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Symposium to focus on real estate

The North Dallas Chamber of Commerce will hold its 11th Annual Real Estate Symposium, "Doing Business in 2012: Defining the New Norm," from 8 to 11:15 a.m. Tuesday at Westin Park Central Hotel, 12720 Merit Drive.

Keynote speakers will be James J. Saccacio, CEO of RealtyTrac, and Steve Brown, real estate editor at *The Dallas Morning News*. Registration is \$65.

Saccacio, an expert on mortgages and foreclosures, is making a rare appearance in Dallas, said Chuck Dannis, president of Crosson Dannis Inc. and a member of the real estate department at Southern Methodist University's Cox School of Business.

Between the two speeches, there will be a panel discussion on "Hot Topics: Doing Business in Big D."

The panelists each bring a specific industry specialty to the discussion. They are Steve Everbach, managing director and regional director of leasing and management at Jones Lang LaSalle Americas Inc.; Stuart Wernick, senior vice president of Grandbridge Real Estate Capital; and Don Wilson, CEO of Cirrus Health.

Brown will close the event with a presentation about the real estate market recovery and the months ahead.

"The speakers assembled for this annual symposium are some of the closest seers you will find," said Mary Frances Burleson, president and CEO of Ebby Halliday Cos. "They are sure to provide a morning packed with thoughtful and insightful comments about the road ahead."

Sponsors are: \$3,500: Cowles & Thompson PC, *Dallas Business Journal*, Ebby Halliday Cos., Hudson Peters Commercial, Weaver LLP and Wells Fargo Bank \$2,500: BB&T

For more information, call Sharon Walker at 214-368-6993 or visit www.ndcc.org to register.

Pizza Hut partnership

Plano-based Pizza Hut is celebrating its new \$1 million, multiyear relationship with Children's Medical Center that establishes an employee volunteer program and secures Pizza Hut's position as a co-presenting sponsor of the hospital's Children's Medical Center Holiday Parade.

The 2011 parade, co-presented with Capital One Bank, is set for Dec. 3 in downtown Dallas and will include musical performances, giant balloons, marching bands and floats — all airing live on WFAA-TV (Channel 8). More than 350 television stations in 159 markets will air the parade in syndication throughout the holiday season.

The parade, which is in its 23rd year, benefits the Child Life Department at Children's, whose experts provide age-appropriate therapies to help children cope with their hospital stays through diagnosis-specific education, therapeutic and bedside activities, and medical play. Child Life's services are not covered by insurance, so it relies on philanthropy to provide its services.

The parade is free and open to the public. Reserved bleacher seats will cost \$25 and go on sale Oct. 3 at www.childrens.com/parade.

For information about sponsorships, call Leslie Russell at 214-456-8360.

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Personal Technology

Here's some sound advice

These headphones and ear buds are all worth a listen

By JIM ROSSMAN
Staff Writer
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I've tried almost every brand of headphones and ear buds around, but it's been awhile since I gathered a few sets to see what's new.

This is not a comparison. These headphones don't compete with each other; they all fit a different niche.

There's something here for everyone.

JHAudio JH5 Pro

In Ear Monitors from JHAudio are not an impulse purchase.

They don't sell them in stores, and they don't just overnight them to you. IEMs are what you see performers wearing onstage. They are custom-molded to the ear of the customer.

The company was founded by Jerry Harvey, who was a monitor engineer touring with Van Halen. Harvey created the first two-way custom-fit IEMs for drummer Alex Van Halen.

The IEMs were such a hit with Van Halen that word spread, and Harvey started his own company.

JHAudio clients include Bon Jovi, Aerosmith, the Who and Roger Waters.

I reviewed the JH5 Pro (\$399, www.jhaudio.com), which is the entry-level IEM.

The process started with my making an appointment with an audiologist to have molds made of my ears.

The molding process involves squirting a quick-setting caulk-like substance into your ears and waiting about 10 minutes. It was painless and not unpleasant.

The audiologist puts your molds in a small box, and you ship them off to JHAudio and wait.

About two weeks later, my JH5 Pros arrived in a waterproof Otterbox case engraved with my name on top.

My earpieces are clear, but they're available in more than 50 colors and can even feature your artwork on the outside.

The cable is tangle-resistant and made of metal. It is also replaceable should you want a longer or shorter one. A cable with iPhone mike and controls is forthcoming.

Wearing the JH5s is a joy. They fit perfectly and sound great. I can really see this being the last pair I ever own.

I wish I could share the fantastic sound with others who ask how they are, but they'll fit only me.

The earpieces are not hard to insert, and the cables are mounted to curl up and around the back of your ears. There's a short length of tubing at the earpiece that bends and holds its shape around the top of the ear — a nice touch that makes the fit more comfortable.

JHAudio says there's a 26-decibel decrease in outside noise if you're wearing IEMs. You'll definitely need to take them out if you want to have a conversation with someone.

The JH5 Pros have two drivers per ear.

JHAudio has a full line of IEMs that top out with the JH16 Pro, featuring eight drivers per ear, but they start at \$1,149.

I'd love to try a pair of those one day.

Pros: Best fit ever. Built to last. Replaceable cord.

Cons: Expensive.

Bottom line: When you're ready for your last pair of ear buds, call JHAudio.

BlueAnt Embrace

BlueAnt has strayed away from its Bluetooth roots to introduce its first wired stereo headphones, the Embrace (\$199, www.myblueant.com).



The Embrace is priced on the high side and built accordingly. All surfaces that touch your body are leather, and the headphones ship with a nice carrying case.

Two cables are provided, one for just audio and one with inline microphone and playback controls.

The Embrace's large pads sit on the ear, not around it. I must say, it's very comfortable.

Pros: Quality materials, warm sound, comfortable.

Cons: The cable with the mike is bright blue.

Bottom line: Anyone should be proud to own the Embrace.

AKG K326 by Harman

Active folks should look at the AKG K326 from Harman (\$59.95, us.akg.com).

These buds don't insert into the ear canal, so you still hear some outside noise, which is a good thing for joggers and bikers.

They hook around the top of the ear so they won't become dislodged during exercise. The loops are flexible but hold their position, so you can adjust the fit.

They're very lightweight — with a proper fitting they seemed to disappear and the sound was very full. K326s come in three colors and have iPhone mike and controls built-in.

Pros: Very light, stable during use.

Cons: Might not fit smaller ears.

Bottom line: Nice buds to use for any exercise or anytime.

Jaybird JF3 Freedom Bluetooth Headphones

If you don't want to mess with cords at all when you jog, the Jaybird JF3 (\$99, www.jaybirdgear.com) allows total freedom of movement.

These are very easy to set up, and the secure-fit ear cushions really keep them in your ears. I could not shake them loose. They're very comfortable and sound fantastic and are sealed to keep out the sweat.

The JF3s charge in 2 hours from a USB port and play music for 6 hours.

They also have a microphone and music and volume controls.

Pros: All-around great performance, including sound.

Cons: The charging port is proprietary. Not easily replaceable.

Bottom line: The JF3s work really well, sound good and are easy to use.

NuForce BT-860

I can remember when Bluetooth headphones were looked down upon for bad sound. Those days are over.

The NuForce BT-860 (\$79, www.nuforce.com) is a nice mix of good sound, good looks and a good price.

Very modern styling and nice sound mean the BT-860s can certainly stand alongside more expensive competitors.

The BT-860s are very comfortable, charge from a USB port and play for eight hours.

They also have a microphone and control buttons to use with your phone.

Pros: Inexpensive, good sound, comfortable.

Cons: Proprietary charge cable.

Bottom line: This wireless set is the complete package at a price that can't be beat.

Redemption Song by House of Marley

Bob Marley's style is all over these buds that should appeal to Whole Foods shoppers.

Eco-friendly seems to be key here, with the Redemption Song (\$79.95, www.thehouseofmarley.com) made from wood, recyclable aluminum and recycled plastic.

The packaging is recycled cardboard. The carrying case even looks like a small canvas messenger bag.

The buds sound very nice and feature a tangle-free braided cable sporting red/yellow/green accents. There's also an iPhone mike and music controls on the cable.

A portion of the proceeds from House of Marley go to ILove.org.

Pros: Eco-friendly, nice sound.

Cons: None.

Bottom line: If you're serious about protecting the earth, these should be on your list.



JHAudio JH5 Pro

JHAudio

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook debuts 'timeline'

Users can make an online scrapbook to 'express who you are'

Facebook is dramatically redesigning its users' profile pages to create what chief executive Mark Zuckerberg says is a "new way to express who you are."

Zuckerberg introduced the Facebook "timeline" Thursday in San Francisco at the company's f8 conference for about 2,000 entrepreneurs, developers and journalists. The event is also being broadcast to more than 100,000 online viewers.

The timeline is reminiscent of an online scrapbook, with the most important photos and text that users have shared on Facebook over the years.

It is Facebook's attempt at growing from an online hang-out to a homestead, where people express their real selves and merge their online and offline lives. The timeline can go back to include years before Facebook existed, so users can add photos and events from, say, 1995 when they got married or 1970 when they were born.

Zuckerberg took the stage after a humorous skit in which actor Andy Samberg impersonated him. The real Mark Zuckerberg looked more playful and at ease than he has in past events, suggesting he is growing into his role as the public face of Facebook.

But he quickly got down to business as he introduced the timeline as "the story of your life — all your stories, all your apps and a new way to express who you are."

Expanding on its ubiquitous "like" buttons, Zuckerberg said Facebook will now let users connect to things even if they don't want to "like" them.

"We are making it so you can connect to anything you want. Now you don't have to like a book, you can just read a book," he said. "You don't have to like a movie; you can just watch a movie."

The Associated Press

COMPANIES IN THE NEWS

This index lists companies in *The Dallas Morning News*' Business section today. Not covered are companies mentioned in passing and those listed only in financial tables.

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