

North Dallas Gazette



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Is Irving really ready for change?

NDG View

Is the City of Irving ready for a change? That's the question that seems to be resonating throughout communities in our vastly populated metroplex. From all points within the Dallas and Fort Worth metro

areas, it seems that everyone is familiar with the slow to change processes of Irving. Granted, the Irving Independent School District was once recognized as one of the best in North Texas. Yes, Las Colinas and Valley Ranch, communities in Irving, are being held as the

mecca for the headquarters of corporations but change to make the entire City of Irving a hub is slow, if not stagnant. Remember, Irving already lost the world famous Dallas Cowboys due to this stagnation. How long until the corporations begin to follow suit?

There is a band of 500 plus individuals based in the Las Colinas area and North Irving who have been providing misinformation, creating a serious obstacle to diversity as Irving seeks to live up to its potential to offer opportunities to all of its cit-

See IRVING, Page 14

Urban League offers employment services for seniors

If you are 50 years old or older, low-income, unemployed for more than a year or lost your job within the last two months, there is help available.

The Urban League of Greater Dallas addresses specific needs of unemployed workers, ages 50 and older, through Dallas Reconnect Services (DRS). This new pro-

gram provides employment training, placement, financial education and technical training.

Funded by an AARP Foundation Grant, the program will help the low-income adults recover from the serious negative effects of unemployment. Orientation for this program is every Thursday, from 9 a.m. to

noon at the Urban League Headquarters, located at 4315 S. Lancaster Road in Dallas. You must have a driver's license or picture identification with proof of age and social security card. Call 214--915-4619 for additional information.

The 2012 U. S. Census reports that Texas has the highest

share of minimum wage workers in the country and national statistics show that older adults 55 years and older who have or were seeking jobs rose to 40 percent this year, the highest level since 1961.

"The League's Dallas Reconnect Services will help us address specific needs of un-

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Junior Police Academy accepting applications

The Carrollton Police Department will be hosting the Junior Police Academy during the upcoming summer months for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. All applicants must be in good standing at their school, as well as in the community. The Carrollton Police Department is providing this opportunity for a \$5 charge per student

Following the success of last year's academy, the program is being expanded into seven week-long sessions. The first Academy begins the week of June 11, 2012. The last Academy session will begin on July 30, 2012. The main focus of the Junior Police Academy is to expose middle school aged children to a wide range of police activ-

ities. Participants will learn about the Carrollton Police Department's Motorcycle Unit, Crime Scene Investigations, SWAT Team, Hostage Negotiation Team, Police K9 Unit and many other exciting areas within the Department.

Applications may be picked up at the front desk of the Carrollton Police Department (2025 E. Jack-

son Road) or any LISD or C-FBISD middle school in Carrollton. Applications must be returned to the Carrollton Police Department no later than May 14. For further information about the Academy, please contact Officer Shannon Hartzell at 972-466-9122 or Officer Shanna Weissmann at 972-466-3314.

COVER STORY

B.I.G.D.O.G.S. Host its Fifth Annual Youth Summit at Irving High School



B.I.G. D.O.G.S. founders AD & Sherrie Jenkins

See SUMMIT, Page 9



What mothers really want?

For more information see pg. 10
www.northdallasgazette.com

COMMENTARY

Why your vote matters

NDG's VIEW

"He who does not move does not notice his chains." -- Rosa Luxemburg

The right to vote, is a privilege for which African-Americans fought and died. This is hard to believe given today's apathy and lack of involvement by our community, particularly our younger generations. But in 1965 when the United States Congress passed the Voting

Rights Act enforcing the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution it marked a pivotal point in the Civil Rights Movement. Prior to President Lyndon Johnson signing the bill into law Blacks by and large had no political voice. They had no say in deciding what laws their elected officials would enact to affect their everyday lives. This was one of the main reasons for such a push by organizations such as Congress of Racial Equal-

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People In The News...



Janelle Monae



Henry Cisneros



Tom Joyner

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Janelle Monae

ESSENCE, the preeminent lifestyle publication for African-American women, announces the ESSENCE Best in Black Beauty Awards taking place on Tuesday, May 8. ESSENCE Beauty Director Corynne Corbett and celebrity stylist June Ambrose will serve as co-hosts of the ultimate beauty conversation during this invitation-only event. The ESSENCE Best in Black Beauty Awards will honor beauty innovators who are influencing what's now and next.

The honorees are: Balanda Atis, Group Leader, and Janine Cherette, Color Cosmetic Scientist, of the L'Oréal USA Re-

search and Innovation team; Ted Gibson, celeb hairstylist to the stars and head stylist on What Not To Wear; Janis Smith-Gomez, Vice-President of Marketing for Johnson & Johnson; Lisa Logan, go-to manicurist for Beyoncé; and Pat McGrath, makeup artist who masterminds the runway's most sought-after looks from New York to Milan. Grammy-nominated artist Janelle Monáe—who is known for her own groundbreaking sense of style—will also share in the awards presentation.

In addition, the evening will feature a "live gift wall" showcasing the winning prod-

ucts from the ESSENCE Best in Black Beauty Awards 2012 listing—highlighted in the magazine's May 2012 issue—in which ESSENCE's beauty editors and a team of experts highlighted the best makeup, skin care, nail, fragrance and hair picks. Attendees will also have an opportunity to sample the products on-site. For more information and to vote for your beauty favorites, which will be revealed as "Readers' Choice Awards" winners in the October issue of ESSENCE magazine, visit www.essence.com/beautyawards/.

"ESSENCE's Best in Black Beauty Awards will pay homage to the beauty mavens who always know how to

make African-American women look good!" says Corbett. "I look forward to hosting this event with June Ambrose as we share our beauty insights and tips. We also want to congratulate all of our Best in Black Beauty Awards winners highlighted in our May issue. African-American women are very passionate when it comes to their beauty regimen. That is why we decided to road test hundreds of products so that we can provide our readers with the best



of the best."

ESSENCE will be announcing a number of beauty-related initiatives in the near future, including results from the next installment of its Smart Beauty series which uncovers the unique mindset of

the most passionate beauty consumers—African-American women. ESSENCE will also announce the winners of its annual "Reader's Choice Awards" in its October 2012 issue.

The ESSENCE Best in Black Beauty Awards is sponsored by Motions. Follow

ESSENCE on Twitter to join the conversation @essencemag #EssenceBeauty or become a fan on Facebook. For more information, visit www.essence.com/beautyawards/.

Henry Cisneros

Former US Housing and Urban Development Secretary and San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros will serve as the keynote speaker at the Greater Dallas Planning Council Annual Luncheon, Friday, May 11 at the Omni Hotel in downtown Dallas. The luncheon will start at 11:30 a.m.

Cisneros, Executive Chairman of CityView Companies, will share insights at the Dallas -

Shaping a Sustainable Socio-Economic Future theme event. CityView is a partner in building more than 60 communities in 13 states, including Texas, incorporating more than 7,000 homes with a home value of over \$2 Billion.

"We are fortunate to have someone of Cisneros background and experience to share his insights on the future of creating sustainable urban cities like Dallas," said Linda

Brown, President of the Council. "Many of our guests will benefit from his insights."

Tickets are available for the luncheon at \$75. URS, Matthews Southwest, Economic Strategic Solutions and Vista Property Company are the major sponsors along with Balfour Beatty, Bowman-Melton Associates, BR Architects, Cities of Dallas, Frisco and Plano; DART, Downtown Dallas, Oncor, Univision, Rogers-O'Brien, Schrader &

Cline, LLC; Good, Fulton & Farrell; Henry S. Miller, Jackson Walker LLP, Community Strategic Solutions, Conbrio, David Dunnigan, Jacobs and Kimley-Horn.

The Greater Dallas Planning Council (GDPC), founded in 1946, is the oldest Dallas area civic organization that focuses on issues shaping regional growth. GDPC has evolved into a group of highly successful professionals including architect design firms, construction and



engineering firms, developers, real estate industry leaders, community and civic leaders, corporations, municipal entities and elected or appointed officials who convene monthly for timely briefings on important urban issues.

Tom Joyner

Who's Who Publishing Company will celebrate the achievements of African Am-

African Americans in various cities across the United States. Joining the celebration for



ericans in the metropolitan Dallas area with the composition of the inaugural edition of *Who's Who in Black Dallas*®. Scheduled to be released on May 24, 2012, this publication will be one of more than 26 books that recognize and highlight the achievements of

the inaugural edition will be radio host Tom Joyner, host of the *Tom Joyner Morning Show* and founder of the Tom Joyner Foundation. Joyner, who is known as "The Fly Jock" and "The Hardest Working Man in Radio," will pen the introduction to this historical first edi-

tion. Long time Dallas attorney H. Ron White, managing partner of White Wiggins, LLC, will write the forward. White was the first African American male appointed by Governor Mark White in 1983 to a State District Court in Dallas County and has assumed numerous leadership roles since his arrival in Dallas in 1971.

"I'm honored to have been asked to participate in the historic collectable edition of *Who's Who In Black Dallas*®. I have spent the majority of my radio career working and living in Dallas and I'm always glad to be part of something that celebrates the achievements of African Americans," said Joyner.

As a historically strong voice for change, Joyner has been instrumental in being a forerunner in transforming society, fighting for civil rights and giving a voice to the people. With a charismatic personality and genuine desire to

help people, he hits the airwaves with humor and vitality, raising awareness and setting the tone for change.

"This publication will hopefully not only recognize those who have recently achieved some prominence in Dallas but will more importantly cause Dallas' collective leadership to reflect and build upon the investment of those great leaders who are no longer with us," said White. "Our greatest tragedy is failing to build upon the lessons learned to ensure that Dallas at every level is more inclusive and has a plan that will achieve that goal. At best we should consider this the beginning of a new opportunity to tell our story."

"We are excited to launch the inaugural edition of *Who's Who In Black Dallas*® and are equally excited to have Tom Joyner and Ron White penning the introduction and forward for this historic edi-

tion," says Hiram Jackson, CEO of Real Times Media. "Their impact on the progression of the African-American

community goes hand in hand with the commitment and vision of Who's Who Publishing."

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The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones

May 11 is last day for Black farmers to file their lawsuit claim against the USDA

The time is fast approaching for the end of the claims process in the Black Farmer Lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (also known as Pigford II).

May 11, 2012 is the

final day for farmers to file their claim.

The "Network of Black Farm Groups and Advocates" are encouraging all claimants who have not already done so to call the lawsuit administrator (EP-

IQ) at 877-810-8110 to immediately make appointments with attorneys to fill out and submit their claim form.

If you are not certain if you are in the lawsuit, immediately call EPIQ at 877-

810-8110 to find out if you are on the list of eligible claimants.

For more information, Texas farmers should contact Landowners Association of Texas, Edward Cline 713-306-7184.

VIEW, continued from Page 1

ity or CORE and the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC). They understood without the law on their side, backing them, their fight could never be won.

During this era, the fight was clear, the tactics were overt, and our enemy was in plain sight. There was no double talk or coded language. White America had very strong feelings about keeping Black America oppressed and was not shy in vocalizing their sentiments. There was no guessing where one stood. You knew.

I have always argued this is a far better predicament than the current one we find ourselves in today. See when you can spot your enemy and see from which direction they are coming, you know how to arm yourself. You can prepare. More importantly, you can defend yourself.

Today the enemy is hidden. We do not easily see him. We cannot easily recognize him. He is even among us. We have become so lethargic many of us do not even realize there is a fight. We are not even aware of the assaults that are taking place on our liberties. Those same liberties for which our ancestors and community were beaten, jailed and killed to obtain.

All across the U.S. voting rights are under attack by the Republican Party. Legislation is being pushed by GOP Senators that would completely infringe upon your ability to exercise your constitutional right to vote. Just recently Texas legislation requiring voters to show government-issued identification at polls was blocked by President Barack Obama's administration. The law

was under review by the US Department of Justice, who also blocked a similar law in the state of South Carolina in December.

In March of this year in the state of Ohio, the GOP attempted to circumvent voters the right to vote against harmful legislature. In other words, laws, which would strip citizens of their rights, would not even make it to the ballot for citizens to be afforded the opportunity to vote against it.

In the state of Maine, Tea Party Republican Governor Paul LePage, with the help of his GOP allies in the Senate, were able to push through legislature reversing a 38 year old law enabling voters the ability to register to vote the day of elections.

In Colorado, Wisconsin, Mississippi and several other states strict voter

identification laws are emerging which seek to target and affect people of color. One must ask the question what here is at stake? Why after almost 50 years is there such a tenacious attack on voting rights? More importantly, how does this impact you and what is your role?

Exercising your right to vote is one of the most fundamental liberties in making your voice be heard. Corporations and the super wealthy speak with their wallets. We do not have that option. Our only option is at the polls. And it is not only our civic duty, but our responsibility as humans to stand and be accounted for, to not just have a voice but let that voice be heard.

As the old saying goes if you do not use it, you lose it.

Corrections

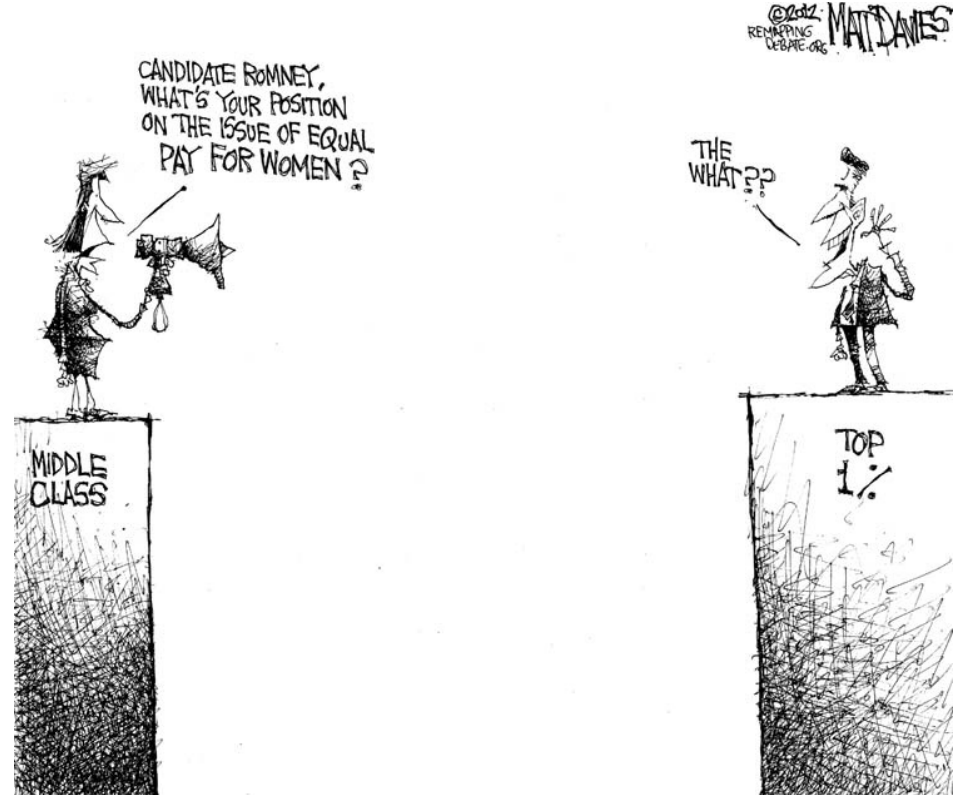
On behalf of the North Dallas Gazette and its staff, we would like to apologize for the errors that were in the article, *Koreans reach out to Black community leaders* on April 26, 2012.

The errors included reporting that the Thomas Pak killed Marcus Phillips. He was actually killed by Pak's employee. Pak himself was not present on the day of the attempted robbery.

Also Anthony Bond's name was misspelled.

These errors were corrected in the online edition but we regret the errors and offer our sincerest apology for the errors which appeared in our April 26 print edition.

Across the great divide



Texas Regional Medical Center at Sunnyvale seeks volunteers

Texas Regional Medical Center at Sunnyvale recently launched a volunteer program. Volunteers receive training and then perform various duties at the hospital, including greeting patients and visitors, assisting with special events and projects, comforting patients and families and performing various other tasks

as needed.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for area residents to give back to the community," said Elizabeth "Kay" McGee, TRMC-Sunnyvale's volunteer coordinator/patient advocate. "Not only do patients and their families like to see friendly faces while they are in the hospital, volunteers help

everything run more efficiently."

About 15 volunteers are working at TRMC-Sunnyvale already, including retirees and Sunnyvale High School students. Volunteers' schedules vary, and all candidates must pass background checks and drug screenings and complete the required training

before they are allowed to volunteer.

"The volunteers all wear vests with TRMC emblems and identification when they are here," McGee said. "We receive five to 10 inquiries a day, and each candidate goes through a thorough interview process."

She said the program

needs 15 more volunteers. In addition, a junior volunteer program for teens and college students is in the works.

"We want people with great customer service skills and an ability to

maintain patients' privacy," McGee said.

For more information, contact McKee at Elizabeth.McGee@trmc-sunnyvale.com or (972) 892-3018.

Medicaid and Medicare patients can now receive care and services at home

New opportunities in Medicaid and Medicare that will allow people to more easily receive care and services in their communities rather than being admitted to a hospital or nursing home were announced last week by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

HHS finalized the Community First Choice rule, which is a new state plan option under Medicaid, and

announced the participants in the Independence At Home Demonstration program. The demonstration encourages primary care practices to provide home-based care to chronically ill Medicare patients.

"We know that people frequently prefer to receive services in their own homes and communities whenever possible. The rule and demonstration announced today give people choice

and provide states with flexibility to design programs that better meet the needs of beneficiaries," Secretary Sebelius said. "Prior to passage of the Affordable Care Act, many families had few choices beyond nursing homes or other institutions for their loved ones. The actions taken today will help change that and can lead to better health for these individuals."

The final rule released on the Community First Choice Option provides states choosing to participate in this option a six percentage point increase in federal Medicaid matching funds for providing community-based attendant services and supports to beneficiaries who would otherwise be confined to a nursing home or other institution.

LEAGUE, continued from Page 1

employed workers 50 year and older to help them recover from the effects of unemployment," said Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, President and CEO. "We know that without adequate training, older workers risk having their skills become obsolete."

Over a two year period, this program will recruit and serve 200 participants through benefits counseling, work readiness training, vocational training and financial education. The goal is to provide employment training and placement assistance.

Elect B.J. WILLIAMS
Proven Community Leader
For Garland City Council 4


Dear Friends,

Many of you know me from my involvement in our community with non-profit groups like the Salvation Army and serving on the Plan Commission for eight years.

Today, I am asking for your support for Garland City Council Place 4. With my proven leadership and ability to bring people together I know we will be able to work as a team at City Hall and redevelop our neighborhoods and businesses.

As your representative on the City Council I will seek your input and value your opinions.

Sincerely,
B.J. Williams



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Elect VALERIE JONES
for Irving ISD School Board 4

My family has lived in Irving for the majority of my life and I bring a parent's perspective to the School Board. My experience will enable me to bring needed leadership to the board in the coming years.

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.

Please vote for me for Irving ISD School Board, Place 4.


Valerie Jones



Elect VALERIE JONES 4
for Irving ISD School Board Place 4

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Family Place seeks nominees For Trailblazer Awards against domestic violence

The Family Place seeks nominees for its annual Trailblazer Awards, which honor those who have created a positive change to help families in a domestic violence crisis. Honorees will be featured at a luncheon on September 19, 2012 at the Omni Hotel in Dallas, Texas.

The public can nominate Texas Trailblazers in the following categories:

The Texas Trailblazer Award: Recognizes a local woman who accomplished a "first" and opened doors of opportunities for other women, despite obstacles.

The Man of Influence Award: Recognizes a North Texan who led by example to make domestic violence a "community issue" rather than a "women's issue."

The Real-Life Hero

Award: Honors an individual who works behind the scenes to create positive change for women and healthy families within our community.

Diane Johnston and her husband, former Dallas Cowboys fullback Daryl Johnston, are the honorary event chairs. The co-chairs for the Texas Trailblazer Awards luncheon are Amanda and Lloyd Ward and Anh and Dr. Loc Trieu.

"We are honored to have a great team of couples to lead as our honorary and co-chairs," said Paige Flink, executive director of the Family Place. "We hope they can start a local movement of getting more men involved in working with women to break the cycle of domestic violence. We can't truly stop this cycle until men hold other men accountable."

To nominate a Texas Trail-

blazer, go to www.family-place.org and download a nomination form. The deadline is June 11, 2012.

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Dallas mayor, community leaders discuss new DISD superintendent and ethics of quality education

'From Your Block to the Boardroom' May 7 at SMU

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings will join North Texas leaders in a public discussion on the community's ethical role in supporting public education May 7 at SMU.

As Mike Miles prepares to take over as DISD superintendent, "From Your Block to the Boardroom" is designed to begin a conversation about the community's role in supporting excellence in education. The panel discussion, including breakfast, is set for 7:30-9:30 a.m. at the Martha Proctor Mack Grand Ballroom on the third floor of SMU's Umphrey Lee Center, 3300 Dyer St. Tickets are \$50 for the public, \$25 for SMU employees, and are available online at block2boardroom.eventbrite.com.

David J. Chard, dean of SMU's Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, will moderate the panel, which will include the Rev. Gerald Britt, vice president of CitySquare's public policy and community program development; Florencia Velasco Fortner, CEO of Dallas Concilio; Torrence H. Robinson, Fluor Foundation senior director of community affairs; Bill McKenzie, Dallas Morning News columnist; and Todd Williams, executive director of Commit!.

"Our efforts with schools need to be sustained, and we hope that our dialog at SMU can be the first in a series of discussions to determine how the community can make a difference and bolster the education of all students," Chard says.

Rita Kirk, director of SMU's Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics & Public Responsibility, will provide the

ethical framework for the discussion. "We expect our school administrators and elected officials to hold the public trust and represent the best interests of our children, but what do we expect of our neighbor or local business, or even ourselves?" she says. Kirk will join Regina Nippert, executive director for SMU's Center on Communities and Education and Mayor Rawlings in underscoring the vital importance of supporting public

education.

"With only 13 percent of public school students in Dallas County graduating on time and being ready for college — and only 4 percent of Hispanic and African-American students — the challenges are daunting. That number needs to be 90 percent," says Todd Williams of Commit!. "It won't happen overnight, but if we're willing to recognize that everyone within our community needs to come together

and work collectively to lift up and fully support what is working, we can make serious progress on behalf of our kids."

The breakfast is the first in a series of dialogues calling on public involvement in education. To launch community involvement, an interactive tool developed by a Dallas-based social start-up will be unveiled to explain key issues and resources available for organizing group discussions.

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1380	Groovy Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 3.25	\$5	05/25/12	11/21/12
1396	Emerald 7's Overall Odds are 1 in 3.38	\$5	06/02/12	11/29/12
1197	Set For Life Overall Odds are 1 in 3.96	\$10	07/04/12	12/31/12
1310	Triple Your Money Overall Odds are 1 in 4.66	\$2	07/04/12	12/31/12
1322	Funky 5's Overall Odds are 1 in 3.87	\$5	07/04/12	12/31/12
1333	Break The Bank Overall Odds are 1 in 4.80	\$2	07/04/12	12/31/12
1363	Dallas Cowboys Overall Odds are 1 in 3.67	\$5	07/04/12	12/31/12
1364	Houston Texans Overall Odds are 1 in 3.66	\$5	07/04/12	12/31/12
1379	Gold Class Overall Odds are 1 in 4.34	\$1	07/04/12	12/31/12
1382	Happy Hearts Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.73	\$2	07/04/12	12/31/12

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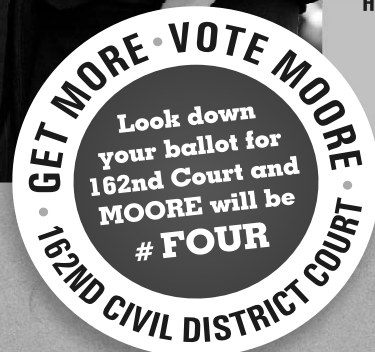
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**Early Voting
May 14-25**

**Democratic Primary
May 29**

**MARICELA
MOORE**

**DEMOCRAT FOR JUDGE
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DOMINGO

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Domingo Garcia has been in training to serve in the US Congress for the last 25 years. From his service as a Texas State Legislator to his tenure as a Dallas City Councilman to his service as a civil rights leader, Domingo has the necessary qualifications to represent the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex on a national level and to interface our local urban issues with the issues facing our nation. No other candidate in this race has his range of experience, his knowledge of the issues, or his skills at problem solving.

**Vote in the Democratic Primary Election May 29, 2012
Early voting, May 14-25**

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Paid for by Garcia for Congress

Richardson City Council Member Amir Omar selected for "One Man Dallas"

Place 7 City Council Member Amir Omar is one of 21 individuals selected from among hundreds of applicants from the Metroplex as a finalist for the "One Man Dallas" project.

Omar has chosen his charity event for One Man Dallas to be the creation of a "Tribute Grove" consisting of 30 trees at the Me-

thodist Richardson Cancer Center. The event will be held at 10 a.m. Sunday, May 6, at the Cancer Center located at 2805 East President George Bush Turnpike, and will be an extension of the City's Tree the Town program.

One Man Dallas aims to spotlight men in the region who can provide in-



Amir Omar

spiration for more men to get involved in volunteerism in their communities. It encourages participation through volunteer work that focuses on charitable organizations and engagement in projects that make communities a better place to live and work.

Running for a cause

Irving's Hanes Elementary School formed a team to participate in the *Race for Wishes* on Saturday, March 24, at Williams Square in Las Colinas. *Race for Wishes* is a community event where participants, wish kids and volunteers take big strides to make more wishes come true. Teachers and students

came together and raised \$1,625 in donations.

Every dollar raised from this fulfilled event will go to fulfilling the wishes of North Texas children through the Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Texas.



Counselor, author to speak at VNA of Collin County Luncheon May 21

Larry Barber, a licensed professional counselor and author, will be the featured speaker at the May 21 hospice family luncheon hosted by the Visiting Nurse Association of Collin County. Mr. Barber will speak on "Love Never Dies: Finding Hope and Promise in Grief."



Larry Barber, a licensed professional counselor and author, will be the featured speaker at the VNA of Collin County hospice family luncheon on May 21.

The luncheon is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Grand Texas Seniors Community on 2491 Country View Lane in McKinney. There is no cost to attend the luncheon, but reservations are requested and can be made by calling VNA of Collin County at 214-733-5500.

VNA's hospice family

luncheons offer supportive company from friendly

and understanding people to individuals who have

suffered the loss of a loved one.



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**Vote for JR Cook
In the Democratic Primary
May 29, 2012
Early voting, May 14-25**

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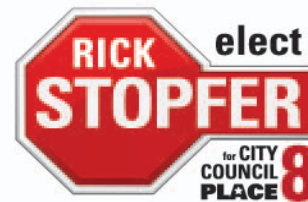
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Election Day is Saturday, May 12

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BILL MAHONEY for IRVING CITY COUNCIL, PLACE 6
Leadership Based on Commitment and Responsibility

**We have worked hard to make Irving a community where
our families can thrive and grow.**

We must make certain our hard-earned efforts are successful for the future!



**We must vote for the candidate who will move us forward, not backward!
I am that candidate. I will be that city councilman.**

I will be your voice at City Hall. I will fight to protect you and your values:

- ★ Increase support for quality education
- ★ Ensure equal access and fair treatment for all residents
- ★ Promote respect for families and for a stable community
- ★ Continue efforts to make Irving crime-free
- ★ Encourage economic vitality by supporting our key industries
- ★ Practice sound management of our budget

"I have been working for all of us through my community and civic activities. I will continue working for all of us as a city councilman. My family and I love our neighborhood and our city. I know the only way to keep it as a desirable community is to build an environment of civility and responsibility in our government. With your vote and your help, we can make this city great today—and tomorrow."

Bill Mahoney

VOTE Saturday May 12th • Bill Mahoney for Irving City Council, Place 6

Early Voting

April 30 - May 4	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
May 5 (Sat.)	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
May 6 (Sun.)	1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
May 7 - 8	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Valley Ranch Library - 401 Cimarron
City Hall - 825 W. Irving Blvd.
Irving Arts Center - 333 N. MacArthur

Election Day

May 12 (Sat.) 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.



billmahoneycampaign@gmail.com
www.BillMahoneyCampaign.com

Pol. Adv. Paid for by Bill Mahoney Campaign

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.

Harwood 609 in Dallas, has **Salsa Night** every Thursday night starting at 9:30pm. Info: 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.

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 or 214-922-1200.

Harwood 609 in Dallas, hosts an **All You Can Eat Sunday Brunch with Smooth Jazz Sounds of Majik Touch** every Sunday at 11am. Info: 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. Mtgs are every Monday at 5:45 p.m. Info: 214-566-4086 or <http://texins.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.ccblackchamber.org or 469-424-0120.

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

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.fissihai5@gmail.com

May 3
Irving Chamber of Commerce 2012 Annual Awards kicks off at 6 p.m. at the Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel, 4440 W. John Carpenter Freeway

Gourmet Vegetarian Cooking Classes at Kalachandaji's 8 classes for \$150, or \$25/class, including dinner. Kalachandaji's Temple & Cafe from 7 - 9 p.m., call 214-827-6333

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

May 10 - 13
Tyler Perry's Madea Gets a Job at Verizon Theatre Tickets available at www.axs.com

May 11

The 4th Annual Denton County Women in Business Conference and Expo at the Medical Center of Lewisville Grand Theater, 100 N. Charles Street. Keynote speaker will be Teresa Freeborn, president and chief executive of Xceed Financial Credit Union.

May 11 - 12
Chamber Music International presents the Grand Season Finale at 8 p.m. at St. Matthew's Episcopal Cathedral in Dallas on May 11; and May 12 at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church in Richardson. www.cmi-now.org

May 11 – June 17
God of Carnage at Kalita Humphreys Theater www.DallasTheaterCenter.org

May 5
2012 Bloomin' Ball at 6:00 p.m. at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas

2nd Annual Mothers Day Dinner for the Whole Family from 6:30 - 9 p.m. at the This Side Up Family Center in Plano. \$25 for adults. \$15/kids under 12. \$5 childcare for 0-5 year olds.

A delightful spoof on the Broadway Musical *Ain't Misbehavin'* at 7:30 p.m. at the Desoto Corner Theater. We Wasn't Misbehavin' will keep you laughing, clapping and begging for more! Limited "Free" tickets are available for youth groups and non-profit organizations. General admission tickets are \$10. Info: 972-228-8381 or www.niakids.org

New Light Church Prayer Breakfast at 9 a.m. at 9314 Elam Road in Dallas. Info: www.newlightchurchdallas.com

May 6

Ice Cream Social and Heritage House Tours - The Irving Heritage Society will hold their general meeting in the front yard of the Heritage House at 303 South O'Connor. Election and installation of officers will be at 3 p.m., with an ice cream social afterwards. Tours of the Heritage House will be offered following the program. Info: FREE IrvingHeritageSociety@yahoo.com or 972-252-3838

May 9 – 12
Women's Conference Renewing My Passion presented by Dayspring Family Church in Irving, TX. This amazing conference is filled with powerful, dynamic, and anointed speakers.

May 11
Promise House Cinco de Mayo featuring speakers, dancers, face painting, bouncy house and food. Also a Rummage Sale-All You Can Fit Into A Bag for \$5 at 224 W. Page Avenue in Dallas, from 4-7 p.m. INFO: programs@promisehouse.org or 214-941-8578

May 12
Undermain Theatre continues reading series with a **staged reading of Zora Neale Hurston's play Color Struck**. Performed in connection with the DMA's exhibition Youth and Beauty: Art of the American Twenties, Hurston's 1925 play explores issues of self-perception, fragmentation, and colorism. At the Dallas Museum of Art at 2 p.m. INFO: www.DMA.org - 214-922-1200

2012 Convoy of Hope Fair Park will include Free Health Screenings, Kids Zone, Haircuts, and Free Groceries at Fair Park Dal-

las from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. it is Free. INFO: drll12-smith@yahoo.com or 214-477-4608

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/>

Reliant Trinity River Wind Festival for festival details, visit trinityriverwindfestival.com.

20th Annual Bryan's House Open golf tournament, dinner, and auction at Bent Tree Country Club in Dallas. Info: www.bryanshouse.org

Mystery Dinner Theater Show: Mayhem on Maui Celebrate Mom and help us solve the mystery of who poisoned Hilo Patty, owner of the prestigious Pineapple Plantation with a cup of her own Hawaiian Punch! There are 8 suspects just waiting to tell you their stories. 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm Info: www.this-sideupfamily.org

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 25
Artfest -Returning Memorial Day weekend CityArts Festival will offer activities and entertainment for families, staycationers, and art aficionados alike to enjoy against the backdrop of historic Fair Park. Fair Park's six museums will offer reduced admission at select

times during the festival. For more information go to www.cityartsfestival.com

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.

Old School Summer Jam at Gexa Energy Amphitheater with Charlie Wilson, Babyface, Dazz Band, En Vogue, and Don Diego. www.LiveNation.com

June 1

Bow Wow at South Side Music Hall. Tickets available at www.axs.com

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.

June 22 – July 12

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at Wyly Theater www.DallasTheaterCenter.org

June 25-29

Xtreme Response Camp provides a hands-on look at public safety and disaster preparedness for ages 12-16. Cost is \$140 per child. Info: cityoflewisville.com or 972-219-5012

June 26-27

Michael Jackson Immortal World Tour with Cirque du Soleil at American Airlines Center, tickets are \$50 - \$150 @ ticketmaster.com

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B.I.G.D.O.G.S. Host its Fifth Annual Youth Summit at Irving High School

BY: JACKIE HARDY,
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

B.I.G.D.O.G.S. is a non-profit organization founded by AD Jenkins and his wife Sherrie (Jenkins). The organization hosted the Fifth Annual Youth Summit event at the Irving High School auditorium on April 21. Jenkins is no stranger within the Irving community as he has become an integral fixture from the impressive athletic tutoring programs his organization provides. In addition to him having served on the Irving Independent School Board (IISD) as a Trustee (formerly Place 2) along with serving on several committees within the IISD, Jenkins is also currently running for the Place 3 seat in the upcoming May 12 election.

B.I.G.D.O.G.S. stands for Believing in God, Depending on God's Strength where its mission is to provide athletic (basketball, football, track, and cheerleading) and tutoring programs (math and reading) to youth as well as sponsor educational field trips/events to give youth a positive outlet with the hope of developing students in becoming productive contributors of its community.

A total of eight speakers took to the Irving High School stage to speak on this year's theme to "Do Right." Master of Ceremony and former Dallas Cowboy team member Rocket Ismail opened the discussion by challenging the more than 50 high school students in attendance to remember the importance of doing the basic things (i.e. going to school, studying, etc.) because it is what will empower them to do what is right.

The eight speakers featured four current or past NFL players with two being proud graduates within the

Irving ISD consisting of: free agent Akin Ayodele (MacArthur High School), Arizona Cardinals team member Daryl Washington (Irving High School), Dallas Cowboy team member Teddy Williams (John Tyler High School) and U.S. National Bobsled team member Johnny Quinn (University of North Texas). Quinn is also a business owner of a web-based service that helps student-athletes market their athletic skills to colleges and universities called The Athlete Watch, LLC. Other speakers included a former Nimitz High School graduate and



B.I.G. D.O.G.S. Team Coaches and founder AD Jenkins

local business owner, a law enforcement representative as well as a representative with the Texas School Safety Center based in San Marcos.

Students were also captivated by speaker Kim McGilvray, who spoke about the agonizing journey her daughter encountered after being hit by a 19 year-old drunk driver. McGilvray showed photos of the car as well as injuries from the accident in the effort to help bring her message home on the tragedy drinking and driving causes its victims.

McGilvray stressed the importance of having a plan to avoid the deadly tragedy of drinking and driving. McGilvray claimed more people are killed in one year by drunk driving than the over 10-

year period of time US soldiers have been fighting in the war.

"Please don't get in a car with someone whose been drinking or drive if you have been drinking," a plea made by McGilvray during the event.

Dwight Stewart, School Safety Specialist for Texas School Safety Center, urged the students to make the right choices with respect to how they post their personal information on the Internet or in a text. Stewart warned this technically savvy generation must be aware of the legal ramifications they could encounter for sexting

as outlined in Senate Bill 407. This legislation was signed by Texas Governor Rick Perry in June 2011 and went into effect in September of that same year.

While the message to "Do Right" was the focus, many of the speakers spoke about their faith. They shared how applying Godly principals in their lives have helped them reach their goals.

Ayodele spoke to the significance of community in his life and having a relationship with God. Ayodele explained how a tragedy helped him began to "understand the importance of not just living in the moment, but to see God's big picture for your life."

Quinn spoke on the law of reaping and sowing in where he called it the law of



Preston Fuller, Akin Ayodele, Daryl Washington - NFL players & Irving ISD graduates

progression. Quinn explained to the captivated audience the law of progression cycle: seed, time, and progression.

"Being humble in the beginning leads to rewards in the end. The seeds you plant today will determine your rewards," advised Quinn.

"You need to apply the same dedication and drive in the classroom that you do in the weight room. If you put the work in it will pay off," suggested Preston Fuller (Nimitz High School), local business owner specializing in sports training.

Williams expressed how his mother was his hero, teaching him to not let adversity keep him down because God always has a bigger plan. Williams shared how he made the right choice in submitting to God's plan for his life and what looked like obstacles were opportunities for God to open doors. Believe in yourself and be a leader is the charge Williams made to the crowd of mostly young men.

Williams shared his reason for participating in the event was important to him because it allows him the opportunity to give back and Ayodele left the stage

reminding the Irving students that success comes from Irving.

"When I was growing up I didn't have anybody to come talk to me at a school like this, so I always told myself if I ever got to a higher power in life I would come by and talk—talk to the youth...try to help and give them something to look forward to in life," concludes William in a statement to the *North Dallas Gazette*.

According to ninth grader Rocket Ismail (son

community come back and speak to them does have a positive impact and influence in their lives in going forward.

"It is always something I can look back upon when I am in difficult situations and think back on what was said," commented the younger Ismail.

For more information on how to volunteer or donate, or to learn more about B.I.G.D.O.G.S. programs contact AD Jenkins via email at ad@bigdogsyouth.org or visit the website at



Teddy Williams of Dallas Cowboys spoke to students

of the former Dallas Cowboy Rocket Ismail), to see athletes and people from the

<http://www.bigdogsyouth.org>.

What mothers really want?

BY LATRISHA MCDUFFIE,
NDG STAFF WRITER

Mother's Day will be upon us in just one week. Mothers everywhere are asking themselves "What will I get for Mother's Day?" First, let me tell you that although mom says she loves the oversized card, she doesn't. I'm not sure who came up with that idea but it has caused heartburn for many mothers. And we do not want or need another plaque that proclaims we are the world's best mother. Newsflash, we already know we are the world's best mother. So, lean in close to the page. I am going to tell you what mothers really want for Mother's Day.

First, we want time out of the kitchen. Cooking for our family is a full-time job that every mother takes on. We are in charge of breakfast, lunch, dinner 365 days a year. And we are out of menu ideas. Give mom a week off from cooking by

purchasing meals from **Low Country Cuisine**. Nothing says how much you appreciated all those home cooked meals like gourmet food. Mom could enjoy Jerk Chicken Quesadillas with pineapple chutney, smoked meatloaf with chipotle glaze, buttermilk pecan chicken, and BBQ Chicken Lasagna without breaking a sweat. Low Country Cuisine is located at 13881 Midway Road in Farmers Branch two miles from the Galleria. Go by and pick up a gift certificate and menu. <http://www.lowcountrycuisine.com>

Secondly, we want time alone. We love and adore having family close but we need sometime to just do nothing. Remember the Calgon commercial? Schedule mom a night at **Warwick Melrose Hotel** on Oaklawn. The Suite Deal Package is available and includes a night's stay in luxury,



concierge service, courtesy car service, terry cloth robe and slippers, \$15 iTunes gift card, and a \$50 gas card. Mom can have an elegant dinner at the **Landmark Restaurant**, take the courtesy car to one of the many venues close to the hotel, or just get in her car with Smokey Robinson on her iPod and just drive. Then she can go upstairs to her suite and spend some time with her thoughts.

Third, we want a clean house. No, let me correct that statement. We need a

clean house. I barely have time to get the laundry done let alone deep clean the house. For under \$200 **Molly Maid** will send two maids in a marked company car wearing uniforms. They will change the linens on the beds, clean and sanitize bathroom surfaces (bathtub, shower, toilet, and sink area) and clean mirrors and fronts of cabinets and doors. The will clean and sanitize your entire kitchen right down to the inside of the microwave. And before your two little cleaning angels leave they will dust the ceiling fans, blinds, window sills, and light fixtures; vacuum all carpets, area rugs and floors; mop floors; and clean baseboards. www.mollymaid.com

Now, follow these instructions. Call dad and all your siblings. Read to them the three suggestions above. Decide which gift to give and all of you pitch in to make mom really happy this Mother's Day.

Dietrick Haddon's A Beautiful Soul

If you have not heard of Dietrick Haddon you have been under a spiritual rock. Not since Kirk Franklin has there been a gospel artist that has taken the secular world by storm. Haddon released the insanely successful *Church on the Moon* CD this year debuting at #1 on the Billboard Gospel Album Charts; premiered a Michael Jackson type music video trilogy, *Church on the Moon Part 1*, and world premiered his Well Done music video on BET's popular countdown 106 and Park.

And if that wasn't enough for one year Hadden has announced Tyscot ManHaddon Films' first theatrical release of the Christian based film, *A Beautiful Soul*. The movie will premier in AMC Theatres on Friday, May 4, 2012.

Directed by Jeff Byrd from Soul Food Series, *A Beautiful Soul* is a Christian urban twist on Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. The movie revolves around Andre



Dietrick Haddon

Stephens (Haddon), an R&B megastar who has the world at his feet but spiritually bankrupt. The film chronicles Andre after his world is turned upside down after a violent attack that leaves him broken and his best friend Chris Johnson (Richard) battling for his life. As God takes Andre on a journey somewhere between heaven and hell Andre must make a life changing decision.

You can see the movie at Grapevinemills 30 located at Grapevine Mills Parkway in Grapevine and Mesquite 3 located at 19919 Interstate 635 in Mesquite. For more information visit www.ABeautifulSoulMovie.com

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"Doing Business Texas Style" Spot Bid Fair

In conjunction with: DFW Minority Supplier Development Council's ACCESS 2012

Monday, May 14, 2012

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

8:30 am - 11:30 am & 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

The Texas Lottery invites small, historically underutilized, and minority-owned businesses to participate in a spot bid fair held in conjunction with the DFW Minority Supplier Development Council's ACCESS 2012. Businesses will have a unique opportunity to compete for bid awards and network with state agencies and institutions of higher education.

Location:

Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas
500 West Las Colinas Blvd | Irving, TX

For more information contact:

512.471.2850 or
hub-admin@austin.utexas.edu

This event is FREE of charge!

Bids available for view at:

<http://www.utexas.edu/administration/hub>

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Sports Talk with Spider

Half of the American pie is okay with me

The old saying is "just give me a piece of the American pie" and you can make it in today's society, where jobs and opportunity are slim to none. It is so true because the pie has not always been divided proportionally for minorities and women. This despite the fact the education and expertise indicates their readiness for leadership. Fortune 500 companies have always known that minorities and women are capable of running companies before a one term senator became President in 2008.

I recently took a look at the National Basketball Association (NBA) where 82 percent of the players are African-Americans and a record 15 African-Americans head coaches opened the season. That is

half of the teams in the NBA, which is something you do not see, even in corporate America. For the NBA, the proof is in the pudding as they like hiring their own, currently 12 of the coaches are former players.

Larger companies of 1,500 or more employees usually have about 1.4 percent of minorities as directors, managers or vice presidents. The ratio may vary because some companies pad their count with the Anglo woman as a minority.

The NBA pie is delicious compared to the National Football League (NFL) considering they have only three minority coaches as of 2012, which is a drop from six a year ago. This statistic comes in a league where 67 percent of the players are African-American. Major League Baseball is more

like a cupcake with only two African-Americans managers out of thirty teams but only eight percent of the players on their roster are African-Americans.

The corporate pie in professional sports is not getting any better because owners in sports are often stuck on recycling coaches in their pursuit of quick fixes for the franchise.

So, enjoy the NBA pie and add a little ice cream for the Michael Jordan alamo as the only African-American owner in the league.

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

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school.org

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EEOC warns against misusing criminal background checks to deny employment to racial minorities

A 4-1 bi-partisan decision last week by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) was applauded by civil rights organizations across the country.

The EEOC agreed to issue updated guidance that will greatly reduce the misuse of criminal history background checks to deny employment to persons of color. The Guidance notes that approximately 92 percent of employers use criminal histories to screen job applicants. The new guidance strengthens enforcement efforts against employers who are misusing criminal history background checks and provides clear guidance to employers on the appropriate use of such background checks. The guidance notes the well established principle that Title VII preempts

state and local laws, such as laws that impose lifetime bans on employing persons whose convictions from years ago bear no relation to their job performance and behavior today.

As a national leader in combating employment discrimination, the Lawyers' Committee launched the Access Campaign, which works to remove barriers to employment for minority workers. This campaign attacks the indiscriminate use of both criminal history information and credit information through litigation that challenges the improper use of background check information.

"The use of arrest records, including arrests that occurred decades earlier or had not resulted in

See EEOC, Page 16



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than 3 pm, 5/17/12.

IRVING, continued from Page 1

izens. There is a quintessential lack of leadership that has led to the current gridlock that is undermining development and full citizen participation.

If the leaders of Irving don't find a common ground and learn to work together with all residents for the good of Irving, we will soon have empty palaces in their beloved Las Colinas area and developers that are seeking to do business in their communities will bi-pass them just as Jerry Jones chose to take the Cowboys to Arlington.

But the real question is, can this fast growing city – the 2010 Census reported a 12 percent increase – provide all of its residents with safety, quality education and a stronger economic system? It seems a myriad of candidates have emerged, claiming ideas to make Irving better. The following candidates appeal to the North Dallas Gazette due to their qualifications and willingness to get beyond the gridlock at the council and Irving Independent School Board Level.

These seven candidates are throwing their hats in the ring for the two single-member district seats (Place 4 and Place 6), one

at-large seat (Place 8) and the top spot for the Mayoral and Place 2 seats. While the race for these seats is in full swing for the upcoming May 12 election and early voting continues until May 8, Irving voters are still pondering the swiftly approaching decision. Who is the right person to represent all of Irving and its residents? Who will make the necessary changes to make Irving a better city for safety, economic stability and education?

The stand out candidates for Irving City Council includes William "Bill" D. Mahoney, Rick Stopfer and Fran Bonilla. Voters have had several chances to meet their candidates but here is a brief review of each stand out candidate willing to do more for Irving than just make empty promises.

Mahoney is a retired U.S. Army Captain and the founding partner of Boteler, Mahoney and Gray, LLP in Irving. He has served as the Irving Commissioner for six years which will aid him in his bid for Irving City Council, Place 6. His experience as commissioner has provided a true understanding of what Irving means to the residents and surrounding communities.

He knows how much these communities rely on the corporations that call Las Colinas home. His platform promises to expand the tax base, including targeted retail; lower property taxes; limit influence of special interests; take advantage of Irving's assets to improve its future; provide sound decision making and common sense to the issues affecting Irving residents; and be pro-business fiscal conservative.

Stopfer is a long-serving city council member, since 1998, and has larger plans for Irving with his bid for the Place 8 Council seat. His plans include completing the Comprehensive Development Agreement to receive \$2.6 billion for the reconstruction of SH 183; job creation for a private hotel to support the Irving Convention Center; advancing major development and redevelopment opportunities in both the commercial and residential sectors; and continuing plans to meet future water demands by encouraging and supporting conservation.

The final candidate is Bonilla, a candidate for the District 4 Council seat and a longtime resident of Irving. Her familiarity with Irving puts her in the right

position to know about the communities and what needs to be changed to benefit all. Her plans if elected include the new development of quality corporations and businesses; to continue bringing new development and revitalization to Irving, creating a "green friendly" city; and addressing the basic revitalization of the South part of Irving.

These candidates realize the city is now predominantly Hispanic at 41 percent. Therefore, it is important not to exclude any resident but rather give all residents - Hispanics, Whites and African Americans - a fair chance at business development and partnerships with the city, jobs created by the Irving Convention Center and other economic development plans and the best education system in the DFW.

According to the 2010 Census, there were 33,563 students enrolled in Irving ISD (IISD). While the educational scores for IISD were good, candidates for both Irving City Council and IISD believe they can and should be better.

If Irving doesn't get busy educating students, they will not have qualified residents to take advantages of the opportuni-

ties from the Fortune 500 companies positioned in the Irving area. Without an eligible workforce, corporations will be forced to flee Irving in search of communities that can meet their employment needs. The candidates for the IISD elections who are positioning themselves to make IISD better include A.D. Jenkins and Valerie Jones.

Jenkins and his wife have put three boys through the Irving school system and have been very involved from the PTA to starting youth organizations. He pledges to make Irving ISD a school district that includes ALL children. His platform for Place 3 includes determining the best course to improve student performance and mastery of core subjects by raising the bar in the classrooms; identifying and implementing the best ways to get more parents involved in their student's achievement plan; and instituting a plan for cultural sensitivity by establishing a reputation for respecting cultural differences.

Jones, a current Irving ISD trustee seeking reelection, is passionate about education. She has a history of creating successes in IISD. She plans

to implement, if elected to Place 4, the following changes to IISD: getting every student in IISD ready for college and/or career placement; reducing the dropout rate; financially strengthening Irving ISD by reducing spending when necessary; ensuring the State of Texas pays its fair share for educating students; and creating a school district that supports teachers and learning.

Whether on the city council or serving IISD, these candidates are the most qualified to make the changes necessary to Irving's future development. Residents of Irving should run, not walk, to the polls during early voting or on the May 12 election day, so that Irving can once again be the hub for business, education and safety it once was. All residents in Irving want to be included in the economic growth of their city from job opportunities to business ownership. The candidates above are passionate about education, business development and economic growth. More importantly, they are passionate about Irving and ALL of its residents.

Go vote May 12 or early vote through May 8.

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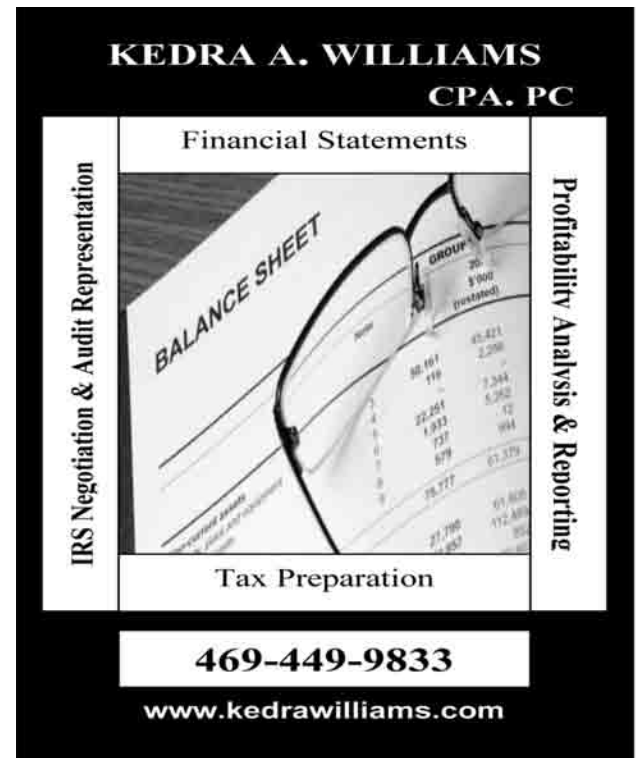
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Note: Today, May 3rd is the 61st observance of the National Day of Prayer. I am giving thanks to God for the privilege of Freedom of Religion in the United States.

It is such a blessing and a privilege to be able to start every day with prayer.

The first National Day of Prayer was declared in 1952. But times of prayer for the entire country date back to 1775, when the Continental Congress "designated a time for prayer in forming a new nation." Then in 1795, President George Washington proclaimed a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, and President Abraham Lincoln called for a day of fasting and prayer during the Civil War in 1863.

On April 17, 1952, the official bill proclaiming an annual National Day of Prayer for the United States was unanimously passed by both houses of Congress.

In 1988, a bill was introduced to Congress that set the

National Day of Prayer for the first Thursday of May each year. On May 5, 1988, the bill was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan.

"He that diligently seeketh good procureth favor; but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him." **Proverbs 11:27 (KJV)**

A friend sent this to me, I believe; it's an important message...

Michael is the kind of guy that is always in a good mood with something positive to say. When ask how he is doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!"

He is also a natural motivator. If someone were having a bad day, he would tell him or her to look on the positive side of the situation.

One day I asked Michael, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time, how do you do it?" He said, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood.

Having a Positive Attitude

Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. When someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life.

Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. It's your choice how you react to situations. You choose how people affect your mood. You choose to be in a good or a bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live your life. I reflected on what Michael said.

I often thought about Michael when I started my own business. I made positive choices about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, Michael was involved in an accident, falling some 60 feet from a communications tower. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Michael was released from the hospital with rods placed in his back. I asked him what was going through his mind as the



(L to R): Sister Tarpley, Mr. Ray Johnson and Evangelist Ruth Demus Thomas (both from Houston, TX) and Evangelist Ida Demus Eggers all visiting the sick and shut-in in nursing homes.

accident took place. He said, "The well-being of my soon to be born daughter was the first thing, then I remembered that I had two choices; I could choose to live or I could choose to die. I choose to live."

Michael continued, "... the paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER

and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes I read, "He's a dead man." I knew I needed to take action.

A nurse asked me if I was allergic to anything. "Yes, I replied." The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, "Grav-

ity."

I learned from Michael that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude, after all, is everything.

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough troubles of its own." Just think, today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.

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EEOC, continued from Page 13

convictions, to screen people applying for jobs contributes significantly to the unemployment of African American, Latinos and Native Americans," said Lawyers' Committee Executive Director Barbara R. Arnwine.

As cited by the EEOC, persons who have been incarcerated in the United States include 1 of 17 whites, 1 of 6 Hispanics, and 1 of 3 African Americans. Based on these and similar statistics, the new guidance effectively establishes a presumption for agency investigators that use of criminal

records has a disparate impact on minorities, a presumption that can be rebutted by an employer by showing that their own hiring practices do not have a disparate impact.

Equally important, the guidance rejects employer policies of permanently disqualifying persons with criminal records and reiterates existing law requiring that an employer show that the disqualification is job-related, spelling out the acceptable ways in which employers can show job relatedness. In most instances, employers must give individualized

consideration to the applicant's work history and other evidence of law-abiding behavior.

"In this economic climate of continued high unemployment, particularly in communities of color, it was critical and truly momentous for the EEOC to take such a proactive step to help all workers and employers," said Ray McClain, director of the Lawyers' Committee's Employment Discrimination Project. "No longer will persons with criminal histories be permanently excluded from the workforce."

The Lawyers' Committee has received many stories of egregious unfairness in denying jobs to outstanding citizens simply because years earlier they had encounters with the law. For instance, the Lawyers' Committee is co-counsel in a major suit seeking to represent a class of hundreds of thousands of minority workers who were refused employment by the Census Bureau during the 2010 Census for as little as an arrest record without any conviction.

In another such case, a man has been denied a job

as a master electrician because of drug convictions that were more than 25 years old. He has had no subsequent encounters with the law, returned to college, and is a master electrician. This man's eligibility for an electrician job should be judged on his competence as an electrician, not on what he did more than 25 years ago. The new guidance will mandate exactly that to employers.

"The updated Enforcement Guidance issued today will aid the Lawyers' Committee in our continuing efforts on

behalf of minority workers, particularly our ongoing evaluation of potential litigation on behalf of the groups most impacted – African American, Latino and Native American workers denied employment because background checks report they have a criminal record or a poor credit history," Arnwine said. "We will also continue to urge the EEOC to issue long awaited guidance on the misuse of credit history to deny employment, a practice which falls most heavily on minorities and the unemployed."

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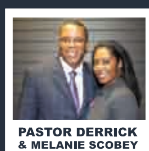
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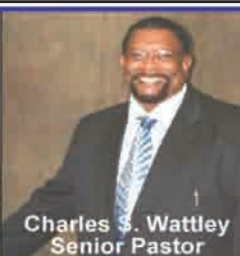
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