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## Texas SCLC: Cedar Hill ISD parents threatening class action over sex abuse of students

CEDAR HILL – In what is being classified as a clear parallel to the Penn State University and Catholic Church child sex scandals, parents in the Cedar Hill Independent School District (CHISD) have asked the president of the Texas Southern Christian Leadership Conference (Texas



Marlena Mints

SCLC) to lead an effort to “Repair the Breach” of trust and safety for the children within the district.

“The Cedar Hill ISD administration is allowing dirty teachers to use our girls and boys as human sex toys and have turned our public schools into cess pools,” says

the Rev. Kyev Tatum, president of the Texas SCLC.

The community is concerned in light of the arrest last week of Marlena Mints, a health class teacher at Bessie Colman Middle School in district. Last Wednesday 31 year old Mints was arrested and

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## North Dallas Delta Alumnae Chapter provides scholarships to 11 high school seniors

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., North Dallas Suburban Alumnae (NDSA) Chapter has awarded 11 area graduating high school seniors from Carrollton, Dallas, DeSoto, Garland, and Richardson schools with \$1000 book scholarships for their collegiate studies next sch-



Adit Bior

ool year at their respective colleges and universities.

“NDSA is committed to the educational development of our youth,” said Jada R. Burton, chapter president. “With the ever-increasing costs of a college education, we are excited about the opportunity to assist these ex-

emplary students in pursuing their educational goals. NDSA has provided book scholarships for more than a decade in this community and we are so pleased to continue our efforts of investing in our young people.”

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## UTD study links adolescent bullying to a criminal behavior as an adult later

Adults who say they bullied others when they were adolescents may have a higher likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior later in life, according to new research from UT Dallas.

The study, which appeared in the Journal of Youth and Adolescence, examined data gathered on a



Dr. Alex Piquero

group of more than 400 men over the course of several decades.

“This is the largest long-term study of bullying behavior,” said Dr. Nadine Connell, assistant professor of criminology and co-author of the paper. “This is important because it helps us gauge

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COVER STORY

## Stanford study: Can speed daters really make a love connection after only four minutes?



Stanford researchers studying how meaningful bonds are formed analyzed the conversations of heterosexual couples during speed dating encounters. Successful dates, the paper notes, were associated with women being the focal point and engaged in the conversation. (Photo: wavebreakmedia / Shutterstock)

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## Peeples' star Craig Robinson discusses acting and comedy

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COMMENTARY

## Campaign to low interest alternatives for payday lending loans launched

BETHESDA - Robert L. Johnson, founder and chairman of The RLJ Companies announced plans for an education awareness campaign designed to convince minority organizations, elected officials, and public interest groups to support his proposal to end payday lending, as we know it today. They also are seeking to encourage lending institutions to create lower interest borrowing solutions that will provide transparent and responsi-

ble lending options to meet the high demand and need for short term and emergency borrowing.

According to a recent study conducted by the Pew Charitable Trust, nearly twelve million Americans take out payday loans each year when faced with financial challenges and the need to borrow in order to meet cash shortfall when covering emergency expenses. Because of the current high interest lend-

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## People In The News...



Joleesia Berry



Tracy Randall



James L. Walker, Jr.

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## Joleesia Berry

Gov. Rick Perry has appointed Joleesia Berry of Dallas as the new student regent for Texas Woman's University. She is TWU's first African-American student regent and will serve a one-year term expiring May 31, 2014.

"I join the board in welcoming Joleesia as our new student regent," said Sue Schrier Bancroft, chair and presiding officer of the TWU Board of Regents. "I know that she will serve

the needs of TWU students well and do an excellent job representing her peers.

Ms. Berry, 21, is a junior business administration major on the TWU Denton campus. A noted student leader, she served as president of the TWU Student Government Association for 2012-2013 and president of the TWU Student Senate for 2011-2012. She also was a TWU Student Senator, a student representative for the Undergraduate Council and a

member of the National Residence Hall Honorary Association. In addition, she has been a student representative for the TWU Student Code of Conduct Committee since 2011. She graduated from the High School for Health Professions at the Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center in Dallas in 2010.

"I feel privileged to be the 'voice' of the students," Ms. Berry said. "I want the board to be aware of what the student body needs and wants."

Ms. Berry will attend her first board meeting as



Photo courtesy of Melissa Carr

the TWU student regent June 7 at the TWU T. Boone Pickens Institute of Health Sciences-Dallas Center. She is replacing TWU student regent Adriana Blanco of Fort Worth.

In 2005, Gov. Perry signed legislation mandating that each public university board of regents include one student member. Student regents have the same powers and duties as the other members of the board, with the exceptions of voting and being counted to determine a quorum.

## Tracy Randall

Lavish Records artist Tracy Randall isn't supposed to be here. In 2006, he was diagnosed with leukemia and after aggressive rounds of chemo and radiation therapy, his doctors gave up and in February 2007 told him to go home and prepare to die. Through pure will, a positive attitude, his faith and alternative medical treatments, Randall is still here and still singing. The Grammy Award nominated singer/songwriter's current radio single "It Feels

Good" is in heavy rotation on Dallas' KHVN 97 AM radio station. It's also a national hit and debuted on the Nielsen BDS Top 100 Gospel play list last week.

*It Feels Good* is not merely a song but it's Randall's personal story. For the last seven years, he's fought his illness with his faith, an improved diet and expensive medical therapy that isn't covered by insurance. "I don't want people to think that I no longer have the illness," Randall says. "I have



pain and depression. There are times that I don't sleep for days because I am afraid to sleep. However, my faith has grown tremendously. I am still growing and I still get mad and ask God, 'why me?' Yet, He touched my soul and I am still here."

It's this experience that led Randall to write *It Feels Good* a bouncy track with an R&B groove to it. "I opened up my eyes and thanked God for a new day," he sings on the up-tempo beat. "I've been blessed in so many ways if I wanted to write 'em down there

wouldn't be enough pages." The song is the latest single from Randall's sophomore CD *Troubled Times*.

Randall is performing at a First Sundays concert and dinner buffet on June 2 from 2 - 5 p.m. The emcee for the evening will be Stellar Award winning KHVN program director and radio personality Carmina Barnett. Tickets are \$20 in advance at [firstsunday.eventbrite.com](http://firstsunday.eventbrite.com) and \$25 at the door. The event takes place at Center City Grille, 3316 Merrilee Drive, Arlington.

## James L. Walker, Jr.

ATLANTA - After eight years of litigation, music industry giant Sony BMG

fused to allow urban artists effective legal representation.



Music Entertainment has settled a lawsuit filed by entertainment Attorney James L. Walker, Jr. In his lawsuit, Walker alleged the music industry giant re-

"We felt strongly all along that this was a case we had to fight in order to protect artists and their right to choose effective legal representation and other

forms of representation including the best manager, attorney, publicist, accountant in protecting themselves as artists," said Kenny Walker, spokesperson at the firm.

Filed nearly a decade ago in 2005, the Connecticut /Atlanta based Walker & Associates law firm alleged that Verity Records, Provident Distribution, Zomba (now owned by Sony), and Max Siegel, tortuously interfered with contractual relationships that the law firm had with dozens of artists. The case received national attention because no firm had challenged Sony before and won in this manner. Terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

In the complaint, which is shown in full at [walkerandassoc.com](http://walkerandassoc.com), the Plaintiffs listed what they

identified as examples of inappropriate conduct by Sony including intentionally omitting of the firm's name on album credits, defamation about the firm, and a refusal to pay artists top dollars for the use of their copyrights and intellectual property.

For example, during 1999-2002, Walker had secured top payment for nearly two-dozen artists on the popular "WOW Albums." Then Sony reps, according to the lawsuit, instructed those artists to terminate Walker or face a possibility of not working on projects at the label.

Specifically, the lawsuit insisted a number of well-known clients were directly told not to use the top-rated attorney, including many high profile clients Walker represented like Grammy winners Hezekiah Walker,

Donald Lawrence, and Twinkie Clark for example. Songwriters like David Fra-

zier and V. Michael McKay

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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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## A Message to the USDA: Continue to Respect Black Farmers

There is no way to make up for decades of discrimination that crippled the proud history of Black farm ownership in America. But we can do our best to move forward.

In 1999 the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agreed to settle the civil rights lawsuit Pigford v Glickman. The settlement promised to compensate thousands of black farmers who suffered racial discrimination at the hands of the USDA's farm loan program between 1981 and 1996.

In the last three years, Congress has started to provide monetary relief for black farmers who were left out of the original settlement. President Obama also agreed to compensate Native American, Hispanic, and women farmers who suffered discrimination of their own.

These initiatives have come under recent scrutiny, but many critics do not know the full story. The Pigford settlements only begin to make up for the long and ugly history of discrimination against black farmers and other farmers

of color in the United States.

Like so many great ideas in our nation's history, the USDA farm loan program was the product of compromise. Mired in the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt developed a plan to help struggling farmers pay off their debts and stave off bankruptcy. But the initiative first had to earn the blessing of White southern senators who dominated Congress.

These senators insisted that the federal funds should funnel through southern plantation owners and wealthy white farmers. The white farmers would then distribute the loans to their black tenants and sharecroppers.

In practice, they were often not inclined to pass the funds along.

This dynamic only grew more toxic in the 1960s. As civil rights protests rocked the nation, USDA staff intentionally withheld loans from black farmers who voted, helped register other voters, or joined the NAACP. This discrimina-



Ben Jealous

tion continued in the years that followed, and it had a devastating effect on farmers of color. According to the Census of Agriculture, between 1920 and 1992 the number of African American farmers declined from 925,000 to only 18,000.

Despite this history of flagrant discrimination, President Ronald Reagan abolished the USDA Office of Civil Rights in 1981, leaving farmers with no options for legal recourse. The office remained shuttered until 1996, when President Clinton re-opened its doors.

That 16-year period of lax oversight was the basis of the Pigford v Glickman lawsuit. During that time, thousands of farmers of color were denied access to loans, information on farm programs, technical assis-

tance, and adequate loan servicing from the USDA. Some were denied loan applications outright, while others were asked to fill out an application only to watch the local USDA supervisor throw it in the trash. At the time, they had nowhere to turn.

In recent weeks the Pigford settlements has been attacked with accusations of fraud. These attacks are simply unfair and untrue. Since the first settlement in 1999, a careful process has been in place to weed out potential fraud. All farmers who claimed discrimination were obligated to sign a form under penalty of perjury attesting to the veracity of their claim. Out of 22,000 claims filed, only 60 of them were investigated for fraud by the FBI - less than one percent of the total.

As Judge Paul L. Friedman wrote in his 1999 opinion, the Pigford v. Glickman was a "significant first step" in addressing the USDA's broken promises and history of discrimination. But it should not be the

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ing rates charged by payday lenders, many borrowers are unable to pay back loans in a timely manner and end up indebted for up to five months, paying as much as \$520 in finance charges for loans averaging \$375. (*Payday Lending in America: How Borrowers Choose and Repay Payday Loans, published February 2013*).

"Borrowers, many of whom are minorities and low-income earners, are forced to pay exorbitant interest rates which create a never-ending cycle of borrowing and debt," said Johnson. "My goal is to change this discriminatory and unfair lending environment of payday lending and treadmill borrowing and to bring an end to payday lending as we know it today. If we are successful

in this effort to lower borrowing costs for emergency loans, we will be able to put billions of dollars back into the pockets of consumers who need it most."

He continues, "Unfortunately, there will always be people in need of short term and emergency borrowing, and of course we recognize that lending to this group has risks. However, we hope that regulators, lenders, and public interest groups will support alternative solutions. We believe that lower interest rate solutions will bring about a significant change for the better in the financial lives of millions of working class Americans, particularly minority Americans.

Consider the following statistics from the Pew study:

- Fifty-eight percent of payday loan borrowers have trouble meeting monthly expenses at least half the time. These borrowers are dealing with persistent cash shortfalls rather than temporary emergencies.

- Only 14 percent of borrowers can afford enough out of their monthly budgets to repay an average payday loan. The average borrower can afford to pay \$50 per two weeks to a payday lender—similar to the fee for renewing a typical payday or bank deposit advance loan—but only 14 percent can afford the more than \$400 needed to pay off the full amount of these non-amortizing loans.

- The stated price tag for an average \$375, two-week loan bears little resemblance to the actual

cost of more than \$500 over the five months of debt that the average user experiences.

- Forty-one percent of borrowers have needed a cash infusion to pay off a payday loan. Many of these borrowers ultimately turn to the same options they could have used instead of payday loans to finally pay off the loans, including getting help from friends or family, selling or pawning personal possessions, or taking out another type of loan. One in six has used a tax refund to eliminate payday loan debt.

The RLJ Companies is a business network that provides strategic investments in a diverse portfolio of companies. For more information visit: www.rlj-companies.com.

## Hopeful signs on a long road to a better health system

BY CAROLYN M. CLANCY, M.D.

If you've ever thought that your experience with the health care system—good or bad—is very different from someone else's, you're not alone.

A new set of reports from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) show that the goal of safe, high-quality care is not within reach for all Americans. The 2012 National Healthcare Quality Report and *National Healthcare Disparities Report* were released this month.

Based on data collected from 2002 to 2009, the reports found that we get the right treatment for our partic-

ular condition or our age only 70 percent of the time. And 26 percent of Americans said they face some kind of barrier to getting health care services. This is especially true for people who are in racial and ethnic minority groups, or who have low incomes.

On the plus side, we are making progress in important areas.

Overall, the quality of care that patients get from their doctors and in hospitals is slowly improving. Some areas that got better include making sure that surgical patients got antibiotics at the right time. And patients in the hospital more often got a flu or pneumonia shot if they needed one.

Checklists that remind a health care team what to do and when to do it are also showing results. These improvements help patients recover faster and also lower the cost of care by preventing complications or longer hospital stays.

But there's a lot more work we have to do.

We need to focus on making sure that patients with certain conditions, such as diabetes, pressure ulcers, and risk of blood clots, get the care they need. We also need better care for new mothers and children.

Diabetes is a serious condition, that left untreated, can lead to side effects that include blindness, heart disease, and a shorter life. Yet the re-

ports found that 23 percent of adults age 40 and older with diabetes got all 4 of the recommended services they need each year. Black and Hispanic adults with diabetes were less likely to receive the recommended care.

As a result of not getting the right care, hospital stays for uncontrolled diabetes were about four times higher for low-income groups, and about three times higher for blacks than for whites.

But things are starting to happen that could point these trends in the right direction.

The first is the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which is increasing access to care for millions of Americans. (The

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## Mental illness and weight loss

A study indicates people with serious mental illness can lose weight – with help.

Many antipsychotic medications have weight gain and an increased appetite as side effects. This makes it difficult for people with serious mental illness to maintain a healthy weight. But the study found that people with illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depression benefited from a weight loss program.

Dr. Gail Daumit of Johns Hopkins said, "We had significant weight loss in the intervention group as compared to the control group – seven pounds –



which is really consistent with many of the other weight loss trials in the general population."

Participants lost weight regardless of the medications they were taking.

Learn more at [healthfinder.gov](http://healthfinder.gov).

## Rep. Toni Rose's bill to immunize youth in juvenile justice system passes Texas House

AUSTIN -- House Bill 1340 (HB 1340) passed The Texas House of Representatives in a vote held last week. Rep. Toni Rose authored HB 1340 in an effort to increase the vaccine percentage rate for Texas teens,

which is significant in the prevention, treatment and spread of disease. HB 1340 is designed to help protect not only youth within the juvenile justice population, but also those they come in contact with upon release by

permitting youth ages 14 and older to consent for vaccines when a medical consent is on file.

Rep. Rose authored this bill after speaking to physicians that provide medical care to the juvenile justice

populations. HB 1340 received some opposition from the floor, but ultimately received bi-partisan support from legislators, particularly those in the medical profession. The bill passed with a final vote of 71 to 61.

Physicians testifying on behalf of the bill reported occasionally parents become disengaged once their child has been incarcerated—HB 1340 will allow those youth to now be immunized. "House Bill 1340 is imperative to the

health of Texas youth. Many were missing lifesaving vaccines because their parents were not present. This bill in no way takes parental rights away from those that are active in their child's life and well-being," said Rep. Rose.

## BULLYING, continued from Page 1

whether bullying is a risk factor for determining continued adverse behavior well into late-middle adulthood."

The authors looked at a data set of men in their mid-50s who had grown up with similar backgrounds in Britain. All came from comparable, working-class socioeconomic backgrounds, typically from two-parent families.

Of those who reported that they bullied others as teenagers, nearly half went on to engage in some form of criminal behavior including theft, burglary and assault.

"We also found that these men were more likely to be repeat offenders and at a much higher rate," said Dr. Alex Piquero, Ashbel Smith Professor of Criminology at UT Dallas and co-author of the study along with Dr. Nicole Leeper Piquero, professor of criminology and associate dean for graduate programs in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences.

Piquero and Connell also noted that those who re-

ported bullying behavior did so at a time when bullying was not so widely publicized. This means that those who engaged in such behaviors were probably reporting the most frequent and most severe behaviors.

"These are likely very conservative estimates to begin with," Connell said. "So the correlation we found between risk factors for bullying and later criminal activity is compelling."

Both researchers noted that risk factors for bullying behavior, including individual and family circumstances, also predicted later criminal activity. Some of these risk factors included poor performance in school, impulsivity, poor parental supervision, family disruption, and dilapidated living conditions.

"From a policy perspective, if we can address some of these risk factors early and

identify children who are at risk of bullying, we can ameliorate adverse outcomes that may occur much later in life," Piquero said.

Although much needed attention has been given to victims of bullying, this research indicates that early

intervention on behalf of children who are at risk of exhibiting bullying behavior may also stem the tide of criminal behavior years down the road.

"We are finally at a point that we have scientific data we can point to that

will help inform public policy in a meaningful way," Connell said. "Knowing that these kinds of correlations exist may help us develop methods of identifying and slowing the risk of criminal behavior."

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## Deadline to apply college scholarships offered by Jay Z is May 31

(BlackNews.com) -- The Shawn Carter Scholarship Fund (SCSF) provides individual grants ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,500 to every student who qualifies and reapplies yearly, from admission to graduation. The grant can be used to cover tuition expenses and related supplemental educational expenses such as books, lab fees, travel and select costs of living. All Shawn Carter Scholars are required to give back by conducting community service and by serving as mentors to younger, aspiring Shawn Carter Scholars.

All high school seniors, undergraduate (2-year or 4-year) college students, and students at vocational or trade schools are eligible to apply. All applicants must be US citizens, 25 years old or younger, and have a minimum GPA of 2.0.

The program attracts candidates from all backgrounds, nation-wide. They all have a compelling desire to pursue higher education, in spite of many personal, socio-economic setbacks, including teen pregnancy, former incarceration, interrupted schooling, and homelessness. They are hardworking, resilient and determined individuals who want to make positive contributions to their local and global communities, and they turn to the SCSF to make their ambitions and dreams possible.

Founded in 2002 by Shawn Carter (Jay-Z) and his mom Gloria Carter, the foundation has since then given scholarships to over 750 students, totaling over \$1.3 million dollars.

For more details and/or to apply, visit:

[www.scholarshipsonline.org/2013/05/shawn-carter-foundationscholarship.html](http://www.scholarshipsonline.org/2013/05/shawn-carter-foundationscholarship.html)



**Curtis Report**  
by Barry Curtis

The President on Monday called the alleged targeting of the Tea Party and other conservative groups by the IRS as "outrageous". Really Mr. President, It's your IRS?

The IRS admitted Friday that it applied additional "scrutiny" on groups such as the Tea Party, groups and organization focused on government spending, organizations critical on how the country was run or those organizations that attempted to educate people on the constitution.

The official disclosures of the improper tactics of the IRS were revealed in an appendix to an inspector general's audit of the tax agency.

## The IRS as a weapon

These revelations may be stunning to you and me, but Tea Party and other conservative groups have been charging for years that the IRS was unfairly targeting them because of their conservative agendas.

These acts by the IRS are unconscionable. They only feed into a well-placed notion that government is not to be trusted. It is a significant and un-repairable breach of trust.

What is most troubling is that this comes upon the heels of the IRS being turned into the planning and enforcement arm of Obama care. The new plans of the IRS calls for a massive increase in the number of employees associated with tax collection agency. The figures range from 2,500 to 16,500 new IRS employees.

We must remember that

the IRS consists of lawyers, judges, and armed police that can arrest you. There are hundreds of citizens that are jailed yearly for failing to pay taxes, honor agreements and follow regulatory compliances. In short these IRS employees are not just white shirted bureaucrats sitting behind a desk in Washington. They span hundreds of offices and locations around the country with tremendous authority to seize property, garnish wages and yes imprison us.

This sick and damming attempt by the IRS leadership to be politically biased is an assault on the constitutional rights that you and I enjoy. It goes to the core of what we Americans despise in big out of control, over spending, limitless government.

It is hard for me to imag-

ine that some low level IRS agent took it upon themselves to go after conservative groups. This goes higher up. This is a policy that was not randomly initiated but severely directed from someone at the top.

George Will a conservative columnist proclaimed Sunday "do they think we are stupid?" Well Mr. President just in case you do I present to you the following specific article of impeachment against President Nixon.

Article 2

Using the powers of the office of President of the United States, Richard M. Nixon, in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, pre-

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## Plano Public Library System now offers eMagazines

As part of a growing digital library that includes free eBooks and eAudiobooks, Plano Public Library System now offers free access to eMagazines through Zinio. Accessible at [www.planolibrary.org](http://www.planolibrary.org), the Zinio library

site features complete issues of more than 100 popular magazines including Consumer Reports, Macworld, PC World, Oprah, Harvard Business Review, Road and Track, Popular Science, Food Network Magazine,

Men's Health, Architectural Record, and many more.

eMagazines can be viewed on any Internet-enabled device and are accessible to multiple users. Free apps are available for reading on PC, Mac,

iPhone, iPad, Android, Kindle Fire and Blackberry Playbook. Once the eMagazine is downloaded to a device, it stays there until deleted, and some content can be printed depending on the publisher and writer.

## Let's keep Texas competitive

BY SEN. CRAIG ESTES  
AND REP. JOHN OTTO

Smart fiscal policies and innovative approaches to strengthening the Texas economy have been a tenet of both the Texas Senate and House. For this reason, our state weathered the economic downturn better than most by creating jobs and spurring economic activity. But we can't just stand still. As we meet each legislative session, we continue to look for ways to strengthen the state's economic climate by

advancing policy that encourages additional private investment in Texas.

Which is why we joined together to co-author new legislation, CSHB 1133 and CSSB 1330, which would provide sales tax rebates for investment in technology telecommunications, internet access or cable equipment.

On this we can all agree - advancements in technology are critical to building a strong foundation to propel our economy forward. Businesses both large and

small, educational facilities and consumers alike depend on cutting-edge technologies. But to get there, it takes a significant amount of investment by the manufacturing and technology industries to get us where consumers and businesses need to be to thrive.

Texas currently imposes a 6 percent state sales and use tax on equipment purchases made by technology and communications companies to upgrade and expand broadband networks.

This is money that's bet-

ter spent on expanded investment in the infrastructure and services we need for our economy to grow.

A recent study by the Broadband Tax Institute (BTI) found that by reducing the sales tax on investment we could see a widespread impact on the Texas economy.

According to BTI's study, by providing up to \$100 million in sales tax rebates per biennium for investments in communications networks, Texas would see \$2.7 billion in

new economic activity.

By passing CSHB 1133 and CSSB 1330, Texas leaders have an opportunity to create new resources for investment, innovation and

job creation. In fact, the BTI study estimates that every 1 percent drop in applicable sales tax creates \$358 million in new investment.

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data from the reports were collected before the ACA, which is aimed at addressing many quality and access issues).

Already, the ACA has improved access to care for more than 3 million young adults who can stay on their parents' health insurance plans until age 26. Starting in October, Americans who don't have

health insurance through their jobs will be able to buy it through state-run exchanges that will offer different options.

The second is changes in the ways that some health systems are working with patients to help them better manage chronic diseases. For example, Advocate Health Care, a system outside of Chicago,

has hired care coordinators to talk frequently with these patients. It also gives doctors report cards on how their patients are doing. Advocate is an accountable care organization, a new approach that was created under the ACA.

I'm confident these changes will have a positive effect on access and quality of care.

But just as important, you have a big role to play as a patient or caregiver. Make sure you ask your health provider questions and find out what you need to do to stay healthy. AHRQ has many resources to help you do that.

Carolyn M. Clancy, MD, is the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

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## Cedar Hill ISD Fine Arts students to perform at the Winspear Opera House

CEDAR HILL - More than 800 Cedar Hill Independent School District students will showcase their abilities in fine arts at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, 2012 at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora Street, Dallas, Texas. "CHISD Fine Arts Night at the Winspear" will feature all segments of the Fine Arts Department: orchestra, band, choir, theatre, art, dance and photography. Lobby performances start at 6 p.m. Center stage performances begin at 7 p.m.

One of the evening's featured soloists will be fourth-grader Parker Abel-Griffin from Bray Elementary. Parker will play an improvised solo using Garage Band on his iPad as the Cedar Hill High School Wind Ensemble accompanies him.

"We want to show how we can integrate technology into our live performances," explained CHISD Fine Arts Director Ken Peach. "Parker will be performing a blues solo over a fun song called *Blues for a Killed Cat* with the high school band. In addition, we will have Mr. Kyle Berger, executive director of Technology for CHISD, performing alongside Parker on his iPad."

The Fine Arts Department also plans to demon-



Parker Abel-Griffin (left) and Kyle Berger with their iPads.

strate a pilot software program called SmartMusic that allows students to have more effective practice sessions. After a child practices, the software has the ability to interpret the performance and give instant feedback on what was right or wrong.

"It's like having a personal music teacher," Peach said. "If the student played all the right notes and rhythms, the notes on the music screen turn green; if they played it wrong, they turn red and show you the corrections."

The district plans to use SmartMusic in the 2013-2014 school year to help supplement the district's music curriculum. Students will be able to purchase their own software for only \$40 for the year if they want to use this at home.

Another highlight of the evening will be the Combined Band, Orchestra and Choirs performances. They will perform two special pieces celebrating music, art, and their love for their parents. One piece, *The Awakening* by Joseph M. Martin, features slides and video created by Cedar Hill Art students that is choreographed alongside the live music performance.

CHISD fine arts programs to be featured this year include:

- CHISD Visual Arts Display in Lobby (elementary through high school)
- CHISD Visual Arts Display on the Big Screen in Opera Hall
- Cedar Hill Collegiate Dance Club in Lobby
- Cedar Hill High School Steel Band in Lobby or outside venue (depending on the weather)

•Bray Elementary Orchestra in Lobby

•Cedar Hill High School Dance Opera Hall

•Combined Bands, Orchestras and Choirs in Opera Hall

•Combined Theatre (Bessie Coleman, Permenter Middle Schools, Ninth Grade Center and Cedar Hill High School) in Opera Hall

•Combined Elementary Choir in Opera Hall

•Combined Intermediate and Beginner Band in Opera Hall

•Combined Intermediate Choir in Main Concert Hall

•Combined Intermediate Orchestra in Opera Hall

•Combined Middle School Orchestra in Opera Hall

•Combined Middle School Choir in Main Opera Hall

•Permenter Middle School Top Band in Opera Hall

•Bessie Coleman Middle School Top Band in Opera Hall

•Cedar Hill High School Varsity Choir in Opera Hall

•Cedar Hill High School Wind Ensemble in Opera Hall

•Combined Bands, Orchestras and Choirs in Opera Hall

All tickets for the CHISD Fine Arts Night at the Winspear are open seating. They can be purchased at the door for \$5.

Photograph by Ken Peach

## Molding mentors and mothers to be this May

DALLAS - As we honor mothers this May, let us not forget to celebrate our future generation our daughters! As singer John Mayer once said, daughters turn into mothers one day.

With an eye on the future generation of women, Jocelyn Stevens, founder of Ruby Etiquette, LLC, launches her program this month. Ruby Etiquette specializes in teaching girls five through age fifteen, fundamental etiquette practices and communication skills. These include lessons in personal hygiene, handling bullies and the art of using "please" and "thank you."

Stevens describes Ruby Etiquette as your mobile manners program in the North Dallas area.

Ruby Etiquette sessions incorporate fun activities, insightful discussions, and hands on practice tailor made to equip the enrollees,

"Little Gems," with tools needed to become women of purpose and poise. Upon completion of a session package, graduates will be able to shine their brightest in everyday social scenarios.

Our daughters will grow up to be mothers, business women, teachers, doctors, inventors, and so much more. Although sending girls to finishing school may be considered a thing of the past, training girls to become women of excellence never should.

It has been said, "You want your daughter to stand out, not because she's different, but because she is outstanding!"

Open enrollment begins in May and you can find out more about the program at RubyEtiquette.com.

You can also contact Jocelyn Stevens at (972) 762-6802 or RubyEtiquette@yahoo.com.

## Southern University Alumni hosting Founders golf tournament

Southern University Alumni Federation, Dallas Chapter, is hosting the Dallas Chapter FOUNDERS golf tournament on June 29 at the Lakes Course, Firewheel Golf Park, located at 600 West Campbell Road, in Garland.

The annual event celebrates the establishment of the Dallas Chapter on April 10, 1955 by sixteen graduates: Walter Berry, Lila Bradley, Vasti Bradley, Abner Coit, Emmitt Conrad, Marion Henry, Mary Henry, Joseph Lewis, Joseph Lockridge,

Dorothy Meshack, Judson Meshack, Elston Miles, Ballard Mitchell, Althea Simmons, Betty Tanner, and Clyde Williams.

The format is four-person scramble with competitors in three divisions: Ladies; Coed; and Men. Golfers will

be able to purchase mulligan and raffle tickets for post-tournament prizes. The tournament will also feature special individual and team competitions including closest-to-pin, longest drive, and "move-it-up for an eagle" hole.

See GOLF, Page 16

## TEXAS, continued from Page 5

Through the additional investment and job growth generated by passage of CSHB 1133, key sectors including wholesale trade, accounting, finance and building trades would also see substantial economic benefits.

But at the end of the day - it's about keeping Texas

competitive and making our state the best place in the country to live and work.

Currently, Texas has the 8th highest tax rates on communications network equipment, and is only one of 30 states that charges this tax at all. Our state risks falling behind in the 21st Century economy when

there are 20 states - plus the District of Columbia - where

For a state that has always been looked upon as a leader, this is simply unacceptable.

"Texas - Wide Open for Business" isn't just a slogan. It's a commitment that we as legislators make to keep

our state the best place in the investment dollars go farther and more new jobs are created from maximizing network improvements to do business. And when industries are able to invest in Texas to make our state a better place to live and work, everybody wins.

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## Garden revival

BY MELINDA MYERS

Spring floods, summer droughts and temperature extremes take their toll on gardens and the gardeners who tend them. Help your gardens recover from the crazy temperature and moisture extremes that seem to occur each year.

Start by assessing the current condition of your landscape. Remove dead plants as soon as possible. They can harbor insect and disease organisms that can infest your healthy plantings. Consider replacing struggling plants with healthy plants better suited to the space, growing conditions and landscape design. You often achieve better results in less time by starting over rather than try-



Photo courtesy of Gardener's Supply

ing to nurse a sick plant back to health.

As always, select plants suited to the growing environment and that includes normal rainfall. Every season is different, but selecting plants suited to the average conditions will minimize the care needed and increase your odds for success. Roses, coneflowers, sedums and zinnias are just a few drought tolerant

plants. Elderberry, ligularia, Siberian iris and marsh marigold are a few moisture tolerant plants.

Be prepared for worse case scenario. Install an irrigation system, such as the Snip-n-drip soaker system, in the garden. It allows you to apply water directly to the soil alongside plants. This means less water wasted to evaporation,

**See GARDEN, Page 16**

## Cedar Hill collegiate student wins District Optimist Essay Contest

CEDAR HILL - Louise Gomez, a Cedar Hill Collegiate High School sophomore, won an essay contest hosted by the North Texas district Optimist organization and received a \$2,500 scholarship. The Cedar Hill Optimist Club sponsored Louise and honored her at a April 25 at the Ninth Grade Center. Fourteen North District of Texas Optimist Clubs sponsored students at the competition.

Before Louise represented the Cedar Hill Optimist Club in the district competition, she won the local contest. More than 130 Cedar Hill students submitted essays on the topic, "How Can I Help My



Photo courtesy of Sabreana Smith

**Louise Gomez won first place in the North District of Texas Optimist Club and Cedar Hill Optimist Club essay contests.**

Friends Realize Their Value." Louise's essay took first place and a \$300 award. Cedar Hill High School student Arisha Harrison won second place and a \$200 prize, and Cedar Hill High School student Taylor Berghaus received a \$100

prize for third place.

In her essay Louise wrote, "First and foremost, when you find yourself to be the catalyst or supporter of a dejected friend who suffers from low self-esteem, confusion, or lack of

**See ESSAY, Page 11**

## USDA, continued from Page 3

last. There are still many farmers of color who suffered discrimination but were left out of both settlements. One of the most important ways to further right

these wrongs is to support the Farm Bill, soon to be debated in Congress, which will ensure funding for programs to further assist farmers of color.

I spoke about this issue with Ralph Paige, Executive Director of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, one of the oldest and most

respected black farmer coalitions in the country. He told me, "When we overcome racial injustices like this, we benefit society as a whole." This is certainly

true. The Pigford settlement has helped the USDA begin to move past its ugly history. We encourage the Department to continue to welcome farmers of color as

partners and clients, and to offer them the respect they deserve and the services they still so greatly need.

*Ben Jealous is president/CEO of the NAACP.*

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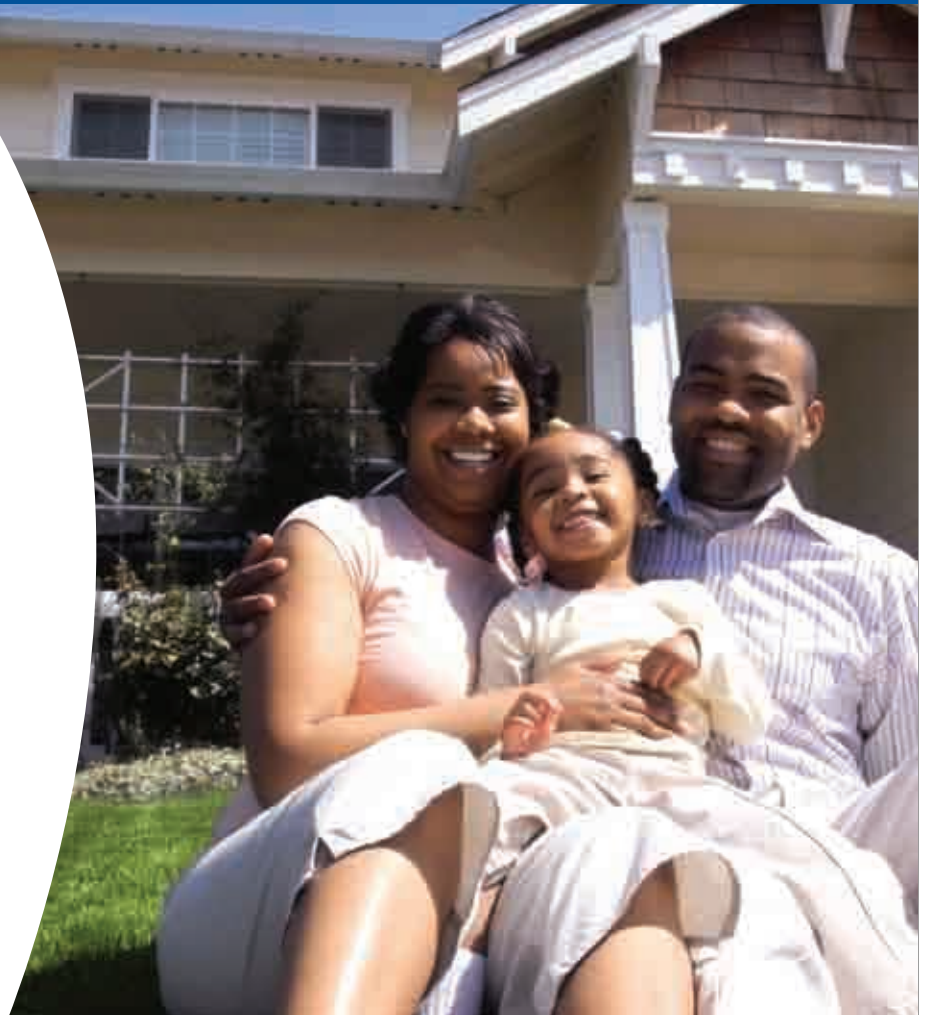
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## SCHOLARSHIPS, continued from Page 1

Sunday, May 5, 2013 at the Emerging Artist Showcase the following students were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements, well roundness, demonstrated through their extracurricular activities, and their essay describing how their high school and community involvement has improved their lives and affected the lives of others.

Mr. Blake Archer: Blake currently attends Episcopal School of Dallas. He has a 3.26 GPA on a 4.0 scale. His



**Blake Archer**

extracurricular activities include track, soccer, Youth and Government, Mock Trial, Whiz, Chinese Club and volunteering at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. He plans to attend Colorado College in Colorado Springs, CO, where he will major in Biology. He is the proud son of Raquel Brown.

Miss Adit Bior: Adit currently attends Naaman Forest High School in Garland. She has a 3.7 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Her extracurricular activities include National Honor Society Vice President, Speech and Debate Vice President, Spanish National Honor Society Historian, Acapella Choir Chaplain, Young Life Student Leader, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes Student Leader. She plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin where she will major in Neuroscience. She is the proud daughter of Deng Bior and Achol Atem.

Miss Haleluya Chamiso: Haleluya currently attends Irma Rangel Young Women's



**Haleluya Chamiso**

Leadership High School in Dallas. She has a 3.91 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Her extracurricular activities include: Student Council Vice President, GeoClub Secretary, Student

Ambassadors and National Honor Society. She plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in Engineering. She is the proud daughter of Bekele Olbamo and Sosina Abebu.

Miss Jasmine Green: Jasmine currently attends Lakeview Centennial High School in Garland. She has a 3.98 GPA on a 4.0 scale and is ranked #16 in her senior class. Her extracurricular activities include Principal's Advisory Council, National Honor Society, Youth Alliance, Senior Leadership Council, Plano Magnet, and Collegiate Academy. She plans to attend Loyola University in New Orleans where she will major in Chemistry. She is the proud daughter of Edward and Lorita Green.

Miss Tiara Green: Tiara currently attends Garland High School. She has a 3.94 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Her extracurricular activities include Youth NAACP, band, drill team, National Honor Society, and she is very involved with her church. She plans to attend the University of North Texas where she will major in Journalism. She is the proud daughter of Johnny and Yvette Green.

Miss Milen Haile: Milen currently attends Berkner High School in Richardson. She has a 91 GPA on a 100 scale. Her



**Milen Haile**

extracurricular activities include Varsity Tennis, Key Club, Mu Alpha Theta Club, and National Honor Society. She plans to attend Texas Tech University where she will major in Nursing. She is the proud daughter of Berhane Shiker and Freweini Mehari.

Miss Kyjeila Latimer: Kyjeila currently attends Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership High School in Dallas. She has a 3.55 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Her extracurricular activities include Girls Incorporated, LULAC, PALS, National Honor Society, and Israelite Baptist Church Youth Ministry. She plans to attend Xavier University of Louisiana where she will major in Pre-med. She is the proud daughter of Reginald and Linda Latimer.

Miss Ani Mayo: Ani currently attends Booker T. Washington High School in Dallas. She has a 3.3 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Her extracurricular activities include member of North Suburban Jack and Jill, President of Teen Group of Jack and Jill, Delta Academy and Delta GEMS, student member of Dallas Black Dance, and volunteering at her church's nursery. She plans to attend Howard University where she will major in Theater Arts (Dance). She is the proud daughter of Will and Valerie Mayo.

Miss Ariel Roman-Hicks: Ariel currently attends Newman Smith High School in Carrollton. She has a 3.7 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Her extracurricular activities include cheerleading, choir, Student Council, Interact Club Secretary, Student Executive, and National Honor Society. She plans to attend Baylor University where she will major in Biology/Pre-medicine. She is the proud daughter of Raul Roman and Shwanda Hicks.

Miss Brianna Spiller: Brianna currently attends Bishop Dunne Catholic School in Dallas. She has a 3.94 GPA on a 4.0 scale and ranks #2 in her senior class. Her extracurricular activities include Student Council, National Honor Society Vice President, TAPPS Academic Team Member, Tutor at St. Cecilia's Catholic School. She plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin where she will major in Business. She is the proud daughter of Leroy and Doris Spiller.

Miss Leilani Wallace: Leilani currently attends DeSoto High School. She has a 4.54 weighted GPA on a 4.0 scale and is ranked #21 in her class. Her extracurricular activities include National Honor

Society, Spanish Honor Society, DHS Twirler, track and field, and DeSoto Youth Advisory Council. She plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin where she will major in Pre-Med/Nursing. She is the proud daughter of Rodney and Loleta Wallace.



**Leilani Wallace**

Society, Spanish Honor Society, DHS Twirler, track and field, and DeSoto Youth Advisory Council. She plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin where she will major in Pre-Med/Nursing. She is the proud daughter of Rodney and Loleta Wallace.

## Texas Launches the first comprehensive online tool to compare the state's higher education institutions

AUSTIN — The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) launched Compare College TX (CompareCollegeTX.com) an online, interactive tool designed to make the most relevant data about public higher education in Texas available to everyone. The online comparison tool, the first in Texas to have such a comprehensive set of information including earnings data, allows users to access and interact with information for every public university and community college across the state.

"Choosing a college is a big decision. Compare College TX will remove the guesswork

by giving prospective students and their families important information including tuition and fees, graduation rates, and salaries for graduates by major. This transparency will help more students earn a certificate or degree and achieve their dreams," said Texas Governor Rick Perry.

Funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the interactive tool allows users to compare Texas higher education institutions side by side on a wide variety of facts and performance measures including average tuition and fees, top degrees awarded, student demographics, four- and six-year graduation rates, the average time it takes graduates to earn a degree and student-to-faculty ratio, among other relevant data. In collaboration with College Measures, the tool provides wage data for graduates by degree level and major for every public institution in Texas.

"Compare College TX creates an invaluable resource for students and their families to research postsecondary education options and ultimately find the best fit for that individual student," said Fred W. Heldenfels IV, Chairman of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. "This tool is another step we are taking in our work with students, parents, educators and advisors to encourage a college and career-ready culture and prepare students for the next step in education."

Texas is the first state to turn this extensive data into an interactive and engaging resource for families and education advisors as well as legislators and policy-makers. Most importantly, a comprehensive, mobile-friendly version of the tool allows users to have easy access to the information from their smart phones and other mobile devices.

"The goal is to make sure everyone succeeds, and this technology is an important

step in ensuring that success," said Nicole Hurd, executive director and founder of the National College Advising Corps. "Now, you can compare schools based on your own needs and select a school that serves you well, and you can have the information with you wherever you are."

In conjunction with Compare College TX, today the THECB also issued the third edition of the Texas Public Higher Education Almanac, which was developed to provide greater transparency for the performance of higher education institutions. The new online tool utilizes the data collected for the almanac plus

additional data for greater transparency, with easier access to even more information to help students learn about and evaluate their higher education options.

Compare College TX completes the THECB's suite of online tools designed to help Texas students and their parents plan for college in four stages: inspiration, exploration, information, and application.

Generation TX (gentx.org) — inspires a college and career-ready culture in Texas public schools by increasing awareness and building support for the Texas College and

See **ONLINE, Page 11**

## IRS, continued from Page 5

serve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in disregard of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has repeatedly

engaged in conduct violating the constitutional rights of citizens, impairing the due and proper administration of justice and the conduct of lawful inquiries, or contravening the laws governing agencies of the executive branch and he purposed of these agencies.

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He has, acting personally and through his subordinates and agents, endeavored to obtain from the Internal Revenue Service, in violation of the constitutional rights of citizens, confidential information contained in income tax returns for purposed not authorized by law, and to cause, in violation of the

constitutional rights of citizens, income tax audits or other income tax investigations to be initiated or conducted in a discriminatory manner.



# Stanford study: Can speed daters really make a love connection after only four minutes?

BY BROOKE DONALD

Stanford researchers studying how meaningful bonds are formed analyzed the conversations of heterosexual couples during speed dating encounters. Successful dates, the paper notes, were associated with women being the focal point and engaged in the conversation. (Photo: wavebreakmedia / Shutterstock)

Can you "click" with someone after only four minutes?

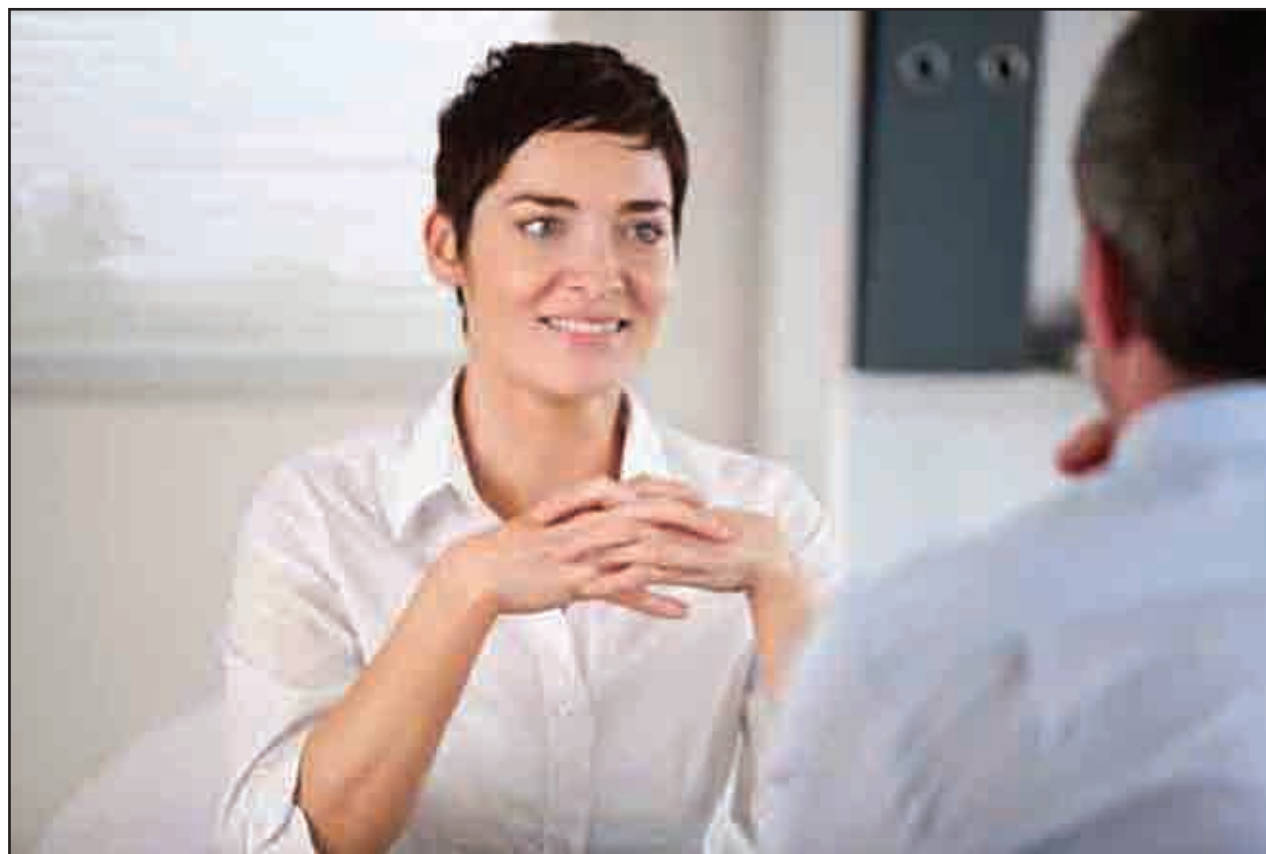
That's the question at the heart of new research by Stanford scholars Dan McFarland and Dan Jurafsky that looks at how meaningful bonds are formed.

McFarland, a sociologist at Stanford's Graduate School of Education, and Jurafsky, a computational linguist, analyzed the conversations of heterosexual couples during speed dating encounters to find out why some people felt a sense of connection after the meeting and others did not.

Their paper, "Making the Connection: Social Bonding in Courtship Situations," was published this month in the *American Journal of Sociology*.

"One of the key features of a community, social network or relationship is the sense that it's meaningful, that there is some kind of force behind the relationship," McFarland said. "We wanted to get at what the essence of the connection is, what makes people feel like they bonded."

McFarland said much of the literature on social bonding points to characteristics – traits, status, attributes, motivation, experiences – as reasons why people connect. But, he said, those explanations ignore or downplay the role of communication.



*Stanford researchers studying how meaningful bonds are formed analyzed the conversations of heterosexual couples during speed dating encounters. Successful dates, the paper notes, were associated with women being the focal point and engaged in the conversation. (Photo: wavebreakmedia / Shutterstock)*

There is a great deal of uncertainty, the paper notes, about the meaning of signals we send to other people, and how that plays into forging interpersonal connections.

"We wanted to see if there is anything about the interaction that matters or is it really just what I look like, what I do, what my motivation is. Is it all things that are psychological or in my head or is there actually something in how we hit it off?"

Their analysis of nearly 1,000 dates found that words, indeed, do matter. How the words are delivered, when and for how long make a difference to how people feel toward each other, and in this case, whether the men and women sensed that they "clicked" during their encounter.

The four-minute date, the study found, was enough time to forge a meaningful relationship –

something that seemed to go beyond looks and motivation. But female participants reported lower rates of "clicking" than men, suggesting the women are more selective and, in this particular setting, more powerful.

The participants in the study were graduate students at Stanford, and wore audio recording devices during their dates. The dates lasted four minutes each, and after they were done, the participants filled out a scorecard that, among other things, asked if he or she would like to go out on a real date with the person. If both parties said yes, a real date was set up.

For the purposes of this study, the participants also filled out pre- and post-date surveys.

The dates were transcribed and computer software was used to analyze the words and speech to see if any characteristics of

the language corresponded to the participants' reporting of feeling a sense of connection.

"We were looking at conversational behaviors or speech features and how

or "Good for you") and sympathy ("That must be tough on you").

Women also reported clicking with male partners who interrupted them – not as a way to redirect the

***"You could say men are self-centered and women are always trying to please men and dates will go well if they talk about the guy, but it turns out that's just not true. It's just the opposite," McFarland said. "This is a situation in life where women have the power, women get to decide. So talking about the empowered party is a sensible strategy toward feeling connected."***

they express characteristics of the social experience, how you feel about the other person," Jurafsky said.

Women reported a sense of connection to men who used appreciative language ("That's awesome"

conversation but to demonstrate understanding and engagement, for example, by finishing a sentence or adding to it.

Both genders reported clicking when their conversations were mainly about the women.

"You could say men are self-centered and women are always trying to please men and dates will go well if they talk about the guy, but it turns out that's just not true. It's just the opposite," McFarland said. "This is a situation in life where women have the power, women get to decide. So talking about the empowered party is a sensible strategy toward feeling connected."

While interrupting could be viewed as positive, asking a lot of questions tended to have a negative result.

"Women feel disconnected when they have to ask men questions, or when men ask them questions," the paper said. Questions were used by women to keep a lagging conversation going and by men who had nothing to say.

Successful dates, the paper notes, were associated with women being the focal point and engaged in the conversation, and men demonstrating alignment with and understanding of the women.

Shared stories also indicated a sense of connection, as did speakers who showed enthusiasm by varying their speech to get louder and softer.

The researchers said the longer it took for the individuals to decide on a date, the more they reported having a bonding experience, suggesting communication can change someone's feelings about another person and break the association with traits.

Further studies could look at same-sex relationships, for example, or could explore the transitions to other states, like marriage.

Stanford's Institute for Research in the Social Sciences and various grants from the National Science Foundation supported this interdisciplinary research effort.



## NDG Gossip: NeNe Leakes' TV show *The New Normal* is canceled by NBC

BY: SHENICE SANDERS,  
NDG INTERN

NeNe Leakes is in a category all on her own, with her powerful demeanor, and sense of humor she truly is one of a kind.

Unfortunately NBC did not see it that way, canceling her show *The New Normal* after just one season.

Leakes who is currently the highest paid Atlanta housewife, has come a long



way from her past dealing with domestic abuse and personal issues in her life.

Leakes is a strong advocate against domestic abuse and has written a memoir in hopes that her story will reach and touch others who have similar circumstances.

Nene big acting debut came as she join the cast of hit TV show *Glee* as Coach Roz, she since has appeared on *The Celebrity Apprentice* 4. Nene

tweeted to her big fan producer Ryan Murphy and Ali Adler "I love my fairy God mother @mrrpmurphy and aliadler 4 believing n me& givin me an amazing opportunity! No mo Normal but we r forever."

The show rating debuted with six million viewers and continued to grow strong even with the recent decrease in rating to 3.39 million viewers; the news still comes to a shock to most viewers.

You can still catch NeNe on hit shows such as *The real housewives of Atlanta* and *Glee*

In other NBC news the serious smash will also no longer be joining the upcoming fall season. With just two season behind them NBC close the chapter on the singing sensation show. The network also canceled several other new shows as well as veteran shows all receive the boot.

## NFL's Atlanta Falcon lineman Justin Blalock hosting golf tournament June 24

Justin Blalock, a star offensive lineman for the NFL's Atlanta Falcons, is hosting his third annual golf tournament, benefitting his foundation, The Justin Blalock Foundation, and the American Diabetes Foundation.

Registration for The Justin Blalock Foundation Golf Classic will begin at 7 a.m. and the shotgun scramble



Former Plano and Univ. of Texas star Justin Blalock

tee off is at 8 a.m., on June 24 at The Courses at Watters Creek located at 7201 Chase Oaks Blvd. in Plano. Players can register online at <http://justinblalock.com/golf>. The fee for individual golfers is \$125 or a foursome costs \$400. Individuals or businesses can sponsor a hole for \$200 and the fee for the dinner only is \$40.

Blalock will begin his fifth season as left guard with Atlanta Falcons and recently signed a six-year extension. Prior to the Falcons, Blalock had a stellar career at the University of Texas Longhorns where he was an All-American and All-Big Twelve Conference first-team selection. At Plano East Senior High School, he was a star

player where he earned first-team All-America honors from *USA Today* and was rated as the nation's 15th best high school prospect by *The Sporting News*.

There will be plenty of food, drinks, raffles, auctions, door prizes and more. If you have any questions, call 214.938.5319 or email [info@justinblalock.com](mailto:info@justinblalock.com).

The Justin Blalock Foundation is a 501(c)3 charity organization and completely volunteer driven. The Foundation primarily works with students, 12 – 18, to help them improve their academic performance and get involved in the community. The Foundation also host an annual football camp (<http://www.justinblalock.com/foundation/camp-register.html>)

## Peeples' star Craig Robinson discusses acting and comedy

BY DAVID T. BAKER

(NNPA) Boy meets girl. Boy likes girl, now boy has to meet the family. It's an age-old story and the plot of the latest Tyler Perry-produced film *Peeples*. The film is a romantic comedy

about Wade Walker (played by comedian and actor Craig Robinson) and his pursuit of love interest Grace Peeples (played by Kerry Washington). In the film, Wade's love for Grace is so strong that he crashes her family's annual Sag Harbor reunion

in order to ask her father Virgil Peeples (played by David Allen Grier) for Grace's hand in marriage. And that's when all the trouble begins.

*The Louisiana Weekly* sat down with comedian and actor Craig Robinson to dis-



Craig Robinson

cuss his career in acting, comedy and his role in upcoming film *Peeples*.

**LW: You were a teacher before you became an actor. How did your career as an actor and comedian begin?**

CR: In college ... I knew

I was going to go into comedy for sure. Stand up. Comedy chose me. It overtook my life. I was always joking around. Always. People would come back and tell me my bits that I didn't even know were called bits back

See PEEPLES, Page 16

## Trim Your Wedding Costs

BY JASON ALDERMAN

Weddings have always been big business, but I was shocked to see how expensive they've become in the 17 years since my wife and I got married. According to the annual Real Weddings Study, the average wedding in the U.S. now costs \$28,427, and that doesn't even count the honeymoon.

Wait, it gets worse.

Among the more than 17,500 surveyed brides who got married in 2012, the average amount paid for a wedding dress was \$1,211. On average they also spent \$204 per wedding guest and dropped \$12,905 for the reception venue.

There are many ways to rein in wedding-related

costs while still having a memorable event. Here are a few suggestions:

Create a budget. Unless you're a professional wedding planner, you'll probably be floored by how many expenses weddings can amass, including: wedding and engagement rings, invitations, postage, marriage license, clergy and location fees, flowers, bridal gown and groom's tuxedo, rehearsal dinner and reception, photography, catering, DJ or band, limousine, parking attendants, tips, gifts for wedding participants and honeymoon expenses.

Shop around. Bridal expos are a good way to meet a lot of vendors and gather ideas. Just don't get caught up in the excitement and commit to any-



thing before you've done follow-up research. Some tips:

Bring along someone from the wedding party as well as a trustworthy friend who isn't emotionally and financially connected to the wedding.

You may feel pressured by vendors to sign contracts or put down deposits, but it's probably wiser to take their contact information and research them first.

Create a separate email account for wedding vendor communications. Once you sign up for one offer or contest, believe me, your inbox will be swamped.

After you've settled on vendors, get signed contracts that specify dates, products, prices, deposit and payment terms, cancellation policies, liability insurance and whether tax and gratuities are included.

Here are a few suggestions for trimming costs:

Date flexibility. You'll get more bang for your buck off-season – a June wedding might cost 20 to 30 percent more than one in April or October.

Have your florist use in-season flowers.

Daytime weddings are often cheaper than evening events.

Instead of a hotel, consider less-costly alternative reception venues like community centers, museums, city park clubhouses or other public facilities looking to earn extra income. Ask whether they have their own tables, chairs, sound and lighting systems; if not, add equipment rental costs into the equation.

A buffet dinner reception could save you \$15 or more per guest compared to a plated dinner, because you're not paying for table service. Save even more by hosting an afternoon reception and serving lunch or hors d'oeuvres.

If you're hosting a large reception, have a smaller display cake for the cutting ceremony, with a sheet cake stored in the kitchen.

Serve wine, beer and one signature cocktail, instead of offering a full bar.

Consider renting or buying a second-hand wedding dress from a consignment shop, or an online specialty site. The same goes for grooms wear.

Hiring a disc jockey instead of a live band will save hundreds of dollars; plus you get a broader selection of music and a built-in emcee to move things along.

One last budgeting tip: Limit the number of guests to ensure you can have a meaningful interaction with each. Remember, spending just one minute apiece with 300 guests would take five hours.



## Desoto Market Days festival this Saturday

DESOTO – The DeSoto Chamber of Commerce is hosting a free community festival on May 18 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at 2010 N Hampton Road in the parking lot of the Chamber.

"We wanted to create an event for the entire family", said Grant Galliford, 2013 Chair of the DeSoto Chamber Board of Directors. "We'll have food and musi-

cal entertainment throughout the day, and plenty of opportunities for everyone to have fun – even the kids!"

DeSoto Market Days is a free festival celebrating the seasons with food, fun and family entertainment, and is held the 3rd Saturday of each month from May through October. The May 18 and June 15 festivals will be held in the Chamber

parking lot located at 2010 N Hampton Road. Location for future Market Days will be announced.

For vendor information, please contact the DeSoto Chamber of Commerce at 972-224-3565 or email chamber president, Cammy Jackson, at [cjackson@desotochamber.org](mailto:cjackson@desotochamber.org). Visit the chamber's website at [www.desotochamber.org](http://www.desotochamber.org).

## ESSAY, continued from Page 7

ambition, there is a restored sense of humanity and pride that you receive. With that being said, the best way to guide a friend into his or her path of self-awareness is to help them identify their greatest talents and gifts by using honesty, encouragement, and love."

"It is very exciting. I feel humbled by this

honor," said Louise, who is also the co-secretary of her sophomore class. She plans to go to college and study to be an OB-GYN.

"We are ecstatic that so many Cedar Hill students took part in the local essay contest and one of our students won the district competition," said Kim Risner, secretary of the

Cedar Hill Optimist Club. "Our student essays were grounded in a strong sense of values of family, friends, community and commitment. The Cedar Hill Optimist Club is especially proud that Louise won since the organization was formed just a year ago."

## WALKER, continued from Page 2

were also told not to use Walker on their mega publishing and copyright deals, according to the suit.

"Often labels want artists to use attorneys that the labels can control – this avoids paying the artists their worth and saves the labels millions of dollars and is clearly a conflict of interest. When you decide to tell untruths about this firm and threaten our artists, you have crossed the line," said Attorney James L. Walker, Jr.

Verity Records, now called RCA Inspirational, is the largest mainstream

gospel label in the world. Based in New York, it is or has been home to gospel music stars Fred Hammond, Richard Smallwood, Yolanda Adams, Donnie McClurkin, Kirk Franklin, John P. Kee, and Marvin Sapp to name a few.

Walker has worked with some of the leading names in the music industry including Jamie Foxx, Freddie Jackson, Rick James, DMX, Shirley Caesar and BET's Bobby Jones, among others. He recently co-chaired the legal team in the successful litigation and settlement between Dis-

ney's Kyle and Chris Massey and A&E/ Lifetime networks over the Bristol Palin show. Walker is the author of *This Business of Urban Music* and *Michael Jackson: The Business of Music*.

"The suit was not about money; it was about the rights of artists to have competent legal representation, be paid for their work, and the rights of artist representatives to work in this business without fear of intimidation and defamation," said Walker business partner, J. Richard Byrd.

## ONLINE, continued from Page 8

Career Readiness Standards and helping students understand college and career-ready options after high school graduation

Compare College TX ([comparecollegetx.com](http://comparecollegetx.com)) – provides an interactive comparison of facts and performance measures including average tuition and fees, top degrees awarded, student demographics, four- and six-year graduation rates, student-to-faculty ratio and much more

College for All Texans ([collegeforalltexans.com](http://collegeforalltexans.com)) –

gives counselors, future students and their parents tips for readying students for college, saving for school tuition, applying for financial aid, and more; and

Apply Texas ([applytexas.org](http://applytexas.org)) – provides one-stop access for applying to any public university in the state as well as participating community and private colleges.

For more information on Compare College TX, visit [www.comparecollegetx.com](http://www.comparecollegetx.com).

## SEX, continued from Page 1

charged with aggravated sexual assault of a child and two charges of improper relationship with a student.

"They refuse to take full responsibility for their employees, their actions or their lack of protection for the safety of our children. This breach is criminally harmful and Spiritually shameful," Rev. Tatum said.

Over fifty parents, teachers and concerned citizens met Monday night at the Graceland Community Baptist Church to find ways to help safeguard our children from these child sex predators within the CHISD.

"Texas officials has allowed far too many public

school officials a free pass when it comes to sex predators in the classroom. How can we point our fingers at Penn State or the Catholic Church when we have serial child sex predator working in our school buildings everyday. We are calling on Governor Rick Perry to call for a statewide investigation into why so many of our Texas Teachers are allowed to work with children and cause so much long term damage to their Souls," Rev. Tatum said.

The group, Voices of Concerned Parents of Cedar Hill (VCP), will meet again May 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Graceland Community Baptist Church in Cedar Hill at 310

South Clark Road, where Rev. Cedric Stricklin is the Pastor. Anna Green is the meeting organizer and can be reached at 214-994-4951 for any questions.

"We are committed to exposing these child sex predators and the sick administrators who have covered up their crimes in an effort to protect the public image of the school districts. As a survivor of childhood molestation, this is one of the worst forms of child abuse one can imagine. Without the proper Spiritual support, the aftermath can have long term negative consequences for our children. This criminal behavior must come to an end," says Rev. Tatum.

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**Daily**

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

**Every Tuesday**

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

**Through May 19**

**Fela! -Winspear Opera House** in Dallas Attpac.org/fela

**Through May 26**

**Fly by nights** at Kalita Humphreys Theater 3636 turtle creek Blvd. Dallas, TX Info:2145228499

**Through May 25**

**Exhibit Witness the Art**

**of Jerry Pinkney** at African American Museum in Dallas, Info: <http://www.aamdallas.org>

**Through October 6 The Body Beautiful in Ancient Greece Masterpiece From The British Museum** at Dallas Museum of Art, Info:214-922-1200 or dma.org.

**Through May 19**

Broadway Musical Fela, at Winspear Opera House, Info: <http://www.attpac.org/series/lexus-broadway-series-2013-2014-season/>

**May 17-19**

**Wildflower! Richardson's Arts & Music Festival**; <http://www.wildflowerfestival.com/>

**2013 Summer Adventures in Fair Park** at Fair Park, Info: FairParkFun.com

**May 17-26**

**Wizard of Oz** at Art Centre Theatre in Plano, Info:[www.artcentretheatre.com](http://www.artcentretheatre.com)

**May 18**

**The African-American Museum's 28th Gala and Auction** at Hilton Anatole Hotel-Dallas, featuring The Bar-Kays Info: AAM @ 214-565-9026 ext. 328, [jjones@aamdallas.org](mailto:jjones@aamdallas.org) or [jabjones30@gmail.com](mailto:jabjones30@gmail.com)

**Scooby Doo Live Musical Mysteries** at Allen Event Center, Info: [allenevent-center.com](http://allenevent-center.com)

**May 18**

**Eat and run introducing the tasty run 5k & fun run** at 8 a.m. at Addison Circle Park

**Photo Safari at the Dallas zoo** from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. info:4695547500

**African-American Museum's 28th Gala and Auction** at Hilton Anatole Hotel-Dallas, featuring The Bar-Kays Info: AAM @ 214-565-9026 ext. 328, [jjones@aamdallas.org](mailto:jjones@aamdallas.org) or [jabjones30@gmail.com](mailto:jabjones30@gmail.com)

**National Run-A-Mile Day** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lively Pointe, 909 N.

O'Connor Road in Irving. Participation is free, but registration is required. Info: 972-721-8090 or [cityofirving.org/lively-pointe](http://cityofirving.org/lively-pointe).

**Stars on the Prairie** in Lewisville from 8:15-9:15 p.m. Ages 5 and up with a \$2 program fee, in addition to the regular gate fee (\$5/person). Reservations are required at 972-219-3930 or [lisacole@unt.edu](mailto:lisacole@unt.edu). If the sky is cloudy, they will still meet and take a night hike.

**Malcolm X Birthday Celebration** at Pan-African connection bookstore, from 1 to 9 p.m. Info:214-943-8262

**May 19**

**The Singers Celebrate!** at Mesquite Arts Center, 1527 N. Galloway in Mesquite

**May 23**

Wells Fargo is hosting a **Home Preservation Workshop** in Dallas at the Hyatt Regency Dallas.

**May 25**

**Dallas International Festival** from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at Dallas Arts District Info: 972-661-2764

**8th Annual Writer's Breakthrough Workshop** at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. RSVP to [poetry@gracelajoy.com](mailto:poetry@gracelajoy.com) or 816-318-1388.

**Dallas international festival** from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at Dallas arts district info: 9726612764

**May 26**

**Memorial Day Service:** Honor Irving veterans at a Memorial Day Service hosted by the Veterans Memorial Park Committee at 2:30 p.m. at the Irving Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. A reception will be held at the Veterans Memorial Park, 644 Rock Island Road, following the program.

**May 30**

**Buckner International Community Health Fair** from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Wynnewood Commu-

nity Transformation Center located at 2006 Didsbury Circle in Dallas

**May 31**

**Little Egypt presents: Stars of Spring** at Radisson Hotel, 1241 W Mockingbird Lane at 12:30 - 6 p.m.; 972-840-8450

**May 31 - June 2**

**Wicked Divas DSO Pops Series** brings the best of Broadway to the Meyerson with diva showstoppers highlighted by selections from the Tony Award-winning musical Wicked. Featuring Elphaba and Glinda from the Broadway production. 214-692-0203 or [DallasSymphony.com](http://DallasSymphony.com).

**June 11**

**Lexus Broadway Series and AT&T Performing Arts Center** at Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora Street; under \$110; 214-880-0202

**June 14**

**Achievers United Contemporary Talent Show** at 7 p.m., at the Embassy Suites in Frisco

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## DCCCD looking for part-time teachers at job fair on Saturday

DALLAS – Each of the seven colleges in the Dallas County Community College District will hold an adjunct faculty job fair to find qualified persons who are interested in teaching part time. Those seven colleges – Brookhaven, Cedar Valley, Eastfield, El Centro, Mountain View, North Lake and Richland – will host the job fair on Sat., May 18, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Interested persons should bring copies of their resumes and transcripts to the college where they would like to interview. Subjects and adjunct teaching needs vary from college to college, so participants can check online to identify where their areas

of expertise are needed by visiting [www.dcccd.edu](http://www.dcccd.edu); click on the “Adjunct faculty jobs fair” item under the calendar of events. College addresses, building locations and room numbers are available on that site.

To teach credit classes for the colleges in the district, adjunct instructors must hold a master's degree which includes 18 hours in that specific teaching discipline. Transcripts from foreign institutions must be evaluated based on U.S. standards before they are submitted.

Persons interested in teaching developmental education courses must have a bachelor's degree in the subject area or a bachelor's degree and “significant course” work in the subject at the undergraduate level. Additionally, they must have high school or college teaching experience in the subject matter; graduate-level courses in pedagogy related to the teaching field may be substituted for teaching experience.

Additional certifications may be required to teach in certain specialized fields.

Individuals who want more information and who are interested in visiting one of the adjunct teaching job fairs should call the college where they plan to apply.



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**May 19, 2013 8 a.m.**

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**BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

**May 17, 7 p.m.**

All ladies are encouraged to join us for Women's Ministry Fellowship as we honor and praise God.

**May 18, 9 a.m.**

All men are invited to come to our Men's Ministry Fellowship to learn more about God.

**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**

**May 19, 8:45 or 11 a.m.**

Join us in our Morning Service as we honor and praise God for His blessings to us.

**May 25, 10 a.m.**  
You're invited to join us for Youth Fun Day. Part 1: Rock Climbing @ Summit Gym and Part 2: Whirly Ball in Plano. See Pastor Travis for details and to register.

**Dr. Terrence Autry**  
Senior Pastor  
George Bush Fwy at  
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TheShip3C's Prayer Lines for those that are in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567 or they may be submitted via email to: [prayerline@theship3c.org](mailto:prayerline@theship3c.org)

**May 18, 7 p.m.**

You're invited to SAS Friday Night Live. Call the church for details.

**May 19, 8 a.m.  
And 9:30 a.m.**

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.)

**May 22, 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.)  
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**OAK CLIFF BIBLE  
FELLOWSHIP**

**May 25, 9 a.m.**

Join us for our FREE 8th Annual Writer's Break-through Workshop, sponsored by Grace LaJoy in partnership with The Turn-Around Agenda at the church for aspiring authors. For information call 816-318-1388.

**Dr. Tony Evans**  
Senior Pastor  
1801 West Camp, Wisdom  
Road  
Dallas, TX 75732

**SHILOH MBC IN PLANO**

**May 12-19**

Ladies, join us for the conclusion of our Annual Women's Day celebration. Ladies are asked to wear navy with lime green scarves. Call the church for details.

**May 19  
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.

**May 22, 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**

**May 19, 7:30 a.m.**

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

**May 20, 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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**Radio Programs**

<p>"Vision &amp; Truth Live" Call Pastor Sam Every Sun. 9:00pm-10:00pm KWRD 100.7 FM THE WORD</p>	<p>"Truth Made Simple" Listen to Pastor Sam Mon.-Fri. 5:25pm- 5:30pm KGGR 1040 AM</p>
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[www.mocop.org](http://www.mocop.org)

[www.theship3c.org](http://www.theship3c.org) Fellowship Christian Center Church 972.359.9956

200 W. Belmont Drive • Allen, TX 75013  
A Kingdom Building Church

**Pastor Dr. W.L. Stafford, Sr.**

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Allen, TX 75013  
8:00 a.m.

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
Story Elementary  
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## Spring Cleaning and Prioritizing

Children of God, now is the time for cleaning up, throwing out, putting things in your life according to their importance; and for renewing your mind and spirit.

Seek God's help with your spring cleaning. Ask Him to help you start fresh with a clean mind and a clean house. First start with seeking His forgiveness for your sins of admissions and sins of omission; and where you have failed.

Ask God for help in living a holy life that is acceptable to Him and a witness to the world.

And seek His help in cleaning your physical house as well; and to know what to do with all the things you don't need. Seek His help in what person or what service organization could benefit from those things.

I received, A Spiritual Tune-Up and Remodeling Your Family Status, some-time ago; it is something to think about and something to do.

**A Spiritual Tune-Up:** Adjust your lights so that others may see your good works. Set your timing to be about God's business; and in church on time. Adjust the brakes on your tongue so you may speak well of others, and pray for them so that you may always speak well of them.

Align your direction to follow the straight and narrow path of God's will. Attune your mind to think on pure and holy things. Anti-freeze your heart; be fervent and zealous in the Lord's service. Lubricate your spirit with the oil of joy and gladness. Arrange your ears to hear God's voice and obey His commands.

Children of God, have you done any remodeling of your family lately? It will cost you time; but, it's exciting. The old and stale can take on beauty and vibrancy. Here are some sug-

gestions for remodeling your Christian family.

**Review** the status of each family member to see that each feels that he/she is a **"VIP"** in the family; each must be affirmed, accepted, and loved. **Check** the basic structure. Be sure that Dad is the leader with Mom supporting him. **Scrutinize** family values. Nothing short of Jesus Christ can give it permanent cohesion. **Build** the fun-side of the family with laughter. Use imagination in providing family recreation; and build good and lasting memories through family togetherness.

**Overhaul** the emotional air conditioning system. Avoid airing the atmosphere with tension. Keep the home ventilated with commendation and praise. **Sweep** out old grudges. Forgive and forget the past! Don't bring up old grievances.

**Renew** the outlets, so that the family is wired for positive communication. Urge free exchange of ideas. Listen without condemnation. Keep the door

open to your family friends. Allow your children to have their friends over. Let the fragrance and warmth of your family radiate to others.

Expect times of immaturity and imperfections. Clean them up with firm, calm and reasonable discipline. Allow each one enough development rope not to hang themselves, but to tie a few of his/her own knots. It's a challenge, but with God's help you can do it.

After your spring cleaning and prioritizing you are ready to fulfill your purpose in life. "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God..." **Acts 13:36.**

Will God be able to say you served your purpose in your generation as He did about David? God was able to say this about the life of David, even though David made some incredibly bad choices in his life that led to long term consequences.



Mrs. Rachel Lewis, President of Professional Achievers Community Excellence (PACE) with one of the five pairs of tickets donated to PACE's Scholarship and Fashion Show Fundraising door prizes by North Dallas Gazette Newspaper.

But, because David repented each time he erred, his purpose was accomplished on earth as God had designed it.

That is really the definition of success. Success is fulfilling the complete purpose for which God made you. It has nothing to do

with wealth, accomplishments, stature in life, or standard of living. It has to do with living a life of obedience to the Father.

And when we live a life of obedience to the Father, we will fulfill the purposes that God had in mind when He made us.

## PEEPLS, continued from Page 10

then but they were like 'Oh I was trying to tell somebody how you were saying this...'

That was special to me. Then at one point I realized people could make a living doing that. I saw two guys perform at a talent show or something and they did comedy and I was like 'Whoa' because comedians always seemed like superheroes to me or something. You couldn't touch them. And here's somebody I could actually touch that's doing this. And it was like 'How do you do that?' It was one of the first things I got serious about. And from comedy, once I started getting into that it was almost a natural progression to take some acting classes. For me it felt like it would be smart to. If I ever got a chance to, you know, be on a sitcom or do a line or two here, it'd be smart to know what I'm doing. So uh, I started taking acting classes and the rest is history.

**LW:** You have a well-established career in comedy. Is

there room in your career for other types of roles?

CR: Absolutely. I'm open to dramas and action and whatever else. And I'm open to doing some music stuff.

There's definitely room. Tyler Perry presents *Peeples* premiered in theaters May 10. To view the trailer or find more about the movie, visit [www.peeplesmovie.com](http://www.peeplesmovie.com).

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## NDG Bookshelf



BY TERRI  
SCHLICHENMEYER

Sometimes, your entire life feels like a recipe for drama.

Oh, you really hate it and you'd like to wipe your plate clean of it all, but that's never gonna happen. No matter what's cooking around you, there's always an extra ingredient to increase the tension: raw emotion, sliced egos, boiling tempers, a teaspoon of tears,

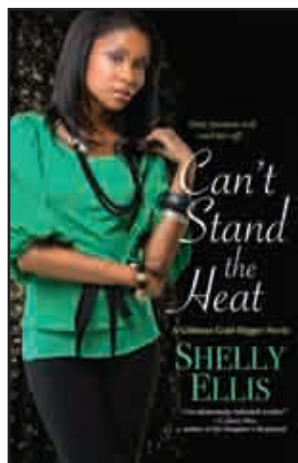
## Can't Stand the Heat good choice to start your summer reading

a pinch of regret, and two cups of family.

It's a daily dish you wish you didn't have, and you're not alone. In the new book *Can't Stand the Heat* by Shelly Ellis, drama causes quite a stir.

Embody grace and glamour, always. Be the image of perfection, especially to men. Don't go after someone your sister called dibs on. Have a second-stringer in the works before you leave a man, and be sure you take everything you can on your way out.

Those were just a few of the Gibbons Family rules, passed down from Grandma Althea, now enforced by Mama Yolanda. All the Gib-



bons girls followed the rules – except Lauren.

Oh, Lauren used to play along. She took money and gifts from James for months, but once he started acting like

he owned her, she knew she had to leave him. On the night he beat her almost unconscious, she finally did.

And she'd never been happier.

Her raggedy little apartment was no mansion, but it was hers. When she was with James, all she did was shop, but now all she did was work and her job as sous chef at Le Bayou Bleu made her heart sing. Best of all, she wasn't beholden to any man. She was flat-broke but she'd die before she'd take anything from a man again.

And then she met Cris.

He was a retired NFL player, handsome and smart, and though he heard rumors

around town about "those Gibbons girls," he believed Lauren when she said she wasn't like her sisters anymore. He actually stood up for her once so, though she guarded her feelings close, she began to believe that Cris wasn't like other men who just wanted one thing from her.

And he wasn't – but someone else was. Someone who thought Lauren was his property, who figured he practically owned her.

Someone who vowed that he'd never give her up without a fight...

Looking for something lightly romantic but with a touch of spice? Then *Can't*

*Stand the Heat* should be at the top of the menu.

Like any good book cook, author Shelly Ellis changes up the standard boy-meets-girl recipe by adding in a bit of comedic drama in the form of four gold-digging women who stop at nothing to fleece their men. Yes, that's a little over-the-top, but it's also very entertaining – and though the plot has a pretty obvious ending, it'll keep you guessing nonetheless.

As the first novel in a new series, this book is perfect for a vacation, beach, or weekend read and will make you hungry for the next installment. If *Can't Stand the Heat* sounds tasty to you, then dish it up quick.

## GARDEN, continued from Page 7

wind and overhead watering. You'll also reduce the risk of disease by keeping water off the plant leaves.

A properly installed and managed irrigation system will help save water. The convenience makes it easy to water thoroughly, encouraging deep roots, and only when needed. Turn the system on early in the day while you tend to other gardening and household chores. You'll waste less water to evaporation and save time since the system does the watering for you.

Capture rainwater and use it to water container and in-ground gardens. Rain barrels and cisterns have

long been used for this purpose and are experiencing renewed interest. Look for these features when buying or making your own rain barrel. Make sure the spigot is located close to the bottom so less water collects and stagnates. Select one that has a screen over the opening to keep out debris. And look for an overflow that directs the water into another barrel or away from the house.

Add a bit of paint to turn your rain barrel into a piece of art. Or tuck it behind some containers, shrubs or a decorative trellis. Just make sure it is easy to access.

Be sure to mulch trees and shrubs with shredded bark or woodchips to conserve moisture, suppress weeds and reduce competition from nearby grass. You'll eliminate hand trimming while protecting trunks and stems from damaging weed whips and mowers.

Incorporate weather worn perennials with compost and an auger bit. Spread an inch of compost over the soil surface. Then use an auger bit, often used for planting bulbs, and drill the compost into the soil in open areas throughout the garden. You'll help move the compost to the root zone

of the plants and aerate the soil with this one activity.

A little advance planning and preparation can reduce your workload and increase your gardening enjoyment.

Gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including *Can't Miss Small Space Gardening*. She hosts the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV and radio segments and is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers web site is [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com)

## GOLF, continued from Page 6

Golf Team registration forms are available from SUAF-Dallas Chapter members, the Chapter website, and at the three Firewheel Golf Park courses [Bridges @ 1535 East Brand Road; Lakes/Old Courses @ 600 West Campbell Road] in Garland. The

registration fee is \$ per four-person team. Teams must register by June 12. The tournament field is limited to the first 25 registered teams (100 golfers). Registration fees include green and cart fees, range balls and post-tournament meal in the Pavillion.

### Bible Way Community Baptist Church



Dr. Timothy J. Wilbert, Sr.  
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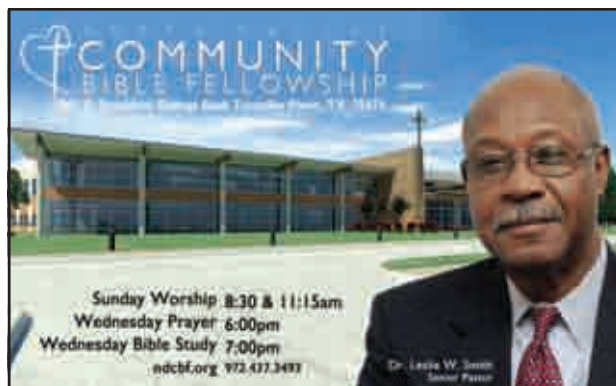
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[www.avefchurchofchrist.org](http://www.avefchurchofchrist.org)

Early Sunday Morning ..... 8:00 am  
Sunday Bible Class ..... 9:45 am  
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:45 am  
Evening Worship ..... 3:00 pm  
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