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Author shines light on true unconditional love

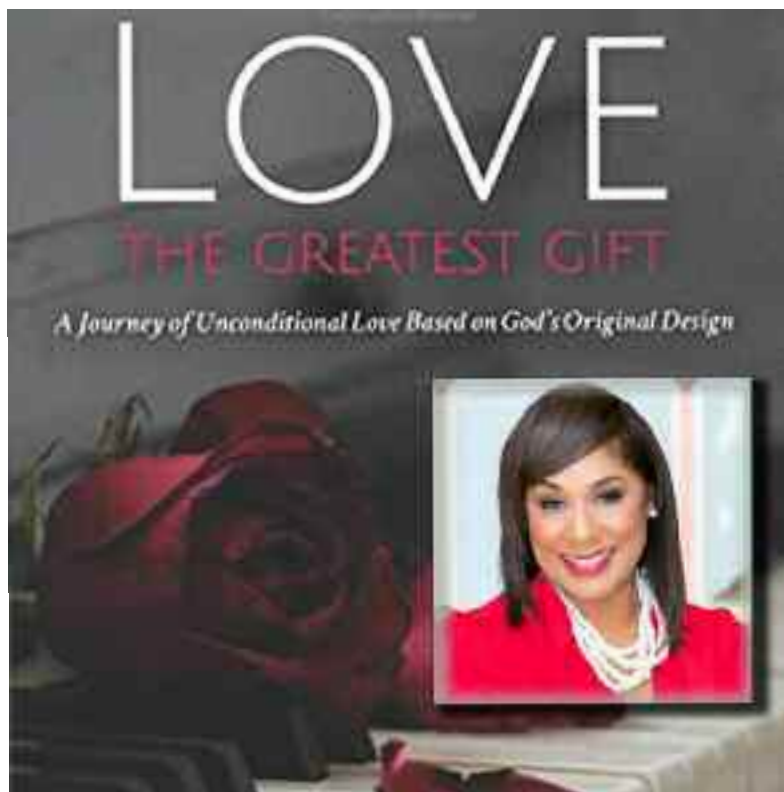
By Jackie Hardy
NDG Contributing Writer

"Love: The Greatest Gift", is a book written by leading author and consultant Jacqueline Camphor. In her newly released book, Camphor writes about the principles and power of unconditional love and the challenges to love unconditionally in a digital age and social media driven culture.

"With a culture that banks on legal systems as an alternative option for finding love and marriage elsewhere should love prove not to meet certain conditions, 'Love: The Greatest Gift' dispels the lies that have been told about conditional loving and encourages a biblical view of forever love," she adds in a written response to *North Dallas Gazette*.

The over encompassing message Camphor hopes readers will walk away with after reading her book is coming to understand God's design for living a life of unconditional love.

"I hope readers will gain a deeper understanding of what love truly is and fearlessly live it out in their personal lives. I hope they will gain forgiveness and healing from any past relationship hurts and be free to give and receive love at its highest capacity," she



explains.

Camphor shares her personal journey to fully coming to accept and practice unconditional love.

"I had felt God leading me to be a catalyst of change for healthy, loving relationships several years ago, but didn't know at the time what the channel of communication would be for such a platform," she adds.

Camphor's journey has been like

many where she, an accomplished business owner and respected community-service leader, felt empty in spite of all of her personal and professional accomplishments.

She explains, "I had reached a point in my life where I had given so much of my love away that I

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No charges for Irving student

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Jumbo-sized portions lead to overeating

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Plano Balloon Fest this weekend

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COMMENTARY

Obama is no lame duck president

By George E. Curry
NNPA Columnist

Almost as surprising as Barack Obama's election as the nation's first African American president is his success in not becoming a lame duck president, a term normally applied to a politically weakened outgoing president's last two years in office.

Few presidents have been as lame as George W. Bush, who was largely

dismissed in his last two years in office and so unpopular that Republicans did not want him to show up at the last Republican national convention of his tenure for fear of harming the GOP's chances of winning the White House in 2008. Bush, acting as though he was in the federal witness protection program, didn't appear, but that did not alter the outcome of the election.

Given the GOP's ex-
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Jacquie Pitman



Tyler Seguin



Dr. Michael Hinojosa

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Jacqui Pitman

Burbank, CA - Veteran television casting director Jacqui Pitman is a true powerhouse in the reality TV world when it comes to finding the right talent for some of TV's hottest shows.

Most recently, her agency, Pitman Casting Inc., has been selected by Screaming Flea Productions, the producers of the critically acclaimed television series "Hoarders," to conduct a nationwide casting search for a new groundbreaking television series which asks "Were you born into the wrong race?" Pitman is in search



of people who genuinely feel they were born into the wrong racial group. Selected parties, who truly believe they have been misidentified racially, will appear on the thought provoking series airing on a

major cable network. Screaming Flea Productions, one of the country's leading producers of non-fiction programming, will produce the series.

The casting call, which is open to all nationalities, is a particularly sensitive one in light of recent current events.

Both Rachel Dolezal, the former president of a local NAACP chapter and Shaun King, a prominent leader in the Black Lives Matter movement, have instigated far reaching conversation and made mainstream news headlines with unresolved issues concerning racial ambiguity. Both parties

have been accused of masquerading as African American.

Interested persons of all races, who are experiencing a racial identity crisis, should apply by Friday, September 25, 2015 at https://pitmancastinginc.com/mstack.com/forms/race_project or call 818-666-3606 for more details.

"The conversation of race has become an increasingly hot topic in the US and abroad," asserts Pitman. "With the outing of Rachel Dolezal, more and more people have come forward with claims that they too are experiencing a similar kind of racial identity phenome-

non.

It is our hope that this project will give a face and a greater understanding to those who feel like they were born in the wrong skin and until now have been too afraid to admit it.

Our intention is that the show will garner a better acceptance of people who feel unable to live an authentic life as who they believe they really are, despite what society might dictate."

Pitman Casting, a full service, reality television casting company, has provided talent for some of TV's hottest shows, including Syfy's "Face Off," Spike's "Framework,"

"VH1's "Naked Dating," Bravo's "Who Wants to be a Supermodel?" and Discovery's "Dual Survival."

For 18 years, Screaming Flea Productions has been creating content with a list of hits that includes not only A&E's "Hoarders" but also "Sell This House," "The Legend of Mick Dodge" on the National Geographic Channel, Oxygen's "My Shopping Addiction," and "Biography" on Bio.

For additional information, contact Pitman Casting at pitmancasting.com/, via email at Race@pitmancasting.com or call 818-666-3606.

Tyler Seguin

Klyde Warren Park announced this week the judges for Park & Palate's signature Friday event, Down to the Roots, will be Amanda Freitag, Food Network star and cookbook author; Patricia Sharpe, restaurant critic for Texas Monthly; and Tyler Seguin, NHL All-Star and current Dallas Stars player.

"We are thrilled to see such a talented group of people come together to support Klyde Warren Park and to ensure that Park & Palate is a truly fun and memorable event," said Erika White, VP of events and programs at



Klyde Warren Park. "We can't wait for the big weekend!"

In addition to participating as a judge in Down to the Roots on Friday night, Amanda Freitag will also host the very first signing of

her book, which is scheduled to be released later this month, The Chef Next Door: A Pro Chef's Recipes for Fun, Fearless Home Cooking. Freitag, one of New York's most celebrated chefs, is a judge of Food Network's Chopped as well as the co-host, alongside Ty Pennington, of American Diner Revival. Freitag's book will be available for purchase and to be signed during the Grand Tasting on Saturday afternoon.

Freitag will judge Friday's Down to the Roots event along with popular Dallas Stars player, Tyler Seguin. Seguin is a Canadian professional ice hockey player and

Stanley Cup Champion known as a philanthropist and outdoorsman, driving him to give back during Klyde Warren Park's inaugural fundraising event.

Patricia Sharpe, the third judge for Down to the Roots, grew up in Austin, Texas and holds a master's degree in English from the University of Texas at Austin. After working as a teacher and at the Texas Historical Commission, she joined the staff of Texas Monthly in 1974 where she has remained reviewing restaurants in her column Pat's Pick in addition to contributing to Gourmet, Bon Appétit, Saveur, and the New York Times.

The voice of Park & Palate, Scott Murray, has more than 35 years of experience as a multi-Emmy-Award-winning broadcast journalist and TV/radio host, in addition to emceeding live events and galas in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Murray is currently the host of the weekly TV program, Conversations with Scott Murray on KTXD-TV and host of The Scott Murray Show on KLIF 570 Radio. Murray stays active in the North Texas community as a volunteer, serving on the board/advisory boards of many children's, civic, charitable and non-profit organizations, now able to add the

Woodall Rodgers Park Foundation to his roster of deserving charities.

Popular roots-rock group, Paul Thorn Band will provide entertainment during Down to the Roots. Thorn and his faithful band who have been together more than 20 years create a funky sound, intertwining drum, keyboard, and slinky guitar lines under his playful banter – perfect for the evening filled with comfort foods and cocktail tastings.

DJ Lucy Wrubel, a world-traveled DJ based in Dallas and named "One of the Top Ten DJs in Dallas" by D

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Dr. Michael Hinojosa

The Dallas Independent School District Board of Trustees (Dallas ISD) has named Dr. Michael Hinojosa as the lone finalist to serve as superintendent of schools.

The Trustees will now wait 21 days as required by law before making the appointment final. Hinojosa will continue serving as interim superintendent of Dallas ISD during that time.

"Our board is pleased to have Dr. Hinojosa back in a permanent capacity. In just a brief time since his return, he has proven to be the steady and experienced hand needed to guide Dallas ISD," said Board President Eric Cowan. "Dr. Hinojosa is committed to working with the Trustees as we



work to graduate students that are college and career ready. We have much work to do, and we are all ready to get started."

Hinojosa previously served as Dallas ISD superintendent from 2005–2011. During that time, the district graduation rate improved five consecutive years, voters approved a \$1.35 billion

bond program, and the district opened several new schools, including Trinidad "Trini" Garza Early College High School, New Tech High School at A. Maceo Smith, and the Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy. In addition, Hinojosa worked with the board to lay the foundation for the district's new teacher evaluation system that later became the Teacher Excellence Initiative.

"I am honored and excited to work alongside the talented leadership team, school leaders, and teachers as we work to prepare all students to be college and career ready," Hinojosa said. "We will continue toward making Dallas ISD a premier urban school system."

"We are pleased to hear

that trustees have chosen Mr. Hinojosa to lead DISD," said Monica Lindsey, education campaign leader with Texas Organization Project. "As an organization committed to working with parents and students to improve our schools, especially those in greatest need, we look forward to working with him to make this happen.

"What we need most right now is a leader who sees parents and students as partners in crafting and implementing proven policy solutions, such as community schools. Also, we must examine and fix failed policies that have led to high teacher and principal turnover. Schools need stability to flourish. Hopefully, Mr. Hinojosa will bring that to DISD."

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Trump attacks immigrants of color

By Bill Fletcher, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

I want to address this column quite explicitly to African Americans. If you are not African American, please feel free to read this, however. When you hear Donald Trump wail against immigrants, I hope that you understand that he is also talking about you.

I realize that many African Americans – too many, as far as I am concerned – believe that immigrants from Asia and Latin America are the source of our economic problems.

They are not, but I will get to that in a moment. What is more urgent, however, is that we appreciate that what Trump and others are doing is not really crusading against immigrants but crusading against people of color.

Let's think about this for a moment. Trump attacks Mexicans, quite explicitly, suggesting that they are bringing crime to the U.S. Well, the facts prove otherwise. Immigrants, legal or undocumented, are less likely to be criminals. But let's stick with this for a moment. If, for the sake of

argument, Trump wanted to make a case against immigrants, why does he not once mention Russians? The Russian mafia is known to be among the most dangerous criminal outfits in the U.S.A. So, if we are talking about immigrants bringing in crime, why not the Russians?

There is a very simple reason. The issue with immigrants, for people such as Trump, is not that they are immigrants but that they are immigrants of color. There is a fear among a section of the White population that the U.S. will soon cease to

be a predominantly White country and that all hell will break loose. For completely opportunistic reasons they want to enlist you – African Americans – in this battle against immigrants of color.

It does not stop with immigrants of color. Trump is the person who would not let go of his “birther” allegations that President Barack Obama was, allegedly, not born here. This was aimed at suggesting that an African American could not be a legitimate president. Trump continued

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treme hostility toward Obama – with the open declaration by now-Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell [R-Kentucky] that his sole objective was to make Obama a one-term president – many expected Obama to be impotent as he limps out of office next year.

But they were in for a surprise as Obama transformed his campaign motto of “Yes, we can” to “Yes, we did.”

In the last year alone, Obama commuted the sentences of 46 prisoners incarcerated for nonviolent crimes, most of them drug related. He restored diplomatic relations with Cuba after a 50-year standoff, with each country reopening its embassy. President Obama issued an executive order allowing the parents of children born in the U.S. to remain in this country. He extended abortion coverage to Peace Corps volunteers who became pregnant as a result of rape, incest or life endangerment. And his administration raised the qualification for receiving overtime pay from \$23,660 to \$50,440.

Obama scored a major victory when, in the face of heated Republican opposition, he joined five other world leaders in curbing Iran's nuclear program. Practically all of the Republicans running for president

and their echo chamber, Fox News, have misrepresented the terms of the deal.

MediaMatters, the media watchdog group, provides extensive documentation in debunking myths created by conservative detractors. Among the myths:

MYTH: Iran Deal Makes The U.S. And Israel Less Safe

FACT: Experts Laud ‘Excellent’ Deal That Deprives Iran Of Pathways To Build Bomb

MYTH: Deal Will Allow Iran To Have A Nuclear Weapon After It Expires

FACT: Iran Is ‘Permanently’ Bound By Curbs On Ability To Obtain Nuclear Weapon, Even After Some Provisions Expire

MYTH: Sanctions Relief Will Greatly Increase Iran's Ability To Fund Terrorism

FACT: Experts Believe Iran Will Use Sanction Relief To Restart Economy, Say Terrorists Would Benefit More From Rejection Of Deal

MYTH: Secret Side Deal Allows Iran To Inspect Itself

FACT: Side Deal Concerns Only Past Activity At One Site — IAEA Has Ability To Ensure Iran's Full Compliance With Long-Term Deal

MYTH: Most Americans Don't Support Terms Of Iran Deal

FACT: Majority Sup-

ports The Iran Deal When Its Terms Are Explained

Criticism of Obama by conservatives was not unexpected. But Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman explains, “There's a different story on the left, where you now find a significant number of critics decrying Obama as, to quote Cornel West, someone who ‘posed as a progressive and turned out to be counterfeit.’ They're outraged that Wall Street hasn't been punished, that income inequality remains so high, that ‘neoliberal’ economic policies are still in place.”

But given Republican opposition to less ambitious goals presented by Obama, Krugman argues that Obama would have no success trying to advance such progressive ideals.

Krugman wrote recently in Rolling Stone magazine: “Despite bitter opposition, despite having come close to self-inflicted disaster, Obama has emerged as one of the most consequential and, yes, successful presidents in American history.

“His health reform is imperfect but still a huge step forward – and it's working better than anyone expected. Financial reform fell far short of what should have happened, but it's much more effective than you'd think. Economic management has been half-crippled by Republican obstruction, but has nonethe-

less been much better than in other advanced countries. And environmental policy is starting to look like it could be a major legacy.”

In a speech last October at Northwestern University, President Obama said he is proud of his accomplishments. He said, “When I took office, businesses were laying off 800,000 Americans a month. Today, our businesses are hiring 200,000 Americans a month. The unemployment rate has come down from a high of 10 percent in 2009, to 6.1 percent today. Over the past four and a half years, our businesses have created 10 million new jobs; this is the longest uninterrupted stretch of private sector job creation in our history.

“Think about that... Right now, there are more job openings than at any time since 2001. All told, the United States has put more people back to work than Europe, Japan, and every other advanced economy combined.”

From January 2009 to April, Black unemployment had declined from 12.7 percent to 9.6 percent, a decrease of 3.1 percent. Not ideal, but not lame.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of *Emerge* magazine, is editor-in-chief of the *National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA)* and *BlackPressUSA.com*.

Jumbo portions lead to overeating, study confirms

Researchers recommend curbs on size, availability of fattening foods

By Elizabeth Dallas

(HealthDay News) -- Larger portions and oversized tableware do contribute to overeating, a new study reports.

Eliminating jumbo servings of foods and beverages could reduce caloric intake among Americans by 29 percent, British researchers found.

"Helping people to avoid 'overserving' themselves or others with larger portions of food or drink by reducing their size, availability and appeal in shops, restaurants and in the home, is likely to be a good way of helping lots of people to reduce their risk of overeating," said the study's co-leader, Dr. Gareth Hollands, a behavior and health researcher at the University of Cam-



bridge.

Until now, the evidence for this effect has been fragmented, so the overall picture has been unclear, Hollands said in a university news release.

"There has also been a tendency to portray personal characteristics like being overweight or a lack of self-control as the main

reason people overeat," he added.

It has long been known that overeating leads to obesity, increasing your risk for serious chronic health issues, including heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

The researchers analyzed the results of 61 high-quality studies involving more than 6,700 participants. The

study, published Sept. 14 in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, found that people routinely offered larger portion sizes consistently ate more food and drank more non-alcoholic beverages.

This effect didn't vary much between men and women or by body mass index (a measure used to assess a healthy weight), the study authors said.

With improved portion control, daily energy consumed from food among U.S. adults would drop 22 to 29 percent (up to 527 calories a day), the investigators determined.

But new legislation and marketing tactics may be needed to help bring about significant reductions in food consumption, the study suggested.

Potential actions the study authors recommend include setting limits on the serving sizes of high-calorie foods and drinks -- such as desserts and sugary beverages -- and restricting the size of plates, bowls, utensils and glasses.

Putting large servings farther back on shelves, wrapping individual portions or visually indicating single-serving sizes might also help curb overeating, the study suggested.

The researchers also recommend restricting "bargain" pricing of fattening foods sold in larger portions or bulk sizes.

But how much such steps might help in the long-term remains to be seen, as the study doesn't prove that downsizing portions and packages will translate to

slimmer people.

"With the notable exception of directly controlling the sizes of the foods people consume, reliable evidence as to the effectiveness of specific actions to reduce the size, availability or appeal of larger-sized food portions is currently lacking and urgently needed," said Hollands.

He and study co-leader Ian Shemilt said they hope the current findings will spark a discussion on how these proposed changes can be implemented.

"At the moment, it is all too easy -- and often better value for money -- for us to eat or drink too much," said Shemilt in the news release.

SOURCE: University of Cambridge, news release, Sept. 14, 2015

Parkland screens over 150,000 patients for suicide risk in 2015

Did you know that in the United States 50 percent more people die by suicide each year than by homicide? Suicide risk may go unrecognized in individuals who present to hospitals for treatment of non-psychiatric issues. But when suicidal intent or risk is detected early, lives can be saved.

September 7 through September 13 is National Suicide Prevention Week, a time to raise awareness that suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States with one suicide occurring on average every 12.8 minutes. This year's theme is "Preventing Suicide: Reaching Out and Saving Lives."

At Parkland Health & Hospital System, officials recognize that every day provides an opportunity to identify, intervene and help save the lives of individuals with mental health problems that can trigger suicide attempts. To ensure that all patients receive mental health counseling they may need regardless of the reason for their visit to a Parkland provider, this year Parkland launched a unique

Suicide Risk Screening program.

The program is the first of its type in the nation, according to Kimberly Roaten, PhD, Director of Quality for Safety, Education and Implementation, Department of Psychiatry at Parkland and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. A clinical psychologist working with Parkland patients, Dr. Roaten is one of the leaders who developed the new program.

"The Joint Commission requires health care providers screen all patients with psychological problems for suicide risk," Dr. Roaten stated. "But we believe it's important to screen everyone because some of this risk may go undetected in a patient who presents for treatment of non-psychiatric symptoms."

In 2014 Parkland dedicated the resources needed to make this possible, which included hiring 12 psychiatric social workers, selecting a standardized and validated suicide screening instrument, building an algo-

rithm in the electronic health record that triggers the appropriate clinical intervention depending on the patient's answers to a few simple questions, and training all nursing staff to implement the program.

According to Celeste Johnson, DNP, APRN, PMH CNS, Director of Nursing, Psychiatric Services at Parkland, "We implemented suicide risk screening with all Emergency Department patients and hospital inpatients in February 2015. In late May, we transitioned from the previous screening program to the standardized suicide risk screening at all Parkland Community Oriented Primary Care health centers and also at the Correctional Health division for all inmates at the Dallas County Jail. Our goal is to screen every patient using proven screening tools that can help us save lives."

To date, Parkland has screened more than 100,000 patient encounters at the hospital and Emergency Department, and more than 50,000 patient visits in outpatient settings. Parkland

uses the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS), a validated screening tool, with adults 18 and over and the ASQ (Ask Suicide Screening Questionnaire) with 12- to 17-year-olds.

The Parkland algorithm sorts patients into three suicide risk categories based on their answers to the screening questions: no risk identified, moderate risk identified and high risk identified. Those at high risk are immediately placed under one-to-one supervision, suicide precautions are implemented and an evaluation by a behavioral health clinician is initiated. Patients at moderate risk are automatically referred to a psychiatric social worker and usually are seen during the same visit. If a patient chooses not to speak with a psychiatric social worker during the visit, they will receive a follow-up phone call to provide additional support and resources.

Patients may come in with a sprained ankle or sore throat, but if their suicide risk screening shows that they are at moderate

risk, Parkland's clinical algorithm immediately alerts a member of the behavioral health team to come and speak with them. Before discharge, both moderate and high risk patients also are given information about suicide warning signs, suicide crisis center hotline numbers, and Dallas County community mental

health resources.

Because suicide is the second leading cause of death among 15- to 24-year-olds, Parkland has recognized the need for screening youth as well as adults.

"Little data is available about the predictive validity of tools for screening children and adolescents," Dr.

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American Cancer Society making strides walk set for October

Teams are forming for the 2014 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of North Texas scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 24 at the University of Texas at Arlington.

The walk is open to the public, and teams can regis-

ter for free online at MakingStridesWalk.org/North-Texas. The 5th annual North Texas event will begin at 9:30 a.m. on the UTA campus.

The American Cancer Society created Making Strides Against Breast Can-

cer community walks in 1993 to build awareness and generate funds to fight the disease across the nation. In that time, 10 million walkers have collected more than \$594 million and last year, nearly 4,000 walkers in North Texas raised

more than \$315,000.

Breast cancer remains the most common cancer among women in the U.S. other than skin cancer, and is the second leading cause of cancer death. The American Cancer Society projects that in 2015, 234,190

new cases will be diagnosed and 40,730 will die from it.

"We invite all of north Texas to our Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk," said Casey Miller, ACS staff partner for the North Texas 5K. "It's a way to honor breast cancer sur-

vivors, and this year we're a part of UTA's parents weekend, which will add even more fun to this community event."

For more information contact Miller at 817-821-7745 or casey.miller@can-cer.org

Bloomberg Philanthropies awards grant to Dallas Black Dance Theatre

Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) this week announced that it is a grantee recipient of Bloomberg Philanthropies' Arts Innovation and Management (AIM) program. Through the two-year initiative, Bloomberg Philanthropies is providing \$30 million across 262 small and mid-sized non-profit cultural organizations around the country to help strengthen their operational and programming efforts, including training in fundraising, audience development and board member engagement.

"DBDT is honored to be selected by the Bloomberg Philanthropies as one of the Dallas AIM grantee recipients," said Executive Director, Zenetta S. Drew. "The financial and operational



support available through this program will help DBDT further develop its capacity to reach and develop audiences as it prepares for its 40th Anniversary Season in 2016-2017."

The invitation-only program supports nonprofit cultural organizations based in six cities: Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit,

Los Angeles and San Francisco. All organizations are locally or internationally recognized nonprofits that have been in existence for at least two years. The grantees are required to participate in a management training program; secure matching funds; ensure 100% board participation in fundraising; and maintain

up-to-date information in the Cultural Data Project, an online financial & data collection platform that assists arts organizations across the country to collect, learn from, and use data effectively.

The grants are unrestricted so that recipients can use them to address their greatest needs. DBDT

will use its two-year grant to develop audiences through increased community engagement efforts, including social media, digital marketing, and outreach programming.

The grant helps the company invest in the new position of communications and community engagement manager, who will strengthen DBDT's online presence and visibility in the community.

In addition, the company will assess and revamp its institutional and branding communications as it prepares to celebrate its 40th

Anniversary.

DBDT Bloomberg Announcement | 2 Bloomberg Philanthropies is partnering with the DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the University of Maryland to develop curricula and conduct trainings for the AIM program in each city.

The comprehensive workshops engage organizations around activities that strengthen their longterm health and goals and include consultations and implementation support for arts managers and their boards.

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had neglected to save some for me. It was at that moment that I began seeking God intently for answers as to why I felt so empty and broken and how to keep pushing forward."

"In 2014, after many years of dating and learning about what love isn't, God was preparing me to write a book on what love is..."

Camphor now has two books under her belt as she also served as one of the co-authors of a book by Nikki Woods, senior producer of the Tom Joyner Morning Show, entitled, "Shift: Twenty Women Share Stories of Strength, Courage and Succeeding Against the Odds" which is available on Amazon.

With the recent current events involving racial ten-

sion among several American cities, Camphor feels her book on unconditional love is apropos and believes it can serve as a message of hope and possible a catalyst for change.

"Those who hurt others ironically need love the most because they have learned to operate in what love is not... 'Love: The Greatest Gift' not only shines light on loving thy neighbor and enemies, but teaches responsibly how to love those who are not so loveable," advises Camphor.

According to the author, readers will learn specific principles on what it means to practice and accept unconditional love. Some of those principles entail understanding love is not contingent on how

someone treats you or loves you back and recognizing unconditional love is not conditional on being perfect, but learning to see the beauty in those flaws.

Camphor hopes her book will set readers on a path to experience love the way she feels God intended it to be from the very start.

"Love starts with the Creator and then a healthy love of self. Only when you have come to know and understand those two loves can you truly love others the way God intended, unconditionally for a lifetime."

Camphor believes it is through the transparent stories she writes about in her book that readers will begin to experience as she states, "Great love that never fails."

On September 26, Cam-

phor will be in the Dallas-area to host a book launch event. The book launch will be from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm at The People's Last Stand at Mockingbird Station, located at 5319 E Mockingbird Lane, Suite 210.

Paperback copies are available for purchase on Amazon and an electronic version can be purchased through Kindle. An autographed copy of the book, can also be purchased from her website at www.jacquelinecamphor.com/books.html.

For more information about upcoming book touring dates or for other book promotional engagements, visit her website (jacquelinecamphor.com) or facebook page or email jacqueline@jacquelinecamphor.com.

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Irving student will not face charges for homemade clock

Earlier this week, school resource officers at MacArthur High School were notified by the Irving ISD officials about a student in possession of a suspicious device.

The student showed the device to a teacher, who was concerned that it was possibly the infrastructure for a bomb. School resource officers questioned the student about his intentions and the reasons why he brought the device to school. The student said it was a clock.

Having no other information to go on, and taking into consideration the safety of the students and staff at MacArthur High School,



This photo released by the Irving Police Department shows the clock that was determined by school officials and police to appear suspicious.

the student was taken into custody for possessing a hoax bomb.

Under Texas law, a per-

son is guilty of possessing a hoax bomb if he possesses a device that is intended to cause anyone to be alarmed

or a reaction of any type by law enforcement officers.

"Following standard procedure the student was handcuffed for his safety and for the safety of the officers and was transported to a juvenile processing area of the police station," Irving PD said in a statement. "Recognizing additional facts were required, the student was released to his parents, so further investigation could be completed."

The follow-up investigation revealed the device apparently was a homemade experiment, and there is no evidence to support the perception he intended to create alarm. No charges will be filed and the case is con-

sidered closed.

"Obviously, we will review this as we do high profile incidents of any nature, but it evolved as it did as a matter of safety and an abundance of caution," Irving PD said.

"The Irving Police Department has always experienced an outstanding relationship with the Muslim community. We recognize situations like this present challenges, but we are committed to continuing to build a positive relationship."

The department said Chief Boyd planned to meet with the student's father later to answer his questions

and to help him understand more about how this process evolved.

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SMU Tower Center, Latino Center for Leadership Development create new strategic policy institute

On the first day of National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15), SMU's John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies announced it has formed a strategic academic partnership with the

Latino Center for Leadership Development (Latino CLD). The new Latino CLD-SMU Tower Center Policy Institute will identify and implement policy-focused solutions to the Latino community's most

pressing concerns, from educational and economic opportunities, to voting rights and immigration reform, to the under-representation of Latinos in elected and appointed roles at the federal,

state and local levels, as well as corporate boards.

As part of the unique partnership, the Latino CLD will provide SMU's Tower Center with \$900,000 over five

See SMU, Page 8

Students invited to Destination College seminar

Students and parents are invited to discover the secrets of being accepted to America's finest colleges at "The Princeton Review: Getting In," the first in a series of seminars by Destination College designed to give high school students a competitive edge in applying to and paying for college.

The seminar will help answer important questions, including: What will get you into college and when

should you prepare? How can you take control of the college search and not let it control you? How can you master the SAT and ACT? While the workshop is free, registration is required. To register, visit www.collin.edu/destinationcollege. For questions, call 972-377-1772.

Destination College will host the seminar from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 22, in the Living Legends Conference Center at the

Spring Creek Campus in Plano, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway. Please note that this workshop is not related to Princeton University.

Destination College is a Collin College initiative that helps high school students and their parents to get ready for college, no matter which institution they choose.

Other upcoming Destination College seminars include "The Magic of

Storytelling: How to Write a Successful College Essay," 6:30-8 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 6, and "Show Me the Money: Finding and Applying for Scholarships," 6:30-8 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 20.

Both will be held at the Preston Ridge Campus Conference Center at 9700 Wade Blvd. in Frisco. A full list of seminars is available by clicking "Upcoming Events" at www.collin.edu/destinationcollege.

Dallas ISD students named National Merit semifinalists

Fourteen Dallas Independent School District students have been named semifinalists for the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program.

According to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, the National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955.

High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Semifinalists are chosen based on their 2014 preliminary SAT scores.

Each year, 1.5 million students take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

The Dallas ISD semifinalists are:

Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts
Hennig, Elaine M.

Science and Engineering Magnet School at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center

De Alba, Enrique
Fritz, Connor D.
Graham, Calvin R.

Hamada, Caleb M.
Johnson, Isys A.

Talented and Gifted Magnet School at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center
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Johnson, Mikaela Mai, Ashley Q.
Rao, Shicheng Reddy, Sindhu M.
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Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson participates in opening of Paul Quinn student-run agricultural farm

This past Saturday, September 12, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony at the student run agricultural farm at Paul Quinn College in South Dallas.

"I am proud of Paul Quinn and the initiative of these students," said Congresswoman Johnson. "This farm will supply the students and the community with many necessary fresh fruits and vegetables, and

allow students to have a direct hand in uplifting their local community" she said to a gathering of university officials, students, community members and students.

Paul Quinn College President Michael Sorrell applauded the Congresswoman for helping the college to secure funding from the U S Department of Agriculture to expand the farm which is located on the college's former football field. Joe Leonard, the USDA Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights, noted that the farm was an important part of the government's interest and promotion of urban farming. This farm expansion by Paul Quinn is part of a larger national push to increase the availability of locally grown fruits and vegetables to urban communities that have decreased access to these fresh food alternatives.

The farm already supplies local restaurants and community residents with fresh fruits and vegetables, said Elizabeth Wattle, the farm's manager. "Our students and community residents work together to make it a success. Among the farm's many customers are the Dallas Cowboys."

U.S. Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson is the ranking member of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the highest-ranking Texan on the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure.

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Congresswoman Johnson joined Paul Quinn president Michael Sorrell (l) and USDA Asst. Secretary of Civil Rights Dr. Joe Leonard(r)

Garland Power & Light customers will pay less on Oct. 1

Garland Power & Light customers will pay less for electricity starting Oct. 1, 2015. With residential customers using an annual average of 1300 kWh per month, consumers will see monthly bills decrease on

average from \$140.04 to \$130.29, for a savings of \$9.75 per month or \$117 per year.

"We're committed to providing reliable and competitively priced electric service to our customers. I'm

pleased to say that this 7% decrease keeps us competitive with offers seen in deregulated areas," said GP&L General Manager and CEO Jeff Janke.

The reduction in cost comes as GP&L lowers the

Recovery Adjustment Factor (RAF) component of the electric rate from \$0.0544 per kWh to \$0.0469 per kWh.

The decrease in the RAF reflects lower prices in the

ERCOT wholesale energy market attributable to low natural gas and wind power prices. GP&L's continued cost management activities and success in pursuing incremental revenue from ex-

panded endeavors also made the change possible.

The reduction is effective for residential and commercial customers whose electric rates contain the RAF component.

Four tips to help couples keep the peace about money

Money may not have the power to buy happiness, but it sure can stress us out.

In fact, a survey by the American Psychological Association pinpointed money as the leading cause of stress for Americans, with 72 percent saying they had felt at least some stress about money in the previous month.

What's more, about one-third of adults with partners said money is a major cause of conflict in their relationship.

Those survey results aren't necessarily surprising, but there's also no need to treat them as inevitable, says Cynthia Fick, author of the book "The Sisterhood of Money: The Art of Creating

Wealth from Your Heart" (www.thesisterhoodof-money.com).

"A lot of couples don't like to talk about money, but good communication can play a big role in reducing both the stress and the conflict," she says.

And it's also important for couples to remember that, regardless of who makes the most money or who handles the monthly bill paying, it's a partnership and both people need to be involved in financial decisions.

"A lot of couples simply don't make those decisions together," Fick says. "They don't talk things out, they don't try to understand their differing views about

spending and saving, so that creates a situation where trouble between them can start brewing."

Fick finds that many women feel less confident about their money acumen than do men, and so will cede financial decisions to their partner.

"Sometimes those negative beliefs come from traditional teachings that told women they were less capable of managing money," Fick says. "That's simply not true, so wives stuck in that thinking need to come to an understanding that money issues are not somehow beyond them."

She has these tips to help couples avoid cash-induced conflict.

- Accept your differences. "Just because your spouse's views about money are different from yours doesn't make that person wrong and you right," Fick says. "Sometimes different is just different." It's important to stay open to compromise and be willing to listen to the other point of view, she says.

- Act as a team. You both have knowledge, experience and viewpoints to bring to the situation. Take advantage of that because when you work together you are stronger, Fick says. "Think of it this way," she says. "When both spouses are big savers, they might not have as much fun. When they are both big

spenders, they might put their future in jeopardy because they won't have enough savings."

- Don't wait for a crisis to talk. Discussions about financial matters are best held when heads are cool and no major problem has erupted that would set stress levels spiking, Fick says. "You can set a regular time to talk about your money situation so, hopefully, it will be a more relaxed atmosphere," she says.

- If necessary, seek help. The two of you don't have to go this alone, Fick says. If you need financial planning assistance, money management counseling or even relationship counseling, you should seek assis-

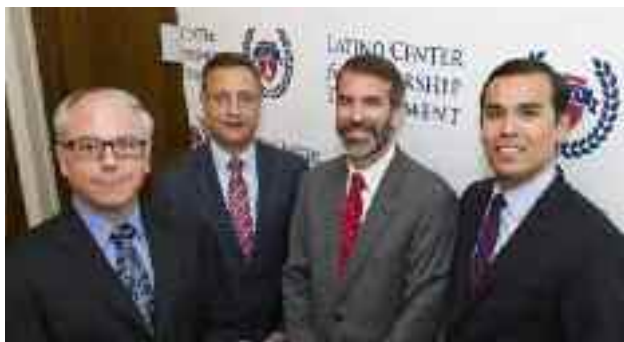
tance from a professional. That person can listen to the concerns of both spouses and offer advice from an objective and knowledgeable standpoint, Fick says.

Cynthia Fick, author of the book "The Sisterhood of Money: The Art of Creating Wealth from Your Heart" (www.thesisterhoodof-money.com), is an investment advisor with more than 28 years in the field of finance and investing.

Fick uses humor, honesty and expertise to challenge people to re-think their relationships to money and gain the financial life of their dreams.

She lives in Phoenix, Ariz., with her two teenage children and her Golden-doodle, Buddy.

SMU, continued from Page 6



Speakers at the kickoff event for the strategic new academic policy institute at SMU were, from left, Thomas DiPiero, dean of SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences; Jorge Baldor, Latino CLD founder and SMU alumnus ('93); Joshua Rovner, acting director of SMU's Tower Center; and Miguel Solis, Latino CLD.

years. The funding will allow the new policy institute to attract and engage scholars and thought leaders in an interdisciplinary think-tank, creating a framework to analyze and develop policy priorities, provide public forums and outreach, and support greater understanding and influence for the Latino community.

"America is in the midst of a fundamental, Latino-driven demographic shift," said Latino CLD founder and SMU alumnus Jorge Baldor '93, citing Pew Research Center reports that Latinos will represent about 30 percent of the U.S. population by 2060. "With the growing number of Latinos comes a reciprocal responsibility to lead," he said, adding, "Latino CLD is focused on developing the next generation of those leaders." (See "Research Findings," below.)

"I'm pleased the Latino Center for Leadership Development and SMU are joining forces for a premier Latino policy institute. The research it produces will be an asset for policy makers, allowing for in-depth analysis and creation of policies that will improve the lives of people across Texas and throughout the nation," said Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings.

The Latino CLD-SMU Tower Center Policy Institute will work in three major areas:

- Provide influential voices and data to support research on policy issues
- Offer two-year appointments for postdoctoral scholars who will research and publish their findings on public policy issues
- Provide research grants and public seminars to promote stronger community

understanding and dialogue about key societal issues

The relationship between the new SMU policy institute and Latino CLD also will allow promising leaders, such as those within the Latino CLD's new Leadership Academy, "to develop as individuals and hone network skills necessary to assume positions of influence" while focused on policy and politics to help people from all spectrums of society, Baldor said.

"The Latino CLD-SMU Tower Center Policy Institute will provide an excellent opportunity to combine our expertise to focus on contemporary policy matters of major interest to this country's diverse, growing Latino community," said Joshua Rovner, director of studies at the Tower Center in SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.

"As a hub for social-scientific issues, we will play a major role in cutting through the cacophony of numbers related to the Latino community, letting us take big issues and quickly drill down to ideas for thoughtful solutions and policy implementation," Rovner said.

The announcement of the new policy institute follows on the heels of the Tower Center's Sept. 8 launch of its new Texas-Mexico Program during Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's historic visit to Mexico.

"SMU is becoming a major presence in Latino-focused research and education," said Thomas DiPiero, dean of Dedman College. "It's also a propitious moment to bring new expertise and scholarship to bear both

nationally and locally," he said, noting that the Dallas-Fort Worth region, with 7 million people, is the nation's fourth-largest population center, and growing rapidly.

"Looking ahead, the success of this institute will

allow SMU and the Latino CLD to contribute vital public policy research while based in DFW — a U.S. political and economic center of gravity with strong global connections," DiPiero said.

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Plano Balloon Festival to fill the northern skies this weekend

This year marks 36 years of ballooning. At the In-Touch Credit Union Plano Balloon Festival, a spectacular three-day event begins at 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18 at Oak Point Park, 2801 E. Spring Creek Parkway.

This action packed weekend event offers something for everyone; entertainment on the FOX 4 Community Stage and KLUV Main Stage, Friday and Saturday evening glows, Saturday evening spectacular fireworks, special kids art activities in the Central Market Kids Fun Zone, and of course the kaleidoscope of colors provided by the 40 hot-air balloons.

The balloons will launch Friday at 6 p.m., Saturday at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Sunday at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. (weather permitting).

BALLOONS... The



major draw for the balloon festival will be the 40 magnificent, colorful, hot air balloons. Fun for all ages, are the special shapes that attend the festival. Special Shapes attending this year include: SpyderPig, Yellow Bird, Puddy Cat, Mr. Bup, High Jack, Beagle Maximus, High Kitty, and Old

Lady and the Shoe
THRILLSEEKERS... For the adventurous, the RE/MAX parachute team will perform Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons at 5 p.m., jumping from their plane over the park and landing right in the middle of the launch field.
Friday and Saturday evening,

some of the balloons will provide a breathtaking sight as they inflate and glow after it gets dark. This is a must see!

SPECTATORS... Over the years, the Festival has grown in the number of balloons and in the special activities that are planned for spectators. Concerts will be provided Friday and Saturday evening. We will wrap up Saturday evening with our very popular spectacular fireworks show.

RUNNERS... Why not join in the Half Marathon, 5K or Family Fun Run?

Runners will take off and seemingly float along the course after a one-of-a-kind start like no other. At 7 a.m., a balloon launch will fill the skies overhead for miles and miles making runners spirits soar.

The course will lead back

to the Festival grounds where the race bib earns the half marathon runner a fabulous hot breakfast, complements of Central Market.

Half marathoners can expect a great technical shirt, custom medal, and awesome winner's trophies. Again this year the male and female over-all winners will receive a custom designed winners ring.

These rings have been custom designed by Olschwanger Jewelry Designs and will be presented at the awards ceremony. New this year for the 5K and 1K runners will be custom designed medals, along with a technical shirt, winner's trophy and hot breakfast after the race. Two additional complimentary tickets (race bib admits the runner) and parking (provided by the race bib) will be an incen-

tive to bring your own cheering section. Register at www.planoballoonfest.org.

FOOD... Oh yes ... we have food. Literally something for everyone, and with the variety of items being served this year, no one should leave hungry. Thanks to the participation by local non-profit agencies, independent vendors, and sponsors we have everything you can imagine.

Young and old have much in common when they are enjoying the colorful balloons that will fill the skies over Plano, September 18, 19 & 20. Come make memories for your family.

For additional information please check out our website: www.planoballoonfest.org or follow us on facebook.

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Al Walsh the CEO of ALW Entertainment discusses his 35 years of involvement with the Southwest Airlines State Fair Classic game. He shares the 90 year history of the State Fair Classic game. Visit our YouTube channel- NDGTV, to find out what he loves the most about the annual football game and events surrounding it. Don't forget to visit our Facebook page for a chance to win tickets to the big game!

More happy winners...



By staying tuned to the North Dallas Gazette on social media, you can win FREE tickets to some of the hottest events going on in the DFW area!

At left (top) Shirley Hardin won free tickets to the 90th anniversary of the State Fair Classic featuring Grambling and Prairie View A&M.



(Bottom) Janice Jackson-Harris scored free tickets to the 36th annual Plano Balloon Festival taking place this weekend.

Don't miss your opportunity to win free tickets. Stay tuned to the North Dallas Gazette, and get ready to take in the sights and sounds of what is happening in allas!

Contest winners recognized during FANCY NANCY run

The Dallas Children's Theater (DCT) season opener *FANCY NANCY: THE MUSICAL* reminds us that we don't always get to be the star, but that everyone still gets a chance to shine when they do their best. The costume contest celebrates young artists of all skill levels who put their creative ideas on paper. DCT received 90 entries for the Mermaid and the Shark from the *Mermaid Ballet* and all these designs will be on display throughout the run of *FANCY NANCY: THE MUSICAL*, Sept. 18 - Oct. 25.

The two grand prize winners are Alyssa Morales (Mermaid) and Claire Spigel (Shark). Alyssa is a 7th grader at Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School. Claire is an 11th grader at Booker T. Washington High School for Performing and Visual Arts.

Choosing two grand prize winners from so many creative entries was no easy task, but DCT Costume Designer Lyle Huchton and Production Director Nancy Schaeffer looked carefully through each anonymous entry.

All winners, including honorable mentions, were honored at an awards recep-

tion at DCT on July 31 as DCT released single tickets to *FANCY NANCY: THE MUSICAL* for sale. Nancy's refined etiquette is not enough to get her the lead role in the upcoming school play. She must summon the strength to forge ahead when a sudden turn of events casts her best friend as the lead.

FANCY NANCY: THE MUSICAL is based on the popular Fancy Nancy books by Susan DiLallo, with music & lyrics by Danny Abosch, written by Jane O'Connor. It is recommended for ages 5 and up. Season ticket packages

are available now and can be purchased in packages of four to eight shows online at dct.org or by calling 214-740-0051.

Win tickets to *FANCY NANCY* by staying tuned to the *North Dallas Gazette* online.

Enter to Win! Ticket Giveaway

NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit us on Facebook to win tickets to DCT's Fancy Nancy the Musical and DTC's Moutaintop.

Ten mistakes when going through Open Enrollment

By Nathaniel Sillin

How much time do you spend reviewing your benefits before open enrollment each year?

If your answer is "not much," you're not alone. A recent survey by insurer Aflac says that 90 percent of Americans choose the same benefits year after year and that 42 percent forego up to \$750 annually by making poor choices.

Rushing through annual benefits updates or making such uninformed decisions in insurance, retirement or other workplace-based benefits are actually part of a bigger story. Open enrollment is just one part of an overall financial plan: Unfortunately, too many employees see it as the only financial planning they have to do all year.

In reality, a safe financial future depends mostly on the savings, investing and

spending decisions you make outside the workplace. As many employers are looking to shrink or discontinue the retirement and health benefits they offer, it's time to take a fresh look at open enrollment.

Here are 10 benefits mistakes you might want to avoid.

- Not having an overall financial plan. Your company may offer excellent benefits now. However, the Labor Department reports that average worker tenure at U.S. companies is only 4.6 years, so the biggest open enrollment mistake might be assuming your current benefits assure your financial future. It's important to work alone or with qualified advisors to determine the right work-based benefits as part of overall spending, savings and investment activities throughout your lifetime.
- Making choices at the last minute. Your benefits

are important and deserve time for consideration. Put your open enrollment dates on your personal calendar with a reminder a few weeks ahead of time to coordinate with qualified advisors if you have them.

- Forgetting to coordinate with your spouse or partner. Many employers are planning big changes to spouse/partner benefits. While the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) lets parents keep children on their health plans until age 26, more employers are instituting "spousal surcharges" or excluding spousal coverage altogether if they already have access to employer health insurance.
- Ignoring your state's Health Insurance Marketplace. Even if you have employer health insurance, things change. If you lose a job or cannot stay on your spouse or partner's health

plan, it might be worthwhile to familiarize yourself with your state's ACA-mandated health insurance marketplace ahead of time.

- Underestimating how big life events might affect your benefits. Salary changes, marriage, divorce, serious illness or starting a family are big signals to check your benefits, preferably well in advance of open enrollment. Think through every potential situation you might face and ask questions about how those changes might affect your benefit selections.
- Passing on flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and health savings accounts (HSAs). FSAs are workplace-based accounts that allow you to set aside money on a pre-tax basis to help you pay for healthcare and dependent care expenses during the calendar year. HSAs, if you qualify, also allow you to set aside

pre-tax dollars in a qualified investment or savings account for long-and-short term medical expenses not covered by insurance. They don't require you to spend out those funds every year. Your workplace benefits counselor, qualified financial advisor and Internal Revenue Service Publication 969 can assist with eligibility, types of accounts, contribution limits and tax issues associated with these choices.

- Leaving retirement selections unchanged. As the Aflac data indicates, many

individuals don't change their investment focus in self-directed retirement plans for years. That's why reviewing options in advance is essential. Overlooking wellness options. Many employers pay for exercise, cholesterol screenings, weight loss, smoking cessation, immunizations or related benefits that can make you healthier, save money and possibly lower health premiums.

- Bypassing transportation breaks. If you drive or

See OPEN, Page 12

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DART offers special service to the State Fair

Dallas Area Rapid Transit is the easiest way for family and friends to travel to the 2015 State Fair of Texas. DART Rail and Trinity Railway Express (TRE) passengers can simply transfer to Green Line trains showing "Fair Park," "Buckner" or "Lawnview" and ride to the front door from Sept. 25 through Oct. 18.

The two Green Line stations for fair attendees are Fair Park, located on Parry Avenue at the entrance to the fairgrounds, and MLK, Jr., located south of R.B. Cullum Boulevard and convenient to the Gate 6 en-

trance and the Cotton Bowl stadium. Extra Green Line trains will be available approximately every 15 minutes between Victory and Lawnview stations from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays and 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on weekends.

Special rail service

DART is adding special rail service beginning Monday, Sept. 21, that includes:

All Orange Line trips extend to Parker Road Station Red/Blue/Orange Lines have two-cars while Green will use three-cars

Green Line short service will be provided between Lawnview and Victory Sta-

tions from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays

Red and Blue Line service will have additional service after 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays for transfer traffic

Trinity Railway Express (TRE) will operate on all four Sundays during the fair.

A different schedule will be in place for the football game on Saturday, Oct. 10. Information can be found at www.DART.org/RedRiver

See DART, Page 16

OPEN, continued from Page 11

take public or company-sponsored transportation to and from work, you may qualify for specific discounts or tax deductions. IRS Publication 15-B covers these programs and how to use them most effectively.

• Forgetting education benefits. If an employer is willing to train you to advance in your career, don't pass it up. However, get advice on the possibility of tax liability for these benefits. Separately, check out employer-sponsored education

grant or scholarship awards for you or your kids – that can be free money.

Bottom line: Open enrollment is just one piece of a well-organized financial puzzle. Make sure your employer provided benefits choices compliment savings, investing and spending decisions you're making on your own.

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Dark money in politics threatens black interests

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Senior Washington
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – The explosion of “dark money” spent in the political system in the United States threatens racial equity in the United States making it harder for Blacks and other minorities to gain a foothold in the middle class and fully participate in the democracy, according to a recent report by Demos, a public policy group.

“Between 2007 and 2012, 200 of America’s most politically active corporations spent a combined \$5.8 billion on federal lobbying and campaign contributions. [But] what they gave pales compared to what those same corporations got: \$4.4 trillion in federal business and support,” the report said.

When the United States Supreme Court ruled that the First Amendment pro-

tections prevented the government from limiting non-profits from making independent political contributions in the 2010 decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, voting rights advocates predicted a sea change in spending on elections.

The Demos report said that since the ruling, dark money flooded into the system and in 2016 it’s only predicted to get worse.

Dark money is generally defined as funds given to nonprofit organizations to influence elections without the group disclosing the sources of their funding.

The report said that political donations could influence lawmakers on a number of critical issues that have a significant impact on communities of color, including the minimum wage, paid sick leave and criminal justice reform.

“Secret corporate political spending threatens the

integrity of our democratic self-government, as those with the deepest pockets can overwhelm other voices,” the report said. “This financial influence leads to the needs and wants of corporations being prioritized and can skew important public policy outcomes, often in ways that perpetuate racial inequities.”

The report noted that taxpayers foot the bill for government contractors who can then spend money on programs and lobbying efforts that do little to benefit people of color.

“Hundreds of billions of dollars in federal contracts, grants, loans, concession agreements, and property leases go to private companies that pay low wages, provide few benefits, and offer employees little opportunity to work their way into the middle class,” the report said and because people of color make up a disproportionate share of

the low-wage workforce, they are directly impacted when companies argue against raising the minimum wage.

The biggest players in the for-profit prison industry also seem to benefit from their relationships with elected officials, but current regulations prevent the public from knowing the full extent of their political expenditures.

Citing research by the Center for Responsive Politics, the report said that Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), The GEO Group, Inc. (GEO), and Management and Training Corporation (MTC) spent \$3.698 million on lobbying federal officials and the PACs and employees of these companies contributed \$552,636 to federal campaigns in 2014.

“But this may only be a fraction of what these companies have filtered into the

See DARK, Page 16

PARKLAND,

continued from Page 4

Roaten said. “The best available is the ASQ and we are currently screening all 12- to 17-year-olds for suicide risk using this instrument. We hope to eventually pilot standardized suicide risk screening for children under 12 as well.”

So far, the suicide risk screening in the emergency department and inpatient units at Parkland has found 1.8 percent of patients to be at high risk and approximately 4 to 4.5 percent at moderate risk for suicide.

“To our knowledge we are the first big hospital sys-

tem in the U.S. to implement a universal screening program for suicide risk and the data we are gathering will be significant for other organizations in the future,” Dr. Roaten said. She and her colleagues will publish their findings in the near future.

“Experts know that suicidal crises tend to be brief,” Dr. Johnson said. “When suicidal behaviors are detected early, lives can be saved. Anecdotally, we know that even within the first few days of implementing the screening pro-

gram, we were able to intervene with patients at high risk.”

Dr. Roaten added that most people who are depressed or suicidal will benefit from “just the fact that someone asked them about their feelings. By simply showing concern, we are probably saving lives.”

Approximately 1 million Americans attempt suicide each year. It is estimated that 5 million living Americans have attempted to kill themselves. An estimated 4.8 million Americans are survivors of suicide of a friend, family member or

loved one.

Mental illness, substance abuse, previous suicide attempts, hopelessness, access to lethal means, recent loss of loved ones, unemployment and vulnerability to self-harm are just a few examples of risk factors. High self-esteem, social connectedness, problem-solving skills, supportive family and friends are all examples of factors that buffer against suicide and suicidal behaviors, according to mental health experts.

For more information about Parkland, visit www.parklandhospital.com.

TRUMP,

continued from Page 3

this, in a pattern with which we are now familiar, irrespective of the facts. These “birther” arguments go hand-in-hand with his anti-immigrant of color stand, i.e., if you are not White, you are – at best – a guest in the U.S.

There is no question but that immigrants have an impact on the job market but

what has been going on for centuries is that businesses use new and vulnerable workforces as a way of trying to divide up the larger workforce. One hundred years ago, underpaid African American workers from the South were used accordingly by businesses in the North and Midwest in an attempt to undermine

White-dominated unions. Many of these White workers, instead of organizing with Black workers against the antics of the employers, turned on the Black workers as if they were the problem. Trump, et.al., are trying to do the same thing today.

Jobs are not being moved to other countries (or to rural parts of the U.S.) by undocumented workers. They are being moved by

businesses that care more about the bottom line than they do the fact that you will be on the unemployment line. Donald Trump is part of that select group that has made this situation possible and thrives while the rest of us fight like crabs in a barrel.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is the host of The Global African on Telesur-English. Follow him on Twitter, Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.



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September 20
You are invited to join us for Bible Classes at 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.; and don't forget to come back at 5 p.m. for our Iglesia de Cristo Services (the Word of God in Spanish.)

September 22, p.m.
You invited to join us for Tuesday's Talk at the church. Call the church for details.

September 23, 7 p.m.
Don't miss Bible study as we worship and praise God for His blessings. Prepare to be encouraged by God's plan to grow.

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

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CARROLLTON

September 20, 9:45 a.m.
You're invited to our Sunday Morning "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship Service at 10 a.m. See what God is doing through and with us; you will be blessed. Don't forget to come back at 5 p.m. for the Word of God in Spanish at our Iglesia de Cristo Services.

September 20, 12 – 1 p.m.
How do you study the Bible? Join us for a new Bible Study, Senior Pastor Woodson will teach a one hour series on "How to Study the Bible God's way." You don't want to miss this Bible Study Group.

September 23, 7 p.m.
Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Dr. Woodson and/or Associate Pastor Brenda Patterson teaching on the subject of Spiritual Warfare. These are cool Topics in Summer months. Learn what God says about critical issues and topics through the study of His word.

Dr. Terrance Woodson, Senior Pastor
1944 E. Hebron Parkway
Carrollton, TX 75007
972-492-4300
www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

September 20, 7:35 a.m.
Join us this Sunday for our Praise and Worship Services and receive a blessing from God.

September 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

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

September 20, 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.
You're invited to our Morning Services as we worship, honor and praise God for His blessings.

September 23, 7 p.m.
Join us at 12 Noon with Rev. Viveca Potter teaching on the Word of God; come back at 6:45 p.m. for Corporate Prayer and stay for Senior Pastor Autry at 7:30 p.m. teaching the Word of God. Our youth will come for Food and Fellowship at 7 p.m. followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.

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

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "The Ship"

September 20
Join us as we praise and worship God at 8 a.m. in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 West Belmont Drive in Allen; followed by our Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 and bring someone with you; you will be blessed.

September 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 the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 West Belmont Drive in Allen. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all, be prepared to grow.

September 27, 7 p.m.
Calling all youth! Every 4th Sunday we host Hype Sunday Worship at our Administration Building, 200 W. Belmont Drive in Allen, TX 75013. Don't be guilty of missing out on the wonderful and exciting way we worship God and thank Him for His blessings.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D. Senior Pastor
5705 Cheyenne Drive
at Bolin Elementary School in Allen 75002 for Sunday Morning Worship and the Admin. Building Address is 200 W. Belmont Drive
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972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

September 20, 10 a.m.
Join us for our Sunday Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory.

September 23, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Pastor Sam Fenceroy
Senior Pastor and
Pastor Gloria Fenceroy
300 Chisholm Place
Plano, TX 75075
972-633-5511
www.mocop.org

MT. PISGAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

September 20, 9:45 a.m.
You are welcome to join us for our Sunday morning worship service as we praise and worship God.

September 21
Join us for our Intercessory Prayer Ministry and our Monday's Conference calls.

September 23, at 6:30 p.m.
Join us for Wednesday's Prayer and Worship come and hear what God has to say to us.

R. W. Townsend, Senior Pastor
11611 Webb Chapel Road
Dallas, TX 75229
972-241-6151
www.dallasmtpisgah.org

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September 20
You're invited to join us for Early Morning Services at

7:30 a.m., followed by Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

September 23, 7 p.m.
Join us in Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us for our growth.

Dr. Tommy L. Brown
Senior Pastor
9550 Shepherd Road
Dallas, Texas 75243
214-341-6459
www.nmzb.org

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

September 19
Join us for Steps for Shiloh Scholarship Walk-a-ton. SHOUT's Annual Steps for Shiloh Scholarship Walk-a-ton will be at Bob Woodruff Park in Plano. These steps help to provide scholarships to our future graduating seniors. The first 100 registrants will receive a t-shirt. Please stop by the Fellowship Hall after worship service to sign-up.

September 20, at 8 a.m. And/or 11 a.m.
Come and worship with us this Sunday, God will greet us and bless us with words of wisdom as He leads and

guide us in all truth and righteousness.

September 23, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and growth; and, it's all for His glory and His honor.

September 26, 8 a.m.
You're invited to our Connected4Life Marriage Conference. There will be a Continental breakfast, lunch, and childcare will be provided. For information call the church or email connect4life@smbcplano.org.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
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972-423-6695

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September 20, 7:30 and/or 11:30 a.m.
You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

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

September 25, 7 p.m.
All men are invited to join us for Men's Fellowship night. Come and grow with us.

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
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Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin." - John 8:34.

This story was once told to me. "I hate being late," my friend lamented. "It has been a problem for me all my life." "Do you really want to change that?" I asked. "Yes, I do."

"All right then; every time you are late to work or anywhere else where you have committed to be at a particular time you must give me \$25."

"No way, my friend said!" My friend responded, "I would go broke! But I will do \$10." "All right, \$10 it is. It has to be a large enough amount of money for it to

hurt your pocketbook."

"Believe me, that will hurt," my friend said. About a month later my friend found great motivation to be on time to every place my friend had to be.

In the first week, I got only \$10 from my friend. The next week, I got \$20. The third week, I got nothing.

By the fifth week, my friend had changed a life-long habit that had hindered her all her life.

In order for my friend not to be resentful of me for the money she had to give, we put it in a jar to be given to some other Christian cause. This ensured my motive was only for her best interest.

Some people reading this column may be saying that it is legalism; but for my friend it was freedom from this habit.

For the first time she had some means of changing a behavior that had caused her problems in relationships and her own work habits.

Psychologists tell us that it takes 21 days to form a habit. So, if you need to change some habit, you need to be actively engaged in that new behavior at least 21 days.

My friend needed help to change a habit she didn't like about herself. It took another individual to hold her accountable, and it took a potential loss of something to provide the added incentive.

A successful businessman was experiencing a difficult

marriage. When counseling the couple over dinner one night, a friend of mine noticed that the man often criticized his wife.

After further counsel it was determined the man simply could not love his wife. My friend asked him if he truly wanted to see change in his marriage. When the man said he did, my friend said, "Every time you criticize your wife you must agree to give me \$100."

This man was well-off

and needed substantial incentive to change his behavior. After the man rebelled and retorted, he agreed in front of his wife.

A few weeks later a report came back that things were changing. This man did not want to write any checks to my friend. Although it was a competitive game to the man, it was also yielding some positive changes in his marriage.

He began to acquire the habit of avoiding criticism of his wife, which was killing her spirit.

What are the habits that keep you from becoming all

that God may want you to become? Do you desire to change enough to be accountable in a way that it costs you something when you fail?

"And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." - Matthew 5:36-37.

Ask a friend, a family member to hold you accountable in an area that needs change. You will find new freedom as you conquer old besetting habits.



Mr. Irvin Ashford Jr. is Senior Vice President of Corporate and Public Affairs, Director of Community Development and External Affairs for Comerica Bank and a major sponsor of Carrollton's Jubilee of Cultures Annual Event in September.

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NDG Book Review: *Good Mourning: A Memoir*

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Love what you do, do what you love.

That's always good advice, no matter your age. Carpe diem; life is not a dress rehearsal; and if you love your job, you'll never work a day in your life. You'll be happier, too, even if you really don't have to work – as you'll see in "Good Mourning" by Elizabeth Meyer.

Milan, Paris, London, Palm Beach. As the daughter of a high-powered lawyer-to-the-rich, Elizabeth Meyer was accustomed to the best restaurants, the best shopping and, yes, the best travel destina-



tions. But travel behind a hearse? No way.

And yet, after her beloved father's death, that's where Meyer was and, once the shock subsided, there was one thing she couldn't forget: though the family had utilized the

services of Manhattan's most prestigious funeral home, she'd pulled out all her party-throwing, event-organizing skills to ensure the send-off her father deserved.

The funeral home hadn't done it. She had, and so, some time after her grief eased, she marched into the funeral home, requested a meeting, and asked for a job. She knew the funeral homes' clientele; she'd attended social affairs, private school, and charity events with them all her life. She knew what they demanded. She didn't need money; she needed something to do.

Despite what she knew, however, there was still

plenty to learn and Meyer absorbed everything she was taught: embalming, casket ordering, planning, and the business side of things. Working with the dead and their families turned out to be the "calling" that she'd been searching for – even though her friends and family thought she was going through a phase and they tried to talk her out of it.

But their talk fell on deaf ears. Meyer was happy – until she wasn't. Until the corporation and the funeral home's culture became a problem. Until Meyer began to think that "there just had to be a better way to do death."

Here's an interesting mash-up: take Six Feet Under, add a subscription to Vogue and a hefty bank account, stir in a tony New York address, and sprinkle on some attitude. What you'll get is "Good Mourning," and a few eye-rolls.

By diving into a world that few – society mavens or not – desire, and by questioning why that's so, author Elizabeth Meyer proves that she's not your usual Society Girl. Of course, we're served tales of the rich, famous, cheating, lying, generous, and regretful... but as Meyer ponders death, the afterlife, and the role of religion in both, we also peek at the pro-

found.

Conversely (here come the eye-rolls), there were too many I-don't-need-the-money protestations scattered here and there, and some not-so-subtle reminders of Meyer's station in life in this memoir. That she came from money was plenty obvious and quite belabored.

Still, it didn't take long for me to brush aside that swagger and enjoy this book, and if you need something thought-provoking, yet light and fresh, I think you'll like it, too. Put "Good Mourning" on your to-read list... because life is not a dress rehearsal, either.

FREITAG, continued from Page 2

Magazine, will round out the featured talent on Saturday during the Grand Tasting presented by Central Market. DJ Lucy Wrubel, known as a voracious collector of eclectic tunes, has played a wide variety of exciting events ranging from North Park's Fashion at the Park in runway tents to Neiman Marcus' 100-year bash.

Tickets for Park & Palate are on sale now at www.ParkAndPalate.org starting at \$150 and varying in pricing for each day, with all proceeds generating funds for Klyde Warren Park and its free daily pro-

gramming. Park & Palate will offer a limited number of tickets for an exclusive VIP experience, which includes a VIP lounge in Savor Gastropub with food by Chef Jonathan Waxman and Chefs Stephen Rogers and Allison Yoder of Gemma, wine seminars, mixology demonstrations, and prime viewing of the main stage.

Park & Palate will take place at Klyde Warren Park, located at 2012 Woodall Rodgers Freeway in Dallas, Texas. For more information on Klyde Warren Park, please visit www.KlydeWarrenPark.org.

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federal political system because it includes only those contributions that have been disclosed. There is no way of knowing how much money these companies have funneled into the political process through 501(c)(4) and (c)(6) organizations," the report said. "The payout for CCA, GEO, and MTC's efforts: in 2013 and 2014, these companies received over \$1.561 billion in contracts from the federal government."

Even though, Whites account for 62.2 percent of the

U.S. population, more than 82 percent of Congress is White, the report said. Roughly 14 percent of the population identified as Black, but Blacks account for less than 9 percent of U.S. lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Because companies are more likely to spend money to elect White candidates instead of minority candidates, underrepresentation of minorities in political offices, is sure to continue, despite shifting demograph-

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Showdown.

Orange Line

Orange Line passengers from DFW Airport and Irving transfer to the Green Line at Bachman Station. Southbound Orange, Red and Blue line passengers transfer at Pearl/Arts District or St. Paul stations. Northbound Red and Blue line passengers transfer at Akard Station. TRE passengers transfer to the Green Line at Victory Station. Details are at TrinityRailway-Express.org.

Day Pass

Purchase a Local Day Pass for \$5, good for DART Rail, local buses and riding

ics.

The Demos brief recommended that President Barack Obama issue an executive order requiring federal contractors disclose political donations.

"This Order would be an important first step in bringing corporate political spending out of the dark and into the light," to illuminate what candidates are in the pockets of big businesses with interests that diverge from those of the American public," the report said, "and, in particular, people of color."

the TRE from CentrePort Station. Tarrant and Denton County customers need to purchase a Regional Day Pass for \$10. Passes are available at ticket vending machines located at all DART and TRE stations and on the GoPassSM app available for both Apple and Android.

GoPass app

For the second year you can also buy your State Fair of Texas general admission with the GoPass app. Just show your purchased fair ticket on GoPassSM at the

gates to get in. To make the deal sweeter, save \$2 on every fair ticket by using GoPass. You do not have to buy a DART transit ticket in order to take advantage of the State Fair discount ticket. Details are available at DART.org/StateFair or by calling DART Customer Information at 214-979-1111.

Special game day service

DART and the TRE will provide additional service to the Southwest Airlines State Fair Classic, played in the Cotton Bowl since the 1980s, featuring the Gram-

bling State Tigers and Prairie View A&M Panthers on Saturday, Sept. 26, and the AT&T Red River Showdown game, played in the Cotton Bowl since 1929, between the Texas Longhorns and the Oklahoma Sooners on Saturday, Oct. 10.

Details are available at DART.org/StateFairClassic and [Stay tuned to the *North Dallas Gazette* to win **FREE tickets** to the Southwest Airlines State Fair Classic as well as all the best events in Dallas.](http://DART.org/RedRiver>Showdown.</p>
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