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# DISD poised for voter response to \$1.6 billion bond proposal

By Tamarind Phinisee NDG Contributing Writer

Next Tuesday, voters will decide if the Dallas Independent School District (Dallas ISD) will get approval for the \$1.6 billion bond package it says it needs to improve learning environments for students.

At the DallasISDBond.com, set up by the district to advertise the proposed bond package, it suggests district students will benefit from things like upgraded classrooms, improved labs and new schools.

"It's all about the students," says Ken Carter, DISD consultant and President and CEO of locally based public relations company Focus Communications Inc.

"The district's current infrastructure is crumbling. Something needs to be done and there hasn't been a DISD bond package since 2008," Carter says. "When you have things like that you think about the kids, you cannot wait. There will always be things that people want more of ... our kids cannot wait. We need to do this now."

Carter adds, "If residents' homes are in a site proposed for a new school, they'll offer you a very good market value for your home – if that's the case."

In actuality, Carter says that more than \$4 billion is needed to completely address the district's needs, but the board of trustees only felt comfortable going to the voters to ask for



\$1.6 billion. When asked about cost overruns, Carter says there's no need to worry. The district, he says, did a good job of overseeing the funds from the 2008 DISD bond package, avoiding cost overruns. In fact, Carter says, this will be a 20-year bond package and that the district hopes to pay off the bonds sooner because of current and future expected growth in the city.

According to the website, the bond package will create nine new schools, 326 new classrooms, a variety of new educational programs, and facility improvements.

A separate website (www.dalla-sisd.org/bond2015) provides a little more info on the claim of no increase in taxes if the 2015 bond package is approved by voters. It states: "The projected tax rate is \$1.282 per \$100 of assessed value and is based on assumptions regarding future property values, interest rates, and other factors. The current tax rate is \$1.282 per \$100 of assessed value."

#### The other side

Of course, this second website adds the caveat that all bond projects, project amounts, and program allocations are estimates, and could change in the future. And that, among other things, is what has bond package opponents worried.

Joyce Foreman, DISD Trustee for District 6, says it was not easy for her to oppose the bond package. But her knowledge of how previous DISD bond packages were developed and implemented has raised more questions for her this time around.

This latest proposed package, Foreman says, does not resemble the transparency of the previous DISD bond packages.

"In 2002 and 2008 the bond planning committee had meeting minutes and attendance records taken and specific recommendations they voted on, and that did not happen with the 2015

See DISD, Page 7



### Stay safe with Halloween candy

-See Page 4



Irving awards hotel bid to Westin

-See Page 7



### `Emmitt Till' play worth seeing

-See Page 10



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# Dealing with mental illness in a dysfunctional society

NDG's View

Recently, we have been bombarded with the media's coverage of Dallas County District Attorney Susan Hawk's battle with depression. (First of all, we want to commend the DA for her courage in sharing her diagnosis. And, moreover, extend our well wishes and encouragement to her in going forward with her treatment.)

However, we are a bit taken back by the response of her colleagues and some

in the community. Some have even called for her resignation and others have petitioned signatures to have her removed from office. These actions taken, in our opinion, are harsh and seem to lawfully carry no weight in light of the illness' protection under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Nor, are their harsh actions unrecognized or unchallenged by her committed backing of the National Mental Health Association.

As we know, Susan **See QUESTIONS, Page 3** 

See Page 2

**INSIDE...** 

People In The News
Op/Ed3
Health
Community
Education6
Irving/Plano News
City Briefs8
Entertainment9-10
Market Place11
Church Directory13-15
NDG Book Review16

## People In The News...



Jaylen Bledsoe



**Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette** 



Paul Rodriguez

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### Jaylen Bledsoe

By Curtis Bunn Urban News Service

Jaylen Bledsoe, 17, was astonished when a teenager told him his life's goal was to become a drug dealer. Bledsoe, who gained national attention for creating a thriving Internet design company, could not fathom the youth's position ... at

"That was his dream," Bledsoe told Urban News Service in a rare extended interview. "(But) knowing the (lack of) support he had and the community he (lived in), there was no one



there to teach him beyond school. (It) was the community, the drug dealer.

That's where he saw success. He saw drug-dealing as the (reason) they have the cars they have, the money they have, the women they

"In that moment, for Bledsoe, a larger vision came into focus. He had achieved astonishing success in building a website design business when he was just 14, inspiring business camps in St. Louis and Dallas for teenagers, and developing the Jaylen D. Bledsoe Global Group — a company that specializes in brand expansion consulting for celebrities like Steve Harvey, business development, venture capital funding and direct marketing strategies, among other disciplines. But the talk with the young man inspired him, he said, to prioritize the Young Entrepreneur

University, a program for teenagers where he would "teach students who have not been heavily exposed to entrepreneurship the concepts and fundamentals of building a business, based on the idea of innovating for people."

Bledsoe has partnered with major companies, including K Swiss and AT&T, was featured on the Bishop T.D. Jakes Show and, through referrals, has a growing clientele of celebrities in need of brand development. This includes developing online strategies that expand companies' reach and product identification. That's heady stuff for anyone — especially a

teenager. But then, Bledsoe is hardly a typical 17-yearold. It would be too simplistic to call him a millionaire boy-genius. Yes, four years ago, he became an Internet sensation when his IT company reportedly was worth \$3.5 million.

And, yes, he scored 28 out of 36 on the ACT ... without even studying. But the true measure of this wunderkind is in his mission — and it has nothing to do with taking over the world, but certainly is about changing the business world.

"It's more like crafting young people in our society to be entrepreneurs," Bledsoe said. "Entrepreneurship is a hot topic right now for

young college students trying to find their way, but that's the youngest age in which efforts extend to. If I can use my story to motivate, inspire and push a young person who may be lost in life, then that's my purpose."

"To work for him now is pretty remarkable," said Wilmer Jackson-Spencer, Bledsoe's business manager, who grew up in the same neighborhood. "He has such a high aptitude. He's very clear in what he wants done and how he wants it done. He doesn't watch football or play sports. He's all about the

See BLEDSOE, Page 11

### Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette

AUSTIN — The Inauguration Convocation for Colette Pierce Burnette, Ed.D., will be held Saturday, Nov. 7, at 10 a.m. on the campus in King-Seabrook Chapel. The Huston-Tillotson University Board of Trustees announced Pierce Burnette as the institution's sixth President and Chief Executive Officer, effective July 1. Pierce Burnette becomes the first female president of the merged Huston-Tillotson University and only the second female president in the institutions' 140-year history. The public is invited to the four-days of



inauguration activities to welcome the new president and share in the celebration of the institution's music, faith, and community components.

Pierce Burnette is an experienced leader in higher education with a deep commitment to student success. In 2012, Pierce Burnette served as interim President at Pierce College in Puyallup, Washington, leading the college within a district environment and working collaboratively with executive leadership to serve more than 30,000 students each year. Pierce Burnette had an extensive career at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, from 1999 - 2012 that scaled to Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer, providing financial, analytical, physical plant, auxiliary services, capital construction, and human re-

sources leadership to achieve mission-based goals. In addition, at Central State University Pierce Burnette served as Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer.

Her educational accomplishments include earning a Master of Science Degree in Administration with honors from Georgia College in Milledgeville in 1983 after completing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering from Ohio State University in Columbus in 1980. In 2003, Pierce Burnette was accepted and completed the Harvard Graduate School's Education

Management Development Program. Pierce Burnette recently completed an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration at the University of Pennsylvania.

Saturday's inauguration events include the Investiture at 10 a.m. and the Inauguration Gala. Austin's popular Blue Mist band known for their heart and soul and rising blues stars, the Peterson Brothers, will highlight the Gala, scheduled on Saturday, November 7 at 6 p.m. at the Sheraton Austin at the Capitol, 701 East 11th Street. The black-tie affair includes dinner, dancing, and an auction.

The inauguration celebra-

tion will close with a worship service on Sunday, November 8 at 10:30 a.m. at David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, 2211 E Martin Luther King, Boulevard, where the Rev. Joseph C. Parker, Jr. serves as the pastor. The worship service will also feature the HT concert choir and Elite Combo.

Gala admission for \$140 per person in celebration of the University's 140th anniversary may be secured at http://www.cvent.com/d/mrq 65w. For more information, to make hotel reservation, or to RSVP as an investiture delegate, visit htu.edu, events@htu.edu, or call 512.505.3073.

### **Paul Rodriguez**

Paul Rodriguez and the Latin Kings of Comedy featuring Alex Reymundo, Joey Medina and Manny Maldonado is on stage this Oct. 29 at 8 p.m. at Verizon in Grand Praire. NDG readers can win tickets to the show via our Facebook

Rodriguez has been making audiences laugh for nearly three decades with his unique brand of humor that is a perfect blend of his Latin heritage, the American dream and his undeniable universal appeal. As an actor and comedian, his multi-faceted career includes starring roles and featured appearances in over 45 films and countless



television series and comedy specials. As an accomplished writer, director and producer for television, motion pictures and feature

Rodriguez has several hit projects to his credit including the comedy concert film "The Original Latin Kings of Comedy," which he executive produced and starred in along with Cheech Marin, George Lopez and Carlos Mencia. Alex Reymundo is a comic, writer, actor and producer with two one hour specials "Red-Nexican" and the award winning "Hickspanic" that have aired on Showtime, Comedy Central and Netflix.

After discovering an exploding Latino comedy scene while touring the country, Reymundo was in the right place at the right time to tour with Paul Rodriguez and later emerge alongside "The Original Latin Kings of Comedy" in the Paramount picture. Also starring in "The Original Latin Kings of Comedy,"

Joey Medina is one of the freshest and funniest comedians around today. Medina is a veteran of over 50 TV appearances including his own Showtime comedy special "Joey Medina: Taking Off the Gloves". Manny Maldonado is a rising stand-up comic who's high energy and no holding back attitude allows him to crossover to a mainstream audience. In 2007-2008 Maldonado was selected to be on The New Latin Kings of Comedy Tour with Paul Rodriguez.

Tickets for the show range from \$20 - \$45, order tickets at verizontheatre.com. The doors open at 7 p.m. for the 8 p.m. show.

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# **Blackonomics: Watch this film on Black** Friday, before you spend another dollar

By James Clingman NNPA Columnist

When you die, what will you leave behind: bills or benefits? That's the main question posed by the upcoming documentary film by Ric Mathis, a videographer and filmmaker in Atlanta. The question is applicable on a personal and collective level; one each of us should honestly answer. Mathis has captured the essence of that question, as well as the practical solutions to the frivolous businesses by Black con-Black spending phenomenon, in his upcoming film, "Black Friday: What Legacy Will You Leave?" He transposed all the Black Friday rhetoric into appropriate action, not only for that day, but throughout the entire year and for the rest of our lives.

Topics of discussion in the film include negative spending habits, introduction of financial literacy to our youth, and the absence of support for African-American owned sumers. Mathis says, "Black Friday is the Noah's Ark of Economics, if you are not up on this you risk drowning in a sea of debt." After discovering the alarming imbalance of Black spending compared to economic growth within the Black community, Mathis used his videography expertise to educate and stimulate appropriate behavioral change with his film, "Black Friday." He lays out the deficit-based economic

model by which most of our people are living, and then presents an asset-based model for which we must

As I stated on Montoya Smith's radio show, "Mental Dialogue" (Atlanta, GA.), considering the fact that Black Friday has saturated our mental tablets to the point of becoming just another cute phrase with no substance, writing and even doing a film on the subject of Black Fri-

See DOLLAR, Page 13

## **OUESTIONS,** continued from Page 1

Hawk is more than capable of successfully executing her duties of the position in which she has been elected to carry out. We know this because she has successfully tried cases as an attorney, and has successfully sat on the bench as a judge for Dallas County for many years. Yet, when she became brave enough to share an illness that has plagued her since her adolescent years, now...all of a sudden...she is being labeled, belittled and said to be incapable of fulfilling her duties as district attorney.

We ponder, why?, especially, since our very intricately entwined, tightly woven threads of the red, white, and blue boast of a history of a free society, capstoned and sealed by the notion of equality, for every citizen. Even the man whom penned the Emancipation Proclamation, and is forever etched in America's history as the freer of the Africans, made American slaves, is also recorded as being diagnosed with depression, along with many other political officials, past and present.

Recently Patrick Kennedy, heir of our beloved Kennedy clan, has taken heat for the exposure of his family's history of dysfunction, stemming from the root of mental illness and addiction, in his newly published book, "A Common Struggle: A Personal Journey Through the Past and Future of Mental Illness and Addiction."

Astronaut Buzz Aldrin is not only celebrated for his

contributions to NASA, science and being the second man to grace the surface of the moon, but he is also recognized for being the former chairman of the National Mental Health Association, after his personal struggle with depression and alcoholism.

Even still, artistic creators of our past and present, such as J.K Rowling, James Baldwin, Beethoven and Hemmingway, have also been recorded as suicidal or manic depression bearers.

To name these few, to hopefully, bring awareness and understanding that there are many among us, past and present, who suffer with mental illness, and those same people have made positive impacts in our society. Even so, we still ponder "why?" the DA's story has claimed such uproar.

We believe in many cases as a society, we continue to try to shame, or ignore, or to discriminate, or lockup mental illness because we refuse to deal with it. Or even more disgracefully, we label our mental ill in order to limit them, although, our history has proven time and time again an individual who struggles with mental illness can (and has) contributed successfully to our society. So, we answer "why?" the same way society has responded to race, religion, LGBT, gender, etc. Some find it easier to generate labels from ignorance and fear which subsequently cause them to discriminate, hate, or

abuse the labeled.

Therefore, the shame lies within the dysfunction of our society not the disease of mental illness. We offer this for conversation because if the Dallas DA had a diagnosis of a physical aliment. rather than mental, we believe those same colleagues and community petitioners would have rallied behind her, maybe even, coordinated some type of fundraiser to support her during her time of need. Shamefully, instead she is being labeled as weak and incapable.

Certainly, the challenges of dealing with mental illness is tough to bear for the mental ill in their daily lives. But, the public's misinformation and reaction to those who suffer struggle with mental illness becomes more detrimental to our society when we refuse to deal with it as a whole.

Maybe our refusal to deal with mental illness as a society can lay some claim to the roots stemming from our country's mass incarceration dilemma. Politicians in Washington, D.C., including Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, believe this to be true, and she has taken action by supporting HR-2646 the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act sponsored by Congressman Tim Murphy (R-PA). This bill would make the necessary criminal justice and healthcare reforms to enable individuals with mental illness to have access to treatment before making the decision to become violent. Unfortunately, we've witnessed time and again the cause that

warrants the need for this bill. Individuals like Dylann Roof, the Charleston Church shooter and recently the former Texas Aggies' football player, Thomas Johnson, who confessed to randomly attacking and killing a jogger

Perhaps our refusal to deal with mental illness can even take most of the blame for our drug infested communities around every corner of this country. Individuals who rely on self-medicating with illegal drugs, more often than not, find themselves in the criminal justice system or homeless, instead of in treatment for their mental illness.

The very shameful core of this is these "individuals" are our sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, mothers and fathers. Should we not as a community begin to help these individuals, and not label them? Regardless of the current laws in place and the legislation in progress deemed to protect the mental ill, we must do our part as a com-

We believe it's time for all of us to recognize the need to deal with mental illness and move to act in order to create a better, more healthy, society for everyone. So, again we commend the DA, and all others who have shared their struggles and victories in dealing with mental illness. We hope their stories and courage will continue to encourage others with mental illness to get the treatment they need. Mostly, we hope our dysfunctional society heals so that we may learn to embrace everyone, and we may all be encouraged to live to our full, healthy potential.

### Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas expands Medicare Advantage offerings for 2016

Medicare beneficiaries in Texas now have more options for health care coverage that provides them additional choice, flexibility and affordability. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) is expanding access to its Blue Cross Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plans (MAPD). Beginning October 15, Medicare eligible individuals can enroll in Blue Cross Medicare Advantage (HMO); Blue Cross Medicare Advantage (PPO) ; or Blue Cross MedicareRx (PDP) prescription drug plans for a Jan. 1, 2016, effective date.

Health

This coverage expansion,

approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), builds upon BCBSTX's existing Medicare coverage areas and is part of the company's ongoing commitment to providing greater flexibility and increasing access to health care throughout the state. Blue Cross Medicare Advantage will be available with both HMO and PPO networks in the following counties:

• HMO plans available in Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Cameron, Chambers, El Paso, Fort Bend, Hardin, Harris, Hays, Hidalgo, Jefferson, Lee, Liberty, Montgomery, Orange, Webb,

Willacy and Williamson counties.

• PPO plans available in Bastrop, Bexar, Burnet, Caldwell, Chambers, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Fayette, Fort Bend, Hardin, Harris, Hays, Jefferson, Lee, Liberty, Montgomery, Orange, Tarrant, Travis and Williamson counties.

"Our MAPD and Medicare PDP products support our legacy of providing continuous health coverage to our members for more than 80 years. This expansion allows us to provide Medicare-eligible beneficiaries in more areas of the state with new offerings that increase choice, flexibility and

value tailored to their individual needs," said David Goodson, vice president of Enterprise and Medicare at Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

"Our Medicare Advantage plans are anchored by primary care physicians and hospital systems that specialize in meeting the needs of our senior population," added Goodson. "Our plans also encourage seniors to become active participants in their health with educational resources and benefits like SilverSneakers®, that provide seniors with access to benefits and tools that can help them achieve positive health outcomes.

For more information

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# Keep Halloween treats safe, not scary

Even though it's not an official holiday, Halloween is much beloved by children and adults alike. What could be more fun than trick-or-treating, apple bobbing, or costume parties?

To make sure treats are safe for children, follow these simple steps:

Snacking: Children shouldn't snack on treats from their goody bags while

they're out trick-or-treating. Give them a light meal or snack before they head out – don't send them out on an empty stomach. Urge them to wait until they get home and let you inspect their loot before they eat any of it.

Safe treats: Tell children not to accept - and especially not to eat – anything that isn't commercially wrapped. Inspect commer-

cially wrapped treats for signs of tampering, such as an unusual appearance or discoloration, tiny pinholes, or tears in wrappers.

Throw away anything that looks suspicious.

Food Allergies: If your child has a food allergy, check the label to ensure the allergen isn't present. Do not allow the child to eat any home-baked goods he or she may have received.

**Choking hazards:** If you have very young children, be sure to remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies, or small tovs.

Howard Seltzer works for the FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition



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# Chef shortage means opportunity for El Centro culinary students

Late nights. Standing for 14 hours straight in cramped, hot kitchens. Those conditions are some of the defining characteristics of a career as a restaurant chef. While some people might view those job conditions in a negative light – whether at five-star restaurants or at mom-andpop eateries in strip malls – chefs whose passions are cooking, service and hospitality see them as only a small part of what can be a very rewarding career path.

Those working conditions and long hours associated with restaurant work have led to a national shortage of trained cooks and chefs, according to various news reports. Jim Knifong, culinary arts instructor in the Food and Hospitality Institute at El Centro College, one of the colleges the Dallas County Community College District system, said the shortage affects both the U.S. and Europe.

In the United States, and Texas in particular, the numbers are startling. While restaurant jobs are expected to grow nationally by 12 percent over the next decade, in Texas that figure is 22 percent - the thirdfastest in the nation, according to an industry forecast from the National Restaurant Association. The association found that one of the biggest challenges for restaurant operators is finding and retaining employees, especially during an improving economy.

Knifong said the glamorization of the industry – two cable TV channels devoted to cooking plus a multitude of chef competition shows on other channels, for example – does not reflect the reality of the hospitality industry. "We get a lot of students who see that, and that's why they want to get into this. They think, 'That's what I want to do!"" he said. "That isn't what the industry is. That's TV. That's not what cooking really is."

Nathan Tate, executive chef and co-owner of two highly-acclaimed Dallas restaurants Boulevardier and Rapscallion, and who also is a 2002 graduate of El Centro's Food and Hospitality Institute, said people who go into the industry should be passionate about food, but they should expect to work hard and do some "repetitive, mundane things for years." He added that prospective chefs need to "work their way up to sous chef and executive chef. That's when it really starts being fun and when the pay becomes a good wage."

Knifong said he understands why some people are turned off by the demands of the job as a restaurant cook, but people in the industry do it because they are passionate about food. "You do it because you enjoy it. It's not a 9 to 5 job, sitting in an office. It's not staring into a computer screen. You do it because it's fun, because it's what you like to do. It's not your normal, boring office job," he

Ruby Johnson, a bakery student at El Centro's FHI, said the prospect of hard work as a chef does not scare her at all. "It's what you do," she said, adding, "If you're going to be in this industry, you're going to miss holidays. You're going to miss events with your family because you like what you're doing. If you like what you're doing, it's worth it, and it's very rewarding." Johnson said she would like to become a pastry chef, but her ultimate goal is to have a food truck and provide catering services as well.

Tate said he chose to attend El Centro's FHI because it was affordable, and he didn't want to be stuck with high college debt, which he cited as another reason for the chef shortage. He said some students get bachelor's degrees in culinary arts, and they might accumulate "massive student loans." Then, after they

ing in some of the lowestpaying jobs in the kitchen, which might discourage them from staying in the industry.

Tate said salaries for kitchen staff will have to change and added that his restaurants already are adapting to the new reality. "We pay \$2 [per hour] more than we would have paid a couple of years ago. That

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graduate, they end up work- cost has to be transferred somewhere. It's going to hit the consumer eventually," he added

> Tate added there's another factor that affects the shortage. He said he has seen a huge influx of new restaurants in North Texas, where people eat out more than in any other metropol-

itan area, according to a recent survey by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

For more information about the Food and Hospitality Institute at El Centro College, please email Steve DeShazo, director of the institute, at sdeshazo@dcccd.edu. To contact Jim Knifong, email james.knifong@dcccd.edu.



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1684	Money Multiplier Overall Odds are 1 in 4.09	\$5	12/30/15	6/27/16
1686	Cash & Gold Overall Odds are 1 in 3.74	\$5	12/30/15	6/27/16
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### Plano spreads the love (5 tons worth)...



In September, the city challenged the Plano community to collect 10,000 pounds of peanut butter in just one month to benefit those hungry in Plano & North Texas. It was an aggressive goal and the final tally is in. The City of Excellence met the challenge, A special shout out goes to John Paul II High School for collecting 3,873 pounds of peanut butter in just one week and the City of Plano, Texas Government employees who collected 2,632 pounds. Heartfelt gratitude to all our community partners and residents for helping to spread hope and help feed hungry children, families and seniors.

### It's a Westin: Irving announces brand of Irving Convention Center Hotel

The City of Irving announced today the new Convention Center at Las Colinas' headquarters hotel will carry the Westin Hotels & Resorts brand. The proposed 12-story Irving Convention Center Hotel will provide approximately 350 rooms and

16,000 square feet of meeting space, which includes a 10,000-square-foot room. Additionally, the upscale hotel will provide amenities including retail and restaurant facilities.

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc., the corporation that owns Westin Hotels & Resorts, is a global high-end hotel corporation that has more than 1,200 properties across 100 countries. Starwood will not franchise the hotel, but instead will operate the hotel di-

See HOTEL, Page 8

# **DISD**, continued from Page 1

Future Facilities Task Force which was started under Mike Miles." Foreman says. "This committee was allowed to operate with no minutes, no recorded affirmation of votes taken for the bond plan components, and virtually no record of the specific process and the details and sources for their recommendations."

Despite claims the plan was rolled out to the community in more than 10 meetings, Foreman says virtually few changes, if any, came from those meetings.

"It was back room dealings that changed the plan to sway some voters in certain neighborhoods," says Foreman, who complains that her own district has only been allocated \$64 million for 23 schools. "I am asking the public to vote 'No' to this bond and send it back to the board to develop a plan that is not a Mike Miles plan, but one that truly reflects the equity that is needed," Foreman adds.

### **Outward facing views**

To those within the supporting circle of the bond, the bottom-line seems clear: get more money to improve DISD schools. However, others in the community express similar sentiments as Fore-

Ronald Wright, Ph.D., executive director of Justice Seeks Texas LLC and a local preacher, says he too sees the need for a bond package for the school district. However, the way the package was put together was not transparent and leaves more questions than answers.

Bill Betzen, former teacher and activist, also with Justice Seeks Texas, agrees, adding that the package seems very poorly planned. When the proposed bond package was initially revealed. Betzen says DISD had announced plans to close every elementary school east of Hampton Road. Within seven days, he says, these plans were changed amid major opposition to these plans. However, Pinkston High School is still slated for closure.

"But the school district is not willing to say where the new school replacing Pinkston will be located," Betzen says.

Both Wright and Betzen oppose the proposed DISD bond package and are running a counter-campaign called the No 2015 DISD Bond Campaign.

Interestingly, a link on the DISD website provides an interactive map that purportedly breaks down what the school district has planned for each school. Included on that map, under a black pin, are comments that a new high school – with a career and technical education component - will replace the existing L.G. Pinkston High School. Although the pin shows the school in a different location, farther away from the heavy traffic of Hampton Road and closer to Kingbridge Street, the map states that the proposed new site for the high school is yet to be determined.

The map also shows that a new relief school (possibly K-8) is being discussed with the community. If approved, it could be located at the southeast corner of Pueblo Street and Chihuahua Avenue (between Navarro and Rutz streets). Currently, there are residential homes on the property.

This lack of clarity from DISD on these and other plans only adds to the criticism from local residents and community leaders who charge that the city has also been less than transparent about its revitalization goals. To be sure, the City of Dallas has been in the middle of a revitalization project under various names over the past few years - including the Trinity River Corridor Project – that purports to increase income from property taxes in the area as well as increase income for residents. However, residents have complained that this revitalization plan - which some have dubbed 'gentrification' means that the people who currently live in neighborhoods like West Dallas are

not benefitting and will not benefit from these changes. And this, they feel, seems like what DISD is doing.

Wright says DISD plans to use the bond package to create choice schools and fill these schools with students the school district wants in them. Those who would be displaced by the closure of Pinkston in the meantime, he says, would not benefit from the new school.

"It feels like a move toward 21st century segregation," he says, adding that this situation with DISD and the city's revitalization plans remind him of the late 90s when many people in section 8 housing in the West Dallas

area were relocated to parts of North Dallas, Desoto and Lancaster. Ultimately, Wright says, he feels the West Dallas area will become another University Park.

On Monday, Oct. 26, the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce, announced their support of the bond package.

Rick Ortiz, president and CEO of the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, says this bond package is important to all of the chambers, given that Dallas ISD is a majority-minority

district.

"What we do today will shape Dallas' economy over the next 10 to 15 years. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that we have the necessary resources and environment to educate our future workforce and entrepreneurs," Ortiz says.

"It may be a close race due to all the money the pro-side has, but I strongly believe the bond will be defeated," he

Repeated attempts were made via email and phone to seek comment from Dallas ISD and the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, Neither organizations responded by press time.



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- · New roofs and heating and air conditioning units, updated plumbing, and improved interiors and exteriors (\$500 million)
- Land acquisition and demolition for new schools (\$105 million)

### GARLAND

# Symphony resumes Nov. 20

The Garland Symphony Orchestra continues its 2015-2016 Season, "Symphonic Treasures!" at the Granville Arts Center, Brownlee Auditorium. The season continues on Friday, Nov. 20 and all performances are at 8 p.m.

### UT Dallas opening alumni center

With a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday, UT Dallas will celebrate the vision of an alumni couple working to "open a doorway to the future" with a new building where students can connect to their future roles as alumni as well as providing a long-needed home for current alumni.

The Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center, a planned 30,000-square-foot structure incorporating an equal amount of programmable outdoor space, will offer UT Dallas' more than 90,000 alums a place where they can connect with one another and the campus.

The center is named for Nancy Gundy Davidson BS'80 and Charles "Chuck" Davidson MS'80, in recognition of a \$15 million gift that is making construction of the center possible. Located north of the Naveen Jindal School of Management, between the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building and Parking Structure 1, the project received approval to proceed from The University of Texas System Board of Regents in August.

# **HOTEL,** continued from Page 7

rectly

"Starwood is a tremendous asset for this unique property," said Irving City Manager Chris Hillman. "The combination of the hotel, the Irving Convention Center and the Irving Music Factory will create a distinctively walkable, beautiful, and easily accessible meeting and entertainment environment like few others."

The hotel will serve a much-needed purpose for the copper-clad Irving Convention Center, which opened in 2011. In 2014, the ICC hosted nearly 300 events, welcoming just more than 285,000 attendees.

"Current clients and prospective ones have been patiently awaiting a head-quarters hotel adjacent to the Irving Convention Center, in order to bring their bigger events into Irving," said Maura Allen Gast, executive director of the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"News of Westin as the flag and Starwood as its operator will be well received by the marketplace."

Garfield Public/Private LLC will develop the hotel

and BOKA Powell is the architect. Austin Commercial will be the design-build contractor.

The Westin hotel's architecture will complement the Irving Convention Center, a structure that has won nu-

merous awards for its architectural uniqueness.

The city plans to build a second parking garage to accommodate hotel and convention center business. The project is slated to break ground in 2016.







## Robert Cray hits Dallas stage on Nov. 6

The nonprofit AT&T Performing Arts Center and AEG Live are offering tickets for The Robert Cray Band performing at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6 at the Majestic Theatre in downtown Dallas.

With 5 Grammy Awards, 15 nominations, millions of record sales worldwide, and thousands of sold out performances, rock blues icon Robert Cray is considered "one of the greatest guitarists of his generation." Rolling Stone Magazine in their April 2011 issue credits Cray with reinventing the blues with his "distinct razor sharp guitar playing" that "introduced a new generation of mainstream rock fans to the language and form of the blues" with the release of his Strong Per-



Legendary Robert Cray is coming to Dallas Nov. 6 at the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

suader album in 1986.

Since then, Cray has gone on to record sixteen Billboard charting studio albums and has written or performed with everyone from Eric Clapton to Stevie Ray Vaughan, from Bonnie Raitt to John Lee Hooker. Inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 2011 at the age of 57, he is one of the

youngest living legends to receive the prestigious honor. And while he can look back over an astonishing four-decade career punctuated by his trademark sound and distinct playing style, Robert Cray is too busy moving forward on an amazing journey that has him releasing his seventeenth studio album IN MY

SOUL on April 1, 2014 and embarking on yet another world tour with the Robert Cray Band.

"We have been very lucky," says Cray, "we've been afforded the luxury of having a great loyal and amazing fan base around the world, allowing a band like ours to continue to work."

Ticket prices for The Robert Cray Band range from \$65 to \$29.75 and can be purchased, beginning on July 31 at 10 a.m., online at www.attpac.org, by phone at 214-880-0202 or in person at the AT&T Performing Arts Center Information Center at 2353 Flora Street (Monday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Tuesday thru Saturday 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.).



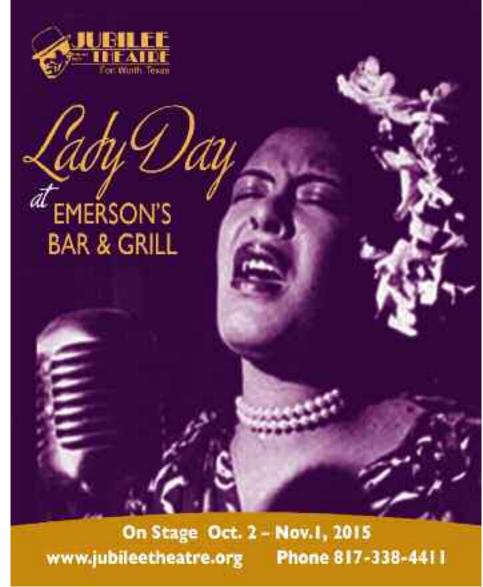
# Win tickets to House of Blues Gospel Brunch

Grammy-Award winning star Kirk Franklin joined forces with House of Blues to produce a dazzling transformation of Gospel Brunch, the club's legendary dining and live music show. With Kirk Franklin's hand-picked performers showcasing explosive energy, contemporary music and spectacular new cuisine, it's an opportunity to enjoy great music and food.

The event also provides an opportunity to raise money for the International House of Blues Foundation, providing arts and music support to under served youth. A portion of the sales will be donated to the Foundation.

NDG readers can visit our Facebook page to find out more details on how to win tickets to the Nov. 1 show.





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NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit us on Facebook to win tickets to Kirk Franklin's-Gospel Brunch @ House of Blues Dallas, November 15th

# The Face of Emmett Till brings to life a story we cannot afford to forget

By Sonja Washington

The murder of Emmett Louise Till is an important story that cannot be forgotten and thanks to The Face of Emmett Till, many can be introduced to this historic event.

At the dawn of the civil rights movement a very critical time in American History, many people were lost black, brown, and white because of hate. As we look at our headlines in 2015 the tragic stories of the lives lost are similar and heart break-

Each time we discuss these murders we mourn the potential lost in a life taken too soon, lamenting all that he or she may have offered this world. Rarely do we think about the mother's anguish for losing a child in such a deplorable way. How



A young mother sends her teenage son down South with tragic results in The Face of Emmet Till. (Image: TeCo Productions)

it is an unnatural experience that leaves an indescribable emptiness in their lives and hearts. We naïvely believe the story stops at Mr. Till's death; which is far from the truth.

However, during The Face of Emmett Till you are able to experience the tragedy through the perspective of Master Till's mother. Mamie Till-Mobley's story is eloquently communicated

to the audience. The storyline shares the stages of grief she experiences in the wake of her son's murder. Going further to express the process of her questioning whether she made the right decisions to allow Emmett to visit the South of which he was not adequately prepared to experience coming from Chicago.

I am impressed with the performance of Sherry Hurnes who brings Mamie Till-Mobley to life. Her ability to connect with this character was apparent. The emotion of losing a child in that manner is not what stood out to me while watching her. It was the strength that she communicated to the audience. The strength it obviously took to stand up to adversity while seeking justice for her slain child. Hurnes delivered on this particular fact so well that as a mother it empowered me to think I could do that same if faced with the situation.

There was another performance that stood out to me. Justus L. Clark left me with the feeling that I met Master Till in the flesh. He captured the essence of a boy from the North who lacked any understanding of with all things associated with racism. He was able to

communicate the hope of a 14 year old young man ready to experience the world and all that it had to offer. More importantly, Clark gave a more than believable performance surrounding Mr. Till's speech impediment which perhaps contributed to his murder. Clark is a talent that Dallas theater fans can expect to see a bright future for this rising star.

I highly recommend The Face of Emmett Till. It brings to life a different storyline that reminds us of the impact of the tragic death of our sisters and brothers killed just for being the wrong skin color. It is important to remember that when a murder takes place there is often one person who never recovers. A mother's love is something celebrated as an important role in our culture. However, the pain she experiences when a child is stolen from her because of hate is one we seem to forget when thinking of the story of Emmett

TeCo Theatrical Productions is showcasing The *Face of Emmett Till* for only four more shows: Fri. Oct. 30 at 7:30 p.m. Saturday Oct. 31 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and then on Sunday Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Bishop Arts Theatre Center is located at 215 South Tyler Street in Dallas. The cost is only \$18 in advance or \$22 at the door. You can order tickets at 214-948-0716.

Co-writer of the play David Barr III is speaking after the 3 p.m. matinee on Oct. 31 and Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m.



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### **BLEDSOE**, continued from Page 2

Jaylen Bledsoe Global lion in presales of his book, Group. His focus and diligence force me to put that into my work — and I'm 37. It's amazing to have the kind of engagement he has."

Bledsoe is so fiercely private that he frowns on his family having access to the media. He says "fun" is limited to an infrequent episode of video games or trips to the mall with a small group of like-minded friends. Working is his "rush," he said, with his Young Entrepreneurs University among his top initiatives.

Through a digital curriculum of online courses, he plans to make an "international program teaching youths (around the world) how to innovate" in new businesses. Bledsoe already employs 180 people across the nation.

His company used its search engine optimization experience to help comedian and entertainment star Steve Harvey earn \$8 mil-

Act Like A Lady, Think Like A Man, according to Jackson, Remarkably, Bledsoe insists he is not driven by "chasing money" or material possessions — he drives a used Nissan Altima - a mindset that he realizes makes him unlike the average teenager. He shuns discussing the financial part of his life, believing that the focus on money subtracts from his work and gives the false impression that money rules his life.

"I look back at an interview I did at 14," Bledsoe said, "and that interview went viral (because of the headline 'teenage millionaire'). For me, the focus shouldn't have been that.

"Success is not about the money you've made or how much your company is worth. Success is the ability to impact lives (within) your purpose, doing something you love.

"For me it's about distancing myself from the numbers ... Money's not that solution."Then what is, especially to a teenager? "Success is impacting and innovating and helping people in their lives," Bledsoe said.

"Whether it's through philanthropy efforts or through innovating a business idea for them ... We help companies and individuals understand and operate better with technology. Now we're helping celebrities and major brands reorganize their brands and grow and inspire people."

Asked if he is surprised by his success, Bledsoe was typically beyond-his-years introspective.

"I'm surprised," he said, "but do I understand why? Yes. God has a divine purpose in life for me ... My principle is that we all get a dream. But the difference between the successful dreamers and not-successful dreamers is that the successful dreamers take God's dream and act on it."Bledsoe said he is ready to take on college, but he has to en-

We are not an

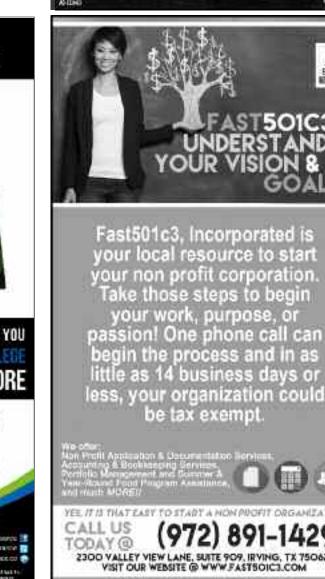
dure his last year of high school first. He has been accepted at Stanford University and plans to study international business and psychology. Meanwhile, though, high school is not much of a challenge for Bledsoe, even while taking advanced

"If compared to average 17-year-olds in my community, my focus is different," he said. "For them, it may be, 'How do I get my next paycheck or buy some jewelry?'For me, it's, 'How can I innovate for people? How can I build my brand so I can help people and save someone's life?'

"I want to be the go-to guy for digital strategy and business development among celebrities and Fortune 500 companies."

"It's a cliché, but everyone agrees," said Jackson-Spencer. "Jaylen hasn't even scratched the surface. The best thing about that is that he will help people, especially young people, along the way."







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### E-Learning Diversity training for restaurants

(BlackNews.com) -- DiscoverLink, Inc. and the Multicultural Foodservice & Hospitality Alliance (MFHA) announce a joint initiative to deliver online cultural intelligence training on a restaurant-optimized learning management system (LMS).

The combination of MFHA's "Building Better Relationships with African-American Co-workers and Guests" module and DiscoverLink Talent helps restaurants drive revenue by raising their cultural intelligence and improving relationships with co-workers and guests. Click here for a preview of the course.

This is the first of a planned series of culture-specific e-learning courses that teach management-level leaders how to interact with, manage and serve a multicultural community. MFHA and DiscoverLink plan to launch additional courses in the coming months that address other ethnic, racial and cultural groups.

"Our restaurant teams, and the guests we serve, are highly diverse," said Gene Lee, Chief Executive Officer of Darden Restaurants. "Therefore, multicultural education plays an important role in the success of our business. MFHA's Cultural Intelligence products and services offer the type of educational content our industry needs to attract the best talent and to serve our guests with excellence."

As the top cultural intelligence content provider in

foodservice and hospitality, MFHA brings a 20-year track record of engaging multicultural employees and guests successfully.

For more information about the MFHA and DiscoverLink package, restaurants should contact DiscoverLink at www.discoverlink.com/contact/ or MFHA atwww.mfha.net/index.php/a bout-us/contact-us.

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# **DOLLAR,** continued from Page 3

day is tantamount to trying to and then building a foundafind a new angle to sell a bag of ice.

Having written about Black Friday for a decade or so, and even though I heeded the calls for blackouts and staying home on that day, my response has always been that blackouts would not really make a difference unless we implemented a long term strategy that directed the dollars we withdraw back to ourselves and our own businesses. It's not just about what "not" to do; it's more about what "to" do.

Mathis deals with my contention in a positive manner by covering the short-term and the long-term repercussions of our withdrawal and recycling of Black dollars in his film. It's not just about Black Friday itself or the few days preceding and following Black Friday. Rather, the film captures the various aspects of a successful economic empowering strategy, beginning with an introspective question each of us can answer,

tion of information regarding frivolous spending, economic literacy, saving, investing, business development and support, cooperative and collective economics; then Mathis caps it all off with practical solutions to stop the bleeding and reverse our trade deficit with other groups in this country.

The term Black Friday did not emanate from Black people. After several iterations of the term as far back as 1961, it has been promoted as a positive reality of businesses reaping huge profits not only from Black consumers, but from all consumers. Although quite apropos when it comes to the Black consumer, vis-à-vis our penchant for spending our money on everything anyone else makes, the term "Black Friday" does not have to be our reality, which is the basic message from the film. We deserve what we accept, and we must stop accepting the self-deprecating images and

self-defeating characterizations attributed to Black people as it pertains to our economic interests. Our economic imperative must be rooted in the reality of our relative economic position in this country.

Many of the stories we read in mainstream and social media are centered on Black athletes and entertainers who spend tremendous sums of money on material things and/or waste it in clubs on liquor and strippers. We read about robberies and murders by young people who want a certain pair of shoes or a jacket—and the latest craze: young girls are stealing hair!

Except for Black Enterprise Magazine and a few other Black-owned print media entities, not counting Black newspapers, the stories about Black entrepreneurs and others who are doing great things in the economic arena are buried, if they are in print at all. So who bears the responsibility of changing that reality? A long time ago I wrote, "The answer to media bias is 'media by us."

Ric Mathis has answered that call of responsibility, and I dare say obligation, to produce a video that will not only enlighten us but also move us to action—move us to take responsibility for the financial resources with which we have been blessed.

As we reflect on our answers to Black Friday's questions, let us also ponder our economic condition and then commit to making appropriate change toward true economic empowerment for Black people. See more information at www.TheFilm-BlackFriday.com.

James 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 can be reached through his website, blackonomics.com. He is the author of Black Dollars Matter: Teach Your Dollars How to Make More Sense, which is available through his website; professionalpublishinghouse.com and Amazon Kindle eBooks.

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### McCARTHY REQUESTS BIDS

McCarthy requests bids for the "UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON CAREER & LEADERSHIP CENTER RENOVATION & AD-DITION" located in Arlington, TX. The Bid Date is set as November 10, 2015 at 3pm CST.

This project includes both renovation and new construction. Renovation scope is to construct 17,206 GSF of interior finish out of an existing space which has been demolished and prepped for new construction. The new construction component of this project is to build a 5,162 GSF, double volume grand building Entrance and reception lobby, which includes infilling a courtyard between three existing exterior building walls. Bid documents are available for review at McCarthy's Building Connected online plan room and other area Plan rooms.

Please contact McCarthy for instructions on how to obtain documents and a list of plan rooms. A payment and performance bond may be required. Professional Liability and Pollution Liability insurance may be required.

McCarthy is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Submit bids to bidtex@mccarthy.com . Phone (972) 991-5500 - McCarthy Contact: Wayne Hendrix whendrix@mccarthy.com.

# **HELP WANTED**

Office Administrative Support

1) Process Weekly Invoices/New Ads and prepare for mail out (Quick Book Software)

2) Enter names and email addresses e-delivery spreadsheet (Google doc)

3) Prepare weekly Subscriptions for mailing print whole page label for subcription mailing (when needed)

4) Mail weekly invoices and tearsheets

Print invoices from Quickbooks

Pull tear sheets for weekly billing

Enter payments in Quick books develop summary/notes on customers preferences in

receiving their bills/invoices 8) Print Affidavits (when required by customer) 9) Balance bank statement (P & L & Balance sheet)

10) Must have accounting degree or extensive knowledge of accounting/

11) Prepare year-end docs for CPA

### **Collections:**

- 1) Develop collection summary spreadsheet (google document)
- 2) Update collection summary speadsheet weekly (google document)
- 3) Make 30-day collection call
- Mail out past due bills/invoices
- 5) Occasional meetings on status of accounts in collections

#### Technical support and orientation:

-Access off-site

-Quickbooks off-site

-Voicemail message system

Call 972-432-5219, or email your resume to: inquiries1909@gmail.com

Schedule Negotiable: 4-10 hours weekly @ \$10.00 to 13.00 hourly

### BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CARROLLTON

### October 31, 7 a.m. Until 2 p.m.

Join us for our 2nd Annual Community Fun Day. There will be FOOD (In-N-Out Burgers, 7-Eleven, Kona Ice, etc.) FELLOWSHIP (people from our church and the community), a COMMUNITY GARAGE SELL (pick up bargains galore) and SELL YOUR STUFF (clean out your garage and closets), games for children, teenagers and adults, (win prizes), a 1mile and a 5K walk, and more. You don't want to miss this day.

#### November 1, 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.

#### November 1, Noon Time

How do you study the Bible? Join us for a new one hour only Bible Study; Senior Pastor Woodson will teach a one hour series on "How to Study the Bible God's way." Learn how to: To know Christ and make Him known; helps to know and grow in God's word; to give clarity and direction; to help worship and praise God; helps to know and use God's word to lead others to Christ; and encourages fellowship and builds unity within the church.

You don't want to miss this Bible Study Group.

#### November 4, 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 Fall months. Learn what God says about critical issues and topics through the study of His word. Meet our special guests, all the way from Kingston, Jamaica, Pastor and Mrs. Burnett.

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

#### **BIBLE WAY** COMMUNITY **BAPTIST CHURCH**

### November 1, 7:35 a.m.

Join us this Sunday for our Praise and Worship Services and receive a blessing from

November 4, 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

### November 1, 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.

### November 4, 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

#### November 5, 7 p.m.

If you are going through some grief in your life, you are welcome to be with us on Grief Sharing Night.

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

#### **FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN** "The Ship"

### November 1, 8 a.m.

Join us as we praise and worship God 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.

### November 4

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.

#### November 22, 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 Chevenne Drive at Bolin Elementary School in Allen 75002 for Sunday Morning Worship and the Admin. Building Address is 200 W. Belmont Drive Allen, TX 75013 972-359-9956 www.theship3c.org

#### MT. OLIVE CHURCH **OF PLANO (MOCOP)**

#### November 1, 10 a.m.

Join us for the conclusion of our Vision Summit 2015 Sunday Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory. Call the church for details.

#### November 4, 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**

### November 1, 9:45 a.m.

You are welcome to join us for our Sunday morning worship service as we praise and worship God.

### November 2

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

### November 4. at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for Wednesday's Prayer and Worship come and hear what God has to say to

### November 21, 10 a.m.

Women of God, bring your favorite food dish and join us for our "Feeding the Body and Soul" Enrichment and Potluck Luncheon. This will be the soul food you don't want to

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

#### **NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH**

October 31, 12 p.m. Our Fall Festival will be this Saturday, please bring bags of individually-wrapped candy and place in the marked boxes in the foyers. Sign-up for the bake contest and the chili cook-off they will be held after 7:30 and 10:30 services.

#### November 1

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

#### November 4, 7 p.m.

Join us in Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us for our growth.

#### November 7

You are invited to our Young Adult Ministry (YAM)'s FREE conference, "Activating Your Faith." Sessions will focus on Relationships; Career and Finances; and Finding your Purpose and Direction. Register after 7:30 service in the Bridal Suite (Room #112) and after 10:30 service in the west end of the Fellowship Hall (Room #109).

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

#### SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

#### November 1, 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 righteous-

#### November 4, 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.

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

#### THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH

### **Tomorrow Night** October 30, 7 p.m.

All men are invited to join us for Men's Fellowship night. Come and grow with us.

#### **November 1, 7:30** and/or 11:30 a.m.

You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

### November 2, 7 p.m.

Join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

Pastor Rickie Rush 7701 S Westmoreland Road Dallas, TX 75237 972-372-4262 www.Ibocchurch.org



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# God is still in control...



Send email to: businessoffice@ northdallasgazette.com to sign up for Sister Tarpley's weekly elec-

People are looking for answers to explain what has happened and why. But, we must not forget that God is still in control.

It is now time to be real with God. You can put on a "front" for everybody, but not God. He knows what is in our hearts and minds.

He said, "If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."2 Chronicles 7:14.

God is ultimate the one that is going reward you for what you do. Also, it is only

what you do for Christ will your mouth.

Things to Ponder: You can know all the scriptures. have all the Bibles that you can reach, but when push comes to shove, do you practice what you preach?

Anyone can go to church and collapse on the floor, but when Judgment Day comes, will you be at Heaven's door?

You can have the biggest of fits and say the Holy Ghost passed through, but is that really reflected in the things you do?

You can yell far and wide proclaiming your love for Christ, but what have you given Him when for you He gave His life.

You can lecture others about the wrong things that they do, but before you look at others, you need to look at

You can damn all the sinners; tell them that they are headed south, but what have you done, lately, besides run

You can call yourself a Christian; spend your days at church, but while you are praising His name, have you been doing the Lord's work?

You can boast of good deeds to show us the Spirit is within, but why show them to us? Show it to Him.

You can memorize the Bible; know it from front to

back, but don't use it to regulate others, regulate how vou act.

Take a good look at yourself, not at what others do, because when He comes to get His children, will "YOU" go too? --Author Unknown

Some encouraging verses from Psalms, Scriptures of Praise: In trouble times, remember, "The Lord is God,

and He has made His light to shine upon us. Psalms 118:27.

"Jesus alone is my rock. and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken."Psalms 62:6.

"The Heavens declare the Glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands". Psalms 19:1.

"The Lord reigns; let the Heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad: let the sea resound and all that is in it."Psalms 96:10-11.

"If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me;

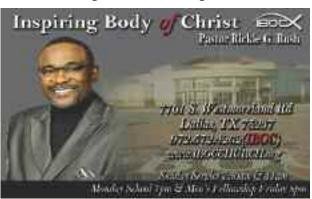
Your right hand will hold me fast."Psalms 139:9-10.

"Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea-the Lord on high is mighty."Psalms 93:4.and Psalms 63:1.

"Commit your ways to the Lord; trust in Him and He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn . . ."Psalms 37:5-6.

"Your love, O Lord, reaches to the Heavens, Your faithfulness skies."Psalms 36:5.

We should worship and praise God at all times and in all things.





Brandon Douglas is reminding us of Bethel Bible Fellowship's 2nd Annual Community Fun Day, this Weekend, October 31st, at 1944 E. Hebron Parkway, Carrollton, Texas from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. There will be a Garage Sale, Games for all ages, win prizes; Food and Fitness, a 1-mile and a 5K walk and more.



Ramon Hodridge, Minister

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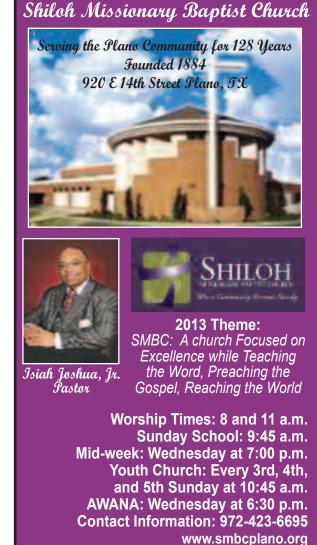


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# NDG Book Review: Grant Park is a must read, three pages to the end

By Terri Schlichenmeye

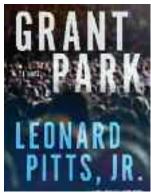
Open mouth, insert foot. Maybe it doesn't happen often, but there are times when you have a knack for saying what's on your mind at precisely the wrong time. You can't un-say things, though, especially if you mean them but as you'll see in the new novel "Grant Park" by Leonard Pitts, Jr., at least those words won't kill you.

In his heart, Malcolm Toussaint was always an activist.

The son of a Memphis sanitary worker, Toussaint grew up seeing the lack of equality around him, and he understood that higher education was a means of escape. Once at college, he grew an Afro, wrote angry pamphlets, and spoke his mind but, though he wasn't alone in his radicalism, he was expelled from whiteman's school anyway.

That was February 1968; it was cold but so was life, which Toussaint learned the spring before he returned to college, chastened and wiser.

Four decades later, the



award-winning newspaper columnist hadn't forgotten those days, which was why, early one morning, he snuck into his editor's office and quietly inserted a rant in the paper, a column that had been rejected by his superiors, a tired-of-white-people column that Toussaint knew would kill his career.

As the paper's editor, Bob Carson was the first to reject the column so it especially stung that Toussaint's action caused Bob to lose his job, too. Being fired was a shock, and there was more: not only was Toussaint missing, but an old girlfriend, Bob's first love whom he hadn't seen in years, was in Chicago with the Obama campaign and was hoping to have lunch with Bob.

That was fine. He had nothing else to do. Toussaint had seen to that, hadn't he?

For most of his life, Clarence Pym was bullied, abused, and didn't have many friends, but he had Dwayne and their carefully-laid plans for Something Big. Recently, they'd formed the White Resistance Army, and Dwayne said it was time for white men to take America back. It didn't matter who died – starting with that Black writer from the newspaper...

It's-only-a-book, it's-only-a-book, that's what to keep reminding yourself here. It's only a book which, because you're immersed in history and authentic events and because the fictional parts feel natural, is easy to forget when you're reading "Grant Park."

And then there are those thrills – gasping, mouthgaping page-turners that author Leonard Pitts, Jr. weaves through another realism: truthful, brutal plotlines about racial issues of the last five decades,

mulling over exactly how far we've really come. That makes this will-they-liveor-won't-they nail-biter into something that also made me think, and I absolutely loved it...

Until three pages from

the end. There's where Pitts, Jr. inserted a tiny little thread that almost made me cry with frustration and cliché-repulsion.

I could cry now, in fact, but instead, I'll recommend this book with one caveat: stop before you finish it. If you can, you'll love it wholeheartedly with no disappointment. If you absolutely must read to the end, well, then liking "Grant Park," is for open discussion.

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