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## Drop in black home ownership rate double that of whites

By Charlene Crowell  
NNPA Columnist

Each year the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University assesses the nation's housing outlook. The recently-released The State of the Nation's Housing in 2014 reveals that troubled housing areas remain in the midst of rising prices, higher interest rates and low inventories.

According to the report, "Millions of homeowners, particularly in minority and high-poverty neighborhoods, are still underwater on their mortgages, while millions more renters have been forced to live in housing they cannot afford or is structurally inadequate. And with the ongoing growth in low-income households, housing assistance reaches a shrinking share of those in need."

A few more data points from the 2014 report reveal:

- Homeownership rates have fallen six percentage points among Black households — double that among White households;
- In 2011-12, Black applications for conventional mortgages were denied 40 percent of the time; among Hispanics, the denial rate was 25 percent — nearly two to three



times that for whites; and

- More than 25 percent of mortgage homeowners in both high-poverty and minority neighborhoods were underwater — owing more than their homes are now worth — in 2013. This rate is nearly twice the shares in either white or low-poverty neighborhoods.

For Mike Calhoun, president of the Center for Responsible Lending, these homeownership disparities reflect a devastating generational loss of wealth. Participating in a panel discussion with the Joint Center and other housing policy experts, Calhoun noted that the loss of homeownership in Black communities really reflected a one in six reduction, as Black homeownership peaked at 49 percent before the housing crisis.

"With promising increases in home construction, sales, and prices, the housing market gained steam in early 2013,, states the report. "But when interest rates notched up at mid-year, momentum slowed. This moderation is likely to persist until job growth manages to lift household incomes. Even amid a broader recovery, though, many hard-hit communities still struggle and millions of households continue to pay excessive shares of income for housing."

The combined effects of student loan burdens and lower median incomes for younger and middle-aged adults are also cited as key factors in the nation's housing recovery. Median incomes are at their lowest

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## The teen violence problem

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## Black student scores first for school

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## The apes are back onscreen

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COMMENTARY

## The state of black euphoria

By James Clingman  
NNPA Columnist

How amazing it is that Black people in this nation, collectively, are the worst off but yet the most comical, entertaining, ostentatious, and self-defeating of all other groups. It is striking how, in spite of all the negative aspects of our lives, we spend a great deal of our time living vicariously through the lives of super-stars and mega-heroes. They say "Ignorance is bliss," so

maybe we should use that phrase to our advantage by reporting the other side of the bad stuff we face.

For example, according to police, Chicago's murder rate is down 20 percent from last year. According to the Urban League Report, Black people are "optimistic" about the economy. At least the cops in L.A. didn't kill the woman on the expressway. The FCC and some Black Caucus

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Dr. Glenda Newell-Harris



Hon. Tonya Parker



Linda Cliatt-Wayman

In June 23,000 visited [NorthDallasGazette.com](http://NorthDallasGazette.com) - news added daily!



## Dr. Glenda Newell-Harris

(BlackNews.com) — The Links, Incorporated and The Links Foundation, Incorporated have elected Glenda Newell-Harris, M.D., as its 16th national president. The election of Newell-Harris marks the first time a medical doctor will serve at the helm of the organization, and the first time a national president has been elected from the state of California.

A 29-year member of the Alameda Contra-Costa (CA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, (Oakland Bay Area), Newell-Harris steps into her new role after having served four years as the organization's



national vice president.

Excited about her election, Newell-Harris said "It is an honor of a lifetime to serve as national president of The Links, Incorporated." Recognizing the importance of her role as na-

tional president, Newell-Harris stressed that, "My predecessors in this position have demonstrated not only the significance of this role, but also the profound impact it has across the nation and in several foreign countries." The Links, Incorporated is dedicated to serving communities that need the volunteer services of its more than 12,000 members. Building a Healthy Legacy: Our Prescription for the Future is her theme for the next biennium. As a physician, Dr. Newell-Harris intends to make individual and community health a key focus of her presidency.

Currently a regional medical director at Corizon Health, Inc., she is a board certified physician

in internal medicine and a media spokesperson whose opinions on new advances in medicine and controversial medical issues have made her a valued medical expert. Newell-Harris is a past president of the Sinkler-Miller Medical Association, an affiliate of the National Medical Association, and recently co-authored a book, entitled "Focus on Your Best Health." She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors from many organizations including Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Bay Area Black United Fund, John Hale Medical Society and Cinnamongirl, Inc.

A native of North Carolina, and a graduate of Miss Porter's School, Newell-Harris is the

daughter of Dr. Virginia K. Newell and the late George F. Newell. She received her medical degree from the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine and a bachelor of science in Biology from Tufts University. A mother of four children, she is married to Robert L. Harris, Esq.

Newell-Harris was elected during The Links, Incorporated's 39th National Assembly, held in National Harbor, Maryland, at Gaylord National Resort. During the five day conference, the organization celebrated community achievements, recognized outstanding contributions of individuals and also elected Kimberly Jeffries Leonard, Ph. D., national vice

president; Clara Lee, national recording secretary; Carolyn Lewis, national treasurer; and Kimberly Mumby Green, chair, national nominating committee.

Dr. Newell's diversified experience practicing medicine in the public and private sector for the past 28 years has given her the inspiration and the vision to co-found her own healthcare consulting business, Newell & Spriggs Consulting.

She believes that health literacy; self-empowerment and initiative are required to create a culture of wellness within your work and home environment. One aspect of her company focuses on teaching the tools that will result in effective communication, savvy navigation and appropriate advocacy.

## Hon. Tonya Parker

Judge Tonya Parker was elected in 2010 to serve as the Presiding Judge of the 116th Civil District Court in Dallas County, Texas. She is scheduled to be the featured speaker at the Richardson Chamber of Commerce's 56th Annual New Teacher's Luncheon on Aug. 13 at 11 a.m.

While in private practice, Judge Parker earned partnership at two Dallas law firms, where she was a civil litigator and trial attorney for plaintiffs and defendants in complex commercial and tort litigation matters. She



received her undergraduate degree in Communications Studies from the University of North Texas, and her Juris Doctorate from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law.

Judge Parker currently serves as the President-elect of the Texas Association of District Judges. She is also a member of the curriculum committee for the Texas Center for the Judiciary where she chairs a subcommittee for the College for Judicial Studies.

In the 2013 Judicial Evaluation Poll of the Dallas Bar Association, Judge Parker earned a 95 percent overall approval rating from the lawyers participating in the poll—the highest rating of any civil district judge evaluated in the poll. During her first term on the bench, Judge Parker has

been awarded the Honorable L.A. Bedford Outstanding Jurist Award and the Honorable Sam A. Lindsay Award for Professionalism and Ethics, both from the J.L. Turner Legal Association.

The SMU Women's Symposium also recognized her contributions as a public servant by awarding her a Profiles in Leadership Award during its 2013 Symposium.

Prior to seeking the bench, Judge Parker was a respected member of the bar. She was recognized by her attorney peers as one of the top lawyers in Texas by

being voted a Super Lawyers' Rising Star three years in a row from 2006 to 2008, and again for a fourth time in 2010 just before she was elected to office. Also in 2010, she received an Outstanding Mentor award from both the J.L. Turner Legal Association and the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers.

The Dallas Association of Young Lawyers also named Judge Parker Outstanding Young Lawyer of Dallas in 2006. Prior to that, the Dallas Bar Association recognized her with its Outstanding Minority Attorney Award and an Award of Ex-

cellence.

Her personal and professional mantra is "shrink from no sacrifice in one's service of God, family, and community."

Judge Parker is an active member of several local bar associations and community groups. She is committed to increasing civility and professionalism in the bar, as well as meaningful mentorship opportunities for law students and young lawyers.

Individual tickets are available for purchase \$40 members and \$50 non members. More details at richardsonchamber.com.

## Linda Cliatt-Wayman

Linda Cliatt-Wayman, principal of Strawberry Mansion High School Promise Academy of Philadelphia, PA, will be at the Belo Mansion on Friday, Aug. 1, at noon to participate in the Dallas Bar Association's special series of programs "Dismantling the Schools to Prison Pipeline: What Can Lawyers Do?," celebrating the 60th anniversary of *Brown v. Board* of Education.

Mrs. Cliatt-Wayman will present "Turn This School Around," which tells the story of how a prosecutor and a principal transformed



Strawberry Mansion from one of the most dangerous high schools in the nation to a school of hope.

After 20 years as a classroom teacher, Mrs. Cliatt-Wayman decided to become a coach for new teachers and then principal in 2003. In 2005, she moved to

Rhodes High School where she was credited with moving the school from 3 percent and 9 percent proficiency in math and reading as measured by the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), to above 50 percent in both areas and ensuring a 94 percent college acceptance rate. From 2010 to 2012, Wayman served as assistant superintendent for all 52 high schools in Philadelphia.

In 2013, Mrs. Cliatt-Wayman decided to return to the neighborhood where she grew up to lead the merger of three area high schools. Her efforts to establish Strawberry Mansion High

School as a safe and academic institute for learning have been featured on ABC's "Nightline" and "World News Report."

She received her B.A. from Kutztown University and M.A. from St. Joseph's University.

The event is free and the public is welcome. Lunch is available for \$12.76. Attorneys attending can qualify for one hour of continuing legal education (CLE).

The Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Avenue in Downtown Dallas (in the Arts District). Parking is available in the Pavilion Garage for \$4 (enter from Olive Street). For more information, contact the DBA at (214) 220-7400.

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# A challenge for the hip-hop generation

By Jineea Butler  
NNPA Columnist

Lately, Hip Hop news has been fueled with beef and rants of all kinds. Meek Mill is beefing with Wale because Wale wasn't supporting Mill's current project enough on social media, Dame Dash is blaming Lyor Cohen for the downfall of Rocafella Records, Lil Wayne thanks the world for supporting his bull. Chris Brown and Drake are in the studio together and LeBron James shocked the world with a return to Cleveland. Wow!

Where is the substance? When are we going to demand something more from those that represent us on a grand stage? Is their job just to entertain us through the struggle and our role is to watch them fight over our attention to keep them relevant and paid in full? Are we really living in the Matrix?

When I see people constantly plugged into some form of social media pretending to be whomever they want to be and finding happiness

behind a desktop, laptop or handheld device, I realize fantasy sells more than truth. Is that by design? Or, are we attracted to our own BS? Are we in fear of being accountable for our actions or successful for our relentless pursuits? Sometimes it feels like that. In our society, it seems like everyone is trying to set each other up for failure. With shows like "Big Brother," "Survivor" and other reality programs that promote deception in the form of friendship how can we be getting better?

People of color are projected to become the majority in the U.S. by 2050, if not sooner. What will that world look like? If we can't depend on the music and global messages to navigate us to victory, how do we insure we are preparing our children to compete in this society in generations to come?

Other ethnic groups have entered America and based their ascension off of what we have endured in this country and they are winning. Why is it that we can't put a plan in place that en-

sures the preservation, economic development and success of our culture? Are selfish people with ruthless egos and agendas to blame? Look at the Mexican children running for the borders of America hoping they can get a glimpse at the opportunity to be an American citizen. Their parents and families are praying that once they get caught they will be granted citizenship into a country that can make their dreams come true. Are our children even dreaming? Do you think they would be willing to take a chance to escape the poverty stricken arrangements they are stuck in?

I look into the eyes of our children and many are coping out on us. They are purposely rebelling against the world that has been presented to them. They feel that they do not need to subscribe to a system of illusions when they can deal with the real hard core facts. A tattoo on their face, neck, and/or hand proves they are not con-

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## EUPHORIA, continued from Page 1

members' attempt to kill "net neutrality" will not take away our Twitter accounts.

The Black unemployment rate is no longer half of the national rate, having fallen from 12 percent to 11 percent. Poverty statistics indicate that 60 percent of Black people are not poor, and 60 percent of the 2.1 million men in prison are not Black. Even though we are at the bottom politically and economically, a Black family is still in the White House. Feelin' better?

Because our blissful state of mind is so pronounced, I suggest publishing a report titled, "The State of Black Euphoria." It will permeate our collective psyche, and through it we could look at the other side of the negative stats we always hear. Maybe that would entice us to do more for ourselves instead of languishing in a festering heap of apathy.

It seems we are numb to 80 shootings in one weekend in Southside Chicago. "Well, that's just the way it is;" "Ain't nuthin' we can do about it;" "These kids today are just crazy."

We have become immune to the fact that Black people in this country are at the bottom of every good category and at the top of every bad one. "The man got his foot on my neck;" "I can't get no job;" "Ain't no use; the deck is stacked against me."

We are immersed in a fantasy world

of feel-good rhetoric and empty promises from our Black political leaders. "We know he's a crook, but he's our crook;" I know they haven't done anything for Black people, but neither has anyone else;" "Yeah, but did you see the Prez sink that three-point shot?" "That gown the First Lady wore was slamin'!"

Since nothing else seems to work, let's use our euphoria to move us forward because the bad stuff is too hard to take and only makes us more complacent in our misery. The almost daily shootings and murders in Chicago, Cincinnati and other cities are all too real, so let's focus on the killings in Iraq and Syria and Israel. Instead of actually doing something to stop the children from riding on top of train cars to get into this country, let's wait until they get here and then, in a very humane way, house them in concentration camps, that is, if they don't fall off the train and get killed on the way here.

Black folks are tired of bad news; we don't want to hear any more. It's too debilitating. The bad news affects poor and middle-class families, but the good news hardly ever does. So reporting on "The State of Black Euphoria" and pretending we are living in Nirvana might just help us. After all, we can still sing and dance, tell funny jokes, drink top-shelf liquor,

and revel in the status of the First Family.

So, here's some more good news. Even though the price of gasoline is at a six-year high, at least it's not \$5 per gallon – yet; employers added 1.1 million jobs thus far in 2014, most of which are low-pay or part-time; Jay-Z and Beyoncé put on a great show; Oprah is a two-billionaire; the housewives, divas, and award shows are doing well; and Black folks' so-called "buying power" exceeds \$1 trillion! Feelin' good?

So, who is going to take up this gauntlet and publish "The State of Black Euphoria"? It is obvious that all the other reports on "The State of Black America" have not elicited appropriate responses from our people, so maybe we should try to make the best use of our euphoria. It will keep us in a positive state of mind, and even if we miss the mark and fail to "do good," we will still "feel good." To borrow a phrase from the president's State of the Union address, "Brothers and Sisters, the State of Black Euphoria is strong!"

*Jim Clingman, founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce, is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati and can be reached through his Web site, [black-onomics.com](http://black-onomics.com).*



# Report reveals characteristics of uninsured minorities

By Stacy M. Brown  
Special to the NNPA  
*The Washington Informer*

Despite advances made by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which requires that everyone in the United States obtain health insurance, African-American males and Latinos still represent the highest proportion of the uninsured population in the country.

Randy Wheeling, Curtis Washington and Frankie Rossi each signed up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

For Wheeling, a cable technician who lives in Northeast, signing up meant that he could finally breathe easier when making appointments with a primary care physician.

"The co-pay was \$50, it's now \$20, and I just couldn't see going unless there was something really wrong," said Wheeling, 42.



Washington, an automobile mechanic who also lives in Northeast, said his new insurance represents the first time that he isn't being covered by his spouse or parents. "It's a little bit of freedom," said the 29 year old.

Rossi, who lives in Northwest, said the new policy he received by signing up through the federal health

care exchange, provided him with a fresh perspective.

"It gives me hope that someone in a position of power does care about minorities," said Rossi, 37.

Despite the positive experiences of the three men and the advances made by the Affordable Care Act, African-Americans and Latinos still represent the

largest portion of the country's uninsured population.

A June 30 report by the Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Rockville, Maryland, examined the characteristics of uninsured adult males by race and ethnicity, using the most recent data from the 2012 American Community Survey.

The report revealed that, among uninsured adult males ages 19-34, Latino and African-American males counted among the highest group without health care.

Dr. J. Nadine Gracia, the deputy assistant secretary for Minority Health and the director of the Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, said improvements have been realized in coverage for minorities.

"The Affordable Care Act

is one of the most significant laws to help reduce disparities in health and access to care.

During the first historic open enrollment period, minority men, many who may have previously been locked out of the health insurance market because of a pre-existing condition or simply because of its unaffordability, were able to obtain health care coverage and will now have the security that health insurance provides," Gracia said.

"Thanks to the ACA, millions of minorities are seeing the benefits and are now able to access preventive services at no additional cost. Furthermore, the ACA is addressing disparities among minority communities by increasing the number of community health centers and the services they offer which serve as

safety nets for the most vulnerable and underserved, where nearly two out of three patients served in community health centers are racial and ethnic minorities," she said.

The U.S. has one of the most expensive health care systems in the world, yet the life expectancy and infant mortality rates are often middle of the road at best, said Dr. Jean J.E. Bonhomme, founder of the National Black Men's Health Network based in Atlanta.

While data shows disparities among uninsured males, progress has been made in increasing access to health care coverage, officials said.

Over the course of the first Health Insurance Marketplace enrollment period, more than 8 million people signed up as part of the ACA.

## City of Dallas receives grant to help enroll families in Medicaid and CHIP

Washington, DC – Dallas was one of eight cities selected by the National League of Cities (NLC) to receive \$40,000 and technical assistance to help implement local outreach efforts to enroll children and families in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

"As a nation, we've made significant progress on enrolling eligible children in Medicaid and CHIP, but millions of children who qualify for coverage under these programs still need to sign up. Cities are vital partners in outreach and enrollment efforts," said Cindy Mann, Deputy Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "We applaud National League of Cities for its leadership and support."

The Cities Expanding Health Access for Children and Families (CEHACF) Initiative will help cities implement comprehensive campaigns to enroll children and families in Medicaid and CHIP and reduce the uninsured rate for children and families by

50% in each of the cities. Families with health insurance reduce emergency room visits, avoid crushing health care costs, and have healthier children who perform better in school.

The City of Dallas in conjunction with the CHIP Coalition, Enroll Dallas, Baylor's Texas Hunger Initiative, DISD Early Childhood and Community Partnerships, just to mention a few, will coordinate resources and communication to strengthen and expand outreach, education, utilization and retention in Dallas county.

NLC's Institute for Youth, Education and Families is coordinating the initiative as part of a multi-year effort to increase access to health care for children and families funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies. Each city was chosen based on the quality and feasibility of business plans that were submitted in the spring.

"Each city chosen had a rigorous business plan that detailed a clear path forward to drive down the rate of the uninsured in their communities," said Clarence Anthony, executive director

of NLC. He continued, "Each city should be commended for the positive contributions they will make to their communities. There are clear benefits to the program with healthier kids meaning better high school and college completion rates and financial savings for the community."

NLC will provide cities with customized assistance, access to best practices and national experts and opportunities for peer learning during the implementation process. Emphasis will be placed on cross-community collaboration among city agencies, school districts, hospitals and clinics and other community-based organizations.

The other cities selected are:

- Savannah, Georgia
- Jacksonville, Florida
- Garden City, Michigan
- New Bedford, Massachusetts
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Hattiesburg, Mississippi
- Providence, Rhode Island

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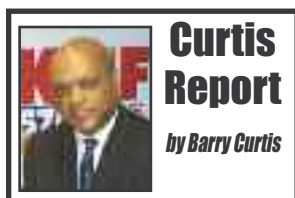
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**COVANCE**

# Wade Emert should resign



**Curtis Report**  
by Barry Curtis

There is much to say about the moral make up of a man or an organization. My proclivity to goodness suggests that I give all men an equal opportunity to dis-appoint. Wade Emmert and the establishment elements of the Dallas county Republican Party have certainly disappointed all true conservatives in Dallas County.

I will lay out three specific charges against Wade Emmert and the establishment elements of the Re-

publican Party to justify a change in Dallas county leadership.

**Charge one:** Wade Emmert has failed to support the black conservative republican candidate John Lawson who won his primary in the Texas State Senate race for District 23 and is now facing a dye in the wood liberal Democrat in South Dallas.

Wade has given no support to Mr. Lawson. In fact, he stood up and publicly humiliated Mr. Lawson shortly after he announced his intention to run again for the office. That behavior is stunning, at its best, and dangerously close to racism at worst.

Wade has specifically stated "I told John Lawson not to run for that office."

Really Wade? I am so sorry that we black conservatives tend not to listen to you white establishment overseers, but we can run for any office we choose. Not only can we run for any office we choose Wade, but we can demand the same kind of support that you give to North Dallas white candidates.

The uppity establishment elements of the Dallas county Republican Party have provided no support to Mr. Lawson. Please Wade, justify that. No money, no

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## Mary Kay seminar set to celebrate 40 years in Dallas

It started with 200 attendees enjoying a chicken dinner cooked by the future legend herself - Mary Kay Ash. Now 40 years later, over 30,000 Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultants will travel from around the world to celebrate their business achievements and provide education, recognition and motivation.

Prepare for the Dallas streets to be filled

with pink from July 16 - Aug. 2., exploring the theme "Discover What You Love."

During this year's event, more than \$7 million in recognition and prizes will be awarded including the newest addition to Mary Kay's career car fleet, a black

BMW 320i, and the coveted Mary Kay pink Cadillac.

## Four air conditioning myths homeowners should know

WACO – Home appliance myths are often passed along without a thought about their origins or validity, which can cause a homeowner to make a wrong decision or cause summer cooling bills to unnecessarily increase. Aire Serv explains the true answers to some common myths so homeowners can come to an informed decision on how to beat the summer heat and save money doing it.

**Myth: Ceiling fans keep a room cool** - Ceiling fans have no real effect on the temperature of a room. They only make people feel cooler because they move air across the skin. Save some electricity by turning off fans when you leave the room.

**Myth: Air conditioning units perform the same no matter where they are installed** - When it comes to air conditioner efficiency, placement of the unit is important. The best locations for air conditioning units are often times a homes north or east side because this allows for the most shade. If air conditioning units have direct sunlight on the units' outdoor heat exchanger, this

can negatively impact efficiency.

**Myth: You don't need to inspect your air conditioning system unless something is wrong** - Preventative measures are the best way to make sure you don't end up having a problem in the future. For your air conditioner, that means changing the filters every 90 days (for the average home) and having a service professional perform routine maintenance. They can help diagnose and fix problems that can prove to be costly if they are not detected early.

**Myth: A room cools quicker by setting the thermostat lower than your ideal temperature** - Air conditioners always cool at the same rate, so there is no benefit to setting the temperature to 60 degrees when you want it to be 70. Some homes' air conditioners do have variable settings (often marked as low, medium, or high), but most only operate on a set speed.

*Aire Serv is a subsidiary of The Dwyer Group, Inc., family of service franchises. For more information, visit AireServ.com.*

## D-FW Small Business Exposition

Sponsored by CCBCC  
Saturday, July 26, 2014 @ 10am until 3pm  
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Theme: Your Business. Our Business. More Business.

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The DFW Small Business Expo is a collaborative effort between Public and Private Sector organizations whose main goal is the empowerment of existing and prospective entrepreneurs through capacity building, business training and access to information.

### OBJECTIVES

- To host a venue that will educate small businesses
- To host a venue that will educate potential business owners on the A to Z of business ownership
- To provide a forum for micro, small, potential and existing business owners to network and gather new information to improve their business processes
- To provide training and development opportunities for minority business owners.

### EVENT FOCUS

The Expo has five main areas of focus:

- Business Empowerment
- Business Financing
- Social Networking
- Business Development & Marketing Services
- Skills Training & Development

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- Get Out of Debt
- Personal Credit Repair
- Building Business Credit
- Think & Grow Richer...
- HUB & Minority Business Certification
- How to acquire a small business loan
- Marketing & Branding Your Business

### BUSINESS VENDOR REGISTRATION

Small Business Vendor Registration: \$35.00

Deadline – July 18, 2014

Late Registration Fee - \$50.00

Corporate Vendor Registration: \$200.00

For more information, contact:  
CCBCC Programs Director  
Valerie Warrior

Email: [valerie@ccblackchamber.org](mailto:valerie@ccblackchamber.org)  
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# Student is the first Black valedictorian in her school's history

by Dr. Boyce Watkins  
Special to the NNPA  
from *The Westside Gazette*

A high school student in Queens, New York now has the distinction of being her school's first African American valedictorian. The story is making national news, even though there are many trailblazers of a similar sort around the nation. But without regard to the context within which the story is being released, her achievement is nothing short of remarkable.

According to reporter Mona Rivera, Shanelle Davis is a senior at Benjamin Cardozo High School in the Bayside area.

"It's an incredible honor. It's still surreal to me," she said.

Davis says that she found out from school administrators that she was the first African American to receive the award, which seemed to stun her.

"Out of 845 students and mine said number one. And then afterward I was speaking to administration in the school and they're like 'you know we've never had an African-American (valedictorian) before.' Then that's how I found out," she said.

Davis sees her achievement as an example to other Black students that if they give a diligent effort, they too can be standing on the stage as their school's valedictorian. The young lady is the first in her family to attend a four-year



university, and plans on going to Harvard next fall.

"School is like, it's very diverse, but it's predominantly Asian. So most African-Americans in the school think that's ok so since there's been like always an Asian or a white valedictorian that they can't do it. But then I can be an example for them to show that they can also do it. So maybe next year they'll have another African-American one," Davis said.

Davis' accomplishment is certainly noteworthy, no question about that. But when I read the story, I was a little surprised that it made national news. There are Black valedictorians all over the country and many of them are the first to do so in their high school. So, I still can't quite figure out why this story was told over the

countless others that should be shared as well.

But with that being said, Davis' achievement is extraordinary and must be put into context. I say this because I also remember hearing that I was "the first Black" this and that during my years of studying for my PhD in Finance: I was the first Black PhD student to be admitted to my doctoral program, and I was the first Black Finance Professor to ever be hired at Syracuse University. I even found out that I was the only African American in the world to earn a PhD in Finance during the year 2002.

After reflecting on what all of this meant, I learned to avoid letting others convince me that I was some kind of unique racial oddity, like a puppy who could drive a

car. I realized that the truth is that, I wasn't the first intelligent Black person to apply for a PhD program or the first smart Black man to apply for a job at Syracuse University. Instead, I was the only Black man to apply for the job who wasn't held back by a clear and undeniable legacy of racial discrimination, which kept Black people from obtaining specific opportunities.

As we interpret the meaning behind the wonderful achievement of Ms. Davis, we must be careful about somehow concluding that no Black person has ever been smart or diligent enough to match her achievement. We also must be careful about congratulating an institution for finally recognizing Black intelligence. We certainly can't buy into the belief that Black people just don't work hard enough, for this just feeds into white supremacy (as we wonder why countless numbers of whites have received an award that has only been given to one Black person). Actually, the idea that anyone is the "first Black anything" in the year 2014 is as much of an indictment of an institution's historical racism as anything else. I'm not just referring to Ms. Davis' school, but to every other school, corporation or institution in America that is proudly boasting about their "first Black whatever" 50 years after the March on Washington.

We cannot live in a society that allows Black people to think that the reason whites have never recognized our intellect is because we've never had any. Actually, it is the ignorance of the systems within which we operate and the incompetence of racially-biased gatekeepers that has kept us from getting the recognition we deserve. As I told my former dean at Syracuse University: "The fact that I am the first Black person you've hired in my department in over 100 years of existence most definitely implies that this institution's leadership is incapable of evaluating the work of African American scholars. I refuse to carry the burden of your intellectual shortcomings."

Ms. Davis is not alone and she is not a first. She stands on the shoulders of millions of other brilliant, hardworking black people who suffered, died and cleared the path for her to have this opportunity.

So, as she heads off to Harvard University this fall, I encourage her to reject the burden of believing that she is the chosen negro pioneer. Instead, I hope she will remember that she is part of a long-tradition of greatness that has been muted by racial oppression. In other words, she is not the puppy who learned to drive a car.

*Dr. Boyce Watkins is the author of the book, "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about College."*

## American Red Cross seeking donors with all blood types for area summer blood drive

The American Red Cross encourages all eligible blood donors to make an appointment to donate blood soon to help prevent a shortage.

During the summer months, on average, about two fewer donors give blood at each Red Cross blood drive than what is needed to meet the needs of patients. Vacations and summer activities are among the reasons regular donors may not find the time to give. But, patients don't get a vacation from needing blood – the need is constant.

As a national network, the Red Cross has a unique responsibility to help ensure blood is available



Photo Milestone Management / Flickr

for patients whenever and wherever it is needed. By donating blood or platelets through the Red Cross, donors may be helping patients in their community or pa-

tients across the nation.

Red blood cells have a shelf life of only 42 days and platelets just five days, so they must constantly be replenished.

To learn more and make an appointment to donate blood, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

### Collin County

Aug. 5 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at The Campus at Legacy Building 5340, 5340 Legacy Drive in Plano.

Aug. 10 from 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 601 S. Greenville in Allen.

Aug. 11 from 1 - 7 p.m. at American Red Cross Dallas Chapter McKinney Branch, 1450 Red Bud Blvd in McKinney.

Aug. 12 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Rent A Center, 5501 Headquarters in Plano.

Aug. 15 from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at The Heart Hospital of Plano, 1100 Allied in Plano.

### Dallas County

Aug. 4 from 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Avnet, Inc., 2021 Lakeside Blvd in Richardson.

Aug. 10 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Traders Village RV Park, 2602 Mayfield Rd in Grand Prairie.

Aug. 12 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Arlington Career Institute, 901

Ave. K in Grand Prairie.

Aug. 14 from 3 - 8 p.m. at The Village Country Club, 8308 Southwestern Blvd in Dallas.

Aug. 14 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at The Colonnade Center Tower III, 15305 Dallas Parkway in Addison.

Aug. 15 from 1:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Irving Family YMCA, 2200 W. Irving Blvd. in Irving.

### How to donate blood

Donors can call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients.



# Plano named one of America's healthiest places

Plano has been named one of the 10 Healthiest Cities in America. TIME Magazine is releasing a book on healthy living on July 11 entitled, "Healthiest Places to Live." The book features

10 U.S. cities. Plano is the focus of a chapter called "Best Place for Staying Safe." The chapter was written by Dallas freelance writer J.K. Nickell.

"We used different crite-

ria for each chapter," said Claudia Wallis, TIME editor. "Plano comes up at or near the top of almost every ranking on safe, low-crime U.S. cities because of the FBI Uniform Crime Report.

Our story looks at Plano's impressive police department and the high level of citizen involvement in keeping the city safe," said Wallis.

This is the latest in a long

list of accolades for Plano. WalletHub.com recently named Plano the 2014 Best City for Families. Livability.com ranked Plano #5 in the Top 10 Best Cities for Kids and Movoto.com

ranked Plano the #1 safest city with a population over 250,000. TIME's Healthiest Places to Live book will be on sale for three months on newsstands across the country.

## Navy Seaman Corey Kirkendoll of Allen serves aboard USS Truxtun

ARABIAN GULF - Seaman Corey Kirkendoll, from Allen, Texas, conducts topside preservation aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Truxtun (DDG 103). Truxtun is deployed as part of the George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Scott Barnes/Released)

## Six-year-old Romeo Jackson follows family tradition in track

Romeo Jackson, only 6 years-old, is now a finalist for the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF) Games of Texas scheduled for July 31 - Aug. 4 at Texas A&M University's College Station campus. He earned his place in the competition on July 12 at the TAAF Regionals held at the John Kincaide Stadium in Dallas last weekend. Romeo runs under the direction coaching staff for the Dallas Blaze team, which is a member of TAAF's Region 13.

Over the years the



Young Romeo and his grandmother Rona Jackson

Romeo's family has enjoyed success in track and field. Speaking by phone with the *North Dallas Gazette*, his proud grand-

mother Rona Jackson shared what inspired young Romeo's interest in track.

See ROMEO, Page 9

## North Dallas Community Baptist Church celebrates 14 years

(Editor's Note: In the July 10 issue the article improperly indicated the celebration was "this week" and it is actually July 20. Our apologies for any confusion this caused.)

The members of North Dallas Community Baptist Church is inviting one and all to join them in their celebration as they honor Pastor Billy R. and Shelley Robinson and celebrate their 14th Church Anniversary.

The special occasion is set for Sunday, July 20 at their 11 a.m. worship service. The theme for the anniversary services is "A Living Testimony of God's Goodness." Pastor Victor Paul of Greater First Baptist Church located in Bartlesville, Oklahoma will deliver the message.

North Dallas Community Baptist Church is located at 1718 Trinity Valley Drive in Carrollton. For more information visit ndcbc.org.

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# Teen violence cuts both ways

By Kara Gavin  
U. Michigan

Nearly one in six young people in a relationship experience some kind of dating violence—and both boys and girls report being the victim and the aggressor.

The startling number is drawn from a survey of more than 4,000 adolescent patients ages 14 to 20 seeking emergency care. Violence includes punching, pulling hair, shoving, and throwing things. Further, the study indicates those with depression, or a history of using drugs or alcohol, have a higher likelihood to act as the aggressor or victim.

The findings suggest a need for health care providers to ask both young women and men about whether their relationships have ever turned violent, and to guide them to resources, says Vijay Singh, clinical lecturer in the emergency medicine and family medicine departments at University of Michigan.

“It’s important to think about both genders when trying to identify teen dating violence, especially when there are other conditions we may be trying to assess in the health care setting. These data remind us that teen relationships are not immune to violence and should encourage providers to ask adolescent patients about this important issues.

“In addition, this could help us understand whom to target for screening and referral to, or development of, programs that could help them.”

## Patterns for adult relationships

Relationships in adolescence set up patterns for adult relationships, Singh says. Intervening with adolescents experiencing dating violence is crucial to prevent adult intimate partner violence.

For the study, published online in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, Singh and colleagues analyzed data from a larger survey of teens and young adults aged 14 to 20 years who visited the University of Michigan Health System’s emergency department for any reason between late 2010 and early 2013. The teens took the surveys on touchscreen tablet computers in private, though those younger than age 18 needed their parents’ consent to take part.

While the researchers didn’t ask about the gender of the teen’s partner or about emotional or sexual abuse, the new data give new insight into teen dating violence that builds on school-based and smaller healthcare-based studies.

## ER screenings

In all, one in five young women said they had been the victim or aggressor in a violent situation in the last year with a romantic partner, and one in eight young men reported the same, suggesting that emergency



Photo: Paulo Guilherme / Flickr

departments can aid in identifying dating violence.

Interestingly, teen girls who had sought emergency care for an intentional injury in the last year had twice the odds of reporting violence in their dating relationships. That finding, Singh says, lends credence to the idea that the emergency department could be an important site for screening.

“We may ask ‘How did you get that injury?,’ but often if someone has been a victim of violence, they don’t want to disclose that, and it takes repeated questioning in a sensitive way to find out more,” he says.

Last year, the top national panel for preventive health services recommended that all women between the ages of 14 and 46 be asked about relationship violence during health care visits.

But the lack of data on men as both victims and aggressors means there isn’t a similar recommendation for screening them. Singh says he hopes the news study will add to the understanding of how dating violence affects young men.

## Help is available

“This affects people of both genders, so let’s assess them both,” Singh says. “Especially in the teen years, when young people are figuring out their relationship roles, changing partners more often than adults, and likely not living together.”

His colleagues and coauthors of the new study, Maureen Walton, of the psychiatry department, and Rebecca Cunningham, of the emergency medicine department, are testing a behavioral intervention tool in urban emergency departments that aims to help teens understand how to reduce violence of all kinds in their lives.

Singh urges all teens, and those who love them, to be aware of phone and online resources that can help them identify and respond to unhealthy tendencies in their relationships—and get help when things threaten to turn violent.

That includes the toll-free, 24-hour, multi-language National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800-799-SAFE, as well as Love is Respect, which focuses on teens.

The National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse funded the study with additional support from the University of Michigan Injury Center, which is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Source: University of Michigan



## Fact:

**Seven types of commonly used herbicides and pesticides washed down our storm drains can be found in the Trinity River. Lawn chemicals and pesticides can pollute the storm drainage system, including area creeks, lakes, and the Trinity River, potentially harming plants and aquatic wildlife.**

## Tips:

- + Don't apply yard chemicals when it is very windy or about to rain.
- + Try using natural and organic alternatives.
- + Follow the instructions for the chemicals including organic alternatives.



[www.wheredoesitgo.com](http://www.wheredoesitgo.com)



## CHALLENGE, continued from Page 1

sidering going to work on Wall Street. The harsh reality is that is not their fault that they are not prepared. I doubt they even know the millions of career options available for them to pursue. Why is that? Is it because we allow nonsense-driven content to monopolize our time and our children's minds? Our civil rights fight included and needed the athletes, actors and musicians to use their voice to publicize the struggle. Why is it any different today?

By 2020, the Department of Energy's goal is to have 1 million new STEM graduates and 100,000 new teachers in STEM education. We need to immediately begin

preparing our children by removing the barriers to success.

Our children have to upgrade their math and writing skills as well as stay out of the criminal justice system to reap the benefits of these great paying jobs that will require as little as a two year degree to make over \$50,000 a year.

For the sake of Hip Hop, I believe we have all continued to support the lifestyle in one form or another knowing the direction has been tainted. For those of us who have fought so hard for Hip Hop, it's hard to turn around and fight against it. But part of our responsibility is to admit when we are wrong. Words

have transcending power and we can not ignore the effects this has had on our children and our culture as a whole.

All we have to do is pledge to use our power to influence success in areas where it is needed. Why limit ourselves to negative images and tough talk, when we can expand our reach and be change agents?

*Jineea Butler, founder of the Social Services of Hip Hop and the Hip Hop Union is a Hip Hop Analyst who investigates the trends and behaviors of the community and delivers programming that solves the Hip Hop Dilemma. She can be reached at [jineea@gmail.com](mailto:jineea@gmail.com) or Tweet her at @flygirladyjay*

## HOME, continued from Page 1

levels in records dating back to 1970, according to the report.

"Between 2001 and 2010, the share of households aged 25-34 with student loan debt soared from 26 percent to 39 percent, with the median amount rising from \$10,000 to \$15,000 in real terms. Within this group, the share with at least \$50,000 in student debt more than tripled from five percent to 16 percent. For these borrowers, the need to pay off these out-sized loans will likely delay any move to homeownership."

For the ninth consecutive year, the rate of homeownership continues to decline. According to the Housing Vacancy Survey (HVS), it is the lowest level since 1995. Housing rentals, by contrast, show growth doubling the average pace in any decade since the 1960s. Between the 2005 peak in homeownership and 2013, more than 1 million new renters were added each year.

Whether owning a home or renting, however, nearly 41 million households are

now paying more than 30 percent of their income for housing – 1 million more than last year and 9 million more than a decade earlier. A household is considered 'housing burdened' when their monthly housing costs exceeds 30 percent of income. Severely housing burdened households where 50 percent or more of income is for housing, now number 5.8 million households.

The most cost-burdened households – whether renting or owning in 2012 – earned less than \$30,000 per year.

Working households would need to earn at least \$42,200 a year to afford the \$1,052 median monthly gross rent charged for new units built in the past four years – well above the income of many renters.

Further in 2012, there were only 3.3 million rental units that were affordable and available to 11.5 million extremely low-income households. The added factor of a \$3 billion sequestration cut in HUD's FY2013 budget, led to 42,000 fewer households receiving hous-

ing vouchers in 2013 than in 2012.

For Black consumers, the news doesn't get any better.

Looking to the future, the report observed, "If mortgage markets cannot accommodate the limited financial resources of this new generation of households, there is a real possibility that fewer Americans will be able to enjoy the benefits of homeownership in the future," states the report.

Calhoun spoke directly to the importance of shared prosperity through greater inclusion in homeownership and how the needs underserved communities and communities of color must be addressed.

"We have got to turn this around," said Calhoun. "Not just so we are serving everybody; but also because everybody is invested. The whole economy will be profoundly affected by how well we reverse this homeownership gap."

*Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).*

## NDG Book Review: *Strange Fruit* fills in history's blanks

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The history books you had in school last year almost put you to sleep.

It was filled with dates and stats, dead people, lost battles, and towns that aren't even around anymore. Who really cares about that stuff, anyway?

You should, so you can learn about that which has made your life easier. And in the new book *Strange Fruit* by Joel Christian Gill, you'll learn about people that history books have mostly forgotten.

Shortly after grad school, Joel Christian Gill did a series of paintings that he says "freed" him from the racism that his father and grandfather endured. But something was missing from his paintings: he was "coming up short" in storytelling.

That's when he started doing comics, telling stories of "obscure black history."

Take, for instance, Richard Potter.

Potter was born around 1783. After his father ensured his education, young Richard spent many years traveling and he became fascinated with magic tricks. He tried, practiced, learned, and tried again until he mastered several tricks and invented some of his own –



which eventually made him "very wealthy." And on his deathbed in 1835, he finally admitted something important: Richard Potter, America's first stage magician, was a black man.

After his emancipation, Theophilus Thompson worked as a janitor. One night, he noticed that his employer had a curious game set up on a table, and Thompson studied it. He figured out how to the strange game worked, and it didn't take long before he was playing competition

**See FRUIT, Page 15**

You are invited to worship with us  
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Guest Speaker: Pastor Victor Paul  
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"A Living Testimony of God's Goodness"



# Dawn of the Planet of the Apes is a spectacle

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

At the end of *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, the 2011 version of the classic 1968 ape movie, you were left with a haunting sense that humans had gone off their rockers and apes, the aggrieved, seemed saner. The premise for *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* is that neither species is perfect but maybe, though not probably, there is common ground. Endowing apes with human qualities, frailties and emotions is still an amazing spectacle 46 years after the original film.

The most fascinating aspect of this new entry is the simian colony that's created by director Matt Reeves (*Cloverfield*), production designer James Chinlund (*The Avengers*), set decorator Amanda Moss Serino, cinematographer Michael Seresin (*Harry Potter* and the *Prisoner of Azkaban*) and a team of astute art directors. Somewhere north of the Golden Gate Bridge, miles from San Francisco, which post-apocalypse is just a skeleton of itself, is a thriving ape community. It's something you've never seen before or could ever imagine. Using branches and sticks they've built an outpost, an outer world in Muir Woods, which looks like Sherwood Forest.

The 2000 inhabitants of the city/state are various orangutans, chimps and gorillas who have been trained and/or experimented on by humans. They can understand man's language. Their leader is Caesar (Andy Serkis); he's a survivor who has fashioned a kingdom where he teaches his brand of humanized governing to his followers, including his son Blue Eyes (Nick Thurston), the larger orange orangutan Maurice (Karin Konoval) and more forcibly so to his conniving lieutenant Koba (Toby Kebbell).

Back in San Francisco, in a makeshift fortress, are hundreds of human survivors of a deadly virus that has devastated the world. They are led by Dreyfus



(Gary Oldman), who is determined to find a new, much-needed energy source as he sends a team out to reconnoiter north of the bridge.

All is blissful in the forest until the interlopers invade looking for a dam that will provide a new power source. The initial encounter is rocky as a hot head human named Carver (Kirk Acevedo, TV's *Oz*) is involved in a deadly incident with a young simian. The apes surround the frightened human group, which is lead by Malcolm (Jason Clarke, *Zero Dark Thirty*), who is accompanied by his teenage son Alexander (Kodi Smit-McPhee, *The Road*), his ladyfriend Ellie (Keri Russell, TV's *Felicity*), who is a nurse, and Foster (Jon Eyez, *American Violet*) a muscular type. And so begins a series of misunderstandings, peace initiatives, trust issues and power plays that leads the simians and humans down a dangerous path.

Anytime the camera is focused on the simians, the film is simply mesmerizing. Their makeshift hierarchy is as raw and primal as that of the boys in the novel "Lord of the Flies." A coarse but purposeful central governing dynamic keeps order. The apes' interactions often mimic human behavior, traits you might take for granted. Love, father-son relationships, jealousy, envy, fear, anger, scheming...

The smart script (Rick Jaffa,

Amanda Silver, Mark Bomback) is filled with drama, action and missteps that snowball into revenge and carnage. Watching it evolve keeps you in a state of constant wonder. The well-crafted dialogue is sometimes prophetic or profound: Koba to Caesar after the empathetic leader has chastised him for being too aggressive: "I would do anything you ask, but we must show strength." Later, Caesar warns Koba, "Ape not kill ape."

The hairy mammals steal the movie. Andy Serkis, Toby Kebbell and Nick Thurston play out the dynamics of the simians with all the dramatics of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. Their performances are indelible. Co-credit the makeup department and the special effects team (Joe Letteri is the senior visual effects supervisor in charge of Weta Digital) for making them seem so real. Clarke is decent as the lead human with a heart, but not uniquely impressive. Ditto Russell, Smit-McPhee and Oldman. Kirk Acevedo as the duplicitous Carver stands out; he's playing a pivotal, trouble-starting character that you will hate. That's the mark of an actor who knows how to get under your skin.

If there is one wrinkle in the movie, it's that the very evenly measured drama, three-dimensional characters and the stunning ape habitat outshine the decently directed action scenes. By film's

end, you may wish you had seen just one out-of-this-world, mind-boggling action sequence that made you gasp for air. That said, *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* is still the best big budget summer movie of 2014.

At the end of *Rise of the Planet*

of the Apes there was a vision of Caesar in a tree that was haunting. At this chapter's conclusion, Caesar hints at what may happen next. Perhaps the ultimate inter-species battle? Bring it.

Visit NNPA Film Critic Dwight Brown at [DwightBrownInk.com](http://DwightBrownInk.com).

## Win tickets to the Mesquite ProRodeo

The "Rodeo Capital of Texas" has kicked off its 56th season in 2014.

It's 7:30 p.m. every Friday and Saturday until August 2. Now you can win tickets to the Rodeo!

The Mesquite ProRo-

deo Series is sanctioned by the PRCA and counts for World Championship points. This is "Where Legends Begin!"

In addition to world champion cowboys, each week features specialty act entertainment from

Whiplash the Cowboy Monkey to RFD-TV stars; The Cowgirl Chicks.

Rodeo cowboys compete for a berth in the Series Championship. Mesquite ProRodeo includes sports action mixed with

delightful comedy and specialty entertainment. Special events like pony rides, mutton bustin, and calf scramble are always a highlight with the kids.

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# Supreme Court seeks to gut labor unions

By Bill Fletcher  
NNPA Columnist

The Supreme Court's decision in the case of *Harris v Quinn* essentially means that personal care attendants who are represented by a union do not need to pay a service fee that would cover the cost of representing and advocating on their behalf. The Supreme Court's

conservative majority justified this decision purportedly on the basis of freedom of speech.

What is clear is that the Supreme Court's conservative majority has a sniper's scope trained on workers and unions. They will soon aim to eliminate the ability of labor unions to collect service fees from non-members to cover representation. The

implications of this are profound but a little context is necessary.

In the public sector, there are many states, counties and municipalities that permit union membership and collective bargaining, but do not require that employees in a given agency join the union. While they may join the union, they are obligated — if there is such an agreement — to pay a serv-

ice or agency fee. The idea here is that regardless of whether one is a union member or not, the union is obligated by law to represent fairly and fully all workers in what is called a "bargaining unit," which is a recognized body of workers who share similar interests.

This means that whether a given worker likes the union or not, if

they have any challenges, the union must represent them. As you can imagine, representation costs money, including legal fees, cost of staff, administrative costs, etc. Additionally, the union lobbies on behalf of those workers around salaries, benefits and working conditions. Thus, in the

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## CURTIS, continued from Page 5

yard signs, no door hangers, not a mention in any official Republican publications. Your inaction with the conservative black candidate, Mr. Lawson, is shameful Wade. I suggest this to the readership.

Look at all the social media photos of Wade Emmert. Wade, it's amazing how you find plenty of time to smile with all the other white North Dallas candidates, but not one photo ever with Mr. Lawson appears on your page, nor with any other black conservative candidate. Come on Wade, we all have at least one black conservative friend. Wade, would standing next to Mr. Lawson offend you? Don't worry Wade, his conservatism won't rub off on you.

I present to you this, a black conservative republi-

can who has won his primary in the Texas State Senate District 23 and the establishment Republican party won't give any assistance to this strong conservative fighting against his well-financed liberal opponent.

This situation is incompetence at best and racism at worst. Wade Emmert should resign.

**Charge two:** The Dallas County Republican leadership's attempts to undermine the legitimate campaign of the black conservative candidate in Texas State Senate District 23.

This has set back many of the limited gains that the Dallas county republican party may have made with minority voters over the last decade. It is clear that Wade's failure to support this black conservative can-

didate will negate the limited gains made at the voting booth.

It in essence will allow Dallas County to stay blue longer and with good justification. I cannot in good conscience encourage any black voter to cast a ballot for a Republican while Wade remains at the leadership role in Dallas County. His words are a sham, a rouse that talks in double-speak but the situation remains the same. What do you think black voters are taking from your disregard

for this black candidate that won his primary and your failure to support him? There are no words to justify your position.

The causation of your biased approach toward this black conservative has a negative and demeaning effect on the black electorate. Your actions, Wade, re-enforces the justification of black liberal voters not to vote for a conservative, and it alienates black conservatives and others from the establishment Republican party. Wade Emmert, your

continued role as chair will cost votes.

Wade Emmert, you should resign.

**Charge three:** Wade Emmert has lost the moral authority of governance.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. taught us that the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice. Wade, any policy that you pursue that is based on bias, personal animosity, or anger is wrong.

Your utter contempt and disregard for this legitimate black conservative candi-

date is, in my opinion, racism, and our party, our country, and our hearts can have no place for that. You are wrong, Wade, and in your heart you know it. I know that honest men and women will now take a stand against you and raise up for what is right: To correct the injustice that your policies have created. All true patriots must oppose your continuance as Dallas county chair.

Wade, you must resign.

You can reach Barry Curtis via *TheCurtisReport.com*.

## Hey Irving, Pick Us Up!

You can find a copy of the North Dallas Gazette at any one of these fine businesses and organizations. Be sure to pick up a copy every week to stay on top of the issues important to the Irving area in particular and the DFW African American community as a whole.

**Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce**  
5201 N. O'Connor Blvd., Ste. 100

**Iglesia Santa Marie de Guadalupe**  
2601 S. MacArthur

**The Chateau on Wildbriar Lake**  
1515 Hard Rock Rd

**Bombay Sizzlers**  
397 East Las Colinas Blvd, Ste. 180

**Le Peep**  
4835 N. O'Connor Blvd.

**Mattito's Tex Mex**  
1001 MacArthur Park Drive

**Taqueria El Tacazo**  
1150 W. Pioneer Drive

**Capistrano's Café & Catering**  
4650 W. Airport Frwy

**Empress of China**  
2648 N. Beltline Rd.

**The Spirit Grille**  
4030 N. MacArthur Blvd #112

**El Rancho Restaurant**  
1210 E. Irving Blvd

**504 Salon**  
3414 W. Rochelle

**Irving YMCA**  
220 W. Irving Blvd

**Mitchell's Barbershop**  
4020 N. Beltline Rd

**Roy's Pawn Shop**  
635 E. Irving Blvd

**Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church "The Green"**  
3329 Country Club West

**Irving Islamic Center Valley Ranch - Valley Ranch Masjid**  
9940 Valley Ranch Pkwy W.

**Irving Salvation Army**  
1140 E. Irving Blvd

**Antioch Christian Church**  
2043 W. Walnut Hill Ln

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300 Pamela Drive

**Lively Pointe Youth Center**  
909 N. O'Connor Rd

**Mustang Park Recreation Center**  
2223 Kinwest Pkwy

**Northwest Park Recreation Center**  
2800 Cheyenne St.

**Senter Park Recreation Center**  
907 S. Senter Rd

**Austin Recreation Center**  
825 E. Union Bower Rd.

**Houston Recreation Center**  
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201 Red River Trail

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135 S. Jefferson

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825 W. Irving Blvd

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**Emmanuel Baptist Missionary Church**  
511 Gilbert Road

**Ben Washington Baptist Church**  
3901 Frisco Ave

**Shepherd Church**  
615 W. Davis

**West Irving C.O.G.I.C.**  
4011 Conflans Road

**Bible Way Baptist Church**  
4215 N. Greenvine Dr.

**Strictly Business**  
4159 W. Northgate

**Washateria**  
3712 Cheyenne Street  
**New Life Ministries**  
3706 Cheyenne Street

**Elisha Mane Attractions**  
3704 Cheyenne Street

**Bear Creek Community Church**  
2700 Finley Rd.

**Evergreen Baptist Church**  
3329 W. Country Club Drive  
**Po' Boys Restaurant**  
4070 N. Beltline Rd. Ste. 100

**Girl Friends Africa**  
4070 N. Beltline Rd. Ste. 134

**VW Barbershop**  
4070 N. Beltline Rd. Ste. 143

**Northlake College**  
2000 College Blvd Bldg. A

**Antioch Christian Church**  
2041 West Walnut Hill

**Kasbah Grill**  
2851 Esters Rd

**Fresh Food Store**  
4020 W. Northgate Drive

**Lee's Catfish**  
1911 Esters Road

**Danal's Mexican Restaurant**  
508 N. O'Connor Rd

**Fred's Pit Barbecue**  
808 E. Irving Blvd

**Gary's Barbershop**  
2117 Story Rd.

**African Village Restaurant**  
3000 N. Beltline Rd

**New Look Barbershop**  
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# Nelson Mandela Day celebration planned at St. Luke on Friday

The community is invited to attend the celebration of Nelson Mandela International Day, in Dallas.

The organizers are hopeful people throughout the Metroplex will be inspired to do good works for others. This year's celebration will be held at St. Luke "Community" United Methodist

Church on Friday, July 18, from 6-8 p.m.

This commemorative day of service is held each year on July 18 as an annual call to action to people everywhere to contribute to the global movement for good by affecting change within their communities. Volunteers across North Texas are

being asked to provide 67 minutes of public service in honor of the 67 years Nelson Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity; as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker and the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa.



# Third annual Dallas Hip-Hop Dance Festival scheduled for July 25-26

Dancers from Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and other cities/states around the United States, take the stage in a couple of weeks to bring you the 3rd Annual Dallas Hip-Hop Dance Festival on Saturday, July 26, 2014 at the historic Texas Theatre.

The Dallas Hip-Hop Dance Festival, also known as DHDF, is a platform for hip hop dancers of all ages, representing all styles of hip hop in its truest form.



Dancers may participate in the show in one of two categories – competitor or exhibitionist.

DHDF aspires to show-

case professional pieces by choreographers with a unique vision and a true passion for dance, and is the only show of its kind in the greater Dallas area.

With three returning title holders, DHDF 2014 promises to bring you stylistically innovative choreography along with creative pieces and exceptional performers in this dance form brought to life in the African American community, but which is now practiced by a wide range of

people of many ethnicities around the world.

The events July 25 – 26 include:

- Battle — Dallas Power House of Dance, 12300 Inwood Rd, #110, Dallas, TX 75244
  - Workshop — Double-Tree by Hilton, 1981 N Central Expy, Richardson, TX 75080
  - The Show — Texas Theater, 231 W Jefferson Blvd, Dallas, TX 75208
- For tickets, visit [www.dallashiphopfest.com](http://www.dallashiphopfest.com).

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## Free cat adoptions in Irving through end of July

The Irving Animal Care Campus (IACC) is offering free cat adoptions during the month of July.

Only cats one year and older are part of the promotion.

The IACC is experiencing some of the highest animal intake numbers on

record this year, and staff members are eager to match wonderful cats with wonderful, forever families.

To view animals available for adoption, visit [cityofIrving.org/animal-services](http://cityofIrving.org/animal-services). For more information, call the Animal Shelter at (972) 721-2256.

## SUPREME, continued from Page 11

absence of a fee, a worker can benefit from all that the union brought about but pay nothing. This is why agency or service fees are permitted.

The Supreme Court's conservative majority is trying to say that this is a violation of free speech. Thus, using the Supreme Court's logic, a person working in a given situation who gains the benefits of a labor union and can be guaranteed representation, should not have to pay anything. This is frequently called "right to work," but a more accurate description is freeloading.

Think about it for a moment. Is there any other institution in the U.S. that permits this? If you do not agree with the policies of a government, can you choose not to pay taxes yet gain the benefits of public education, water, police and fire? Of course, not. So, why should it be different in a collective bargaining context?

The answer is simple. The Supreme Court's conservative majority, along with other forces on the political Right, simply wish to gut labor unions. It is really that simple and that deadly. And, unless they are stopped, they will succeed in doing just that.

I was wearing a T-shirt the other day from the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. A guy sitting next to me on a plane said to me: "Yes, we really need unions. At a time when there is such a polarization of wealth, we really need

unions to fight for us." I smiled. It is not rocket science. Which is precisely why the forces of wealth and greed are so determined to bring about an extinction moment for unions.

*Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a racial justice, labor and global justice writer and activist. He is the author of "They're Bankrupting Us" – And Twenty Other Myths about Unions. Follow him on Facebook and at [www.billfletcherjr.com](http://www.billfletcherjr.com).*

## ROMEO, continued from Page 7

"One day when he was only four years old, Romeo was looking at the medals his uncle has earned in track and told me, 'One day I am going to get some too!'" she shared.

And now Romeo has delivered on that promise. She pointed out, you never know what children pay attention to and how it grows in their heart.

At the qualifying preliminaries Romeo earned honors in the following races:

Boys 100 Meter Dash 8 & Under he finished 2nd in a field of 19 runners;

He received third place in the Boys 50 Meter Dash 8 & Under running against 19 other racers; and

He received third place in the Boys 200 Meter Dash 8 & Under.

This is quite an accomplishment for a first time competitor.

The North Dallas Ga-



A victorious Romeo Jackson

zette team wishes young Romeo more victories in the upcoming TAAF Games at the end of the month, and academically this year at school!

*Editor's Note: If you would like to share a photo and special accomplishment of your child – academic, athletics or something else – feel free to submit to [editor@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:editor@northdallasgazette.com).*



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You're invited to join us in our Sunday Fellowship Services as we worship and praise God for His blessings.

**July 23**  
Join us in our Wednesday Morning Bible Class at 10:30 a.m. and/or our Evening Bible Class at 7 p.m.

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

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972-492-4300  
www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

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CHURCH  
IN RICHARDSON**

**July 20, 8:45 or 11 a.m.**  
Join us in our Morning Service as we worship, honor and praise God for His blessings to us.

**July 23, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our Wednesday Night Bible Study to learn more about the Word of God.

Dr. Terrence Autry, Senior Pastor  
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0567 or they may be submitted via email to: prayer-line@theship3c.org

**July 20**  
Join us for Sunday Worship Services at 9:30 a.m. at 1550 Edelweiss Drive in Allen and bring someone with you. You will be blessed.

**July 23**  
You're invited to our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live Prayer and Bible Study and/or our Wednesday Night Live Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word at Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall at our 200 W. Belmont Drive location.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed.D.  
Senior Pastor  
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In Allen for Sunday Morning Worship.  
Admin. Building Address  
Is 200 W. Belmont Drive  
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www.theship3c.org

**BIBLE WAY  
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**July 20, 7:35 a.m.**  
Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services; and receive a blessing from God.

**July 23, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our Wednesday Bible Study to learn more about God's word and how it can lead and guide you.

Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Pastor  
4215 North Greenview Drive

Irving, TX 75062  
972-257-3766  
www.biblewayirving.org

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**July 20**  
Join us in our Sunday School at 8:30 a.m. and to stay for our Sunday prayer at 9:30 a.m. and our Worship Service at 10 a.m.

**August 22-24**  
You're invited and welcomed to our 10th Annual Women's Conference. Theme: "Somebody Ought to Say Something." Proverbs 14:1

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300 Chisholm Place  
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**NORTH DALLAS  
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**July 20, 11 a.m.**  
You're invited to join us and bring a friend as we honor Pastor Billy & Mrs. Shelley Robinson; and celebrate our 14th Church Anniversary. Our guest speaker is Pastor Victor Paul, Greater First Baptist Church, Bartlesville, OK.

Pastor Billy R. Robinson  
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Carrollton, TX 75006  
972-484-1185  
www.ndcbc.org

**RHEMA LIFE  
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**July 20, 10 a.m.**  
Join us for our Praise and

Worship Service. Come and bring someone with you.

Rev. James W. Thomas, Pastor/Founder  
3801 K Avenue  
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You're invited to our Chosen Generation Youth Ministry's 2nd Annual "Going H.A.R.D. for Jesus." This will be an exciting and inspirational youth and parent's conference of worship in the Word of God; the nursery will be open both days. Friday night starts at 6:30 p.m. with our Youth Explosion featuring our Fine Arts Ministries.

Saturday's breakfast starts at 8 a.m. with focus classes starting at 9 a.m. follow by lunch and guest speaker, Minister Jeffrey Johnson II from Eastern Star Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Indiana. Call 972-423-6695 or email youth@smbcplano.org.

**July 20, 8 a.m.**  
Join us this Sunday for

Morning Services as we worship God for His blessings. Also, we will have a blood pressure screening for members and visitors at 9:45 a.m.

**July 23, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word.

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

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**July 20,  
7:30 and 11:30 a.m.**  
You're invited to join us as we worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

**July 21, 7 p.m.**  
Join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

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# A successful first mega family reunion



Send email to: [salesmanager@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:salesmanager@northdallasgazette.com) to sign up for Sister Tarpley's weekly electronic newsletter.

Usually, June through September every year or every two years, there are family planned reunions all over the USA.

There were two family reunions that I attended this year. The Baker's and Smith's families annual reunion, my maternal side, in Mexia, Texas; this reunion has been going on for 66 years.

And my paternal side, the Demus'; also in Mexia Texas, has been going on for approximately 32 years.

For the first time, the Demus' planned a mega family reunion with family members attending from every state in the U.S.A. and some parts of Africa. I met and I value the rich heritage that each family member brought to our precious history.

At the Demus Mega reunion which was hosted by the Demus' from Dallas and Mexia, Texas on July 10-13, 2014, I heard many family members exclaimed, "I didn't

know that I had so many family members and especially in my area!"

"Oh, I had heard some talk about our family in Texas getting together each year, but these cousins live here, close to me!" "Some have lived just a block or two away and I didn't know them."

"Will you look at this man, lady, boy or girl, they look just like Aunt Margie, Uncle James, Cousin Solomon, Cousin Katie's grandson, granddaughter, etc., this is 'unbelievable,' a cousin's favorite word at the reunion."

Family members continued to say the same things, so my siblings and I, started saying, "It's in the blood!" Nothing more needed to be said.

All the glory and honor belong to God. Also, I appreciate all committee members who worked extremely hard for two years preparing for our 1st mega reunion. Congratulations to my family on our very successful 1st mega family reunion.

There is a saying that says, you don't know where you are going until you know where you have been. As youngsters we don't know how to appreciate and value our ancestors.

We fail to fully comprehend that if it had not been for our ancestors, we would not exist.

We also fail to realize that we are the total sum of all of our ancestors; and that our "special gift," be it singing, dancing, being a comedian, acting, preaching, teaching, nursing, being a doctor, playing a musical instrument, etc. can be traced directly back to them.

The family reunion officially ended Sunday, July 13, with words of encouragement from our cousin, Bishop Carl E. Morgan

from Dallas, Texas. His topic came from John 3:1-8. There was a Man Named Nicodemus."

A family reunion is another excellent time to teach your children their rich history and introduce them to other family members.

Remember always, if God brings you to it, He will bring you through it. And, in happy or sad moments, praise God. In difficult moments, seek God. In quiet moments, worship God. In painful moments, trust God. In every moment, thank God.



Sister Tarpley with cousins Lorraine Thomas from Wilmington, Delaware and Sherry Gambrell from Dallas, Texas

## FRUIT, continued from Page 6

chess – and winning! He even wrote a book about it... and then one day, he vanished. Rumors swirled around his disappearance, but Thompson was never seen again.

In this book, you'll learn about The Black Cyclone who started his biking career due to a great kindness from "family" and later, lay in an unmarked grave for more than seventy years. You'll read two letters from a man determined to save his daughter from slavery.

You'll learn about the baddest U.S. Marshall that ever lived – so bad that he even jailed his own son. And you'll read the sad, sad story of the Malagites who lost their home off the coast of Massachusetts a mere century ago...

Are you always on your child to READ SOMETHING, anything, except a comic book? Well, *Strange Fruit* is a graphic

novel, and you'll want him to read it.

Through the art of the cartoon, author Joel Christian Gill tells nine stories of African Americans who did something astounding for the time in which they lived, thereby making a difference that resonates today.

These fascinating tales are somewhat marred by weird mini-vocabulary lessons, but that stops early-on and the tales get more meaningful as things progress. Ultimately, I liked this book because I think it speaks to kids who want their learning more on the arty side.

There's really no reason (except for font size) that an adult can't enjoy this book, but it's more meant for 12-to-17-year-olds. For teens who don't know enough about history, in fact, *Strange Fruit* will wake them up.

## Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

Serving the Plano Community for 128 Years  
Founded 1884  
920 E 14th Street Plano, TX



Isiah Joshua, Jr.  
Pastor



**2013 Theme:**  
SMBC: A church Focused on Excellence while Teaching the Word, Preaching the Gospel, Reaching the World

**Worship Times:** 8 and 11 a.m.  
**Sunday School:** 9:45 a.m.  
**Mid-week:** Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Youth Church:** Every 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sunday at 10:45 a.m.  
**AWANA:** Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
**Contact Information:** 972-423-6695  
[www.smbcplano.org](http://www.smbcplano.org)

**Bible Way Community Baptist Church**  
4215 N. Greenview Dr. • Irving, TX 75062  
972-257-3766  
*The place where Jesus Christ is Lord and the Word of God Transforms lives*  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 A.M.  
Sunday Worship ..... 11:30 A.M.  
Wed Bible Study ..... 7:30 P.M.  
Daily Radio broadcast: KGGR 1040  
10:00 A.M. – 10:25 A.M.  
[www.biblewayirving.org](http://www.biblewayirving.org)

**TBOC**  
PASTOR: DR. JAMES L. BROWN  
SUNDAY: 10:00 AM  
WEDNESDAY: 7:00 PM  
THURSDAY: 7:00 PM  
FRIDAY: 7:00 PM  
SATURDAY: 7:00 PM  
SUNDAY: 10:00 AM  
WEDNESDAY: 7:00 PM  
THURSDAY: 7:00 PM  
FRIDAY: 7:00 PM  
SATURDAY: 7:00 PM

**Avenue F Church of Christ**  
1026 Avenue F • Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-8833  
[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  
Wednesday Bible Class ..... 7:00 pm  
Radio Program @ 7:30 am on  
KHVN 970 AM Sunday Mornings

**COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**  
330 E. Princeton Avenue, Suite 100, Plano, TX 75074  
Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 11:15 am  
Wednesday Prayer: 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm  
[mbcf.org](http://mbcf.org) 972-437-3491



## The key to safety.



Right now at General Motors, we're working hard to repair the vehicles involved in the ignition recall. If you are driving an affected vehicle, until the repairs have been performed, there's one simple step you can take to make driving your vehicle safe and worry-free.

### **Use a single key.**

It is very important that you remove all items from your key ring, including your key fob, leaving only the vehicle key. Our engineers have run extensive tests to make sure the weight of a single key can't move the switch to the wrong position.

Also, before exiting the vehicle, make sure the vehicle is in "Park," or for a manual transmission, put the transmission into reverse gear. In both automatic and manual transmission cars, set the parking brake. And please remember to always fasten your seat belt.

We want you to know we're working to make it right. Until then, there's one simple step you can take to make driving your vehicle safe and worry-free.

### **Use a single key.**

For more information, please visit [GMIgnitionUpdate.com](http://GMIgnitionUpdate.com) or call 1-800-222-1020.

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