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Deadline looms for NC Governor's Wilmington ten pardon decision

BY CASH MICHAELS
Special to the NNPA from the Wilmington Journal



1976 at Press Conference at First Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC -- (L to R--Seated) Rev. Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Jr., William "Joe" Wright, Jr., Connie Tindall, Jerry Jacobs, (L to R--Standing) Wayne Moore, Anne Sheppard, Willie "Earl" Vereen, James McKay, Marvin Patrick and Reginald Epps.

(NNPA) Now that the 2012 presidential elections are history, supporters for the Wilmington Ten pardons of innocence effort are incre-

asing their efforts to build more overwhe- lming public support for the cause before NC Gov. Beverly

Perdue leaves office on Dec. 31st.

Sources say there is opposition to the proposed pardons, primarily from former law enforcement and state officials who still believe - despite no evidence proving that the Wilmington Ten had

See PARDON, Page 6

COVER STORY

Homeowners still waiting on billions in foreclosure relief



See RELIEF, Page 9

Nonpartisan commission announced to study and inform policies on youth voting

Tufts University's center for the study of youth engagement, announced the formation of a nonpartisan Commission on Youth Voting & Civic Knowledge, which will be charged with investigating exclusive data -- much of it collected during and immediately after the recent 2012

elections -- with regard to the civic knowledge, voting behavior, and beliefs of young Americans ages 29 and under. Following an investigation, the diverse, bipartisan group of scholars and experts from across the country will release a report in the Spring of 2013 outlining their rec-

ommendations on how to strengthen both the civic knowledge and participation of young Americans.

Commissioner Trey Grayson, Director of the Harvard Institute of Politics and former Kentucky Secretary of State, said, "I'm excited about

See VOTING, Page 11



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Liz Mikel returns to DTC's annual holiday treat A Christmas Carol

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

COMMENTARY

Cornyn Should Keep Promise on Confirming Judges

BY: MATT GLAZER,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PROGRESS TEXAS

Now that he is the second highest-ranking member in the Republican caucus, it's time to hold Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) to his word.

In June, the Republicans blocked confirmation of President Barack Obama's pending judicial nominees, holding off until after the presidential election. At the time, Sen. Cornyn told the Capitol Hill newspaper, Roll Call,

that the president shouldn't be overly concerned with this, since "if he's elected [again], it means only a few months delay anyway."

Now that President Obama has won reelection and it's been more than a few months since Republicans began blocking confirmation votes, Cornyn and other Senate Republicans need to get a move on and work to end the crisis in our courts. They need to stop drag-

See PROMISE, Page 3

UTD's BrainHealth Team Studies Overeating as a Type of Addiction

A similar, insidious craving plagues all addicts, no matter the substance of choice. A new study published in *NeuroImage* from Center for BrainHealth scientists Dr. Francesca Filbey, assistant professor in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, and doctoral student Samuel



DeWitt has found that for binge-eaters, as with all addiction sufferers, the compulsion to overeat is rooted in the brain's reward center.

In the last 20 years, the incidence of obesity has doubled in the U.S. and many European countries,

See BRAIN, Page 4

INSIDE...

- People In The News 2
- Op/Ed 3
- Community News 5
- Holiday Events Pages 7-8
- Cover Story 9
- Arts & Entertainment 10
- Business 11
- Classifieds 12
- Career Opportunity 13
- Church Directory 14-16
- Sister Tarpley 15

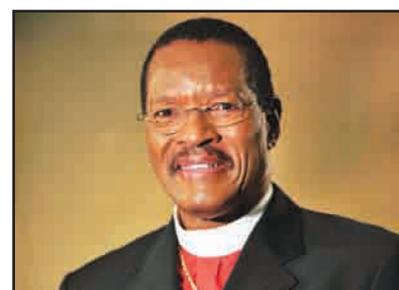
People In The News...



Pauline Medrano



Johnny L. Meshack



Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.

See Page 2

Pauline Medrano

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund announced the election of its new chair, Dallas Mayor Pro Tem Pauline Medrano along with new board members. The chair and board leadership were elected at the organization's board of directors meeting on November 16 in Washington DC during the organization's 9th Biennial NALEO National Institute for Newly Elected Officials. Medrano assumes the leadership position

from Fla., Representative Juan Carlos Zapata.

"Dallas Mayor Pro Tem Pauline Medrano's notable accomplishments and distinguished leadership makes her a welcome addition to the Board of Directors," Zapata stated. "Our entire board knows that she will excel as chair, because of her passion for our mission. We welcome and congratulate Pauline in her new role."

Zapata went on to state, "I am excited about continuing to work with Pauline

and the NALEO Educational Fund as I continue serving as a member of the board. I look forward and am privileged to be serving the Hispanic community in an ongoing capacity."

The NALEO Educational Fund Board of Directors unanimously elected Medrano to serve as chair of the organization. Medrano began her career as a Congressional aide to former U.S. Representative Martin Frost. She has



also worked as the District Director for the Texas Department of Agriculture. More recently she served as the District Sales Manager for GTECH Corporation. Medrano has also worked as an ESL instructor for the Dallas Independent School District in the Adult Basic Education Department. She earned her undergraduate degree

from the University of Texas at Arlington and is a graduate of Leadership Dallas.

"Having served as a member of the board for the past three years I am excited to have an opportunity to further our mission to engage Latinos and empower them to be a part of the political process," said Medrano. "I am inspired by the exceptional work that NALEO Educational Fund does each and every day. It is an honor to serve as chair of the NALEO Educational Fund Board of Directors."

See MEDRANO, Page 5

Johnny L. Meshack

Dallas Native, Johnny L. Meshack, also known as "Meshack...The ULTIMATE D.J." has a unique sound and dynamic ability of mixing Country, Electro, Hip-Hop and Rock & Roll, all the while taking it back to the old school.

With almost 15 years of experience in the entertainment industry, he is one of the most sought after DJ's in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. His uncanny ability to create musical mixes exposed him to club jocking, which

he soon found was his forte'.

His musical library of over 250,000 songs includes Country, Hip-Hop, Latin and Top 40's. He will work with clients to customize their musical play list and accommodate any song request. He uses state of the art equipment and can handle your event of any size.

Hear him at a special event for children stricken with cancer at the Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas, Texas. He will be at Buttons Restaurant in Addison, Texas on December 1, from 12 Noon to 4 p.m. This event will be a toy drive, silent auction and a raffle with great food and entertainment.

Also, D.J. Meshack will return to Buttons Restaurant on December 5th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for another special event for Christmas Blessings 2012 for other children that would not have a Christmas without the generosity of North Dallas Gazette; Button's Restaurant; Meshack, the Ultimate D.J.; Lady Jaecelyn Merseberg, Buttons' Food and

Music Ambassador and many others.

These events are special to D.J. Meshack because he believes no child should have to worry about their ailments around Christmas and to put a smile on their face will make all the difference in his' or hers' life.

D.J. Meshack's outgoing, tenacious and bubbly personality transcends people of all ages, gender and ethnicities. His interaction with the crowd helps to insure that everyone in attendance



has had the time of their lives; and they leave knowing that their expectations have been far exceeded. Meshack... The ULTIMATE D.J. promises to provide you with The Ultimate Experience!

To book your event or service inquiries, email: meshacktheultimatej@gmail.com, or call 817.522.4DJ1. References can be provided when requested.

Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.

During the 105th Holy Convocation, in St. Louis, the Church of God in

The General Assembly, the Legislative Body of the Church of God in

Christ, has overwhelmingly reelected Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. to the Office of Presiding Bishop and leader of the churches Executive Branch. Bishop Blake is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the nearly 6.5 million-member church.

Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. says, "I am humbled and delighted to be chosen to continue to lead one of the greatest

churches in the world. The Church of God in Christ is a beacon of hope and love. I want to thank the church for the opportunity to serve as presiding bishop for another quadrennial."

The General Board is the Board of Directors of the denomination and governs the church between meetings of the General Assembly. The General Board consists of twelve members including the Presiding Bishop. The 2012 General Assembly delegates also elected four new members to the General Board, with seven returning incumbents:

Returning Incumbents: Bishop Phillip Aquilla Brooks, Bishop Jerry Wayne Macklin Bishop Roy Lawrence Hailey Winbush, Bishop George

Dallas McKinney Bishop Nathaniel Wyoming Wells, Bishop Sedgwick Daniels Bishop Frank Otha White

Newly Elected Members: Bishop J. Drew Sheard, Bishop Brandon B. Porter, Bishop Ted Thomas, Sr., Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten

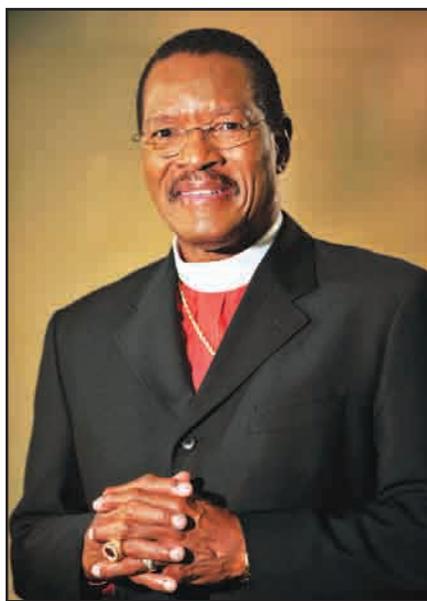
The additional national officers elected for a new four-year term include: General Secretary Bishop Joel H. Lyles, Jr., Financial Secretary Bishop Frank Anthone White and Treasurer Pastor Charles Harrison Mason Patterson

Board of Bishops: Bishop John H. Sheard, Chair; Bishop Donald R. Murray, 1st Vice President; Bishop Albert Galbraith, 2nd Vice President; Bishop Larry Shaw, Secretary; Bishop Hester Bor-

deaux, Assistant Secretary; Bishop Cody Mar-

shall, Treasurer; Bishop

See BLAKE, Page 15



Christ (COGIC) has once again chosen Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. as its Presiding Bishop.

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Beyond the Rhetoric: Cable Television – An American Success Story

BY HARRY C. ALFORD

It seems so natural today. Having cable television in our homes, giving us a vast selection of channels from which to choose, is a given condition for the vast majority of us. I can remember in my early years it was not like that. We had the three networks and a few local channels. A Black face on television doing something productive was very few and far between. When the great singer Nat King Cole got his own television show in Los Angeles we were all so proud. Our music was available to us and we were indeed becoming a valuable part of American culture. Gone are those simple years that discounted and downplayed Black intellect, talent and culture.

It was 1948, when entrepreneurs would introduce cable television to three markets – Arkansas, Oregon and Pennsylvania. They would service the mountain areas of these states where normal television signals were extremely difficult to pick

up. In just 4 years, there were 70 cable systems servicing over 14,000 households. By the 1960's, there were over 850,000 households and 800 cable providers. This was phenomenal growth but was seen as a great threat to the local television owners. They convinced the federal government (Congress and the Federal Communications Commission –FCC) to slow the pace down and bring in tighter controls through enhanced regulation.

Cable television hit an anemic growth rate throughout the 1960's because of the above obstacle. They would limit cable operators offering movies, sporting events and syndicated programming. It was actually an assault on freedom of speech. Please keep in mind that the cable growth was coming from private funds such as venture capitalism and equity investment. There was not a drop of government money – county, state nor federal. This was true Americana as the founders of our government intended it to be.

The FCC was, in fact, a prohibitive entity to the growth of this new technology which targeted information, entertainment and thought.

Champions of the upstart cable industry finally convinced the government authorities to lessen the blockage they created and let this valuable technology grow and become available to the American marketplace. The demand should determine if it should expand and the demand was about to blow up to incredible levels. The creation of satellite technology along with friendlier regulation caused a spike in available capital. Great American entrepreneurs like Jack Kent Cooke, Charles Dolan and Ted Turner would gather the needed capital and revolutionize programming based on the demands of the American consumer. By 1980, nearly sixteen million households were subscribing to cable companies. It was just the beginning.

As these entrepreneurs began to populate and jobs

were being created exponentially, Black Americans happily found that they were included. Thank the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act for this. Local regulation and licensing would come from the city and county level. The face of city and county government had now become a "rainbow" in most local communities. The newly formed cable companies knew they had to be inclusive. Job hires, training and ownership were being "dipped in chocolate". Cable companies were coming with diversity in the entertainment and ownership industry. The late Mayor Coleman Young of Detroit and past DC Mayor Marion Barry along with other vanguard Black mayors in the nations demanded Black ownership participation. Two notable beneficiaries of this new opportunity were the late Don Barden of Detroit and Robert Johnson of Washington, DC (BET).

As cable progressed and the more successful

See CABLE, Page 11

PROMISE, continued from Page 1

ing their feet and quickly hold long-overdue confirmation votes on the 19 judicial nominees whose nominations have been languishing on the Senate floor all this time. That's what Sen. Cornyn promised the country and his state he would do.

There should be no problem moving forward because these nominees are not controversial. A majority passed through the Senate Judiciary Committee with strong bipartisan support. Yet Senate Republicans didn't want to confirm these nominees – not because they wouldn't be fair judges – but because they simply wanted to obstruct Obama's every move, hoping for a different outcome November 6.

But what they should have been focusing on is the dire need to fill these

vacancies. While the Senate was busy playing political games with our judiciary, millions of Americans were being denied access to justice. Our federal courts hear cases on many issues including Social Security benefits, immigration, employment issues and civil liberties. Every day a vacancy goes unfilled, people's lives are impacted. The federal bench currently has 83 vacancies across the country – leaving millions of Americans without a judge to hear their case.

This is a major problem in Texas. Right now, we have three judicial emergencies in our district courts and two in the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. That means there are too many people and not enough judges to hear their cases. We are importing judges from out of state just

to keep up with the current Texas caseload. Put simply, we have been planning for failure and denying millions of Texans access to justice.

Sens. Cornyn and Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas) play a key role in filling these vacancies, not just because the Senate must confirm all judicial nominees, but because the president relies on the recommendation of Texas senators before selecting a nominee for Texas federal courts. There are currently no nominees to fill these Texas vacancies, and until Cornyn and Hutchison begin to take this seriously, Texans will continue to be denied access to the courts.

Beginning with the lame-duck session, Cornyn should make good on his June promise that it would only be a "few months

delay" in confirming pending judicial nominees. In previous lame-duck sessions, the Senate has confirmed large numbers of nominees. For example, after the 2002 midterms, the Senate confirmed 18 of President George W. Bush's judicial nominees in one day. There is no reason that can't happen now. And why should Senator Hutchison retire and leave the problem she helped create for her successor?

We've all waited long enough for a fair and functioning court system. Senator Cornyn promised quick action if President Obama was elected to a second term. It is time for Cornyn, the now Senior Senator and party leader, to keep his word and fix the problem caused by gridlock and obstructionism in Washington.

Children's Medical Center designated a Level IV NICU facility

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Children's Medical Center (www.childrens.com) has been designated a Level IV NICU, the highest qualification for such programs, as established by the American Academy of Pediatrics under newly revised standards.

Children's offers the most advanced medical care for the most complex and critically ill newborns of any of the three facilities in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to achieve this status. Children's also is the only hospital in the area with a NICU program academically affiliated with UT Southwestern Medical Center.

With its new designation, Children's offers a regional NICU program going

beyond the capabilities of other hospitals by performing surgical repairs on site of complex congenital or acquired conditions; maintaining a full range of pediatric medical subspecialists, pediatric surgical subspecialists and pediatric anesthesiologists at the hospital 24 hours a day; facilitating transport and providing outreach education.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recently revised its standards for NICUs, creating a Level IV designation for hospitals providing the most specialized care for newborns.

"The American Academy of Pediatrics' Level IV designation is important as it recognizes the highest level of care for neonates that is provided in the Chil-



dren's NICU," said Dr. Rashmin Savani, division director of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at Children's and UT Southwestern Medical Center. "There is a close partnership between UT Southwestern Medical Center and Children's to provide the excellence in neonatal and other subspecialty care needed for such a designation."

"This is a highly coordinated system that goes from the FETAL Program through the newborn period," said Savani, who is also a professor of Pediatrics at UT Southwestern. "Our Level IV NICU provides the support needed by Level III NICUs in north Texas and beyond that have babies needing a higher level of care. This allows

concentration of the best imaging, equipment, trained and experienced personnel and the highest level of subspecialty care available."

"The Level IV designation was created to help the community and families understand where the highest level of specialty care for newborns is offered," said Dr. James Moore, medical director of the Children's NICU and an associate professor of Pediatrics at UT Southwestern.

"The support that these complex babies out in the community need is available here at Children's," Moore said. "One of the things I am very proud of at Children's is that we provide these services, but believe in family-centered care. Part of that is returning

the babies to their home institutions so the family can have their own support networks once the baby is stable enough to be in that environment. I'm proud that we've always provided that, but now we have a way to designate what we are capable of," Moore said.

"The Children's NICU program has admitted more than 400 babies so far this year," said Lisa Mason, clinical director of Children's Neonatal and Perinatal Services.

"We are the only hospital in Dallas-Fort Worth that does not ever have to send a baby to another hospital because the breadth of our specialty services is so robust," Mason said. "We offer the highest level of care."

BRAIN, continued from Page 1

and related chronic diseases such as heart disease and diabetes are on the rise. One-third of Americans are obese, and more than two-thirds are overweight. Obesity has become a leading health problem in the United States, and its challenging personal and economic ramifications fuel the desire to quell the pandemic.

Until now research and treatment focusing on physiological factors, such as metabolic disorders, and psychological causes, such as eating when depressed or bored, have failed to solve the problem. However, recent research from Center for BrainHealth's lead addiction scientist, Dr. Filbey, seeks to further understand how addiction manifests in the brain and drive innovative treatment solutions.

"The reason I'm interested in studying the brain's reward system in response to food is that current treatments for obesity often do not work. Only 5 percent of those who seek interventions such as diet and exercise are successful in maintaining a healthy weight. Even in the case of gastric bypass, many still experience dependence symptoms like extreme desire to overeat and the associated

feelings of guilt after surgery," Filbey said.

"For someone with addiction, they are constantly bombarded by temptation, which is triggered by cues. For someone with an alcohol addiction, a cue might be driving down the road and seeing a bar or just seeing a wine glass. For someone who has problems with food, it might be the image of a milkshake or the smell of popcorn. Constant cues or triggers are what often makes it very difficult to abstain from substances," Filbey said.

Filbey and her team examined 26 obese individuals who exhibited binge-eating symptoms without purging behaviors. Obese is defined as having a body mass index above 30. Binge-eating symptoms were measured using a questionnaire called the Binge Eating Scale. All participants had moderate to severe binge eating behavior.

Participants were asked to divulge their favorite high-calorie beverages and complete self-assessments about their eating behavior. Using functional MRI technology, researchers then observed each participant's brain while the chosen, high-calorie beverage was

pipled into the participant's mouth.

As researchers suspected, the brain showed heightened activity in the reward, motivation, and memory areas of the brain. The more severe the binge-eating symptoms exhibited by the participant, the greater the activity in the brain. The results demonstrate similarities between brain disorders of the reward system commonly seen in other forms of addiction and binge eating.

Despite the cognitive connection between addiction and obesity, the term "food addiction" is up for debate in the field. "It is not a concept people have been open to in the past. Right now, it does not exist as a recognized disorder." However, Filbey concedes, "The National Institute on Drug Abuse has begun supporting research into food addiction, and although previously not considered a legitimate diagnosis, the next *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* will list binge eating as a disorder."

This study provides evidence that the solution to weight loss for some goes beyond preaching behavior changes such as "just say no" to another milkshake, and urges us to better under-

stand brain-based issues that lead to obesity. Further research into binge eating, addiction, and the brain's reward system will help iden-

tify risk factors for weight problems and provide the basis for treatments helping those who struggle with "food addiction".

The National Institutes of Health recently awarded Filbey \$2 million to study addiction and marijuana.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1416	Double Wild Cherries Overall Odds are 1 in 4.45	\$1	1/30/13	7/29/13
1420	3X The Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.85	\$3	1/30/13	7/29/13
1435	Bonus Ball Bingo Overall Odds are 1 in 3.98	\$3	1/30/13	7/29/13
1442	Loteria® Texas Overall Odds are 1 in 3.99	\$3	1/30/13	7/29/13

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

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Bear Creek Community Church launching a community garden this weekend

Irving's Bear Creek Community Church are launching the Bear Creek Community Garden, just in time for the 2013 growing season. They are inviting the public to come out on Dec. 1 from 1 - 4 p.m. for special kickoff events.

The garden will be located at 2700 Finley Road in Irving and invite the community to come and learn more about the opportunities to learn more about gardening while helping the community. Visitors will receive information about the garden plots they can

select and use to cultivate and grow food for their own family's use. They are also invited to grow food to help the church provide fresh food for local charities and food pantries. All interested visitors will have the opportunity to work the soil and enjoy the joys of gardening while working side-by-side and fellowshiping with others in the community.

The events will feature demonstrations and information provided by:

•Fran Witte with the City of Irving's Parks and

Recreation will talk about Gardening, Composting and Green Living

•Rich Hose from the City of Irving's Keep Irving Beautiful will discuss community involvement in our neighborhood

•Dudly Hargrove, a Texas Master Gardener, will provide tips on raised bed gardening.

Also members of the Bear Creek Community Garden Committee will be on hand to provide information on how to reserve a garden plot in 2013.

Richardson City Council discusses Main/75 Project

The Richardson City Council at their Nov. 19 meeting discussed the results of the latest public meeting on the Main Street/Central Expressway Corridor redevelopment study. The Final Public Involvement Session for this

phase of the study was held earlier this month to gather input from the community. The Council reviewed descriptions of the 11 districts proposed within the 415-acre study area, artist's renderings of possible redevelopment scenarios and feed-

back from the community meeting.

The City Council and City Plan Commission will hold a joint meeting Dec. 17 for a presentation wrapping up the first phase of the project and to consider the next steps.

Garland Neighborhood Management Academy class scheduled for Dec. 11

The Garland Neighborhood Management Academy (GNMA) is a series of educational classes on a variety of topics important to neighborhood vitality. GNMA exists to provide community stakeholders with the tools to actively engage in the municipal government process and to manage neighborhood growth and change.

The next class is scheduled for Dec. 11, the topic is Planning and Im-

plementing a Neighborhood Vitality Project. The classes are open to Garland residents, business & property owners and service providers. All classes will be held at City Hall, 200 N. Fifth Street in Downtown Garland.

The program is an important educational and empowerment component of the Strategy for Vital Neighborhoods by providing planning, education, management tools, and

technical assistance to enable neighborhoods to reach their goals.

GNMA increases awareness of city services and programs, provides leadership training, strengthens communications, and increases knowledge of the basic tools that enhance the vitality of our community.

For more information about the Academy, contact Felisa Conner at 972-205-3864.

Writing through Grief at the Center for Spiritual Living

The Writing through Grief at the Center for Spiritual Living is on Tuesday, Dec. 11 from 7 - 10 p.m. The location is 4801 Spring Valley Rd., Suite 115 in Dallas.

This workshop will help you learn to use writing as a

vehicle to work through grief caused by death and other losses. This sensitively-delivered workshop will explore journaling techniques, mood monitoring, music meditation, affirmations & poetic approaches.

The workshop fee is \$40, which includes the grief journal *It's Only Temporary: A Journal for Surviving Loved Ones*.

To reserve a space, call 214-803-3920.

New website design streamlines mobile access to www.plano.gov

The City of Plano website, www.plano.gov, now features a fresh design that promises mobile-users a better Web experience through a streamlined mobile version. The site also offers a customizable dashboard for quick access to items of personal interest.

The main page still displays the latest city news, along with an improved community calendar and a spotlighted video. The Plano Help Center offers action items, such as bill pay, per-

mit requests, HOA registration, volunteer registration and others. Most pages on the site have frequently asked questions, organized by department.

www.plano.gov is the digital gateway to Plano's city services. Videostreaming of City Council and Planning and Zoning meet-



ings allows residents who cannot attend meetings in person to view them online during the meeting or later on demand.

The new website is powered by CivicPlus, a nationally-recognized government website provider. The City's Public Information Office oversees the site, providing the news and information that Plano residents expect from their City.

Visit www.plano.gov to explore the new website.

MEDRANO, continued from Page 2

Medrano went on to say, "I want to thank Juan for his tireless efforts on behalf of the organization. I look forward to working with him and the rest of our membership in my new role."

The board also elected two new members during its meeting in Washington DC.

Monica Talan, senior vice president of corporate communications and public relations for Univision Communications, Inc. (N.Y.) and Lorraine Cortes-Vasquez, executive vice president for multicultural markets and engagement for AARP (DC). In addition, NALEO presi-

dent California State Senator Alex Padilla and Texas State Representative-elect Justin Rodriguez will also serve one year terms on the NALEO Educational Fund Board of Directors as NALEO board representatives.

"We look forward to working with and learning

from these respected professionals," said Arturo Vargas, executive director of NALEO Educational Fund. "Their commitment to furthering NALEO Educational Fund's mission is evident in their respective goals and achievements."

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Our company is based on the belief that our customers' needs are of the utmost importance. Our entire team is committed to meeting those needs. As a result, a high percentage of our business is from repeat customers and referrals.

U.S. Secretary of Education tours DISD's Pinkston High School

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan toured two classrooms at L.G. Pinkston High School on Tuesday along with Dallas ISD Superintendent Mike Miles, Board President Lew Blackburn and Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings. Duncan also met with Dallas ISD officials to talk about the direction of the district, then participated in a news conference in the Pinkston library.



DISD Supt. Mike Miles (L) and U.S. Sec. of Education Arne Duncan (R)

KD College Prep launches new website offering enhanced features

KD College Prep has announced the release of their newly designed website offering parents and students quick, easy access to essential information regarding programs and services offered to prepare and support students in their efforts to achieve their college dreams. The launch of the new website is part of KD College Prep's ongoing efforts to enhance the quality and availability of infor-

mation needed to help parents and students make the best choice in the college prep program that will expand and improve choices for admissions, scholarships and honors programs through improved test scores.

"Our new, easy-to-understand website is designed to help visitors navigate quickly to their area of interest," stated David Dillard, Managing Partner, KD

College Prep. "We listened to the requests of our parents, students and staff and redesigned our site to provide a better online experience optimized for desktop and mobile users. Our newest features and functionality include the ability for parents to easily view program curriculum, informational videos, campus' schedules and enroll their student online. We have also

See COLLEGE, Page 11

Gov. Perry Gives Keynote at the United Negro College Fund's North Texas Governor's Luncheon

Gov. Rick Perry on Wednesday delivered the keynote address at the North Texas Governor's Luncheon benefiting the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). The UNCF provides financial support to small higher education institutions throughout the country to help keep the cost of education affordable for underserved populations. Proceeds from

today's luncheon will benefit scholarships for low-income college students.

"As governor, I support the role UNCF plays in helping young people achieve their goal of a higher education," Gov. Perry said. "It is my mission to ensure that we devote our efforts and resources to carrying out proposed education reforms during the upcoming legislative session.



Gov. Rick Perry

The four-year tuition freeze for incoming freshmen, linking a portion of each university's funding to student outcomes and expand-

ing the number of universities offering degrees will motivate students to graduate on time and enter the workforce sooner by making Texas colleges more accessible, affordable and accountable for all Texans."

To view the governor's remarks from the UNCF North Texas Governor's Luncheon, please visit <http://governor.state.tx.us/news/speech/17918/>.

Construction moves Little Elm Public library to temporary quarters

For just over a month, the Little Elm Public Library will operate out of a temporary location to accommodate the renovation and expansion of its permanent home at Town Hall, according to Spencer Smith, Director of the Little Elm Public Library.

"Even though we're moving out of our home to a temporary location, patrons of the library can rest assured that they will notice only a slight

change in the level of service they have become accustomed to. We will do everything in our power to ensure a smooth transition out of and back into our permanent location," he said.

From Dec. 12 to Jan. 14, 2013, the library will operate out of the Little Elm Community Center, 500 Lobo Lane in Cottonwood Park. Hours of operation will remain un-

See LIBRARY, Page 7

PARDON, continued from Page 1

anything to do with the 1971 firebombing of a white-owned grocery store, or sniper shots at responding firemen - that they are guilty.

The legal petition to pardon all of the ten - nine African-American males and one white female - of false conspiracy charges they were convicted of in 1972, has been pending in Gov. Perdue's Executive Clemency office since last May.

Perdue, a Democrat, is expected to make her decision in December before she steps down.

Churches, fraternities, sororities, community and civic organizations in North Carolina and beyond are being asked to support the cause by sending letters to Gov. Perdue, or signing the online petition.

Benjamin Todd Jealous, NAACP president/CEO, has agreed to send out a mass email nationwide to all NAACP members asking them to sign a special online petition that will be delivered

to the NC governor the first week in December. The national NAACP Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution last May supporting the Wilmington Ten pardon effort, and the NC NAACP will be calling a special press conference Nov. 27th in Raleigh to urge Gov. Perdue to grant the pardons.

Thousands of signatures in hard copy and online petitions have been collected, but organizers with the Wilmington Ten Pardons of Innocence Project - an outreach effort the National Newspaper Publishers Association adopted in 2011 - say that still many more are needed by December 1st.

The next two weeks are critical, they say, towards garnering more petition signatures and letters of support in order to document widespread sentiment across the state and nation that the false prosecution of the Ten forty years ago was wrong, and the state needs to correct it.

Add to that the most recent and explosive revelation that James "Jay" Stroud, the state prosecutor who had the Wilmington Ten falsely convicted and sentenced to 282 years in prison collectively, not only sought to gerrymander the jury of the first June 1972 trial to include "KKK" and "Uncle Tom" types, but also, documented evidence from his own handwritten notes now show, succeeded in having that first trial aborted because it had a jury of ten blacks and two whites.

The second trial, in Sept. 1972, had a Pender County jury of ten whites and two blacks, in addition to a judge that history shows was more favorable to the prosecution.

"The prosecutor's notes are clear and convincing evidence that race was not just a factor in his selection of the ten whites and two blacks on the Pender jury that convicted the Wilmington Ten," veteran civil rights attorney Al McSurely says. "Race was the only factor. Forty years later,

we know his real motives. I believe when the governor studies this evidence, she will do the right thing and sign the pardons."

"I can barely contain my outrage at the blatant racism of an officer of the court," attorney McSurely added.

UNC - Chapel Hill law Professor Gene Nichol agreed.

"It is crucial that North Carolina act to admit and concede such a potent and defining abuse of power," Nichol said. "To allow public servants to behave in such a fashion, without remedy, is literally intolerable."

Attorneys for the Wilmington Ten pardons effort met with Governor Perdue's clemency staff several weeks ago, presenting their case, based on the Dec. 1980 US Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling which overturned all ten of the convictions, based on prosecutorial misconduct, and the fact that not only was exculpatory evidence hidden by the prosecu-

tor, but three witnesses for the state admitted they were enticed to perjure themselves in testimony.

However, the state of North Carolina, in the 32 years hence, has refused to grant pardons of innocence to the Wilmington Ten, thus maintaining their false felony convictions.

In the six months since the pardons effort campaign publicly kicked off, support has come from North Carolina congressmen G. K. Butterfield, David Price and Brad Miller; the NC Legislative Black Caucus and state Rep. Deborah Ross of Raleigh.

The 2012 NC Democratic Party platform also adopted a plank supporting the Wilmington Ten pardon effort last summer.

In terms of grassroots support, the NC NAACP has led the way, and most recently, the NC chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference has issued a resolution.

In each case, supporters have said that Gov. Perdue,

given her progressive record of advocacy to stop racially biased death penalty sentences; push for reparations to the victims of North Carolina's old forced sterilization program; and her veto of the Republican legislature's voter ID bill; is well positioned before she leaves office, to add to her progressive legacy pardons of innocence for the Wilmington Ten.

Editor's note - To sign the Change.Org online petition asking NC Gov. Beverly Perdue to grant pardons of innocence for the Wilmington Ten, please go to <https://www.change.org/petitions/nc-governor-bev-perdue-pardon-the-wilmington-ten>.

Those who would like to write a letter to Gov. Perdue before Dec. 1, asking her to grant pardons of innocence to the Wilmington Ten, should send them to: Hon. Beverly Eaves Perdue; Governor of North Carolina; 20301 Mail Service Center; Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Christmas Events in DFW

December 1

The **Richardson 41st Annual Christmas Parade** will march through west Richardson starting at 9 a.m. The parade will begin on Coit Road at Cherrywood Drive and continue north to J.J. Pearce High School. The theme for this year's parade is "Reindeer Games."

The parade's Award Ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. Dec. 1 at the City Hall/Civic Center Complex, just before the annual Christmas Tree Lighting and opening of Santa's Village.

For more information, visit <http://www.cor.net/index.aspx?page=333>.

Holiday Extravaganza: Kick off the holiday season with Irving's annual Holiday Extravaganza Dec. 1. The holiday parade will begin at 4 p.m. and travel through the Heritage District, followed by the tree lighting ceremony at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd. New to the event will be an afternoon concert on Main Street featuring Canta Rhythm and Bass band as well as sidewalk shopping opportunities.

December 8

Take a break from holiday shopping and visit the **Josey Ranch Lake Library** on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. to listen to the hand bells from Brookhaven Community College, directed by Bonnie Riddle. For more information, visit cityofcarrollton.com/library or call 972-466-4800.

Christmas on the Square in Carrollton

Snow will once again be blowing into Carrollton on the first weekend in December, bringing with it a time of Christmas celebrations. Cancel the flight north and enjoy the snow in the Downtown Carrollton Square from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1.

Tube down a snow hill and stroll the shops, decked out for the holidays, offering wonderful gifts and stocking stuffers. Visit and take pictures with Santa Claus, and enjoy the many vendor arts and crafts

booths. Sponsored by the Old Downtown Carrollton Association.

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

Fridays - Nov. 30, Dec 7, 14, 21 & 28 6-9 p.m.

Saturdays - Dec. 15, 22 & 29 5-8 p.m.

Sundays on Dec. 2, 9, 16 & 23 5-8 p.m.



Dallas by Chocolate is hosting Christmas Lights, Chocolate and Wine Tours featuring a cozy ride to view holiday lights, while eating chocolate and sipping wine or hot chocolate. They will view the lights of Highland Park and Kessler Park, as well as a few chocolate stops along the way. Price includes bus transportation, hot chocolate or coffee, wine and treats at 2-3 chocolate establishments. \$30 per person at www.dallasbychocolate.com or 972-814-5997.



December 1, 8, & 15 The Plaza at Preston Center welcomes Santa and his loyal reindeer, Comet and Cupid, for the 2012 **Santa Days** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Kids and adults of all ages are welcome to have their picture taken with Santa and his reindeer while experiencing the Plaza's always-popular holiday decorations and unique shops. The Plaza at Preston Center is one of the few places where you will actually be able to see live reindeer up close. The Santa pictures themselves are FREE and donations are encouraged for The North Texas Food Bank.

Breakfast with Santa at the Dallas Zoo

Families can join Santa for breakfast at the Zoofari Food Court and share your wish list with the jolly old elf. The fun kicks off at the Dallas Zoo from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. The breakfast buffet starts at 9 a.m. and the activities kick off at 9:30 a.m. Then the family can enjoy the rest of the day at the zoo.

Kids can enjoy a variety of holiday craft stations. Price includes all-day admission to the Zoo, parking for one vehicle, breakfast

buffet, visit with Santa, age appropriate Christmas crafts, and freshly baked cookie decorating (plenty of icing and toppings to choose from). Advanced reservations are required and will be accepted until Wednesday, Dec. 5.

The cost is \$22.99 for members and \$29.99 for non-members but free for ages kids 2 and younger. If more parking passes are needed, they cost \$8. For more information or to make reservations, call



469-554-7470 or email SSA@DallasZoo.com.

December 1 is World AIDS Day - Get Tested

knowing it. Getting an HIV test, knowing your HIV status, and encouraging your friends, family, and community to do the same are important steps in preventing the spread of HIV.

Talk with your friends and family about getting tested and protecting themselves. CDC recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 be tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care. Testing once a year (or more) is recommended for people at higher risk of HIV infection, such as those who are gay, bisexual, men who have sex with men (MSM), injection drug users, or people with multiple sex partners.

Here are three good reasons for you to get an HIV test.

Finding out early can help you live a longer, healthier life. There are treatments now that are available to you that can keep you healthy. You can find support, so that you stay connected to care.

1. If you know, you can protect yourself—and the people you love. The earlier you know, the more you can do. There's new hope today for stopping HIV. Medicines (antiretroviral therapy or ART) can lower the level of virus in the body. ART helps people with HIV live longer, healthier lives and also lowers the chances of passing HIV to others. Knowing early enables you to help yourself and to protect others. Studies have shown that when people find out they have HIV, they are also more

likely to take steps to protect their health and that of their partners.

2. It's easy. It's free, fast, and confidential. Many clinics and testing locations in your area offer free HIV tests. You can even get confidential or anonymous HIV tests. To find out where you can get a free HIV test in your area, do one of the following:

- Use the site locator at <http://hivtest.cdc.gov>. Enter your ZIP code, and the locator will find a testing site near you.

- Text your local ZIP code to "KNOWIT" (566948), and you will receive a text back with a testing site near you.

- Call 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) to ask for free testing sites in your area.

LIBRARY, continued from Page 6

changed, opening Mondays through Thursdays and Saturdays at 10 a.m. and closing on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., closing on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m. and closing on Saturdays at 3 p.m. The library is closed on Fridays and Sundays.

The complete collection of library material is still accessible to patrons, although there may be a slight delay in obtaining some selections.

"There will be an assortment of popular items to check out at the Community Center during this short period. The entire collection, though, is available to check out as well,

with items not physically at the Community Center being available upon request the next business day," said Smith.

Books, videos and other library items due for return during the month-long period can be dropped off at the Community Center, and all scheduled library programming will remain in effect at the temporary location.

"For those patrons wanting to visit other libraries, Little Elm residents may use any library in Denton County with which the Town has interlocal agreements. These include all libraries in Denton County except those in Frisco, Denton,

Roanoke and Plano," he added.

The renovation and expansion of the library on the first floor of Town Hall will mean more floor space and a new layout, making the library easier to use and more customer-friendly.

"An exciting feature of the renovation is the implementation of new technologies that will greatly assist in creating a more meaningful library experience for patrons," he concluded.

The Little Elm Public Library is permanently housed at Town Hall, 100 West Eldorado Parkway.

NDG's 25 Days of Christmas: The OG Dolls are a winner for little girls this Christmas!

BY RUTH FERGUSON,
NDG EDITOR

OG Dolls are not only fun, but offer an empowering and affirming image for little girls. Companies often make promises to address important issues for young children – and in the case of OG Dolls we see that occasionally they actually get it right. For several years now, educators and community leaders have attempted to bring sharp attention to the importance of providing little girls with positive images to help them expand their dreams and improve how they see themselves. OG Dolls does a great job of putting ideas into action in a way little girls will enjoy, and oh by the way help them to believe they can someday make a difference too.

The 22 OG Dolls – short for Our Generation Dolls – each come with an



impressive number of accessories and a book sharing the backstory of each individual doll. I received the Jenny Deluxe Set to review (includes many of the items shown but not the refrigerator oven and sink set shown because the photo is

of Jenny's Gourmet Kitchen Set), which included not only an 18" poseable doll wearing a cute outfit, but accessories to correspond with Jenny's story told in *The Sweet Shoppe Mystery*. The companion book is recom-

mended for a 7-year-old child or older, so this can be a great opportunity for an older sibling or relative to read the creative tale to a younger girl.

Naturally OG Dolls are often compared to the very popular American Doll series and they generally receive rave reviews by children and their parents. For example, the price difference is significant. Visiting American Girl's website showed the Abby doll, book and accessories is \$124 online. The Our Generation Jenny deluxe doll set with the book is available for only \$31.99 on Target.com, I read online that the store even offered clothes for the dolls as low as \$8.99 recently.

While American Girl Dolls focus on the important contribution females have made throughout

See GIFTS, Page 10

Special pudgy guest to visit Murphy parks on Dec. 8

Jolly Old Elf's visit part of Fire Dept.'s annual toy drive

A special visitor will make the rounds of nine of Murphy parks on Saturday, Dec. 8 spreading cheer and accepting toy donations for the City's annual toy drive, according to Fire Dept. Administrative Assistant Dawnelle Rounsavall.

"This year, we've made arrangements with Santa Claus' schedulers to have the jolly old fellow visit nine of our parks for a short stopover to interact with kids and to help us gather donated toys for our annual push," she said.

Santa Claus' schedule on Dec. 8 will include 30-minute stops at: Travis Farm Park at 10 a.m.; Timbers Nature Preserve at 10:45 a.m.; Waters Edge Park at Maxwell Creek at 11:30 a.m.; The Preserve at Maxwell Creek at 12:15 p.m.; North Hill Park at 1 p.m.; Liberty Ridge Park at 1:45 p.m.; Brentwood Park at 2:30 p.m.; Aviary Park at 3:15 p.m.; and Mustang Park at 4 p.m. Traffic and other considerations may alter the schedule slightly.

See MURPHY, Page 11

NDG's 25 Days of Christmas

Visit www.NorthDallasGazette.com to read about gift ideas for the special child, lady or guy on your Christmas list. Will also feature special events, local nonprofits and Dallas dining. Check in each day until Dec. 20 and share your ideas with us too!



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IMPORTED FROM DETROIT

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Homeowners still waiting on billions in foreclosure relief

BY NGOC NGUYEN
(New America Media)
Thanks to a federal program, homeowner Pretti Hilton could be getting just what she needs to resolve her longstanding foreclosure case: a referee.

Under the Independent Foreclosure Review program, eligible homeowners can request a review of their foreclosure file by a third-party consultant. If the independent auditor finds that the bank made errors in processing their foreclosure, the homeowner can recoup money – from \$500 to as much as \$125,000.

For Hilton, who has been fighting foreclosure of her home for nearly four years, the program offers a ray of hope.

So far, her attempts to work with her lender, Bank of America, on modifying her home loan to produce a lower monthly mortgage payment, have failed. In fact, the bank tried to auction off her property several times. If she were to lose her two-bedroom home in Moreno Valley, California, says Hilton, she and her two sons -- a 15-year-old and a disabled 27-year-old -- would be on the street.

"The stress is astronomical," she says, adding that she is taking medication for hypertension, something she'd never done before. "I don't believe I was blessed with a house in order to lose it.... I will not go down without a fight."

A home health worker, Hilton says her income took a hit with state budget cuts to programs that subsidize in-home care. When she got back on her feet, she resumed making mortgage payments, which by then included late fees. But even after paying off the late charges, she says, her bank did not lower the monthly payment back to the original amount. Because of that discrepancy and others, Hilton says she hasn't paid her mortgage for three

years, and her case is still in limbo.

Then Hilton received a letter in the mail about the Independent Foreclosure Review program run by the Federal Reserve Bank and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC). Hilton applied for the program two months ago, and says she's "expecting to hear something soon."

But the wait could be longer than Hilton originally expected.

More than a year after its launch, the program has yet to pay out any compensation, and just a fraction of the requested reviews have been completed.

Last April, federal regulators ordered the nation's biggest banks to overhaul their foreclosure procedures in the wake of the "robo-signing" scandal – when it came to light that banks were approving foreclosures without verifying the underlying documents. As a result, the banks were required by the government to offer third-party reviews of foreclosure cases to their customers who request it, and hire independent consultants to do the work.

Of the more than 4.4 million homeowners who were potentially eligible for the program who were sent letters, about 250,000 requested a review. Banks were also ordered to "look back" at a representative sample of cases, accounting for another 159,000 homeowners, bringing the total number of reviews to more than 400,000.

Bryan Hubbard, a spokesman for the OCC, says about 260,000 reviews are underway. According to an interim report released in June, consultants had completed just 11,000 reviews.

"No compensation has been approved yet because we have not reached that point in the review process," Hubbard says.

In June, regulators came up with a compensation pay scale, attaching dollar amounts

or other remedies to a list of about a dozen possible errors made by the banks. If consultants determine that a homeowner suffered financial harm, they will recommend what type and amount of relief should go to the borrower. The banks then need to submit a "remediation plan" to regulators, and then the checks can go out, Hubbard says.

"We hope that remediation will begin in the fourth quarter of this year, but continue through 2013," he says. As of yet, the banks have not submitted those plans to regulators.

The most common complaints prompting a request for review, Hubbard says, involve denials of loan modifications, improper and incorrect fees, timeliness of payments and disputes in amounts owed.

In Hilton's case, if a review of her file found she was wrongfully denied a loan modification, the foreclosure would be halted and the bank would have to grant or deny her application, and compensate her either \$2,500 or \$10,000.

Compensation to individual homeowners is capped at \$125,000, but the total amount the banks would have to pay out to all homeowners is "unlimited," Hubbard says.

The independent review program contrasts with a parallel but separate restitution program instituted earlier this year as a result of a multi-state lawsuit. The National Mortgage Settlement promised homeowners who were financially harmed by bank errors a "one-size-fits-all" check of about \$2,000. It set a "low bar to get some benefit," according to Paul Leonard, director of the Center for Responsible Lending's California office. The compensation would shrink as more homeowners tap the fund.

In contrast, the federal program, says Leonard, is a complement to that.

"[It] takes a fine-tooth-comb approach to really identify specific borrowers harmed and how much harm they actually suffered," Leonard says.

Although it doles out stiffer penalties for errors, and mandates that those deficiencies in each bank's

With the deadline to file a request for review under the federal program looming (Dec. 31), housing counselors say more effort is needed to publicize the program to eligible homeowners. Any homeowner whose primary residence was in any stage of foreclo-

"It's been disappointing. I feel that there have been tools that were created that should have worked really well," she says, referring to HAMP (the loan modification program that formed the cornerstone of the Obama administration's efforts to stem the foreclosure crisis).



Fontana, Calif. resident Pretti Hilton's home is set to be auctioned. Photo credit: Joseph Rodriguez

foreclosure process be fixed, recent revelations have come to light that the independent reviews may be flawed. ProPublica revealed cozy ties between the banks and the third-party consultants that were hired to conduct the reviews, resulting in bank employees trying to influence the outcome of reviews.

News reports also revealed that the third-party consultants are reaping record profits through their contracts with the banks.

"The purpose of this [independent review process] was to remedy financial harm to borrowers; it wasn't meant to be 'The Consultants Full-Employment Act,'" Leonard says. "The irony is, it appears that they [the banks] are going to spend a lot more money [on] paying for the consultants...[than] providing remedies to borrowers."

He adds, "Nobody knows for sure [how much money will be paid to homeowners]. No money has been put into the pocket of borrowers yet."

sure in 2009 or 2010, and whose mortgage was serviced by participating loan servicers, is eligible to request a review.

Maria Cabildo, president of East LA Community Corporation, says her organization has helped just a handful of people apply for the program. Unfortunately, she adds, many homeowners may have simply tossed the letter from federal regulators informing them of the program, thinking it was a scam. She says many of her clients have been inundated by mailings from mortgage scammers.

Hubbard, the OCC spokesman, says mailings about the program were sent out in English and Spanish, with a note about translation services in other languages.

Cabildo says homeowners have been hearing about numerous programs meant to provide different forms of relief to homeowners, but those remedies have been slow to materialize.

HAMP didn't live up to its billing, says Cabildo, partly due to banking practices such as "dual-track," which is when banks carry out foreclosure proceedings before a decision is given on a loan modification application.

In the meantime, some banks have started to offer relief to homeowners, but "not the forms of assistance most of us had in mind," says Maeve Elise Brown, who directs Housing and Economic Rights Advocates (HERA).

She says, so far, the majority of relief for homeowners under the settlement has come in the form of wiping out second mortgages (rather than offering loan modifications) that were uncollectible anyway – a move that provides little real relief to homeowners.

"When I look at the universe of opportunities for assistance available to [homeowners] now, the opportunities are still a little more limited than they need to be," she says, adding that

See RELIEF, Page 13

NDG Gossip: Halle Berry's ex Gabriel Aubry beat badly in fight by new fiancé

BY KENDRIA BROWN,
NDG INTERN

Gabriel Aubry has a four-year-old daughter with Hollywood actress Halle Berry, and now he has a pending restraining order against Berry's fiancé Olivier Martinez who has beaten him badly last week.

The altercation began when Martinez allegedly threatened Aubry, claiming to kill him and left him with a "broken rib, bruised face, and under arrest." These are Aubry's accusations which are included in court documents filed for a restraining order against Olivier Martinez, who is engaged to Berry.

The scuffle took place on Thanksgiving Thursday in the driveway of Berry's home. It is unknown who the aggressor was, but Aubry claims that Martinez threatened him a day prior at Berry's and Aubry's four-year-old daughter's school.

When Aubry arrived to Berry's home on Thanksgiving Day to bring their daughter, he was allegedly confronted by Martinez who threatened to "kill



Gabriel Aubry

him" if he did not move to Paris.

Aubry and Berry have a rocky custody battle history; Berry requested to move to France with her daughter Nahla Aubry but was denied and joint custody was awarded to the two.

During the brawl, Aubry says Martinez said, "You cost us \$3 million" while attacking him.

Aubry was the one arrested after he was said to confront Martinez; however in court filings, he argues that he was not the aggressor because Martinez "threatened and attacked" him "without provocation."

The hearing for the restraining order request is set for Dec. 17.

CPS has also been called in the picture since the daughter, Nahla Aubry, was present during the fight. Although she was not involved, there has been a history of allegations of physical abuse and the Department of Child and Family Services would like to interview, Halle, Gabriel, and Olivier on what happened Thanksgiving.

OG Dolls are not only a very affordable line of dolls, but also an appealing fun toy for girls at least three years old with an empowering and educational message encouraging little girls to make a difference in their community. These are just a few reasons why OG Dolls are a great idea for anyone with a daughter, niece or granddaughter on your Christmas shopping list.

DTC's final year of A Christmas Carol at Kalita Humphreys Theater

Dallas Theater Center (DTC) is presenting Dickens' classic tale, *A Christmas Carol*, at the historic Kalita Humphreys Theater. DTC Associate Artistic Director Joel Ferrell will direct and choreograph this festive holiday story of redemption and forgiveness that has become a holiday tradition for DTC and for theatergoers across North Texas. This year marks the eighth and final season for this version of *A Christmas Carol*, which runs from Tuesday, Nov. 20 – Sunday, Dec. 23.

"Our annual production of *A Christmas Carol* allows Dallas Theater Center to play a special role for many North Texans during the holiday season," says artistic director Kevin Moriarty. "Whether by continuing a holiday theatergoing tradition for family audiences or through our impactful community partnership with the North Texas Food Bank, *A Christmas Carol* expresses DTC's most centrally held values."



DTC Brierley Resident Acting Company member and long-time Dallas favorite Chamblee Ferguson makes his triumphant return to the role of Ebenezer Scrooge, a mean and miserly old man with a disdain for the joys of holiday merriment. When Scrooge is visited by four apparitions who offer childhood memories and the promise of an unpleasant future, the old man recognizes the error of his behavior and sets out to repair damaged relationships and spread holiday cheer along the way.

DTC has previously announced that it will partner with the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) for the fifth

consecutive year. DTC staff and *A Christmas Carol* cast members spent two days at the Food Bank sorting and packing food for North Texas residents. During performances of *A Christmas Carol*, DTC will provide a location for patrons to donate canned goods to the organization. Members of the cast will also collect monetary donations after every performance. Over the last four years, DTC patrons have donated over \$175,000 to the NTFB.

Single tickets to *A Christmas Carol* are on sale now at www.DallasTheaterCenter.org and by phone at (214) 880-0202.

GIFTS, continued from Page 8

American history, Our Generation Dolls spotlight the impact women are making today through leadership in different forms. For example, of course all young girls love cooking theme toys, but in the book a leading character is a female baker wearing a chef's hat. Subtle but important image to put in front of young girls because it suggests they cannot only enjoy cooking for family and friends, but someday become a chef or bakery owner. In 2012, a year in which we witnessed more women elected to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives than ever before, subtle images are important and make a difference.

The OG Dolls take their messaging even further, the story of every doll focuses on how the character is making a difference within

their community. For example, the message shared by "Jenny" on the website is:

"We are an extraordinary generation. We're baking cupcakes to help animal shelters and teaching our families to recycle. But we never forget to laugh with friends, lick the frosting off the spoon and follow our sweetest dreams."

In addition, for every doll or accessory sold, the company will donate 10¢ to Free The Children's Power of a Girl Initiative. The program pledges to help educate girls in developing countries, arming them with the power of knowledge in their struggle to rise out of poverty. Free The Children was actually started 17 years ago by the then 12-year-old Craig Kielburger. You can learn more about the organization on their website in a

story featured in a 60 Minutes feature.

To learn more about OG Dolls visit www.OGDolls.com, the website spotlights little girls around the country making a difference and include education features like Word of the Day.

OG Dolls are not only a very affordable line of dolls, but also an appealing fun toy for girls at least three years old with an empowering and educational message encouraging little girls to make a difference in their community. These are just a few reasons why OG Dolls are a great idea for anyone with a daughter, niece or granddaughter on your Christmas shopping list.

This is the first in the North Dallas Gazette's 25 Days of Christmas Gift Guide Series.

Where Does
DJ Kayotik

DJ KAYOTIK

Get His Funk?

Go to NorthDallasGazette.com and click DJ Kayotik's photo to find out!

Plano City Council hosting Meet & Greet on Dec. 6 at Parr Library

Plano's next "Meet & Greet Your City Council and City Staff" will be Thursday, Dec. 6 at Parr Library, 6200 Windhaven Parkway. Residents are invited to mingle with City Council and City Staff in the program room. The format is come-and-go from 6 to 8 p.m. The meeting

is not focused on any singular district, so all residents are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

Meet & Greet Your City Council and City Staff provides a great opportunity to share information and to get answers to questions regarding city services and pro-

grams. Residents can also interact with the city through a variety of notification, social media and engagement tools at www.plano.gov/connect-with-us.

For more information on the Meet & Greet, call (972) 941-7747.

Rep. Eric Johnson announces formation of the Young Texans Legislative Caucus

District 100 Representative Eric Johnson (D-Dallas) has announced the formation of a new legislative caucus of the Texas House of Representatives, the Young Texans Legislative Caucus (YTLC), to highlight and address the needs of younger Texans.

"This new legislative caucus will highlight the concerns of younger Texans, especially when it comes to our state's long term investments in education, infrastructure, and the management of our natural resources," said Representative Johnson. "The Young Texans Legislative Caucus

will also provide legislators with a vehicle for engaging directly with the young residents of our state," concluded Johnson.

The 2010 census revealed that a majority of the population of both the United States and Texas is under the age of 40. While 53% of the United States population is under the age of 40, Texas is even younger with more than 58% of its population being age 40 or younger.

The YTLC is open to all members of the Texas House of Representatives who are 40 years old or younger or who represent a

district where the percentage of the population under the age of 40 exceeds that of the state, currently 58%. The YTLC is non-partisan.

Eric Johnson represents District 100, which includes parts of Dallas and Mesquite, in the Texas House of Representatives. He currently serves on the House Committee on Higher Education, the House Committee on Appropriations, the interim House Committee on Manufacturing, and the Joint House and Senate Oversight Committee on Higher Education Governance, Excellence, and Transparency.

VOTING, continued from Page 1

the commission. Too often we talk about issues such as voting and civic education without the data necessary to draw the right conclusions. I look forward to serving."

Spencer Foundation President Michael S. McPherson said, "The policy choices our nation makes in coming years will affect profoundly the lives and fortunes of today's young people. Helping them to become active and effective participants in shaping their and our common future is a profoundly important challenge. We are proud to help support this commission, which we expect will do much to help us learn how to address that challenge."

The Commission on Youth Voting & Civic Knowl-

edge was formed in response to controversies about recent voting laws (for instance, the new state photo ID laws) as well as debates about civic education in schools and colleges. It will, however, take a broader view, considering a wide range of potential influences on political knowledge and engagement. The commission begins with no position on the existing or proposed policies; its deliberations will be heavily influenced by new data collected during and immediately after the 2012 election.

The Commission is funded by the Spencer Foundation, the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, the Youth Engagement Fund, the W.T. Grant Foundation, and the

Chicago Community Trust and will be under the leadership of CIRCLE director Peter Levine and staffed by CIRCLE's team of researchers and analysts. The grants will support scholarly research to aid the work of the commission in the following ways:

- Conducting an ambitious, free-standing national youth survey to investigate the effects of state policies on informed youth voting;
- Analyzing two waves of a national longitudinal survey of young adults, with a specific focus on the 2012 voting experience and photo ID laws;
- Surveying and assessing state civic education policies;
- Interviewing key stakeholders.

CABLE, continued from Page 3

ventures became multi-billion dollar empires, telecom giants such as Verizon and AT&T have joined the industry which includes Comcast, Cox and others and provide great competition in our larger markets which ensures competitive pricing and even more jobs and careers with very diverse populations. The largest union in telecommunications is the Communication Workers of America - CWA. It is probably the most diverse union and has been very fair when it comes to African American workers. Management

at all of these cable providers has an appreciable share of Black participation.

Every genre of Black music is now available on cable television. Black produced movies, talk shows, history segments, news and individually owned channels exist today and that is a very good thing. Children, millennial and seasoned Black adults can find what they are looking for and are educated to new ideas and happenings. It is without any doubt in my mind this is the greatest industry sector for economic

opportunity amongst Black Americans. Stories like this keep America great and strong.

To keep this story growing and succeeding it becomes very important that regulating authorities at the local and federal level realize that regulations must support free enterprise, encourage private capital and promote diversity. The best model for this is the Cable Story.

Alford is the co-founder, President/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce®. www.nationalbcc.org and halford@nationalbcc.org.

COLLEGE, continued from Page 6

added the option to pay for services online via credit card. We are excited about the improved user experience and are committed to adding more content and resources to better serve our parents and students," he concluded.

In addition to a refreshing new design, kdcollegeprep.com features include: -Simplified, integrated navigation -Access

to campus information, schedules and enrollment within one click -Access to program cost and respective payment options - Ability to enroll/ register and pay for programs online -Information section specifically for current students -Resources complete with helpful links, blogs, consultation requests - Links to social media platforms

To find out more, visit our new website at www.kdcollegeprep.com.

Through exceptional customer service, performance monitoring, and curriculum delivery, KD College Prep helps students achieve their college dreams. The company's campuses include locations in Plano, Colleyville and North Dallas with a new location opening in Frisco during January of 2013.

MURPHY, continued from Page 8

"During the half-hour visit, children will be able to visit with Santa. And in a slight twist to the tradition, Santa will accept new, unwrapped toys from kids who wish to donate to our annual toy drive," added Round-savall.

Those toys will be combined with the toys collected during the annual "drive-through" toy drop-off, which

occurs on Monday, Dec. 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the fire station's apron. Firefighters will be stationed on the fire station's driveway on that day accepting new, unwrapped toys through donors' car windows.

"Once we have all of the toys collected, we'll drop them off at the Collin County Children's Advocacy Center in Plano on Tuesday,

December 11. It's a wonderful tradition that gives the children at the center a little of the magic of Christmas, and it provides our community an opportunity to share their blessings and good fortune," she said.

The Murphy Fire Station is located in the Municipal Complex, 206 North Murphy Road, about a quarter mile north of FM 544.

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Weeknights

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Daily

Activity Time Highland Hills at Highland Hills Branch Library, 3624 Simpson Stuart Rd.; 214-670-0987

Personal Views: Texas Black Folk Artists at African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave.; 214-565-9026

Every Tuesday

Dallas Comedy House Open Mic at 2645 Commerce St; 214-741-4448

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 at 10045 Audelia Rd. (at Church St.) in Dallas. Info: hellen.fissahaie5@gmail.com

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

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

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 22

The Forgotten Carols at the Belaire Plaza at 420 East Pipeline Rd. Performances are at 7:30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday with 3 p.m. matinees on Saturdays Nov. 24 and Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2012. Reserved seating tickets on Friday and Saturday are \$18 for adults, \$16 for students and seniors, and \$9 for children 12 and under. 817-284-1200 or <http://www.ArtisanCT.com>

Through December 28

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

Through January 13

American Childhood: Celebrating Classic Toys at the Old Red Museum of Dallas County History & Culture, 100 S Houston

Dead Sea Scrolls & the Bible at MacGorman Performing Arts Center, 4616 Stanley Ave. in Fort Worth; 877-789-0876

Nov. 30 - Dec. 2
Dallas Ballet Company

presents **The Nutcracker** at Granville Arts Center in Garland www.dallasballetcompany.org or 972-205-2790

Ballet Ensemble of Texas presents **The Nutcracker** at Irving Arts Center www.irvingartscenter.com or 972-252-ARTS

December 2

"Eat, Drink, Dance, and Be Merry!" with a guest performance by Epiphany Dance Arts from 6-8pm at Quixotic World, 2824 Main St, Dallas, \$19 Adults, \$13 Children (12 & under) 646-526-6220

December 12-15

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

December 12-16

Batman Live- World Arena Tour at American Airlines Center

December 14

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

December 15

Funky Towns First Annual **Grown & Sexy Saturday** at The Elegant Masonic Hall Center, 1100 Henderson St. in Fort Worth; Cost: \$25; 682-221-4078

December 27-30

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

December 27, 2012 -

January 1, 2013

Lone Star Circus Illuminates the Imagination with Cirque Banquiste Dec 27-Jan 1. International circus stars from around the globe bring their talents and a pre-show in the theatre lobby allows children from the Lone Star Circus School's classes to show their skills, too. Tickets \$20-\$46, 214-740-0051 or www.lonestarcircus.org. For group sales information, contact Mark Doyle at 214-237-2515.

January 17-

February 9, 2013

"Under the Yum-Yum Tree" by GCT at Granville Arts Center - Small Theatre; 972-205-2790

January 18, 2013

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

February 2, 2013

The Joey Riley Show at Granville Arts Center - Brownlee Auditorium; 817-455-7783

January 25-

March 3, 2013

Goodnight Moon at the Dallas Children's Theater brings a favorite book to life. Savor the whimsical and rich world of a child's imagination with stars, air and noises everywhere! This fanciful poem of good-night wishes comes to life as an extravaganza of enchantment, singing, dancing and puppetry. Rosewood Center for Family Arts at 5938 Skillman Street in Dallas.

February 15, 2013

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

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Dallas Bar Association Hosts Diversity Summit

With Keynote Speaker Roland S. Martin, CNN Guest Correspondent

The Dallas Bar Association will host the DBA Diversity Summit on Thursday, November 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Pavilion at the Belo Mansion. Robert J. Grey, Jr., of Hunton & Williams LLP, and Executive Director of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity will give the opening address and Roland S. Martin, CNN Guest Correspondent, will be the luncheon speaker.

The purpose of the summit is to promote diversity and inclusion in all sectors of the legal community, to develop best practices designed to increase diversity in the legal profession and to discuss innovative models for increasing diversity throughout the legal profession. Attendees in the legal community, and the public at

large, are invited to attend the summit to provide input and ideas regarding diversity and to learn about implementing diversity programs in their communities.

“The DBA’s Diversity Summit is a unique opportunity for the Dallas legal community to discuss, reinforce and reaffirm its on-going commitment to diversity in the legal profession and in the Dallas legal market, as well as to contemplate best practices for improving diversity,” said Dallas Bar Association President Paul K. Stafford. “Through the efforts of the DBA, sister bars and a variety of stakeholders, we have assembled an array of outstanding panelists and speakers for this momentous event. The impact of the DBA Diversity Summit will undoubtedly

resonate for years to come, and will positively impact future lawyers and the future of our increasingly diverse population and profession.”

The list of premier speakers include:

- Benny Agosto, Jr., National Hispanic Bar Association
- Kim Askew, K&L Gates LLP
- Jack Balagia, Exxon Mobil
- Kelly-Ann Clarke, ABA-Young Lawyers Division
- Terry W. Conner, Haynes and Boone, LLP
- Sally L. Crawford, DBA President-Elect, Jones Day
- Janet Dhillon, JC Penney
- William A. Goodloe, Sponsors for Educational Opportunity



Robert J. Grey, Jr.

- Chris Luna, MetroPCS Communications, Inc.
- Regina Montoya, Children’s Medical Center of Dallas
- Kevyn Orr, Jones Day, Washington, D.C.
- Emily A. Parker, Thompson & Knight LLP
- Lisa Soto, University of Texas at El Paso Law School Preparation Institute

- Stanley B. Stallworth, Sidley Austin, LLP
- Dr. Walter L. Sutton, Jr., Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
- Lisa Tatum, State Bar of Texas
- Jeff Tillotson, Lynn Tillotson Pinker & Cox, LLP
- Kathleen Wu, Andrews Kurth LLP

“I am excited to hear these great minds talk about the future of the legal profession and the growing impact of diversity in dealing with business opportunities, the courts and education. It is rare to have this level of intellectual and influential leadership in one place, on one day, discussing this topic,” said Diversity Summit Chair Rhonda Hunter, of Farrow-Gillespie & Heath LLP. “This summit is a great opportunity for law firms to look at the future plans for

their business. The morning sessions focus on diversity and business opportunities. The afternoon topics address law education, developing leaders in the law and disparity issues involving women, those with disabilities and lawyers of color. It is going to be a unique event that you won’t want to miss.”

Registration is free. To register, or for more information, visit www.dallasbar.org/diversitysummit. The Belo Mansion is located at 2101 Ross Avenue, in Downtown Dallas (in the Arts District). Parking is available in the Pavilion Garage for \$4 (enter from Olive Street). If you need additional assistance, please contact Alicia Hernandez at ahernandez@dallasbar.org or 214-220-7499.

RELIEF, continued from Page 9

homeowners need to be pro-active about taking advantage of all available programs. “The Independent Foreclosure Review process is a little pinpoint of light, and it could be a year before people will see any money, but it would be good for them to eventually see it.”

Peggy Mears of Fontana, Calif., applied for the federal “independent review” program in April, and is still waiting to find out if she’ll receive any compensation.

“We were on a so-called trial modification, which is three months [long],” Mears says. “We paid for nine months and all of a sudden we were being foreclosed upon.”

Mears, who now advocates on behalf of homeowners as an organizer for Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, says the bank should have stopped charging them after the third month and switched them from a trial to a permanent modification.

Mears eventually struck a deal with her lender OneWest Bank (formerly IndyMac Bank) to lower

her monthly mortgage payment to a level, she says, that is only

“slightly lower” than what she had been paying.

The long wait for resolution under the federal program is not daunting, Mears

says, because after going through the lengthy and frustrating process to mod-

ify her home loan with her bank, she says “nothing they do surprises me.”



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December 2, 8 a.m.

You're invited to our Early Morning Worship, stay for Bible Classes at 9:30 a.m. and for Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.

December 5

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 of Education
1026 Avenue F
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

December 2, 9:35 a.m.

You're invited to our Sunday School at 9 a.m. and to stay for Morning Worship at 11 a.m. as we worship and praise God.

December 5, 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 Program, three things are incorporated when they come, children learn and they play and have fun.

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

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

December 1, 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.

December 2

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

December 5, 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, honor and praise.

Dr. Terrence Autry,
Senior Pastor
701 E. Centennial Blvd.
Richardson, TX 75081
972-991-0200
www.followpeace.org

DAYSTAR DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES

December 2012

For those in need visit Helen's House Tuesdays and Fridays (exceptions are bad weather and

holidays) to receive, to give, to comfort and to fellowship.

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

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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

December 2, 9:30 a.m.

You're invited to experience the joy of praising and worshipping God to the fullest at Story Elementary School, 1550 Edelweiss Drive, Allen, TX.

December 5, 7 p.m.

Join us for our Church Wide Fasting each Wednesday (100% juice & water only); the fast begins at 12:01 am with our 1st prayer at 3:30 am; 2nd prayer at 12 Noon, and the closing prayer at 6 pm. Then join us for Wednesday Night Live in the Joyce 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.)

December 15, 4 p.m.

F3C Theatre and Arts Ministry presents "Jesus Season" at Story

Elementary School, 1550 Edelweiss Drive, Allen, TX. Found in James 1:17 & 18.

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

NORTH DALLAS ROCKBRIDGE CHURCH

December 2

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

December 2, 9:30 a.m.

Join us in our Morning Worship Service and stay to enjoy our Education Ministries at 10:45 a.m.

December 5, 7 p.m.

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

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

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

December 2, 8 a.m.

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

December 5, 7 p.m.

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

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH

December 2, 7:30 a.m.

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

December 5, 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

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.

December 2, 9:30 a.m.

Join us for Sunday school with Elder/Superintendent Greg Mason; Sis. Vicki Mason, adult class teacher and Evangelist Elizabeth McAfee, children class teacher and Director of our children's choir. Then stay for Morning Service at 11 a.m. as we worship, honor and praise God for His goodness.

December 4, 7 p.m.

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

December 2-7, 7:30 pm

Join us for 2012 Holy Ghost Winter Camp Meeting. On December 2 we will meet at 4 p.m. and on December 3 – 6, we will meet at 7 p.m. Theme: A New Direction, with Pastor Dennis Walton who has a special anointing in delivering the gospel from Merrillville, Indiana; Evangelist Marilyn Woods from Sherman, Texas and 17 year old Evangelist Ford, a walking miracle. There will be songs, fellowship and praising God for His blessings throughout the year.

Dr. Gregory E. Voss,
Senior Pastor
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Carrollton, TX 75006
214-514-9147

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Sister Tarpley

LET'S GET B.A.D. NOT MAD

While shopping at a local discount store, I spotted a man with an acronym on his shirt that had a "B.A.D. Me" and being a curious person I asked the man, "What does B.A.D. stand for?" His response was:

B.A.D. stands for "Blessed and Delivered." That thought stayed with me throughout the day; so I came up with a little advice for you today. 1) When the enemy tries to attack you, be B.A.D. Pray for the enemy!

2) When things don't seem to be going right on your job, be B.A.D. Take it to the Lord in prayer. 3) When things are not looking good in your marriage, be B.A.D. Talk to your spouse and the two of you take it to the Lord in prayer.

4) When folks scandalize your name, just be B.A.D; and take it to the Lord in prayer. Get with somebody that you know that you can be B.A.D. with and praise God.

Good Things to Contemplate as you, Just Hand in There: It is within certain passages of the scriptures that we learn that unholy men have an unrestrained reverence for God's Word, as well as God's Will. Peter predicted men will be (scoffers) or they will mock in unbelief the return of the Lord.

Those people who strive to do what's pleasing in God's sight will be ridiculed, talked about, laughed at, and considered foolish for their faith in God. The sinner will be skeptical, critical, and question the sanity of the Christians who trust in the coming of the Lord.

Some people do not believe that God will save the world by His only Son, Jesus. Christians will be reviled, reproached, persecuted, denied, rejected by the world, and even by some who claim to be Christians.

My friends, the world has carnal affections. "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subjected to the law of God, neither indeed can be." **Romans 8:7**

Just because God is a loving father, and He is long suffering, some people have no fear of His return; they think that they will get away from the wrath of God. But don't be fooled!

Believers, "Just Hang in There," in spite of Hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, floods, and people who do not believe. Hold on, keep praying, keep worshipping, keep serving, keep singing, and keep trusting God so that you can hear Him say, "Well done—my son, well done, my daughter, come on up a little higher.

God's Eternal Love: It's amazing and incredible,

but it's as true as it can be. God loves and understands us all, and that means you and me. His Grace is all-sufficient, for both the young and old.

It's sufficient for those that are lonely, and those that are timid. For the brash and for the bold, God's Grace is indeed sufficient.

No matter what your past has been, trust God to understand. And no matter what your problem is, just place it in His hand. For in all of our un-loveliness, this great God loves us still. He loved us since the world began, and what's more God always will.

Inspiring Quote of the Week: "Develop an attitude of gratitude, and give thanks for everything that happens to you, knowing that every step forward is a step toward achieving something bigger and better than your current situation". --Brian Tracy



Cousins Leonard and Cassandra Otero with their son Justice in Clovis, New Mexico, November 10, 2012 at a family gathering

Think about it: Are you thankful for what you have? It is better to be appreciative of what you have rather than spending your time wishing for what someone else has.

For one thing, you don't know what it took for them to get what they have. Most importantly, when you are

thankful and content with what you have, while working hard to become more successful in your own right, this will help make your dreams come true.

Stop comparing yourself to others, focus on your goals, seek success with the right heart and

motives, and watch out for your blessings to overflow. Your gifts will make room for you.

A Final Thought — You can either complain that rose bushes have thorns—or rejoice and praise God that thorn bushes have roses. It's all how you look at the situation.

BLAKE, continued from Page 2

Bobby Warren, Sergeant at Arms

Trustee Board: Dwight E. Walls, Chair; Mildred Linzy, Vice Chair; Sylvia H. Law, 2nd Vice Chair; David Hall, Jr., Josephus Shepherd, Georgia Macklin Lowe, Cari Barnes, Joseph Chase, Amos Smith, Melton Timmons, William Watson III, Ailean Stingley, Sandra Smith Jones, Michael Golden, Jr., Darin Burns

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NDG Bookshelf



Silent Cry is a book you will want to pass on

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER
There are many things you hope to pass forward to your children someday.

You hope they get their father's athletic ability and their mother's business acumen. They'll need patience from their grandmothers, wisdom from Grandpa, an uncle's sense of humor and good looks from all sides of the family. Yes, there are material possessions your kids will inherit some day, but the intangibles are what's important.

And yet, some things don't need to be passed forward. Those are traits you don't want your children to get, and in the new book *Silent Cry* by Dywane D. Birch, you'll read about one of them.

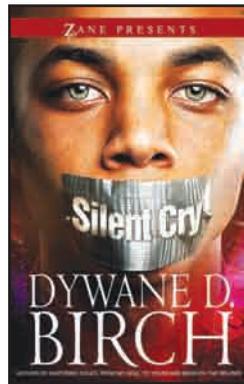
Every night before he went to bed, fourteen-year-old K'wan Taylor felt beneath the mattress to make sure the knife was still there.

He was tired of hearing his mother's screams. He was tired of hearing the thumps of his father's fists on his mother's face. He was afraid he'd find his mother dead someday, lying at the bottom of the stairs.

K'wan wouldn't let that happen. That was why he tried to kill his father.

As residential programs went, Healing Souls wasn't bad. The counselors were nice and K'wan liked his roommate, but he wished everybody

would stop trying to make him talk about that night, the blood, the anger he felt. He hated his father, but he couldn't say how much. He couldn't say anything, in fact, because words just wouldn't come out of his lips.



K'wan had been silent for months.

Everybody told him that he'd talk when he was ready, but they pushed him to trust, listen, journal, think, get his anger out in the open, maybe even forgive

both his parents. Then one of the counselors, Miss Daisy, gave him a pamphlet and K'wan learned that children who are abused often grow up to be abusers.

There was no way he'd let that happen, either. There was

no way he was going to be anything like his father...

Open this book to the first chapter, and you know that *Silent Cry* is going to try to teach you something. It practically drips with lessons and warnings, and that's all good. The problem is that it's also saturated with repetition.

Now, don't get me wrong. I firmly, indubitably believe that author Dywane D. Birch's message – that domestic violence is wrong and that it can spill into the next generation way too easily – is something every man and woman needs to know, twice.

But between the pages and pages of identical flashbacks, too-similar-sounding

counseling sessions, tired obscenities, interchangeable bursts of anger, and an awful lot of blinking, I thought the message could've been hammered home in fewer pages. *Silent Cry* is just too long.

It's not unreadable. It's just wordy, and if you can keep that in mind and don't get too impatient, you'll like this book just fine. You might, in fact, have someone in mind while you're reading and if that's the case, then look for this book because *Silent Cry* is one you'll want to pass forward.

Silent Cry by Dywane D. Birch (Strebber Books, \$15, 307 pgs)

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