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Rep. Eric Johnson presents two upcoming bills to keep an eye on

By Nicole James Scott
NDG Contributing Writer

In an effort to create better transparency of police agencies Texas Representative Eric Johnson has filed House Bill 245, which seeks to address the current lack of reporting of police shootings. According to a study conducted by Texas State University in San Marcos, from 2005-2015 more than two hundred incidents of police shootings by Texas law enforcement officers went unreported.

Policing particularly in African-American and Latino communities historically and presently remains a point of contention. HB 245 aims to turn that around according to Legislative Director for Rep. Johnson, Garrett Fisher.

"It [HB 245] builds community trust that law enforcement agencies are doing their jobs and being forthcoming with all of the current data that's available," Fisher said. HB 245 is a follow up to the legislature was introduced by Rep. Johnson in 2015 and passed, requiring officers to report fatal shootings.

What HB 245 stands to do is actually enforce the current law, whereby penalizing police agencies that are not complying. Under the proposed legislature police agencies found in violation will be fined \$1,000 for the first infraction and \$10,000 for the second one. The bill was presented to the Homeland Security and Public Safety



Police shooting situations have made big news in the past couple of years, and one bill being offered up in the State House of Representatives seeks to address transparency on this issue. (Photo: matthrono / Flickr)

Committee Tuesday..

According to Fisher Rep. Johnson's office has been working closely with stakeholders and law enforcement regarding the bill which is currently pending in committee after its public hearing on March 14.

Also slated to be heard, House Bill 1489 which would freeze the pay of any state agency heads who fail to meet their Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) contracting goals. It's fair to write, any legislature that will incentivize state agencies to do everything within their power to ensure HUB's are getting their fair share of the economic pie is one worth

championing. By targeting the heads of state agencies, Fisher claims, the agencies themselves will indirectly be affected.

"Representative Johnson really wanted to make sure the state is living up to the goals that it sets for itself, that it is actually doing business with women and minority-owned businesses," Fisher stated.

HB 1489 was referred to State Affairs on March 13.

As with all bills, HB 245 and HB 1489 must undergo the lengthy process before they actually land on the governor's desk but so far, so good.



Seniors save money on prescriptions

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Premiere dance troop returning to Dallas stage

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COMMENTARY

Who is the Irving ISD really serving?

NDG's View

The North Dallas Gazette has held a high standard as it relates to ensuring the awareness needs of the communities we serve. As we march forward with providing quality, accurate, and up to date information is distributed to our readership; we cannot say the same for Irving ISD.

With more than 67 percent of its students being Hispanic and 12 percent being African American, Irving ISD (IISD) is fail-

ing in keeping its residents informed on their initiatives to acquire various exemption status via the House Bill 1842, also known as District of Innovation (DoI). This grant gives traditional independent school districts, such as IISD, most of the flexibilities available to Texas' open enrollment charter schools. To access these flexibilities, a school district must adopt an innovation plan, as set forth in the Texas Education

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Teresa Coleman Wash



Mary Jane Partain



Leesa Renee Hall

On the GO??? But still need to be in the KNOW!!! Bookmark NorthDallasGazette.com on your phone or mobile device!!!



Teresa Coleman Wash

Local arts leader receives a special honor. Bishop Arts Theatre Center's Executive Artistic Director, Teresa Coleman Wash, was recently elected to the Dramatists Guild of America Council for the Southern region.

Wash will serve alongside Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Kristoffer Diaz whose Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*, received a regional premiere at the Dallas Theater Center in 2012, and Timothy Huang, a New York-based writer of new musical theater. Huang's full-length musical *Costs of Liv-*



ing was the recipient of the 2015 New American Musical Award and the 2015 Richard Rodgers Award. Award-winning actress, dramatist, educator, and advocate, Nikkole Salter was also elected to the

Council.

Salter is best known for her co-authorship and co-performance (with Danaï Gurira) of the Pulitzer Prize nominated play, *In The Continuum* for which she received an OBIE Award, the NY Outer Critics Circle Award, the Seldes-Kanin fellowship from the Theatre Hall of Fame, and the Global Tolerance Award from the Friends of the United Nations.

This year marked the highest voter turnout in recent DG history. Members of the Guild elected five council members to represent their regions. They are:

- Dan Berkowitz-California,

- Donna Hoke-New England,
- Gwydion Suilebhan-Mid-Atlantic,
- Teresa Coleman Wash-Southern and
- Doug Post-Northern.

Council members serve a 3-year term and are responsible for providing material for *The Dramatist* magazine. DG council members are also eligible to be a Tony voter for the Broadway season at the beginning of the next Broadway season.

Wash is a playwright, producer, and Executive Artistic Director at the Bishop Arts Theatre Center, an award-winning multicultural theatre that produces a full season of theater performances, jazz

concerts, lecture series, and arts education programs in Dallas, Texas. Select writing credits include *The Color Of Love*, *Been There Done That*, *Succeeding Beyond The Limits*, and *Audacity: A Celebration of American History*. Her work has been seen in New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Dallas, and Washington, D. C.

She is an MA in Management candidate at Goucher College in Baltimore, MD with plans of graduating in August of this year. Wash participates as a *Dallas Morning News Voices* columnist and is an alumni of The OpEd Project through the Dallas Public Greenhouses program. She is also the re-

cent recipient of the *Dallas Observer's* 2016 MasterMind Award. In September 2013, she was profiled in the *Legendary Locals of Oak Cliff* and in 2011, she received the Trailblazer Award from the National Association for the Study and Performance of African-American Music.

She serves on the Cultural Tourism Committee for the Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau, is a former board member for Texans For The Arts, and the current Dallas/Ft. Worth regional representative for The Dramatists Guild of America.

For more information about Teresa and her work, visit www.bishopartstheatre.org.

Candace Valenzuela

By Shirley Tarpley

Candace Valenzuela is originally from El Paso, Texas, born to two active military parents. Her mother worked on airplanes. Her father, a "red beret" paratrooper jumped out of them.

Valenzuela is a proud product of Texas' public schools, but she also knows what it's like when the system neglects you or outright abuses you.

As an elementary student, she was well-behaved and made good grades, but there were more than a few times



she was assaulted and bullied; her family was too poor to employ a lawyer, and she often had to endure the abuse while the administration insisted she must have provoked their ire.

She does not doubt her ac-

ademic performance was impacted, but she persisted and made it to high school, where the bullying continued until a high school principal in the 10th grade didn't tolerate that kind of behavior. Under that administration, she thrived and graduated.

She attended Claremont McKenna College, a top ten liberal arts college on a full scholarship. Her major study was in government, with an emphasis on leadership and classical political philosophy.

Through her college studies, Valenzuela he was privileged to study abroad in Northern Ireland, where she learned about the politics of

"the troubles" governments face in conflicts and had the opportunity of doing an internship in Washington D.C. at C-SPAN.

Valenzuela worked as a counselor at a girl's group home, essentially being a parent to kids too rough for foster care or just leaving probation, while practically being a child herself. She said that college was rigorous, but this was just rough. Many of the things these children went through stuck with her, and she has not forgotten how the system fails them.

She has worked in test preparation, private tutoring and college application con-

sulting. Some of her students that she was mentoring in the 8th or 9th grade got into Harvard, Oxford, and Brown, among many other wonderful schools.

Valenzuela has worked in programs designed to help special needs students attending mainstream schools with other children with success.

Dealing with children with emotional difficulties and 504 plans (individual growth plans for students) she got a sense of how hard parents work to make sure that their children succeed, even in the face of poverty, long work hours and nearly impossible demands.

Valenzuela has always cared about government, education and equality of access by all citizens.

What does she stand for?

Honesty and rigor in Math and Science – We know the value of having a society that invests in STEM and schools must encourage students in this study to support facts.

If parents want a class based on religion, then the district should build world religions class into our curriculum.

If a parent wants their kids to be Christians, take them to church, take them to Bible Study. Feed the poor. Give

See VALENZUELA, Page 6

Leesa Renee Hall

(Black PR Wire) Author of seven books, including the critically-acclaimed "Podcasting for Profit," Leesa Renee Hall is a thought leader known for jump starting movements, such as an association for Blacks working in technology, an "unconference" for podcasters, and the very first multi-speaker virtual event focused on social media tactics. Leesa is also the owner of My Virtual Hive, a digital marketing agency.

Upon graduating with a liberal arts degree in history in 1997, there weren't many job opportunities available. Leesa read that



her options were teaching, law, or curation. Instead of pursuing those careers, Leesa pursued a Masters degree in history, while supplementing her income by freelancing for magazines. It was during that time her dream of publishing a magazine had been ignited. Two weeks after teaching herself HTML,

Leesa launched her first website, an online magazine featuring Canadian female amateur athletes. She did not realize that teaching herself HTML would unlock a nearly two decade career in technology.

Leesa's innate curiosity has afforded her the opportunity to gain success in her field. "I'm naturally curious," she says. "This curiosity has helped me build a business by interviewing other experts. I ask questions, uncover their unique story, and then leverage these expert interviews into a variety of other formats, such as books, podcasts, and blog posts."

Leesa also credits her success to "living on her tippy toes." She makes de-

isions quickly and takes fast action.

She admits in doing so, she has made a few mistakes and stepped on a few toes, but has since realized that it was in her nature to move quickly, make decisions fast, and implement rapidly. "My personal motto is, it's better to have tried and failed, than not to have tried at all," says Leesa.

What inspires Leesa to press on is how history records her actions. She wants to be an active participant in the stories told about her in the future. "One hundred years ago, a woman who looked like me was not allowed to read or write, says Leesa."

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GOP lawmakers attack education, civil rights

By Julianne Malveaux
 NNPA Columnist

The effort to repeal and replace health care is generating headlines, and the attempt to investigate Trump’s Russia connections is of high importance. The specious claim that President Barack Obama wiretapped Trump Tower, too, has generated interest, largely because it is unprecedented for one presi-

dent to accuse another of a felony, and because “45” has absolutely no proof that President Obama has done any such thing. While President Obama, with a multi-million dollar book deal tucked into his pocket, is living his life like its golden, “45” has indulged in several public tantrums, with episodic moments of calm. Too many of us have been riveted to the drama, while there is a more quiet

revolution happening in Congress, with the approval of the White House.

There has been an attack on education, with legislation being introduced as early as January 23, 2017. That legislation, HR 610, is titled the “Choices in Education Act.” It would repeal the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), and limits the authority of the Department of Education so that it

should only award block grants to states. It also sets up a voucher system. If states do not comply with the rules of this legislation, they would be ineligible for block grants.

The legislation would also repeal nutritional standards for the national school breakfast and lunch programs, which were set by the No Hungry Kids Act

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NDG Readers Sound Off

Speak Out to Protect Your Health

It is possible that the media activity about Obamacare laws will bring more people to concern themselves with the life and death question of health care. However, I think it is probable that more U.S. citizens will dis-

cuss the fine points of the lives of basketball star Dirk Nowitzki and football star Tony Romo (and other entertainment) than will discuss U.S. national health care.

Hopefully, this issue will bring more people to actively participate in the “democratic” process

which grants or denies health care.

- Anonymous

Trump and Senior Aide Are Just Plain Lying about Voter Fraud

Trump and his buddies seem really big on lying about a lot of stuff. Either

“half truths” or “statements made out of context” or “misquotes” or “misremembering”....still lying.

- Anonymous

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IISD, continued from Page 1

Code chapter 12A.

Granted IISD held a meeting on March 2 to begin the public “awareness” phase of the district’s intent on how the District of Innovation proposal will be implemented to better serve students and teachers but the overall participation from local media that serve the minority communities has been obsolete. Nonexistent to be frank.

On the Irving ISD YouTube page a video, District of Innovation Public Meeting March 2 was posted on March 3 and to date, the video only has 41 views. In the video, an administrator presented facts as it relates to what issues the district is seeking to address through the DoI. While IISD boasts that it is ensuring the overall success of the students and teachers, the video shows proposed amendments that benefit teachers, then students. Hopefully.

Some of the proposed amendments include:

- Better control of setting the school calendar each

year

- Hiring of students new to IISD
- Certification requirements of special program teachers
- Teaching/learning hours for Pre-K students
- More assistance from administration as it relates to Campus Behavior Coordinators

If the IISD school board approves each of these exemption requests then the plan would begin at the beginning of the 2017/2018 school year and would last five years (2021/2022), with termination clauses if deemed unsuccessful. The DOI committee is compromised of parents, businesses, teachers and administrators. However, in the video, it is stated that the board was set up to represent 2/3 of the teachers and 1/3 of the IISD administrators. While some may not see a problem with the makeup of the committee, some can argue that this can become an issue because parental and student involvement is not a priority

as IISD states.

Teachers of IISD may or may not effectively separate the needs of the individual student or students of a particular school when it comes to exemptions that could benefit IISD as a whole. The North Dallas Gazette’s concern is that depending on the socioeconomic status of a student or school, will this proposal for exemptions be mutually beneficial or will it be biased based on the needs of individuals seeking to line their pockets with more opportunities and money?

Our hope is that IISD does more community outreach via local media outlets to make all parents aware of the current DoI grant. We all know that sending a flyer home with a child is no longer effective once the child reaches middle school. We know that parental involvement in PTA is not guaranteed. But we do know that local media involvement can bring about awareness that DoI needs to ensure the students are the first priority.

Parents who want to know more about the ex-

emption requests can leave a voicemail hotline at 972-600-5412 and an administrator will return your call or post your answer to IISD’s Frequently Asked Questions page. Or you can send an email to DoI@irvingisd.net. For more information about the District of Innovation process in Irving ISD, please contact Associate Superintendent of Academic Services Dr. Adam Grinage or Division Director of Student Support Services Dr. Laina McDonald.

To note there are at least five districts in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex that are seeking the DoI grant. It is important to note that the Texas Education Agency does not have authority to approve or reject plans. Consequently, some plans may claim unallowable exemptions. This is why it is important for districts to involve local community media outlets to ensure that each plan meets the guidelines set forth by the House Bill 1842. A gross neglect of students is inevitable when the media is excluded.

Three ways seniors can save on prescriptions this year

(StatePoint) If you signed up for a new Medicare plan during Open Enrollment, it's important to understand how your prescription drug costs may be affected. Even if you did nothing to alter your coverage, some features of your plan may have changed for 2017.

Unfortunately, almost one-in-five Medicare beneficiaries don't have a good understanding of their plan, and a good portion has misconceptions about copays, according to a recent survey by Walgreens.

Here are three easy steps to help you make the most of your benefits and find potential cost-savings for



Pharmacist discusses drugs with customer (Image: Walgreens)

your prescription medications under your Part D coverage.

Think Generic

When possible, consider using a less expensive pre-

scription drug brand or generic. These alternatives typically carry the same formulas at a reduced cost, saving patients substantially over time.

Preferred Pharmacies

Verify whether your plan has preferred pharmacies — which are pharmacies that have an agreement with a Part D plan to charge less than a standard network pharmacy. For example, Walgreens, which is a preferred pharmacy for many of the nation's top plans, can help lower the cost of your copays, even to \$0 in the case of Tier 1 generics on certain plans.

“Depending on the design of your plan, coverage, and prescription drugs, you can pay higher copays at one pharmacy in comparison to another if your pharmacy is not in your plan's

preferred network! So, choosing the right pharmacy is definitely important,” says Mariah Moon, the blogger behind “The Simple Parent,” who recently wrote about helping her mother research her options for lowering her drug costs as part of the #PartDAtWalgreens campaign.

90-Day Refills

“My pharmacist told me that many physicians are willing to write 90-day prescriptions for many of the medications that seniors are often prescribed. This not only saves time by requiring fewer trips to the pharmacy, but also may save copay costs,” says Shelley

Webb, a registered nurse and founder of “The Intentional Caregiver,” who cared for her father in her home for four years and was recently sponsored by Walgreens to share tips about saving on prescription costs with her readers.

Medicare beneficiaries seeking help navigating prescription drug costs can find free resources at walgreens.com/topic/pharmacy/medicarepartd.

If you didn't review your plan before renewing, it's not too late to become a savvy consumer and learn more. Doing so can help you save money.

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Murphy's Clean & Green event fulfills springtime 'urge to purge'

Shaking off the winter blahs can take many forms, but for many residents, spring time means clean time, and to accommodate the urge to purge, the City of Murphy has scheduled the spring version of the Clean & Green event for Saturday, April 1.

"Getting rid of accumulated trash and recycling is as easy as loading up the car and hauling it to City Hall," says Candy McQuiston, Customer Service Manager. "And, at the same time, our trash collection contractor, Waste Connections, will make a special collection that morning for hazardous



Murphy's Brentwood Park in the midst of a winter spell is a delightful view for residents. The City of Murphy is currently organizing another clean-up opportunity. (Photo: Robert Nunally / Flickr)

household waste and large electronic devices."

Curbside pickup of hazardous materials, which should never be placed in either of the poly cart con-

tainers on regular pickup days, will be gathered on Saturday, April 1. The material should be placed curbside no later than 7 a.m. on that morning. Large elec-

tronics and household hazardous materials, such as solvents, cleaning agents, wet paint, fertilizers, acids and other items will be picked up at no charge.

Residents interested in this service must call Waste Connections to get on the schedule. The company can be reached at (469) 452-8000. Simply placing the items on the curb will not guarantee that they will get collected. A call or an e-mail message to: murphy@progressivewaste.com will ensure that trucks arrive. Deadline to get on the schedule is 4 p.m., March 31.

The Clean & Green event at City Hall is co-sponsored by Keep Murphy Beautiful. The event, which begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at noon, will occur at the Murphy Municipal Complex, 206 North Murphy Road. The City Hall driveway will be converted into a drive-through, drop-off route for electronics, batteries, brush, used building materials as well as other items. Document shredding will also be available onsite. For a full list of collectible items, visit www.murphytx.org.

"Clothing or school supplies, backpacks and such will be passed along to the

Murphy Middle School Environmental Club for recycling," she said.

The event will occur rain or shine, and Waste Connections will be displaying the recycling truck that was recently wrapped with the winning entries in the Keep Murphy Beautiful poster and recycling super hero contest.

"For many residents getting the attic and the garage cleaned up is a spring thing," said McQuiston. "The Clean & Green event and curbside pickup of hazardous waste help that effort tremendously."

Parkland Patient Relations offers emotional support to hospitalized patients

Hospital Patient Relations departments are often considered the "catch-all" area for compliments, questions and concerns and are de-facto educators who serve as an important resource for patients, visitors and employees. At Parkland Health & Hospital System the staff goes even further and is launching a new service that will no doubt

touch the hearts of both patients and staff alike.

Through the Friendly Visitor Program, Patient Relations Advisors or hospital volunteers will seek out patients who have not had any visitors during their hospitalization. The program ensures patients receive emotional support in addition to the high quality medical care.

"In some cases the patient may not have any family or if they do, their relatives may live in another state," said Miranda Bond, Director of Parkland's Patient Relations department. "Being hospitalized can be stressful especially if you don't have someone with you. Through this program, we can help reduce some of that stress."

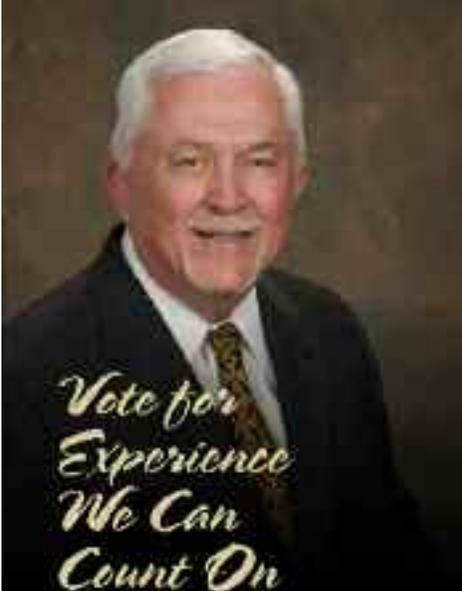
The premise is simple, the rewards great. And all that is needed is the ability to talk – and to listen.

One recent afternoon Bond met with a patient who nurses said had not had visitors during his hos-

pitalization because his family was in another state. Since they were so far away, the family contacted hospital staff for an update on their loved one. Bond used this as an opportunity to visit. Knocking gently on

his door, she asked if she could come in for a moment. At first the patient was apprehensive but quickly learned that she wasn't there to take vital

See Parkland, Page 16



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- Oscar Ward

OSCAR WARD

FOR CITY COUNCIL PLACE 5

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Longtime Irving Resident.
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EDUCATION
B.S. Industrial Engineering, University of Houston
M.B.A., Finance from University of Texas/Arlington

COUNCIL SERVICE
City Council Member, District 5 for three years
Chairman, Audit & Finance Committee
Regional Transportation Council
Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition
North Texas Crime Coordinator
Transportation & Natural Resources Committee
Irving Arts Board Liaison

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT
Chairman, Charter Review Committee
Chairman, Building & Standards Committee
President/VP Neighborhood Association
Irving Chamber of Commerce
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Naval Academy accepting applications for Summer Seminar

ANNAPOLIS – Applications are now being accepted through March 31 for the Naval Academy’s Summer Seminar. Rising high school seniors have the opportunity to choose from the following three sessions: June 3 – 8, June 10 –

15, and June 17 – 22.

The Naval Academy Summer Seminar is a fast-paced, six-day experience for high achievers who have completed their junior year in high school. Summer Seminar teaches students about life at the Naval

Academy, where academics, athletics, and professional training play equally important roles in developing our nation’s leaders.

Tuition for Summer Seminar is \$525 and covers room and board, as well as a variety of materials and ac-

tivities. Students should plan on bringing extra cash for snacks and souvenirs.

For more information about the Summer Seminar and the application process, visit www.usna.edu/Admissions/NASS/ or call 410-293-1858.



ANNAPOLIS, Md. High school students participate in log PT during the 2011 Summer Seminar Sea Trials. Summer Seminar ends with an abbreviated version of the U.S. Naval Academy plebes’ Sea Trials, where students participate in seven hours of physical training and team building exercises. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Alexia Riveracorrea/Released)

UNCF Dallas Mayor’s Masked Ball aims to secure better futures for students

The Dallas community will come together to secure better futures at the UNCF Dallas Mayor’s Masked Ball, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Dallas on Saturday, March 18. Mayor Mike Rawlings, along with event chair Texas State Senator Royce West, will welcome more than 800 guests, including Ambassador Ron Kirk, former U.S. trade rep-

resentative; Mayor Harry LaRosiliere, City of Plano; Mayor Curtistene McCowan, City of Desoto; and Michael L. Lomax, president and CEO UNCF.

“I am pleased to host the UNCF Mayor’s Masked Ball. This is the biggest fundraising event in Dallas that supports education for minority students,” said Rawlings. “I am grateful for

the sponsors who have invested in the work of UNCF to ensure that more students from Dallas can receive a college education at a historically black college or university. Investing in the college education of our young people will impact Dallas for many generations.”

“Mayor Rawlings’ support has been unwavering and we are elated to have the

mayor join us as host of our

See BALL, Page 7

VALENZUELA, continued from Page 2

money and follow Jesus. Don’t put the state in charge of their relationship with God.

Investment in our children’s health: Studies show that more active kids are happier and healthier. We carefully fund our football programs in this state, but we do very little to help kids develop sustainable health programs for their lives.

So much of PE is tailored to playing general sports, but we still need to update the PE equipment for kids. Schools need to update diet curriculum not to match prevailing trends, but to match current research so that kids know that “diet coke” is not a health food.

We need to strive to that there are as few barriers as possible to providing a good education for our special needs students, regardless of language spoken at home.

As a board trustee, Valenzuela will have little control over what the legislators do, but she is committed to working with other board members in being responsible for working with the superintendent to make sure the needs of all students are met, this is incredibly important.

This means there should be no disproportionate pun-

ishment or ostracism of any one group of children regardless of race, religion, gender, or socioeconomic status.

Valenzuela desires to see to it that all students have a level of representation that is dynamic and responsive to their needs.

Some communities do not believe that they can discuss issues with district officials because they do not look like them or do not necessarily believe their issues even exist!

Given the fact that I’ve been in the trenches in one way or another with Black, Latino, and Asian students in addition to White students, there’s very little I won’t take into account when making decisions or advocating for certain policies.

Careful stewardship of existing funds: My mortgage is high enough, but I know that a quality education is not just good for me or my child. An entire community benefits socially and economically when more of its children are well educated.

The district passed a tax increase very recently, and I would like to help shape the vision that allows the funds raised goes to the right places.

Valenzuela believes in

term limits. The district has developed a crisis of representation partially because there are no term limits. In order to ensure a robust and representative school board, term limits should be a permanent part of policy. She would like to push for three 3-year terms, or for two 4-year terms, saving the district hundreds of thousands of dollars by cutting down the number of elections.

With this resume, Carrollton and Farmers Branch residents will benefit from this candidate’s childhood experiences, education, training and employment experience.

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Plano's Great American Clean-up is April 8

Plano's 2017 Great American Cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 8. Last year, more than 1,800 volunteers register and participants collected 734 bags of litter, weighing nearly 11 tons. This year, the goal is for 2,500 volunteers to register and cleanup 15 tons of litter.

Residents are encouraged to clean up their neighbor-

hood streets with friends and family. Live near a school? Contact your principal or PTA to organize a campus cleanup. Businesses can clean up their corporate campuses, parking lots and surrounding streets. New this year is a map to show which parks and creeks are available. There are so many ways to participate in beautifying Plano.

After spending all the time making Plano beautiful, participants are invited to join a Post-Cleanup Beach Party at Chase Oaks Church Parking Lot on Saturday, April 8 from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. This is a fun, free, family-friendly event.

The beach party will feature:

- Free pizza lunch
- Live music featuring the

Bamboo Boat Band

- 7-Eleven Slurpee Truck
- Face painting
- Caricature artists
- Educational booths
- Games and more!

This is a rain or shine event. In the event of rain, the Beach Party will be moved indoors.

Registration is open on the city's website until April 4.

NAACP forum in Irving on "Interaction With Law Enforcement"

The Irving-Carrollton Branch NAACP & Irving Police Dept. are hosting a community forum. The public is invited attend on Saturday, April 8 from 9:30 a.m.— 12:00 p.m. at the Georgia Farrow Recreation Center, 530 Davis St. The discussion will focus on "Interaction With Law Enforcement" moderated by Sergeant Richard Miller.

They will utilize the N.O.B.L.E. "Law Enforcement and You" curriculum to share with attendees key information



on how to interact with the police. This event is free.

For questions, or more information, please email tonygrimes@prodigy.net, or call 972-259-3909.

BALL, continued from Page 6

signature fundraising event in Dallas," said Lomax. "Last year, the event raised more than \$300,000 in guaranteeing successful lives for our young people and, with the help of the Dallas community, we can continue to

build better futures—paying dividends for us all."

MASKED is an acronym meaning Mankind Assisting Students Kindle Educational Dreams. This year, the UNCF MASKED Award will be presented to Dr.

Frederick Douglass Haynes III, senior pastor, Friendship-West Baptist Church for serving as a beacon of hope in keeping the doorway of opportunity wide open for deserving minority youth.

Samantha Chapman, reporter for NBC 5 Dallas-Fort Worth, will serve as the mistress of ceremonies for

the event that kicks off with a reception at 6 p.m., dinner and program at 7 p.m. and concludes with the R&B band, Taylor Pace Orchestra.

To purchase tickets, and view sponsorship opportunities, please visit UNCF.ORG/DALLAS-MMB.

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Alex Dickey wants to steer the Dallas City Council back to basics

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

Recently Alex Dickey visited the offices of the *North Dallas Gazette* to discuss why he is the right candidate to bring the Dallas City Council back to basics. A candidate for District 6, Dickey is a fresh face and voice to the city council who is prepared to speak up and not simply rubber stamp what the Dallas elite agenda.



Alex Dickey, Dallas City Council District 6 Candidate

A family man with a history of community involvement, Dickey wants to address the

issues impacting the citizens' daily lives.

Having spent his entire life in District 6, Dickey says he understands the frustration with what he describes as the lousy streets and problems created because the city is not diligent in with code enforcement. While the city's leadership is focused on big-ticket projects while sacrificing basic services for the citizens.

See **DICKEY**, Page 10

Responses light from Dallas City Council candidates

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

Last month each Dallas City Council candidate whom we had contact info for received a copy of the *North Dallas Gazette* Candidate Survey. This is to give all candidates the opportunity to provide answers to the same questions, which we will publish soon. North Dallas Gazette readers will have a chance to hear

See **SURVEY**, Page 13

CANDIDATES AT A GLANCE	
(I) - Incumbent	
Bold - Candidates who returned the NDG election survey.	
Dallas City Council	
District 1	District 6
Scott Griggs (I)	Monica R. Aronze (I)
Stephen Winn	Onir Narvaaz
District 2	Ol N. Verde
Adam Meorano (I)	Tony Carillo
Brian Osterdorf	Linus Spiller
District 3	Alex Dickey
Casey Thomas (I)	Patricia Luckey Jones
Joe Tave	District 7
Sandra Crenshaw	Tiffini A. Young (I)
District 4	Kevin Felder
Carolyn King Arnold (I)	Tammy Johnston
Dwaine Caraway	Adam Bazaldua
District 5	James "JT" Turknett
Rickey Calahan (I)	Marvin Crenshaw
Dominique Torres	District 8
	Erik Wilson (I)
	Gar Tomot
	Eric Williams
	Tameel Akles
	Mochizume Seth Gonzalez

Competition for South Dallas council seats gets underway with Monday Night Politics

By David Wilfong
NDG Special Contributor

It was standing room only on March 6 at the African American Museum in Fair Park as the *Dallas Examiner* hosted another round of Monday Night Politics. This time the focus was on the Dallas City Council, and in particular two South Dallas districts that will be heavily contested on the May 6 ballot.



Matt Houston (standing) held down moderation duties among District 7 candidates for Dallas City Council; (left to right) Adam Bazaldua, Kevin D. Felder, James Clyde Turknett, Tammy L. Johnston and Marvin E. Crenshaw. (Photo: NDG/David Wilfong)

Places 3 and 7 were in the hot seat in the museum's auditorium with moderation provided by Taylor Toynes (Place 3) and Matt Houston (Place 7).

The first round saw council incumbent Casey Thomas, II defending his place on the city council against challengers Joe Lawrence Tave and Sandra Crenshaw. As of press time, Sandra Crenshaw is not listed on the Dallas City Council's website as a candidate in the race, and she explained to the audience there had been some confusion as to her candidacy due to redistricting lines.

A preliminary question regarding the development of the executive airport gave Thomas the opportunity to remind the audience of developments taking place in the next 30 days. Red Bird Park is a development that includes residential, commercial and special-use amenities that Thomas points to as a positive accomplishment in the com-

munity on a variety of levels.

"The development is led by African Americans," Thomas said. "It's financed by African Americans. It will be at the Dallas Executive Airport and I can't wait for it to take place."

Tave is challenging Thomas on a question of "leadership," and a question about "food deserts" in South Dallas gave him the chance to rebuke Thomas' reminder to the audience that it took eight votes to approve developments on the council.

"So far 'counting to eight' has not worked for us," Tave said.

Citing a lack of money in the community for investments, Tave told the audience the approach most likely to bring in quality, community-serving businesses is to adequately address the neighborhood's current shortcomings.

"Once we get our prob-

lems fixed, then I think we can have a better opportunity to attract others to our area," Tave said.

Crenshaw stated that she'd personally experienced a lack of response from Thomas to issues she'd raised and attempts she'd made to communicate with him in the past. She made the case for an accessibility mandate from the council.

"I'm running to educate the constituents and voters," Sandra Crenshaw said. "You start demanding. Don't let it just be me and those people who know the inside."

Place 7 was a whole different ball of wax, with five challengers appearing for the forum and the current incumbent - Tiffini A. Young - absent, a detail that was reiterated by more than one of the candidates addressing the crowd.

The challengers attending the Monday Night Politics event included; Marvin E.

Crenshaw, Tammy L. Johnston, James Clyde Turknett, Kevin D. Felder and Adam Bazaldua.

The candidates fielded questions ranging from the future of Fair Park (a hot-button issue for the district and city as a whole) to why there are not university sports opportunities available in South Dallas. District 7 is also one of the

city's areas most hit by homelessness and temporary camps. While one of the more challenging areas, the candidates' opinions on many issues were overlapping, but united in their dissatisfaction with the status quo.

Due to the sheer volume of candidates in Place 7, each candidate had little opportunity to break from the

pack in a highly competitive council race. To unseat an incumbent and win a spot on the council, the challengers each have their homework cut out for them between now and election day.

The next edition of Monday Night Politics will be held on March 20, with subsequent gatherings on March 27 and April 3.

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Parents can enjoy building an arch together with their children when visiting the Perot's Mayan exhibit. (Image Perot Museum)

Perot Museum offers special activities for Spring Break

Whether staycation or spring break destination, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science offers plentiful reasons to visit while the kids are out of school. From the country's largest Maya exhibition full of history and mystery, to daily science activities, extended hours, Discovery Days and 3D films, nine days of non-stop adventure are in store as the Perot Museum celebrates

spring break March 11-19.

At select times, enjoy daily "science on the spot" demos, bookworm readings, science trivia and drop-in activities involving making clouds, rainbows, egg dyeing, pinwheels, wind energy and marshmallows, to name a few.

Catch a quick flick in The Hogle Foundation Theater, a National Geographic Experience and come face-

to-face with fascinating science in Electropolis 3D, Extreme Weather 3D and the new Wild Africa 3D now open.

The Perot Museum will stay open until 7 p.m. through Saturday, March 18, with special member hours each day.

For more info and to purchase your tickets in advance, go to perotmuseum.org.

An opera in jazz: Terence Blanchard's 'Champion'

By K.P. Williams

(NNPA) Pop, Rock, Jazz, and Classical. These are all separate genres of music. But what happens when you put two of them together? You get "opera in jazz" rather than "jazz opera," according to jazz musician and opera composer Terence Blanchard, who is the former Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance Artistic Director. Blanchard is also a jazz trumpeter from New Orleans who has over 20 albums to his credit, won three Grammy's and written music for many of Spike Lee's films. Blanchard just premiered his first opera,



Jazz musician and opera composer Terence Blanchard is the former Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance Artistic Director. (Image: NNPA/Terence Blanchard)

(the opera's second production run), "Champion," the story of former Welterweight Boxing Champion Emile Griffith and his life-defining fight with reigning Welterweight Champion Benny "The Kid" Paret.

In March 1962, Griffith

and Paret went toe to toe in a fight that ended with Paret in a coma for ten days, then dying from injuries he sustained during the fight. In "Champion," we get inside the mind of a tortured man reliving the fight that forever changed his career,

along with his public battle of being a bisexual man of color in the 60's.

Being a big fan of boxing and hearing about the nature of Griffith and his story, compelled Blanchard to choose "Champion" as his first opera. The line, "I kill a man and most forgive me, I love a man and many say this makes me an evil person," famously said by Griffith in the book, "A Man's World: The Double Life of Emile Griffith" by Donald McRae, is one of the lines that drew Blanchard to his story.

"Having a boxer or an athlete who has the same struggle as many others throughout different walks

of life could bring a compelling concern and light on an issue that many other people still struggle with today," said Blanchard.

Telling this ambitious story of humanity, tragedy and redemption, through voice and music was new for Blanchard. Even though he's been a jazz musician for over thirty-six years, working with vocals is a new undertaking. Blanchard said he doesn't feel like he's made the transition from jazz musician to opera composer yet, but he's been learning a lot from talented and experienced people in that world. However, Blanchard said the most reward-

ing part in getting to compose this "opera in jazz" was going from the opera in his mind for two years, to "actually watching it come to life with the actors and the cast."

Blanchard said that he wants audiences to understand Griffith was a human being just like any other human being and we have the same issues then as we do now. Blanchard is already working on his next opera based off the memoirs of New York Times writer, Charles M. Blow, entitled, "Fire Shut Up in My Bones." Blanchard is sure to weather the waters of opera just like he has jazz.

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Cherry Blossom trees are blooming at Dallas Arboretum

One of the most beautiful presentations of color is starting to unfold now at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. A wave of delicate pink and white cherry blossoms on the Arboretum's 150 cherry blossom trees are starting to unfold, announcing their annual arrival and ushering in springtime. The flowering Cherry Trees are expected to be in full bloom within the next week.

Many of the cherry trees were given as gifts to the

Dallas Arboretum, including trees from Peggy B. Braecklein in honor of her parents, John R. and Thelma N. Black. The blossoming takes place during Dallas Blooms festival with the theme, "Peace, Love and Flower Power."

Dave Forehand, Dallas Arboretum's vice president of gardens, said, "The Japanese Flowering Cherry Trees bloom each March, putting on a beautiful show for our guests. The Cherry Blossom celebration is not

to be missed. This has become a North Texas tradition."

In Japan, cherry blossom time is known as Hanami, with parties held both night and day under the Sakura (cherry blossom trees) to celebrate this yearly occurrence and the delicate beauty of life. Hanami dates back to the Heian Period (794-1185) when the Imperial Court in Kyoto held flower-viewing parties beneath the blossoming cherry trees. The flowers were

praised by poets as a metaphor for life, "beautiful yet fleeting."

Branches on many cherry trees at the Arboretum are overflowing with thousands of lacy blooms, and each tree only blooms once a year. Throughout the world, cherry blossom time runs from late March to early May, depending on the climate and local weather conditions.

For more information visit www.dallasarboretum.org.



Cherry Blossom trees are blooming (Image: Dallas Arboretum)



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returns to Dallas

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater continues its reign as an American "cultural ambassador to the world" having performed live for an estimated 25 million people in 48 states, 71

countries, and six continents. The gifted Ailey dancers infuse energy and emotion to classics and new works alike. Guided by the visionary artistic director Robert Battle, the Alvin

Ailey American Dance Theater remains the nation's leading modern dance company.

Dallas arts lovers can witness their excellence in person as a part of the TITAS

Presents series March 31 – April 1 at the Winspear Opera House. No children under the age of four, but all others are welcome to visit attpac.org for tickets and more details.

Gladys Knight on stage in Dallas April 2

The nonprofit AT&T Performing Arts Center is bringing the "Empress of Soul," Gladys Knight to stage at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 2 at the Winspear Opera House in the downtown Dallas Arts District. The great ones endure, and Gladys Knight has long been one of the greatest. Very few singers over the last fifty years have matched her unassailable artistry. This seven-time Grammy winner has enjoyed #1 hits in Pop, Gospel, R&B and Adult Contemporary, and has triumphed in film, television and live performance.



A tireless performer who still wows audiences around the country and the world, Knight also finds the time to make forays into film and

television. Her involvement in other creative undertakings, business ventures and humanitarian activities has been extensive and has brought her honors from industry and community alike.

She is a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, performer, restaura-

teur, and businesswoman with a spiritual outlook on her life. Her faith in God has been the driving force behind all of Knight's endeavors, guiding her through her many successes.

To get tickets visit attpac.org, or by phone at 214-880-0202.

DICKEY, continued from Page 8

"I offer voters my vision, passion and public policy experience in working to redirect priorities at city hall," he shared.

In addition to the fixing the streets, Dickey wants the city

to close the floodgates of Dallas police officers leaving in droves for more pay in the suburbs. The future of any community is the youth of the community. Dickey wants to explore the city sup-

porting youth programs which have a history of working such as Pre-K and developing a city-sponsored after-school program in partnership with Dallas ISD.

For more information about Dickey visit votealexdickey.com.

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Five tips to jump start Millennials' entrepreneurial mindset

So, you're a smart, imaginative, persuasive millennial and—contrary to the bad rap your generation usually gets—you're willing to work REALLY hard. You're just waiting for all those boomers and Xers to get the heck out of the way so you can have your turn at the brass ring.

But why wait?

You and your well-educated and connected friends are in a great position to create your own success—by creating your own business. Survey after survey finds that millennials have a true entrepreneurial mindset; you like flexibility and independence, and you're determined to pursue your passions. And, thanks to the accomplishments of others before you (the young founders of Airbnb and



Uber, Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg), you're likely to get more support and less eye-rolling should you strike out on your own.

"With more resources available to start-up founders, and a new respect for what innovative thinkers can do, there's no need to wait around for your corner office and executive title," says Matt Stewart, an entrepreneur and co-founder of

College Works Painting (www.collegeworks.com/about), an internship program that provides practical business experience for college students. "Why sit and dream about climbing the ladder at someone else's business when you can create your own?"

The idea of building something from nothing is daunting but doable, says Stewart, who started his

company with just four employees in 1993 and now operates nationwide. Here are some of his tips for getting started:

- You don't have to reinvent the wheel. Create opportunity by finding a business model that delivers solutions to an urgent need that customers have. Your customers should already understand your product or service and believe in its necessity, not just think that it would be "nice to have."

- Define what makes you unique. Once you've picked a service or product to focus on, find out what makes you different. Research competitors to determine their customers' likes and dislikes.

How can you pair your individual experience with a solution that addresses what's missing in the marketplace?

- Understand that competition is good. Try to avoid starting a business that doesn't already exist. If there are similar products or services to yours, it means there's a demand. Now it's up to you to figure out how you can deliver something that's different and better.

- You don't need to start the next Facebook. Don't worry about entering the market with a huge company. Instead, focus on providing a great solution for a niche group of customers—and then over-deliver. You can't service 1 million customers if you don't know how to service 10. Focus on your first 10 customers.

- Ready, shoot, aim. Don't wait to get started. You won't know if you're onto something unless you start making sales. Your idea isn't

validated until you have paying customers. Don't spend too much time planning; start engaging with potential customers as soon as you can.

- If the fear of failing is holding you back, Stewart says, remember that there's no better time to take a risk than when you're first starting out.

"Meanwhile, you're gaining work experience, learning to be a leader, and doing it on your own terms," he says.

Matt Stewart is co-founder of College Works Painting, which provides business experience for thousands of college students each year. The award-winning program also offers high-quality house-painting services for homeowners.

GOP, continued from Page 3

of 2012. Schools would no longer be required, as First Lady Michelle Obama advocated, to increase the availability of fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foods at lunch. Are we going back to the days when officials with the Reagan Administration tried to classify ketchup as a vegetable? Seems like it.

The ESEA was passed as civil rights legislation, providing more opportunities to a broader range of children, including disabled children. It also requires reporting around issues like the achievement gap, bullying, and underperforming schools. All of these provisions would be eliminated, if HR 610 were passed.

Not to be bested by legislation that would limit the reach of the Department of Education, Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) has introduced a sentence-long piece of legislation. HR 899 reads, in total, "The Department of Education shall terminate on December 31, 2018." Of course, Massie hasn't put the thought into considering how things like

Pell grants would be administered, or would he eliminate those, too? HBCUs are part of the education budget. What would that mean for us? The bill has been cosponsored by several of Massie's colleagues. It speaks to a national antipathy to education, so that even as we hunger for jobs, and elected "45" so that he could "create" them, we are prepared to limit pathways to job preparation. Efforts to eliminate the Department of Education are, at best, short-sighted.

Even though Trump nominated the extremely limited Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education, his pre-campaign policy book advocated for the elimination of the Department of Education. Is the hidden agenda to run the department into the ground to the point that elimination is the only option? "One-note Betsy," with her focus on school choice, must be gratified, especially by HR 610.

The Department of Education is one of the lowest-spending government agen-

cies. Eliminating it could save taxpayers more than \$68 billion—enough, perhaps, to "build a wall. Of course "45" is finding lots of other funding sources for the wall, with proposed cuts from the Coast Guard to The State Department.

The good news about this odious proposed legislation is that it has not passed. It has been referred to the House Education and the Workforce Committee. After the committee vets it, the Senate must also approve the bill. But these bills need not even come out of committee, if opponents are vocal. Check out www.edworkforce.house.gov to find out who is on this committee. Call and write them and tell them that you support the 1965 ESEA, as most recently amended, and that the Department of Education should not be eliminated. This is an opportunity to unleash our voices and resist Trumpism.

The big headlines are riveting, but we need to look at the fine print. If you spent an hour reading the Congressional Record and looking at the devilment these Republicans are up to daily, you would be repulsed.

Let's turn repulsion into resistance.

Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, and Founder of Economic Edu-

cation. Her podcast, "It's Personal with Dr. J" is available on iTunes (https://tinyurl.com/with-DrJ). Her latest book "Are

We Better Off: Race, Obama and public policy is available via amazon.com For more info visit www.juliannemalveaux.com.



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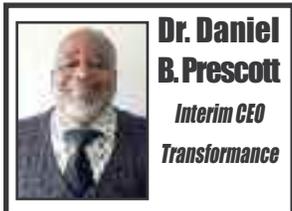
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Interim CEO
Transformance

This is the second of a two-part series on getting people prepared for the 2017 tax season, the deadline of which is Tuesday, April 18. The filing date is usually April 15, but because that date falls on a weekend this year, the government extended the deadline into the next week. Our goal with this two-part series is to give consumers helpful advice on how to file their annual tax returns and where to turn for assistance, if needed.

In part two, we're going to cover some tax preparation do's and don'ts. In addition, we're offering some advice on what you should do if you happen to get

money back in the form of a tax refund.

Don't

For the many consumers who do receive a tax refund, you should try to avoid any "rapid refund" options unless there is a pending or critical need for cash flow. Common forms include the refund anticipation check (RAC) or refund anticipation loan (RAL), typically offered to those who are unbanked or underbanked. There are upfront costs and several different types of fees included with these offerings which, in turn, could considerably reduce your refund amount. If you can wait the standard amount of time for your money, you'll get it in full from the IRS.

Do

If it doesn't appear that you will be able to file your tax return by Tuesday, April 18, you can file for an extension. The deadline for completing your taxes after

officially filing for an extension is October 16. Consumers can either fill out a free online form or mail in a completed IRS Form 4868.

If you are expecting a tax refund in 2017 or you do receive one, you should know at the time you finish and sign your return. Often times, this is a bit of a windfall that we didn't expect. While it's tempting to begin thinking of ways you can spend this unpredicted discretionary income, we're going to offer a few pointers for that money you may not have initially considered. Assuming you are fortunate enough to be getting money back on your taxes, here are some ideas you should be considering:

Set Up an Emergency Fund

If you or your family have not established an emergency fund, you should consider this a valu-

able opportunity to do so. Sometimes tax refunds can run into the hundreds, even thousands of dollars—quite a bit of money at one time. But what will you do if you spend all the money and a real emergency comes up? A recent study showed that two out of three Americans can't afford a \$500 emergency in their monthly budget. If you can do it, set \$1,000 aside as an emergency fund. Many financial experts believe you should eventually save enough to carry you for three to six months, if need be.

Knock Down Some Debt

If you're able to establish a small emergency fund, you should also consider making progress on any debt payments—specifically high interest debt. According to the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, only one-third of Americans can pay their credit card balances off at the end of

the month. If you're able to make more than the minimum payment required, you're making progress.

Start a Savings Program

Most people believe they don't have enough money left over at the end of the month to save properly. Without a change in long-term behavior, this will always be the case. If you establish a true household budget and stick with it, you will be able to set money aside. The amount isn't important; it's the behavior. Transformance, the non-profit where I serve as the interim CEO, has an initiative for those who qualify called the A.I.M. program. The A.I.M. Program, with assistance from the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas and Resource One Credit Union, establishes individual development accounts with matching fund deposits up to \$25 each month. While that may not

sound like much, the amount saved becomes \$600 after a year in the program. Applicants must qualify for this assistance program and details can be found here.

I'll leave you with this thought...a tax refund is sometimes an unexpected and wonderful occurrence. You may feel like you just won the lottery. But that's still your hard-earned money, and you worked for it. Why not make it work for you this time around? Transformance is always available to answer your questions and assist you, either through our website or by calling 1-800-249-2227.

Dr. Daniel B. Prescott, Jr. is the interim CEO of Dallas-based Transformance Inc., a fully integrated financial services capability nonprofit. He can be reached at dbprescott@transformanceusa.org.

What can we learn from the Tiny House phenomenon?

By Nathaniel Sillin

You may not have seen one in your neighborhood yet, but the tiny house phenomenon has spread across the country. For some, the move is driven by a desire to downsize and live a minimalist lifestyle. Others see it as a way to decrease their impact on the environment.

Economics are often a large part of the equation. Buying and maintaining a tiny home is relatively inexpensive, and the savings can help many people on their path towards financial freedom.

Tiny-home living (often shortened to tiny living) isn't for everyone. However, tiny living requires ingenuity and resourcefulness and we can all learn something from those who choose tiny.

Freedom from debt is priceless. Living within one's means is a foundational belief to many within the tiny living community. Between labor and materials, a tiny home could cost

about \$20,000 to \$60,000 to build. By contrast, the U.S. Census Bureau found the median sale price for a new home in December 2016 was \$322,500.

The relatively low price gives you a chance to own a tiny home without having a mortgage that'll take three decades to pay off. The ongoing savings in the form of lower utility, tax and maintenance bills also make it easier to pay off non-housing debts, such as student loans, and live a debt-free life.

That being said, you can live in a larger home and still look for ways to lower your monthly expenses and fight lifestyle inflation (spending more as you make more money). A common tip is to allocate half of your next raise or bonus to your savings or use it to pay down debts. But why not challenge yourself and use your entire raise or bonus to build your net worth?

Make room for things that are important. Moving into a tiny home can require major

downsizing, but some view that as a feature rather than a disadvantage. It's not about getting rid of things that aren't absolutely necessary, after all sometimes "unnecessary" decorations turn a house into a home. Rather, from furniture to clothing, you have to decide what's important to you and leave the rest behind.

It's easy to fill a large home with clutter and then attempt to clean every spring. Perhaps a better approach would be to take a tiny-home mindset to the store with you. Don't get bogged down by asking yourself if you can live without something – you can live without many things – instead, try to only spend money on things that add meaning and joy to your life.

You have more space than meets the eye. Watch a tour of a tiny home, and you'll see that great organization skills and original storage ideas are a must. Tables turn into benches and chairs double as shelves – everything

seems to have at least two purposes.

How could a little imagination transform your home? Might a new shelving system and selling items that aren't important to you anymore give you more room? Inventiveness and thinking outside the box are keys to making the most of what you have.

High-quality products are worth the investment. Many tiny-home owners are keenly aware of the waste they're putting back into the world. Some even choose to live in a tiny home because it'll reduce their ecological footprint. The savings that come from tiny living and this approach to life often lead to investments in long-lasting products rather than cheaper alternatives.

Quality over quantity is certainly a worthwhile mentality to adopt. Put it into practice by looking for companies that offer lifetime warranties on their products. You might be surprised to find that from socks to

power tools there are dozens of manufacturers that uphold this promise.

How will you make use of these lessons? Simple living and conscious buying aren't exclusive traits of tiny-home owners. Regardless of the size of your home, you may find that incorporating these

principles and practices save you time and money. Two valuable resources that should never be wasted.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: www.twitter.com/Practical-Money.

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DISD students wanted for summer internships

The Dallas Bar Association is looking for talented, energetic, hard-working Dallas ISD students who are in their junior year for paid internships in law firms, non-profits and corporate legal departments for four or eight weeks this summer. The Summer Law Intern Program teaches students the demands of an office environment, while gaining self-confidence and learning about professionalism. Interns will enjoy courthouse and college campus tours, and other educational programs hosted by the Dallas Bar. Students who are bilin-

gual in Spanish and/or who have participated in mock trial, speech, debate, and history competitions are encouraged to apply.

The internships abound with opportunity and it is easy to see a pattern of achievement that continues each year with the program's latest graduates. A 2016 SLIP participant reports that "after a successful internship thanks to the Dallas Bar Association," he'll be attending Columbia University on a political science and pre-law track. Another has been accepted to college and was awarded \$300,000 in schol-

arships. And as a third prepares for the University of North Texas and considers law as a career, SLIP still enriches his life: "I also keep in contact with my lawyer mentor often, a benefit I truly appreciate."

Applications are open

until March 24 at www.dallasbar.org/summerlawinternprogram. Interested employers may also apply online at www.dallasbar.org/summerlawinternprogram. For more information contact Kathryn Zack at kzack@dallasbar.org or (214) 220-7450.

SURVEY, continued from Page 8

from the candidate in their own words. In this era where politicians often accuse the media of bias this is a chance to share with readers in their own words.

Below you will find a list of candidates (responding candidates are in bold) who felt it was important enough to take the time to

respond so YOU the reader and voter can decide if they are prepared to speak for you. As you will see, not all the candidates responded.

Candidates who have not yet returned a completed survey can do so by Monday at 5 p.m. send to editor@northdallasgazette.com.



The Dallas City Council has the potential to see a huge shift after the coming elections. (Photo: City of Dallas)

Looking for energetic interns in the Dallas Area

A local community newspaper has an internship position available. The goal is to provide students and aspiring writers an opportunity to gain published clips, experience and professional feedback. The position is for 20 hours a week at \$8.50 per hour. Assignments will include covering local events, phone interviews, and rewriting press releases.



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NOTICE: Pastor Woodson serves the community by providing "Professional Therapy and Counseling Services" on a "Sliding Fee" scale. To schedule an appointment call the Pastoral Counseling Center at 972-526-4525 or email the church at www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

March 19, 9:45 a.m.
You're invited to our Sunday "Prayer and Meditation" at 10 am. You will be blessed and inspired.

March 22, 7 p.m.
Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner, Bro. Brad White and others teaching a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 5, Chapter 5." Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you. It's Time to Grow; Ephesians 4:12 & 13.

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

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

March 19, 8:45 a.m.
You're invited to our Morning Services as we worship, honor and praise God for His blessings.

March 22, 7 p.m.
Join us at 12 Noon with Rev. Viveca Potter teaching on the Word of God; come back at 6:45 p.m. for Corporate Prayer and stay for Senior Pastor Autry at 7:30 p.m. teaching the Word of God. Our youth will come for Food and Fellowship at 7 p.m. followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Terrence Autry, Senior Pastor
701 Centennial

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"

Follow us on Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Vimeo).

March 19, 8 a.m.
Join us on our main campus at 200 West Belmont Drive for Early Morning Worship and be blessed; followed by our Sunday Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 and bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

March 22, 7 p.m.
Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word at the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 West Belmont Drive in Allen. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

March 26, 8 a.m.
Calling All Youth! Join our Hype Sunday Worship (first service only) on our main campus at 200 West Belmont Drive and be blessed.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D. Senior Pastor
5705 Cheyenne Drive
at Bolin Elementary School in Allen 75002 for Sunday Morning Worship and the Admin. Building Address is 200 W. Belmont Drive Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

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March 17, 2017
All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 7 p.m., IBOC promotes proactive

male leadership.

March 19, 10 a.m.
You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

March 20, 7 p.m.
Join us in Monday School as we grow in God's Word and learn what God has to say to us.

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

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

March 19, 10 a.m.
Join us for Worship Service as we praise and worship God in 2017 for His Honor and His glory; and don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

March 22, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what

God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Pastor Sam Fenceroy
Senior Pastor and
Pastor Gloria Fenceroy
300 Chisholm Place
Plano, TX 75075
972-633-5511
www.mocop.org

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Come and connect to God through Shiloh; grow in Christ through the study of God's Word; and Serve God through service to each other and to the world. John 12:26.

March 19, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Join us for Worship Services and fellowship as we give God all glory, honor and praise.

March 22, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to

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learn more about God's Word. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and growth; it's all for His glory and His honor. We are, "Growing in Christ through the study of His Word."

March 26 (Started March 12th)
Join us for Shiloh Bible Institute (SBI). SBI is a series of bible study classes open to SMBC members, family, and friends. The 2017 spring classes will complete on May 6, 2017. Call the church about registration, it might be too late to join.

Two Notices: Our AWANA (Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed from 2 Timothy 2:15) is held from 6:30 -

8:15 pm, now through May 2017. There is no charge for registration for new participants!

This is a Bible-based program for children and youth, ages three years old through the 12th grade. The emphasis is on memorizing the Word of God and developing a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ in a structured, safe and fun environment. Our church ministries offer opportunities for motivation and growth; join us and see. Be blessed of the Lord.

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National Women History Month: Dorothy Johnson Vaughn



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In this day and time, it's easy to overlook the people who paved the way for the NASA current robust and diverse workforce and leadership in space.

NASA's pioneers rarely mention the name Dorothy Johnson Vaughn but as the head of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics' (NACA's) segregated West Area Computing Unit from 1949 until 1958, Vaughn was both a respected mathematician and NASA's first Black manager.

She came to the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory in 1943, during the height of World War II, leaving her position as the math teacher at Robert Russa Moton High School in Farmville, VA to take what she believed would be a temporary war job.

Two years after President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802 into law, prohibiting racial, religious and ethnic discrimination in the country's defense industry; the Laboratory began hiring Black women to meet the skyrocketing demand for processing aeronautical research data.

However, even with the executive order, state and local laws required "colored" mathematicians to work separately from their white female counterparts. Dorothy Johnson Vaughn was assigned to the segregated "West Area Computing" unit where she was required to use separate dining and restroom facilities.

Over time, both individu-

ally and as a group, the West Computers distinguished themselves with contributions to virtually every area of research at Langley.

In 1949, Vaughn was promoted to lead the group, making her the NACA's first Black supervisor, and one of the NACA's few female supervisors.

The Section Head title gave Vaughn rare Laboratory-wide visibility, and she collaborated with other well-known (white) computers on projects such as compiling a handbook for algebraic methods for calculating machines.

Engineers valued her recommendations as to the best "girls" for a particular project, and for challenging assignments they often requested that she personally handle the work.

In 1958, when the NACA made the transition to NASA, segregated facilities, including the West Computing office, were abolished. Vaughn joined the new Analysis and Computation Division (ACD), a racially and gender-integrated group on the frontier of electronic computing.

Vaughn became an expert FORTRAN programmer, and she also contributed to the Scout Launch Vehicle Program that launched America's first satellites into space.

After the U.S. defense industry desegregated, Vaughn worked with leading computer operators and engineers, becoming an expert in the FORTRAN programming coding language at NASA. She worked on the SCOUT Launch Vehicle Program that shot satellites into space.

At NACA, she was responsible for calculating mathematical computations for engineers conducting aeronautical experiments in

wind tunnels on the variables effecting drag and lift of aircraft.

In 1949, she became the first Black supervisor at NACA when she was promoted manager of the West Area Computers. This work group was composed entirely of Black female mathematicians. The title gave her rare visibility and she collaborated with other well-known computer operators on various projects.

Vaughn led the West Area Computing program for a decade. Then in 1958, as NACA was transitioning into the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the agency abolished the segregated working environment.

Vaughn joined the new Analysis and Computation

Division becoming an expert FORTRAN programmer and worked on the SCOUT (Solid Controlled Orbital Utility Test) Launch Vehicle Program, one of the nation's most successful and reliable launch vehicles, used for launching a 385-pound satellite into a 500-mile orbit.

She retired in 1971. During the final decade of her career, Vaughn worked closely with fellow NASA mathematicians Katherine G. Johnson and Mary Jackson on the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, which brought confidence back to America's space program. Vaughn died on November 10, 2008.

"Most Americans have no idea that from the 1940s through the 1960s, a cadre of

Black women formed part of the country's space work force and helped provide NASA with the raw computing power it needed to dominate the heavens."

Vaughn was born in 1910 in Kansas City, Missouri,

she graduated at 19-years-old from Wilberforce University — a college founded in 1865 as "one of the destination points of [the] railroad" when the Ohio Underground Railroad was established.



Dorothy Johnson Vaughn

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NDGtv

North Dallas Gazette takes a moment to reflect on the past with **Historical Perspectives from Sister Tarpley**

Hear what it was like growing up in a very different Dallas when Booker T. Washington was a black school. Sister Tarpley graduated from there and went on to college and later became a city councilmember in Carrollton.

Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com

NDG Book Review: *Should I Still Wish: A Memoir*

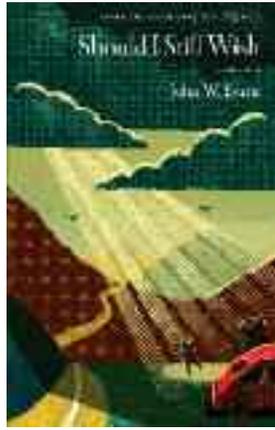
By Terry Schlichenmeyer

One foot in front of the other.

That's best for moving forward: one foot, then the next, baby steps or great big strides, slow and steady or as fast as you can. It may help you run from something or, as in the new book "Should I Still Wish" by John W. Evans, it could move you toward something, too.

Widower.

In the months after his wife, Katie, died violently, John Evans hated that word. He told people that it was not "distinguished," but the truth was that the word indicated a



finality he wasn't ready to accept.

And yet, there he was, just over a year after Katie's death, finally on his way from Indiana to Montana where he'd rendezvous with

Cait, whom he'd met at the same time he'd met Katie years before. They were going to California and he was nervous, but hopeful; moving on with life, but not quite solid.

He knew he needed a new beginning, but he couldn't stop remembering. Cait had known Katie; they'd all been friends once. She'd been at Katie's funeral. Would that matter? Was she someone who could "welcome my grief and look also with me" past whatever pain remained?

Old haunts haunted him on the trip – but so did coincidences that couldn't be ig-

nored, ones that seemed Katie-sent. As he and Cait listened to Katie's music up the mountains and down, they made their own memories.

They talked, fell in love, later married, later became parents. Katie stayed close.

"[W]hat place exactly was I keeping for her in this newly remarried life?" Evans asks. How was it that he could remember little things, but not the sound of her voice? Would Katie like his children, or the person he'd become? What would she be like now, if she'd lived? As each anniversary of her death passed, he wondered if he

would ever get over the feeling of "uncertain" loss...

Imagine hands clasp in prayer, fingers intertwined and pointing every which way, forward and backward and both at the same time.

That's grief – and that's what it's like to read "Should I Still Wish."

Don't expect a linear story, in other words: author John W. Evans makes this tale circular and brief, swirling and perfectly capturing the shaky-ground feelings that lie alongside loss, deftly portraying the guilt that comes from healing-but-not-quite, and wondering if moving on is possible or if lingering is

right. Yes, we eventually do get closure but it comes, like clasped fingers, in a melding of right and left, old life and new.

This book is somewhat of a sequel and seems to presume that readers have read the previous book. If you haven't, there's missing information that's integral to the story (specifically: how Katie died) and it would have been nice to know sooner, rather than at the end of the tale. Look it up or wait for it, but don't let it deter you from reading this beautiful book. Start "Should I Still Wish," and you'll find it very moving.

PARKLAND, continued from Page 5

signs or draw labs. She was there just to visit.

"Once I explained that I didn't want anything from him, he opened up. We talked about life, his relationship with his family and even how the Dallas weather can change in the blink of an eye," she said. "At the end of our conversation, he thanked me and said it 'was the best.' And it was for me, too."

Although in its infancy, Patient Relations Advisors Elizabeth Sellers, Mariana Hurutado and Alberto

Mendez believe the program will enhance the overall experience for patients.

"Even though patients are hospitalized for medical care it's also important that we provide them emotional care," Hurutado said. "Using a holistic approach helps with their physical well-being as well."

Mendez concurred, noting an interaction with a patient who wanted to discuss food and nutrition. "We talked about different recipes and during the discussion I could see that he

was feeling better," he said. "The patient just wanted to talk to someone and in the end thanked me for listening."

Sellers said the department will rely on nurses or other staff members to identify patients who haven't had a visitor during their hospitalization or who may benefit from a visit.

"We want to show that we care about all of our patients and that they're not alone. We may drop in for a minute, five minutes or whatever it takes," Sellers said, adding that lending an ear or a gentle touch can be

just what the doctor ordered. "I can't say enough about how important human interaction is – and the smiles alone are priceless."

In the end, "it's the smallest actions that have the most impact," Mendez noted.

For more information about Parkland's services and volunteer opportunities, visit www.parklandhospital.com.

