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## Tax Time – A Reminder of the Basics

BY CARLEE MCCULLOUGH

(NNPA) We are quickly coming upon the deadline that many Americans not receiving a refund truly despise – April 15, the last day to file individual tax returns.

With Benjamin Franklin's admonition in mind – "...nothing is certain but



death and taxes" – and serving as point of reference, here are some basics to help out those who have not yet done their tax duty.

**Importance of filing on time** - When you owe taxes to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), it is imperative that you file and pay on time or you may be subject to penalties and interest on the

amount due. However, if you have a refund coming, there is no penalty for filing late.

### Types of penalties

#### Failure to file Penalty:

This penalty is calculated based on the time from deadline of the tax return due, which may include extensions to the date the return is actually filed. The penalty is

See TAX, Page 7

## Zero and Counting

BY CHERYL PEARSON-MCNEIL

Are you a Zero-TV household? No, I don't mean restricting the kids' TV viewing to the weekends or until after they've completed ho-mework. I mean – do you watch TV the traditional way or on any of the growing techy

options available to us? So many of us are watching video content on our phones, computers, or tablets, that Nielsen designates this group of consumers: Zero-TV Households. This consumer segment is so significant; it will soon be included in our measured samples.

For those of us who are

hard-core holdouts or just plain tech-challenged, don't worry. Ninety-five percent of Americans still get entertainment and information the old-fashion way – via traditional TV. In fact, according to Nielsen's latest Cross-Platform report, American TV viewing time was up in late 2012 over the same

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## Hundreds of child protection advocates rally in Austin for the protection of children

AUSTIN - Hundreds of Child Protection advocates wearing blue and white and donning blue ribbons rallied at the State Capitol on Friday, April 5 at 12 p.m. advocating for protecting Texas Children. TexProtects and The Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards, in conjunction with 21 other



organizations, organized Child Protection Day at the capitol to give a voice to voiceless children through the Child Protection Bills filed and budget requests that will impact Texas children and the Child Protective Services (CPS) system.

"While child protection requires year-round vigi-

lance, Child Abuse Prevention Month gives us an opportunity to focus on these preventable crimes against children and put it in the forefront of the public's attention. I commend TexProtects and the countless other child protection advocates for bringing this

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## Don Hill looks forward to hearing on April 30

See [www.NorthDallasGazette.com](http://www.NorthDallasGazette.com) for more details.



## Brenham hopes to bring about change to Dallas City Council District 8

See BRENHAM, Page 9



## 42 plays respect to Jackie Robinson's legacy

See ROBINSON, Page 10

## Unemployment Numbers

BY BENJAMIN TODD JEALOUS

Coming the day after the 45th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the new unemployment numbers show that unemployment is still high - and remains much higher for African Americans.

One thing hasn't changed in the last half century: if you're a person of color, you're more likely to be unemployed. Even though the black unemployment rate fell by

.05% this month, it still sits at nearly 13.3%, nearly double the overall rate.

This gap in employment has led to an economic divide between the richest and the poorest in America that is about as bad as in the divide in Rwanda and Serbia. The top 20% of Americans earn 50.2% of income, while the bottom 20% earns just 3.3%. Yet Congress continues to do nothing to directly address unemployment.

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## People In The News...



James Robison



Lupe Fuentes



Don Hunter

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## James Robison

Since 1962, James Robison has delivered the Gospel to the masses — first, through crusade evangelism and for more than 40 years, via television. On Tuesday, April 30, Robison will bring a special message to pastors as guest speaker for the Methodist Charlton Medical Center's annual Pastor Appreciation Luncheon. Robison is co-host of LIFE Today, a daily syndicated television program that reaches millions of households across American satellite and national networks such as

Discovery, ABC Family, and inspirational networks including TBN, Daystar and INSP.

In addition to Robison, guests at this year's luncheon will enjoy music by Tiffini Hall with Christ Arts Ministries. KCBI Radio Afternoon Drive News Anchor Chris Howell will emcee the event.

Methodist Charlton hosts the Pastor Appreciation Luncheon each year to honor pastors and ministry leaders. "The luncheon is our way of recognizing the impact church leaders have

on the community and showing our appreciation for their unwavering spiritual support to patients and their families 24 hours a day," says Methodist Charlton President Jonathan S. Davis, FACHE. Davis says the event not only helps enhance communication and partnerships between churches and hospital leadership, but also gives attendees an opportunity to learn more about the wonderful changes taking place at Methodist Charlton and the wide array of services.

Previous guest speakers for this inspirational and distinctive annual event



ent include Dr. Rickie G. Rush, pastor and organizer of The Inspiring Body of Christ Worldwide Min-

istries (IBOC); Pastor Tony Evans, senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship Church; Dr. Clara M. Reed, district superintendent, North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church; and legendary pastor, prolific author, speaker, award-winning leader and visionary Bishop T. D. Jakes.

Senior pastors who are interested in attending the Methodist Charlton Pastor Appreciation Luncheon should contact Methodist Charlton Community Relations Liaison Cynthia Mickens at 214-947-5204 or [cynthiamickens@mhd.com](mailto:cynthiamickens@mhd.com).

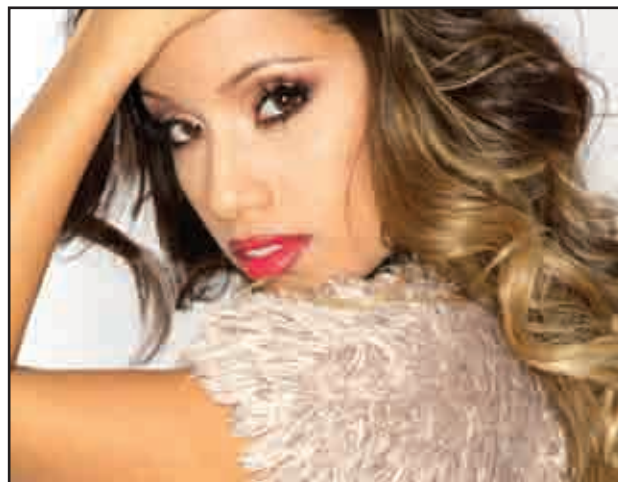
## Lupe Fuentes

LOS ANGELES — Spanish-Colombian model, singer and dancer Lupe Fuentes has spent this past year writing music, forming her own pop group, The Ex-Girlfriends and releasing two infectious singles *We Are the Party* and *Whatchya Lookin' At?* to iTunes, with an astonishing amount of success.

The Ex-Girlfriends' ultra-sexy videos have been seen by millions of people; *We Are the Party* received over 25 million views and *Whatchya*

*Lookin' At?* — released three weeks ago — is currently at 5.1 million views on YouTube and counting. The video exposure has since translated into dollar signs at iTunes, an especially remarkable feat for The Ex-Girlfriends in a climate where music is widely available online for free.

Fuentes will continue to release new music — and those playfully risqué videos — this year. "I have a full album worth of material writ-



ten and recorded," says Fuentes "but I'm not sure yet

if I will release an album or focus just on singles."

The Ex-Girlfriends' Do-It-Yourself success story without the help of the music industry machine has, ironically, created a buzz in that industry that's been building steadily for months. While Fuentes is excited about the future, for now she is simply enjoying expressing herself through her music. "Music can be so positive and help people to feel so free," affirms Fuentes. "We all need to laugh and we also need a soundtrack for our lives."

Lupe Fuentes has always been passionate about her

work, her love, her family, and she takes nothing for granted. The Colombia-born beauty comes from beyond humble beginnings growing up in Madrid, Spain with her single mother dreaming of a better life outside of her neighborhood. She helped support her family with hard work, modeling jobs, and eventually turning to nude modeling and shooting adult videos after she turned eighteen.

For more information t: <http://www.lupefuentes.com/> and <http://theexgirlfriends.com/>.

## Don Hunter

The MetroPCS Dallas Marathon has added Paul

mer member of the U.S. Air Force, will serve two-



Billings, Gwen Echols and Don Hunter to its board of directors. Billings, former president of Datascan, Echols, former senior vice president of Bank of America, and Hunter, for-

year terms and are charged with growing sponsorship and awareness of the MetroPCS Dallas Marathon.

Hunter received his bachelor's degree in busi-

ness administration from Averett University. Hunter's professional career began as a human resources manager with the U.S. Air Force. After receiving an honorable discharge in 1994, he moved to Dallas where he held various human resources positions with Texas Instruments, Raytheon, Accenture and ACS. He now runs a consulting firm, HL Group-Inc., which he formed in 2010. Hunter developed a strong passion for running in 2004 while losing 75 pounds and has finished 15 marathons since. In addition to serving as an active fit coach with Luke's Locker, Hunter founded the Dallas Loop-the-Lake Foundation in 2006, a nonprofit organization that brings together local area runners to support the fight against child-

hood obesity.

Billings received an undergraduate degree in business management at Texas A&M University and shortly thereafter began his career at Datascan. After rising to the position of president in 1993, Billings grew the company into a global solutions provider of retail inventory services before selling Datascan to Chartwell Financial in 2010. Billings began his running career seven days after his father's bypass surgery in 1987, marking the Dallas White Rock Marathon as his first marathon in 2004. His latest interests include barefoot running — Billings has now completed three marathons barefoot.

Echols earned her undergraduate degree from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania in communi-

cations studies and went on to earn a master's de-

gree in business adminis-

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The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded in July 1991, by Mr. Jim Bochum and Mr. Thurman R. Jones. North Dallas Gazette is a wholly owned subsidiary of Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

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## Congress Needs Backbone to Act on Gun Control

By DR JOHN BOYD

April 4, 2013 -- On this day 45 years ago, a crazed gunman shot down one of the most prominent peacemakers this nation ever produced. Just over a century earlier, another mad triggerman took fatal aim at a president for his insistence on the universal right to freedom.

Before and since these tragedies, Americans have shown that they will bow to no power higher than the gun -- and its mighty lobbying force of today.

And the shooting goes on: prosecutors in Texas, moviegoers in Colorado, college students, worshippers, a group including one member of Congress in Arizona, and little children in Connecticut. Nothing seems to trump the almighty right to hold on to firepower, with minimal restrictions.

"Shame on us," President Obama said recently in an emotional plea for Congress to pass gun-control legislation, if we have forgotten the 26 people killed at Newtown, Conn.'s Sandy Hook Elementary School less than 100 days.

He was right. On too many issues we seem to be interested in finding a solution only until the news cameras have moved on to the next issue. This time should be dif-

ferent. "I haven't forgotten those kids," President Obama said, "Shame on us if we've forgotten."

Last night in Denver, the president emphasized that in the 100 days, since those shootings "shocked this country... and galvanized parents" everywhere, more than 2,000 more Americans have fallen victim to gun violence. "Every day that we wait to do something about it, even more of our fellow citizens are stolen from our lives by a bullet from a gun," he said in an address to the Denver Police Academy.

The issue at hand is more of the same from our own Congress. Our legislative process takes too long to heal the pain of the American people in these senseless killings. The families of those lost in the tragic massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary, will be a long time hurting, but the Congress's failure to act surely deepens their agony.

It is up to Congress to take the next step, Obama said in Denver. "As soon as next week, every senator will get to vote on whether or not we should require background checks for anyone who wants to purchase a gun." He praised Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper and other state officials for enacting model gun controls that

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This is a dangerous trend. Recent studies - including one by the International Monetary Fund - show that countries with higher levels of economic inequality have slower growth rates, and that "economic inclusion corresponds with robust economic growth". Urban economies affect the prosperity of the entire surrounding region, and ultimately the country as a whole.

As our country grows more diverse, we must also acknowledge that economic inequality is closely tied to race, due to decades of past and ongoing discrimination. And this inequality undermines the racial progress that we have achieved.

As Dr. King asked in 1968, "What does it profit a man to be able to eat at an integrated lunch counter if he doesn't earn enough money to buy a hamburger and a cup of coffee?"

In the last year of Dr. King's life, he was organizing the Poor People's Campaign. He endorsed the Freedom Budget, a document that called for massive investments in public works and infrastructure, job training and education programs, and a higher minimum wage. The Budget insisted that smart investments in our most vulnerable citizens will spur economic growth.

Unfortunately, this plan never moved forward. But its message proved prophetic, and Dr. King's

## Letter to the Editor

*Rene Castilla is my friend, but I am supporting Allan Maegher*

I called Rene Castiila the other day to tell him personally that even though he is a dear friend of mine that I would be supporting his opponent, Allan Maegher for Irving City Council, Place 2 an at-large seat in the upcoming May 11, 2013 City Election. Allan Maeahger has been my Councilman in District 3 here in Irving for about 6 years before he had a job change a couple of years ago that necessitated that he get off the City Council for a while. I and many others were and still are totally satisfied that Allan knows what it takes to be an outstanding City Councilman. He is a very good listener and when ever a citizen of Irving has a need that is brought before him, I can testify that Allan will do everything within his power to get that Citizen's concerns met and resolved.

As the Founder of the Irving NAACP, I know that Allan Meager has always been attentive to the needs of all citizens of Irving including all ethnic groups, That is why, I sponsored a luncheon recently for Allan with many of the Black Pastors in Irving, and Pastor, Dennis Webb, who

is currently my City Councilman in District 3, endorsed Mr. Meahger at the luncheon. Allan is also being backed by a lot of my Muslim brothers and Sisters here in Irving, The City of Irving is a multicolored City now with Irving citizens from all over America and from many parts of the World. Mr. Meagher understands this and emb races this diversity.

Some may ask, If Rene is Hispanic and your friend, why are you not supporting him? The answer is simple for me. Rene is being backed by a group of Angry Old White People who believe they can control elections and are counting on all these diverse citizens of Irving to stay home on election day and not vote. But, I can not support Rene also because I believe whether you are White, Black or Blue, you should always stand up for what you believe in, no matter whether it is politically correct or not. I can not say I have seen Rene do this, but I can say, I have seen Allan do this. Please join me and get all your friends and family who can vote in Irving to join me and vote early and on election day for Allan Meagher, Irving City Council, Place 2.

*Anthony E. Bond,  
Irving*

economic agenda is still relevant today. A strong and sustainable economic recovery requires an economic climate in which all Americans - regardless of race or class - can expect hard work to be rewarded with a steady job. This is not a partisan issue - it is an American issue. And Congress needs to act now.

Earlier this year the National Black Leaders Coalition came up with solutions for fixing the current unemployment crisis. They included implementing important parts of the American Jobs Act to revitalize urban areas; funding the Urban Jobs Act to create youth jobs programs; and increasing the minimum wage. These policies echoed

King's recommendations 45 years earlier.

In 1962 Dr. King said, "There are three major social evils in our world today: the evil of war, the evil of economic justice, and the evil of racial injustice."

Fifty years later, need to recognize that inaction is not a policy option; it has been tried; and it hasn't worked. Let's try something new. Let's recommit ourselves to Dr. King's economic principles and advance an economic agenda that bridges our nation's divides and fosters an economic recovery in which all can benefit.

*Benjamin Todd Jealous  
is President and CEO of the NAACP*



## Seasonal Allergy Treatments for Children

Millions of people suffer from allergies every spring, including many children. In fact, according to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, about 40 percent of children

in the United States suffer from allergic rhinitis, also known as hay fever.

Hay fever is triggered by breathing in allergens, like pollen, commonly found in springtime air. Sneezing and

nasal congestion are some of the most common symptoms, but your symptoms can vary depending on the types of plants that grow where you live.

The following tips will

help you minimize seasonal allergies in children, and learn more about allergy treatments.

**How to Prevent Allergies in Children** - If your child suffers from seasonal

allergies, there are steps you can take to reduce their symptoms and decrease the use of medications:

•During the spring, keep your children indoors in the evenings because pollen

levels are highest during that time of day.

•Keep your home and car windows closed during windy, sunny days.

•Have your children  
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## PROTECTION, continued from Page 1

matter to the Capitol and making sure that state lawmakers focus on the issue as well," stated Senator Kirk Watson, District 14.

Madeline McClure, Executive Director of TexProtects, led the rally calling on lawmakers to support the legislative priorities and funding requests under consideration by the legislature, as well as restoring the cuts made to several child abuse and juvenile delinquency prevention programs within the Department of Family and Protective Services' (DFPS) Prevention and Early Intervention Division (PEI) that suffered a 30% budget reduction in the 82nd Legislature, including evidence-based child abuse prevention programs.

McClure noted: "Texas ranks dead last in child abuse prevention funding of all 50 states, and Texas ranks number one in child abuse fatalities. Do we think that's a coincidence? While our child population has grown by over one million children in the past 10 years (almost 18%), our prevention funding dropped more than 32% over that same period. We are one of the richest, prosperous states in the Nation: How can we square that fact while also being the poorest state in providing prevention services?"

Key legislators spoke at Friday's rally, including Senator Kirk Watson, Senate District 14; Representative John Zerwas, District 28; Representative Donna Howard, District 48; and Representative Mark Strama, District 50. Other speakers included: Judge Darlene Byrne, 126 Judicial Civil District Court; Vivian Dorsett, Foster Care Alumni of America; and Jessica Sheehy, Foster Youth.

Why are prevention programs critical? In Texas, 176 children are confirmed victims of abuse every day. Four children die from abuse or neglect on average every week. This doesn't include the thousands of cases that don't get reported or investigated. Last year in Texas, 64,366 were confirmed victims, equating to seven children abused or neglected every hour.

According to Representative John Zerwas, House Sponsor of SB 426, the Home Visitation Expansion and Accountability Act, "These statistics are staggering! We have to end these heinous crimes

against children face-by-face, identifying high-risk families. We must bring skills and values to those families to make a difference." Zerwas said, "Programs like evidence-based home visiting work. But, do we have the will necessary to invest in them? We must invest in the state's most precious resource—the future generations of Texas children."

The Child Abuse Prevention Priorities of the sponsoring organizations include: Restoring the funding to the Prevention and Early Intervention Division to 2010-2011 biennium levels; Requiring institutions of higher educa-

tion, schools, charter schools and child care facilities to adopt and implement internal recognition and reporting policies consistent with state mandatory reporting law; Defining school social workers in the Education Code; Enhancing the penalty for failure to report child abuse; and the Home Visitation Expansion and Accountability Act, maintaining current State GR funding for the Nurse-Family Partnership Program, supporting a Home Visiting Consortium and supporting an Early Childhood Comprehensive System that focuses on prenatal to five years of age.

Child Protection Priorities on the Legislative Consensus Agenda follow providing: Educational success for foster children with greater flexibility in order to graduate; Access to CPS records for court appointed evaluators; Greater access to protective orders; Review of dismissal orders in CPS cases; Loan repayment program for qualified caseworkers, Placement stability and permanency for Foster Youth; Task Force on recruitment and retention of CPS caseworkers; and Oversight for Psychotropic Medication Usage for Foster Youth.

"At long last, the Texas Legislature has heard the

continuous call of advocates to adequately fund CPS," said McClure. "We applaud the new DFPS Commissioner, Judge Spacia and the Texas leadership and urge them to follow the lead of Lt. Governor Dewhurst, Sen. Jane Nelson, Senator Carlos Uresti, Rep. Zerwas, Rep. Dukes and others to likewise increase investment in child abuse prevention programs including evidence-based home visiting. If we don't invest in the front end—we'll never mitigate the number of innocent children, scarred for life, flowing into the expensive CPS system."

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## Curtis Report

by Barry Curtis

Madame Thatcher was born in a modest home, the daughter of a grocer. The humble beginnings that she experienced would be the common denominator in solving Britain's many post war ailments.

Mrs. Thatcher once remarked, "Any woman that understands the problem of running a home will be nearer to understanding the problems of running a country". Margaret Thatcher not only ran home and country but she re-defined the nature of conservative leadership in the 20th century.

Her quick wit, sharp tongue and simple way of explaining complex issues won her many adoring supporters as well as some distracters for the same reasons. Margaret

## Remembering the Iron Lady

Thatcher was a rallying cry, a beacon of moral and conservative values that endure in Europe and the world to this today. She alone fought back against socialist ideology that had strangled Britain's economy in the 70's and 80's. It was her conservative rallying cry that took on the British welfare state and some powerful unions that threatened to derail her leadership.

In the 11 years of service to the British people Mrs. Thatcher closed or privatized state owned industries, including the coal industry and Steele plants across Britain. She radically cut spending and reduced government taxes that were crippling private enterprise. She in essence brought Britain back from socialism.

She once said of socialism, "the problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of someone else's

money". This is a policy that is sorely lacking in our current administration in Washington that insists on spending someone else's money for government social services.

Madame Thatcher's rallying cry was critical in Britain's fighting and winning a war against Argentina over the Falkland Islands. She along with Ronald Reagan walked in lock step in their opposition to the Soviet Union and there expansionist activities around the world. History will record that it was the strong friendship with Ronald Reagan, Pope John Paul II and Margaret Thatcher that was critical in defeating the Soviet Union during the cold war.

Margaret Thatcher was a woman of deep principle and moral character that never wavered from her core beliefs and principles. This moral warrior should be uplifted as

an example of all women who want the promise of economic freedom, political will power and the ability to carve out our own destiny. This courageous story of Mrs. Thatcher should be heralded as a true success story that all young girls can emulate. All inner city schools should teach her words and examine her thinking on economic liberties. She preached that if you rely on the government for your needs you will only exist and not prosper, that the government is the problem and not the solution. She believed that every woman has a moral duty to be self-reliant and independent.

Mrs. Thatcher was truly an Iron lady. She was not the iron lady because of being cold or rigid, but because of her solid and UN yielding approach to her moral commitments.

You will be missed Mrs. Thatcher, job well done.

## Dallas Federal Housing grants investigation leads to Grand Jury case and eight placed on administrative leave

DALLAS – The City of Dallas and the Dallas Police Department have been investigating allegations connected with the Project Reconnect/ Offender Re-entry Program since July 2012. As a result of several months of investigative work, one employee was referred to the Grand Jury on January 29. Tuesday, eight other employees were placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

All files connected with the inquiry have been secured; access has been restricted to City offices, computers and related technology.

"Properly administering federal funds is an important role of municipal government and it is imperative that the process and guidelines are strictly followed," said City Manager Mary K. Suhm.

"Other law enforcement agencies may join the investigation as appropriate," she said.

"It is paramount the City protects the integrity of this investigation to maintain the public's trust," said Mayor Mike Rawlings. "As soon as city management discovered irregularities swift action was taken to bring allegations to law enforcement, and I'm confident the process is working as it should with the proper scope and depth of this type of investigation," he added.

The programs funded with these grants are an important safety net for a segment of the Dallas community and the City is doing everything possible to keep these programs operating with as little interruption as possible while under review.

## DHA finds needed funding so rent payments will not be reduced

The Dallas Housing Authority (DHA) has informed Texas Tenants' Union that they have secured additional funding. Therefore, they

will not have to reduce rents they will pay to landlords or reduce payment standards.

According to an email sent to media from Sandy

Rollins, of from the Texas Tenants' Union, DHA no longer needs to ask landlords to accept a 6 percent reduction in

rental payments as last week.

## Free community shred event on April 20 in McKinney

McKINNEY – The City of McKinney in conjunction with American Shredding will be offering a free community shred event on Saturday, April 20 from noon - 4 p.m. at 210 S. McDonald St.

Residents can help prevent identify theft and fraud by se-

curely shredding personal documents no longer needed. All paper collected will be recycled.

Each vehicle is limited to four boxes of materials to shred. Spiral notebooks, hanging folders, staples and paper clips are accepted, but three-ring binders, office bull clips and any metal

or plastics are not. The event will take items until 3:30 p.m. or until the truck fills up. This event is limited to individuals. Businesses are not eligible to participate.

For more information, call 972-547-7615 or visit [www.mckinneytexas.org](http://www.mckinneytexas.org).

## HUNTER, continued from Page 2

tration and finance from the University of Dallas. Echols has 15 years of experience supporting Dallas nonprofit agencies through leadership roles. She also led volunteer efforts throughout her tenure at Bank of America. As an avid runner, she completed four half marathons in 2012 and is a USA Triathlon Association top 500 ranked amateur. In addition to running, she is a U.S. Tennis Association rated 4.5 tennis player and continues to compete locally.

For more information on the 2013 MetroPCS

Dallas Marathon, visit [dallasmarathon.com](http://dallasmarathon.com).

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## Top Summer Internship Programs For 2013

It's that time of the year again where summer internships are soon to begin, and one new web site, FindInternships.com, is helping students find the right program.

An intern is an assistant

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FindInternships.com is a 100% free online re-

source for students looking for summer and year-round internships. The web site posts new opportunities daily from major corporations, non-profit organizations, and local and federal government agencies.

Some of their opportunities are even for students looking to go abroad.

There are many, many opportunities available, and FindInternships.com filters through each one of them to ensure that they

are 100% real and legit. Some are specific to students of certain majors and career paths, while others are only for students who reside in certain cities and states.

## Sally Ride Festival Draws Hundreds of Budding Scientists

About 800 middle-school girls, family members and teachers enjoyed a science-filled day at The University of Texas at Dallas during the Sally Ride Science Festival on April 6.

Anna Njuraita and her sister Marilyne Njuraita, 12, of Dallas, talk with Dr. John Hoffman about several physics experiments, including a holographic pig and static electricity generators.

UT Dallas faculty and students were among the 250 volunteers, presenters and exhibitors who joined corporate and community partners to bring science to life during the afternoon of hands-on workshops and demonstrations.

Sponsored by the School of Natural Sciences and Math-

ematics, the event at UT Dallas was the 92nd Sally Ride Science Festival conducted nationwide since 2001. The event honors America's first woman in space and her legacy of encouraging young girls to pursue higher education and careers in science and engineering.

The event kicked off with lunch, music and a street fair in the heart of campus. More than 20 exhibitors set up under the trellis to engage children and adults in a wide range of activities that highlighted chemistry, physics, space, engineering and other fields.

Marilyne Njuraita, 12, of Dallas visited the University's Department of Physics exhibit, where Dr. Robert Glosser, professor and head of

the department, and faculty member Dr. John Hoffman displayed a number of hands-on physics experiments.

Girls prepare for a demonstration on acids and bases by exhibitors from UT Arlington.

Astronaut Wendy Lawrence signs autographs for middle-school girls at the Sally Ride Science Festival while Dr. Bruce Novak, dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, welcomes the girls to campus.

One display – a hologram – wasn't quite as hands-on as it appeared.

"There was a toy pig in a dish, and there was also like a 3D image of the pig on top of the dish," Marilyne said. "I tried to touch it and I couldn't. It was cool."

Dr. Bruce Novak, dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, welcomed the crowd and visited with some of the participants during the street fair.

"This is a terrific day for us," Novak said. "It's a great pleasure to host the Sally Ride Science Festival. My hope is

that these young people will walk away feeling that they'll be welcomed back here in a few years when they're ready for college."

Former NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, a veteran of four spaceflights, signed autographs and spoke with festival-goers during talks in the

Clark Center auditorium. She described the career path she had taken to become an astronaut, as well as what it's like to fly in space. She took questions from the inquisitive crowd and addressed how astronauts eat, sleep, exercise and conduct other daily activities.

**See SCIENTISTS, Page 8**

## Rafael Anchia appointed to Border Legislative Conference

AUSTIN – State Representative Rafael Anchia, Chair of the International Trade and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, was appointed by Speaker Joe Straus to the Border Legislative Conference on April 4, 2013. The Conference is a program administered by the Council of State Governments and its regional partner in the South, the Southern Legislative Conference, which serves as a mechanism for on-going dialogue and collaboration among state legislators of the United States and Mexico. The goal of the project is to empower border state legislators to engage in the bi-national agenda and provide input and direction in the development of policy between both countries.

"Chairman Anchia is a smart and experienced legislator with a deep understanding of the opportunities and challenges along the U.S. - Mexico border,"



*Rafael Anchia*

speaker Straus said. "I am confident that he will work well with officials from other border states and Mexico to promote constructive solutions to the issues facing our region."

Membership in the Border Legislative Conference is comprised of legislators from the ten states along the U.S.-Mexico border. These states include California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas in the U.S.; and Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua,

Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas in Mexico.

"I am honored to have been appointed to this prestigious conference," said Rep. Anchia, "and I am grateful to the Speaker for his confidence in me. I look forward to working with my colleagues from both the United States and Mexico and to working on common sense initiatives that will promote growth, expand trade opportunities, and continue discussions on the problems that we share with our neighbor to the south."

The Border Legislative Conference conducts forums twice a year and shall rotate between the United States and Mexico member states.

*Representative Rafael Anchia is a former DISD school board trustee serving his fifth term in the Texas House and represents District 103 of north-west Dallas County.*



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## C.A.K.E! Crimes Against Kids Eliminated! Inc., hosting golf tournament in Frisco

FRISCO - C.A.K.E! , a Frisco-based organization is committed to preventing and eliminating child sexual abuse. It offers primary prevention education and training programs that result in a change of attitudes and behaviors about child sexual abuse/assault.

The Fore the Kids' 3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament, Friday, April 19 at 1:30 p.m. will bring golfers from all over the Metroplex to raise money for research, education and prevention of child sexual abuse. The tournament is open to all golfers and will be held at the Plantation Golf Club, 4701 Plantation Lane in Frisco.

The latest trend in sex abuse/assault, the organiza-



tion to bring to light for all parents, is the fact children are being victimized by other children. They encourage parents to pay attention to this and other trends and have conversations with their children about boundaries while they are still young.

"You have to prepare your children on how to react, so they won't be dumbfounded, if they were to become targets for abuse/assault. It is a long way back to center after victimization," says Ms. Dana Jones. "Our

organization exists to provide awareness and education to lessen the occurrence."

C.A.K.E! is focused on research and outreach in the Collin, Denton, Tarrant and Dallas counties. The Frisco-based non-profit organization aims to remind adults about the issue of child neglect and abuse and provide them with awareness information.

Golfers can sign up their teams now at [www.golfforethekids.org](http://www.golfforethekids.org).

## Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson launches Small Business Series with a focus on homeless veterans



Congresswoman Johnson spoke with panelists about ending the homeless veteran problem in Dallas

DALLAS — Recently, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson launched her small business series to assist homeless veterans in the Dallas area. The purpose of the series is to inform homeless veterans about the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VA-SH) program and provide them with the tools they

need to apply for assistance.

"No veteran should ever come home from war and be homeless," said Congresswoman Johnson. "I have traveled all over the world and there is no place else that allows the freedoms and opportunities like the United States. We are afforded this luxury because of the sacri-

fice and skill of our men and women in uniform, and we should all be there for them when they return home."

The event took place on April 5 at the Bill J. Priest Institute for Economic Development from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Veterans, veterans support organizations, and developers were in attendance.

## Tyler Perry has two new shows scheduled for Oprah's network OWN

OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network announced today special event programming leading up to the launch of Tyler Perry's two new scripted series debuting on the network next month. The one-hour ensemble drama "The Haves and the Have Nots" is set to premiere Tuesday, May 28 at 9 p.m. ET/PT and the sitcom "Love Thy

Neighbor" will premiere Wednesday, May 29 at 9 p.m. ET/PT with two back-to-back half-hour episodes.

On Sunday, May 26, Oprah will sit down with the prolific producer for an intimate in-depth interview on a special "Oprah's Next Chapter" at 9 p.m. ET/PT. It will be immediately followed at 10 p.m. ET/PT by "Tyler Perry



Tyler Perry

Comes to OWN: Behind The Scenes," an exclusive inside look at the making of his two new series.

In addition, the network announced today two new unscripted series joining its slate of original programming -- "Millionaire Mama's Boy," about the dynamic relationship between WNBA star Pamela McGee and her NBA

star son JaVale, and "Houston Beauty" about the lively world of a Texas beauty school.

"We are delighted to celebrate Tyler coming to OWN with these new specials as we ramp up to the debut of our first scripted series," said Sheri Salata, president, OWN. "Tyler's fans, like Oprah's fans, are incredibly connected

and passionate. We can't wait for them to see these shows."

"We are energized by our growing slate of original programming coming to OWN," said Erik Logan, president, OWN. "With 12 returning series and 13 new shows on the way including the launch of Tyler Perry's shows in May, we're positioned for a strong season."

## TAX, continued from Page 1

5 percent for each month the tax return is late, up to a total maximum penalty of 25 percent of the tax due as shown on the tax return filed.

**Failure to pay penalty:** This penalty is calculated based on the amount of tax you owe as shown on the tax return filed. The penalty is 0.5 percent for each month the tax is not paid in full. Unfortunately, there is no cap or maximum limit to this failure to pay penalty, which is calculated from the original filing deadline of April 15 until the full balance due is paid.

**Interest** - Interest is calculated based on the taxes that are due. Interest rates change every three months. Currently, the IRS interest rate for underpayment of tax is now about 4 percent per year.

**Filing late** - With all of the penalties at the disposal of the IRS, it is better to file on time. However, if the lateness simply cannot be avoided, at

least file an extension to potentially avoid or reduce the failure to file penalty. You still may be subject to failure to pay penalty and interest, but it will still be worth it to avoid the potential of up to a 25 percent penalty.

**Payment options** - To avoid all interest and penalties, it may be more economical to borrow the money to pay from family and friends, draw on a home equity loan or even look to a credit card as an option. While a few of these options may have interest, they are probably far less than 25 percent.

**Installment plan** - If all else fails and you just cannot come up with the necessary funds to pay the IRS the taxes due, an installment payment plan may be able to be negotiated. First, you must complete Form 9465, which is the Installment Agreement Request. Attach it to the income tax return. You should include the

amount you propose to pay each month and the dates of the month the payments will be made.

The IRS will notify you if this Installment Agreement Request has been approved. There is a fee of about \$45 for establishing an agreement. Remember, interest may continue to accrue until the balance is paid in full.

**No money compromise** - If the amount you owe the IRS is so great that you may never be able to pay it, the IRS may accept less than what is owed through the Offer In Compromise Program. You must complete Form 656 - Offer In Compromise and Form 433A - Collection Information Statement. Submit both of these forms to the IRS, along with the \$150 application fee. Additionally you must provide a personal financial statement, which includes all of your assets, debts, income and the

amount you can pay immediately in an effort to settle this debt.

Before this settlement offer is granted, the IRS will evaluate your current financial picture and future income capacity. If the IRS believes that they will be unable to collect the full amount owed, they may accept the offer. However, the odds are not favorable that your settlement offer will be granted. Remember, this program is for those taxpayers that are in severe financial distress - not those that have the money and are just seeking to pay less than what is owed.

**Pay agreements on time or else** - If you have successfully obtained an installment plan or an Offer In Compromise Agreement, you must pay all of your federal tax bills on time for the next five years or until the amount agreed upon is paid in full, whichever is longer. If you

fail to pay or default on the terms of the Offer in Compromise Agreement, all of your taxes forgiven will be due in full.

Additionally, the IRS may file a lien on any assets that you have in an effort to guarantee payment. So if you remember nothing else, do not

just ignore your taxes. File on time and make payment arrangements.

*Special to the NNPA from the Tri-State Defender, contact Carlee McCullough, Esq., at 5308 Cottonwood Road, Suite 1A, Memphis, TN 38118, or email her at [jstce4all@aol.com](mailto:jstce4all@aol.com).*

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## SCIENTISTS, continued from Page 6

ities in zero gravity.

Lawrence also had a message of encouragement for the fifth- through eighth-grade students in the crowd:

"I have no doubt that some of you out there are thinking, 'I like math and science, engineering sounds interesting, but I don't think I'm smart enough.' To which I say, how do you know? You're not that far along in school yet. You owe it to yourself to try. Don't sell yourself short," Lawrence said.

Sally Ride's sister, Karen



**Astronaut Wendy Lawrence signs autographs for middle-school girls at the Sally Ride Science Festival while Dr. Bruce Novak, dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, welcomes the girls to campus.**

"Bear" Ride (in green vest) is a driving force behind the festivals.

"If you play sports, are you instantly good at basketball or soccer? No. You go to practice. You have to do the same thing in school. You have to practice math and science. You will get better at it, but it takes work, and it takes practice."

The festival also featured nearly two dozen workshops for kids and adults. Participants explored the mathematics and geometry of billiards,

tried out paper-airplane-making skills with the Civil Air Patrol, and enjoyed the night sky in two portable planetariums provided by the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. Among the workshop titles: "Kitchen Chemistry," "Edible Earth," "Exploring Rockets," and "Circuit Sculptures."

"These kids are here because they want to be here; it's not a school field trip. You can really tell the difference," said Karen "Bear" Ride, Sally Ride's sister and a driving

force behind the festivals.

During a break in the day's activities, Bear Ride was asked what she thought Sally would think of the day's turnout and the crowd's enthusiasm: "She'd be delighted," she said. "Her heart was really into the festivals. She just loved them."

The Sally Ride Science Festival was presented by ExxonMobil. Other corporate sponsors included Time Warner Cable, Northrop Grumman Foundation and Texas Instruments.

## Lottery for Wicked tickets for \$25 seats announced

DALLAS - A day-of-performance lottery for a limited number of orchestra seats will be held for *Wicked*, which is returning to Dallas Summer Musicals and the Music Hall at Fair Park with performances from April 10-May 5. Two and one-half hours prior to each performance, people who present themselves at the Music Hall box office will have their names

placed in a lottery drum; thirty minutes later, names will be drawn for a limited number of orchestra seats at \$25 each, cash only. This lottery is available only in-person at the box office, with a limit of two tickets per person. Lottery participants must have a valid photo ID when submitting their entry form and, if chosen, when purchasing tickets.

Long before Dorothy drops in, two other girls meet in the land of Oz. One - born with emerald green skin - is smart, fiery and misunderstood. The other is beautiful, ambitious and very popular. *Wicked* tells the story of their remarkable odyssey, how these two unlikely friends grow to become the *Wicked Witch of the West* and *Glinda the Good*.

*Wicked* begins performances at the Music Hall at Fair Park Wed., April 10 and runs through Sunday, May 5. Tickets are on sale now at The Box Office, 5959 Royal Lane, and all Ticketmaster outlets, or online at [www.ticketmaster.com/wicked](http://www.ticketmaster.com/wicked). Limited seats available for weeknight performances.

For more information, please visit [www.dallasummermusicals.org](http://www.dallasummermusicals.org).

## Dallas will increase efforts to halt spread of West Nile Virus

DALLAS - With the mosquito season approaching, the City of Dallas is taking a proactive approach with a West Nile Virus education campaign set to begin this month. The education campaign will include educational videos, radio and television PSA's, billboards, social media, signs, brochures and community meetings.

Stepped up mosquito surveillance efforts will include 90 mosquito traps to be set from May to October, with additional off-season trapping to be conducted from November to April. The turnaround time for lab results will be expedited this year by using county, state and private labs.

Code inspectors and other

**See VIRUS, Page 13**

## New African American matchmaking service helps black people find love

(BlackNews.com) -- Spring has sprung and love is in the air! African American Matchmaker and published author, Angela D. Coleman, believes, "No matter what your political views, President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama have given us a powerful vision of Black love unlike any other."

Many wonder about this seemingly perfect match, "How did they find each other?" Most people want the committed, healthy, loving relationship that they appear to have.

What is the best way to find love? African American Matchmaking(TM) is the answer for many and it is believed to be the future of Black love by others. The goal is simple: to help its members find loving relationships. African American Matchmaking is listed #2 Among the Top 100 Family, Marriage, and Relationship Blogs for African Americans. Coleman be-



work so that, together, we find and chose the right match for you," Coleman says.

Matchmaking used to be reserved for very wealthy, high-status individuals. While African American Matchmaking membership is exclusive (members must be screened and approved), the service offers advice, inspiration, personal matchmaking services and relationship coaching for free or at an affordable cost. Online registration (Get Started) is free.

African American Matchmaking has a national registry of professional men and women and is growing weekly with new members and partners. The company is hiring Matchmaking Consultants with no matchmaking experience necessary and is also looking for media opportunities to expand. Visit [www.african-american-matchmaking.com](http://www.african-american-matchmaking.com).

lieves "the time is right for this vision to become a reality, to have better dating options, and have an advocate working on your behalf. What I hear most is a desire to be validated in a caring, loving relationship with a partner and the frustration that can result from failed attempts."

Matchmaking is quickly becoming a popular option for both men and women who are looking for quality relationships with a compatible partner. "There are many benefits. 'Love is healing and we ALL need it. African American Matchmaking does the big

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# Brenham hopes to bring about change to Dallas City Council District 8

BY TAMARIND PHINISEE,  
NDG CONTRIBUTING  
WRITER

Highland Hills resident Subrina Lynn Brenham is in a race against time, and some forces beyond her control, to attract votes for the city council seat for Dallas City Council, District 8.



Subrina Lynn Brenham

Brenham, who owns Highland Hills Beauty Supply and income tax services company, Subrina's Tax Services, is running against third-year incumbent City Councilman Tennell Atkins.

Atkins currently serves District 8 – a large area nestled between Loop 12 and Wintergreen Road, which is south of Interstate Highway 20. Its western-most border is South Cockrell Hill Road; its eastern border stretches just past Lasater Road.

Recently, Brenham called police to file a report, alleging vandalism of her campaign signs. Brenham says she drove past a few locations where her signs were posted earlier and noticed they were either gone or lying face down on the ground.

One of these locations was the House of Persimmon property, located at 3245 Simpson Stuart Road. Property manager, Brandy Kemp, says she is not certain what happened to the sign.

"Yes, we had one at our property. It was here the weekend before we left and

paign signs and posters and sending out mailers.

A major reason for her desire to run for District 8, stems from issues in Brenham's own neighborhood – Highland Hills.

Brenham says Councilman Atkins promised the neighborhood a mini-grocery store with fresh fruits and vegetables. Instead, she says, it got a gas station with a mini mart. A beauty supply store that competes with her own business, according to Brenham, also opened.

Highland Hills resident, Clara McDade, says she is also disappointed with the gas station/mini mart.

"The store is supposed to have fresh fruits and vegetables. But the fruits and vegetables aren't fresh," says McDade, adding this forces Highland Hills residents to drive or take the bus seven or more miles from their area to shop for food.

"We're tired of the fact that he (Atkins) knows what's going on but will not reveal anything until the last minute to his constituents and then the next thing we know, we've got a business coming into our community that we don't want," McDade says.

But the issue of the grocery store is only a part of the problem, McDade says. The neighborhood, has not seen or heard anything from Atkins on other items, including a progress report on a new library promised to the Highland Hills area according to Brenham.

Voters approved a 2006 bond election package that included funding for design and land acquisition for the proposed library for just over \$950,000. According to city documents, construction funding for the library was not included in the 2006 bond election. Frank Libro, Managing Director of Communications & Media Relations for the City of Dallas Public Information Office says funding for the construction was established

from savings of projects included in the 2006 bond program library proposition – primarily savings from land acquisitions – in the amount of \$6 million.

The root of the problem, Brenham says, is a lack of communication and transparency between the community and Atkins' office – a problem she aims to change.

"I will answer questions from my constituents while we are in our Town Hall meetings or whatever function is taking place and if I don't have the answer I will research and give them an answer in a timely manner. I will never interrupt a person or cut them short just to evade answering any questions," Brenham says. "I will not leave the meeting before it's over to keep from answering questions from my constituents. I will not mislead my constituents into thinking that something is going to take place and (it doesn't). Most of all, I ... want to know my constituents."

Brenham is quite familiar with the District 8 area. The 50-year-old entrepreneur attended Bishop Heights Elementary School, graduated from Wilmer Hutchins High School, and completed her education at Paul Quinn College. From 1997 to 2001, Brenham



Tennell Atkins

Lee Elementary School. During this time she also did income taxes for family, friends and neighbors in the area.

"While teaching elementary school, my home business became very successful as an income tax professional. So I decided to open my own income tax service (in 2002)," she says.

Brenham opened her beauty supply store three years ago.

If elected, Brenham pledges to work with Mayor

South Side through improvements to education, library facilities, neighborhoods, green space, transportation and roadways.

But winning against an incumbent may not be easy. McDade, who met Brenham at Paul Quinn College and who serves as Brenham's adviser, says she learned this herself. McDade lost her own bid for the city council seat for District 8 in 2005 against James Fantroy and Al Lipscomb. But, McDade says, if her sentiments mirror those of other District 8 residents, Brenham may have a shot.

Referencing Atkins' comments in a DallasNew.com blog, McDade says she does not support someone who does not want to know its constituents.

"We're sick and tired of those kinds of people in our community and ... I want him out of there whatever it takes," says McDade.

Atkins did not respond to repeated calls or emails from the *North Dallas Gazette* for comment by press time.

***"I will answer questions from my constituents while we are in our Town Hall meetings or whatever function is taking place and if I don't have the answer I will research and give them an answer in a timely manner. I will never interrupt a person or cut them short just to evade answering any questions," Brenham said.***

taught elementary school in the Dallas Independent School District, first at John W. Carpenter Elementary School and then at Umphrey

Rawlins' office in its implementation of the Grow South initiative – an economic development plan designed to improve the city's



## 42 plays respect to Jackie Robinson's legacy

BY DWIGHT BROWN  
(NNPA) Jackie Robinson's life is lesson in courage. It's a sobering but inspiring reminder of the barbaric cruelty of racism and those who rallied against it. This revealing film tracks his ascension from the Negro Leagues to Major League Baseball. And though you think you may know his story, you couldn't possibly fathom the horrors he endured to pave the way for Black athletes.

42 vividly captures defining moments in the legendary baseball player's career. It spans 1945 to

is no accident. The manager is looking precisely for a courageous man who has both guts and restraint, which is what it will take to weather an impending barrage of criticism and resistance. During the war, Robinson had been court-martialed for not sitting in the back of a military bus. That bold move intrigued Rickey, and he sought him out. The fearless veteran tells the GM, "You give me a uniform, you give me a number on my back, and I'll give you the guts."

Director/writer Brian Helgeland is a decent director (Knight's Tale) but a

families because hotels reject him. His chauffeur and guide is Wendell Smith (Andre Holland), a Black sports writer for the Pittsburgh Courier. When Robinson gets despondent over his maltreatment and being shunned by the team, Smith lets him know that his experience is not isolated. "You aren't the only one. Negro reporters aren't allowed in the press room, either."

Robinson's struggles with his fellow players, with rival teams and their managers are well documented. As he works his way through the minor leagues, he's psychologically and emotionally abused. White pitchers use his head for target practice. Through it all, you're horrified, angry, and sad. When Ben Chapman (Alan Tudyk), the manager of the Phillies screams the 'N' word at the nerve-frayed Robinson when he comes to bat, in front of a packed stadium, you wonder how can this man bear it. Then the day he steps on to Ebbets Field, as a full-fledged Brooklyn Dodger, your emotions peak and you get the chills. It's a milestone. Historic. He is the first Black man to play a Major League Baseball game. The past is erased. The future is now.

Despite the film's sleek feel, the basic life story with its tribulations and triumphs remain intact. It's inspiring, especially as depicted by Boseman who has the swagger of a young Denzel Washington. Serious, stoic, pent up. If anything he suppresses his anger better than Washington, letting it ride under the surface, so when it erupts, it's dramatic, forceful. The physicality of his performance—mimicking Robinson's awkward batting stance and freaky, base-stealing agility—is uncanny.

The romance between Jackie and his wife Rachel (Nicole Beharie; Shame and American Violet) depicts a strong foundation. Beharie flaunts the charm and determination that is



trademark of the real Mrs. Robinson. Lucas Black as Brooklyn Dodgers short-stop Pee Wee Reese, is the quintessential character actor; the one you call when you need a Southern man with a solid persona. Tudyk as Chapman is suitable vicious and unremorseful as the "N" word rolls off his tongue with venom that would shame the KKK. Harrison, a lead actor, is not an obvious choice to play an historical character. His performance seems a bit studied, clunky

and theatrical, but eventually he wins you over.

Hegeland's script spends the right amount of time exploring Robinson's inner self. He wasn't just a skilled athlete; he was a keen strategist, a smart man's player. He could get under the skin of any pitcher by stealing bases with the cunning of a fox. He was ferocious, yet a gentleman. The flaw in the script is that too often the characters talk in platitudes, and not like real people. Particularly Rick-

ey; probably he was as smart businessman with certain ideals and solid morals. It's unlikely that every sentence he uttered was prosaic, poignant and prophetic: "Dollars aren't black and white, they're green."

One evening, while strolling through Brooklyn Jackie and Rachel are confronted by a White stranger. She is scared, he steps in front of her to protect her. They are surprised when the admirer says: "If a man's got the goods, he deserves a fair shake." That fairness doctrine drives American culture. Seeking justice is the film's hook and the major attraction to Robinson's storied life.

This honorable and enlightening film pays due respect to Jackie Robinson—a sports legend and courageous American hero.

Visit Dwight Brown at [www.DwightBrownInk.com](http://www.DwightBrownInk.com)



1947, when he married his sweetheart, played with Dodger farm teams and eventually the Brooklyn Dodgers. Chronicling Robinson's entire life might have been a gargantuan task, and too lengthy an endeavor for one movie, but it's a pity the filmmakers didn't try. When this well-intentioned 2-hour, 18minute bio-film comes to an abrupt end, you'll want more. You'll want to know about his pre- and post-career life.

In 1945, when African American servicemen returned from World War II, they encountered an America deeply entrenched in prejudice, Jim Crow laws and segregation. Major League Baseball teams were all White, until one fateful day Brooklyn Dodgers GM Branch Rickey (Harrison Ford) decided to stir things up. "Everyone will be against it... I'm going to bring a Negro player to the Brooklyn Dodgers."

The alliance between Rickey and Jackie Robinson (Chadwick Boseman)

much stronger writer (Oscar winner for L.A. Confidential and Oscar nominee for Mystic River). He's assembled a very professional production crew, and that is the flaw in his approach. This film needed to be grittier than it is.

All the characters are wearing brand new clothes (courtesy of costume designer Caroline Harris), as if they just went on a Macy's shopping spree. Cindy Carr's sets are too perfect and obvious, you can detect when a Hollywood back lot is substituting for a real New York location. The cinematography (Don Burgess) is super glossy, like a car commercial. Trumpets blare incessantly like Caesar is entering the room. The editing is the one production element that is right on the mark; Peter McNulty and Kevin Stitt make the footage fly by like a fastball.

As a minor league player, Robinson is forced to live a shadow existence, staying with local Black



## Dallas Comic Con garners exclusive Sunday comics exhibit

Dallas Comic Con will present "One Fine Sunday in the Funny Pages," a traveling exhibition of cartoon art, May 17-19 at the Irving Convention Center, in the exhibit's only Texas engagement. This unique display features the original art of more than 100 syndicated comic strips and panels, all published in newspapers across North America on the same Sunday – April 11, 2010.

This celebration of cartoon entertainment brings together examples of virtually every American strip and panel published today, from the long-running (*Katzenjammer Kids* and *Gasoline Alley*) to more recent entries (*Dustin* and *Brewster Rockit: Space Guy*).

"This really is a one-of-a-kind exhibit and we are thrilled to be chosen to host it at our May show," said

Ben Stevens, co-owner of C2Ventures, which produces Dallas Comic Con. "We have dozens of artists lined up for our show, including some of the top comic book artists in the business, and this special traveling exhibit truly is the icing on the cake for our customers."

"One Fine Sunday in the Funny Papers" has visited 16 states since September 2010. It offers viewers a chance to find art of their fa-

vorite features, be introduced to comics they might not have seen before, and be re-introduced to characters from days gone by.

"This display would not have been possible without the extraordinary, unprecedented participation of so many cartoonists, and is a wonderful way for people to enjoy the wide diversity of styles, themes and genres of the funny pages," said John Read, the exhibition's cura-

tor and publisher of *Stay Tooned!* magazine.

In addition to the traveling exhibit, Dallas Comic Con will feature more than 50 comic artists on site. Among them are groundbreaking Marvel Comics artist Jim Steranko; *Power Girl* artist Amanda Conner; Jimmy Palmiotti, co-creator of *Painkiller Jane* and *Ash*; and Len Wein, co-creator of *Wolverine* and *Swamp Thing*.

Actors William Shatner of *Star Trek* fame and Nathan Fillion, star of TV's *Castle* and the short-lived but much-loved sci-fi series, *Firefly*, top the list of two dozen media guests.

Discount tickets for Dallas Comic Con are available online through April 15. To order tickets, or for a complete list of guests, Q&A sessions and other events, please visit the website at [www.dallascomiccon.com](http://www.dallascomiccon.com).

## ALLERGY, continued from Page 4

take a shower after spending time outside to remove any pollen residue on their body or in their hair.

- Have your children change their clothes after spending time outside because they will carry pollen indoors on their clothes.

- Dry your clothes indoors instead of on an outdoor clothesline during this time of year.

Allergy Medicine for Children - Medicine can

help alleviate allergy symptoms in children, but with any medication you give your child, be sure you're using the right medication for your child's age and weight. Follow the instructions carefully to be sure your child gets the correct dosage.

Over-the-counter, generic allergy medication is effective for many people and can cost less than prescription allergy medica-

tions. If you have any questions about what medications are right for your child, ask your family doctor.

Some common allergy medications include:

- Nasal decongestants to relieve a stuffy nose.

- Antihistamines to relieve sneezing, and an itchy, runny nose.

- Nasal corticosteroids are also often used, but are available only by prescription.

For children who have allergy symptoms that are difficult to control, doctors

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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

**April 13**

**5K Run for Human Rights** at Bachman Lake Park, 3500 Northwest Hwy at 8:30am; \$10-\$35; Info: 214-273-4331

Come cheer on your favorite trivia team at **Irving Trivia: The City and the Man Preliminary Rounds** at 10 a.m. at Central Library. Info: 972-252-3838

**Feed Me Dallas Charity Chili Cook-Off** at 2:30 p.m. at McKinney Avenue Tavern, 2822 McKinney Avenue; Info: 832-289-1453

**Free Paper Shredding Day** at Calloway's Nursery, 1000 Preston Road at 10 a.m

**April 14**

**2013 Wells Fargo Dallas Symphony Derby** at Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie, 1000 Lone Star Parkway in Grand Prairie; 972-672-4015

**April 15**

**Memphis Grizzlies vs. Dallas Mavericks** at American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Avenue at 7 p.m.; 214-222-3687

**April 16**

**Rihanna: Diamonds World Tour** at American Airlines Center at 7:30 p.m.

**Rihanna** at American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Avenue at 7:30 p.m.

**April 17**

**Irving International Women's Purse Auction** at Las Colinas Country Club, 4400 N. O'Connor Blvd. in Irving at 6-8:30 p.m.; \$50; 972-831-8866

**UT Dallas and Arcos Films present *Switch*** at UT Dallas Jindal School of Management, 800 W. Campbell in Richardson at 6 p.m.

**"Dream Your Self into Being" Book Talk & Signing** at Lucky Dog Books, 633 West Davis St. at 6:30 p.m.; 214-941-2665

**Gastronomic Exploration of the Bishop Arts District** at North Bishop Ave & W Davis St at 7 p.m.; 972-863-2607

**April 18**

**Lecture and book signing: Novelist Joe Coomer**, 6:30 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. lecture will read from his first novel,

The Decatur Road, which is being republished by Degolyer Library at SMU <http://smu.edu/cul/degolyer/>

**Concerts at the Arboretum: Blaze of Glory** at Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road at 7:30 p.m.; 214-515-6500

**April 20**

**Earth Day Dallas Earth Day Dallas** at Fair Park, 3939 Grand Ave. at 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; FREE; 214-310-1200

**DSO on the GO** at Stonebriar Community Church, Frisco at 2:30 p.m. [DallasSymphony.com/DSOon-theGO](http://DallasSymphony.com/DSOon-theGO) for details

**DADA Bike Swarm** form 1:30 – 5 p.m. Cyclists of all age levels and abilities are invited to the Dallas Art Dealers Association and Bike Friendly Oak Cliff's Bike Swarm as part of the DADA Spring Gallery Walk at 223 West Jefferson Boulevard. The event is free and includes a self-guided tour of the art galleries located in the Design District.

**Sharepoint 2010 for Business Intelligence training** at 320 Decker Drive, Suite 100; Irving; 800-540-3192

**Dallas March for Babies** at Norbuck Park, White Rock Lake at 9 a.m.; 972-232-1348

**Fort Worth March for Babies** at Farrington Field to Trinity Park at 9 a.m.; 682-201-3037

**Earth Day Dallas** at Fair Park, 3939 Grand Ave. Dallas at 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Free

**April 21**

**Family Funday in Irving** at Irving Arts Center in Irving at 2 – 4 p.m.; Free; 972-252-7558

**April 22**

**International film: *Girl Rising* Screening** at Sid Richardson Lecture Hall 1, West Bowie Street in Fort Worth at 6:30 - 10 pm; Free; Info: <http://girlrising.com/see-the-film/>

**April 23**

**Just Say YES Luncheon - "Pointing Youth in the Right Direction"** Tickets are \$100; Sue Bailey - Phone 972- 437-0002 ext. 223 or [sbailey@just-sayyes.org](mailto:sbailey@just-sayyes.org)

**April 26**

**Human Trafficking Lunch and Learn** at The Texas White House, 1417 8th Avenue in Fort Worth at 12 noon; \$10 (covers lunch); Info: 817-289-0461

**Pathway to Healthy Living Health Fair** at Stone Ridge Apartments, 600 E. Arkansas Ln in Arlington from 4 - 7pm; Free; Info: 469-759-9002

**April 27**

**Early Voting begins Today! In Dallas County;** Early Voting April 27 – May 7; Info: 214-819-6300

**Beekeeping Classes** at Pan African Connection Bookstore, 828 Fourth Ave at 12 noon; Info: 214-565-8466

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## VIRUS, continued from Page 8

City staff will also pay close attention and respond quickly to complaints of standing water and time of day water violations. Code inspectors will also be posting signs identifying pools and other large water sources that have been treated.

"It's critical that we involve the community in help-

ing us eliminate mosquitoes around homes and businesses," said Assistant City Manager Joey Zapata. "This year, we are getting a jump-start on the problem by starting our effort earlier. We want to educate the public, including businesses and neighborhood groups, and work ag-

gressively to eradicate mosquitoes and keep the virus from spreading."

Zapata said the City will continue to work closely with Dallas County, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the state of Texas on prevention efforts. He urged residents to help pre-

vent the spread of the West Nile Virus by draining or treating standing water, avoiding outdoor activity at dawn and dusk, using mosquito repellent and wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors.

Standing water should be eliminated quickly, as mos-

quitoes can grow from egg to adult in as little as seven days. Breeding places for mosquitoes include swimming pools that are not kept clean, stagnant ponds, pet watering dishes, birdbaths, potted plants, old tires, empty containers, toys and clogged rain gutters and drains.

To report standing water or mosquito problems, call 3-1-1. For more information on West Nile Virus prevention visit [www.dallascityhall.com](http://www.dallascityhall.com) and look for the Fight the Bite icon to access resources. Media can obtain PSA's from the Public Information Office upon request.

## ZERO, continued from Page 1

period the previous year, averaging more than 41 hours a week. That makes sense. There were a few notable, life-altering events towards the end of 2012 which kept our eyes on the continued coverage. Several states along the East Coast suffered the catastrophic Hurricane Sandy. The Newtown, Conn. tragedy touched all of our hearts, and the highly anticipated 2012 Presidential Election was also noteworthy. Since you and I have been together in this space for a while now, you know that the Black community tends to log more TV viewing hours a week than other demographic groups. The latest numbers show that African-Americans average 55 hours a week in front of the telly.

The new kids in town, the Zero-TV households, do own televisions – about 75% of those in this category have at least one in the house, but they prefer to watch, or consume content, on other devices. The data shows that 36% of viewers feel cost and 31% of viewers say a lack of interest are reasons for their preferred choice. Right now, about five percent or five million American households fall into this Zero-TV category. African-American consumers make up almost 10% of that number. Nielsen's latest African-American consumer report looks at our alternate traditional TV viewing numbers more closely. We enjoy our multiple-screen options. Thirty-one percent of us watch video online. I have to admit it took me a minute to get there, but I've learned to appreciate the charms (and convenience) of other screens. (I know, I know. In some instances, size does make a difference and only a nice, large, flat screen will do). And, these are our favorite video sites:

- YouTube (48%),
- Other (31%)

- Netflix (10%)
- Hulu (8%)
- VEVO (3%)
- Yahoo! (1%)

Our technological world is spinning so rapidly, and the way we respond as consumers is having such a tremendous impact. Another adjustment could ultimately be made in the way TV ratings are measured. As much as we love to watch TV, we also love to let our fingers do some of the talking, too. A new Nielsen/SocialGuide study shows that 32 million people in the U.S. tweeted about whatever they were watching in 2012. You know what I'm talking about. Some 68% of African-Americans own smartphones and we tweet on those phones 30% more than other groups. So, chances are, when you're nearly hyperventilating over the antics of your favorite Real Housewife or blown away by a performance on your favorite talent competition show or the score during some championship sporting event, you're talking about it with the rest of the world by tweeting. Fun, isn't

it? The data confirms what most of us already know – as consumers, we are master multi-taskers. At least several times a month, 80% of U.S. tablet and smartphone owners use those fancy gadgets to visit a social network while watching TV.

Research shows that the decision-makers in the TV industry would be smart to take notice of the numbers attached to all that tweeting that's going on while live television is

being watched, whether traditionally or through multi-screen viewing because tweeting affects the numbers. And, it's interesting how the Twitter numbers correlate with ratings depends on the age group. For younger people, 18-34, an eight and a half percent increase in Twitter activity equals a percent ratings point increase. But, it takes a 14% increase in Twitter volume to see an extra ratings boost of a percent among 35-49-year-

olds. (I can't help but wonder where that leaves those of us who have outgrown that demo, but watch TV and tweet, too). Once again, our behavior, our choices as consumers have the power to influence industries. What you

watch and how you watch it, matters. So, choose wisely.

*Cheryl Pearson-McNeil is senior vice president of Public Affairs and Government Relations for Nielsen. For more information and studies go to [www.nielsenwire.com](http://www.nielsenwire.com)*

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**April 2013**

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**Mondays – Fridays**

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

**April 14, 2013 8 a.m.**

Join us in Early Morning Worship Service; stay for Bible Classes at 9:30 a.m. and for Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.  
**Brother Ramon Hodridge,**  
*Minister of Education*  
1026 Avenue F  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-8833  
[www.avefchurchofchrist.org](http://www.avefchurchofchrist.org)

**BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

**April 12, 7 p.m.**

You're invited to our Women's Fellowship as we praise God; worship Him and Study His Word.

**April 13, 9 a.m.**

Join us for Men's Fellowship as we worship and praise God; and we study His Word.

**April 14**

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

**April 17, 7 p.m.**

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

Also bring your children to our Wednesday Night Children 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](http://www.biblewayirving.org)

**CHRIST COMMUNITY  
CHURCH  
IN RICHARDSON**

**April 13, 10 a.m.**

"Love Languages" Couples Workshop; call the church for details.

**April 14, 8:45 or 11 a.m.**

You're invited to our Morning Service as we honor and praise God for His blessings to us.

**April 17, 7:30 p.m.**

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

**Dr. Terrence Autry,**  
*Senior Pastor*  
George Bush Fwy  
at Jupiter Road  
On the Garland/  
Richardson Border  
972-991-0200  
[www.followpeace.org](http://www.followpeace.org)

**CHRISTIAN CHAPEL  
CME  
TEMPLE OF FAITH  
CHURCH**

**April 14**

Join us in our Morning Worship Experience at 8 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. Come and be blessed of God.

**April 15, 7 p.m.**

Join us for God's Daughter's Bible Study; as we study God's Word and worship His name.

**Rev. Kwesi R. Kamau,**  
*Senior Pastor*  
14120 Noel Road  
Dallas, TX  
972-239-1120  
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**April 2013**

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Hawthorne-Ewing  
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**April 14, 8 a.m.  
And 9:30 a.m.**

Join us for Worship Services as we praise God for the victories in our lives. Come and grow with us. You're also invited to a new series of teaching, "Guaranteed Victory". God will "Equip, Elevate, and Empower" you; call the church for details.

**April 17, 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 Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall on Belmont Drive, with old school prayer and testimony. Also, come to our Corporate Prayer and our Kidz Zone (an environment to equip children to grow and to show God's love.)

**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](http://www.theship3c.org)

**SAINT MARK MBC  
IN MCKINNEY**

**April 7, 9:30 a.m.**

Join us in our Morning Worship Service and stay to enjoy our Education Ministries at 10:45 a.m.  
**Dr. Charles Wattley**  
*Senior Pastor*  
1308 Wilcox Street  
McKinney TX 75069  
972-542-6178  
[www.saintmarkbc.org](http://www.saintmarkbc.org)

**SHILOH MBC  
IN PLANO**

**April 14  
8 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

Join us in our Sunday Morning Worship Service as we praise and honor God. Our theme this year is "SMBC: A Church Focused on Excellence while Teaching the Word, Preaching the Gospel, Reaching the World." Also, after both services ministers and deacons are available to meet with you for prayer or questions.

**April 17, 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](http://www.smbcplano.org)

**THE INSPIRING BODY  
OF CHRIST CHURCH**

**April 14, 7:30 a.m.**

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

**April 15, 7 p.m.**

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

**Pastor Rickie Rush**  
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**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.

**April 14, 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.

**April 16, 7:30 p.m.**

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

**Dr. Gregory E. Voss,**  
*Senior Pastor*  
2765 Trinity Mills Road  
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Anger, sometimes defined as "a strong feel of displeasure or being irritated," is a powerful emotion, so much so that it has been labeled a universal sin; after all, it is one letter from "danger." It happens all the time and to all kinds of people.

An absolutely pleasant conversation can be ruined when someone's displeasure surfaces. A perfectly happy relationship can be damaged under the assault of a displeased person. And a good day can be spoiled because the boss comes in with "a strong feeling of displeasure."

Anger is tricky because, unlike fear, the Scriptures say there is an appropriate time to be angry. God said, "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil." **Ephesians 4:26-27 (KJV).**

Someone can become enraged over the mistreatment of a child or an animal, and if it is within his or her power, he or she can

move to put a stop to the situation. Keep in mind that this kind of anger that is kindled by the abuse of a helpless living being is not destructive.

However, anger that is buried or improperly expressed has lethal power. God calls that kind of anger bitterness and warns: "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright." **Hebrews 12:14-16 (KJV).**

How can you know the difference between a properly control anger and a destructive anger? You can easily check yourself for bitterness in two ways: **1) Listen to yourself.** When you speak, do you make sarcastic, cutting, or heated remarks about the person toward whom you have a "strong feeling of displeasure?" Whenever his or her name is mentioned, do you have something negative to say?

Speech is the first-line indicator of a bitterness

problem. My daughter has said to me; and it has been said by many others, "All of the time, it is not what you have to say that hurts but how you say it to the person."

**2) Observe your own actions.** You may not overtly attack the person with whom you are angry, but how about the many subtle ways of getting your point across? The silent treatment, for example; silence speaks volumes and, in case you think other people don't notice the tension your "displeasure" causes, think again.

Avoidance is another way of showing your displeasure, when you are displeased with a person, you seek to stay out of their company. Please do not forget how you look at a person that you are displeased with.

I have often heard, "Oh, if looks could kill . . ." You may be priding yourself on the restraint you have shown in not attacking openly, but no matter how you may try to hide it, **unresolved anger shows.**

Give yourself the bitterness test today. If you pass, great! To God be the Glory. If not, you have a choice to make. God says you can pull up those bitter

## Bitter Roots



Sister Tarpley and Steve Jones, Dallas Cowboys Management Team at the "Men Against Violence" Rally. Cowboy Dez Bryant in the background.

roots. Get rid of them and move on. Ask God to help you make the right choice.

**Good things to consider:** 1) We get our moral bearings by looking at God, and only Him. We must begin with God. We are right when, and only when, we stand in a right position relative to God, and we are

wrong so far and so long as we stand in any other position--A. W. Tozer.

2) If a window of opportunity appears, even the opportunity to forgive, don't pull down the shade--Tom Peters, via Outreach to Muslims. 3) What we weave in time, we will wear in eternity--Sparks.

4) How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday you will have been all of these--George Washington Carver.

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## Mt. Pisgah hosting scholarship golf tournament on May 4

The Mt. Pisgah Scholarship Golf Tournament this year is scheduled for May 4 at Waterview Golf Club in Rowlett. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. and the shotgun tee time is 8 a.m.

Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church is raising monies to provide funds to 17 of their graduating seniors this year in their congregation through their Bernice Smith Scholarship program. The students have been accepted to several colleges and universities including Stanford, Texas Southern and the University of North Texas.

Waterview Golf Club is located at 9509 Waterview Parkway in Rowlett. The cost is \$90 per player for the four person scramble. The fee covers a cart, green fee,

range balls, lunch and the opportunity to win prizes.

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## NDG Bookshelf



BY TERRI  
SCHLICHENMEYER

Your memories could fill a thousand scrapbooks.

On this page here, you'd glue that first-day-of-school smell. If you could, you'd paste the sound of your father coming home from work. Your mother's voice would be saved between pages of perfect-weather days, lost loves, and hot cocoa. You'd fasten down puppy breath, running through sprinklers, and birthday cake.

NDG Book Review: *Orphan Train* sticks to your heart and mind

You could fill volumes with the memories you hold, but Vivian Daly has packed hers in boxes enough to fill an attic. And in the new book "*Orphan Train*" by Christina Baker Kline, the time has come to empty them.

Seventeen-year-old Molly Ayers hoped that Ralph and Dina's house would be the last one she'd have to endure; she'd cycle out of the foster care system soon, and a last-minute move was ridiculous. It was obvious, though, that Dina didn't like her, so Molly started packing after she was caught stealing a ratty library paperback. She wanted the book and she was sure Dina wanted a convenient excuse to kick her out.



Molly knew she was facing either a new foster home or short-time juvie, until her friend-cum-boyfriend, Jack, came up with another solution: his mother worked for a

ninety-one-year-old woman who needed help cleaning her house. It was the perfect place for Molly to serve her community-service punishment. It was the perfect place to wait out her time in the foster system.

Molly figured she'd be bored.

She didn't figure that Vivian Daly would be so interesting, and she began to think Vivian would be a good subject for a senior-year project on "portage." Surely in her ninety-one years, Vivian had carried something dear from one place to another...

Nine-year-old Niahm (pronounced "Neev") Power held tight to the claddagh necklace that her Gram had

given her. It was 1929 and the gift was a lifetime ago: Gram gave it to her before the boat ride to America; before Da, Maisie and the twins died in the fire, and before Niahm was put on the train heading west.

It was before Niahm learned that trust was everything when you have nothing else.

I always know that I've got a good novel in my hands when I spontaneously gasp, "Oh, no!" while I'm reading.

I did that a lot with "*Orphan Train*."

And yet, I have a hard time nailing down why. The appeal of this book isn't the well-crafted characters or the what-would-I-do-if-it-was-me feeling they give you. It's not

that author Christina Baker Kline based it loosely on real historical events that many adults are surprised to learn about – although that's pretty appealing in itself.

No, I think the draw here is in those gasping moments, the "You don't want me anymore?" poignancy, the desperate sense of loss embedded in this story, all of which sneak up on you while you're reading and make it unforgettable.

Crack this book open just one page, in fact, and I don't think you'll be able to let it go. "*Orphan Train*" is one of those books that sticks to your heart like glue.

"*Orphan Train*" by Christina Baker Kline (William Morrow, \$14.99, 278 pgs)

## GUN, continued from Page 3

are echoed in his own proposed laws, including "tougher background checks that won't infringe on the rights of responsible gun owners, but will help keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people."

I ask, what is wrong with background checks for someone who wants to legitimately own a gun? The obvious answer is absolutely nothing. But fear of decisive bold law-making keeps us all at the mercy of the next nut who needs a bullet to speak for him. My grandmother would say all fools aren't dead; it only takes one fool to cause havoc. She is so very right. Background checks would

certainly prevent a lot of "fools" from owning a firearm.

Media reports said the Sandy Hook killer Adam Lanza used a Bushmaster .223 rifle, which is very similar to an AR-15 rifle. One of the measures the president proposed to Congress in his gun control package was renewing the assault weapons ban that expired in 2004. The AR-15 would fall into this category. Even this measure is struggling in the Senate, where majority leader Harry Reid said he is not finding enough support from his colleagues.

Republican members in the Senate are already plan-

ning a filibuster on any gun control legislation that they see threatens Second Amendment rights. Those members include Republican Senators Marco Rubio of Florida, Ted Cruz of Texas, Rand Paul of Kentucky, and Mike Lee of Utah. Little media attention has spotlighted their efforts to block the measure.

For Americans who want to put a damper on gun violence, now is the time to act. Sitting on the side lines or playing onlookers will lose the game every time. The opposition is busy. The National Rifle Association (NRA) members and reps are walking the halls of Congress, letting members know where

they stand. They are actively working to prevent the president's gun proposal from passing, even though 90 percent of Americans support it, according to the White House.

As a gun owner, I think those of us in that group have a special duty. We who are serious about reducing gun violence while protecting safe use and ownership of firearms must get involved in the political process to show that this is not an either-or choice. We can have a weapons ban on assault rifles, limit lethal ammunition hoards and impose background checks without loss of ownership. It just takes some spine on Capitol Hill.

It is tough for members of Congress, as the president said, because the opposition to any form of legislation affecting guns is "very well-organized and they're very well-financed." Passage of the measure will not be easy, but can happen if the public

voices support. It "must be done", if it stops just one mass murderer, the president said.

Our job is to urge elected leaders to act -- and to let President Obama know, as he would say, that we've got his back.

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