Researchers looked at about 10 years of data on nearly 40,000 women who had healthy hearts at the start, to see if the antioxidant would live up to its billing about removing potentially damaging forms of

oxygen. At Massachusetts General Hospital, researcher Claudia Chae:

"Antioxidant therapy with vitamin E at a dose of 600 international units every other day did not reduce the overall risk of incident heart failure in initially healthy women." (9

seconds)

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A black and white portrait of a man with short, dark, curly hair and glasses, smiling. He is wearing a light-colored polo shirt.

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The logo for Texas State Technical College (TSTC) features a stylized star with the letters 'TSTC' inside it. Below the star, the words 'Texas State Technical College' are written in a smaller font.



## DART to Independence Day fireworks and events

Dallas Area Rapid Transit is your ticket to Independence Day celebrations in north Texas from the dawn's early light to the twilight's last gleaming.

DART buses and light rail follow a Sunday schedule and the Trinity Railway Express does not operate on July 4. Plan your trip by visiting [www.DART.org/fireworks](http://www.DART.org/fireworks), by using the online trip planner at [www.DART.org](http://www.DART.org) or call Customer Information at 214-979-1111.

### July 3

Addison Kaboom Town features dazzling fireworks choreographed to music, plus food, music, and the Addison Airport Air Show. Fireworks will be launched at approximately 9:35 p.m.

Stay after the fireworks for a concert featuring Emerald City at 10:15 p.m. Admission is free. Events run 5 p.m. to midnight. Addison Circle Park is at 4970 Addison Circle Dr. [addisontexas.net/events/KaboomTown](http://addisontexas.net/events/KaboomTown) - Addison Transit Center

**Farmers Branch Independence Day Celebration** honors America's independence with free live music and fireworks at the Farmers Branch Historical Park. Tour the historical buildings, enjoy concessions and kids' activities. Park gates open at 6:30 p.m. with a concert by local party band TOP beginning at 8 p.m. Fireworks at approximately 9:30 p.m. Farmers Branch Historical Park is at 2540 Farmers

Branch Lane. [www.farmersbranch.info/play/special-events](http://www.farmersbranch.info/play/special-events) - Farmers Branch Station

**U.S. Army 36th Infantry Division Band** performs at the Dallas Arboretum as part of the Spring/Summer Concert Series and Chihuly Nights. Bring a picnic or enjoy treats from Highland Park Cafeteria while you lounge on the lawn of the Martin Rutchik Concert Stage. Admission prices range from \$9 to \$22. The Dallas Arboretum is at 8525 Garland Road. [dallasarboretum.org](http://dallasarboretum.org) concerts - Union Station or South Garland Transit Center, then Bus Route 60

### July 4

**Irving Independence Day Parade** begins at 9

a.m., followed by a patriotic concert and free watermelon at Heritage Park, 217 Main St. [cityofirving.org](http://cityofirving.org) - South Irving Station

**Irving Firecracker Fourth** is an evening of entertainment at the intersection of Las Colinas Boulevard and Lake Carolyn Parkway with a patriotic concert by the Irving Symphony Orchestra. Activities include inflatables and water slides, and food concession stands and vendors will be available. Festivities begin at 5 p.m., with fireworks show at 9:30 p.m. Admission is free, and event parking is \$5 at the Irving Convention Center parking garage, 500 W. Las Colinas Blvd. [www.cityofirving.org](http://www.cityofirving.org) - North Irving

Transit Center, then walk to Las Colinas

**Old-Fashioned Fourth** in Historic Downtown Carrollton celebrates Independence Day with family fun at the shops, restaurants, and antique stores. Historic Downtown Carrollton is located at 1102 W. Main St., near I-35E and Belt Line Rd. [historicdowntowncarrollton.com](http://historicdowntowncarrollton.com) or [facebook.com/historicdowntowncarrollton](http://facebook.com/historicdowntowncarrollton) - Downtown Carrollton Station

**Flagpole 8K** is an annual run along the eastern shores of White Rock Lake and the peninsula neighborhood. Cost is \$25. The race starts at 7:30 a.m. in Norbuck Park, 200 N. Buckner Blvd. on the southeast corner at North-

west Hwy. [whiterockcracking.com](http://whiterockcracking.com) - White Rock Station, then Bus Route 428

**Plano Symphony Orchestra Patriotic Pops** at the Eisemann Center for the Performing Art features the Plano Symphony Orchestra, the Plano Civic Chorus and the Patriotic Pops Chorus at 3 p.m. and tickets are \$10-\$35. The Eisemann Center is located at 2351 Performance Drive. [planosympho-ny.org](http://planosympho-ny.org) - Galatyn Park Station

**Star-Spangled Spectacular** with the Dallas Wind Symphony tickets are \$16-\$38. The show begins at 4 p.m. in the air-conditioned comfort of the Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. [dws.org](http://dws.org) - Pearl Station

## AUSTIN, continued from Page 2

an action plan and then receive on-going accountability to stay on track.

"Working with Debra Austin as my business coach has had an immediate and positive impact on my business," states Jared Rosckes, owner of the Jared Rosckes Agency, a property and casualty insurance company. "Debra constantly challenges my perspective and forces me to think out of the box. As a

business owner, manager and marketer in a highly volatile industry, I constantly need to adapt and find solutions to new challenges. Debra's coaching keeps me on track, helps me understand how to manage my time to grow my business and still have a balance with my personal life. A big milestone for me was to be able to break down major problems into manageable pieces. She has given me in-

valuable insight on how to move my agency into the future with confidence."

Austin said the process doesn't tell business owners how to run their businesses. It gives them the skills to figure it out for themselves. "We empower business owners to solve their own problems and seize their own opportunities," she added. "They are the experts. I just give them the tools."

## Hot Rods and Harleys fundraiser for Garland's VFW Post 5076

Our veterans are the backbone of our history. They fought devastating battles so that we might have the freedom America enjoys today. Many came back from these battles injured or to be buried, some never come home.

The public is invited to honor these great men and women at a fundraiser coordinated by the Dallas

Harley-Davidson and Texas Show Events for the VFW Post 5076 on June 30, from 12 - 4 p.m. at 1334 West Centerville Road in Garland.

Registration opens at 10:30 a.m. and the show

starts at noon, ending at 4 p.m. The entry fee is \$15.00 per vehicle or motorcycle. All proceeds are given to the VFW Post 5076 of Garland, Texas. More info at [www.DallasHD.com](http://www.DallasHD.com).

## FIREWORKS, continued from Page 1

carnival games, "dancing water" shows and more, all leading up to what will be among North Texas' largest fireworks shows!

The fireworks show will be synchronized to music with recommended seating inside the Cotton Bowl. Visitors may begin entering the Cotton Bowl at 8 p.m. at Gate D. (Handicap entrance is Gate B.) The fireworks will begin at 9:30 p.m.

From 4:30 - 7:30 p.m., visitors can enjoy reduced admission to Fair Park's six museums including the African American Museum, Children's Aquarium at Fair Park, Dallas Historical Society/Hall of State, Museum of Nature & Science,

Texas Discovery Gardens, and Texas Museum of Automotive History. See museum schedule below for details.

Throughout the afternoon, Fair Park Fourth goers can hear live music including Dallas band Quiver from 6:30 - 8 p.m. At 8 p.m., the Grammy-nominated Dallas Wind Symphony will perform their beloved "Red, White and Blue Concert" in front of the Hall of State. Musical highlights will include patriotic favorites America the Beautiful, The Star-Spangled Banner, the Washington Post March and more.

The Esplanade Fountain

will feature Bellagio-style "dancing water" shows choreographed to six songs including Stars and Stripes Forever, Over the Rainbow, Yellow Rose of Texas, Aaron Copland's Hodegown, Jarabe Tapatillo (Mexican Hat Dance) and Irish Jig at 4:30, 5, 5:30, 6, 6:30, 7 and 7:30 p.m.

For the safety of visitors and to protect the fountain mechanisms, wading and swimming are not allowed at any time in the Esplanade Fountain. Concessions will be sold, or guests may bring a picnic. The Swan Boats will be operating for \$10 and Swan Boats accept cash only. ATM machines will be

available.

Alcoholic beverages, glass bottles, fireworks and firearms are NOT permitted on Fair Park grounds. Strollers, coolers and pets are NOT permitted inside the Cotton Bowl.

Admission is free. The City of Dallas charges \$10 for parking within the gates of Fair Park. Parking will be available at Gates 2, 5, 6, 10 and 11, with handicap parking at Gate 5. Or visitors may ride DART's Green Line Rail to the Fair Park or MLK, Jr. station.

For more information, call the Fair Park information line at 214-421-9600 or go to [fairpark.org](http://fairpark.org).

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# Bilingual reading campaign launches summer reading academy

The Read Connmigo bilingual literacy campaign, sponsored by Infinity Auto Insurance, announced a new campaign to help parents prevent children's summer reading skill loss. Read Connmigo has created a list of summer reading tips for families:

1. Make sharing books together a consistent part of your family fun this summer.
2. Set a good example by reading your own books in front of your children.
3. Create a summer reading list with your child. Many schools and libraries offer lists by grade level.
4. Read aloud to your child, and have them read aloud back to you.
5. Let your child select books and topics that are especially of interest to them.
6. Read and discuss books about your planned summer activities (camping, swimming, sports).
7. Pack books and take



ently hesitate to read to their children at home. However, studies show that bilingual reading is equally effective at maintaining and improving reading skills and educational levels," said Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. "Read Connmigo is an exemplary corporate initiative that provides valuable resources to parents and teachers on the frontlines." The Read Connmigo campaign has distributed more than 200,000 free bilingual reading books given to parents, children, teachers and schools across America. A complete list of reading tips and resources for parents is available and updated regularly during the summer at [www.readconnmigo.org](http://www.readconnmigo.org). Parents participating in the Read Connmigo Summer Reading Academy can register their children online for the summer's "Create a Story" contest at [www.readconnmigo.org/au](http://www.readconnmigo.org/au)

- them along on summer trips and outings together.
8. Encourage your child to keep a "Summer Reading Journal" and write about the books they read.
  9. Praise your child upon completion of a reading assignment or a reading challenge during the summer.
  10. Share your favorite books from your own childhood with your kids.
- "Many Hispanic parents who don't read English flu-

thors, to win a Kindle Fire for their home (and the chance to have their winning manuscript published as a Read Connmigo book). A jury will select contest winners in August, right before back-to-school. The free Read Connmigo Summer Reading Kit is available at select Infinity Auto Insurance locations all summer long (visit [www.readconnmigo.org/summer](http://www.readconnmigo.org/summer) to find a location near you where you can pick up a free Summer Reading Kit). "As we celebrate Read Connmigo's one-year anniversary, Infinity Auto Insurance is proud to join forces with School Boards, teachers, parents, community leaders and your local Infinity agents to help prevent summer reading loss and promote reading at home," said Greg Fasking, Vice President of Consumer Marketing at Infinity Auto Insurance, the company sponsoring the Read Connmigo bilingual literacy campaign.

# Murphy City Secretary moves to same position to Richardson

Long-time City Secretary Aimee Nemer has submitted her resignation to the Murphy City Council and is preparing to assume the same position in Richardson on July 30, according to City Manager James Fisher. "Aimee is one of those rare individuals who makes everyone around her better. Her positive attitude, her incredible work ethic, her vast storehouse of knowledge, and her sense of humor all make her an ideal co-worker, and we will most certainly miss all of those traits," he said. The City Secretary is one of a few City employees who are appointed directly by the City Council, and who report directly to that body. In her letter of resignation, Nemer thanked the Council and pointed to the seven years in Murphy as filled with "many learning experiences that have allowed me to be successful and grow professionally. I have also developed many personal and professional relationships that I hope will continue throughout my career."

Her tenure at Murphy concludes on July 25, but told the Council she will remain tuned in to the City's progress. "I look forward to seeing, hearing, and experiencing your successes in the future and I wish you all the best. I know I leave you in good hands with a solid city staff in place," she said. Nemer was recently named Municipal Clerk of the Year by the Lone Star Chapter of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association. She earned certification through the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification program at the University of North Texas, and is one of only 19 clerks/city secretaries in Texas to hold a master municipal clerk certificate through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. The Council will be asked to formally accept her resignation at their July 3 meeting. Nemer leaves the City with mixed emotions. "I will always hold a special place in my heart for Murphy and treasure my time here," she said.

## SAVE THE DATE



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| Game # | Game Name / Odds                                      | \$   | Official Close of Game | End Validations Date |
|--------|---|------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1359   | <b>\$250,000 Bingo</b><br>Overall Odds are 1 in 3.14  | \$10 | 07/06/12               | 01/02/13             |
| 1431   | <b>\$100,000 Riches</b><br>Overall Odds are 1 in 3.83 | \$5  | 07/14/12               | 01/10/13             |
| 1253   | <b>Spicy Hot 7's</b><br>Overall Odds are 1 in 4.73    | \$2  | 08/29/12               | 02/25/13             |
| 1351   | <b>Bonus Cashword</b><br>Overall Odds are 1 in 3.44   | \$3  | 08/29/12               | 02/25/13             |
| 1362   | <b>Sweet Cash</b><br>Overall Odds are 1 in 4.24       | \$1  | 08/29/12               | 02/25/13             |
| 1372   | <b>Cash Blast</b><br>Overall Odds are 1 in 3.42       | \$5  | 08/29/12               | 02/25/13             |
| 1393   | <b>Spades</b><br>Overall Odds are 1 in 4.71           | \$1  | 08/29/12               | 02/25/13             |
| 1395   | <b>Spin 3</b><br>Overall Odds are 1 in 4.45           | \$2  | 08/29/12               | 02/25/13             |



For detailed odds and game information, visit [txlottery.org](http://txlottery.org) or call 1-800-37LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas Education. © 2012 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.



## Flower Mound athletes win TollTag Triathlon in Lewisville

More than 120 people competed in the inaugural TollTag Triathlon, held June 17 at Toyota of Lewisville Railroad Park. The event, organized by the Greater Lewisville Kiwanis Club, raised more than \$7,000 for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Denton County.

"We were pleased to raise a sizeable donation for CASA, and that was only possible because of our wonderful event sponsors," said Kiwanis spokeswoman Donna Barron.

This timed sprint-style event included a 500-meter open swim, 11-mile bike segment, and 3.1-mile run. The field consisted of 87 men and 40 women, with racers from Flower Mound posting the top times among both men and women. Cole Fugate completed the course in 56 minutes and nine seconds to claim the men's title. Mallory Tyler finished in 1:18:11 to place as the top woman. Both crossed the finish line more than 90 seconds ahead of their nearest competitors.

"An event like the TollTag Triathlon is valuable to the city because it showcases our park and brings visitors to Lewisville," said City Councilman R. Neil Ferguson.

Sponsors of the TollTag Triathlon were North Texas Tollway Authority, ProTow Wrecker, Bicycles Plus, Mixed Media Creations,



Texas-New Mexico Power and LPL Financial Services. Production services for the race were provided by Dallas-

based Playtri Racing. The City of Lewisville provided on-site support for the event.

"I support community events such as this one because it showcases a phenomenal park, brings visitors to our community and provides funding for CASA - an agency that helps many children in Denton County," said ProTow owner Mike Green.

### 2012 TollTag Triathlon Official Results Men

|    |                              |         |
|----|------------------------------|---------|
| 1  | Cole Fugate, Flower Mound    | 56:09   |
| 2  | Aaron Patel, Fort Worth      | 57:51   |
| 3  | Jon Meyers, Dallas           | 58:27   |
| 4  | Zachary Terrell, Burleson    | 59:55   |
| 5  | Archie Salters, Denton       | 59:57   |
| 6  | Sergio Ramirez, Frisco       | 1:01:42 |
| 7  | Austin Ullrich, Dallas       | 1:02:24 |
| 8  | Phil Ecob, Dallas            | 1:02:29 |
| 9  | Zac Sartin, Dallas           | 1:02:48 |
| 10 | Miles Dunning, Oklahoma City | 1:02:53 |

### Women

|    |                              |         |
|----|------------------------------|---------|
| 1  | Mallory Tyler, Flower Mound  | 1:18:11 |
| 2  | Brenna Farren, Dallas        | 1:19:53 |
| 3  | Jenn Bodnar, Plano           | 1:20:20 |
| 4  | Sandy Haras, Roanoke         | 1:21:47 |
| 5  | Michelle Beckley, Carrollton | 1:22:42 |
| 6  | Alicia Loran, Allen          | 1:23:37 |
| 7  | Denise Flint, Flower Mound   | 1:23:48 |
| 8  | Laura Hatfield, Wylie        | 1:24:10 |
| 9  | Katie O'Grady, Argyle        | 1:25:43 |
| 10 | Haley Smith, Allen           | 1:26:21 |

## Technology Consortium Partners with Cedar Valley College for \$565,363 job-training grant



TWC Commissioner Ronny Congleton (far left) presents a \$565,363 Skills Development Fund grant check to representatives from Cedar Valley College and the partnership businesses. Pictured left to right: TWC Commissioner Congleton; Dionna Burkins, The McGraw-Hill Companies; Brenda Jaquez, The McGraw-Hill Companies; Connie Martinez, Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas; Dr. Jennifer Wimbish, President of Cedar Valley College; Larry Hall, Qnet Information Services; Faye Siggers, The Paper Plate Inc.; State Rep. Helen Giddings; Sam Pierre-Auguste, Qnet Information Services; Gregory Wright, Nsync Services Inc.; and Barbara Wright, Nsync Services, Inc. Photo courtesy Cedar Valley College

A technology consortium has partnered with Cedar Valley College to provide job training using a \$565,363 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The businesses partnering in the grant

include The Wilkins Group Inc., Qnet Information Services, Nsync Services Inc., The Paper Plate Inc. and The McGraw-Hill Companies.

The grant will be used to custom train 461 new and incumbent workers in cabling in-

stallations, computer applications, project and sales management, and safety in order to increase employees' skills and expand the businesses' customer base. Course training includes lean management, data-

See COLLEGE, Page 11

## Family Promise celebrates grand opening with ribbon cutting

Over 60 people attended the Grand Opening of Family Promise of Irving, a faith-based nonprofit ministry that supports families who are experiencing homelessness as they search for new jobs, undergo job training, and obtain permanent housing. The new location officially opened their doors on May 13 and received their first family on June 13.

The ministry is affiliated with the nationwide Family Promise, which began in New York City in



1986. 80% of the families who complete the program have secured permanent housing. Their mission is to provide a safe environ-

ment in which families can stay together and give the assistance they need to become self-sufficient.

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## Commissioner Elba Garcia attends ribbon cutting for Parkland community facility

On June 22, Dallas County Commissioner Elba Garcia joined Grand Prairie Mayor Charles England, members of the Grand Prairie City Council, the Parkland Hospital Board and other elected officials at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new E. Carlyle Smith, Jr. Health Center in Grand Prairie.

The new 33,000 square



Commissioner Elba Garcia

foot health clinic was a joint project between Parkland Hospital and the City of Grand Prairie, and is the 12th community oriented primary care clinic opened and operated by Parkland in Dallas County. The state of the art health center is expected to handle over 40,000 patient visits annually. The clinic will be open to serve patients on July 2, 2012.

## City of Dallas Community Emergency Response Team To Participate In 'Formidable Footprint' Tornado Exercise

The City of Dallas Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) - sponsored by the Dallas Office of Emergency Management will join over 300 Community Emergency Response Teams, Neighborhood Associations, Disaster Animal Response Teams and local governments along

with community and faith-based organizations from across the United States that are participating in the Formidable Footprint - A National Neighborhood Exercise beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 30. The three-hour tabletop event will focus on a tornado scenario and is part of an on-going series of

national disaster exercises. In the wake of recent tornado outbreaks, Dallas Office of Emergency Management and CERT officials noted the timely importance of the upcoming event.

"The severe storms and deadly tornadoes that continue to across the na-

See **TORNADO**, Page 10

## SUICIDES, continued from Page 1

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports Black women commit suicide at a rate of less than 3 per 100,000. On the opposite end of the spectrum, white males account for the highest number of suicides of any other group in the country. According to the CDC their suicide rate was 25.96 per 100,000 men from 2005 to 2009.

Experts are seeking in-

sight into how they handle adversity while facing challenges, by studying the behavioral patterns of Black women. Although this concept is an ambitious step in the right direction of assisting our soldiers, the same ambition faces a significant roadblock to success. Black women are molded from an early age to provide one another with emotional and spiritual support. While

this concept is not exclusive to Black women, it is a core value within the community. The idea the military can take aspects of Black female culture and "cut and paste" to fit their objective is perhaps optimistic to the point of being unrealistic.

Another factor not taken into account are the atrocities of war soldiers in combat face on a day-to-day basis. A soldier strug-

gling with the psychological issues of war is not comparable with the lives of Black women outside the military and it is a quite a stretch to compare the two groups.

Perhaps a better approach is to analyze the coping mechanisms utilized by former prisoners of war or studying the brain patterns of soldiers who have fared better psychologically after returning

home. This approach by experts would likely result in a more apples to apples comparison. Ultimately, the struggles faced by Black women and soldiers differ greatly.

Perhaps the military may derive a few key lessons by studying support amid the Black female community, but it may prove to be in vain as those characteristics might not translate as easily as they

hope. The history of Black people in America has shaped the women to assume the roles of serving as the backbone of their family and community.

While admirable of the government to recognize the strength of Black women, these qualities likely cannot be simply emulated because they represent a skill acquired over a lifetime.



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Paid for by Garcia for Congress



# Irving ISD honors eight at the District's First Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

BY: JACKIE HARDY,  
NDG CONTRIBUTING  
WRITER

On June 16, Irving Independent School District (IISD) held its first Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at Jack Singley Academy located at 4601 North MacArthur. According to Nancy Jones, Hall of Fame Committee Member, this was an initiative started by Superintendent Dr. Dana Bedden.

The event marks the first of many IISD will host as a part of their goal to honor and recognize the achievements of IISD athletes, coaches, administrators and other contributors throughout the history of the district's athletic programs. This year IISD chose to honor former football, wrestling and softball athletes, along with two coaches and one community member.

IISD created a Hall of Fame committee composed of seven members who met and reviewed the nominations.

"The choices were difficult because the stories were so inspiring. I believe the committee worked very hard on selecting candidates that represented the spirit of IISD through their out-

standing athletic accomplishments. Being that it was the first year, we did not receive an enormous amount of nominations and we expect that not to be the case moving forward," explained Jones.

The committee selected eight honorees as their inaugural group of inductees and the athletes included: Akin Ayodele; Cedric Colby; Alan Lowry; David Rose, and Deeanna Williams. Also honored were coaches Bob Harrell and Mike Farda, and Dick Lear a community member.

According to the IISD Hall of Fame committee, the eight honorees reflect the true meaning of competitiveness, sportsmanship, and drive to be an inspiration to the thousands of Irving ISD students involved in athletics every year.

"In Irving ISD, we've had a number of exceptional student athletes over the years. We are proud to recognize these eight athletes, coaches, and contributors. Part of the goal of the Hall of Fame is to connect the past with the now and build for the future," commented Dr. Dana Bedden, Superintendent.

During the ceremony, Athletic Director Joe Barnett and a family member

introduced each honoree. All inductees received a Hall of Fame plaque and jacket with the IISD Hall of Fame logo. Plaques will be displayed at the high school where each athlete played, in addition to the Irving ISD Athletic Office. IISD officials indicated the district will eventually erect a Wall of Honor at Irving Schools Stadium showcasing individual plaques in their honor.

"We look forward to inducting more deserving nominees in years to come. A good portion of the community has deep roots here in Irving and it was great to see all the supporters of the district come out and congratulate all the inductees who've made a difference in Irving ISD," stated Bedden.

"Besides my family and my kids this was the greatest highlight of my life. We are the first ones and they can never take that away from us," adds David Rose, former football player for Irving High School and 2012 Hall of Fame recipient.

For information on how to nominate someone for next year, visit IISD's website at [www.irvingisd.net](http://www.irvingisd.net) then choose the Athletic menu page.



Akin Ayodele



Cedric Colby - Athlete



Mike Farda - Coach



Bob Harrell  
Coach and Athletic Director



Dick Lear  
Community Support



Alan Lowry - Athlete

Akin was an all area football player for the MacArthur Cardinals in the late 1990's. He played collegiately at Purdue University where he an All Big Ten selection and was twice named Big Ten Player of the Week, as well as receiving the team's Kiwanis Citizenship Award. In 2002 Akin was drafted by the Jacksonville Jaguars and played in the National Football League for several teams. Besides Jacksonville, he also played for the Dallas Cowboys, Miami Dolphins and the Buffalo Bills. He has been recognized as Jacksonville's nominee for Walter Peyton Man of the Year, the Drew Brees Mental Toughness Award and Miami's Community Co-Man of the Year. Akin continues to support MacArthur High School by sponsoring annual scholarships to MacArthur graduates and by speaking at the MacArthur Senior Breakfast each year.

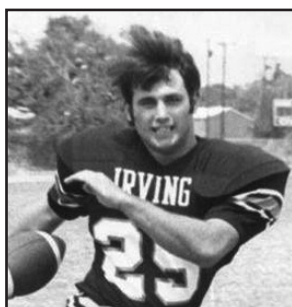
Cedric was captain of the highly ranked MacArthur wrestling teams which captured back to back state championships in 1996 and 1997. After suffering a life threatening injury, Cedric returned to the mat to lead the Cardinals to their first state championship. He had a record of 48-2 and was state champion his junior year. His senior year he returned and posted a 51-0 season, capped off by another state championship. He was named the Outstanding Wrestler in the State of Texas. He later wrestled for Brigham Young University.

Coach Farda led the Nimitz Viking football team for twenty-six years. During his tenure the Vikings qualified for the playoffs eleven times and won 159 games and several district championships. He won many Coach of the Year honors and the football/soccer field at Nimitz is named Coach Mike Farda Field in his honor. In addition to being head football coach, he served as the Nimitz athletic coordinator and oversaw the development of many outstanding programs at Nimitz. Coach Farda passed away in 2010.

After coming to Irving High as head football coach in 1961, Bob Harrell led the Tigers to the 1962 district championship, which included a stunning victory over defending state champion Wichita Falls High School, which had not lost a district game in seven years. He then served Irving ISD as Athletic Director for the next sixteen years. He oversaw the openings of MacArthur High School and Nimitz High School while serving in that capacity. He also served our country during World War II. Coach Harrell passed away in 2002.

No one exemplifies support for Irving ISD more than Dick Lear. He has supported youth as well as high school activities for many years. He has helped numerous teams with fundraisers and has employed countless students in his Sonic Restaurants. He has been more than generous in his support of teams all over the City of Irving. He remains active in his support of the students and programs in Irving ISD.

Alan was a standout athlete at Irving High in the late 60's. He went on to an outstanding playing career at the University of Texas and helped lead the Longhorns to the 1970 National Championship and three Southwest Conference Championships. Alan went on to a stellar coaching career that continues today. He coached at several universities and several teams in the National Football League. NFL teams he coached include the Dallas Cowboys. He is still active as a coach with the Tennessee Titans.



David Rose - Athlete



Deeanna Williams - Athlete

David was an outstanding running back for Irving High School from 1974 to 1976. He earned all City, All Metro and All Greater Dallas awards, while playing for the Tigers. He had 5 games in which he rushed for over 200 yards. He held the IISD rushing record until 1999. David also spent many years coaching IBFA teams and was instrumental in the careers of many future Irving ISD football players. He remains active in the Nimitz High School Booster Club

Deeanna was a three year letter winner in volleyball and softball at Nimitz High School during the 1996-1998 seasons. She was an outstanding catcher as well as going undefeated as a high school pitcher. She hit the home run that sent the Lady Vikes to the state tournament her senior year. She went on to play softball at Navarro College and at the University of Texas. She led the Lady Longhorns to the Big XII Championship and broke several University of Texas records.



## The Kolajé with Ava hosting launch parties for new radio show

Dallas native Ava Pickles-Traylor is ready to let the world know her radio show – *The Kolajé with Ava* – is the place to go to listen to and discuss the hottest topics in lifestyle, news and entertainment.

Traylor is hosting three parties this weekend at venues around Dallas to help spread the word about her two-hour show, which airs on the Internet's Fishbowl Network, 1 - 3 p.m. every Saturday (<http://www.fbrn.us/ava.html>).

Here are the details for this weekend's events:

- 10 p.m. – until on June 28 at the Club Iniquity, 10821 Composite Drive, Dallas. Call 972-323-1100 to get information about prices.

- 7 – 10 p.m. on June 29 at Absinthe Lounge, 1409 S. Lamar Street, in Dallas

- 6 – 10 p.m., June 30 at the Brickhouse Lounge, 2525 E. Arkansas Lane in Arlington; \$10 cover charge after 8 p.m. for men and after 9 p.m. for ladies.

"We're bringing some local flava to Dallas and reaching a global audience," said Traylor, a single mother

of two and a project manager for a major telecommunications firm. "We're not just another radio show."

Over the past two months, Traylor has hosted shows on such hot topics as open relationships, should women be privileged to use a man's last name, and a tribute to the nation's soldiers.

For more information about the radio show and the launch parties, go to Traylor's Facebook page or contact her at [thekolajewithava@gmail.com](mailto:thekolajewithava@gmail.com) or 972-891-5023.

## NDG Gossip: Is J. Lo's boyfriend gay?

BY KENDRIA BROWN,  
NDG INTERN

Ain't it funny how you can be with one of the most beautiful women in the world, and still manage to mess it up! This never ceases to amaze me.

The lovely J. Lo has more than beauty and body, in which she has her career and money to show for it. She may not have any problem getting men, but the their behavior in the relationship is a different thing.

J. Lo's recent boyfriend, Casper Smart, is accused of being gay. That's right, gay.

You would think someone like J. Lo would turn even a gay man straight.

Smart is alleged to be using Ms. J. Lo for her fame and fortune.

These accusations are coming from Joshua Lee Ayers, who has worked with Casper. Ayers has tweeted about Casper's homosexuality and gold-digging ways with Lopez. Ayers provided a photo of Casper at least feeding into the perception of homosexual tendencies.

Casper is said to be a closet homosexual after J. Lo for the glamor and

money of the Hollywood life. This sounds like one two many divas in charge.

Lopez and the younger Smart have been together for less than a year.

And although there were rebuttals about Smart being gay, a picture is worth a thousand words. You be the judge.

Is there an envious Ayers who makes these claims, or is the picture really proof of Casper's alleged homosexuality. Furthermore, how should J. Lo respond? Tell me your thoughts.

## Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter blends history and grotesque in this thriller!

BY KENDRIA BROWN,  
NDG INTERN

Benjamin Walker plays Abraham Lincoln in *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter* a twisted portrait of the 16th U.S. president's life. The film accounts for a

While out trying to avenge his mother's death, Lincoln learns the perpetrator who killed her is a vampire. They ensue in a deadly battle which almost succumbs Lincoln, until he is rescued by Henry Sturgess (Dominic Cooper).

Even while serving the presidency, Lincoln is actively seeking out vampires for death, while trying to secure the national freedom issues presented in this 19th century context. Lincoln's childhood friend, William Johnson (Anthony Mackie), contributes to defeat of the vampires encountered in this horrific and gruesome thriller.

If you are into the whole gory, gruesome, blood-sucking behavior of vampires, then this film is for you. You may find that the horror in this film is the only reason why you are engaged in the film and enticed to know the outcome.

Viewing in 3-D may at least make the film interest-

ing, especially if you find it mediocre.

Other than that, there a bunch of vampires being hunted and strategies employed to kill them off. However the historical themes woven into the plot

does not add to the vigorous nature of the vampires. The vampires, what you could say, give life to the movie.

I would give these movie 2 out of 5 stars. I would recommend it to

someone who would like to see former US president Abe Lincoln casted in a different light and being known for something other than his "freeing of slaves" - his secret vampire life.



young orphaned Abraham Lincoln who through extensive training, grows to be a vampire hunter.

Sturgess trains Lincoln to kill vampires, and so his journey to hunt them begins.

## TORNADO, continued from Page 8

tion and our local area illustrate the ongoing need to be prepared and practiced before the next warnings are posted," said Cassandra Wallace of the Dallas Office of Emergency Management. "The Formidable Footprint series gives the Dallas CERT program an opportunity to test and review our capabilities so we can support

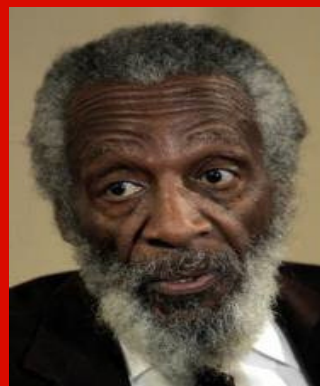
our community should dangerous weather strike."

The Formidable Footprint series of neighborhood exercises are specifically designed for local organizations such as Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Fire Corps and faith / community based organizations that work to support the disaster caused needs

of community and neighborhood residents during and following a disaster.

The internet-based training is free of charge and all community-based groups are welcome to participate. For additional exercise and registration information please go to: [www.FormidableFootprint.org](http://www.FormidableFootprint.org)

## SAVE THE DATES



**Dick Gregory's  
80<sup>th</sup>**

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**[www.dontbelievethehype.org](http://www.dontbelievethehype.org)**



## DFW Non-Profits to receive funding through 'Like My Community' Facebook campaign

Liberty Mutual Insurance, one of the nation's leading auto and home insurers with eight Dallas-Fort Worth offices, on Monday launched the return of its 'Like My CommunityTM Project.' This is a Facebook-based campaign to provide \$100,000 in support to local Dallas-Fort Worth non-profit causes. Seven organizations identified by Liberty Mutual's local employees will vie for residents' votes on Facebook, with the top three charities each receiving \$30,000 and the four runners-up each earning \$2,500. Dallas-Fort Worth residents can cast one vote daily for their favorite causes from June 25 through August 20 at facebook.com/libertydallas. An additional daily vote can be cast by texting "LMDAL" to 61698 and selecting the preferred cause. Liberty Mutual will announce the winners in late August.

This marks the second year Liberty Mutual Insurance has presented the Like My Community Project in Dallas-Fort Worth. In 2011, area residents chose the following organizations to receive \$30,000 in funding from Liberty Mutual Insurance:

Mary Crowley Cancer Research Centers, The Miracle League of Frisco, and The Samaritan Inn. Last year's runners-up, each earning \$2,500, were Big Thought, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind and Family Resource Center of North Texas. This year's seven non-profit nominees are new to the Like My Community Project.

The Liberty Mutual Dallas-Fort Worth area branch offices nominated this year's causes for their tremendous impact on the local community. "Our local Liberty Mutual employees and agents are committed to helping customers protect their cars and homes, and are equally passionate about this community as a great place to live and work," said Jeremy Hohn, area manager for Liberty Mutual Insurance, the nation's eighth-largest auto and home insurer. "The Like My Community Project received overwhelming support from the Dallas-Fort Worth community last year, and we look forward to raising awareness of these inspiring causes and engaging with the local residents to provide much needed funds to support their programs and services."

grams and services."

Large, three-dimensional Facebook "Like" buttons have been installed at four locations across the Metroplex to promote the campaign and to prominently identify the nominated Like My Community causes. The installations are located at the Allen Premium Outlets; Firewheel Town Center in Garland; the North East Mall in Hurst; and the Stonebriar Mall in Frisco.

Each of these worthy organizations also are featured in a short video on the Like My Community Dallas Facebook page, offering a behind-the-scenes look at each cause and the people they serve or missions they accomplish.

Dallas-Fort Worth Like My Community nominees include:

- Family Gateway – Provides transitional housing and comprehensive services to families with children in Dallas County experiencing homelessness.

- Frisco Family Services – Serves the families and individuals of Frisco and surrounding areas by providing a safety-net to support their independence.

- Heroes for Children – Provides financial and social

assistance to families with battling cancer, to help relieve strain and stress during this difficult time in their lives.

- Jonathan's Place – Provides safe, loving homes and specialized services for children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected.

- North Texas Food Bank – Distributes donated, purchased and prepared foods through a network of 1,000 feeding programs in 13 North Texas counties.

- This Side Up Family Center – Aims to strengthen the family unit through intentional fun, connection and education at one great location.

- Wilkinson Center – A poverty rescue and prevention agency for the working poor that offers hope, inspiration, and the basic necessities and tools to empower its clients to become self-sufficient and improve their lives.

More than 100 Liberty Mutual sales and customer service agents serve the auto and home insurance needs of greater Dallas-Fort Worth residents from eight local offices in Arlington, Las Colinas, Frisco, Highland Village, Keller, McKinney, Plano and Rowlett.

## NNPA joins the #INTHEBLACK efforts to highlight Black spending power

BET Networks has partnered with several organizations including National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), HuffPost BlackVoices, Black Enterprise, Burrell Communications, Essence Communications, GlobalHue, Inner City Broadcasting Corporation, KJLH Radio, Johnson Publishing Company, National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters, Nielsen, Radio One, TV One, Reach Media, Steve Harvey Radio, TheGrio, and The Root to create a history making black media and marketing consortium.

The consortium is launching a revolutionary #INTHEBLACK campaign to encourage increased investments in the African American consumer marketplace while helping companies reach the African American audience more effectively.

The consortium will use its collective resources and strength to speak to the advertising community and

consumer audience to raise awareness and create a sense of urgency around the economic opportunity the black consumer segment presents. African American media has the unique ability to reach the African American consumer base directly and is an important resource in identifying and establishing trends within the black community. #INTHEBLACK aims to amplify the value of engaging African Americans through black targeted media and agencies.

African Americans represent over 42 million strong consumers, product talkers and brand influencers with a buying power of nearly one trillion dollars annually. By 2015, African American buying power is estimated to gain by 35 percent hitting \$1.2 trillion, up from \$913 billion in 2008.

African Americans are mega consumers beating out all other ethnic groups in the consumption of auto-

See POWER, Page 15

## Irving hosting small business forum in August

The Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce has been selected by the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism to host the Governor's 2012 North Texas Small Business Forum on August 2 at the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas.

The Governor's North Texas Small Business Forum will provide a series of seminars with a focus on helping small businesses grow their revenues; as well as, a business expo and networking opportunities with business leaders.

Baseball legend and current CEO & President of the Texas Rangers, Nolan Ryan, will discuss his experiences as an entrepreneur, baseball player and club owner as the keynote speaker at the Forum's luncheon. Chuck Morgan, Senior Vice-President of Ballpark Entertainment, and public address announcer for the Texas Rangers Baseball Club, will join Ryan to facilitate an interview during the Forum.

"The Chamber is incredibly honored to have been selected by the Governor's Office to host this year's Forum,"

Chris Wallace, President and CEO of the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber said. "I would like to thank Citi for their Platinum Sponsorship, whose support has allowed the region's small businesses to obtain world class training at minimal cost. There are other sponsorship opportunities available, including booths in the business expo for businesses who want to be a part of this great event."

Steve LaFredo, a Director of Business Banking for Citi stated, "We are proud to be a part of this event that will help

the businesses in our community thrive. At Citi, we are committed to growing our communities through support of small and medium-sized businesses."

The Small Business Forum is a joint program of the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism, the Texas Workforce Commission and the local host organization. You may register to sponsor or attend the August 2nd Forum by clicking the link below or visiting the Chamber's website calendar at [www.irvingchamber.com](http://www.irvingchamber.com).

## COLLEGE, continued from Page 7

base marketing and sales strategy. Those trained will include customer service representatives, distribution associates, and telecommunications equipment installers and repairers. Upon completion of training, the workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$18.19.

"Our Skills Development Fund grants serve everyone well," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "Workers get the specialized training they need and the communities benefit from a more highly skilled workforce."

From the program's inception in 1996 through 2011, Skills Development Fund grants have created or upgraded more than 266,000 jobs throughout Texas. The grants have assisted 3,790 employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature appropriated

\$48.5 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2012-13 biennium. Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC website at <http://skills.texas-workforce.org>.

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## Community Calendar

Visit [www.NorthDallasGazette.com](http://www.NorthDallasGazette.com) and click on *Community Calendar* for more events!

**Through September 23**  
**Sandy Lake Amusement Park** in Carrollton. Admission is \$2 and children under 3 years old is free (see family coupon for free admission online) and coupons for rides are \$.50. Info: sandylake.com

**Through September 9**  
**The Magic School Bus Kicks up a Storm** at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park at 10:30 a.m.; Book readings are on June 23 (Ms. Fizzle appearance), September 1, and September 8; Admission is \$7-\$10; Info: 214.428.5555

**Through September 14**  
**Shark Feedings** on Wednesday and Friday at 11 a.m. at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428.5555

**Through September 15**  
**Shark Dissections** on Saturdays at 1 p.m. at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428.5555

**Through December 8**  
**New Life Skills Certificate program for African Women** each Saturday morning from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Audelia Branch Library located 10045 Audelia Rd. (at Church St.) in Dallas. Info: hellen.fissahaie5@gmail.com

**Through July 12**  
**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** at Wyly Theater [www.DallasTheaterCenter.org](http://www.DallasTheaterCenter.org)

**Through June 29**  
**Xtreme Response Camp** provides a hands-on look at public safety and disaster preparedness for ages 12-16. Cost is \$140 per child. Info: cityoflewisville.com or 972-219-5012

**June 29**  
**New Edition with El DeBarge** at Verizon Theatre in Grand Prairie at 8 p.m.; tickets starting at \$54; Info: axs.com

**Family Movie- Alvin & the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked** at Plano Public Library System- Parr Library, 6200 Windhaven Parkway in Plano at 2 p.m.; FREE; Info: 972.769.4300

**July 1**  
**Shark Conservation** at Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park - Learn why many shark species are in decline and what you can do to help ensure a bright future for one of the ocean's top predators.

**Shark Sunday:** Feeding Adaptations at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428.5555

**July 4**  
The Plano Symphony Orchestra along with the Plano Civic Chorus and the Patriotic Pops Chorus present this **4th of July concert** at 3 p.m. at the Eisemann Center for Performing Arts at 2351 Performance Drive, in Richardson. Info: 972-473-7262 or [plano-symphony.org](http://plano-symphony.org)

**July 6**  
**Ledisi R&B Performance** at the Majestic Theatre at 8 p.m. Info: Ticketmaster.com

**July 10-22**  
**Dallas Summer Musicals-Cathy Rigby is PETER PAN** at the Music Hall at Fair Park; Tickets \$15-\$75; Info: 214.413.3940

**July 12**  
**"The Resurrection of Harriet Tubman."** Lecturer and actor Melissa Waddy-Thibodeaux will give a live storytelling performance in which she will dramatically relate tales from the life of the famed African-American abolitionist, Union spy and Underground Railroad operator. 6:30 p.m. at Lewisville Public Library

**July 13**  
**Silver Rail** is a variety band performing 7 - 9 p.m. at Firewheel Town Center in Garland

**July 14-15**  
**Discovery Days: Discover Underwater Worlds** at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428.5555

**July 22**  
**Shark Sunday: Shark Stewards Texas** at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428.5555

**July 23**  
**Greater Highlands AARP Chapter 3881 meeting** at 9:30 a.m. at Lake Highlands United Methodist Church located at 9015 Plano Road, Dallas.

**July 27**  
**Ken Savage & the Best Kept Secret:** From the Ides of March in the 70's, to the current Tower of Power - a great horn section has always added excitement to any great rock song. If you like classic R&B and great Funk-you should the show 7 - 9 p.m. at Firewheel Town Center in Garland

**July 29**  
**Nicki Minaj Pink Friday Tour** at Verizon Theatre at Grand Prairie at 7:30 p.m.; All ages; tickets starting at \$80; Info: axs.com

**American Idol Live! Tour 2012** at American Airlines Center at 7 p.m.; Info: 214-221-8326

**August 1 - 12**  
**Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus: Fully Charged** at American Airlines Center. Ticket are \$15 - \$100 at [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com)

**August 3**  
**Six of the Matter:** A taste of everything. If you enjoy country, classic rock, current hits, dance/ disco, get ready to party 7 - 9 p.m. at Firewheel Town Center in Garland

**August 5**  
**Life in the Deep Ocean** at Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park part of Shark exhibition - Dive to the darkest depths of the oceans to discover the animals that call this strange world home.

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## HUNTER, continued from Page 2

from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and her Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

Kelly Davis, UT Arlington's Vice President for Business Affairs and Controller, said Hunter will be an excellent resource for stu-

dents.

"We are fortunate to have Shakeela on our team, and we look forward to working with her to offer our students support in managing the costs of their college education."

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### July 5, Noon

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

### July 7, 7:30 a.m.

Join us for our Ladies Prayer & Breakfast meeting at the IHOP, 933 N. Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75075. Come fasting, if you can, and have a thirst for righteousness. Everyone is welcome. For details call Sis. Misty Rockwell at 214-244-1142 or Sis. Deadra Pete at 469-667-5865

**Brother Ramon Hodridge,**  
Minister  
1026 Avenue F  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-8833  
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

## BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

### July 8, 9:35 a.m.

You're invited to our Sunday School at 9:35 a.m. and to stay for Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

### July 11, 7 p.m.

Come to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word and help us to praise and worship His holy name.

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

## CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

### July 11, 7:30 p.m.

Come to Bible Study as we go further in and deeper down into God's Word and we give Him all of the glory and praise.

### July 14, 11 a.m.

Ladies you are invited to our Women of Wisdom meeting as we study and discuss God's Word. Call the church for details.

**Dr. Terrence Autry, Senior Pastor**  
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 that are in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567 or they may be submitted via email to: prayerline@theship3c.org

### July 1 & 8, 9:30 a.m.

Join us and experience the joy of praising and worshipping God to the fullest at Story Elementary School, 1550 Edelweiss Drive, Allen, TX. We will praise God for His blessings.

### July 11, 7 p.m.

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

**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"

### July 1, 6 p.m.

Join us for the J. Lee Foster Choir's FREE Concert featuring the Instruments of Praise, the Angels of Praise and others as we praise and worship God and encourage saints of God. John 4:23

**Dr. Gregory Foster, Senior Pastor**  
300 Phillips Street  
Richardson, TX 75081  
972-235-4235  
www.fbchp.org

## ROCKBRIDGE CHURCH

### July 1 & 8

Join us in Prayer with Pastor at 8:30 a.m. and stay for Worship Celebration at 10 a.m.

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

## SAINT MARK MBC IN MCKINNEY

### July 1 & 8, 9:30 a.m.

Join us in our Education Ministries, stay for our Worship Celebration at 10:45 a.m.; and you're invited to join us for our Friends and Family Day as we fellowship, worship and praise God.

### July 14, 12 p.m.

All Senior Citizens are invited to our Double Nickel (55 and above) Luncheon @ the Newsome Center on Amscott 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, (July 13th 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

### July 1 & 8, 8 a.m. And 11 a.m.

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

### July 11, 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

### July 1 & 8, 7:30 a.m.

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

### July 2 & 9, 7 p.m.

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

**Pastor Rickie Rush**  
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www.ibocjoy.org

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## WORD OF LIFE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

### Early Prayer

Join us in prayer early in the morning at 5 a.m. on Monday – Thursday at 1-661-673-8600, Code # 142219 and please put your phone on mute. Prayer will change people, things and situations.

### July 1 & 8, 9:30 a.m.

Join us for Sunday School with Minister Greg Mason and teachers for the adult class and for the children class; then stay for Morning Worship at 11 a.m. as we honor and praise God for His goodness.

### July 3 & 5, 7:30 p.m.

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

### July 10 & 12, 7:30 p.m.

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

**Dr. Gregory E. Voss, Senior Pastor**  
2765 Trinity Mills Road  
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1550 Edelweiss Drive  
Allen, TX 75002  
9:30 AM

Wednesday Night  
Live Service  
200 Belmont Drive  
Allen, TX 75013  
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Tarpley**

"And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: **1 Kings 19:11. (KJV)**

"I don't believe that God is in it," I was told by a friend. A situation had arisen in which a friend of ours was about to engage in something she felt that God was leading her into. Later, the truth of the situation was revealed and our friend made a bad mistake. God was not in it.

Elijah was in a crisis in his ministry. God had just corrected him about his perspective of his situation. If any man needed a touch from God, it was Elijah because he was in such distress he wanted to die.

The Lord intervened and told Elijah that He was coming to talk to him. However, God did not tell Elijah how He was going to reveal Himself. It was up to Elijah to tell whether God was in the situation that was about to take place:

"And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?" **1 Kings 19:12 & 13 (KJV).**

We often think God is in our grand projects only to discover that He is not. We may also assume because of the success or visibility of a situation that God is in it. He may, in fact, be in the project. However, God's ways are not always highly visible. Sometimes He chooses to

come in the soft, gentle whisper. It is sometimes difficult to recognize it as the Lord because He shows Himself in such subtle ways.

As Christians we need to be able to discern when God is actually a part of our situation. Only then can we avoid being deceived in thinking God is not behind our projects. Ask God for wisdom in knowing when He is involved in it.

God's Word gives us so much enlightenment and precious promises that we may trust and cling to. John 12:26 (KJV) states, "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."

Ask God to lift up our Christian brothers and sisters in Christ who are so faithful to follow Him in countries where they are persecuted for doing so. God has promised to honor them for believing in Him and standing in faith. Pray



*Mr. & Mrs. Ismael (Maria) Herrera with their 1st grandchild, Ismael*

that He will meet their every need. Pray for their peace beyond understanding; for good health; for basic life needs of food, clothing, and shelter; for fellowship with other Christians; for protection from harm and evil; for opportunities to share the Gospel and witness God's love in action; for the op-

portunity to read His Word; for happiness; for strength for the weak; for healing for the wounded; for a special touch upon their lives as their very lives are often in danger because they are Christians.

God loves these precious people and as Christians our heart should ache over the things they have

suffered and face daily. Ask God to carry them in the shelter of His power, of His love, and His protection. May the blood of Jesus cover them, cover us all, and keep us for that wonderful day of redemption to which we look forward. Pray for God's church to live and prosper in every land.

## Marvin Winans featured guest at celebration

The public is invited to join attend the celebration of Installation for Mother Pia Haynes Williams as the 6th Jurisdictional Supervisor, Department of Women Texas Northeast First Ecclesias-

tical Jurisdiction. The events will be held at Saintsville Church of God in Christ at 2200 S. Marsalis Ave. on Monday, June 25 - Sunday, July 1.

On Monday night at 7:30 p.m. the featured



speaker is Pastor Marvin L. Winans. Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. Mother Willie Mae Rivers will serve as the International Supervisor officiating and Installation Speaker.

The celebration con-

tinues on Thursday night at 7:30 p.m.- Guest Speaker Bishop Charles E. Blakes Sr. He is the Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle of the Church of God in Christ, Inc.

Finally on Sunday at 3:30 p.m., the speaker is Presiding Bishop J. Neaul Haynes of Texas Northeast 1st Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and General Board Member of COGIC, Inc.

## POWER, continued from Page 11

mobiles, wine and spirits, baby care products, groceries, health and beauty products, personal care products, apparel, electronics, movies and travel and entertainment.

African Americans are crucial to the consumer economy and their sphere of influence is growing rapidly:

With buying power of nearly one trillion annually, if African Americans were a country, they would represent the 16th largest economy in the world (slightly smaller than Canada but larger than Australia) - Nielsen 2011 State of the African American Consumer

Between 2000-2009,

African American homes have experienced significant growth among households earning \$75,000+ (up 63.9%) and households earning \$100,000+ (up 88.7%) - Nielsen 2011 State of the African American Consumer

Nearly one out of every seven babies born in the United States are of African American descent - National Center for Health Statistics based on CDC's National Vital Statistics 2010

There are 1,702 African American babies born daily; more than half a million AA babies (623,029 babies) join our population every year - Source: US Census Statistical Ab-

stracts- Live Births, Birth Rates and Fertility Rates.

Every hour on the hour, there are 71 African American babies entering the world's population- Source: US Census Statistical Abstracts- Live Births, Birth Rates and Fertility Rates.

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## NDG Bookshelf



By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
NDG Contributing Writer

Your best friend is the best listener in the whole world.

You can scream, cry, complain, and your bestie just sits there quietly and takes it all in. He doesn't give you advice you don't want, he never changes the subject, and if you talk about guys you like or teachers you don't, your secret is safe because your best friend would never share those things with anybody else, ever.

NDG BookShelf: This summer kids can enjoy learning *What the Dog Said*

In fact, your best friend doesn't say a word. That's because he's a dog.

But what would you do if he did start talking back? In the new book *What the Dog Said* by Randi Reisfeld (with HB Gilmour), a pooch learns to "Speak!" all too well.

Grace Abernathy absolutely could not understand how her sister, Regan, had moved on so easily. Didn't she care?

It wasn't all that long ago that Grace and Regan's father was killed while leaving work. Grace remembered rushing to the hospital like it was practically last night. It still hurt so much. So why was Regan planning for a happy future

without their dad?

Grace didn't know, but she was pretty sure that Regan's latest hair-brained idea would end up badly. Sixteen-year-old Regan heard that training a service dog might help with college admissions, but Grace figured that her older sister wouldn't follow through. She never did before.

At the shelter, Regan liked the fluffy white Malti-poo. She wanted a purse puppy, and Grace didn't much care. But when she heard a dirty, mangy pooch say, "Pick me," Grace couldn't believe her ears.

The dog talked!

Rex was his name and he was a scruffy mutt. His coat was wiry, his paws were huge,



and his tail was like a baseball bat but he seemed to like Grace, even if she didn't want him butting into her life. He only spoke to her (which made her doubt her sanity), he

snored, and there were times when he just wouldn't stop yakking. Still, his hearing was good, which came in handy when spying on others.

But training a service dog means that you have to let him go eventually, which was another loss Grace could barely stand to think about. She needed Rex to stick around. She was starting to like what the furball had to say.

And then Rex stopped saying...

There's no way around it: "What the Dog Said" is awfully darn cute.

Author Randi Reisfeld gives young readers with pets what they want: a dog that actually talks back, without any-

body having to pretend that he does. I loved Rex; he made me laugh, but the real appeal is his relationship with the vulnerable heroine of this book, 13-year-old Grace. The sweet and grief-stricken young character will steal your heart as she both warms it, and breaks it in two.

If the same old summer reading fare makes you want to flea, then here's a book you'll need to collar. For 12-to-18-year-old dog lovers and teens who crave a good story, *What the Dog Said* is something to fetch.

*What the Dog Said* by Randi Reisfeld, with HB Gilmour (Bloomsbury Kids, \$16.99, 242 pages)

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Evening Worship ..... 3:00 pm  
Wednesday Bible Class ..... 7:00 pm

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THURSDAY  
7:00 PM  
FRIDAY  
7:00 PM  
SATURDAY  
7:00 PM

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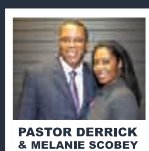
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