NAACP Praises AT&T/T-Mobile Merger For Help In Closing Digital Divide

A growing legion of elected officials say the benefits of expanded next-generation 4G wireless service from the proposed merger of AT&T with T-Mobile are too good to pass up. Federal and state officeholders of both parties, including 26 state governors and scores of federal legislators, say the transaction would boost the economy and create jobs. By making the new service available to over 97 percent of the U.S. population, the merger would also bring the country to the edge of President Obama’s goal of nearly universal high-speed wireless broadband. Announced by the companies in March, the merger must be approved by the Federal Communications Commission and the Justice Department.

“Well for consumers, combining the two companies' infrastructure and spectrum means an even more powerful tool for the DOJ to use in the next round of fights like this one,” said NAACP Senior VP Hilary Shelton.

Department of Justice Objects to Texas Congressional Plan

DOJ will join the argument for a new Texas map

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a federal court brief Wednesday objecting to the racially gerrymandered Republican drawn Texas congressional map. The DOJ objection is an important step forward in winning the federal court fight in Washington, D.C. and forcing a redrawn map that fairly reflects Texas’ growth over the last decade.

The DOJ will now argue in alliance with intervenor groups before a three-judge panel in the DC Federal District Court that the Texas map should be overturned and a new plan drawn. The Lone Star Project and the Texas Justice Fund support the intervenor group led by State Representative Marc Veasey (HD95 – Fort Worth), which was the first

New report highlights social media, other consumer habits

By Cheryl Pearson-McNeil

Time for you to confess: How many Facebook friends do you have? How many people do you follow on Twitter? How many follow you? How about LinkedIn connections – how many of those do you have? Don’t act as if you don’t know what I’m talking about. My 71-year-old mother is even talking about the number of friends she has and she can barely use the computer. (Sorry Ma, but it’s true).

Social networks have exploded in popularity. Social networks and blogs reach almost 80% (4 in 5) of all active U.S. Internet users – account for most of the time Americans spend online, according to Nielsen’s latest State of the Media: The Social Media Report, African-Americans spend 37% of their smartphone time on social networking sites. (Of course, none of us actually visit these sites during work)

People In The News

Tracie Hunter
Monica Newman McCluney
Roland Fryer

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Monica Newman McCluney

Monica Newman McCluney is national director of strategic alliances and corporate relations at UNCF, the nation’s largest and most effective minority education organization. In this role, McCluney is responsible for a portfolio of nearly 45 strategic partner and corporate accounts, including corporations, media, government agencies, non-profits, associations, celebrities and their foundations. She manages a team of consultants, professional and administrative staff as well as UNCF headquarters directed corporate fundraising and sponsorship efforts.

McCluney developed, launched and oversees the UNCF Empower Me Tour (Tour) marketing platform, which was created to empower a movement among young people, motivating them toward academic excellence and personal and fiscal responsibility through relevant program content and celebrity engagement.

Roland Fryer

Tuesday Roland Fryer was named one of the winners of the 2011 MacArthur Fellows, commonly referred to as the Genius Awards. The recipients receive $500,000 award with the honor.

Fryer is an economist illuminating the causes and consequences of economic disparity due to race and inequality in American society. Through innovative empirical and theoretical investigations, Fryer has opened up a range of topics to quantitative analysis, offering new insights on such issues as the cognitive underpinnings of racial discrimination, labor market inequalities, and, in particular, the educational trajectory of minority children.

In an examination of the longitudinal trends of testing gaps among elementary schoolchildren, Fryer and a collaborator determined that, after controlling for background characteristics, black and white children enter kindergarten at parity, but their achievement gap widens through higher grade levels; in addition, they found that traditional socioeconomic metrics could not account for this gap.

In other work, Fryer posited that social network structure could be a contributing factor. Having constructed an index of social status based on a large, national set of demographic data, his analysis suggests that peer-group loyalty sometimes competes with academic performance, particularly in ethnically heterogeneous environments.

Recently, Fryer led a randomized experiment with well over 20,000 students from more than 200 schools in three cities, testing several models of financial incentives to see if they improve children’s academic performance. Results collected to date indicate that incentives payments alone have no statistically significant impact on subsequent state test scores. These studies, among many others, demonstrate Fryer’s propensity to tackle difficult, often sensitive, social questions with scientific rigor. His research is informing the work of academics and policy makers alike, and he is playing a singular and influential role in ongoing discussions about the effects of racial differences in America.

Fryer received a B.A. (1998) from the University of Texas at Arlington and a Ph.D. in Economics from MIT (2003).}

Tracie Hunter

Nearly one year after the election, while one of two Juvenile Court seats remains vacant in one of Ohio’s largest counties, U.S. District Judge Susan Dlott will soon rule whether the Hamilton County Board of Elections (BOE) must count almost 1000 votes that were rejected in last November’s election, impacting the outcome of an unresolved judicial race separated by 23 votes. More appeals are expected in the case that: fueled in part Ohio HB 194; symbolizes the fight to end voter suppression; and has already reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

“It has been a long time coming, but I will stand as long as necessary to ensure that justice prevails and that voters are enfranchised. I only set out to change the Juvenile Court, a system that has historically over incarcerated and under rehabilitated children, especially those of color. I never intended to also challenge and change the electoral system in the process,” said Tracie Hunter. “While a grave miscarriage of justice has occurred, I hope that because of my stance, a brighter future lies ahead for all voters.”

A candidate since the February 2010 primary, Hunter sued the BOE in November for violating the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the Constitution when it counted some provisional ballots cast in the wrong precinct, but rejected others, tainting the close election.

In a case that could surpass one million dollars in legal fees, according to the prosecutor’s office that represents the BOE, many believe Hunter’s race is a factor. As most provisional votes were cast in poorer, predominantly African-American neighborhoods, if the Court orders the rejected votes to be counted, Hunter could become the first African-American Judge in the 107-year-old history of Hamilton County’s Juvenile Court.

Hunter’s opponent, former director of the BOE John Williams was recently appointed Clerk of Courts while Hunter remains in limbo. Williams and the BOE filed joint appeals to prevent counting rejected votes as originally ordered. “It appears politically biased, but as an African-American female from Cincinnati, I accepted long ago that life is not fair or equal,” said Hunter.

Hunter seeks a permanent injunction against the BOE and its members: prohibiting them from rejecting any provisional ballots miscount in the worst precinct November 2; and ordering them to count all provisional ballots miscount due to poll worker error before the Ohio HB 194; symbolizes the fight to end voter suppression; and has already reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

“Our members presidents realized that students were squandering their money away and not able to pay for school and graduating with debt. We leveraged our partnership with Wells Fargo and decided to travel around the country to address these needs on HBCU campuses. The Tour delivers holistic touch points, engaging young people at crucial life stages through college and career preparation, self-actualization and financial success messaging. Headed into its fourth year, the Tour has touched more than 35,000 students and has raised more than $2.2 million.

McCluney has more than 16 years of community relations and fund development experience and has played key roles in major strategic initiatives for a variety of organizations, including United Parcel Service, Bank of America and the national office of the NAACP. Monica graduated from UNCF-member institution, Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, with a B.A. in English.

McCluney is a Maryland native, active in the Junior League of Northern Virginia and in ongoing discussions about the effects of racial differences in America.

Fryer received a B.A. (1998) from the University of Texas at Arlington and a Ph.D. in Economics from MIT (2003).
Building green schools, will help economy grow

By Kathleen Rogers

Building green schools has demonstrated that spending on education generates the largest number of jobs (23.1 per $1 million dollars in spending) of any government spending.

With such potential investment, we now have the possibility to further increase the rate of return for taxpayers by emphasizing green school construction practices. These efforts have the proven ability to significantly reduce a school’s energy, water and other resource needs. Such savings translate into real financial paybacks for cash-strapped school districts.

On average, a green school utilizes 33% less energy, 32% less water, and reduces waste by 74% when compared to a traditionally built school building. These savings alone can average $100,000 annually—enough to hire 2 new teachers, buy 250 new computers, or purchase 5,000 new textbooks. Green schools can also reduce the following pollutants on an annual basis: 1,200 lbs of nitrogen oxide (NOx) – a principal component of smog, 1,300 lbs of sulfur dioxide (SO2) – a principal cause of acid rain, and 585 lbs of carbon dioxide (CO2) – the principal greenhouse gas.

Unfortunately, not everyone on Capitol Hill agrees with this industry-standard analysis. The words “environment” or “green” have become anathema to the mainstream Republican worldview.

In one draconian sweep, the Appropriations Committee has proposed eliminating all federal funding for the President’s Office of Environmental Education (just shy of $10 million). Since 1992, this program has benefited all 50 states with more than 3,400 grants to increase the “public’s awareness about environmental issues” and also address “an educational priority such as teacher training, education reform, or health.” This lack of foresight and leadership does not have to be the case. Environmental education and “green” school practices provide a solid foundation and investment for any school

See ECONOMY, Page 15

The Citizens for Irving Entertainment Center Seek Support

While the citizens have a plan on Congress’ table we must deluge Congressional leaders with phone calls and emails to express the need to pass The American Jobs Act as a first step toward putting America back to work.

Therefore, call your members of Congress on 202.225.3121 (U.S. House) or 202.224.3121 (U.S. Senate) and encourage them to vote “yes” on The American Jobs Act. If ordinary Americans do nothing to influence lawmakers we cannot expect extraordinary progress to be made in the job market.

Gary L. Flowers is the Executive Director & CEO of the Black Leadership Forum, Inc.

Gary L. Flowers

Gary L. Flowers
Learn how to improve your personal health, your family’s safety and the health of the environment all in one event: Healthy Living Expo 2011. The City of Garland, Garland ISD, Baylor Medical Center at Garland and the Garland Chamber of Commerce will join forces on Saturday, September 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the GISD Special Events Center, to look at how caring for both ourselves and the earth creates a healthy lifestyle and has a positive impact on the world around us. And best of all, this family-oriented event is FREE!

The Expo will offer exhibitor booths, free services, demonstrations and entertainment, all focused on helping citizens make positive changes to their daily lives. Health-related exhibitors will provide health screenings and immunizations, plus information on prevention services, stress reduction, fitness and much more. Safety exhibitors will provide information and special services to help you create a safer environment for your family and business. Meanwhile, environment-related exhibitors will share information about recycling, resource conservation, energy efficiency, gardening and alternative fuel vehicles.

The Expo will also feature interactive games and crafts especially for the kids. Adoptable pets from the City of Garland Animal Shelter will be available on site for those who are ready to add a furry friend to their family. Flu shots are available for $20 (adults), $10 (children) while supplies last.

“Let’s pay it forward to create a healthy lifestyle and a positive impact on the world around us,” said Garland Mayor Ronald E. Jones. “We believe this extra dimension will provide even more value to our citizens and neighbors who join us for the Expo.”

Since September is also National Preparedness Month, Garland’s Office of Emergency Management will be on hand with handouts and resources to help you create an emergency plan for your home or business. You can also bring your personal weather radio to be programmed to ensure you’re receiving alerts that specifically impact your geographical area. The Office of Emergency Management will also give away several weather radios during the event.

We are particularly glad to add exhibitors specializing in safety issues to this year’s Expo,” said Garland Mayor Ronald E. Jones. “We believe this extra dimension will provide even more value to our citizens and neighbors who join us for the Expo.”

Since September is also National Preparedness Month, Garland’s Office of Emergency Management will be on hand with handouts and resources to help you create an emergency plan for your home or business. You can also bring your personal weather radio to be programmed to ensure you’re receiving alerts that specifically impact your geographical area. The Office of Emergency Management will give away several weather radios during the event.

Plan ahead to contribute to a healthier community by donating and recycling several items on site. You can bring personal documents to be shredded, gently used athletic shoes, eyeglasses, electronic equipment, outdated or unused medications, and plastic shopping bags.

For more information, visit www.GarlandGoesGreen.org.

Garland’s Healthy Living Expo is this weekend

Flu shots and Senior Health Fair

The public is invited to stop by the Senior Activity Center, located at 600 West Avenue A, in Garland on Thursday, September 29 from 9-11:30 a.m. for flu shots and health screenings. Services available on a first come, first served basis.

Services offered at the event include:
- Flu Shots - $20 cash or Medicare Part B (bring Medicare card)
- Pneumonia Shots - $65 cash or Medicare Part B (bring Medicare card)
- Hearing Tests
- Blood Pressure Check
- Alzheimers Screening
- Chair Massage
- Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind equipment demonstrations

For more information, call 972-205-2769.

Tell Irving Leadership that You Support & Encourage the Irving Entertainment Center at Las Colinas

1) Sign the Petition at www.lascolinasgroup.com & Click Petition
2) Check Your Email then Click on Confirmation Link.
3) Forward the Website to Others Wanting to Make a Difference.

What Does the Entertainment Center in Irving Mean to You?

1) Supporting & Sustaining the Irving Convention Center and Its Benefit to Irving
2) Attracting & Retaining Businesses
3) Making Irving a Desirable Visitor Destination
4) Adding Economic Impact to Keep Residential Taxes Low
5) Keeping Consumer Spending in Irving
6) Adding 2,000 Permanent Jobs & 750 Immediate Construction Jobs

Prefer to Sign a Paper Petition? Call (214) 830-6719 and We Will Arrange to Personally Get the Petition to YOU!

Ad Paid for by Citizens FOR Irving Entertainment Center
DFW and Love Field awarded grant money

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) under the U.S. Department of Transportation will award two federal grants for over $7 million to Dallas Love Field and DFW Airports. The funds will be used to purchase low emission air units at Dallas Love Field as well as to improve runway lighting and design runway rehabilitation at DFW airport.

I am very pleased to announce the FAA will award these funds to Dallas regional airports. Dallas Love Field, which I represent in Congress, will receive $1.978 million for the installation of pre-conditioned air units that will improve air quality at the airport and reduce reliance on conventional fuel as part of the airport's Voluntary Airport Low-Emission Project,“ Congressman Brooks said.

“Further, DFW airport will receive $5.026 million for the design of runway lighting and runway rehabilitation to enhance airport visibility and safety for pilots as they are taking off, landing, and taxiing. As the most senior Texan on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and a member of the Aviation Subcommitte, I am proud to make these important announcements which will help ensure that Dallas has the finest and safest air service available,” Congresswoman Johnson concluded.

McKinney calls special charter election

Proposed city charter amendments put election term length to vote

The McKinney City Council approved an ordinance to call a city charter amendment election for Nov. 8. Proposed changes to the city charter include extending City Council member terms from the current three years to four years.

The amendment election is in response to Senate Bill 100, which was approved by the Texas legislature this year and signed into law by Gov. Rick Perry in June. This new state law had the effect of changing the terms for local elections.

Changing City Council terms would mean city elections are held only in odd-numbered years, when Collin County will continue administering the elections and sharing in the expense. If voters do not pass the term length change, elections in even-numbered years will likely mean a higher election cost for the city.

Voters will also choose to approve term limits to define rules for candidates seeking to be elected into a position on City Council they have not occupied after they have fulfilled eligibility in a different seat.

For instance, a Council member who has served two full terms representing a numbered district would have to sit out a full year before running for an At Large seat. However, candidates seeking the Mayoral seat do not have to sit out a year.

The proposed amendment does not allow current Council members to be grandfathered to where they could run for additional consecutive four-year terms. If passed, the proposed charter amendments also update and make minor corrections to the city charter.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8. Voters may vote at any Collin County locations listed on the website www.mckinneytexas.org/vote.

Texas Democrats seeking to maintain diversity in delegation

The Texas Democratic Party (TDP) is moving forward on implementing its affirmative action, outreach and inclusion plan. The TDP will aggressively implement an outreach program to recruit, educate, and train the Democratic electorate to participate in the delegate selection process and in our party’s organization at every level.

“As one of the largest and most diverse delegations in the country, the TDP will make certain that all voices of our broad constituency are heard at National Conventions,” said TDP Chairman Boyd Richie.

The TDP aims at a diverse delegation for the 2012 Democratic National Convention and in order to fulfill these ambitious goals, the TDP will:

• Hold a delegate selection workshop in each of Texas’ 31 Senate districts.
• Publish and distribute information on the delegate selection process to state and local party officers, at party meetings, and at meetings of constituent interest groups.
• Create a volunteer speakers bureau to dispense information on the process.
• Outreach to community leaders within the Party’s various constituencies, and
• Encourage persons to register to vote and vote as Democrats.

“Texas is truly a unique state, and we want our delegates to represent the diversity within our party.”

Dallas Bar Foundation to host journalist David Brooks

The Dallas Bar Foundation will host An Evening with David Brooks, Thursday, October 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the Belo Mansion (2101 Ross Ave. in downtown Dallas). David Brooks, who is a political and cultural commentator and has covered some of the most significant events in recent times, will be the keynote speaker.

Brooks is a frequent guest on The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, is a New York Times Op-Ed columnist and was a contributing editor at Newsweek and the Atlantic Monthly. A keen observer and analyst of present day politics and foreign affairs, Mr. Brooks has also contributed to publications such as The New York Times Magazine, the Washington Post and The New Yorker. His recent book, The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character, and Achievement debuted at No. 1 on the New York Times best seller list.

An Evening with David Brooks benefits the Sarah T. Hughes Diversity Scholarship Program, which has provided more than $1.6 million in full scholarships to outstanding minority students at SMU Dedman School of Law.

Individual tickets are $300 and include a seated dinner. Tables of 10 start at $3,000 and include a seated dinner. Gold level ($5,000) sponsors are invited to a VIP reception with Brooks followed by a seated dinner. For ticket information call (214) 220-7487 or log on to www.dallasbarfoundation.org.

Heart Attack

Heart health should be important to everyone regardless of their medical history. However, every year, about 785,000 Americans have their “first heart attack.”

Local physicians are conducting a research study of the investigational use of a medication in its ability to reduce your risk of future heart attacks and other cardiovascular events such as a stroke. You may qualify to participate if you have had at least one heart attack. Participants may continue their current medications throughout the study. All study-related care and study medication will be provided at no cost.

To learn more, please contact: NORTH TEXAS MEDICAL RESEARCH, LLC 4101 W SPRING CREEK PKWY SUITE 300 PLANO, TX 75024 214 317 8322 info@ntmresearch.net Volunteer For The Future CDC.gov
Second Fair Day added to 2011-2012 calendar

For public safety reasons, the Dallas ISD Board of Trustees has revised the district’s 2011-2012 calendar to provide separate Fair Days for elementary and secondary students and staff. Elementary students and staff will be out of school for their Fair Day on Friday, Oct. 7, which will be a regular school day for secondary students and staff. Secondary students and staff will be out of school for their Fair Day on Friday, Oct. 14, which will be a regular school day for elementary students and staff.

Ausenbaugh Memorial 5K and Fun Run set for Oct. 15

The second annual Cory Ausenbaugh Memorial 5K and Fun Run in Prosper will once again wind its way through the Town on Saturday, Oct. 15 starting at 8 a.m. The race will benefit the annual Cops for a Claus program, which will be a regular chip-timed run. The race will be open house for prospective university (TWU) will host an open house for prospective students and their guests will have the opportunity to meet faculty and students, participate in a campus tour and attend sessions on admissions, financial aid, housing, student life, commuter and student life, commuter and awards them to needy families right before the Christmas holidays.

TWU welcomes prospective students and guests to Oct. 15 open house

Texas Woman’s University (TWU) will host an open house for prospective students from 8 a.m. until noon Saturday, Oct. 15, on the TWU Denton campus. Prospective students and their guests will have the opportunity to meet faculty and students, participate in a campus tour and attend sessions on admissions, financial aid, housing, student life, commuter information and more. Prospective students could also win $1,000 to be applied to fall and spring 2012-2013 tuition and fees at TWU. Three awards of $1,000 each will be presented to one freshman, one transfer and one graduate student at the Denton Open House. Students must be eligible for admission to be approved by the federal court. Other interver groups supported by Hispanic and African American advocacy organizations are party to the suit as well.

“The DOJ’s position is further proof that Texas leaders have failed the voters. Their map will cost Texans hundreds of thousands to defend before it is ultimately found to be illegal and redrawn,” according to Angle.

“Over and over Republicans show they would rather destroy minority voting strength than work to earn minority votes.”

“The three-judge panel in Washington, D.C. will set a trial schedule to hear formal arguments from all parties to the suit and make a final determination whether or not the Texas plan violates Section 5 of the US Voting Rights Act.”

The three-judge panel in Washington, D.C. will set a trial schedule to hear formal arguments from all parties to the suit and make a final determination whether or not the Texas plan violates Section 5 of the US Voting Rights Act. After the DC Court rules, the focus will shift back to Texas, where the San Antonio Court will make its decision on possible Section 2 violation and then order redrawn maps if required.

“The DOJ’s position is further proof that Texas leaders have failed the voters. Their map will cost Texans hundreds of thousands to defend before it is ultimately found to be illegal and redrawn,” according to Angle.

Last week, a Federal District Court in San Antonio completed a trial hearing arguments that the Texas Congressional and State House plans violate Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act requiring state plans to reflect the voting strength of citizens. The three-judge panel in Texas will hold off on issuing an opinion on that trial until the DC Court rules whether the Texas plans violate Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act preventing plans from reducing the existing opportunities of minority voters.
By Hope King
NDG Staff

Dr. Elba Garcia, Dallas County Commissioner met with Irving pastors and community leaders on Thursday, September 15 to thank them for their support in her recent election. In addition, she spoke about the importance of continuing her offices’ strategic partnership with the community.

Dr. Garcia explained that during her campaign when going door to door, she found that constituents did not know who their county commissioner was, what they did, and when the meetings were held. So she created a presentation that explained what is Dallas County and what the commissioners do. She shared this presentation to an attentive audience. Also, Dr. Garcia shared vital statistics and a progress report on how challenges at both Dallas County Jails and Parkland Hospital were being addressed and fixed.

In closing, Dr. Garcia encouraged attendees to visit her website that she uses to help provide transparency in county government including, campaign finance reports, videos of commissioner court meetings, and a master calendar online for the public.

Parents and educators come together at Irving NAACP Education Summit

By Hope King

Parents, teachers, administrators and community members met at Jack Singley Academy on September 17, for the sixth annual Education Summit. The Irving/Carrollton Branch of the NAACP hosted the summit, with several members in attendance helping with registration, navigating breakout sessions and comments by Tony Grimes, President. Irving/Carrollton NAACP, Dr. Dana Bedden, Irving Independent School District (Irving ISD) Superintendent, shared vital statistics, opportunities, and challenges with the audience.

Program participants included Ruby Walker, a teacher at Thomas Haley Elementary School, facilitated the summit, challenging the parents to take an interest in their children’s education. David Saenz, Principal of Jack Singley Academy greeted attendees followed by comments from Heather Ashley, the President Irving ISD Board of Trustees.

Dr. Kenyon Godwin, a parent, shared his story of being the product of a single-mother home and a literate father. Dr. Godwin focused on how paramount education was in his household throughout his children. This was true despite his mother not having a high school education. David Saenz, Principal of Jack Singley Academy greeted attendees followed by comments from Heather Ashley, the President Irving ISD Board of Trustees.

Dr. Kenyon Godwin, a parent, shared his story of being the product of a single-mother home and a literate father. Dr. Godwin focused on how paramount education was in his household throughout his children. This was true despite his mother not having a high school education.

She would tell you independence is priceless.

But there are times when she needs a little help with her electricity bill.

We know about those times when there’s too much month left at the end of the money. That’s why we have a program called TXU Energy Aid. Nobody should have to suffer dangerous heat or cold, made worse by fear of an electricity bill they can’t afford. We’re proud to provide temporary bill payment assistance to thousands of customers in critical situations each year, right in your community. Since 1983, TXU Energy Aid has provided more than $66 million in bill payment assistance, helping 390,000 families in need. Learn more at txu.com.
Business Empowerment Sessions. Learn to grow a successful small business. 1st Thursday of each month at Christian Chapel Temple of Faith, 14120 Noel Rd., Dallas. Info @ 214-942-6698.

How to start a business. Free sessions on getting started the right way. Sessions held the last Monday of each month. Call The PLAN Fund for details 214-942-6698.

Oak Cliff Cultural Center, 223 West Jefferson Blvd. in Dallas, offers Tango classes every Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Cost is $10 per person or $15 per couple per class. www.tangocanyon-guedallas.com

Through September 24

The Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road, Dallas, TX 75218, will feature a variety of special events throughout the year. For more information, visit www.dallasarboretum.org. The garden is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The 14th Annual Carrollton Public Library Book Sale will be held 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. at Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs Road). See friendscarrolltonlibrary.org/book-sale.htm.

Smithsonian Day: In the spirit of Smithsonian Museums, the Irving Arts Center will offer free admission to “Genghis Khan: The Exhibition” from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A special Museum Day ticket must be presented to enter. To print a ticket, visit www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/ticket

An Evening of Stars® Educating our Future watching party at Edison’s Dallas House, 911 West Round Grove Rd, Lewisville, TX 75067. Info: @ 972-499-7500.

September 25

Visions: The Women’s Expo brings beauty and hands-on fun to the Dallas Market Hall, 2200 N. Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets start at $10. www.womensexpo.com or 972-499-7500.

September 27

The Marketing Lady presents M.I.N.G.L.E Lunch and Learn, a professional networking luncheon, at the Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road, Dallas, TX. The guest speaker is Bev Reutzel of Bev Reutzel Training & Consulting. The event is scheduled for 7:30 – 10 a.m. Info: visionsexpo.com and features Artstop, the festival’s interactive children’s area. Info: 972-744-4580 or cottonwoodartsfestival.com.

The Cottonwood Arts Festival comes to Cottonwood Park, 1321 W. Beltline Road, Richardson, TX, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. The event is FREE and features Artstop, the festival’s interactive children’s area. Info: 972-744-4580 or cottonwoodartsfestival.com.

October 2-1

The Cottonwood Arts Festival comes to Cottonwood Park, 1321 W. Beltline Road, Richardson, TX, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. The event is FREE and features Artstop, the festival’s interactive children’s area. Info: 972-744-4580 or cottonwoodartsfestival.com.

October 4

Proper’s Health and Safety Fair will be held at the Reynolds Middle School multi-purpose building, 700 North Coleman Street, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

October 7

The Center for Government Contracting is hosting a special Awards Ceremony Breakfast based on the evaluation of fiscal year, October 2010 – September 2011. The guest speaker will be Margo Posey, President of DFW Minority Supplier Development Council. The event is scheduled for 7:30 – 10:30 a.m. at Bill J. Priest Institute, located at 1402 Corinth St. #1530 in Dallas.

Sponsored By:

Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community
Supporters of the Irving Entertainment Center asking residents to consider the facts and benefits of the project

By: Jackie Hardy, NDG Contributing Writer

Residents of Irving and North Texas witnessed the implosion of Texas Stadium on April 11, 2010. Irving citizens and leaders felt more than just a little bit of history was demolished. But a little of Irving’s strong economic presence was also demolished on that historical day.

Many consider the project to be the death of Irving’s strong economic performance and Vice-Chairmen for Irving Healthcare Foundation, Chairman of the Board of Irving Healthcare Foundation and Vice-Chairmen for Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce.

The completed structure for the Entertainment Center will be a state-of-the art facility consisting of a concert hall with a maximum seat capacity of 7,500; public spaces to include a plaza and promenade equipped with stages for live entertainment and kiosks for food and art; and restaurants and concessions with diverse styles, flavors, and pricing.

Ryan Pafford

This project would create jobs in construction along with establishing permanent jobs in the service, entertainment, and retail industries. According to the Las Colinas Group (LCG), Project Developer and Partner, the project will create 2,000 new jobs and bring more than 3.5 million visitors. This is the equivalent of increasing sales tax revenue base for the city.

The Irving Entertainment Center’s overall design will foster an atmosphere of cultural diversity in the areas of arts, food, and entertainment. Eleven original restaurant concepts will celebrate the international flavors and décor with superior first-class service. The number 13 of Texas’ Top 50 city retail markets, accounting for more than $2.2 billion in sales. The Entertainment Center would further improve Irving’s retail sales market, increasing Irving businesses revenue streams, and would encourage visitors to play, shop, dine, and do business in Irving,” a written statement by Ryan Pafford, Director of Communications and Technology for Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce.

The Irving Entertainment Center has an opportunity to become an international hub with respect to the world of arts and entertainment; where cultures of all race and ethnicity can come to celebrate the rich and diverse heritages that not only make up the city, but the surrounding DFW-Metroplex.

This project has not been met without opposition. In the recent Mayoral election, newly elected Mayor Beth Van Duyne ran her campaign against former Mayor Herb Gears by pointing out issues related to the project financing, delays, and questions over LCG’s alleged improper spending of public funds. LCG has been vigilant in working to dispel what they called false claims and untruths in recent media reports. They dispute the claims that a total of $4.2 million paid to LCG for operating costs were unallowable expenses.

According to the Dallas Morning News, James Smith, CPA from Smith, Jackson, Boyer and Boyard Accounting Firm, conducted an investigation and provided a report to the Irving City Council. Smith’s report indicated more than the $269,000 paid by the city to LCG were not reimbursable expenses. Ultimately, LCG credited $136,000 back to the city. The report also deducted a total of $132,900 is what the developer is to refund or credit the city of Irving.

The Irving Entertainment Center is necessary if we are going to have a successful Convention Center. The Irving City Council seems to think there is no reason to have an audit because it will cost more money and not find anything wrong and I am not going to disagree with the Council,” said Jim Widener, retired attorney and local supporter of the project.

Petitions by both supporters and opponents of the management and/or continued development of the Entertainment Center were launched. The initiators of both petitions want to send a message to City Council, as well as, ensure their issues are heard as the council goes forward with this project.

“I think the Entertainment Center is necessary if we are going to have a successful Convention Center. The Irving City Council seems to think there is no reason to have an audit because it will cost more money and not find anything wrong and I am not going to disagree with the Council,” said Jim Widener, retired attorney and local supporter of the project.

The Irving City Council voted on August 4 against seeking proposals from independent accounting firms to conduct an independent audit. The council considered an audit to determine how the $22 million was spent by LCG on the development of this project.

“The folks over at the Center have a very strong desire to be a good corporate citizen. They want the leverage and core resources of that center to help the community as well as the youth of Irving,” added Trotter.

Trotter shared how the Entertainment Center can offer Irving educational, as well as, economic advantages. The schools will be able to utilize the facility for events; also, they can offer internships for students studying in the arts, entertainment and culinary fields.

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The first round of the Lone Star Idol competition held at the Granada Theater on September 18 was considered a great success, featuring competitors from all areas of Texas. Marie Ornelas, the founder of Lone Star Idol, indicated seeing the competition kick off was a dream come true for her as well. She stated, "We need to somehow showcase talent from Texas" and Lone Star Idol was born. The showcase benefited the WEW (Women Empowering Women) Group, which was created to provide channels and opportunities for those who are suffering from the effects of domestic violence. The website for WEW is http://www.wewfoundation.org.

Lone Star Idol displays a wide array of talent from different genres such as gospel, hip hop, and country. The judges were either professional musicians or singers such as local blues singer air personality (730 AM KKDA) Ernie Johnson and Stephen Pride, a country artist. During intermission, the crowd was entertained by judges. It was some unbelievable talent in the showcase with aged from eleven and up. Neutral Sister wowed the crowd with her positive reggae sound and Salero sang salsa. The three placeholders were Jason Ashley in first place, Taylor Heard second, and Crystal Cameron was third. All three placeholders were country artists with great talent and skills. Details of the competition can be found at: http://unsignedtexasartist.com.

Diary of Black Men strikes a cord with viewers

The first round of the Lone Star Idol competition held at the Granada Theater on September 18 was considered a great success, featuring competitors from all areas of Texas. Marie Ornelas, the founder of Lone Star Idol, indicated the competition kick off was a dream come true for her as well. She stated, "We need to somehow showcase talent from Texas" and Lone Star Idol was born. The showcase benefited the WEW (Women Empowering Women) Group, which was created to provide channels and opportunities for those who are suffering from the effects of domestic violence. The website for WEW is http://www.wewfoundation.org.

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The cost of Texas’ severe drought

By Tom Pauken

Devastating wildfires across Texas in recent weeks have been the most visible evidence of a year-long drought that Texas officials have declared to be the worst on record. Behind the highly visible carnage caused by the fires, the drought also has inflicted a toll on the Texas economy that will have long-term ramifications across the state.

The dry, hot conditions have placed severe strains on the ranching and farming industry, as well as threatening our recreational hunting and fishing sector. Experts with the Texas AgriLife Extension at Texas A&M University estimate that the drought has cost Texas $5.2 billion in crops and livestock. In fact many Texas ranchers may be forced to go out of business as a result of the devastating weather conditions in our state. The drought has killed much of the grass used for grazing, and ranchers are faced with a choice. They sell off their starving cattle before they’ve fully matured, pay unusually high prices for hay in order to keep their herd alive, or move their herd out of state where conditions are better. Almost all the hay for Texas ranchers is coming from out of state, and officials with the Texas Farm Bureau say that the cost to transport a bale of hay is now more expensive than the bale itself. Meanwhile, some out-of-state hay producers are using the shortage to charge exorbitant prices.

Understandingly, many Texas ranchers have opted to sell their cattle under these circumstances. One survey by the Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) found that ranchers have sold off 40 percent of their cattle this year compared to an annual average of 5 percent to 10 percent. Officials with the Texas Farm Bureau believe that percentage has gone up even higher in the last month. The Farm Bureau also reports that they are hearing from many ranchers who plan to leave the business for good after they sell off their herd. TSCRA’s survey confirms that 1 in 10 ranchers have left the industry this year.

Farmers also have suffered. Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples reports that cotton farmers have lost $1.8 billion due to the lack of rain; lost revenue from hay is $750 million; and corn losses are $327 million. Officials with the Lower Colorado River Authority recently announced that they may be requesting permission to cut off water to farmers downstream of Austin because water reserves are so depleted. That happens, rice farmers in Matagorda, Wharton and Colorado counties could see losses of $75 million and the elimination of 1,000 farm labor jobs, according to a report in the Austin American-Statesman.

The economically harmful effects of the drought are compounded by the fact that it is taking place as we face the most serious recession since the Great Depression. The stagnant national economy is driving up unemployment across the country, including Texas. Making matters even worse is that some of the regions of Texas with the highest unemployment—the south Texas counties near the Rio Grande—are regions where farming and ranching play a large role in the local economy.

The economic damage done by this drought will be long lasting even if rain comes soon. Ranchers forced to sell off cattle before reaching their peak value can never recover that loss and replenishing their lost inventory will take major capital investments. The farmers and hunting-related businesses who lose income can’t make it back when the rain returns. The $5.2 billion of losses...
DIGITAL, continued from Page 1

holdings promises clear benefits in service quality. Added spectrum capacity and greater coverage will help address network congestion and should result in fewer dropped calls,” Connecticut’s Democratic Governor Dan Malloy said in a letter to the FCC.

Last month, 76 Democratic members of Congress said the enhanced services

BUSINESS, ism, mannerisms and commitment,” says Terrell. “It can boil down to the fact that you want to do business with people that you like and you go out of your way to help people you like.”

Promote your business. During these tough economic times, business owners are cutting costs to save money. Advertising and marketing budgets are usually the first to be scaled back, but obtaining new clients and maintaining steady business does not have to be negatively impacted. By networking, you

continued from Page 11

can maintain your company’s revenues and even grow your customer and client base while conserving funds. Networking is a great way to sell your company and what it is that you do.

Meet other professionals in your area. It’s a good idea to have other business leaders in the community know so they can make the appropriate referrals when the time comes. Establishing a new business in a community can be challenging but meeting other business owners can lead to word-of-mouth marketing, which can ultimately lead to more clients and higher profits. Building relationships is key to operating and growing a successful business. Exchange business cards and follow up with an email or phone call the next day saying how you enjoyed meeting them. Networking can be intimidating at first, but it can be beneficial in growing your business. Make sure to stay in touch with the people you meet because your next client might be them or someone they referred to you.

FRYER, continued from Page 2 Ph.D. (2002) from Pennsylvania State University. He was a Junior Fellow in the Harvard Society of Fellows (2003-2006) prior to his appointment in the Department of Economics, where he is currently Robert M. Beren Professor of Economics. He is also founder and director of the Education Innovation Laboratory at Harvard University and a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

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TWU, continued from Page 6
TWU to claim the awards.
Check-in begins at 8 a.m. in Hubbard Hall, located on Administration Drive between Oakland Street and Bell Avenue in Denton. Information sessions are scheduled until noon, followed by campus tours that include residence halls. Free parking is available throughout the Denton campus during the open house.
For more information or to register, visit www.twu.edu and click on Denton Campus Open House, email TWU at openhouse@twu.edu or call 940-898-3014 or 1-866-809-6130.

McCLUNEY, Virginia and is a member of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She, her husband and son reside in Leesburg, VA.
McCluney is scheduled to speak during the 2011-2012 Paul Quinn College Voices That Matter season at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 27. Voices That Matter events occur in the Grand Lounge of the Student Union Building at Paul Quinn College, 3837 Simpson Stuart Road, Dallas, Texas, 75241.

Venture 360 Construction in Fort Worth, TX seeks Controller.

Duties: monthly closing, financial reports, GAAP, tax returns, budget & forecast, variance, job accounting, cost analysis, internal control, assist estimating. Master degree in Accounting, Finance, or Business required. At least 2 years experience in accounting.

Please fax resume with salary requirement to Daryl: 214-447-9668.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is requesting written proposals from consultant firms to conduct a Speed and System-Wide Boarding and Alighting Study for the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T). The initial major task in this request is the conducting of a dual pilot study for the boarding and alighting to compare an onboard survey method and a security video method, which eliminates the need for being onboard the bus for data collection; one of these methods will be selected for system-wide data collection. In addition, the activities in this request include conducting a full count of boarding and alighting on all bus routes of The T’s system; the measurement of the trip time and dwell time of operating buses; and an estimation of the relationship between bus speed and average auto speed in the paths of the buses based on sampled routes. The study will require the development of a dual pilot study plan, development of data collection plans, training of surveyors, development and implementation of a quality control plan for the data collection, creation of databases, and analysis and documentation of the results. Engineering services are not anticipated for this study. Innovative approaches in data collection are encouraged.

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Proposals must be received no later than 5 p.m., Central Daylight Time, on Friday, October 14, 2011, to Kathy Yu, Senior Transportation System Modeler, North Central Texas Council of Governments, 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, Texas 76011. Copies of the Request for Proposals (RFP) will be available at www.nctcog.org/trans/admin/rfp by the close of business on Friday, September 16, 2011.

NCTCOG encourages participation by disadvantaged business enterprises and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or disability.
September 25
Join us for early morning wor- 
ship at 8 a.m.; Morning Worship at 9:30 a.m. and Wor- 
school at 8 a.m.; Morning Bible 
study at 8 a.m.; Morning Bible 
study and praising God.

Theresa Allen, Pastor Emeritus
honoring Dr. Wayne and Mrs.

3333 Golfing Green in Dallas,
Brookhaven Country Club,
Banquet Luncheon at the

September 25, 7 p.m.
You are invited to our Man 2 Man 
Summit. Call the church for de- 
tails.

September 24, 12 Noon 
For those in need, come to our 
Grief Recovery Support Group. Call Tera McFarland at 972- 
437-3493, Ext 111 or email her 
at tmcfarland@ndcbf.org for 
details.

September 30, 8 a.m. 
Don’t miss Operation Oasis 
Golf Classic at the Canyon 
Creek Country Club in Richard- 
son. Call Juanita Lee at 972- 
437-3801 for fees and details.

October 1, 6 p.m. 
Join us for an evening of Poetry 
& Praise “Called to Be Re- 
sistent” featuring Jazz Artist 
Dean Miller at the Courtyard 
Theatre, 1509 E Avenue, Richardson, TX 75074. Call the 
church for ticket details. 

Pastor Dr. Leslie W. Smith, 
Senior Pastor
1010-1026 S. Sherman Street 
Richardson, TX 75081 
972-437-3493 
www.ndcbf.org

ROCK OF FAITH 
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CHURCH

Early Morning Prayer 
Real Men Pray; all men, join 
our Circle of Faith Men Inter- 
cessory Prayer Ministry in prayer, early in the morning at 6 
a.m. on Monday – Friday at 1- 
712-757-7400, pin # 828778 #1 
and please put your phone on 
mute. Prayer will change peo- 
ple, things and situations. 
Pastor Tommy Tucker 
311 East Church 
Lewisville, TX 75057 
214-366-2211

NEW LIGHT 
CHURCH

September 25
You have volunteered with us on Sunday Mornings at 9:30 
a.m. for Sunday School and 11 
a.m. for Morning Worship as we 
praise and worship God. 
Shawn Webb, Senior Pastor
9314 Elam Road 
Dallas, TX 75217 
214-391-3430 
newlightchurchdallas.com

VICTORY BIBLE 
CHURCH INTERNATIONAL, 
(VBCI DALLAS)

September 25, 9 a.m. 
You are invited to a Life Trans- 
sforming Service that will 
change your life as we praise 
and worship God. 
1100 Business Parkway, 
Suite 1007 
Richardson, TX 75081 
972-678-9138 or 214-394- 
6164

WORD OF LIFE 
CHURCH of GOD in CHRIST 

Early Prayer 
Join us in prayer early in the 
morning at 6 a.m. on Monday - 
Friday at 1-661-673-8600, Code 
# 142219 and please put your 
phone on mute. Prayer will 
change people, things and situa- 
tions.

September 27, 8 p.m. 
You’re invited to our Pastoral 
Care Night as Pastor Voss bring 
the Word of God, and we wor- 
ship and praise God.

September 29, 8 p.m. 
Join us in our Gift Stirring 
Night as Saints of God bring 
God’s Word and reveal their 
God-giving talents. 
Dr. Gregory Voss, 
Senior Pastor
2765 Trinity Mills Road 
Building 300 
Carrollton, TX 75086 
214-514-9147

September 28
You’re invited to our Single 
Parent Support Group. Call 
Pastor Cooper at 972-437-3493, 
Ext 104 or email him at 
rcooper@ndcbf.org for details.

September 24, 8 a.m. 
Join us for early Morning 
Worship at 8 a.m.

September 23, 7 p.m. 
You’re invited to our Single 
Parent Support Group. Call 
Pastor Cooper at 972-437-3493, 
Ext 104 or email him at 
rcooper@ndcbf.org for details.

September 22, 10 a.m. 
Visit us for our “Evening of 
Poetry & Praise”. Call 
Pastor Elmer Jones at 
972-437-3801 for 
details.

September 21, 6 p.m. 
You are invited to a Life 
Transforming Service that will 
change your life as we praise 
and worship God.

September 21, 8 p.m. 
You are invited to our Man 
2 Man Summit. Call the church for de- 
tails.

September 20, 6 p.m. 
You are invited to our Family 
Night of Praise & Worship. Call 
Pastor Elmer Jones at 
972-437-3801 for details.

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One day an expert in a time management class was speaking to a group of business students and to drive home a point, used an illustration those students should never forget.

As he stood in front of the group of high-powered over-achievers he said, “Okay, time for a quiz.” the expert pulled out a one-gallon mason jar and set it on the table in front of him. He also produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar. When the jar could hold no more rocks, he asked, “Is this jar full?”

Everyone in the class yelled, “Yes.” The time management expert replied, “Really?”

He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. He dumped some gravel in and shook the jar causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the fist-sized rocks. He then asked the students once more, “Is the jar full?” By this time the class was on to him. “Probably not,” one of them answered. Good!” he replied. He reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in the jar and it went into all of the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel.

Once more he asked the question, “Is this jar full?”

“No!” the class shouted. Once again he said, “Good.” Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim.

He looked at the class and asked, “What is the point of this illustration?” One eager bearer raised his hand and said, “The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you really hard you can always fit some more things in it!” “No,” the expert replied, “That’s not the point.” The truth that this illustration teaches us is:

What are the “big” rocks in your life—time with your loved ones, your faith, your education, your dreams, a worthy cause, teaching or mentoring others?”

Remember to put the BIG ROCKS in first or you’ll never get them in at all.” So, when you are reflecting on this short story, ask yourself this question: What are the “big rocks” in my life? Then put those in your jar first.

WHAT GOD WON’T ASK!

God won’t ask what kind of fancy car you drove;
He will ask how many people you gave rides to who didn’t have transportation. God won’t ask the square footage of your home;
He will ask how many people you helped who didn’t have a home.

God won’t ask how many fancy clothes you had in your closet;
He will ask how many of those clothes you gave away to the needy. God won’t ask what social class you were in;
He will ask what kind of “class” you displayed during your trials and tribulations. God won’t ask how many material possessions you had;
He will ask whether those material possessions dictated your life.

What God won’t ask how much money you have;
He will ask if you trumpeted over any one to obtain that money. God won’t ask how much overtime you worked;
He will ask you if you worked overtime for Him and your family. God won’t ask how many promotions you received;
He will ask what you did to help others.

God won’t ask what your job title was;
He will ask did you perform your job to the best of your ability. God won’t ask how many promotions you took to chase a dollar bill; He will ask how many times you refused their promotion that you would help another get.

God won’t ask what kind of entertainment you consumed;
He will ask whether you did that to benefit others.

God won’t ask whether you had a home;
He will ask what you did to help your parents.

God won’t ask how many friends you had;
He will ask how many people you were a friend to.

God won’t ask what you did to protect your rights;
He will ask what you did to protect the rights of others. God won’t ask what neighbor you lived in;
He will ask what other neighborhoods you visited. God won’t ask how many times you told the truth;
He will ask how many times you told a lie.

God won’t ask about the color of your skin;
He will ask about the color of your heart. God won’t ask how many times your deeds matched your words; He will ask how many times they didn’t. —Author Unknown
Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) was recognized by Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) for her years of public support for the agency and for taking the lead to promote transit at local, state and federal levels of government.

The recognition included the unveiling of a commemorative plaque at a ceremony held Monday, September 19, at DART’s Hatcher Station.

In 2006, Johnson’s support helped DART win its largest award ever—a landmark $700-million Full Funding Grant Agreement from the Federal Transit Administration.

Johnson’s effort led DART’s $1.8 billion Green Line, which provides light rail access to areas of Southeast Dallas and Pleasant Grove, Fair Park, the American Airlines Center, Dallas Market Center, Southwestern Medical District, Love Field, and the cities of Farmers Branch and Carrollton.

DART President/Executive Director Gary Thomas looks on as Board Chairman William Velasco congratulates Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson after dedication a plaque in her honor at Hatcher Station on the Green Line.

Many families are struggling with the economic challenges our community is facing. You not only have neighbors with children who need shoes for school, but also unemployed parents who need a nice pair of shoes for interviews or work.

Life Changing Faith Christian Fellowship Church Outreach Ministry is collecting new and gently used shoes to distribute to those in need. The original goal of 500 shoes was astoundingly reached and exceeded to 2,000 being collected since the inception of this campaign mid-summer.

If you would like to donate shoes, please call the church to schedule your donation at 7185 Main Street in downtown Frisco at 214-387-8040 or info@lifechangingfaith.com.

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a high school diploma while raising he and his siblings. Dr. Godwin shared with parents that education of their children begins at home, an approach that is helpful to teachers.

After all the poignant comments and remarks, parents were dismissed to attend breakout sessions focusing on a variety of topics. They included: positive parenting, how to navigate the Irving ISD systems, school transitions, and several programs offered within Irving ISD.

At the close of the summit a drawing was held for a free laptop and printer. An excited Irving ISD student won the giveaway. In the end, all participants and organizers in attendance was a winner, with the ultimate winner being the children served throughout Irving ISD.