

# North Dallas Gazette



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## Commentary: Who is ALEC and why you should care?

*The nonprofit is closely tied to Stand Your Ground laws and voter suppression efforts.*

BY CAROL JABLONSKI,  
NDG SPECIAL  
CONTRIBUTOR

*Editor's note: Following recent public outcry regarding the political influence of ALEC, many Fortune 500 companies are beginning to withdraw their support. The companies which have pulled*

*ed out since January include PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, Kraft, McDonald's and this week Intuit the company that offers TurboTax software.*

*The website ColorChange.org has led public awareness of ALEC's*



*involvement in what many believe is voter suppression*

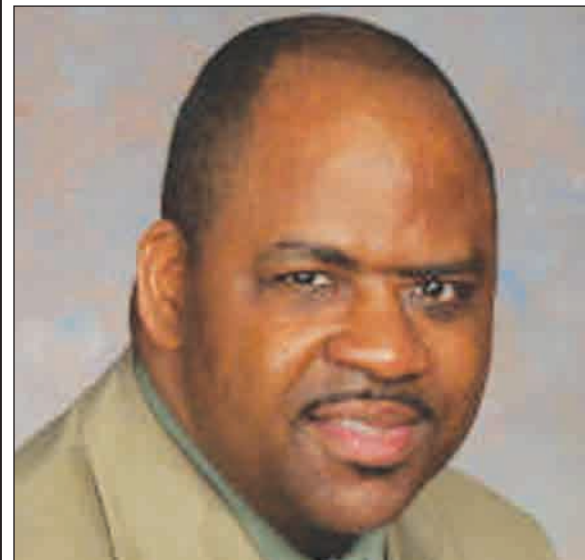
*and their heavy hand in the "Stand Your Ground" laws across the country.*

*Do you know who ALEC is? I didn't until the brouhaha over the Florida "Stand Your Ground" law.*

*The American Legislative Exchange Council is a*  
**See ALEC, Page 4**

COVER STORY

## Irving ISD candidates are gearing up for the elections



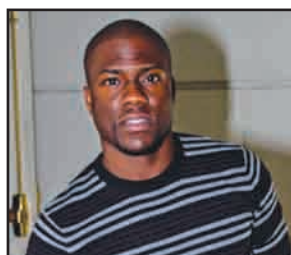
AD Jenkins Candidate Place 3 - Irving ISD

See CANDIDATES, Page 9

## Kevin Hart is just being himself – on stage, film and social media

BY LATRISHA McDUFFIE  
NDG STAFF WRITER  
Comedian Kevin Hart made a promotional appearance in Dallas for his new movie *Think Like a Man*.

Hart is a very busy man nowadays balancing family, movies, and stand-up. An hour before the interview began, Hart



Comedian Kevin Hart

*Credit: RB Media Photography*  
was playing cards with his two best friends in the guest suite. And then seconds later he was chatting with players from the Sacramento Kings. He was hoping to catch the Mavs' game after the red carpet that was scheduled for later that evening.

He has just finished promoting the DVD and Blu-ray for his

record breaking film *Laugh at My Pain* and is currently out with the *Let Me Explain* tour, which he says focuses on the mistakes he's made.

When asked how he manages to do it all Hart says, "I think I have it down to a science

**See KEVIN, Page 10**



## Think Like a Man is worth the wait

For more information see pg. 10  
[www.northdallasgazette.com](http://www.northdallasgazette.com)

COMMENTARY

## Trayvon Martin was Standing His Ground

BY GEORGE E. CURRY (NNPA) Most people are asking whether Florida's 'Stand Your Ground' law should apply to George Zimmerman, the 28-year-old neighborhood watch captain who killed an unarmed Trayvon Martin. That's the wrong question. A better one is, given the circumstances, did the law protect Trayvon when he physically confronted Zimmerman?

In a word, yes. Looking at the 2005

law from a different perspective – through the eyes of 17-year-old Trayvon instead of Zimmerman – is critical because the debate over what happened on Feb. 26 in Sanford, Fla. is being misframed.

Some facts are undisputed: Trayvon was walking home from a nearby 7-Eleven store, where he had purchased a bag of Skittles and a can of Arizona iced tea, when he was spotted by Zimmerman.

**See MARTIN, Page 3**

## DCCCD invites community to get down and dirty for a good cause

Dallas County Community College District (DCCD) wants students and community members to get down and dirty for a good cause! A one-day event, "Be the Change," will bring together people who will volunteer their time to make a difference - to literally be an agent of



change – as they clean up the Great Trinity Forest, the largest urban forest in North America, on Sat., April 28.

DCCCD students are invited to sign up, bring

classmates and friends, and give back to their community. Service learning

credit is available for those students who need to earn hours. The event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon, and sign-in starts at 8 a.m.

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## People In The News...



Richard Fleming



Katherine Smith



Sylvia Wayne

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## Richard Fleming

The Honorable Richard Fleming, Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District (C-FB ISD) Board of Trustee was born on June 14, 1967. He is a native of Farmers Branch, but currently resides in Carrollton.

He attended Valwood Elementary (now Montgomery Elementary) and Vivian Field Junior High; and in 1986 he graduated from R.L. Turner High School all schools in the C-FB ISD. At R. L. Turner High Mr. Fleming excelled in Football, Wrestling and

track. After graduation he received a football scholarship to attend Cameron University located in Lawton Oklahoma. Fleming was a member of Cameron's 1988 NAIA National Football Championship team. He received a BBA in Finance and minored in Accounting and Economics. In 1990 Fleming received a Presidential Scholarship to Cameron's graduate school, where he graduated with a MBA in Business.

Coming out of College Fleming worked in Property Tax for five years and he

worked for the State Comptroller's office for the next nine years as a State Tax Auditor.

In 2005 Richard Fleming co-founded State Tax Group, LLC, a state tax advisory firm in Addison representing small to fortune 500 companies. Fleming is Principle owner and serves as Managing Director of Tax Services.

The Honorable Fleming currently is raising seven nieces and nephews who attend schools in the C-FB ISD, where he is the Board Secretary.

In 2009 Mr. Fleming ran for Place 4 School Board

trustee position for the C-FB ISD and won the election 52% to his opponent's, a 20-year incumbent Board President's 48% to become the first Black American to hold the C-FB ISD Board of Trustee position.

After the election the newly appointed Board President and Members of the Board challenged his election stating

that his house was 17 feet outside the C-FB ISD District, however, Judge Ken



Molberg later over ruled the C-FB ISD's challenge and ordered that Mr. Fleming be seated immediately. Stating that the District had certified Mr. Fleming to be on the ballot, Mr. Fleming has paid C-FB ISD property taxes to the district, and his kids are attending schools in the district.

For his accomplishments R. L. Turner's Faculty and Students have named him one of their Inaugural "Distinguished Alumni" Awards and he will be honored at their 100th Year Celebration, April 28, 2012.

## Katherine Smith

Katherine "Kat" Smith, the Love Enthusiast, is formerly a co-host of a syndicated morning radio with ABC Radio Networks, Inc. Her weekly show, *A Woman's Point of View*, focused on relationships and during her four year show she interviewed actors, musicians and authors including; Gospel greats like Yolanda Adams and Kirk Franklin, Entertainment legend Billy Dee Williams, actor Allan Payne, comedian Arnez J and LaValle Crawford and musicians

like Miles J and Keith Sweat.

Recently certified as a relationship coach through the Loveology University Kat also created and manufactures programs and products that inspire more communication in relationships and enrich romance. She is the producer of the Love & Romance Expo which is an event design to inspire others to healthier, nurturing relationships.

The Love & Romance Expo is scheduled for Saturday June 2 from 10 a.m. –

6 p.m. at the Addison Conference Center. Guests are invited to browse the exhibits offering a myriad of products and services for both singles, and couples. Experts will share valuable tips and interesting knowledge and humor on relationship enrichment, dating, communicating, romance and more. Percentage of proceeds benefit Minnie's Food Pantry.

Speaker topics will include:

- How to improve your communication in all relationships
- Find romantic enter-

tainment, dining spots and travel excursions

- Finding love that's lasting online or in person

Smith is presently host of the Muse Literary Mingle, a monthly literary event and her topics for speaking engagements concentrate on life enrichment, clarity of message in both career and personal life, self



mastery and recovery.

As a writer, she has work publish domestically

and internationally. She is the author of the following books with TomKat Productions:

*Seeds From Mama's Garden* (Novel 2010)

*Romantic Retreats in Texas* (Travel Guide 2010)

*The Naked Author-Exposing the Myths of Publishing* (Reference 2008)

*I'm Tall You're Not So That Makes Us Even* (Inspirational Humor 2008).

*Love the Vicious Cycle* (Poetry 2002)

For more information or for booking Kat for your next event, visit [www.kat-smith.com](http://www.kat-smith.com).

## Sylvia Wayne

Sylvia Wayne, 72, was installed Thursday, May 3, 2012, as the president of the Methodist Dallas Medical Center Auxiliary. What makes this occasion particularly noteworthy, is that

90-years of service.

Ms. Wayne has been volunteering in the hospital's surgery waiting room for about three years, assisting family members while their loved ones are in surgery. Ms. Wayne started her volunteer service, however, in the gift shop. She also volunteers time in the hospital's Chaplain's office (pastoral care).

Her love for helping people in a medical setting began when she was very young. Her late mother, Inez Sims,

worked at VA Medical Center for more than 35 years and at Parkland for 15 years as a License Vocational Nurse. Ms. Wayne worked at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center for 25 years before retiring.

During her time at VA, Ms. Wayne worked as a secretary to the chief of ambulatory care; clinical clerk in the emergency room; ward clerk; surgical service clerk in plastic surgery, neurosurgery, thoracic surgery and orthopedic surgery. She also worked as a medical administration supervisor to the transcription unit/day surgery/medical records and wards.

She admits that she really wanted to be a nurse and that her first job when she finished high school was at Parkland Memorial Hospital, where she was a nurse's aide.

"I just enjoy helping

people and what better way to give back to the community of God's people."

"Motherdear always wanted to be a RN (Registered Nurse) but was unable to because of finances. Her father chose to send his second child to school since he couldn't afford to send them all. However, Motherdear pursued her dream and I always admired that about my mother. She never gave up. She worked hard and passed along those ethics to her own children."

The ministers of the United Methodist Church broke ground to build a hospital in the southern sector of Dallas because there was a need for the people on the "other" side of the Trinity River. However, the church did not have enough money to start building after purchasing the land. The women's ministry got involved and began to do

projects to raise the additional money for building. Once the hospital was built, the women furnished it with

furniture, they made linens, gowns, etc. They even started a rose garden so that

See WAYNE, Page 4



Ms. Wayne will be the first African-American female president in the Auxiliary's

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## Should I take the credit for the Jobs Act?

BY ERIC O. JANUARY  
(BlackNews.com) The Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act (JOBS Act) that President Barack Obama signed last Thursday is to quote the president, "a game changer." It has a number of provisions

that will not only allow small businesses to raise much needed equity for the first time by going public but also will go a long way to finally leveling the playing field for non-accredited investors. In a nut shell, a non-accredited investor is

a person or organization that does not have a million dollar net-worth or make hundreds of thousands of dollars. The 99 percent in other words.

Finally allowing non-accredited investors the opportunity to do what the

rich have always been able to do - directly fund the next best thing since sliced bread--can be a game changer. Although the JOBS Act is not perfect, I would like to take credit

See CREDIT, Page 13

## MARTIN, continued from Page 1

man, who was driving a SUV. Zimmerman dialed 911 and reported seeing a suspicious Black male in the gated townhouse community.

According to the *Orlando Sentinel*, Zimmerman told police he lost sight of Trayvon and got out of his SUV to follow him on foot. Zimmerman said he was returning to his vehicle when Trayvon allegedly approached him from the rear. The two exchanged words and began fighting. The neighborhood watch captain claimed Trayvon knocked him to the ground with a punch in the nose. Zimmerman said Trayvon climbed on top of him and began slamming his head into the sidewalk.

Zimmerman told police that he began yelling for help, but two voice experts hired by the *Sentinel* concluded that the voice heard screaming for help on the 911 tapes was not that of the neighborhood watch captain. During the scuffle, Zimmerman pulled his 9 millimeter semi-automatic handgun and fatally shot Trayvon once in the chest.

Police said that when they arrived, Zimmerman was bleeding from the nose, had a swollen lip and had cuts on the back of his head.

Those details were leaked by police to the *Orlando* newspaper in hopes of bolstering Zimmerman's case. However, even if everything Zimmerman said is true - which is doubtful - he was clearly the aggressor, not the victim. He was the one who pursued Trayvon against the advice of the 911 dispatcher. And with police officers en route, he decided to leave his SUV and hunt for Trayvon.

Even supporters of Florida's Stand Your Ground law don't believe Zimmerman should be allowed to hide behind the controversial legislation.

State Rep. Dennis Baxley, the Ocala Republican who sponsored the bill in the House, told the *Tampa Bay Times*, "They got the goods on him [Zimmerman]. They need to prosecute whoever shot the kid. He has no protection under my law."

Jeb Bush, who signed the bill into law when he was governor of Florida, agrees.

"This law does not apply to this particular circumstance," he said. "Stand your ground means stand your ground. It doesn't mean chase after somebody who's turned their back."

Florida statute 776.013 (3), known as the Stand Your Ground law, says, in

part:

*(a) person who is not engaged in an unlawful activity and who is attacked in any other place where he or she has a right to be has no duty to retreat and has the right to stand his or her ground and meet force with force, including deadly force if he or she reasonably believes it is necessary to do so to prevent death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another or to prevent the commission of a forcible felony.*

Trayvon was clearly operating within those boundaries when he faced-off against Zimmerman. He was a guest in one of the townhouses and therefore had an undeniable reason to be in the neighborhood. He had no duty to retreat simply because Zimmerman was the aggressor. And Trayvon had every right to believe that the person who

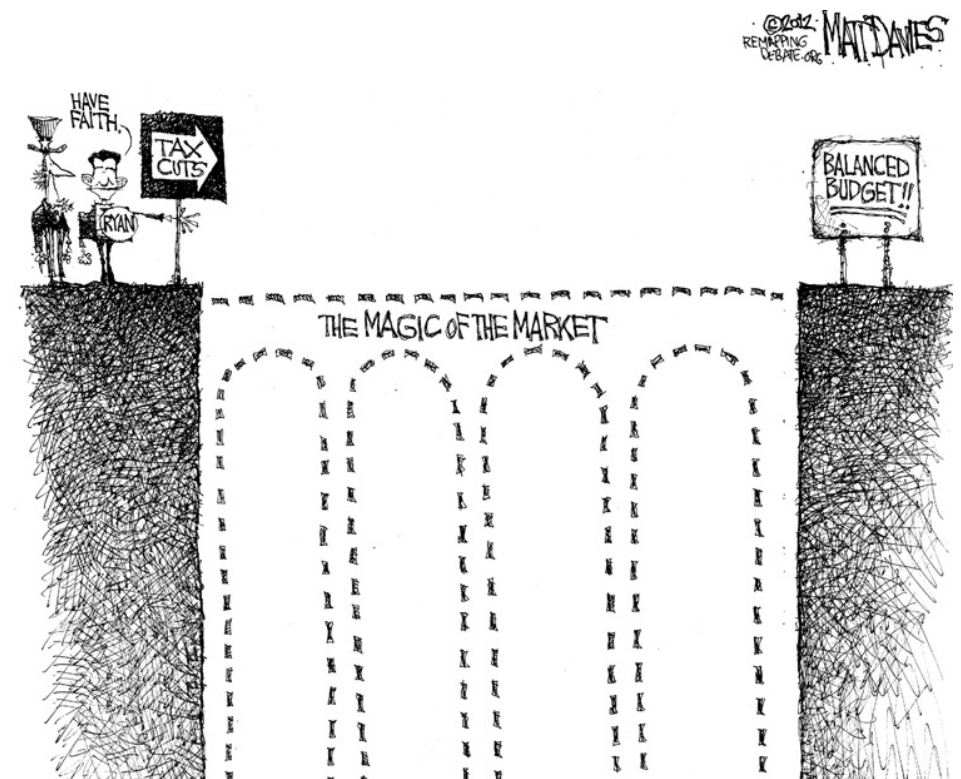
had been stalking him was intent on inflicting great bodily harm.

Regardless of how Zimmerman's family tries to spin the facts, it was Trayvon Martin who had the clear right to stand his ground. Whatever he did to Zimmerman was totally justified. And Zimmerman had no right to kill a 17-old-old youth carrying only a bag of candy and iced tea.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of *Emerge* magazine, is editor-in-chief of the *National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service* and editorial director of *Heart & Soul* magazine. He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, [www.georgecurry.com](http://www.georgecurry.com). You can also follow him at [www.twitter.com/currygeorge](http://www.twitter.com/currygeorge).

## Walking on sunshine

Matt Davies advises caution before using the Paul Ryan method of getting to the promised land of balanced budgets.





## Second Floor Bistro Bar: Best kept gourmet dining secret in Dallas?

BY RUTH FERGUSON  
NDG EDITOR

The Second Floor Bistro Bar at the Westin Galleria is perhaps one of the best-kept gourmet dining secrets in Dallas. Easter Brunches cater to singles and those who simply do not want to cook, but many are very pricey. This year their brunch was not only reasonable in price at \$35 but also delicious. The menu offered familiar and

new brunch items.

Our party split fairly evenly between the three offerings for the first course. Three selected the vanilla bean crepe with caramelized banana, nutella and pecans. Given their declaration that it was like enjoying desert first, I think it is safe to say it was a success. Two enjoyed what they described as light and tasty, the citrus crab salad, which looked

*Top Chef* worthy.

Two of us chose the radicchio and leek risotto infused with fresh herbs and pecorino cheese. The three ingredients create a risotto with a bold flavor. The portion was large enough to eat half with the second half paired with a slice of meat making a great leftover dinner later in the day.

The main course featured "steak and eggs"

spotlighting generous portion of slow braised short ribs and a lobster omelets both were met with favorable reviews. I selected the fire-roasted chicken on a quinoa with parsnip puree - a tastier and healthier alternative to mashed potatoes. Quinoa is a creamy seed with a just a slightly crunchy texture. The chicken was succulent and divine.

As a result of eating

everything on my plate earlier, I really only sampled the trio of sorbets I received for desert. The raspberry was tasty and it was nice to discover two flavors I would usually never select: tamarind chile and blood orange. Others savored spice rum cake with cinnamon espresso ice cream and caramelized pears; and blueberry-apple cobbler paired with apple chips and mascarpone ice

cream. No one was disappointed with his or her choices.

I will certainly look for an opportunity to return to The Second Floor at the Westin Galleria, which is run by the husband and wife team Scott Gottlich, the executive chef and Gina sommelier. I give the restaurant 4 stars out of 5.

To read the full review, visit [www.NorthDallasGazette.com](http://www.NorthDallasGazette.com).

## ALEC, continued from Page 1

501(c) (3) corporation composed of over 2000 state legislative members and hundreds of large corporate members. With the help and financing of corporations (memberships range from \$7,000 to \$25,000 with additional contributions welcome), ALEC produces model bills that promote a conservative agenda and the interests of its corporate members. While ALEC did not write the original Florida "Stand Your Ground" bill, it has since, at the urging of the NRA, used the Florida bill as a model for legislation that ALEC members have introduced in over 20 states. It also has promoted conservative "model" legislation in areas such as voter ID, immigration, healthcare, the environment, corporate regulation, and privatization of ed-

ucation and prisons.

On its web site, ALEC boasts that in one year 1000 of its model bills are introduced in state legislatures and approximately 20% of those bills are enacted. In a column entitled *Lobbyists, Guns and Money*, *New York Times*, March 26, 2012, Paul Krugman states that in Virginia alone over 50 ALEC drafted bills have been introduced and many have become law.

Not all of ALEC's aims are evil. I actually agree with ALEC's recently developed position that the "tough on crime" policies of the last decade or so, which included increased sentences and increased incarceration rates, are a waste of money that should be used for alternative sentencing and rehabilitation. But most of ALEC's policies and model legislation directly promote the interests of its

corporate members and ALEC spends a lot of corporate money bringing legislators together with captains of industry to work for the benefit of those corporate members.

Legislators pay a pittance (\$50 a year) for ALEC membership and can be eligible for "scholarships" to attend conventions at resorts with their families where they meet corporate executives who can also be sources for campaign funding. How can the interests of private citizens, who cannot afford membership in ALEC or copious donations, compete with the access and influence that corporations have to legislators through ALEC? (The site [alecexposed.org](http://alecexposed.org) lists some Texas legislators that it claims have ties to ALEC, but I do not know how current or accurate it is.)

ALEC is yet another reason why it is so important to elect Democratic candidates this year. Americans need to be represented by people who will do what is good for the country and its citizens, not just what is good for corporate interests.

I look forward to working with you over the next months to make this happen.

*Carol Jablonski is the President of the North Dallas Texas Democratic Women* <http://nddw.org/>.

## WAYNE,

continued from Page 2

the patients would have fresh flowers every day.

Since that time, the Auxiliary of United Methodist Women, have been visible in continuing the work started in 1922, giving service, as needed, to the hospital. The women started the first Gift Shop, which they proudly own. All profits earned in the Gift Shop go to the Medical Center. The money is used to purchase whatever is needed, such as equipment and even a Mammobile. The Auxiliary also purchased and installed the beautiful cross that stands atop the Medical Center.

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*Despite huge decreases in state funding and dramatic changes in student testing requirements, our student achievement continues to rise. Irving ISD remains financially stable through conservative management of funds. We have built productive business and community partnerships and strengthened family connections.*

*We have accomplished much, but there is still much to do. This is no time to change the course. The Board will need an experienced voice as we continue to face the challenging issues ahead.*

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**Valerie Jones**



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## DART takes next steps in safety and security campaign

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) has taken steps to emphasize their commitment to the safety of their patrons. In recent months, accidents and assaults have resulted in the death of DART riders.

DART launched the next phase of its ongoing safety/security initiative with the debut of a police text tool and the ongoing installation of closed circuit cameras at all 55 light rail stations during a mobile



media briefing and transit system tour which started at Ledbetter Station on Friday, April 6 at 6 a.m. The text service went live at that time as well. Forty-nine of

the 55 stations have cameras. The remaining six are scheduled for installation within the next two to six weeks.

## Texas Workforce Commission Hosts Texas Business Conference in Dallas on Friday

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) will host Dallas-area business owners and managers at the Texas Business Conference on Friday, April 13, 2012.

Employers will learn how to operate a business and discover techniques to

more effectively manage employees. TWC Chairman and Commissioner Representing Employers Tom Pauken and his staff will present practical, up-to-date information and high-tech tools for finding workers.

The conference will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Dallas, Landmark Ballroom B-D, located at 300 Reunion Blvd. in Dallas. Registration is from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

## Huffhines Recreation Center renewable energy project

New technology at Huffhines Recreation Center is making possible a 10 percent savings in energy costs and providing an educational opportunity to visitors.

A grant from the U.S. Department of Energy through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program allowed for several conservation initiatives at the City, including the new renewable energy installations at Huffhines Recreation Center.

The installation includes a solar photovoltaic system, a solar hot water heating system, a small wind energy system, two electrical vehicle charging stations and an interactive display for education about LEED. The improvements helped increase the recreation center's certification to LEED Silver. Educational programming utilizing data from the new technologies will be developed for citi-

zens as well as school districts.

A ribbon cutting is

scheduled for 5 p.m. April 22.

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## Dallas DAs office ids three more men wrongly convicted

Darryl Washington, Shakara Robertson, and Marcus Smith were among a group of five men arrested and convicted of aggravated robbery in a 1994 purse-snatching incident near Inwood Village in Dallas. Washington was sentenced to 99 years in prison. Smith and Robertson were both sentenced to terms of probation. Two juveniles arrested along with Washington, Robertson, and Smith had their cases dismissed when the State learned that there was no identification evidence against the juveniles.

The Conviction Integrity Unit's investigation revealed the actual perpetrators of the crime were Jeremy DeGray, Marcus McCallahan, Kendrick Bright, Christopher Love, and William Jackson. The perpetrators have admitted their participation in the crime and the investigation by the CIU corroborated that Washington, Robertson, and

Smith did not commit the offense. However, due to the fact that the statute of limitations has run on the 1994 offense, in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, the actual perpetrators can no longer be prosecuted for this crime.

"This wrongful conviction case is unique in comparison to the others that we have seen in Dallas County because we have three individuals who were wrongfully convicted of participating in the same criminal offense," said Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins. "There were actually five perpetrators involved in this crime and our Conviction Integrity Unit identified all five of the real perpetrators. Even though our laws prohibit us from prosecuting the actual perpetrators for an aggravated robbery that occurred 18 years ago, it is our duty to clear the names of the three men who served time for a crime they did not com-

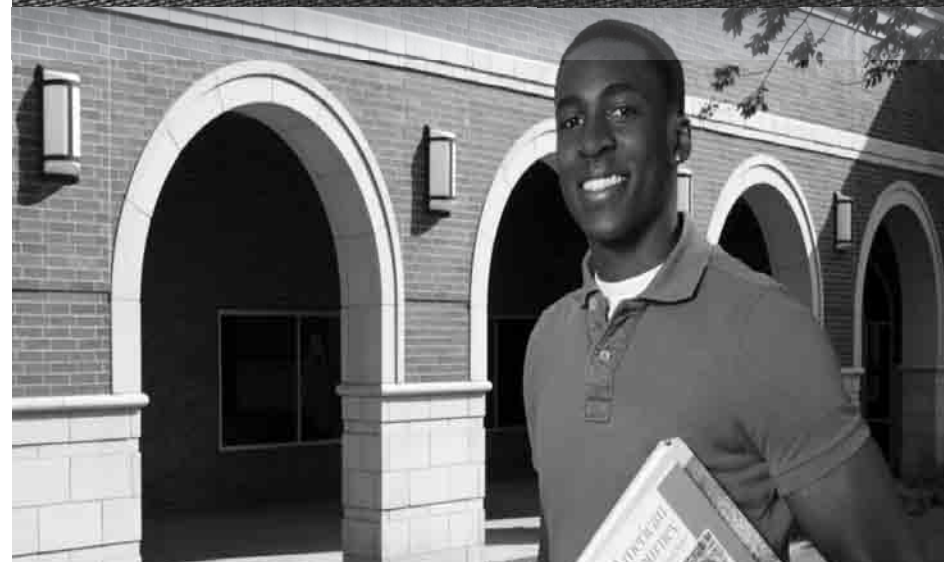
mit."

At the time of his arrest, Marcus Smith, who has no priors, served one year in the county jail because he was unable to post bond. He eventually pled "no contest" and successfully completed five years probation. He is currently free.

Darryl Washington was convicted of aggravated robbery in 1996 and sentenced to 99 years in prison. He had a prior drug case that was pending at the time of the aggravated robbery conviction. Washington pled to 20 years on the drug case is currently in prison on that case.

At the time of the 1994 offense, Shakara Robertson had no priors. He pled guilty and received ten years probation after learning that Washington had received 99 years. Mr. Robertson's probation was revoked and he was sent to prison for five years. Mr. Robertson is currently serving a sentence on an unrelated offense.

*M*aking a mark on history...



...one student at a time

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## Guide Right Foundation, Inc. Scholarship

Richardson/Plano Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated is seeking applications for their Guide Right Foundation, Inc. program. Scholarships are granted each year to deserving North Dallas high school students. The

awards are up to the amount of \$1,000.

Factors considered for awarding the scholarship includes residency in North Dallas; students receiving financial aid receive preferential review, a 2.50 minimal grade point average and

letters of recommendation.

The application must be postmarked and sent to: P.O. Box 831834 Richardson, TX 75080 by May 4th, 2012. If you have questions contact Maurice Potts at 469-647-0108 or mauricepotts@gmail.com.

## Bryan's House opens two new childcare locations

Bryan's House, a local nonprofit organization that serves children with special health needs, children affected by HIV/AIDS, and their families, announced this week the opening of two new locations in Dallas.

"We want to be in neighborhoods where our families actually live and work in order to be more accessible to them," said David Thomas, Executive



Director of Bryan's House. "The opening of these two locations and additional sites in the future will enable us to expand our services to even more families in our community."

The new facilities are

located in west Dallas at 3610 Pipestone Road, near I-30 and Cockrell Hill and southeast Oak Cliff at 802 S. Beckley Ave. The acquisition of the two locations is just the beginning of their plan to open multiple sites in Dallas in the future. This is the second move for the organization since the opening of Bryan's House in 1988 and the first opening of a second location.

## DCCCD, continued from Page 1

Participants are invited to park at the DART light rail station at 8th and Corinth, just across the street from the entrance to the Great Trinity Forest launch site for the event in Dallas.

"We are recruiting students who attend college throughout DCCCD to volunteer for this event, which will be led by Groundwork Dallas," said Mary Norman, the district's director of student and community engagement. "Mahatma Gandhi once said that each of us needs to be the change that we wish to see in the world. Our event enables students and community members to be that change — to volunteer their time and to help preserve a natural treasure in our area."

Volunteers must bring release forms, and participants must be 16 years of age or older. Release forms for minors (one for DCCCD and one for Groundwork Dallas) and for adults (an adult liability waiver for Groundwork Dallas and an adult release form for DCCCD) must be submitted at sign-in. Visit DCCCD's web site and click on the provided links to download those forms at <http://www.dcccd.edu/Beth> eChange. Each participant

must complete a volunteer registration form for the event, which also is provided on the web site.

The first 200 participants will receive free T-shirts, and the day will feature free food, lots of fun, service learning credits and a way to give back to the community as a volunteer. Those volunteers are asked to wear long pants, long sleeves and closed-toed shoes. They may want to bring water, a hat, sunscreen, a backpack and gloves, said Norman. She added that volunteers must be dressed properly to participate in the beautification project.

"This day of service is designed to inspire and foster civic engagement and community building through volunteering and community service," said Norman. "The event serves as an extension of DCCCD's mission to provide students with opportunities to grow personally and develop citizenship. Groundwork Dallas is an excellent partner for this project because its mission is to enable people to realize the merits of the Great Trinity Forest, as well as encourage the community to use, preserve and en-

hance this wonderful natural resource."

## Patterson purples up for military kids

The website more than 1.7 million veterans living in Texas rely on for information about their benefits — [www.texasveterans.com](http://www.texasveterans.com) — will go purple Friday, April 13 in a show of support for Texas Operation Military Kids.

The second annual Purple Up! For Military Kids campaign urges everyone to wear purple on Friday, April 13, as a visible show of support. Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is a combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue.

Operation: Military Kids is the U.S. Army's collaborative effort with America's communities to support children and youth impacted by deployment. Regardless of whether Families are experiencing deployment for the first time, the second time or an-

other in a series of multiple deployments, OMK's goal is to connect military children and youth with local resources in order to achieve a sense of community support and enhance their well-being. Texas Operation: Military Kids is part of a 4-H Youth Development program of Texas AgriLife Extension.

[Texasveterans.com](http://Texasveterans.com) pur-

pling up on April 13 will help spread the message to thousands of veterans and those who care about them. Texas is one of only five states to offer a veterans program, and VLB benefits are widely seen as the best in the nation.

For more information VLB, visit [www.texasveterans.com](http://www.texasveterans.com).

**Suspicious behavior?**

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**DART**

**Vote A.D. JENKINS**

**For PLACE 3 IRVING SCHOOL BOARD**

"Political Adv. Paid by Lisetta Caraballo, Treasurer, A.D. Jenkins Campaign"



## Are the streets and bridges safe?



Luann Golden, Executive Director of AFIL, Helene Reese and Natoshia Murphey, AFIL staff members, Mary Grinsfelder, Community Council of Greater Dallas and AARP volunteer Kris Gillette point to a broken down sidewalk that ends abruptly.

Last week, armed with cameras and clipboards, AARP volunteers as well as students and residents from the Association For Independent Living (AFIL) hit the one-third mile stretch of Denton Drive between Storey Lane and DART's Bachman light rail

station to assess its safety and accessibility.

They found many potential hazards for pedestrians, including no sidewalks and cracked sidewalks, the lack of crosswalks and stop signs, and broken glass and trash littering the street. AFIL students, who rely

on DART to get to work and school as well as to visit friends and family, frequently navigate this stretch of road. Improvements need to be made to make it easier and safer for AFIL students and residents to get where they need to go.

## Zumbathon Charity Event - United We Dance to Cure ALS™ hosted by Stephanie Paris a huge success



Photo on left: Charity event host Stephanie Paris (center), Zumba instructors Chasity Lewallen (left) and Meta Mays (right) demonstrate dance moves to participants.

Photo below: United We Dance to cure ALS participants. Class times: Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club, 435 S. 5th Street, Garland, TX on Thursdays 7-8pm



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**Ongoing**

Every two weeks on Monday the Plano City Council holds its **City Council Meeting** at the Plano Municipal Center, Council Chambers, 1520 K Avenue, Plano, from 7pm – 9:30pm. FREE and open to the public. Info: [planotx.org](http://planotx.org).

Harwood 609, 609 Harwood Street, Dallas, has **Salsa Night** every Thursday night starting at 9:30pm. Info: [harwood609jazz.com](http://harwood609jazz.com) or 214-740-0609.

Be Fit Frisco presents weekly **Fitness in the Square** sessions Thursday evenings 6:30pm – 7:30pm at Simpson Plaza in front of City Hall, 6101 Frisco Square Blvd, Frisco. FREE. Info: [friscotexas.gov](http://friscotexas.gov).

The Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood Street, Dallas, hosts **Jazz in the Atrium** every Thursday 6pm – 8pm. Performance included with general admission \$10 and under. Info: [dallasmuseumofart.org](http://dallasmuseumofart.org) or 214-922-1200.

Harwood 609, 609 Harwood Street, Dallas, hosts an **All You Can Eat Sunday Brunch with Smooth Jazz Sounds of Majik Touch** every Sunday at 11am. Info: [harwood609jazz.com](http://harwood609jazz.com) or 214-740-0609.

Want to become a better public speaker? **Toastmasters International** has helped people for decades in a mutually supportive, positive, and fun environment. See what it is like for FREE!!! Mtgs are every Monday at 5:45 p.m. Info: 214-566-4086 or <http://texas.freetoasthost.org/>

**Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce** general membership meeting, monthly every 2nd Thursday, 6:30 p.m., at various locations within Collin

County. Speakers, Power Networking, Business Referrals, [www.ccbblackchamber.org](http://www.ccbblackchamber.org) or 469-424-0120.

**Through April 16**

**AARP is offering free tax assistance** 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. every Monday at the Lewisville Senior Activity Center, 1950A S. Valley Parkway. Info: 972-219-5050.

**Through April 16**

**Spirit of Uganda's** farewell performance and event at SMU's McFarlin Auditorium.

**Through April 26**

**VNA Bereavement Luncheon** at noon at the Church of the Incarnation on 3966 McKinney Avenue in Dallas. RSVP 214-689-2633

**Through April 29**

Texas Discovery Gardens' gallery space unveils a new exhibition, **"Echoes of Remembered Gardens,"** by Dallas artist Susan Lecky; admission applies. \$8 / adults, \$6 / ages 60+, and \$4 / ages 3 to 11. Free for members or on Tuesdays (butterfly house admission regular price).

**Through September 23**

**Sandy Lake Amusement Park** in Carrollton. Admission is \$2 and children under 3 years old is free (see family coupon for free admission online) and coupons for rides are \$.50. Info: [www.sandylake.com](http://www.sandylake.com)

**Through December 8**

**New Life Skills Certificate program for African Women** each Saturday morning from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Audelia Branch Library located 10045 Audelia Rd. (at Church St.) in Dallas. Info: [hellen.fissihaie5@gmail.com](mailto:hellen.fissihaie5@gmail.com)

**April 12**

**Guitarist Ricardo Cobo** at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth at 7:30 p.m.

**April 13**

**4th Annual Spring Flower Fundraiser** to benefit Richardson's Network of Community Ministries Dental Clinic at Loveable Smiles, 1410 N. Plano Rd., Suite 200, Richardson. Info: 972-231-0585 or email [info@loveable-smiles.com](mailto:info@loveable-smiles.com)

**April 14**

**Guitarist Ricardo Cobo** at SMU's Caruth Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tix: [GuitarSociety.org](http://GuitarSociety.org) or 817-498-0363. Tickets \$35

**April 15**

**5th Biennial Democratic Candidate Forum** at 2 p.m. at the Campbell Green Recreation Center located at the corner of Hillcrest and Campbell Road

**Family Fun Day with ostrich and Camel Races at Lonestar Park.** General admission is \$5. [www.lonestarpark.com](http://www.lonestarpark.com)

**April 19**

**DFW International Dinner with the Mayors** at the Fairmont Hotel - 1717 North Akard Street Dallas at 6 p.m.

**Irving Int'l. Women's Consortium Presents 6th Annual Purse Auction** at 6 p.m. at the Las Colinas Country Club, 4400 N. O'Connor Blvd., Irving; Tickets \$50 Info: [www.IIWC.net](http://www.IIWC.net) or 972-831-8866

**April 20**

**Shakespeare's Spring Soirée** at Samuel Lynne Galleries, 1105 Dragon Street in Dallas, event features jazz and starts at 7 p.m.

**April 21**

**Irving Black Arts Council Presents High School**

**Drama at 8 p.m.** at the Irving Arts Center - Dupree Theatre, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. Tickets: \$20 Advance/\$25 Night of Performance, Info: [www.irvingartscenter.com](http://www.irvingartscenter.com) or 972-252-ARTS (2787)

**2012 March for Babies** at White Rock Lake in Dallas; Info: [www.marchforbabies.org](http://www.marchforbabies.org), 972-669-3463

**Global Rhythms: Mixed Percussion Ensemble** at UNT at 1155 Union Circle #311277 at Voertman Hall in Denton at 8 p.m. FREE INFO: [nkolsti@unt.edu](mailto:nkolsti@unt.edu) or 940-369-8625

**TBAAL Comedy Night at the Muse** at Clarence Muse Theatre, 650 S. Griffin St., Dallas at 9 p.m. \$15 214-743-2449

**Earth Day Dallas 2012** The second-annual Earth Day Dallas begins April 21, 2012, with a two-day festival in Fair Park. Events will focus on entertaining, inspiring and educating Dallasites with various ways to think, work and live green by showcasing emerging green technology, providing eco-friendly family activities, presenting enlightening lectures from environmental leaders, a variety of music and much more. FREE – INFO: [www.earth-daydallas.org/contact](http://www.earth-daydallas.org/contact) or 214-310-1200

**DFW Int'l / Wells Fargo Program for First Time Homebuyers** This free bilingual workshop will introduce the basic steps in the purchase of a new home at the Ohrys Restaurant, 7750 N Macarthur Blvd in Irving from 3 – 5 p.m. FREE – INFO: [president@dfwinter-national.org](mailto:president@dfwinter-national.org) or 972-661-2764

**2012 Senate District 8 Convention for Dallas County** at 1 p.m. at the

Hamilton Park United Methodist Church (HPU MC)

**April 26**

**"Environmental Justice and the Maquilladora Murders"** presented by Daisy L. Machado, dean of Academic Affairs and professor of church history at Union Theological Seminary in NYC. Evelyn Parker, associate professor of practical theology at SMU Perkins School of

Theology. 6:30–8 p.m., Prothro Hall at SMU Perkins School of Theology, 5901 Bishop Blvd.

**April 28**

**Jazz with Nick Collione & Richard Elliott** at Bishop Arts Theater Center, 215 S. Tyler Street in Dallas at 7 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. INFO: \$62.50 - \$57.50, [education@tecotheater.org](mailto:education@tecotheater.org) or 214-948-0716

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.'s annual **Business Month Education and Scholarship Luncheon** from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Crowne Plaza Dallas – Near the Galleria, 14315 Midway Road, Addison. Info: [www.iota1929.org](http://www.iota1929.org) or [www.iota-sw.org](http://www.iota-sw.org).

**April 29**

**Alice in Wonderland** at Eisemann Center. Tickets are \$11 - \$21 at 972-744-4650 or [www.eisemann-center.com](http://www.eisemann-center.com)

**May 4 – June 3**

**Diary of a Worm, a Spider, and a Fly** at Dallas Children's Theater. On opening night, kids get free ice cream with gummy worms from the Purple Cow and one free poster per family. Ticket prices are \$14 - \$26; some discounts available. 214-740-0051 or [www.DCT.org](http://www.DCT.org)

**May 11 – June 17**

**God of Carnage** at Kalita Humphreys Theater [www.DallasTheaterCenter.org](http://www.DallasTheaterCenter.org)

**May 5**

**2012 Bloomin' Ball** at 6:00 p.m. at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas

**May 12**

**IMAJ's Blush Concert Under the Stars!** at Wales Manor Vineyard & Winery 4488 County Road 408, McKinney, \$10 at the gate or: <http://imajblushwales.eventbrite.com/>

**May 18-20**

**The 20th Wildflower! Festival** will take place at the Galatyn Park Urban Center in Richardson.

**May 19**

**First Time Homebuyer Workshop** at Farmers Branch Manske Library, 13613 Webb Chapel Rd, 2 - 4 p.m.

**May 26**

Dallas International Festival is a free event at the Dallas Arts District along Flora Street from Pearl to Routh from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**June 8-9**

**Democratic State Convention** in Houston

**2nd Annual Glam Galore Shopping Soiree** at The Richardson Civic Center Grand Ballroom from 5 - 10 p.m.

**June 9**

**Bill Cosby at the Winspear Opera House** Info/Tickets: [www.attpac.org](http://www.attpac.org).

**June 22 – July 12**

**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** at Wyly Theater [www.DallasTheaterCenter.org](http://www.DallasTheaterCenter.org)

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# Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community



# Irving ISD candidates are gearing up for the elections

BY: JACKIE HARDY,  
NDG CONTRIBUTING  
WRITER

Campaigning has begun for those candidates seeking a seat on the Irving Independent School District's (Irving ISD or IISD) Board of Trustees. This election comes on heels of the recent hot debates over the proposed change to the district's current at-large voting system. Opponents argued that without single-member districts it would



**Alicia Fernandez-Mott**  
Candidate Place 3 - Irving ISD

be difficult for a minority to win a seat.

In January, the Irving Board of Trustees voted 6-1 to adopt a 5-2 single-member/at-large voting system. Currently, the district is awaiting final approval from the Department of Justice on the proposed 5-2 single-member district map where 5 of the trustees will be elected through single member voting and 2 will remain at large. In the meantime, Place 3 and Place 4 candidates will have to battle it out under the existing at-large voting system on May 12 with early voting April 30-May 8.

Place 3 candidates are: A.D. Jenkins, a software engineer, founder of the B.I.G.D.O.G.S. non-profit organization and Irving Board of Trustee veteran (formerly of Place 2); Larry Michael Stipes, contract service manager and former Chairperson for City of Irving Parks and Recreation Board and Parks and Open

Space Committee for the City of Irving Bond Task Force with leadership roles on PTA and Booster Clubs; and Alicia Fernandez-Mott, a former U.S. Department of Labor employee (retired).

Candidates for Place 4 are: incumbent Valerie Jones, a self-professed "product of Irving" with six years school board experience; Norma Gonzales, stay-at-home Mother who owns and manages rental properties and pursuing a BS in Business Management; and Dinesh Mali, founder of an engineering company with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (BSME) and Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering (MSME). Mali is a second-time candidate who last year ran unsuccessfully, along with Jenkins, for the Place 2 office.

This election will have a total of four minorities on the ballot and those candidates include Adrian (A.D.) Jenkins, African American; Dinesh Mali who is Asian; and two Hispanic candidates Norma Gonzales and Alicia Fernandez-Mott.

"I am running as an Asian representing the



**Larry Stipes**  
Candidate Place 3 - Irving ISD

Asian population and bringing some diversity on the board. There is no one shoe fits all feet solution. Each issues has to be addressed



**Dinesh Mali**  
Candidate Place 4 - Irving ISD

and resolved on a merit basis," written comments made by Dinesh Mali, one of the two minorities running for the Place 4 seat.

Candidates for Place 3 and Place 4 spotlighted important issues. They include improving classroom discipline; increasing teacher morale; more English Language Immersion programs; college preparedness for seniors; reducing the dropout rates; and closing the achievement gap among minority students.

The \$240 million General Operating Budget of the Irving ISD is not exempt from pain in this slow economy. Statewide cuts of up to \$4 billion in education and the continued decline in property taxes are factors affecting the budget. The tough budgetary decisions facing Irving ISD are a key campaign issue.

"Reducing expenses is a challenge but can be done by thinking creatively. The most important money spent by a school district is the money spent directly in a classroom. Financial cuts in this area should be made as a last resort," added incumbent Jones.

"Extra-curricular activities including both Fine Arts and athletics make positive impacts in the lives of our students and keep students connected and engaged."

Mali advises, "There is

no budget issue with IISD this year. On the contrary there will be pay raises for some. Our current Superintendent has foreseen the problem last year and came up with a win-win solution that helped the district. Also the school district implemented to rent school facilities to corporate and other organizations to create revenue."

However money is not the only concern for Irving ISD. Place 3 candidate Alicia Fernandez-Mott in a written statement said, "A critical issue facing Irving ISD is how best to meet the academic needs of our diverse student population, especially English language learners. The State of Texas mandates bilingual education in primary grades. Other programs and teaching strategies include English Language Immersion and Dual Language. It is critical to provide the program that best meets the needs of our children, individually, and collectively."

"The bilingual program is failing many of our Spanish speaking students. They are not mastering the English language in elementary school. They are so far behind by the time they reach high school that they see no way of catching up so they drop out. I am in favor of an English Immersion option to the state mandated bilingual education," adds Gonzales candidate of Place 4.

Stipes also supports a strong ESL program and feels the district must work to ensure its students become proficient in English starting at the primary level so students will have the opportunity to reach their highest potential.

A district that serves a student body where over 80 percent of its population is minority will inevitably experience some challenges along the way. Poverty and homelessness are two major issues many schools of Irving are facing. According to a Dallas Morning News 2010 article, about 80 percent of students in Irving schools were in poor families compared to only 30 percent twenty years ago. Statistic shows children from homes affected by poverty are at greater risk of becoming a dropout.

"The IISD has a program through Project PASS that is aimed at helping our homeless students through mentoring. The program was designed to pair homeless students with adult mentors. Although many Irving citizens have gone through training to mentor our students, the administration has not followed through with the program. I will work to implement this mentorship program. By supporting our students we can decrease the dropout



**Valerie Jones**  
Candidate Place 4 - Irving ISD

rate, and build relationships that will create future mentors," states Gonzales.

In a district serving families where English is a second language, communication barriers can lead to frustration and disengaged parents.

"With a high minority student population outreach strategies must include personal contact with the parents and families of the district's children...the Irving ISD could and should utilize this opportunity (technology) to strengthen the district's outreach and communication efforts with the parents and families of its student using technology as



**Norma Gonzales**  
Candidate Place 4 - Irving ISD

a communication tool," adds Fernandez-Mott.

Embracing diversity through the awarding of contract services to M/WBE and DBE firms is also an important issue with minority voters. The district M/WBE goal for participation includes 20 percent qualified HUB, D/ M/WBE vendors, and 10 percent certified annual controllable procurement expenditures. These expenses are defined as agreements to provide or procure labor, materials, equipment, supplies and services to, for or on behalf of the district.

Jenkins shared, "I believe when minorities in particular see more contracts awarded to individuals that look like them it helps to lift the morale of the community because they begin to feel like they have a place at the table, which in return will help bring the community together. But, if the education and awareness is not put out in the community than it doesn't matter what's available if you do not know that it's there."



## Think Like a Man is worth the wait

James Brown said it best when he sang "This is a man's world, but it wouldn't be nothing without a woman or girl." *Think Like a Man*, based on comedian and radio host Steve Harvey's 2009 best-selling book, *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man* follows four very different men whose worlds are turned upside down after the women in their lives

insider information to give the women a taste of their own medicine.

The *Think Like a Man* cast is diverse and includes Oscar nominated actress, Taraji P. Henson, BET's Terrence J, Regina Hall (*Law Abiding Citizen*), Michael Ealy (*Takers*), Gabrielle Union (*Bad Boys II*), Jerry Ferrara (*Entourage*), Gary Owen (*Little Man*), Romany Malco

to everyone. Started Kevin Hart.

And as if the star line up wasn't enough, the movie also features Jenifer Lewis, Chris Brown, Arielle Kebbel, Jay Anthony Brown, Lala Anthony, Morris Chestnut, Nephew Tommy, Sheri Sheppard, Bruce Bruce, and a surprise celebrity that plays Kevin Hart's ex-wife Gail that will have you in stitches.

The movie is written by Keith Merryman and David A. Newman and directed by Tim Story (*Barbershop*). Story has become known as a director that can show African-Americans in a relatable and realistic light. He is also known for pushing the envelope on racial humor. You will remember the jokes about Martin Luther King by Cedric the Entertainer in *Barbershop*

that were funny but caused quite the stir. There are several moments of smart black and white humor that strikes just the right balance between controversial and funny. And Gary Owen, known for being a White comedian comfortable with Black audiences, knocks the racial humor right out of the park as the happily



See MAN, Page 11

## Cabin in the Woods has more surprises than you expect

BY SASKAMODIE JONES  
"A group of five friends go for a break at a remote cabin in the far reaches of a wooded wilderness for a vacation. Together, they must

discover the truth behind the cabin in the woods..."

I think we all know how this story will end: blood,

See MAN, Page 11



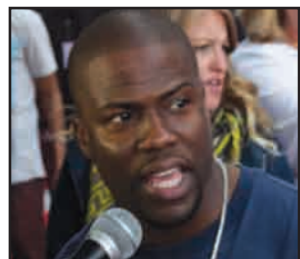
start to use Harvey's advice to win the game of love. When the Rat Pack learns that they have been sold out by the *Family Feud* guy, they plot to use the book's

(*The 40-Year Old Virgin*) Meagan Good (*Jumping the Broom*) and the new "giant" of comedy Kevin Hart. We wanted to make a good movie that appealed

## KEVIN, continued from Page 1

by accident." Hart is with family on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and Thursday through Sunday is committed to stand-up.

He also makes time for friends, Hart admitted he charges his two friends \$50 each time they ask him to take a picture with a girl.



Comedian Kevin Hart

"And I make them give it to me in front of the girl," laughs Hart.

Hart contends that stand-up is his craft, period. His passion is evident as Hart leans over the table and becomes more animated when discussing his career.

"From stand-up I get an immediate reaction," Hart shared.

And what an immediate reaction that must be from the 12 million Facebook fans and sell-out shows around the country. The Philadelphia native is ex-

tremely open about past mistakes. He has more Twitter followers than Chris Rock, Steve Harvey, and Louis C.K. combined.

Everything is not sugar and roses. Recently, the media was all worked up over a supposed feud between fellow comedian Mike Epps. "The funny thing is that we are friends (he and Epps)." Apparently, the two were just playing the dozens on Twitter. And the media "just took things to another level," according to Hart.

He also got into a little trouble when Hart tweeted "Hands down light-skinned women got better credit than dark-skinned women."

Hart says that he was just joking, but the next thing he knew dark-skinned women were not happy. He had to go on the defensive quick and set things straight even tweeting "My daughter is dark-skinned." Hart warned others to be careful of what you say on social media because people can use your words against you.

Hart opened up about his experience in Hollywood before his career sky-rocketed. Hart starred in several B movies, including in the critically panned movie *Soul Plane*. He laughed to himself as

he remembered thinking that *Soul Plane* would be the movie that made him a star.

"It (*Soul Plane*) might have done \$7 million on the street," Hart defends the film because he says that it gave him a chance to prove that he could be funny.

Hart also opened up about his recent divorce. During the filming of *Think Like a Man*, he admitted he was a typical negative divorced guy.

"Relationships can kiss my ass," Hart acknowledged.

But after debating with the other actors about love and relationships Hart says that he was able to go back and form a friendship with his ex-wife. "She and I are friends. She is the mother of my children, and will always be a part of my life." Both he and ex-wife, Torrei share custody of their two children.

The father of Heaven age 7, and Hendrick age 4, spoke about his parenting style.

"I am a firm believer in bump your head. My son at the age of two bumped his head and ran into walls. But at three he doesn't run into walls anymore. I plan to let my children make mistakes like I did," states Hart. "The only difference is that they have a safety button, their father."



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Find us on [facebook.com/transformation.church.tx](https://www.facebook.com/transformation.church.tx)



## Iota Phi Lambda hosting Annual Education & Scholarship Awards Luncheon

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., Psi Chapter will hold its annual Business Month Education and Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, April 28 from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Crowne Plaza Dallas – Near the Galleria, 14315 Midway Road, Addison.

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. is a national business and professional organization founded in 1929. We seek to unite in sisterhood qualified business and professional women in order to enhance and improve the status of women in our highly com-

plex, competitive business and professional world. We also establish and promote civic and social service activities for youth and adults.

For more information visit [www.iota1929.org](http://www.iota1929.org) or [www.iota-sw.org](http://www.iota-sw.org).



### Sports Talk with Spider

The competition in big time college athletics is like a shark feeding off its own. Schools fiercely compete to bring in the top high school athletes to its campus. They are enticed with incentives, and the promises a statue of them will stand in front of the stadium or arena after graduation.

These schools give the athletes a virtual tour of the finest hotels and a PowerPoint presentation, which resemble corporate meeting. Scandals, payouts, buyouts and financial meltdowns by some institutions are very common but making money is its focus and interest. Do some of the schools know about improper infractions? Yes.

Take Baylor University in Waco and a Big 12 Conference member. The

## Can I get a refund please?

school is one of the original members from the Southwest Conference now under investigation for 29 infractions. The men and women programs are now elite programs with the women basketball team capturing the National Championship with a 40-0 record. The men team made the Elite Eight of the tournament.

However, with an investigation pending the school and Big 12 conference have raked in millions of dollars from TV revenue, merchandise, and ticket sales. But they are cranking up the bus to throw the programs under it as soon as they receive their final check.

Schools receive sanctions and are placed on probation by conferences and the NCAA each year. They host a depressing press conference, but not once have a conference or the NCAA offered refunds to the fans that spent mil-

lions of dollars on merchandise, tickets, travel, etc., despite the schools sometimes well aware there were irregularities and illegal practices taking place. Fans should be able to receive at least 25 percent refund from the school hit with probation and lost scholarships.

Everyone seems disappointed when punishments are handed down, but the commissioner and school president are laughing to the bank with huge deposit. So, next time you hear of a school being put on probation for infractions ask them did they pass out a refund check to the fans of the school?

You can listen to Donald "Spider" Willis on Sport Talk with Spider each Sunday from 7 – 9 p.m. CST on fishbowlradio.net. For suggestion and topics call 469-335-6668 or email [dwillisdw@yahoo.com](mailto:dwillisdw@yahoo.com).

## WOODS, continued from Page 10

guts, mayhem and most likely, a totally frivolous nude scene. Fortunately *Cabin in the Woods* is a complete departure from the norm. This is true despite what the trailers may lead you to believe. Although the film does not fit neatly in the classic horror cliché bracket, it more than makes up for it with plot twists that will have you on the edge of your theatre seat.

Indeed *Cabin in the Woods* could easily be defined as a "game-changer" on par with horror films like *Evil Dead II* and *Scream*.

*Cabin in the Woods* is the type of flick that restores your hope in the horror genre. When little gems like this seep through the cracks it is overwhelmingly good news for the entire industry.

I would not be surprised to find this film on top at box offices after its second weekend. I say second weekend because the marketing strategy for the movie does not do it real justice. It will take some serious word of mouth to get people into the theatre. When they arrive they will discover a well-written and brilliantly crafted tour de

force by director Drew Goddard and producer Joss Whedon. The film stars include Kristen Connolly, Chris Hemsworth, Anna Hutchison, Fran Kranz, Jesse Williams, Richard Jenkins and Bradley Whitford.

*Cabin in the Woods* is a horror film for people who hate horror films, and the recent rise of what I like to call "torture porn." It is a much needed love-hate letter to horror film industry. In the end this is a must see for moviegoers, and I am more than happy to give it two thumbs up.

## MAN, continued from Page 10

married man.

One would think that it would be difficult to turn a self-help book without a plot into a romantic comedy; but screenwriters Keith Merryman and David A. Newman found a smart way of weaving the advice from the book into four clever battles: The non-committer vs. the girl who wants a ring, the dreamer vs. the woman who is her own man, the player vs. the 90 day rule girl, and the single mom vs. the mama's boy.

There is a line of an old Blues song by Betty White that said, "She was learning her man, while she was earning her man." And the women in the movie with a little help from Steve Harvey's book learn how their man thinks while earning a spot in their hearts. And the audience becomes a fly on the wall as we listen in on men talking about love and relationships. This is the first time

a romantic comedy is told from a man's point of view. States Kevin Hart.

Kevin Hart does not disappoint as the comedic thread for the movie. Tim Story gave him free reign and at times he reminds you of the great Richard Pryor during scenes where he was allowed to improvise. The basketball scene with Matt Barnes, Shannon Brown, Lisa Leslie, and Ron Artest as the "stronger version of Prince" was completely improvised and one of the funnier scenes in the entire movie.

This movie will remind you of the romantic comedies that we all know and love; *Love Jones*, *The Brothers*, and *Two Can Play that Game* to name a few. You will laugh, learn, and leave believing relationships again.

*Think Like a Man* has been rated PG-13 opens in theatres nationwide April 20. The running time is 120 minutes.

## JR COOK

DEMOCRAT FOR JUDGE • Criminal District Court 4

JR Cook has practiced law in Dallas County for over 20 years and has served our criminal justice system as a former felony prosecutor, an associate juvenile court judge, and a criminal defense attorney. JR is committed to justice and fairness for all.

As our judge, JR Cook will:

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- Work with Mental Health professionals to actively monitor and treat those with mental health issues.
- Work with young defendants to assist them throughout their probation period.
- Ensure diversity within the Grand Jury.
- Support Second Chance programs for nonviolent offenses.



**Vote JR Cook**  
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**May 29, 2012**  
[jrcookforjudge.com](http://jrcookforjudge.com)

Pol. Adv. Paid for by JR Cook for Judge Campaign



1200 N. Tennessee St., McKinney, Texas 75069

April 11, 2012

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The McKinney Housing Authority will accept applications for the Public Housing waiting list on April 16, 2012 thru June, 28, 2012 for the following applicants:

Applicants that are eligible for our two bedroom units  
Applications will be taken in our office  
Monday-Thursday \* 7:30-5:30pm

McKinney Housing Authority  
1200 N. Tennessee St.  
McKinney, Texas 75069  
Phone: 972-542-5641 \* Fax: 972-562-8387

### AVISO PUBLICO

El Instituto de la vivienda de McKinney aceptará aplicaciones para la lista de espera de Envoltura de Público el 16 de abril de 2012 por junio, 28, 2012 para los solicitantes siguientes.

Los solicitantes que tienen derecho a para nuestros dos (2) unidades de recámara. Las aplicaciones serán aceptadas en nuestra oficina lunes-jueves\* 7:30-5:30pm

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McKinney, Texas 75069  
Phone: 972-542-5641 \* Fax: 972-562-8387

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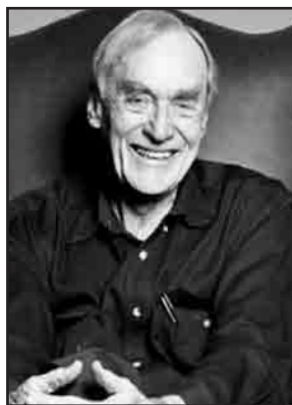


## Bernard Rapoport

Bernard Rapoport, long-time liberal champion passed away on April 5 at the age of 94. A native Texan born to Jewish Russian immigrants, co-founded the American Income Life Insurance Company with his wife, Audre. Both were champions for a free press, the Democratic Party, and the University of Texas (UT). Rapoport served as Chair of the Board of Regents for UT, provided financial support to Democrats in Texas and throughout the nation. He was also a long-time financial contributor to the Texas Observer.

Robert Borosage of the Campaign for America's Future said, "B always considered himself blessed, but he was our blessing. His generosity helped support bold ideas, independent reporting, good schools, and reform leaders. He engaged us, challenged us, and showed us what loyalty really meant. He was wonderful character, with a great heart. And he will be truly missed."

Borosage's remembrance of Rapoport is online: <http://www.ourfuture.org/blog-entry/20120415>



*Bernard Rapoport*

09/bernard-raपोport-progressive-champion-1917-2012.

## Dallas Film Festival kicks off this weekend

The Dallas International Film Festival announced Wednesday the full line-up of panels and talk shows that will take place through the Festival which kicks off this weekend. The first weekend of the Festival, the Nasher Sculpture Center will be the central point for all panels with the brightest panelists offering their expertise and wisdom from top producers to actors who have become directors. On

April 21, the focus will shift to "Conversations With" the 2012 DIFF Honorees: Laura Linney, Gabourey Sidibe, Glen Keane, Bernie Pollack and industry veteran Eric Pleskow.

The annual Dallas International Film Festival is scheduled for April 12 - 22. Panels are free and open to pass holders first and then the public. Tickets for DIFF are currently on sale at the Prekindle Box Office in the

Festival Village at Mockingbird Station at 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane, Suite 105. DIFF passes are also for sale and range from \$100 for a Faulkner Design Group Festival Lounge Pass to \$750 for an all-access Star Pass.

To purchase tickets and passes, telephone the Prekindle Box Office at 972-707-0838 or visit: [www.DallasFilm.org](http://www.DallasFilm.org).

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## Job Seekers: Seek No More!

The Career Development Center will soon play matchmaker as it joins together job seekers with future employers. The annual Spring Career Fair is April 19 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Student Services Center lobby.

More than 45 local and national companies are expected to attend the fair, according to Melinda Franklin, career planning assistant. Among those currently on the roster are American Girl, Auto Zone, Bankers Life and Casualty

Company, Centre for Neuro Skills, Chick-fil-A, Childcare Careers, Denton Fire Department, Garland Police Department, Gaylord Tex-an, Green Mountain Energy, Innovative IDM, In touch Credit Union, Leg-acy Builders

and Contractors, NAPA Auto Parts, QuickTrip Corporation, Research Across America, Texas Army National Guard, The CMI Group, Tutors with Computers and the U.S. Marines.

Positions are available

in a variety of fields including retail, sales, medical, education, law enforcement, public safety, driving and more.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a résumé and dress to impress – business casual is acceptable.

The fair is sponsored by the U. S. Marines.

For a complete list of attending companies and the positions they're seeking to fill, visit [www.BrookhavenCollege.edu/Fair](http://www.BrookhavenCollege.edu/Fair).

## CREDIT, continued from Page 3

for, if nothing else, planting or watering the seed in the president's head.

It occurred after he had secured the Democratic nomination for the presidency in 2008. He was getting his hair cut at the same barber shop in Hyde Park that I also patronized. I happened to have my office in the same building as well. When I came outside to meet a small business client, I noticed black, Secret Service SUV's around the building and thought, "Obama must be getting his hair cut." I peeked in the shop, and sure enough he was.

I ran and got the copies of the books that I had written, burst in the barber shop, smiling and with a loud voice exclaimed, "Barack Obama! You're going to need to implement what is in these books to get the economy moving in the right direction." A couple of days later, his barber emphatically let me know that wasn't protocol, I did. And that's exactly why I did what I had to do as an entrepreneur. I seized the moment.

Honestly, I don't know if the president read the books. What I do know for certain is that when he left the barber shop, he had more than a fresh hair cut. In my three or so minute briefing/infomercial, he got my fresh economic ideas and two books. Although the books talk about the unequal and thus unjust distinction securities laws create between accredited and non-accredited investors and also the unjust regulatory burden placed on entrepreneurs to register investments with the SEC, the primary subjects of the series are how

to value investments, manage risk and play a role with money. It also mentions how regulatory discrimination contributes to the ever-increasing wealth divide and hampers economic development and how financial crises will reoccur without systemic change.

He only had to read the first two pages of chapter one in Book II and a few pages in chapter three of Book I to learn or be reminded of how detrimental and unjust the legislation was. Maybe when the crowdfunders promoted what could have been titled

the Conduit Funding Jobs Act mentioned allowing unlimited participation of non-accredited investors, it resonated with the president. "I've read this before," he may have thought. "That's what January suggested in his

Mo'Sense books."

Eliminating the regulatory discrimination is just one thing that I identify as being needed. We don't need to regulate more and continue to unjustly lock out the public from potentially lucrative investments

to prevent defrauding as many opponents of the JOBS Act argue.

The most important thing that the public needs is a new way of thinking about what role they play with their money, how to value investments and how

to manage risk properly as my books teach.

Eric O. January is an ordained minister, author, educator and entrepreneur. For more info, visit [www.conduitfunding.com](http://www.conduitfunding.com), 877-CONDUIT or [ericjanuary@conduitfunding.com](mailto:ericjanuary@conduitfunding.com)



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Small Community Newspaper looking for a partime student graphic artist.

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training programs for individ-  
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services for marital relation-  
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into the work force.

**April 19, 12 Noon**  
Come to a "Between Jobs Sup-  
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praise.

**Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Sr.  
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972-257-3766  
www.biblewayirving.org

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**April 28, 11 a.m.**  
Ladies you are invited to our

Women of Wisdom meeting as  
we study and discuss God's  
Word. Call the church for de-  
tails.

**Dr. Terrence Autry,  
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www.followpeace.org

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**Pastor Minnie  
Hawthorne-Ewing**  
635 W. Campbell Road  
Suite 210  
Richardson, TX 75080  
972-480-0200

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**Monday – Friday  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
TheShip3C's Prayer Lines for  
those that are in need are 972-  
649-0566 and 972-649-0567 or  
they may be submitted via  
email to: prayerline@the-  
ship3c.org

**April 14**  
Come to our "Men Empow-  
ered by Christ" Annual Prayer  
Breakfast at the Old Fire Sta-  
tion in Allen. Call for details.

**April 29, 9:30 a.m.**  
Don't miss our Friends and  
Family Super Sunday Day.  
Everyone is invited to worship  
and praise God with us at 1550

Edelweiss Drive in Allen.  
**Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed.D.  
Senior Pastor**  
1550 Edelweiss Drive  
In Allen for Sunday  
Morning Worship.  
Admin. Building Address  
Is 200 W. Belmont Drive  
Allen, TX 75013  
972-359-9956  
www.theship3c.org

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
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**April 14, 9 a.m.**  
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Wellness and Fitness Day at  
The Family Life & Fitness  
Center for FREE health  
screenings, eye exams, chiro-  
practor, massage therapy,  
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for details.

**Dr. Gregory Foster,  
Senior Pastor**  
Rev. Tony Foster, Pastor  
300 Phillips Street  
Richardson, TX 75081  
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www.fbchp.org

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Study to learn more about the  
Word of God; and at 7 p.m. for  
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**Pastor Robert Townsend**  
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**April 14, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
You're invited to a FREE  
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God's Work" by Assessing  
Your Temple Mind, Body and  
Soul Wellness Fair. Work-  
shops and Lectures on Disease  
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**Dr. Leslie W. Smith,  
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1010-1020 S. Sherman Street  
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972-437-3493  
www.ndcbf.org

**ROCKBRIDGE CHURCH**

**April 15**  
Join us in Prayer with Pastor at  
8:30 a.m. and stay for Worship  
Celebration at 10 a.m.  
**April 18, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to Bible Study  
and Awana as we worship and  
praise God.

**Timothy Jones,  
Lead Pastor**  
21 Prestige Circle  
Allen, TX 75002  
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www.rockbridgechurch.com

**SAINT MARK MBC  
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**April 15, 9:30 a.m.**  
Join us in our Education Min-  
istries, stay for our Worship  
Celebration at 10:45 a.m.; and  
you're invited to join us for our  
Friends and Family Day as we

fellowship, worship and praise  
God.

**Dr. Charles Wattley  
Senior Pastor**  
1308 Wilcox Street  
McKinney TX 75069  
972-542-6178  
www.saintmarkbc.com

**SHILOH MBC  
IN PLANO**

**April 15, 8 a.m.  
And 11 a.m.**  
Join us in our Morning Worship  
times and stay for our Sunday  
School at 10 a.m.

**April 18, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our Midweek  
Service as we worship and  
praise God.

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

**THE INSPIRING BODY  
OF CHRIST CHURCH**

**April 15, 7:30 a.m.**  
Join us as we worship, honor  
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**April 16, 7 p.m.**  
Come to Monday School as we  
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Him and praise His Holy name.

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**Wednesday Night**  
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7:00 PM

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• Sunday Service 10:00 am  
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**Sister  
Tarpley**

*Last week the story stopped with people from around the world ready to bid on rare and priceless art pieces that once belonged to a father and his son. After the death of the son, who died first, in a war saving a fellow soldier, and later the father died. Their rare and priceless art was put up for sale. The auctioneer started with a painting of the son that was given to the father by the soldier that the son was carrying to safety when he was killed. The soldier was so grateful that he painted a picture of the son and presented it to the father as a gift. The father was very proud of the picture and counted it as his most valued art piece.*

On the platform set the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?" There was

dead silence; you could hear a pin drop on cotton.

A voice in the back of the room shouted, "We want to see the famous and priceless paintings. Skip this one." But the auctioneer persisted. "Will someone bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$200? Perhaps \$100 as a starting bid for the son? Another voice shouted angrily. "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Gogh's, the Rembrandt's, and other famous and priceless paintings. Get on with the real bids!"

The auctioneer continued. "The son! The son! Who'll take the son?"

Finally, a quiet voice came from the very back of the room. It was the long time gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting." You see, being a very poor man, \$10 was all that he could afford, especially now that his employer was dead, he didn't even know if he would still have a job.

"We have a \$10 bid on the floor, who will bid \$20?" announced the auctioneer. "Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters!" \$10 is the bid, won't someone, anyone bid \$20? The crowd was becoming very angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collection.

The auctioneer pounded the gavel. The bid is \$10, going once, going twice, sold to the gentleman in the back with the quiet voice for \$10.

A man sitting up front shouted, "Thank God that's over with, now let's get on with the real collection! The real bids—The rare paintings!"

The auctioneer laid down his gravel. "I'm sorry, the auction is over." What! It can't be! What about the famous paintings, the rare works of art?"

"I am sorry said the auctioneer to the crowd of investors. When I was called to conduct this auc-

tion, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time.

Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, the houses, the land, the cattle, and yachts, everything that you don't see here, and what you see here, including the rare paintings. The man who took the son gets everything!" --Author Unknown

Remember, the value of anything is what an individual is willing to give up for it. Jesus willingly gave His life for us. Much like the auctioneer's message, God's message today is: "The Son! The Son! Who'll take the Son?" Easter 2012 is over but it's not too late to, "Take The

The newly opened Margaret Hunt Bridge leaving from Singleton Blvd. in West Dallas, the childhood place of Shirley Demus Tarpley, 03-31-2012



Sister Tarpley at the newly opened Margaret Hunt Bride leaving from Singleton Blvd. in West Dallas to Downtown Dallas; her childhood neighborhood growing up.

Son!" Mark 8:36 says, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

All humans need a place of safety because the Lord gives us warnings in His Word: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of

God," and "the wages of sin is death." Roman 3:23; 6:23.

The good news is that God has proved a place of safety. He sent His Son Jesus to die so we wouldn't have to be separated from Him forever. Romans 5:8-10; Co-lossians 1:19-22.

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## NDG Bookshelf



BY TERRI  
SCHLICHENMEYER  
NDG CONTRIBUTOR

No matter what you do, you couldn't seem to sit still.

First, your foot started bouncing and your head joined it. Wasn't long before your shoulders were wiggling like they weren't attached to your spine and then you were on your feet, shaking your back-end in time with the music.

The tunes you grew up

## The One: The Life and Music of James Brown will leave you feeling good

with can do that to you. But you can blame it on the beat, as you will see in the new book *The One: The Life and Music of James Brown* by RJ Smith.

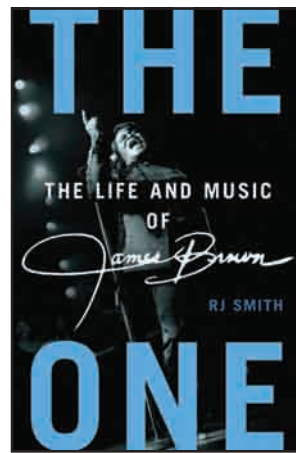
James Brown was never supposed to live.

For most of his life, he bragged that when he entered the world in May, 1933, he was born dead but his Aunt Minnie blew into his lungs and brought him back to life. That, and the abandonment of his mother were two of his most-repeated stories – although the latter was only partially true.

Though he was born in North Carolina, Brown's fa-

ther moved the family to Augusta, Georgia, in the late 1930s, in search of a better life. They settled in The Terry, which was shorthand for "The Negro Territory," where black-owned businesses thrived. One of the businesses was a caphouse run by Brown's "Aunt Honey." She gave the boy a roof over his head, but she beat him regularly, too.

Violence was, in fact, a way of life for James Brown. His parents fought often and, growing up, Brown considered himself a thug. He was known for his fearlessness and fast fists (he was briefly a boxer), and for his love of firearms. In later years, Rev.



Al Sharpton recalled that Brown often carried a gun.

Despite his tough streak, though, Brown was known to be gracious and people loved

him. He was a savvy womanizer who knew how to play an audience, whether it was one or one hundred thousand. He knew that theatre was what people wanted, and he gave it to them - but there was more to James Brown than capes and curls.

He was very politically active, and counted presidents among his friends. He worked hard on matters of civil rights, and once "saved" a city from being ruined by riots. Generous even in his last days, he was helping charity organizations when he died in December, 2006.

Author RJ Smith brings his readers a sweeping and

grand biography of the Godfather of Soul, and he lets us see the good and the bad in that life. Though this book can be a little longish at times, I really liked the behind-the-scenes tales of the James Brown that younger fans might not know. Smith shows that there was a deeper Brown than what's seen on old video clips, and that made me smile.

If you're up for a bio that will make you hum along, then "The One" is the one you want. Read this book and you'll feel good!

*The One: The Life and Music of James Brown* by RJ Smith (Gotham Books, \$27.50, 464 pages)

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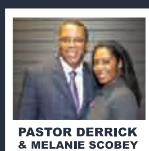
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