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CBC members oppose legislation aimed at minorities, unbanked consumers

By Charlene Crowell
At the urging of veteran Michigan Congressman John H. Conyers, a growing number of Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) colleagues are actively opposing a bill that would negatively impact consumers of color and others who lack a

personal bank account. Moreover, the bill, HR 6139 would also remove the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) from its current enforcement authority over non-bank lenders and additionally preempt state laws enacted to protect consumers.

Joining Cong. Conyers in vocal opposition are Members of Congress representing minority-majority districts. In a September 14 letter to the full House, Conyers, along with Representatives Hansen Clarke (Detroit), Elijah Cummings (Baltimore), Delegate Ele-

anor Holmes Norton (DC), Barbara Lee, (Oakland), Charles Rangel (New York City) and Bobby Rush (Chicago) spoke directly to the effort to establish a two-tiered financial regulatory system.

See CBC, Page 4

The facts about 2012 Elections

As the headlines were filled for months about voting redistricting and voter ID laws (none of which is in place for this election), many voters are confused as we approach the elections.

The November general election will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 6. Voters did not have to vote in the May

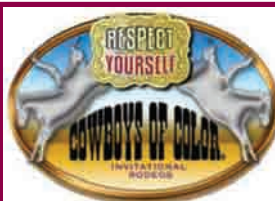
29, 2012 primary election in order to qualify to vote in the general election on Nov. 6, 2012. Whether you voted or not in the primary, you may vote for whomever you choose in November.

The deadline to register to vote has passed it was Tuesday, Oct. 9. However, you can visit the Texas Sec-

retary of State website and confirm you are properly registered and where you should go to vote.

When it is all said and done, do not pay attention to the "noise" of TV experts and pundits. Do your own research and get to the facts to find out the real is-

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Dallas Fan Days expands, makes changes to growing show

This month's Dallas Fan Days expands to three days to better accommodate its growing fan base and give attendees more choices. With actor Bruce Campbell topping the media list and comic book legend Stan Lee leading the artists' roster, the show will



Gina Torres

kick off at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19, and run through Sunday, Oct. 21, at the Irving Convention Center in Irving, Texas.

To protect customers from bad weather, outside lines will be routed through the center's covered garage, and an outdoor

food court in that area will ease congestion in the exhibit hall. A large influx of attendees at Dallas Comic Con in May caught organizers by surprise, but they hope these and other changes will alleviate some of the issues that resulted.

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COVER STORY

Latino voter registration 'in high gear' for Nov. 6 election



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Brandy featured in next episode of *The F Word*

For more information see pg. 10
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COMMENTARY

THE TRUTH CLINIC: Will style or substance elect America's next president?

BY JAMES BREEDLOVE
Latest news, politics, commentary, national

If the first presidential debate is any indicator it appears that the Nov. 6 election will be decided by style points and not issue substance.

A CNN headline blared, "Post Debate CNN Poll Has Romney With Landslide Win Over Obama 67% to 25%."

After reviewing the debate tape there is no doubt that Governor Mitt Romney was more ag-

gressive and stayed on the offensive as he continuously bulldozed over Moderator Jim Lehrer to attack President Barack Obama's performance over the past four years. Governor Romney definitely outdebated President Obama.

Clyde Prestowitz, a recognized expert on globalization, economic competitiveness and author of *Betrayal of American Prosperity* stated

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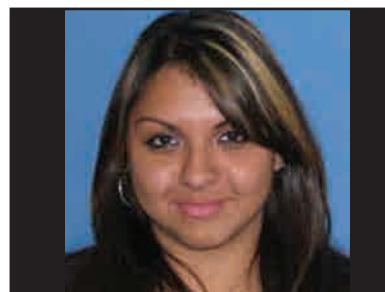
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People In The News...



Phillis T. Forrest



Jessika Lara



Dr. Maggie Johnson Richard

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Phillis T. Forrest

Through a Child's Eyes tells a true-life story that references the importance of protecting your child against sexual predators. Author Phillis T. Forrest opens her old wounds and shares a touching story in order to structure a guideline for single mothers in hopes to help them protect their children from sexual predators.

Through A Child's Eyes speaks on the process of a sexual predator that stalked and preyed his way into the author's life at the young age of seven. This nightmare began the day that her mother

broke her household rules that she put into place to protect the author and her siblings. The consequences of her actions allowed a complete stranger to abuse and manipulate the author over a period of 14 years that ultimately led to mothering two of his children.

Forrest comments, "I told my story because I wanted to show the world exactly how this man manipulated his way into my existence and to show mothers how this sort of situation can happen."

The story is written in a guideline format with plenty

of examples of the experiences that the author encountered each time the protection of her mother lessened. The story of the author is told to gain the credibility of her readers, which in turn shows them that the opposite of her mother's actions could have saved her from her nightmare.

In chapter 14, entitled "Mother's Let's Have a Conversation", the author breaks away from her story to have a heart-to-heart with mothers. The chapter touches on subjects that are often not discussed in the homes of sexually abused children. With subtitles such as: "Ripley's



Believe It Or Not", "Flipping the Script", and "Knowledge Is Power" (to name a few), the author begins to break

down the psychological awareness that parents need to become educated on when dealing with a child that has been preyed upon by a child molester.

"There are so many times that I have read a book and wished I could have had a conversation with the author to answer perplexing questions," says Forrest. Because of this, she has

given the public an opportunity to speak with her through her website (www.throughachildseyes290611.com), and scheduled radio talk show segments.

Forrest, mother of two girls, holds a dream to share her story with the world; in order to educate mothers, protect children, and help victims let go of their pain.

A paperback copy of *Through a Child's Eyes* can be purchased online at www.throughachildseyes-290611.com and Amazon.com, and a e-book copy can be downloaded via the Kindle.

Jessika Lara

Paul Quinn College has promoted alumna Jessika Lara to the newly created position of Director of Recruiting. Lara, a 23-year-old graduate of the PQC class of 2010, will be the first Hispanic and the youngest member of the senior staff at the 140-year-old historically black institution and will report directly to President Michael J. Sorrell.

"This is such a proud moment for Paul Quinn College. Jessika was the

second student that I ever recruited and my first Presidential Scholar to graduate," said President Sorrell. "She is the personification of the institution we are building. She has always been more than a student to us; she is family and has earned the right to lead our efforts in this area. This is 'Quinnite Nation-building' at its finest."

In the new role, credited with Lara's tenacious spirit and demonstrated

abilities in mind, Lara will oversee all student recruitment operations and the enrollment management staff, and lead the charge to increase enrollment by 30 percent for Fall 2013.

Until now, Lara has served as a recruiter at the college, a position she accepted after earning a degree in Business Administration from PQC in 2011, which she completed in three and a half years. She joined the staff in March 2011. Within six months, she recruited more than 50 percent of the incoming freshmen class. Her ef-

forts increased the number of applications from Hispanic applicants by 300 percent. Along with her duties in the enrollment management space, she also serves as the campus advisor for the Paul Quinn College Latino Student Association, which was chartered on the campus



this year and is playing a large role in the diversification of the college.

Lara's journey with PQC started in 2007, the year she graduated from Molina High School and was ranked No. 7 in her class. She enrolled in PQC the same year as a Presidential Scholar, a beneficiary of the institution's most prestigious scholarship

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Dr. Maggie Johnson Richard

Retired Navy Captain Dr. Maggie Johnson Richard is the third recipient and the



first nurse to receive the Texas Woman's University Chancellor's Alumni Excel-

lence Award. She is being honored for her distinguished military and nursing career.

"It seems like just yesterday that I traveled across the Hampton Bridge from West Dallas to TWU, a young woman proud of her origin and excited about a future as a nurse," Dr. Johnson said. "I am forever thankful that my life has evolved to this place. It is a wonderful honor to receive

the TWU Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Award. I acknowledge the exceptional

love of family, friends and God that has served as my foundation."

Dr. Richard's served 26 years in the U.S. Navy, retiring at the rank of captain. She held leadership positions at the Chinhae Korea Medical Clinic, Naval Hospital Guam, National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and Navy Medicine Headquarters in Washington, D.C. She also served as a special adviser to the Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy.

In 2007, she was selected to represent and speak for all military and Public Health Service Nurses at the 10th Anniversary of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial ceremony. In 2012, Dr. Richard retired from the Navy and her position as director of

the Navy and Marine Corps Human Research Protection Program.

Dr. Richard received her bachelor's degree in nursing from TWU in 1985. She also has a master of science degree in community health from Old Dominion University and a Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Throughout her career, Dr. Richard was consistently involved in higher education through teaching and conducting research. She currently resides in Maryland and is an associate professor at Howard University and Morgan State University.

In 2011, TWU Chancellor Ann Stuart donated \$120,000 to fund a 20-year program to bring the two recipients of the Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Award to

campus each year to share their experience and expert-

nise with the TWU community.

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"Entitlement" is not a four-letter word

BY TRUDY HESS

How is that some of the words in our language, words which used to have a perfectly rational meaning, have become dirty and hateful? Whenever Republicans talk about Social Security and Medicare they do it with only poorly disguised venom, and they use the word "entitlement" as if it were a term never to be uttered in polite company. They regard these programs, to which working people contribute all their working lives, as government handouts. Moreover, they have managed to con-

vince a sizeable portion of our population that this is indeed the case. In reality, the notion that these benefits are a government hand-out is entirely fallacious. Let's look at an analogy:

A few years ago we had a fire in our house. It began in the garage, which is semi-attached to the house. We lost the entire garage and its contents (no car in the garage, fortunately), and the house was so badly smoke-damaged that we had to move out and live in a hotel for ten weeks while repairs were being made.

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that, *"Romney had more energy, spoke more fluently, had better zingers, was more focused, seemed to have a better understanding of the issues and a better grasp of facts, showed more empathy with the voters and demonstrated a better sense of humor."*

Obama looked and acted as if he really wanted to be someplace else -- maybe celebrating his wedding anniversary. His delivery was hesitant and halting. He got bogged down in minutiae, never hit any of Romney's weak points, presented no compelling vision for a second term and made claims that could easily be shown to be factually fuzzy."

The president's lackluster performance has had pundits, prognosticators, presidential historians, and baffled Obamaites scurrying to explain what happened-to-Obama?

The urgency to unravel the unprecedented Obama debate debacle has produced a long list of unverified speculations that range from Al Gore's theory that the president was adversely impacted by being exposed to the rarified air in Denver to Dr. Michael Eric Dyson's supposition that the president did not get up in Governor Romney's face for fear that his white constituency might perceive

him to be "an angry Black Man" and therefore, a "dangerous Black Man."

These are the kind of "tongue in cheek" (I'm assuming) assertions that have provided the talk shows, social media, and a confused public with fodder to keep the debate on the hot topic list.

However, considering the tremendous issues at stake Americans need to pause and decide if they can afford to select their president based on a candidate's showmanship at a single debate?

At the beginning of the debate Moderator Jim Lehrer stated that he had selected questions that addressed the economy, jobs, the deficit, healthcare, the role of government and governing. Each discussion topic was allocated 15 minutes.

The debaters went over the time limit on the first question, covered topics out of order, and for all intents prevented the moderator from controlling any aspect of the debate. As a result it was difficult to ascertain if questions were answered and especially how would the economy be energized, jobs created, and government controlled.

The instant post-debate poll found that Obama's 7 percentage point lead over Romney had narrowed to 5 percentage points, 48 per-

Letter to the Editor

On behalf of Make-A-Wish® Foundation North Texas, I encourage local residents to join us on Saturday to help raise up to \$1,000,000 to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. Just one minute of your time is all it takes to help bring joy and strength to wish kids and their families.

Make-A-Wish North Texas and the no-contract cell phone provider Straight Talk Wireless are working together on this important effort, which concludes this Saturday (Oct. 13) from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at select Walmart stores.

For every person who completes a one-minute demo of a Straight Talk Wireless Android smart phone, the company will donate \$1 up to \$1,000,000 to Make-A-Wish. We need your help; please think about taking the time to participate.

For a list of participating local Walmarts, go to www.oneminuteonemillion.com.

Megan Szydlowski
Make-A-Wish
North Texas
Irving, TX

cent to 43 percent. The online poll surveyed 536 registered voters and had a credibility interval of 4.8 percentage points. Yet dedicated Obamaites were cringing based on this small sampling.

It became apparent during the rumble in Denver that Romney has suddenly transformed himself into a centrist who cares for the middle class, loves immigrants and will tax the rich. He has flip-flopped on just about every position he espoused during the campaign to become the Republican nominee.

The real question between now and Nov. 6 is whether independent and undecided voters, especially the suburban women and Latino segments, will see Mitt Romney as a savvy political opportunist or a refined Bain scammer who is simply elevating his corporate raider concept to the public treasury. Is he no longer the no-tax Grover Norquist owned conservative that he was during the primaries?

On the other hand we do know that Obama has been consistent in his efforts to protect and preserve the middle class in spite of the unmitigated opposition of the Republicans. Why he did not use the obvious counter arguments in the debate is still the big mystery.

He has consistently used key points of differentiation in his campaign stops such as saving the auto industry and its hundreds of thousands of jobs, the elderly Medicare voucher scheme, the no pre-existing conditions position, and the 47 percent moocher attitude. He is an arduous campaigner and did a good job of debating in the 2008 election cycle. Could it just possibly be that his pitiful performance at the first debate is part of a well-conceived plan? One thing we know for sure. The President does not telegraph his knockout punches.

Obama and Romney have two more debates before the election. While the debates are nothing more than shame entertainment that should be relegated to the professional entertainers (John Stewart and Bill O'Reilly) they have become part of the election game.

Therefore, the Obama team needs to show up prepared to play the game better on Oct. 16 and Oct. 22 even though the President did not appear to suffer any permanent damage from his lackluster showing in the first debate.

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: www.jaydubub@swbell.net.

Ina Mae Greene Foundation working with local police departments during Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and for the third year in a row, the Ina Mae Greene Foundation has been given the support of three major police departments, who will participate in the groups' "Man Up" campaign, an effort to solicit from men, during the month of October, a pledge to not participate in the

crime of domestic violence.

The three cooperating departments are the Grand Prairie Police Department, the Fort Worth Police Department and the Glendale Police Department. The officers of these three departments and perhaps others will wear a white ribbon on their uniform shirts, in solidarity with the Ina

Mae Greene Foundation and its efforts with regards to the awareness and prevention of domestic violence.

The Ina Mae Greene Foundation adopted the "White Ribbon, Man Up Campaign" from other groups. The campaign is designed to involve all neighborhoods; all barber shops and all men and

young men in the efforts to end the crime of domestic violence.

The Ina Mae Greene Foundation offers programs and fundraisers throughout the year, which are designed to assist the victims and children of domestic violence situations. They assist and work with all of the area shelters and provide monies to help fe-

male victims with many of the needs of a person who has had to leave their homes in order to live a normal, safe life for themselves and their children.

Darlene Greene, director of IMGF said, "We are so happy that once again, these special men and women of these police departments have chosen to visibly support our efforts.

It is a testament the importance of our efforts. These are the people who all too often see the devastation up close and personal. We appreciate them so much and pray constantly for their safety".

The Ina Mae Greene Foundation is a tax-deductible charity and can be reached at www.inamaegreene.org.

Even with cooler temps homeowners should still keep eye out for wasp infestation

The end of the summer and transition into fall may mean enjoyable cooler temperatures for Arizona, Texas, Florida and even southern California residents, but it certainly does not indicate the expiration date of wasp

season. In fact, wasp populations are reaching peak levels at this time of year, given they have had the entire summer to reproduce.

According to the National Pest Management Association, more than half a

million people are sent to the emergency room each year due to wasp and other insect stings. With that being said, it's critical to take extra precaution to avoid wasp stings and infes-

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Martial artists kicking juvenile crime out of the community

On Saturday, Oct. 20 the Universal Martial Arts Academy and Training Center (UMAATC), National Association of Professional Martial Artists, and martial arts schools across the United States are recognizing the millions of Americans who currently participate in the martial arts. This event will also be raising money to fight juvenile crime and keep children out of gangs.

UMAATC is a national award-winning 501(c) 3 children's charity whose mission is to prevent juvenile crime by providing disadvantaged and "at-risk" children the opportunity to become involved in physical and cultural arts programs, working with martial arts schools.

The UMAATC has formed an alliance with the American Legion Post 71 to

also work with wounded warriors, as well as veterans and their families. Many times these groups are unaware of the services offered them in their community. They are hosting a Community Awareness Day in conjunction with their Kick-A-Thon student scholarship fundraising activity. They are invited to the Denton County organizations

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"HR 6139 claims to help minorities, when in fact it would hurt them disproportionately by enabling predatory lending. Far from helping these communities stay in the mainstream banking system, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency charter would push them further into the economic margins.

HR 1639 would preempt anti-predatory lending laws in 17 states and District of Columbia while also circumventing CFPB oversight of non-bank creditors.

Additional concerns regarding HR 6139 include:

Carve-outs for the same lenders the Department of Defense found harmful to military families. After a 2006 Department of Defense report that found predatory lending practices targeted military members and their families, a bipartisan effort led to the enactment of the Military Lending Act of 2007. This law covered payday, car title and refund anticipation loans and also put an end to interest rates that ran as high as 800 percent. Interest rates on these loans were capped at 36 percent.

Roll backs more than 40 years of consumer protec-

tions under the Truth in Lending Act (TILA). By exempting lenders from annual percentage rate (APR) disclosure, loans of one year or less could disclose the cost of these loans as a dollar amount rather than an APR that TILA now requires. Without an APR, disclosure on these loans, consumers would be less likely to make a baseline cost of credit comparisons with other financial products.

Additionally the Center for Responsible Lending research and analysis has found that:

1. Twelve million Americans are trapped every year in a payday loan debt cycle and generate \$4.2 billion in predatory fees every year.

2. States that ban payday lending save their citizens an estimated \$1.4 billion in predatory lending fees each year.

3. 76 percent of payday loans are the result of repeat borrowing on the same principal.

4. From 2008-2010, voters in three states have said 'NO' to triple digit interest rates when their state legislatures did not: Arizona, Montana and Ohio.

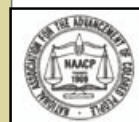
Considering the economic chaos caused by the

worst economy since that of the 1930s Great Depression, many lawmakers and consumers have called for more vigorous monitoring and enforcement. Already, more than five million consumers have turned to the CFPB for information, assistance and advice. Better than one-in-four consumers filing a complaint with CFPB have received monetary compensation.

When Capitol Hill lawmakers return for the lame duck session that follows the November election, HR 6139 and other non-regulatory measures could reach a House floor vote.

"Economic justice and financial freedom for all American households must remain priorities for Congress and financial service regulators alike," said the CBC members. "We urge you to oppose HR 6139 and allow the CFPB to continue its work of facilitating a transparent and safe financial marketplace for all households."

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



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Local journalist legend Iola Johnson to appear on *The Texas Daily*

Dallas journalist legend Iola Johnson is scheduled to appear Thursday on *The Texas Daily*, which airs from 8-9 a.m. on weekdays. A hybrid of news, commentary and audience participation, KTXD-TV's program is delivered by former DFW TV anchors, social media is also a key feature of the programming. Johnson celebrated her 62nd birthday on Wednesday, was the first African American news anchor in Dallas in 1973.

"Our research tells us that we are the only ones nationwide that have created this kind of program for our primary audience. One thing that makes it so unique is the emphasis on viewer participation. We want to engage with them on a deeper level -- to provide a platform where they can truly be heard -- and one of the ways we're doing that is through social media," said Phil Hurley, EVP and COO of London Broadcasting, parent company of KTXD-TV.

The primary audience of *The Texas Daily* is made



Iola Johnson

up of Baby Boomers, a generation that's increased its social media usage by more than 50 percent in the past two years, as reported by BoomerCafé, a popular online magazine created for and by Boomers. Citing a recent social media report by Experian Marketing Services, BoomerCafé also says that Boomers as a whole "seek out more depth and substance behind news and information," which is directly in-line with *The Texas Daily's* planned content.

"*The Texas Daily* provides news and seasoned context -- something you don't see much on the air

these days," said Jeff Brady, host of *The Texas Daily* and a former WFAA-TV news anchor. "We hope our viewers will participate in the show, that they'll share their insights and opinions on the issues that are most important to them."

To reach out directly to *The Texas Daily* team Tweet @TheTexasDaily, post to Facebook - www.facebook.com/TheTexasDaily, or e-mail comments@ktxd.tv. Some feedback will be read on air.

During each show, Brady is joined by a rotating panel of two or three commentators, who are also former news personalities. This week's line-up includes:

Oct. 11 -- Iola Johnson, formerly with WFAA and KTVT, and Robert Riggs, formerly KTVT

Oct. 12 -- John Sparks, formerly WFAA, KXAS, KTVT and KDFW; Suzie Humphreys, formerly WFAA and KVIL; and Scott Murray, formerly KXAS.

Halloween costumes sought for hospitalized children

Want to brighten a sick child's Halloween holiday?

Children's Medical Center would appreciate donations of new Halloween costumes and accessories for patients of all ages. Costumes most needed are those designed for infants and toddlers up

to 2 years old and for children ages 10 and older. These costumes are for the children who will be celebrating Halloween in the hospital.

New, fully wrapped costumes may be dropped off at the hospital's main entrance at 1935 Medical Dis-

trict Drive until noon on Oct. 31. No latex masks can be accepted due to allergy restrictions. Used costumes also cannot be accepted due to infection risks.

Put the holiday in Halloween by helping a child in need. All donations are appreciated.

Annual South Dallas feed the homeless event returns Thanksgiving Day

For the fourth consecutive year, My Brother's Keepers: Feed the Homeless Thanksgiving Drive will return to South Dallas' Emerald City Bar & Grill to aid in the fight against hunger on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22. Volunteers will serve and entertain homeless & low-income families in the local community with free food. They will also give away donated blankets, coats and toiletries as well.

Created in 2009 by Nikki Hayes of the Future Billionaires of America, the yearly volunteer tradition is co-led by C.J. Johnson of TheUrbanAdvocate.com and syndicated radio personality Vincent "Heartbreak" Tucker. Over the years volunteers have fed

over 660 people thru the annual efforts.

The event is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Emerald City Bar & Grill, which is located at 2532 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Dallas near Fair Park. Emerald City Bar & Grill in South Dallas is transformed into a place where recipients can step out of the cold, delight in a good meal and enjoy the presence of positive people who want to help and entertain.

"Since promoting the Facebook Event on Oct. 1, we had a record number of volunteers and people wanting to donate within 48 hours," states Vincent "Heartbreak" Tucker. "It speaks volume of my mantra that my fellow young people do care about the community



and we look forward to continuing to show that in the future."

For more information including promotional sponsors for the 4th Annual My Brother's Keeper: Feed the Homeless Thanksgiving Food Drive, visit www.mbkddallas.tumblr.com, or email mbkddallas@vincenttucker.com.

VNA to host Celebration of Life Service Nov. 4

The Visiting Nurse Association is hosting a Celebration of Life service to honor the memory of loved ones on Sunday, Nov. 4 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. The service will be held at the Preston Hollow United

Methodist Church on 6315 Walnut Hill Lane in Dallas.

The event is open to the public and will feature special music, readings, and candle lighting. Attendees are invited to bring a photo of their loved ones and

share a favorite memory. A reception will follow the service. Attendees of all faiths are welcome.

For additional information about VNA's Celebration of Life service, call 214-689-2922.

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sues. Also keep in mind, who we elect in Washington is important, but who we elect in Austin matters too. Also, Dallas County and nearby communities have important initiatives including the Bond package

we spotlighted last week. Officials are seeking your input on how to spend \$600 million, in your community. Make your voice heard at the ballot box.

For more information visit:

Vote in Texas: <http://www.votetexas.gov/>

Am I registered to vote in Texas: <https://team1.sos.state.tx.us/voterws/viv/faces/SearchSelectionVoter.jsp>

Not all smoke alarms are created equal

Smoke alarms save lives. Statistics show that the risk of dying is twice as high in a home without working smoke alarms than in a home with working smoke alarms.

Recognizing that smoke alarms are important to your safety, you visit a local discount store and are surprised by the choices of alarms available. Are they all the same? What's the difference in ionization and photoelectric? Which is best? What are dual sensor alarms? How many of each type do you

need? Where in your home do you install them?

Recently a national news show questioned the reliability of ionization smoke alarms, suggesting that they may sound too late to warn sleeping residents of a fire. McKinney Fire Department spokesperson Stacie Durham points out, "Unfortunately, the story focused on the smoldering fire environment, where ionization alarms are well-documented to react slower than photoelectric detectors. But, research shows

that the ionization detector reacts faster in the flaming environment than its counterpart, the photoelectric alarm. Both types of alarms are of benefit in the appropriate environment."

Technology in the smoke alarm (detector) field changes rapidly. There are two types of smoke detection technologies currently in widespread use in the USA. There is a difference in activation times for the different types of alarm (photoelectric or ionization) depending

upon the type of fire (fast-flaming fires versus smoldering fires). The McKinney Fire Department recommends placement of both types of alarms in your residence for maximum protection. To avoid nuisance alarms, it is advisable to place ionization alarms further from fixed cooking appliances.

According to Durham, "Smoke alarms are only effective if they are maintained in operable condition. This means testing alarms mon-

thly by pressing the 'test' button and changing batteries annually." An even better option is to install 10-year lithium batteries. "With alarm technology evolving, we recommend that alarms be replaced every ten years. With a 10-year battery, you replace the entire unit when the battery expires. While you replace batteries less often, you still test the alarm monthly."

To assist low income and senior residents, the McKinney Fire Department partici-

pates in the Out to Alarm Texas program by partnering with the Texas Department of Insurance to provide free smoke alarms, batteries, and carbon monoxide alarms. If you or someone you know is in need of alarms, batteries, or wish to have your existing alarms checked, placement of alarms evaluated, or a home safety visit scheduled, contact the McKinney Fire Department at 972-547-2850, visit www.mckinney-fire.org or email contactfire@mckinneytexas.org.

Garland ISD students named Semifinalists in scholarship competitions

Five Garland High School seniors have joined an elite group of students from across the country. Alayna Brooks, Anna Williamson, Meghan Shanks, Sidrah Shah, and Tamara Winter were named Semifinalists in the 2013 National Merit and National Achievement Scholarship Programs in September.

Three of only 16,000 National Merit Semifinalists, Shah, Shanks and Williamson represent less than one percent of all U.S. students who entered the competition. In 2011, approximately 1.5 million juniors took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. High scores earned Shah, Shanks and Williamson the opportunity to continue on for a chance to win one of 8,300 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million.

"If I had to point to one thing that makes me stand out from other high schoolers—especially when it comes to college—this title would be high on the list," said Williamson. "I practiced and prepared for the PSAT a lot," added Shah. "It's nice to see a reward for my hard work."

Brooks and Winter also earned their National Achievement distinction through high scores on the PSAT/NMSQT. The National Achievement Scholarship Program recognizes academically promising black students, and Brooks and Winters are two of only 1,600 Semifinalists this year. They now have the opportunity to compete for one of 800 Achievement Scholarship awards worth more than \$2.5 million.

"I'm really excited about this honor," commented Brooks. "My sister also attended GHS and was named an Achievement Semifinalist. It makes me really proud to live up to her reputation."

Scholarship consideration is based on a student's application, which includes a record of high academic performance throughout high school, a letter of recommendation, an essay, and SAT scores comparable to the preliminary test. Finalists in the National Merit and National Achievement Programs will be announced at the beginning of 2013, and scholarships will be awarded next spring.

While not reaching Semifinalist standing, sev-

eral other Garland ISD seniors also received recognition for their scores on the 2011 PSAT/NMSQT. The National Hispanic Recognition Program honors nearly 5,000 high-scoring Hispanic/Latino high school students each year. Approximately 34,000 seniors are named National Merit Commended Students and 3,100 students receive the distinction of National Achievement Outstanding Participants.

The following GISD seniors will be referred to universities for consideration in admission and financial assistance:

National Hispanic Scholars

Austin Garza, Garland High School
David Westra, South Garland High School
Diego Wright, Garland High School
Emely Villeda-Principe, North Garland High School
Jalen Quintana, Garland High School
Shelbi Parker, Sachse High School
Zachary Martinez, Garland High School

See STUDENTS, Page 7

"Life after St. Philip's" middle school preview

St. Philip's School & Community Center invites the public to embark on an informative journey. Meet and speak with representatives from Dallas area public, private and charter schools to learn more about their admissions process, curriculum and school overview.



The event is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 25, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the St. Philip's School & Community Center's Life Center Gymnasium located on the school campus at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Dallas.

Mountain View College offers free fall theatre production

Insightful, passionate, and comically tragic, *Nickel and Dimed* is a portrait that one third of American workers face each year.

Playwright Joan Holden's stage adaptation of Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* is a sobering look into a middle-aged woman's effort to survive a lower-waged life as she sets out to research what is essentially the sector of the American population described as "the working poor." Ill-prepared



Mountain View College

DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

for the double shifts, aches and pains, fast food consumption, and inability to afford medical treatment, Barbara is soon humbled by her co-workers who gallantly face their lot in life making the audience question why anyone must live this way.

The production contains some strong language

and may not be suitable for children under the age of 12.

The play is on stage Oct. 24-27 inside the Mountain View College Performance Hall located at 4849 West Illinois Ave. in Dallas. The schedule is nightly at 7:30 p.m. and matinees on Thursday and Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

Wingstop sales up 16 percent in third quarter

Wingstop announced this week that same store sales for the third quarter are up 16 percent over the same quarter last year and 13 percent for the year to date.

Sports and wings go hand-in-hand, and with the start of football season, along with the dramatic MLB pennant races, Wingstop experienced one of its strongest quarters to date.

"This is our favorite time of year," said Charlie Morrison, Wingstop President and CEO. "There's nothing better than watching guests stop in before the game and pick up wings for the perfect tailgate party. Wings are a convivial food, and our fans crave a product that's made-to-order and uncompromising in quality."



In addition to strong sales, the rapidly expanding concept opened nine new restaurants last quarter, bringing its total to 30 new locations this year, with 25 to 30 more stores expected to open in the fourth quarter. The rapidly expanding chain also signed development agreements in the third quarter representing 35 new locations, and for the year to date has signed agreements to open 134 new restaurants.

Other milestones in the third quarter include:

- Increased online and phone app orders, with third quarter online sales up 70 percent over the same quarter last year.

- Opening new restaurants in Tempe, Ariz., Sacramento Valley, Charleston, S.C., Chicago, and San Francisco.

- Achieving status as the #1 Facebook Growth Brand on the Restaurant Social Media Index.

- Launching the brand's first Pinterest and Video contests.

TSTA: Public schools need real solutions, not political sideshows

Texas State Teachers Association President Rita Haecker issued the following statement last week:

"We are hopeful that the Senate majority will not allow the appointment of Sen. Dan Patrick as Chairman of the Senate Education Committee to turn undue attention to a privatization sideshow that does not address the needs of the overwhelming majority of Texas students.

"Senator Patrick's priority, private school vouchers, is out of touch with the majority of Texans who want real solutions for students and educators who have been forced by historic education cuts to work in crowded classrooms with inadequate resources.

"Instead of trying to enrich private school operators with tax dollars, the Legislature should expand public educational opportunities for all Texas children. And,

the place to start is by restoring the \$5.4 billion that was cut from public schools last session, restoring the 25,000 lost school jobs and reducing the size of thousands of overcrowded classrooms.

"Texas families demand a first class public education system, because that is where the vast majority of children will continue to be educated. Wasting time and tax dollars on a narrow, ideological political agenda is not what Texans deserve."

KICKING, continued from Page 4

working with these individuals to set up an informational table about their organization. This event is to build coalitions and pro-

mote organizations to support at-risk youth, battered women, and veterans and their families in the Denton County area.

For more information or to donate, please contact the following person and/or visit: www.umaate.org.

Disabled American Veterans Mobile service office on Oct. 27

The nonprofit Disabled American Veterans (D-A-V) and the Harley-Davidson Foundation have teamed up to offer help to veterans who need to stay updated about their bene-

fits. The DAV Mobile Service Office will be at the Harley-Davidson of Dallas, 304 Central Expressway South in Allen from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012. The best

counseling and claim filing assistance is available for veterans. This event is part of the nationwide Harley's Heroes tour and is free to all veterans and members of their families.

STUDENTS, continued from Page 5

National Merit Commended Students

Alayna Brooks, Garland High School

Alexis White, Garland High School

Andrea Hamilton, Sachse High School

Callie Reaves, Sachse High School

Diego Wright, Garland High School

Jalen Quintana, Garland High School

John Cruz, Garland High School

John Shepard, North Garland High School

Jonathan Lawley, Garland High School

Joshua Bonar, Sachse High School

Kamin Bouguyon, Garland High School



Alayna Brooks

Kristy Yang, Garland High School

Marshall McKee, Rowlett High School

Robert Secheli, Garland High School

Rory Stebner, Garland High School

Tracey Vuong, Garland High School

National Achievement Outstanding Participants

Braxton Miller, North Garland High School

Clarence Saunders was honored with "High Spirited Award"

The Mayor of Irving and the City Council honored Mr. Clarence Saunders with the "High-Spirited Citizen Award" on Oct. 4 at the Irving City Hall. Irving defines a

high-spirited citizen as someone who eagerly offers time, service, and commitment to the city, while adding character and inspiring others to lead in pursuit of a high quality life.



Irving Mayor & Mr. Clarence Saunders

Author and bilingual educator Jose-Luis Orozco and DISD students celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

Students at L.K. Hall Elementary highlighted Hispanic Heritage Month with a morning of fun activities that included reading, singing, and dancing capped off with more reading as Target volunteers presented each student with three books to take home to add to their personal libraries.

The morning began with children's author and bilingual educator Jose-Luis Orozco leading the students through a reading adventure. Then it was on to songs and counting in Span-



Target volunteers came out to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with students at L.K. Hall Elementary and gave students books to add to their home libraries.

ish and English accented by laughter from students, teachers and the volunteers. The excitement in the auditorium rose to a deafening roar as Orozco urged teachers on stage to show off im-

promptu dance moves from Spain and Mexico.

Orozco also visited George Peabody and Casa View elementary schools where students received books to take home as well.

In the past year, Target has provided in-kind donations and funding of more than \$1 million to support Dallas ISD schools, and district wide elementary reading initiatives. Target's book donations will help support the district's goal to encourage students to read at home every day.

Steel Magnolias cast and Remy Martin raise money for ANSA



Alfre Woodard, Jurnee Smollett and Tory Kittles join Remy Martin in hosting Artists for a New South Africa (ANSA) screening of *Steel Magnolias*. All proceeds from the screening benefited ANSA, a non-

profit organization co-founded by the Emmy®-winning actress that is dedicated to combating the African AIDS pandemic and advancing democracy and equality in South Africa. After the screening guests enjoyed refreshing cocktails created by sponsor Rémy Martin that were paired with cheese and desserts.

The Lifetime Original Movie *Steel Magnolias*, a television adaptation of the

iconic play and 1989 film, reached new heights for the network, averaging 6.5 million Total Viewers in its world premiere last week, becoming Lifetime's third most-watched original telecast ever -- posting its best delivery since 2006 (*Life is Not a Fairy Tale: The Fantasia Barrino Story*) -- and the number one cable movie among Total Viewers since 2007 (excluding miniseries).

Actress Alfre Woodard and Actor Tory Kittles poses at the Remy Martin Celebrates ANSA Screening of *Steel Magnolias* at ICM Screening Room on October 5, 2012 in Century City, California. (Photo by Todd Oren/WireImage)

Oprah Winfrey Network strikes exclusive partnership with Tyler Perry

BY LANA WILSON-COMBS

(NNPA) The Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) announced on Oct 1, an exclusive partnership with Tyler Perry, the award winning actor, director, screenwriter, playwright and producer, to become his singular destination for all new television series and projects, including two new scripted series for the network to premiere in mid 2013. These will be the first original scripted series for OWN, and Perry will executive produce, write and direct both series.

The announcement comes as OWN's momentum and ability to draw new viewers continues to grow. The network closed its third consecutive quarter of year-

over-year, double-digit ratings gains across primetime and total day in the key women 25-54 demo (+63% and +70% respectively) and saw triple-digit ratings growth in September.

Perry's popular television series "Tyler Perry's House of Payne," "Meet the Browns" and "For Better or Worse" have been massive hits with record-breaking ratings. Perry had his first foray into television in 2007 with the hit series "House of Payne," which premiered as cable's biggest comedy debut ever. The series remained basic cable's top-rated sitcom only until the premiere of Perry's second series "Meet the Browns."

"I have been looking forward to the day when we would be in the position to

enter the world of scripted television. That day has come," said Oprah Winfrey, CEO, OWN. "We are all energized by the opportunity to collaborate with Tyler who has a proven track record for producing highly successful cable series. He has an incredible ability to illuminate life stories and characters in his unique voice and inspires and encourages people all over the world."

"It's a dream realized to partner with Oprah and bring scripted programming to OWN," stated Perry. "She has accomplished so much with the network and I'm excited to work with her to be a part of its continued growth."

"Bringing Tyler Perry exclusively to OWN is a

major coup. Today's announcement demonstrates the power of the Oprah brand to attract some of the biggest names in television and film to OWN," said David Zaslav, president and CEO of Discovery Communications. "OWN's growth over the past nine months has been nothing short of phenomenal and, with the continued support of our advertising and affiliate partners, this bold move into scripted entertainment positions OWN to continue that momentum going forward."

Read more: <http://www.nnpa.org/news/entertainment/oprah-winfrey-network-strikes-exclusive-multi-year-partnership-with-tyler-perry/#ixzz28w3oLkhh>

Walking Dead third season premiere on the big screen at the Angelika

The USA Film Festival, the Angelika Film Center Dallas and Keith's Comics will partner to present a special BIG SCREEN presentation of the Season Three premiere of the critically-acclaimed -- and highly cinematic -- AMC series *The Walking Dead* on Sunday, Oct. 14 at 8 p.m.

Both the living and the living dead are invited to



attend. Doors will open at 7 p.m.; prizes awarded for

best zombie make-up.

Admission is FREE afilmfest@aol.com

Navy man marries Central American woman



Willie Cochran, Jr., Ms. Diana Dyer Cochran, & Willie Cochran, Sr.

BY CARENZA THURMOND JR.

The *North Dallas Gazette* sends its congratulations to 16 years of service navy man, Mr. Willie Cochran Jr. and newly wedded wife Mrs. Diana Dyer Cochran, a native of Belize City, Central America.

Willie is the son of the well-known Willie Cochran Sr., Pastor of the South Dal-

las Faith Base Outreach Ministry Church of South Dallas.

The well put together wedding took place on Sept. 24, Cochran's dad's birth date, at White Rock Lake under the direction of Phillip W. Jones Jr., Pastor of the Only New Life Bible Fellowship Church in Red Oak, Tx. For now and forever more, best of wishes from the *North Dallas Gazette News*.

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214-428-2390

Latino voter registration 'in high gear' for Nov. 6 election

By Khalil Abdullah

(New America Media) A consortium of Latino organizations already has registered a quarter-million new Hispanic voters for this election cycle. Their spokespersons estimate that when those numbers are combined with outreach efforts by other organizations, the multiplier effect may bring as many 650,000 new Latino voters onto the rolls by the time registration deadlines close in most states over the next few weeks.

"I understand the difference Latinos voters can make in their communities," said Nathieli Diaz, a student at University of California-Riverside. She has been helping register voters—"especially because I cannot vote."

DREAMers Helping Although They Can't Vote

Diaz is a DREAMer, who came to the United States in her youth, but who is ineligible to vote because she is not a U.S. citizen. She said she is one of the many DREAMers volunteering with registration drives.

"There are so many students like myself whose future lies in the hands of eligible voters," Diaz said, explaining her motivation to ensure the Latino turnout is high in November.

Diaz stressed that DREAMers "are contributing to this great country" even now. But she added that "all those like myself, who hope to be able to vote someday" are dependent on those who currently can vote.

Predicting the final number of those registered at this early date is difficult because there is no national voter registration database. Also the consortium's numbers don't include those Latinos registered by polit-



ical parties or other initiatives.

Speakers on a teleconference earlier this week did not address the partisan implications of their efforts, but said their collective initiative is laying solid groundwork for their long cherished ambition of finally maximizing the potential of the Latino vote.

Out of an estimated 53 million Latinos in the United States, approximately 23.5 million are eligible voters and about 14 million are registered voters, according to Evan Bacalao, senior director of civic engagement for the Educational Fund of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. Bacalao is expecting a turnout of 12 million Latino voters this election.

Latino Vote in Key States

Should Latinos vote as a bloc vote in November, their preferences would be most obviously felt in swing states, such as Colorado, Florida and Nevada. Each of those three went

Democratic in 2008, after Republicans had carried them in 2004.

In Colorado, Latinos now account for 20 percent of the population; 22 percent of Florida's and 26 percent of Nevada's. Recent polls show Democrats still holding the edge.

Even in states where their populations are smaller, the Latino vote could be a significant factor given what may be a narrow margin of victory.

Virginia, for example is still being counted as a toss-up, but went Democratic 2008 after Republicans carried it 2004. Latinos account for only seven percent of the populace there. In Wisconsin—another state that remains too close to call, although Democrats carried the state in 2008 and 2004—only five percent of residents are Hispanic.

Latino voters also may yet weigh in on Pennsylvania's electoral outcome, now that its restrictive voter photo ID law has been suspended. That law would have likely reduced the

number of Latinos who tend to vote as Democrats.

It would have particularly affected the Puerto Rican community, given the difficulties of retrieving birth certificates from Puerto Rico necessary to get a Pennsylvania photo ID in time for the election.

Parties Courting Latinos for First Time

"For the first time in my memory, the Latino vote is being courted as never before by both political parties," said Eliseo Medina, board member of the non-partisan Mi Familia Vota and who also serves as the International Secretary of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

Medina's enthusiasm is significant. Now in his mid-60s, he has long been a nearly legendary advocate for Latino American rights for decades. He emphasized that this election will have profound implications for post-election policy decisions on the Affordable Care Act, immigration and a host of issues regardless of which political party triumphs.

"Young voters across all backgrounds are one of the most difficult populations to engage, and obviously the Latino community is particularly young, so ensuring that we have a vigorous effort to engage Latino youth is really an integral part of what we're trying to do this year," NALEO's Bacalao said.

He explained that even though social media has been particularly useful in registering young voters, especially by Voto Latino and other collaborative partners, the consortium still relied heavily on traditional get-out-the-vote methodologies, such as phone banks and door-to-door canvassing to reach Latinos of all age demographics.

"Investments in voter registration [in the United States] are not what they should be," said Clarissa Martinez de Castro, Director of National Campaigns for National Council of La Raza.

She also expressed concern that registration drives have been negatively af-

fected by other factors. "We're also seeing displacement due to the economic and foreclosure crisis, not to mention efforts to make it more difficult for eligible voters to vote."

Yet, despite those obstacles, Martinez de Castro echoed the sentiment of others on the call. "Our teams on the ground are telling us, as many other voters, Latinos are starting to pay more attention to the election right now."

Martinez de Castro said that interest and enthusiasm about the election are driving registration numbers upward, but the ultimate goal is for the continuous post-election engagement that can hold elected officials accountable to the Latino community's interests.

Other organizations involved in the registration effort include the Center for Community Change, Hispanic Federation, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and the League of United Latin American Citizens.

NDG Gossip: Minaj says Mariah feud conspired by *American Idol* producers

BY KENDRIA BROWN,
NDG INTERN

The battle between Mariah and Nicki seems long from over. After the name-calling, alleged threats, and extra security, Minaj seems to now know what and who in particular started it all. Minaj believes that *American Idol* producers instigated the whole event to increase TV ratings. She feels the producers of *American Idol* and Mariah want an "angry" Minaj because that is what the people want and it would draw in the crowd.

Nicki is letting everyone know that she is not the one to be set up and played,



Nicki Minaj

and she insists on exiting the area if and when Mariah bickers or attempts to stir up another argument.

However producers are not buying in to Minaj's story, because they were as shocked as the next viewer when the outcries were

made between the two divas. The producers were active in restoring the peace erupted by Minaj's and Mariah's meddling of one another, so how is it possible they were co-conspiring to the chaos.

The truth is still sketchy at this point but Mariah has kept her peace during this time of accusation, with no comment or rebuttal in response to Minaj's theory. Not sure who is behind what and the intentions incurred, but maybe Mariah and Nicki will call a truce...for *American Idol*'s sake.

Brandy featured in next episode of *The F Word*

Music Choice has unveiled the latest episode of *The F Word*. The show is available for free On Demand and features Multi-platinum selling Grammy Award-winning R&B/pop singer songwriter and superstar actress Brandy.

Fame. Every artist wants it. But once they have it, how do they handle it? *The F Word* focuses on the total picture of being famous, giving fans the inside story from the artists themselves. Featured artists reflect on their fame — from the highs and lows to everything in between. #MCFWord is the hashtag used to follow the conversation on Twitter.

Says Brandy, "I am looking forward to sharing an inside look into my career path with my fans on Music Choice's *The F Word*."

Brandy's highly-anticipated album TWO ELEVEN is set for release Oct. 16 on RCA/Chameleon Records and the album pre-order is available now at 4everbrandy.com, including instant downloads of her hit singles "Wildest Dreams" and "Put It Down" feat. Chris Brown. Rolling Stone describes TWO ELEVEN as Brandy's "most realized vocally sharp and musically sound, thanks to an honors



Brandy

corral of producers and songwriters." Billboard concurred stating TWO ELEVEN is "a strong return to Brandy's multi-layered, impassioned vocals."

Texas Music Expo in Irving this weekend

The Texas Music Expo debuts in Irving this Friday, Oct. 12, and runs through Sunday, Oct. 14, at the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas (ICCLC).

Designed as a multifaceted music event and marketplace, the Texas Music Expo is more than just a trade show, creating an opportunity for Texas music enthusiasts to buy, sell, and trade music collectibles.

A full slate of events on Saturday and Sunday features live music from more than 10 Texas music artists; a new and vintage guitar show; collectible record and CD Show; music memorabilia and vintage music poster show; and a free appraisal fair hosted by Heritage Auctions.



Event hours are from 4 – 8 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Sunday. The first 100 paying guests in the door on Saturday and Sunday receive a free 18 x 24 inch, Stevie Ray Vaughan "The Early Days" promotional poster.

Admission tickets are \$14 each for one-day tickets

and \$24 each for three-day passes. Visit the Texas Musicians Museum (TMM) website at texasmusiciansmuseum.com for special half-price deals on three-day passes.

Online advance purchase option ends at midnight on Thursday, Oct. 11.

Attendees may purchase one-day tickets and three-day passes on-site during event hours. Spend less money and attend the expo all weekend with a special 50 percent off coupon offered for three-day admission passes. Coupons are limited in number and may be picked up at the ICCLC box office. Children ages 12 and under

are admitted free with an accompanying adult. Event parking fee is \$5 per car.

Visit www.texasmusic-expo.com for live music

line-up and more details. Connect with the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau (ICVB) on Facebook for a chance to win

three-day passes to the expo. ICVB Facebook giveaways will run Tuesday, Oct. 9 – Friday, Oct. 12.

Local Texas candidates receive valued Progressive endorsement

Democracy for America (DFA) endorsed three candidates who are seeking local office in Texas. DFA invests in local candidates to strengthen the Democratic Party. By electing stronger progressives at every level of government, real valued change can happen. Earning an endorsement from DFA can greatly enhance a candidate's campaign.

"These candidates exemplify what we value at DFA," said Jim Dean, Chair of Democracy for America. "The belief that grassroots activism and organizing can still elect the strong, courageous, and progressive democrats who are willing to move the party and their communities forward. Gary Brown, Rich Hancock, and Rebecca Bell-Metereau are

strong democrats and have the support of our DFA members in Texas."

The Texas slate of endorsed candidates include:

- Gary Brown for Texas State House,
- Rich Hancock for Texas State House, and
- Rebecca Bell-Metereau for Texas State Board of Education.



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Tucson Project LLC receives SDVOSB Certification from VA

Tucson Project LLC, a Dallas based firm who has been providing business process solutions to the government and private sector for more than 15 years, has received its Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) Certification from the Center for Veterans Enterprise (CVE), a division within the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Dallas based firm has na-

tionwide capabilities in providing a broad range of professional support services, including: administrative services, project management, logistics, and IT support.

Established in 1997, Tucson Project has been a SDVOSB since its inception and actively supports veterans through employment opportunities and entrepreneurial education. Currently, veterans make up 25% of the company's

workforce. Being certified as a SDVOSB will allow Tucson Project to have access to certain federal contract set-asides that are only available to CVE certified SDVOSB companies, which translates into more contracting opportunities with the VA. The certification also leads to increased visibility as the company is now listed in the Vendor Information Pages (VIP), a database located at <https://www.vip.vetbiz.gov/>,

which allows federal procurement officials to search for bona fide veteran owned firms.

With offices in Dallas, Irving, Fort Worth and Washington D.C, Tucson Project has grown steadily, providing top notch client support to a number of agencies including: The United States Postal Service, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Veteran Affairs, The

State of Texas and FedEx Ground.

The company's capture strategy includes a concentrated effort to obtain VA contracts in the areas of technical support, project management, business process development and general consulting. As a Texas-based firm, the company's ultimate goal is to be an established contractor with the VA by providing support throughout Texas.

"We are extremely excited about our continued penetration into various government markets, and the opportunity to continue serving this great nation as a premier contractor," says Tucson President/CEO, Derick Jordan. "We are looking forward to new opportunities, leading to more partnerships and ways to continue supporting our veteran community."

FAN, continued from Page 1

"Basically, the number of customers doubled from 10,000 in February to 20,000 at our May show, causing some longer than expected lines and making it hard for some fans to see everything they wanted," said Ben Stevens with C2 Ventures, which produces three shows annually at the Irving facility. "By moving the lines, adding concessions and scheduling a third day, we hope to create a more inviting and fun experience for our customers."

Friday attendees will be among the first to witness the reunion of *Star Wars* bad boys Ian McDiarmid and Dave Prowse, who led the evil empire as "The Emperor Palpatine" and "Darth Vader," respectively, in several of the popular movies. Also on hand Friday to sign autographs and meet fans will be actors Anne Lockhart from the original *Battlestar Galactica* and Donnie Dunagan, the voice of "Bambi" in the Disney classic. Fans unable to attend on Friday can catch all four actors on Saturday and Sunday.

Returning for his third appearance at our shows is Stan Lee, co-creator and writer of the *Amazing Spider-Man*, *Iron Man*, *Thor*, *Fantastic Four*, *Incredible Hulk* and *X-Men*. In addition to being the former president of Marvel Comics, he's well known in the industry as a writer, editor, actor, producer and publisher. Mr. Lee will sign autographs all three

days and conduct a Q&A session at 6:30 p.m. Friday in the fourth-floor auditorium.

The three-day event will feature 300 vendor booths in the exhibit hall and fourth floor lobby, as well as two dozen artists, including Ralph Bakshi, award-winning animator and director of *Fritz the Cat*, *Heavy Traffic* and *Wizards*; legendary artist Al Plastino, co-creator of *Supergirl*, *Brainiacs* and *Legion of Super-Heroes*; and Eisner Award-winner Frank Cho, creator and artist of *Liberty Meadows*.

Campbell, who stars as "Sam Axe" in television's *Burn Notice*, appears Saturday only. He also played "Ash" in the *Evil Dead* series, and starred in *Bubba Ho-Tep*, Sam Raimi's *Spider-Man* movies and *Sky High*. In addition to signing autographs, Mr. Campbell will do a Q&A session starting at noon Saturday.

Media guests appearing Saturday and Sunday include Robert Englund of "Freddy Krueger" fame; Lance Henriksen, best known as "Bishop" in the *Alien* movies; Felicia Day from *The Guild*; and Sean Astin, who played "Sam" in *The Lord of the Rings* movies. Also, voice actress Tara Strong, whose credits include *My Little Pony* and *Rugrats*, Steven Yeun from *The Walking Dead*, and *Warehouse 13* actor Eddie McClintock.

Making a rare convention appearance will be Gina

Torres from the short-lived but highly popular *Firefly* series/*Serenity* movie, along with her on-screen husband, Alan Tudyk. Also appearing both days are *Starship Troopers* stars Dina Meyer and Casper Van Dien.

During Fan Days, the actors will be available to sign autographs, talk with fans and answer questions during special panel discussions, which are free to attend as space allows. Media guests charge a fee for autographs and fans also may pay to have their photo taken with select actors by a professional photographer.

Admission to Dallas Fan Days is \$20 Friday, \$30 Saturday and \$20 Sunday. A three-day pass also is available for \$60. Children's tick-

ets are \$5 when accompanied by a paying adult. VIP passes for this show are sold out. Tickets may be purchased at the box office beginning at 1 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday. Coupons for \$5 off can be found in *The Dallas Observer*, *Fort Worth Weekly* and other North Texas newspapers.

Show hours are 2 to 8 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. The Irving Convention Center, 500 W. Las Colinas Blvd., is at the intersection of SH114 and Northwest Highway in Irving, Texas.

For more information on events and schedules, please visit the website at www.fandays.com.

LARA, continued from Page 2

program for students with a high school grade point average of 3.5 or higher. She was a member of the first Presidential Scholar class appointed by President Sorrell. As a Presidential Scholar, she successfully maintained a 3.5 college GPA and participated in the college's exchange program with SMU. She was also mar-

ried in the college's chapel.

"The team at Paul Quinn has always been like family to me," Lara said. "I feel ready to assume the responsibility of making a great impact, so that other students can experience the nurturing and encouragement that I received as both a student and now an employee."



The City of Allen is currently accepting application packets for Firefighter /Paramedics. Applicants must be certified Firefighter/Paramedics prior to October 12, 2012. Interested applicants are invited to submit an on-line employment application by visiting the City of Allen's Employment Opportunities Page at <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/allen>. The application deadline is Friday, October 12, 2012 at 5p.m. Incomplete packets will be disqualified. For questions contact Human Resources at 214-509-4676 or visit the City of Allen website at www.city-ofallen.org.

305 CENTURY PARKWAY
ALLEN, TX 75013
214-509-4699 24 hour Job Line

*The City of Allen is an
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The McKinney Housing Authority is requesting proposals (RFP) from qualified firms for the following.

- IT Services
- Fee Accountant
- Legal Services

All responses to this RFP must be received by 10am (CST) on 10/22/12.

To obtain a copy of the RFP, or for any questions concerning the RFP, contact rmiller@mckinneyha.org

In addition, we are accepting proposals for

- Make Ready Services

The complete RFP can be viewed at mckinneyha.org

All responses to this RFP must be received by 5pm (CST) on 10/18/12

Weeknights

Award-winning journalist **Cheryl Smith: Cheryl's World** provides informative talk, commentary and interesting guests Tune in weeknights at 6 p.m., Sundays 8 a.m. & Saturdays at Noon on Blog Talk Radio or call 646-200-0459 to listen.

October 2-21

The Addams Family presented by Dallas Summer Musicals at Music Hall at Fair Park during the State Fair of Texas, 9091st Avenue; Cost \$15-\$75; 214-346-3300.

Through November 12 Goodnight Moon & Other Favorite Stories: Pre K Drama Class at Dallas Children's Theater, 5938 Skillman Street- Rosewood Center for Family arts; Cost \$220; Info: 214-978-0110

Through November 27

Family Movie Time at Irving Public Library, 801 W Irving Blvd at 4:30 p.m.; free; Info: 972.721.2628

Through December 6

Books N' Bugs at Texas Discovery Gardens, 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd- Fair Park at 10:30 a.m.; Cost: \$8-

\$10; Info: http://texasdiscoverygardens.org/events_and_classes.php

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.fissi-haie5@gmail.com

Through December 11

Movie Night @ the Library at Irving Public Library Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd at 6:30 p.m.; Free to attend; Info: 972-781-2628

Through December 18

TeenScene Movie at Irving Public Library, 801 W Irving Blvd; Free; 972.721.2628

Through December 28

Jazz Happy Hour Fridays at Champagne's Luxe, 5201 W Lovers Lane at 4 p.m.; Info: 214-352-7777

Through October 27

"The Nerd" by Garland Civic Theatre at Granville

Arts Center – Small Theatre; 972-205-2790

October 12

86th Annual Awards Banquet at Dallas Convention Center, Ballroom "A", 650 S. Griffin St. at 6 p.m.; 214-421-5200

86th Annual Awards Banquet at Dallas Convention Center, Ballroom "A", 650 S. Griffin St. at 6 p.m.; 214-421-5200

October 13

Feeding the homeless and needed at 3001 Birmingham at 12 noon; Anyone is welcome to help.; 214-428-2390

A Little Look at Manners- Grades 2-5 at Bedford Boys Ranch, 2801 Forest Ridge Drive; Info: 817-952-2323

Secondary Fair Day at Fair Park

October 19

Joseph Hall's Elvis Tribute at Plaza Theatre; 402-617-4477

Garland Symphony Orchestra Concert I at Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium; 972-926-0611

October 20

Wonder Pet Expo Dallas at Dallas Market Hall at 9 a.m.; 214-655-6100

Madonna at American Airlines Center at 8 p.m.; 214-665-4797

2012 Fort Worth Blues Festival at Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston St. at 7 p.m.

Alpha Sigma Lambda Chapter will host its **2012 C.C. Russeau Black & Gold Scholarship Gala** at the Sheraton Hotel located in Downtown Dallas.

October 21

"Messy" by Jonathan Nelson at Plaza Theatre; www.JaySaharaProduction.com

October 25

"Life after St. Philip's" middle school preview

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the St. Philip's School & Community Center's Life Center Gymnasium located on the school campus at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Dallas.

October 26

Zan Wesley Holmes Jr. Middle School Dedication at 2939 St. Rita Dr. at 10:30 a.m.

October 27

Las Llaves del Exito (keys to Success) College Fair at University of North Texas at Dallas, 7300 University Hills Blvd. at 8 a.m.

Lakeshore Symphonic Winds at Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium; Lakesh-oresymphonicwinds.com

PaPa Was A Rollin' Stone by Tyler Productions at Plaza Theatre; 214-722-7566

Nov. 15-Dec. 8

"Legally Blonde" by Garland Civic Theatre at Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre; 972-205-2790

November 16

Garland Symphony Orchestra, Concert II at Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium; 972-926-0611

November 29

"It's Christmas Carol" at Plaza Theatre; 972-240-3710

Nov. 30-Dec. 2

"The Nutcracker" by Dallas Ballet Company at Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium; 972-205-2790

December 5-8

"Cricket on the Hearth" by Breitling Youth Theatre at Plaza Theatre; 972-658-3915

December 12-15

"Fruitcakes" by Breitling Youth Theatre at Plaza Theatre; 972-658-3915

December 14

Garland Symphony Orchestra, Concert III at Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium; 972-926-0611

December 27-30

"Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas" at Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre; 972-205-2790

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Spirit Airlines hosting Open Houses Oct. 11 – 13 for new flight attendant jobs

Spirit Airlines have announced it is opening a flight attendant and pilot crew base at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) on Dec. 1, 2012. The new base will be home to over 250 crewmembers, including approximately 170 flight attendants and 80 pilots by summer 2013. In addition, Spirit's main-

tenance base at DFW, which opened earlier this year, will grow to employ over 30 mechanics and maintenance support personnel by next summer.

"As Spirit continues to expand operations at DFW, we are very excited to also add quality local jobs and to open a new crew base here," said Spirit's Chief

Operating Officer Tony Lefebvre.

Spirit is inviting those interested in being a part of its high performing team to attend one of its flight attendant open houses taking place Oct. 11 – 13 at DoubleTree by Hilton (near the Galleria) located at 4099 Valley View Lane in Dallas. Sign-in begins approxi-

mately one hour prior to each session and doors will close promptly at the following scheduled times.

•Thursday, October 11 at 9 a.m. or 2:30 p.m.

•Friday, October 12 at 9 a.m. or 2:30 pm

•Saturday, October 13 at 9 a.m.

Interested applicants should bring the following

documents to gain entrance to the Open Houses:

•Resume
•Two forms of identification

•A current and valid passport or receipt of passport

•Names must be exact on passport and social security card

•Copies of social secu-

rity card, driver's license and passport, and bring originals

•Proof of eligibility to work in the U.S.

•A copy of your high school diploma or GED

To pursue career opportunities at Spirit Airlines and to submit applications online, visit www.spirit.com/careers.

Québec plans trade visit to Irving

Government officials and several companies from Québec will pay Irving a visit, and they have a mission—business. The trade mission will consist of information technology, maintenance, lighting and ot-

her industry leaders looking to forge business relationships with the city and its companies. "These interactions serve as 'match-making' opportunities," said Joe Chapa, Executive Director of Sister Cities and the In-

ternational Trade and Assistance Center. "Trade missions benefit both the visitor and the host city because we see where we can find more products, better sales and a variety of supplies."

Local businesses and

representatives from the City of Irving will meet with the group of Québec delegates to discuss distribution opportunities and the city's accessibility and business climate. Irving officials also will be briefed on what Québec has

to offer. "This opportunity has allowed us to establish relationships for bigger, better alliances and trade potential with Canada," Chapa said. "We see a lot of potential for a bright future with this leader in technology and

innovation." Chapa said the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber is involved in an average of five trade missions per year to help build relationships and boost business in the city.

COOLER, continued from Page 4

tations around your home, especially at this point in the season.

During this time, wasps are busily surveying the scene, on the hunt for food to prepare for the upcoming colder winter months. Keep in mind that these guys are usually attracted to backyard barbecues and picnics, which obviously increases your odds of being stung.

Known for their unprovoked aggression, male wasps only add to the drama. Noticeably tinier in size than the female species, male wasps remain more aggressive in nature. They'll usually dart towards people, but rest assured, these little guys can't sting, it's all bluff.

Although wasps do not leave their stingers in their victims like honeybees do, you will see a welt form when stung by a wasp. You can temporarily ease the discomfort with cold compresses, cortisone cream and Benadryl.

To avoid any type of confrontation with wasps, homeowners should frequently inspect their property for signs of an infestation. The most common wasp nesting sites are usually under leaves, on ceiling beams in attics, garages and sheds and under porches. Some, like yellow jackets, can even take over old rodent burrows in the ground. Do not attempt to remove a nest yourself

since it is extremely dangerous because some wasp colonies can have as many as 15,000 members. If you find a nest or think you have an infestation on your hands, it is highly important that you hire a pest professional.

Here are a few tips to help protect you and your loved ones from wasp encounters:

Wear closed-toed shoes when outdoors, especially in grassy areas.

Refrain from leaving any drinks or food in accessible areas.

Be sure your windows and doors are properly screened and void of any holes and tears.

Keep your garbage tightly sealed in receptacles.

Fight the urge to swat at wasps, as it triggers an aggressive reaction in wasps.

If stung, seek professional help immediately, as reactions may be severe.

If you stumble upon a wasp nest near or around your property or suspect an infestation, call a pest professional.

Scott Svenheim, an expert for Truly Nolen of America, has 25 years of experience in the pest control industry. For more information or to ask your local expert a question about insects and insect prevention, please visit www.trulynolen.com.



Store Management Opportunities

Hobby Lobby is a leader in the Arts & Crafts industry with 500 stores Over located in 42 states. Candidates must have previous retail store management experience in one of the following:

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trj1909@tx.rr.com

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Mondays – Fridays

Call 972-423-8833 for AFFECT, Inc. or email: AFFECTxInc@aol.com for counseling services, resources and assistance for job readiness and training programs for individuals. For couples we offer services for marital relationships and for ex-offenders we offer programs for getting back into the work force.

October 14, 9:45 a.m.

You're invited to our Sunday Fellowships, Morning Bible Classes and Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.

October 17

Join us for Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. and come back at 7 p.m. for Prayer, Praise and Songs as we worship and praise God.

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

BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

October 14, 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. as we worship and praise God.

October 17, 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.

Also bring your children to our Wednesday Night Children Pro-

gram, two things are incorporated when they come, children learn and they play.

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

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

October 13, 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.

October 14

Join us in worship at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. as we praise and worship God's to the utmost.

October 17, 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.

October 27, 10:15 a.m.

Don't miss our Party in Pink™ Zumbathon Charity Event benefiting Susan G. Komen for the Cure, hosted by Kitrina Johnson.

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

October 14, 9:30 a.m.

Join us to experience the joy of praising and worshipping God to the fullest at Story Elementary School, 1550 Edelweiss Drive, Allen, TX.

Also, at 1:30-5:30 p.m.

The public is invited to our Founder's Day Celebration at Celebration Park, 701 Angel Parkway in Allen, Texas. We will have fun, food, games and prizes. Bring your lawn chairs, tents, etc. There will be a contest for the best BBQ and best dessert. Call the church for details.

October 17, 7 p.m.

Join us at our Wednesday Night Live in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall on Belmont Drive, with old school prayer and testimony. Also, come to our Corporate Prayer and our Kidz Zone (an environment to equip children to grow and to show God's love.)

October 31, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Praise Festival of Fun with candy, food, fun, fellowship, games and costumes (please, no scary costumes.) We will meet at our Administration Building, 200 W. Belmont Drive in Allen.

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK "First Church"

October 20, 11 a.m.

Mark your calendar for our Fall Fest 2012; there will be fun for the entire family. Then join us at 6 p.m. for "A Tribute to the Man and Music of John Mark Tatum" with Ms. Kathy Taylor; and help us as we praise and worship God.

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

NORTH DALLAS ROCKBRIDGE CHURCH

October 14

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

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

SAINT MARK MBC IN MCKINNEY

October 14, 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.

October 17, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wellness Ministry with Tamara Haskins, Director and Fitness Instructor. Call for details.

October 21

Join us in our Morning Service as we celebrate Pastor Wattle's church anniversary.

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

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

October 14, 8 a.m.

And 11 a.m.

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

October 17, 7 p.m.

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

October 19 & 20

Come to our Single Ministry Conference at the church. The 2012 theme is "No Fear, All Faith."

October 27, 5:30 p.m.

Join us for our Annual Fall Family Night as we fellowship, have fun and eat.

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

October 14, 7:30 a.m.

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

October 15, 7 p.m.

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

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

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October 14

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Richardson, TX 75081

WORD OF LIFE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Early Prayer, 5 a.m.

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. God will meet you and prayer does change people, things and situations.

November 1-2, 7 p.m.

You're invited to two days of "Life Changing Outpourings." A Soul Winners Concert; come and help us worship and praise God for all of His blessings.

Dr. Gregory E. Voss,
Senior Pastor
2765 Trinity Mills Road
Building 300
Carrollton, TX 75006
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Pastor Gloria Fenceroy

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(972) 359-9956 -www.theship3c.org

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CC

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Allen, TX 75002
9:30 AM

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




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Because of the many disastrous things that happen to a lot of people; some have been displaced, they have received discouraging words, their lives have been uprooted, and some, perhaps, have had their faiths shaken.

To these individuals, I ask you to see God in everything that has happened to you. A friend of mine once said that in every situation, she looks at every side of the problem to see what she can learn.

To many of you, I know that it must be hard to look at your situation and see God's handiwork, but pause long enough to see Him at work in your life.

Remember, in spite of his intimate relationship with Jesus, "Doubting Thomas" still refused to believe that Jesus, who had died on the cross, had been seen alive by the other disciples.

Thomas said that only after he had actually felt the nail wounds in Jesus' hand and the wound in His side would he believe that the other disciples had actually seen Jesus. *St. John 20:24-29.*

On certain occasion, you may struggled to believe, just as I am sure that some of you are still struggling to believe that God is in control of everything that has happened to you at this time in your life.

There are times that a Christian's faith gets trampled under the weight of concerns about their situations in life; their family, their work, health, their friends and even the world. Like "Doubting Thomas" they may find themselves looking for proof that God is there – that He's available and that He has the ability to restore all faith.

In the First Epistle of St. John, we are told that where there is love, there is God. We read, in fact, that God is love. When you are

overwhelmed by life's problems and begin to doubt, look for evidence of the presence of God.

In every expression of love, a kind word, a sacrificial gift, an offer of help, in the trusting life of a baby, you can see that God is alive and at work everywhere around you. Don't forget that God's presence shines in every kindness and loving act that you see.

As Near as Your Breath – "And the Lord God . . . breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." *Genesis 2:7(b) (KJV)*

Most of the time we don't think much about breathing; day after day we automatically breathe in and breathe out with little thought or effort.

Usually we can't even see our breath. However, on cold winter days, the contrast between the cold air and our warm breath when we exhale creates little short-lived clouds that are plainly visible.

Just as we are usually unmindful of breathing, we can pass our time oblivious to God. In *Hebrews 13:5(b)* - 6, God promises, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

But since we cannot physically see God, we often sail through our days barely aware of God's presence.

We may utter a prayer in passing or spending a few minutes reading the Bible. But after that we sometimes give God little thought until we get into a crisis. Then we realize we need strength beyond ourselves.

This contrast between our weakness and God's power and comfort makes God visible. Our hard times have enabled us to see God, if only we will look for Him. But in reality, God is always as near as our breath. As *Genesis*



Evangelist and District Missionary Pearl Montgomery of Morning Star C.O.G.I.C. in Ore City, Texas, after singing a song that "Brought the House Down" at a recent gathering.

2:7(b) tells us, our very life began with God's breath. So every breath that we breathe can remind us of God's constant presence with us.

Remember: When you take time for silence, it allows you to hear God's guidance in times of your trials and tribulations.

WORD, continued from Page 3

Because we had been faithfully paying our homeowner's insurance premiums, we called our agent, and arrangements were quickly made to find us a place to live, to replace lost items, to have the house restored, the garage rebuilt, and even my grand piano restored, with all reasonable expenses reimbursed by the insurance company.

So, here is the question: After paying the premium every month for years, and then making a claim, is the money we received from the insurance company an entitlement? Well, yes it is, because we were entitled to it, according to the contract we have with the company. But is this entitlement a bad thing? Are we a couple of lazy good-for-nothings because we claimed something that we had paid for? Are we unreasonable to expect the insurance company to make good on what we had paid for? We don't think so. Bet you don't either.

How about when you open a money-market account at your local bank, and you deposit a portion of your paycheck every month; years later, you decide to start making withdrawals. Those checks the bank issues to you, are those entitlements? Of course not. You have been depositing that money every month. Why in the world should you expect to not get it back?

So, that brings us to Social Security and Medicare. All those people who work and pay into those programs with their payroll deductions every month, are they not entitled to get the benefits outlined in the program? Isn't it time we quit using that word "entitlement" in such a way that it labels the beneficiaries as a bunch of losers who depend on the government for handouts?

We all know why both Medicare and Social Security are headed for a financial crunch. There are two

reasons, actually. First, because the huge profits made by insurance companies keep increasing health care costs. Second, because the money you and I pay into Social Security is used as operating revenue by the Federal Government. The Republicans can scream all they want about fiscal responsibility, but it was under their watch that the U.S. got involved in two costly wars when there was never any plan to pay for them. And it was under their watch when in the summer of 2001 the accounting rules were changed to allow the money being paid into the Social Security fund to be classified as General Revenue, thereby making President Bush's deficit spending look less bad. You can look it up.

While we're on the subject, let's look at some of the entitlements we might well do without. Do we really need to be giving subsidies and tax breaks to the

big oil companies, whose profits are so huge they don't know what to do with all the money? Are those profits not enough motivation to stay in business? They need subsidies and tax breaks, too? And what about the big agricultural companies which insist on selling us high-fructose corn syrup products, contributing to our obesity problem and ultimately to our already huge health care costs? And then we have the tobacco companies, which make products that cause very expensive diseases, another burden on our health care system. The list goes on and on. Yet, all these companies feel very much entitled to the breaks they receive.

Come to think of it, maybe "entitlement" really is a dirty word. Hmmm-mm . . .

Trudy Hess is the Editor of the North Dallas Texas Democratic Women "The Link" newsletter

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NDG Bookshelf



BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER
NDG CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Grandma always said to find yourself a nice man.

When you were growing up, that was the advice Granny had for you. Find a good man, she said. One that would provide, who didn't lay around, drink up the paycheck, or pick fights. A churchgoing man, she said. That's what you needed.

And you agree, with one addition: you'd like a streak of wild, too.

NDG BookShelf: A Gangsta and a Gentleman is a hot and sassy read!

So would a lot of women, to a greater or lesser degree. In the new book *A Gangster and A Gentleman* by Kiki Swinson and De'Nesha Diamond, you'll read two stories about women who want a lot of bad in their boys.

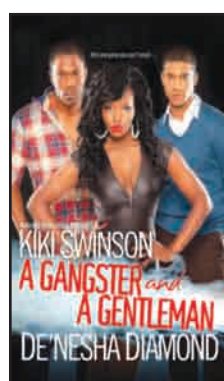
Melody Goldman had it all: a huge mansion, unlimited credit cards, designer clothes, a new Jaguar, a personal shopper, and in *I Need a Gangster*, she also had a lawyer-husband to pay for it all.

But Melody didn't just love Richard for his money. She loved what he did in the bedroom, too. Richard knew how to work it, that was for sure.

So when Melody came home from shopping, expecting a little Richard in the sack, she got a big surprise: Richard's bags were packed and he was leaving.

The bigger surprise came when Melody learned that Richard had frozen their bank account, locked her out of the mansion, and taken her car – and there wasn't a thing she could do about it.

Signing that pre-nup wasn't the best idea. Buying life insurance for Richard wasn't



good either, because Melody wouldn't get a thing unless Richard died before the divorce was final.

But with Mad Melody, that could easily be arranged...

Elijah Hardwick was an 8-year-old when his entire family was gunned down in a gang blackout – and he might've died, if it was not for Mafia Don. The gangster took the child in and raised Eli as his own son, naturally, Eli felt indebted to his godfather.

So when the Haitian gangster, Midnight, put a blackout on Mafia Don, it was also natural that the Don send his best enforcer to Los Angeles to protect a daughter, Blake, that few knew the Don had.

But the "little girl" was a fine woman, and Blake Scott didn't take any bull from any man. In *Gentlemen Prefer Bullets*, that could get her killed.

Violent, gritty, filled with four-letter words, but downright fun, *A Gangster and A Gentleman* is definitely not something you'd want to give to Grandma.

Authors Kiki Swinson and De'Nesha Diamond bring their readers right down to

street-level with guns blazing and bullets ripping. The women in these novellas are sexy and sassy. The men are hard-bodied and swaggering. The language is harsh and takes no prisoners. Put it all together and you've got two steamy stories that will make your heart pound for more reasons than just one.

Bring a fan for yourself because you're going to need it when you read *A Gangster and A Gentleman*. If you're a lover of street lit or you just want a book with fire, this one's so good, it's bad.

"*A Gangster and A Gentleman*" by Kiki Swinson and De'Nesha Diamond (Kensington, \$15.00, 320 Pages)

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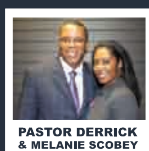
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