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High dollar PAC causing stir as Dallas runoff elections approach

By David Wilfong
NDG Special Contributor

When city council candidate Eric L. Williams stepped up to the microphone during the Monday Night Politics forum on March 20 at Fair Park's African American Museum, he didn't mince words as to why he was running for the District 8 seat in South Dallas.

"I'm not going to drink the Mayor's Kool-aid," Williams said, adding that \$200,000 had "bought" the District race back in 2015.

Allegations of "North Dallas money buying South Dallas elections" is nothing new, but a political action committee (PAC) with a purse approaching just about that amount is causing a stir as the city moves toward runoff races in three districts. According to documents received and compiled by the *North Dallas Gazette* staff, the "For Our Community PAC" has spent more than \$195,000 on various campaigns in the 2017 election (as of the April 28 filing of campaign expenditures, there were further donations received after that date). The PAC consists of high-dollar donors, with one individual contributing \$100,000 alone. For Our Community PAC is at least linked to Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings through Mari Woodlief, who runs the PAC



A Dallas political action committee funneling large amounts of money into particular city council campaigns is raising eyebrows among members of competitive races and complicit of "dark money" buying elections. (Photo: Steve Rainwater / Flickr, Composite: NDG)

and is also Rawlings' political consultant.

Williams is no longer in the race for District 8, having been eliminated in the first round of voting. The For Our Community PAC backed his opponent, incumbent Erik Wilson, to the tune of more than \$24,000.

Wilson now faces returning councilmember Tennell Atkins in a runoff race. Atkins has been quite successful in raising funds himself (out-spending Wilson as of the end of April). Atkins also received the highest number of votes in the May 6 election, but with a wide and diverse field in that race, no candidate

gained a clear majority in the first round of voting.

But District 8 in South Dallas was not at the top of the list for expenditures. With one exception, all the candidates supported by For Our Community PAC are incumbents seeking reelection. The one exception was the District 14 race in which the PAC backed challenger Matt Wood over incumbent Philip T. Kingston. Kingston is often referred to as a thorn in the side of the council's status quo, opposing the mayor on a variety of issues ranging from the handling of the Police and Fire

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Yvette Miley



Michelle Williams

READERS SOUND OFF!!!

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Yvette Miley

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) has selected Yvette Miley as the recipient of its 2017 Chuck Stone Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Chuck Stone Lifetime Achievement Award is bestowed upon a journalist with at least 15 years of experience in the journalism industry with a track record of making extraordinary contributions to the enrichment, understanding and advancement



of black life and culture.

"It is an incredible honor to have my work recognized. Although I didn't have the privilege of personally knowing Chuck Stone, I owe my career to

him and others like him," said Miley. "My time at NBC News and MSNBC has afforded me the opportunity to work alongside the best in the industry. Chuck's courage and commitment to journalism, and to NABJ, opened doors for all of us. Because he did, I could!"

Miley, who has worked for NBC Universal for 25 years, is known for her dynamic leadership and is well-respected across the industry. She joined NBC 6/WTVJ in October 1991 as a producer and held various positions in the newsroom prior to working her

way up to assistant news director. In 2001, she was named vice president and news director of the NBC station in Birmingham, Alabama. Under her leadership, the station's newscast jumped from third to first in the late news category. Miley then joined MSNBC in 2009 as executive editor of MSNBC dayside and was quickly promoted to vice president and later senior vice president. In 2015, in addition to her editorial duties, she was named head of Diversity and Inclusion for both MSNBC and NBC News.

"Yvette's stellar career is

worthy of accolades," said NABJ President Sarah Glover. "Since she began working in television news more than 30 years ago as an assignment editor in Florida, Yvette's dynamic leadership skills and journalistic excellence have been evident as she rose through the ranks of NBC."

Miley is described as a passionate mentor who stresses that "performance, professional image and exposure to key executives are key factors to success."

Throughout her career, Miley has been credited with identifying and

launching the careers of dozens of journalists both in front of the camera and behind the scenes, many of whom work at both the network and local level. She is praised for developing creative ways to connect executives together with young talent, from "Mentoring March Madness" style matches to more formal events.

A well-respected news executive, Miley was early in identifying the significance of the Black Lives Matter movement, the impact of the shooting of Trayvon Martin and the unrest in Ferguson.

Michelle Williams

NEW YORK - National Urban League Young Professionals (NULYP) recognizes 10 outstanding young professionals who exemplify the National Urban League mission through their professional and personal contributions to community and service. This class of YP Honors recipients represent a diverse field of industries and backgrounds, but share the common value of excellence in service.

Michelle Williams of Dallas is one of the selected honorees. Honored as En-



trepreneurial Mentor & Outstanding Texan, Williams is Executive Director for The Dallas Entrepreneur Center. The non-profit organization is dedicated to helping entrepreneurs start, build and grow

their businesses through education, mentorship and access to an entrepreneurial community.

In 2013, Williams worked with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans. Recently, she was honored by Texas State Senator Royce West and the Texas Legislative Black Caucus as a recipient of the Outstanding Texan award.

"This inspirational group of young professional men and women exemplify the mission of NULYP. We are proud to honor their vast accomplishments and dedication to community service and empowerment," said

NULYP President Carlos Clanton.

Beginning 2016, the first class of NULYP Honors was named. This class included 30 dynamic young professionals across the country. In 2017, the program has become even more exclusive, recognizing only 10 recipients. Below is more info on other individuals to be awarded as the NULYP Honors 2017 class:

Christopher Bruce - Atlanta, GA: Attorney, Advocate & Exemplary Peer Leader

Christopher Bruce, Esq. is the Policy Counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia. He is

also the managing partner of The Bruce Firm, LLC which focuses on defending young African American males charged with their first criminal infraction. He was appointed to the DeKalb County Board of Ethics during a very tumultuous period in the county. He continued to advocate for change by founding the DeKalb Young Professionals, an organization focused on retaining and recruiting young professional leaders through social, educational and networking events.

Samantha Davis - Washington, DC: Black Youth Motivator & Women's Right's Advocate

Davis is Founder of The Black Swan Academy (BSA), a non-profit organization dedicated to creating a pipeline of black youth civic leaders, committed to improving themselves, as well as, the communities in which they live. She is also the Field Engagement Manager for YWCA USA where she leads the development of state-level advocacy initiatives, and strategically mobilizes their over 220 associations to move federal legislation around issues of racial justice and women's empowerment.

To read about the other honorees, visit NorthDallasGazette.com

NDG Readers Sound Off...

Farmers Branch residents headed to Austin over Addison water dispute

Issues related to water are becoming common these days I wish the leaders can reach a consensus favoring nature as well as all sections of people. Let's all follow a principle to take care of nature and thus keep our natural resources safe.

-- James Hablen

Wells Fargo Series

Hold on, Wells Fargo basically stole their customers money, and now

get to steal money from the people they had do it. Sign me up.

-- C. Adams via Facebook

These 2 executives should go to jail ... happened under their watch and they KNEW (or didn't want to know) what was happening!

-- R. Litton via Facebook

Former Dallas City Councilman Don Hill passes from cancer

Oh No! May God have mercy on his soul and his

family and all who knew and loved Don. This is beyond sad. Don was always so kind and respectful to me. Rest In Peace and Power my friend. I have no doubts that I will see you in Heaven one day!

-- Anthony Bond via Facebook

RIP

-- H. Williams via Facebook

Condolences to family. I worked with him in 79 for couple of months.

-- M. Richarte via Facebook

A few ideas to consider for Mother's Day gifts

Thanks so much for the shout-out! Love all the other gift ideas, too!

-- K2Bme

Live music at Roslind Coffee Company

Wow, I always like to hear New artist. Where is his next gig?

-- Sharolyn Woodard

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**Who, What, When,
Where and Why?**



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A Mothers Day protest



**Ed
Gray**
NDG
Senior
Columnist

Mothers Against Police Brutality and hundreds of their supporters made history with their Mother's Day protest against the Balch Springs murder of Jordan Edwards by Balch Springs Police Department, Officer Roy Oliver. In addition to Jordan's murder, the many civilian deaths at the hands of the police with Edwards being one of the latest have led to community unrest.

Instead of receiving flowers this past Mother's Day weekend, they wore red hoodies representing the blood shed by the rash of police shooting of unarmed citizens. The Mother's Day weekend is symbolic of love between children and

mothers. This weekend was touching because they gave birth to their children, and now they are giving birth to movement seeking to change the traditional no billing of police misconduct resulting in this moment.

We must stand with these brave women who have lost their children. Mothers like Shirley Harrison, whose son Jason Harrison, a mentally ill, man was shot dead in his doorway. Officers opened fire within seconds upon arriving and then lied about the incident. Let us remember the name Jason Harrison, and his mother, Shirley Harrison.

We must stand with brave women like Charmaine Edwards. The mother I escorted from District Attorney Faith Johnson's office. Woman to woman they talked, no doubt compassion was felt for Mrs. Edwards. However, will there be justice for Mrs. Edwards

for her son Jordan?

The Dallas District Attorneys, a succession from Henry Wade to Faith Johnson, have never convicted the police for murder on the job. The mothers who marched for their sons, have a lost their loved ones, we the community have lost our faith.

Faith can be regained if District Attorney Johnson can convince the grand jury to indict Roy Oliver, that nobody is above the law, not even the rifle packing police officer who gunned down a 15-year-old honor roll student sitting in a car. A long list of mothers who cried over caskets like, Virginia Bradford whose son Fred Bradford was unarmed, mothers Collette Flanagan whose son Clinton Allen was unarmed.

"If the grand jury does not indict Oliver, it would be game over. The Department of Justice could pur-

sue separate charges, but probably would not. The civil suit would survive, but even it would be extremely undermined. We need an indictment," according to Lee Merritt, the attorney representing Jordan Edwards' family.

We all must honor these mothers who have lost their sons at the hands of the police and the Justice system. We must push our Faith, that is District Attorney Faith Johnson. We must push for an indictment, conviction, and incarceration. Let us not have another Mother's Day watching the Mothers of our community weeping sorrowful tears over Justice denied and their sons.

I am Ed Gray working for you, the American People.

Ed Gray, the host of *The Commish Radio Show* airing Saturdays 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. on FBRN.net, can be reached at egray62@att.net.

Famine in Africa: Will Trump act?

By Rep. Karen Bass (D-Calif.)

As you read this, our world stands at a crossroads. As you read this, 20 million people stand at risk of starvation at the hands of what has the potential to become the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II; famine in South Sudan and impending famine in Northeast Nigeria, Somalia, and Yemen. Our country has a moral responsibility to address this issue head on.

For famine to be declared, two children younger than five years old in every 10,000 people have to die due to malnutrition and one in five families have to have insufficient food to sustain themselves. Waiting for famine to be declared to act means you're already too late.

Famine has already been declared in South Sudan, where hunger is expected to spread to 40 percent of the country's population in the absence of humanitarian aid. The country's man-made famine is a result of violent conflict in vast swaths of the country. Despite promises of

access for relief efforts to these areas by the South Sudanese government, humanitarian organizations remain unable to gain access to provide urgent vital assistance in the form of food, water and shelter in many locations.

Somalia, Nigeria, and Yemen are all on the brink of having famine declared. More than half of Somalia's total population of 12.3 million are experiencing acute food insecurity and are on the brink of death from starvation as a result of drought. Due to conflict with Al-Shabaab terrorists, humanitarian access remains an obstacle in providing the country's 6.2 million people experiencing acute food insecurity with the aid that they desperately need.

In Northeast Nigeria, terrorism by Boko Haram has resulted in widespread displacement and a growing humanitarian crisis. Over 50,000 people in the region are at risk of famine. In addition, counter-insurgency operations against Boko Haram by the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

in Adamawa, Yobe and Borno states have led to population displacement, limited access for relief efforts and have prevented farmers from accessing their fields, leading to significantly below-average harvests.

In Yemen, agriculture production has drastically declined due to conflict, insecurity, high costs, and sporadic availability of agricultural inputs. Seven million women, children, and men could risk famine in 2017.

In each country, whether it's existing famine in South Sudan or the brink of famine in Somalia, Nigeria, or Yemen, the particularly disastrous characteristic is that these situations are either caused or exacerbated by man-made crisis.

You wouldn't know that this was occurring though - other than a largely lackluster statement about South Sudan on "Face the Nation" in early April by Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, the Administration has been quiet about the impending disaster in Africa and Yemen. When asked about the impli-

cations of the Administration's budget proposal, Ambassador Haley called for "smarter spending" when it comes to foreign and humanitarian aid.

Smarter spending is, of course, necessary, but, in the face of the president proposing cuts of nearly 30 percent to foreign aid and diplomacy efforts, it's hard to imagine that the appropriate amount of aid and assistance will be provided to the four countries. At a fundamental level, President Trump's America-first budget would forego international diplomatic leadership and ignore the impending crisis. Foreign aid is an investment, and it makes our country and those overseas fighting for us, dramatically safer. With leadership comes responsibility. Providing aid is a moral imperative.

Despite the lack of coverage in TV media on the issue, we are at a crossroads. Congress has the decision before them to either continue America's legacy in ending famine now, or forgo our diplomatic leadership in the area entirely.

Diabetics cautioned to avoid buying previously owned test strips

Using a glucose meter to check and monitor blood sugar is a daily part of life for millions of Americans with diabetes. Glucose meters and test strips are medical devices regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA is aware that some sellers are marketing pre-owned or secondhand test strips to consumers. These are unused test strips previously owned by someone else.



Pre-owned test strips can give incorrect results and may not be safe to use with your device. So the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recommends that you do not buy or sell previously owned glucose test strips. (Image: US Food and Drug Administration)

These pre-owned strips may be sold at lower prices when compared to new strips. For instance, you may see flyers advertising cheap

test strips in your neighborhood, or you may see sellers marketing cheap test strips

online. It is technically legal for people to resell their test

strips. But the FDA does not recommend that you buy pre-owned test strips or that you resell your unused strips.

That's because pre-owned strips can give incorrect results—and may not be safe to use with your device.

Here's why:

- Test strips should be properly stored to give accurate results. If you buy pre-owned strips, it is hard to know whether the strips were stored properly. Test strips also could be expired. A lack of proper storage or using expired strips could put you at risk for getting in-

correct results from your glucose meter. And incorrect results can put you at risk for serious health complications—and even death.

- Test strip vials that have been opened by another person may have small amounts of blood on them, which can put you at risk for infection.

- Pre-owned test strip vials may have been tampered with, which means that they may not be safe to use. (For instance, the expiration dates might have been changed or covered up.)

- Pre-owned strips also may not have been cleared by the FDA for sale in the

United States. (If instructions aren't in English or the strips look different than other strips of the same brand, this can be a sign of unsafe strips.)

The bottom line? The FDA recommends that you buy unopened vials of glucose test strips designed for your meter—and that you do not buy pre-owned test strips.

Talk to your health care provider if you are not sure where to buy test strips for your glucose meter or if you cannot afford to buy the test strips recommended for use with your meter.

Women Veterans: Help for postpartum depression

By Dr. Alicia Christy
Veterans Health Administration

The birth of a baby is a life-changing event that can trigger all kinds of emotions from happiness and joy to jitters and fear. It can also lead to something you might not expect — postpartum depression.

Postpartum depression — a depression that occurs after having a baby — is the most common complication of giving birth. It affects one in seven new mothers. Left untreated, postpartum depression can have long-lasting negative results, harming the health of new

mothers, their babies, and their families.

It could be the “baby blues” or it could be postpartum depression.

After giving birth, many women have the “baby blues,” which are feelings of worry, sadness, and tiredness that usually last a few days. Symptoms of postpartum depression are like those of “baby blues,” however, postpartum depression symptoms are more intense and can last for many months.

Are you at risk for postpartum depression?

Women Veterans commonly suffer from depres-

sion, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder after military service. Veterans who become pregnant have an increased likelihood of having a mental health issue, which puts them at a higher risk for postpartum depression. With more women serving in the military than ever before, it is important to support women Veterans by providing information and treatment options.

Postpartum depression is not your fault.

Postpartum depression is never anyone's fault. Pregnancy, childbirth, and caring for a child can be a chal-

lenge for all parents, physically and mentally. Postpartum depression affects more than half a million American women each year and can affect any woman who becomes pregnant — women with easy pregnancies or difficult pregnancies, first-time moms and mothers with one or more children, women who are married and women who are not, and women of any age, race, ethnicity, culture, education, or income.

Only about 15 percent of women who suffer from postpartum depression receive professional care. There are many reasons that women do not seek treatment, including misdiagnosis, denial, and lack of access to care.

Know the symptoms.

Postpartum depression can begin anytime within the first year after giving birth. Signs you have postpartum depression may in-

clude extended periods (two weeks or more) of:

- Feeling sad, down, or depressed
- Losing interest in what you usually enjoy
- Difficulty in thinking or decision making
- Loss of appetite
- Loss of energy
- Frequently thinking about death or suicide

If you think you may have postpartum depression, seek help.

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Community activist provides key tips for becoming active agents of change during the age of Trump

During times of political unrest, the reality remains that neither Bernie Sanders nor Hillary Clinton became President; Donald J. Trump “won” the vote. Thus, it does not matter if we were “With Her” or if we were “Bernie or Bust”. “Her” is not President and the “Bust” is here. The American people are now living in the Age of Trump, so the important question is – How do we move forward? Community activist, Jesuorobo A. Enobakhare, Jr., provides the following key tips to help citizens become

active agents of change who can make a lasting and positive impact throughout the community.

Organize your community. Your neighborhood is your immediate community, so take the time to establish relationships with your neighbors. Use this time to discuss the local and state issues that affect your daily lives and organize neighborhood meetings with your city council and school board members.

Know which officials represent you. It is important that you know which

state and city officials represent you so that you can be informed and hold them accountable for doing what they say that they will do. This information can easily be accessed by visiting websites such as Who Represents Me?

Join a political organization. Politics in its simplest form is the manner in which resources are delivered to a specific area. There is greater power in numbers. Join your county’s chapter of your state political organization (Democratic or Republican party) and unite

with likeminded voices to address the issues affecting your county.

Volunteer or donate to a political campaign. Candidates need support and donations in order to run an efficient campaign organization. If you truly believe in the candidate (s) you are voting for, send them a check and donate a few hours of your time each month to help their campaigns. Your effort might be the difference that pushes them across the finish line.

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Funeral services for Don Hill slated for Saturday

A celebration of life service will be held for former Dallas City Council member Don Hill this Saturday, May 20th at 2 p.m. at Concord Church located at 6808 Pastor Bailey Drive in Oak Cliff. Hill 65, died Saturday at home surrounded by family and friends after a courageous fight with prostate cancer. The Reverend Stephen G. Brown, Senior Pastor of Greater Bethle-

hem Baptist Church of Dallas will officiate.

Hill, a former member of the Dallas City Council and Mayor Pro Tem, was convicted in 2009 of bribery and was sentenced to 18 years in prison and was serving his sentence in North Carolina. He received a “compassionate” release on Friday in light of his diagnosis of Stage 4 prostate cancer.

Mesquite FD promotes Spread the Love PB&J donation locations

With lights, sirens and lots of peanut butter and jelly, the Mesquite Fire Department reminded the public of the Spread the Love donation locations. Today, Mesquite firefighters donated cases of PB&J at the Mesquite Municipal Center to help feed children during the summer who live in food insecure homes.



The Spread the Love campaign collects PB&J as well as financial contributions to benefit the food pantries of Sharing Life Community Outreach (SLCO) and Mesquite Social Services who redistrib-

ute all donations.

“Donations do not need to be of a significant amount, because each jar of peanut butter and jelly has a significant impact for those children in need,” SLCO Director Teresa Jackson

said.

Visit www.cityofmesquite.com/SpreadTheLove for details.

The public can donate peanut butter and jelly at these city facilities and special events:

- Mesquite Municipal Center, 1515 N. Galloway Avenue
- Mesquite City Hall, 757 N. Galloway Avenue
- City Council Meetings, (1st and 3rd Mondays at 7 p.m.), 757 N. Galloway Avenue
- Mesquite Community Services, 1616 N. Galloway Ave
- Mesquite Main Library, 300 W. Grubb Drive
- Mesquite North Branch Library, 2600 Oates Drive
- Mesquite Arts Center, 1527 N. Galloway Avenue
- Opal Lawrence Historical Park, 711 E. Kearney

Street

- Mesquite Golf Club, 825 Interstate 30. Golfers receive one small bucket of range balls.
- May 19, 7 p.m., Movies in the Park, Paschall Park, 1001 New Market Road.
- May 27 - August 4. City Lake Aquatic Center, 200 Parkview Street and Vanston Pool, 2913 Oates Drive. Customers receive \$2 off pool admission.
- June 10, 7 a.m., Spread The Love Biker Rally, Paschall Park, 1001 New Market Road. Bikers get commemorative lapel pin.
- June 10, noon - 7 p.m.,

Summer Sizzle, Paschall Park, 1001 New Market Road. Attendees receive \$5 off a \$15 unlimited Kids Activity Zone wristband.

- June 23, 7 p.m., Movies in the Park, Paschall Park, 1001 New Market Road
- July 21, 7 p.m., Movies in the Park, Paschall Park, 1001 New Market Road
- August 12, Doggie Splash Day, Vanston Pool, 2913 Oates Drive. Customers receive \$2 off pool admission.
- August 18, 7 p.m., Back to School Bash, City Lake Aquatic Center, 200 Parkview Street

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Summer Classes begin June 5 and July 11

Fall classes begin August 21



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District 6 schools offer a world of opportunity



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6
Trustee

Dallas ISD offers parents a wide array of programs and services to students and families including free summer programs, meals, transportation, health care, counseling and mental health services, and a host of opportunities in which students can develop their interests and realize their full potential.

Students in District 6 are taking full advantage of programs offered at schools in the area like tuition-free, full day pre-k, dual language, arts, STEM, collegiate academies and early college high schools and career and technical education programs including those at David W. Carter High School and Justin F. Kimball High School and W.H. Atwell, T.W. Browne, Zan Wesley Holmes Jr., D.A. Hulcy STEAM and Boude Storey middle schools.

CTE is one of the district's key priorities to expand career programs that align with the economic opportunities within each community. CTE programs

not only help students start thinking about and exploring careers early, but they also help them chart a path to college and career success.

College- and career-ready staff work closely with higher education and workforce partners to create a career ladder with certifications and licenses for students at the secondary level.

At Carter High School, students have opportunities to pursue career pathways in arts and communications, business and marketing, information technology and law and public safety.

Kimball High School offers two National Academy Foundation pathway programs in Hospitality and Tourism and Engineering

Other news in District 6: **Sign up for one of Dallas ISD's free summer learning programs**

Dallas ISD has teamed with the City of Dallas under the umbrella Dallas City of Learning to bring Dallas families dozens of free and fun summer activities for children of all ages. The partnership is managed by the nonprofit organization Big Thought.

Whether a child is interested in robotics, dance, sports, space, or literature,

there is an activity families can register children for in the Discover Summer Learning Guide that will keep them learning all summer long. For more information or to find the guide, visit www.dallasisd.org/summerlearning.

Carter students receive \$1.25 million in scholarships

Five Carter students received full-ride scholarships, each valued at more than \$250,000, to attend Texas Christian University through TCU Community Scholarships which are awarded based on merit, academic achievement, volunteerism, and diversity.

The recipients include twin sisters Nahjae and Tahjae Selby, and Deanna Harper, Rickey Perry and Patricia Smith.

2017 Superintendent's Scholars

Congratulations to the following District 6 Superintendent's Scholars who will each receive \$2,500 scholarships.

- Chassadi Cox & Shadarial Pride, David W. Carter High School
- Adurape Osunjimi, Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Early College
- Brenda Leal & Alexandra Perez, Justin F. Kimball

High School

- Keren Happuc Bazenga, John Leslie Patton Jr. Academic Center

Great things happening at Gilliam Collegiate

- Six Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy students secured employment the Mayor's Summer Internship Program. Let's wish Christian Garcia, Jazmine Nunez, Kalei Brown, Kiarra Smart, and Vanessa Larez well in their professional experiences this summer.

- Forty-eight percent of Gilliam's senior class will graduate with their associate degree or are within 12 hours of the degree this year.

- Congratulations to staff member Karen Bradford who was recently named a "Very Important Coun-

selor" by Texas A&M University for her work with students on college and scholarship applications.

Patton senior wins Congressional High School Art Competition

John Leslie Patton Academic Center senior Uriel Lopez won the 2017 Congressional High School Art Competition, an annual, nationwide art competition initiated by Members of Congress in their respective districts. Lopez's work entitled "Preserving Patriot's Dream," depicts men and women raising the American flag in Iwo Jima.

The competition, organized by Congressman Pete Sessions, was open to all high school students in the district. Sessions called the piece "nothing short of exceptional." Lopez's artwork

will be showcased in the U.S. Capitol building for the next year.

As the Grand Prize recipient, Uriel will join the national winners in Washington, D.C. for the Congressional High School Art Competition award ceremony in June.

District 6 athletics rolls through spring competition

Congratulations to Carter's boys' and girls' track and girls' softball teams and Kimball's tennis teams for their stellar performances in their recent seasons. Thank you to the student-athletes, parents, coaches and administrators who continue to support our students' extra-curricular interests, efforts and successes.

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Irving Fire Department set to open new station, training facility

The construction of the Irving Fire Department and Grand Prairie Fire Department's Joint Fire Training Facility is in the final stages. The classroom/office building, and outside training simulators are complete. The final touches of grading, hydro-mulch outside the fencing, and aggregate laid around the Trench, Confined Space, Combat Stairs, Extrication, and Class A Burn simulators is being completed this week.

The 5-story Fire Training Tower is moving fast. Brick facade is ongoing, and concrete will be poured in upper floors soon. FireBlast will begin install of the three burn room components next. The project is scheduled to be completed by late June.

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At left, the new training structure will stand five stories high to simulate emergencies in an apartment or office building. Above, Irving EMS Battalion Chief Steven Deutsch inspects the construction and enjoys the view from the top. (Photos: Irving Fire Dept.)

Medical City Plano achieves Level 1 trauma designation

Medical City Plano has been designated a Level 1 Trauma Center by the Texas Department of State Health Services, making it the first and only hospital in Collin County to achieve the distinguished classification.

Gressle, CEO of Medical City Plano. "Achieving this advanced Trauma 1 designation reinforces our commitment as the leader in trauma and emergency services for the greater North Texas area and surrounding region."

including verification by the American College of Surgeons. The voluntary process requires a commitment to providing comprehensive regional care for every aspect of injury – from prevention through rehabilitation. Hospitals seeking the Level 1 designation must operate as a Level 1 Trauma Center for one year

Trauma 1 designation is awarded by the Texas Department of State Health Services and involves an extensive survey process,

See TRAUMA, Page 13

Major expansion planned for Georgia Farrow Rec Center

Irving Residents recently attended a Community Meeting at Georgia Farrow Recreation Center, 530 Davis Drive, to provide input and ideas about a proposed update and expansion of the facility.

has a long history of serving Irving residents of all ages. The facility, constructed in 1989, is slated for updates that will improve services for the entire community.

ments, have identified needed improvements for this important facility. Currently, the addition of more than 9,800 square feet is planned, including a new gymnasium, locker rooms, restrooms and an expanded fitness room, as well as upgrades that will improve Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations.

The City of Irving's Parks and Recreation Department, working with the Planning and Community Development and the Capital Improvement Program depart-

2017 FREE LIVE MUSIC CONCERTS in Irving

IRVING CONCERT SERIES 4 kids

GATES OPEN: 9 A.M.
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APRIL 27 - Mister G
2010 Latin GRAMMY Award winner for Best Children's Album brings biological fun and catchy tunes.

MAY 25 - Big Bang Boom
Dynamic rock turned power pop and soul music opens for a concert that will parents and kids enjoy.

JUNE 22 - AndyRoo
Journey to the AndyRooVerse to engage in the magic of singing animals, silly dances and more.

IRVING CONCERT SERIES

Sounds of New Orleans

Whistlestop Plaza
123 W. Irving Blvd.
MUSIC STARTS AT 7 P.M.

APRIL 14 - The N'awlins Gumbo Kings
Six New Orleansians carrying on the legacy of New Orleans jazz with a twist.

APRIL 28 - The Koolha! Brass Band
This group brings the showmanship of the beloved Second Line to the stage.

MAY 12 - T'Mande
Influenced by French and Creole beats, this Cajun music brings a big smile!

MAY 26 - Big 5 Brass Band
The finest jazz, Afro-Cuban, rock and funk jams for an energetic show.

JUNE 9 - Three Quarters Fast Jazz Band
The band blends street swing, Dixieland and authentic New Orleans jazz.

JUNE 23 - Louis Armstrong and Zydeco Tribute
Honor the famed singer and trumpeter... and enjoy the New Orleans signature sound!

IRVING TEXAS
For more information, visit IrvingEvents.org or call (972) 721-2501.
CHAMPION

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CARROLLTON
Free irrigation inspections being offered until Sept. 30

Through the City's Save Water by the Yard program, free irrigation inspections are available again this year. Eligible Carrollton Water Utilities residential customers, with in-ground irrigation systems, can apply to receive the inspections through September 30 or until the funds are exhausted.

Save Water by the Yard inspection service includes a consultation by a licensed irrigation expert who will check the settings on the sprinkler system's control box, check all system lines for leaks and improperly functioning sprinkler heads,

and provide customers with tips on system maintenance and water conservation. Residential customers who previously participated in 2015 or 2016 are ineligible for an inspection in 2017.

For more information or to make an appointment for an inspection, Carrollton residents should call 972-466-3000.

DALLAS
5th annual Bingo for Babies

Since 1972, Zeta Phi Beta has enjoyed a partnership with the March of Dimes in an effort to encourage women to seek prenatal care within the first trimester of pregnancy, thereby increasing the prevention of birth defects and infant mortality.



In celebration of the partnership's 45th anniversary, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Dallas alumnae chapter, Kappa Zeta is once again their 5th Annual BINGO for Babies.

This afternoon of fun with a Kentucky Derby twist will be held on June 3, 2017, at the University of North Texas at Dallas, 7300 University Hills Blvd FH 138, Dallas, Texas 75241 starting at 1:30 PM. Tickets are \$25 pre-sale, \$30 at the door. The price to reserve a table (10 tops) is \$250. The dead-

line for purchasing a table is June 1st.

Dress in your "Sunday Chic" or "race regalia" for an afternoon of Kentucky Derby style fun, at the 5th Annual Bingo for Babies. Proceeds from this event benefit Stork's Nest Charity Fund of Dallas! Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.memberplanet.com/s/kappazpb/bingoforbabies>.

2017 National Celebration Churches Uniting In Christ

Christian Chapel Temple of Faith (CME) Church is hosting a panel discussion to address 11 churches' responses to President Trump's stance on Immigra-

tion entitled Combating Systemic Racism within Immigration and Criminal Justice on June 3 at 3 p.m. Then on Pentecost Sunday at 4 p.m. Confession – Recognition – Commitment is a national celebration of the member churches' recognition of the ordained ministries of each communion and a celebration of the Eucharist at one common table of the Lord.

The church is located at 1420 Noel Road, visit www.cctof.org.

GARLAND
Garland listed on National Register of Historic Places

Garland's historic downtown commercial district is now included on the National Park Service's Na-

tional Register of Historic Places. Fifty-two commercial and public buildings are included in the historic district, with the oldest buildings dating back to 1897.

Garland Wins First Place in Earth Day Texas Competition

In April, Garland won first place in the EarthXPitch: Pollinator Habitat Civic Grant Competition. Garland's winning proposal included an idea to improve the monarch butterfly habitat by purchasing milkweed seed packets to distribute to residents. By planting milkweed in their yards, residents can provide new habitat sites to help increase the monarch butterfly population across the city.

Identical triplets go from high school dropouts to head of the class

Identical triplets, Tran, Han and Ngan Tran, will make history as they walk across the stage as the top three scholars in Evolution Academy's 2017 graduation class. The graduation ceremony will take place this Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 7 p.m. at Curtis Culwell Center, 4999 Naaman Forest Blvd., Garland TX 75042, and it will be one of the first times in Texas that triplets have graduated 1, 2 and 3 in their class.



Prior to enrolling at Evolution Academy, a public charter high school and dropout recovery center, the Tran triplets were high school drop-outs living in America with their father, while their mother is still in their home country of Vietnam. The Tran sisters took advantage of the technological advances offer by Evolution Academy and in just a little over a year they are now graduating with top honors. Tran Bao Tran is the valedictorian with a GPA of 3.98. Han Bao Tran is the salutatorian with a GPA of 3.97 and Ngan Bao Tran, ranks #3 with a GPA of 3.96. All three of the Tran triplets plan to attend Richland College this fall.

Sharail Weaver ranks #4 with a GPA of 3.45 in the

2017 graduating class at Evolution Academy and like the Tran triplets, had a tough journey to high school graduation. Sharail faced many obstacles including financial challenges and moving around a lot which caused her to attend three different high schools before finally finding a great fit for her Evolution Academy. She was able to flourish at Evolution Academy, where the focus is providing educational options for at-risk students, and now she is graduating in the top her class and heading to college at Texas Wesleyan University this fall. Sharail plans to become a psychologist so she can help others over difficult circumstances.

To date, Evolution Academy has graduated more than 2000 students, many of whom were unsuccessful in

traditional school settings. Evolution Academy graduates have gone on to graduate from some of the top colleges and universities in the country, enlist in military service and embark on productive careers in the workforce.

Monica Johnson, a Dallas-based author, life coach, Fortune 100 business professional and recent TED Talk standout, will deliver the keynote address encouraging students to rise above life's difficulties and search within and reach their highest potential. Johnson speaks frequently throughout the United States and internationally and shares how she overcame tremendous obstacles in her own life in her bestselling book, "Shift From Broken to Breathtaking." Johnson is also widely known for her "Word of Wisdom with

ONEWORD" column in Epitome Magazine, a national faith-based magazine published by her husband, Todrick Johnson.

The Tran Triplets' mom

couldn't get a Visa to attend their graduation, but she will be cheering them on as she watches the live stream of the ceremony.

Evolution Academy has

open enrollment year-round on all three campuses. Students can enroll online at www.evolutionacademy.org or visit one of the campuses to enroll in person.



PUBLIC NOTICE
ASSESSMENT OF FAIR HOUSING

The City of McKinney and the McKinney Housing Authority announce collaboration to work together with the public, community leaders, and interested parties in the North Texas Regional Housing Assessment, to examine housing-related challenges and challenges related to employment, transportation, and accessibility to opportunities in our city. The Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) is a legal requirement that both the City and McKinney Housing Authority must complete in order to continue receiving federal housing and community development funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Specifically, the AFH is an analysis undertaken pursuant to 24 CFR 5.154 that includes an analysis of fair housing data, an assessment of fair housing issues and contributing factors, and an identification of fair housing priorities and goals specific to McKinney. The primary purpose of the Public Hearing is to provide an opportunity for citizens to provide input during the development process of the Fair Housing Assessment.

You Are Invited to Participate In A Public Hearing on
Saturday July 15th at 10:30 a.m.
MHA Merritt Community Center
1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069

Posted in accordance with the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, on the 15th day of May at or before 5pm. If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact McKinney Housing Authority at 972-542-5641, within 48 hours of the scheduled business meeting date. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.

Roslyn Miller Executive Director

Br'er Cotton's premieres at Kitchen Dog Theater

Kitchen Dog Theater's nineteenth annual New Works Festival features the National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere of *Br'er Cotton* by Terrance Arvelle Chisholm. The show is scheduled for Thursday through Saturdays nights at 8 p.m. June 9 - July 1.

The play features a story focused on the former site of a thriving cotton mill that is now an impoverished neighborhood. Deeply affected by all the recent killings of young black men like him-



Left to right, Kyle Fox Douglas, Dennis Raveneau, Clay Yokum, Stormi Demerson, and Katy Tye appear in the upcoming Kitchen Dog Theater production. (Photo: KDT/Matt Mrozek)

self, Ruffrino, a 14-year-old militant who longs to wake up the zombies by any means necessary. More and

more at odds with his mother and grandfather, the boy's anger grows beyond containment while the family home literally sinks into the cotton field, which no one seems to notice but him.

Br'er Cotton tackles complicated issues of racism and racial identity through the lens of these three generations' wildly differing attitudes and responses. The play raises tough questions that have no easy answers and does it in a way that is fiercely theatrical, fresh, and innovative.

KDT Artistic Company Member Rhonda Boutté directs this timely new work, which, in perfect alignment with Kitchen Dog's mission, brings to the forefront questions of identity, morality, justice, and power.

Br'er Cotton is on stage at Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway, Suite 180, Dallas, TX 75207 (NE Corner of I-35 and Medical District). Ticket prices range from \$40 for all opening night tickets, \$20 - \$30 for adults and \$15 - \$25 for STAGE,

KERA, NNPN, TCG members, students and senior citizens/65+ (all with proper ID).

Admit:ALL, KDT's new accessibility program, will have 20 free tickets available every performance except opening night for patrons who would otherwise be unable to afford them. These tickets, made possible by an anchor grant from the Communities Foundation of Texas, will be available in person at the box office starting 30 minute prior to curtain time.

Ruben Studdard digs deep for soulful Sam Cooke classic

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Contributor

If anyone's been asking whatever happened to Ruben Studdard, they probably haven't been paying too much attention.

In the 13 years since he brightened the world of pop music with his American Idol-winning romantic balladry, Studdard has warmed the hearts of his huge fan base with five albums and has toured with the various artists like Peabo Bryson, Melissa Manchester, CeCe Winans and David Foster.

And he's done a whole lot more, including the just completed and powerful new version of Sam Cooke's classic, "A Change is Gonna Come."

Studdard, 38, said that he initially wanted to sing the song for a civil rights event in Birmingham, Ala.

"It was a big event and Dr. Henry Panion III was producing and conducting the orchestra and it turned into a PBS special during Black History Month," Studdard said.

Studdard added that Panion, his mentor, asked if he'd sing and the former Idol champ didn't hesitate.

"I've always been a fan of that song and the importance of the material inclined me to do it," said Studdard.

Panion has been lauded for his work with a who's



Ruben Studdard's new take on the Sam Cooke classic "A Change is Gonna Come" is available on iTunes and GooglePlay. This photo was taken in February 2009. (Jyle Dupuis/Wikimedia Commons)

who in music, including Stevie Wonder, Kirk Franklin, Chaka Khan, the Winans, Aretha Franklin, Tramaine Hawkins, and American Idol Winners Carrie Underwood and Studdard.

"Ruben really does shine and I think it's a great joy working with him," said Panion, whose works are programmed throughout the United States by many of the country's major orchestras, including the Atlanta Symphony, Cincinnati Pops, Cleveland Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Houston Symphony, and the National Symphony.

Panion continued: "He really does love music. I work in classical and in jazz and pop, so many when they become popular it has little to

do with their musicianship, but how many times can you turn on a national show and you wonder, where in the world did they find this person?"

Studdard has always been a student of music and there's talk of him doing a Christmas Album of Luther Vandross songs, Panion added.

Studdard also continues to work on producing a children's show called, "Uncle Ruben's House," that he hopes will debut in the fall.

"It's a labor of love just having to learn the techniques and how to communicate with kids from two to eight; it's really phenomenal," Studdard said. "My mom is an educator, she was like a child whisperer and that market has been silent for years. So, we'll make songs specifically to teach children manners, math, and

science and the guy I'm working with is really big on STEM education and trying to incorporate that into our music to help children in different ways."

Another album also should debut soon, Studdard said.

For now, however, he's

pushing the release of "A Change is Gonna Come," which came on the heels of former President Barack Obama's final days in office, when he designated Birmingham Civil Rights District as a national monument.

"Sam Cooke's original

became an anthem to the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s," Panion said. "We believe that Ruben's new version is right on time. Everybody could use a little soul and inspiration."

The single is currently available on iTunes and GooglePlay.

Of its premiere one reporter wrote, "Move heaven and earth to see this wonderful adaptation!"

JAMES and the GIANT PEACH

MAY 5 - 27
AGES 5 AND UP

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TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

FOX plans to bring a live musical production of *Rent* to TV

FOX has announced a live musical production of the Tony Award-, Grammy Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning musical RENT. Acclaimed film, television and theater producer Marc Platt (GREASE: LIVE, "La La Land," "Wicked"), along with the estate of writer/composer Jonathan Larson, will executive-produce the event.

"We are so honored to partner with the estate of the



brilliant Jonathan Larson and producer Marc Platt on one of the great musicals of our time," said Dana Walden and Gary Newman,

Chairmen and CEOs, Fox Television Group. "The title is so iconic, the music is so beloved, and the themes are as meaningful today as they

were when the show first premiered on Broadway. With Marc overseeing this project, we are sure it will have a profound impact on the legions of fans who know and love this musical."

"Rent" was Jonathan's dream of sharing the theater and the passion he had for it with a whole new generation," said Julie and Al Larson. "None of us could have

imagined the massive impact that the messages and themes in 'Rent' would have on the theater community or the world...except for Jonathan. We are absolutely thrilled to be continuing Jonathan's legacy and the still-relevant themes of the show in this way."

A re-imagining of Puccini's "La Bohème," and set in New York City's gritty East Village, "Rent" tells

the unforgettable story of seven artists struggling to follow their dreams during a time of great social and political turmoil.

After winning four Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize, writer/composer Jonathan Larson's tour de force celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, as it continues to offer an inspiring message of hope and friendship.

James and the Giant Peach still on stage for six shows

The Dallas Children's Theater has six remaining performances of James and the Giant Peach. Young James Henry Trotter's resilience is tested when he is sent off to live with his mean aunts, Spiker and Sponge, after a chain of unfortunate incidents. Life is no fun at all there until he accidentally spills some tiny green things on a tree, and...voilà, a giant peach! When James and his new oversized friends – Grasshopper, Centipede, Ladybug, Earthworm, and Spider – snip the stem of the peach, the quest for happiness and great adventure



Mark Oristano

lands them in New York City and at the center of attention.

Remaining Performance Dates and Times

- Saturday, May 20, 1:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 20, 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 21, 1:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 21, 4:30 p.m.

- Saturday, May 27, 1:30 p.m.

- Saturday, May 27, 4:30 p.m. Ticket prices for single tickets range from \$15-\$28. Call the Box Office for details at 214-740-0051. Tickets available online at dct.org.

Two more weekends for British farce, *Move Over Mrs. Markham*

Rover Dramawerks continues their 17th Season with the British farce, *Move Over Mrs. Markham* by Ray Cooney and John Chapman. Performances will be at Rover's theatre in Plano, located in Ruisseau Village at 221 W. Parker Rd, Suite 580, at the northwest corner of Parker and 75. Performances run until May 27 on Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. and on Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

This production exposes the intricacies and complica-

See **FARCE**, Page 12



Pictured in *Markham_03* left to right: Molly Bower and Christian Black. Photos by Carol M. Rice

Triple Crown Race Spring
Breeder's Cup Fall
Special Event
21 Concert Night

Thoroughbred
11th Night
Lone Star Jock
GG Discovery Day

THOROUGHBRED SEASON

APRIL 20 - JULY 30

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	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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	28	29	30	31			

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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Bad at your job? Maybe it's the job's fault

By Dina Gerdaman

When a worker struggles to meet the demands of a particular position, the problem may not be with the employee—maybe it's the job's design that is wrong.

A poorly designed job can work against even the most dedicated employee, setting the person up to fail. This creates a recipe for frustration and a path to burnout that is all too common in today's workplace, says Robert Simons, the Charles M. Williams Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School.

"Today's jobs are expanding in terms of what is expected of people, but the resources people get to do those jobs is not expanding," says Simons. "People feel more pressure to own their roles and they're stressed because they're being pulled in a lot of different directions, but they're not getting the help they need."

The idea that an employee's poor performance might be a case of a badly designed job is not intuitive for managers. So Simons created a solution: a free online job design optimization tool that allows companies to plug in information about a particular job to test whether the person in that role is getting the right mix of responsibility and support from the organization.



After all, for any job to succeed, the supply of resources available to the worker must be in balance with the responsibilities of the job, says Simons. It's a simple supply-and-demand lesson that should ring true for anyone who has taken an economics course, "but we've never thought of it in terms of a job design before."

"In many companies today, people are being held accountable for measures that are much wider than the resources and the amount of control they are given," Simons says. "They control this narrow slice, but their jobs are tied to things like revenue growth and profitability. The missing piece is the support they are given to accomplish their goals."

When using the tool, a job can be evaluated by answering four questions:

1. What resources does the person in that job control to accomplish a task? This

list of resources may include people, budgets, and balance sheets.

"Just imagine you are looking to take a job somewhere and they want you to drive \$100 million in revenue," Simons explains. "You'll want to ask: 'How many people are you giving me to do that? What does my budget look like?' If you're being asked to do these important things, the first thing you'll want to know is what resources you're getting."

2. What measures are used to evaluate that individual's performance? This looks at: How will the person be held accountable, how will the person's performance be tracked, and what factors will be evaluated to determine success?

Evaluation measures could include sales or revenue goals, the number of patents filed or products launched, or customer satisfaction levels.

3. Who does the individual need to influence to achieve goals? This refers to the amount of time and attention a person in a particular job must devote to interacting with others and nudging people where they should go, including collecting data, probing for new information, or attempting to influence the work of others.

The amount of influence will be narrow if the job is self-contained, meaning a person sits at a desk all day without interactions with others, whereas the span of influence will be wide if the person must touch many people, especially others outside the unit, to succeed.

A manager at an innovative, customer-focused company like Amazon needs a wide span of influence to figure out how to make the customer happy. One individual doesn't control all the resources at that company, so that person relies on talking to others about delivery speed and other features to make sure the customer is being served.

4. How much support can the individual expect when reaching out to others for help? A job is bound to fail if the people who control resources refuse to help.

"In some organizations, it's every man or woman for

themselves," Simons says. "You eat what you kill, and no one is willing to help others. If a person is asked to do a lot of things—innovate, spend time influencing others—but the person can't get help when he reaches out for it, that job is doomed."

At many organizations, leaders should try to foster an atmosphere where people have a deep commitment toward helping one another. This can be costly and difficult to pull off because it means creating a culture where people feel a shared sense of purpose, identify with the group, have trust in coworkers, and share in rewards.

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos made it clear: If you're unwilling to lend a hand to a coworker to meet a customer need, you will not survive there. "When a lot is demanded of people, you have to build a culture where people will help each other," Simons says.

Leaders should be honest when answering these questions if they want to figure out how to fix a job. Their answers will vary from job to job and organization to organization, depending largely on the goals of a particular position in relation to the company's overall strat-

egy.

The tool allows for making adjustments to improve the position, such as increasing the supply of resources or reducing the demands of the job. Often when a job doesn't work, it's a matter of simplifying it—and also being clear about what that worker should not do.

"You often have an individual who has to spend too much time in meetings or too much time on managing this matrix, and the person is spread too thin. You add more and more stuff, and no one thinks of the cost in terms of energy, lack of focus, and diversion of priorities," Simons says. "If the job is too complicated, can we make it so that the person doesn't have to get agreement from four people before moving forward? Can we keep that person from being put on one more committee?"

It can get sticky because reallocating tasks and resources means other workers will be affected. To help with managing this balance, the tool can be used to compare two jobs at the same time.

In some cases, leaders discover that resources are

See JOB, Page 12

AGENTS, continued from Page 5

Become a voter registrar. We all know that life happens and that knowledge is power. You will be amazed at the amount of members of your community who might not be registered to vote or have the knowledge of how to become registered. By being a voter registrar, you can ensure that the members of your community are armed with the right resources and tools to allow their voices to be heard through their vote.

Practice what you preach. Have you received a Jury

Duty notice lately? Serve. One of the components of the Sixth Amendment of the United States Constitution is the guarantee of a fair jury. Serve and help guarantee that one of the most basic of rights is ensured.

Know the difference between being informed and being obsessed. Do not spend too much time entrenched in the media attention focused on the new President. Instead, stay focused on holding him accountable and on the ways to address the many issues that

impact your community.

Vote. Regardless of what anyone tells you, exercising your right to VOTE is the most powerful way to voice your opinion on the direction of your community, city, state, and country!

Ultimately, change starts with you, so become the change that you want to see in your community.

Jesurobo A. Enobakhare, Jr., is the founder and mind behind Jesurobo's Thoughts, an informative blog that covers an array of topics including politics, social injustices and current events.

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ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT CENTER

FARCE, continued from Page 10

tions that ensue when three different sets of hopeful lovers (Christian Black and Julia Kendry, Eddy Herring and Vera Brumley, and Katrina Jones and Deron Wade) all converge on the bedroom of the Markham's (Molly Bower and Gary Eoff) supposedly empty flat, assuring a hectic and hilarious evening for all, espe-

cially when you add a conservative children's book author (Nancy Lamb) to the mix.

Ticket prices for Move Over Mrs. Markham are \$22 Friday and Saturday nights and \$16 on Thursdays and matinees, with \$2 discounts for students and seniors. Tickets may be ordered online at www.roverdramawerks.com.

PAC, continued from Page 1

Pension crisis to the proposed Trinity River tollway.

Between supporting Wood and specifically opposing Kingston, For Our Community PAC's expenditures in the District 14 race exceeded the six-figure mark, including the production of a video which portrayed Kingston as a rude and combative element on the city council. Despite the effort, Kingston managed to pass through the May 6 election unscathed, garnering more than 54 percent of the vote outright and avoiding a runoff.

In West Dallas, For Our Community PAC supported incumbent Monica Alonzo, which drew some criticism associated with the reported opposition to HB 2480 by Alonzo's brother, Texas Sen. Roberto L. Alonzo. The bill

which was filed by Texas Rep. Eric Johnson to alleviate pressure from growing property taxes in the West Dallas district caused by the incursion of new investment, was killed in a political maneuver by GOP lawmakers in Austin. With a \$10,000 donation to the PAC from the co-founders of West Dallas Investments, some questions of motive were raised.

However, Johnson's bill was one of more than 100 bills killed by the Republican Freedom Caucus in a move that is now being called the "Mother's Day Massacre" and is being chalked up to partisan infighting in the legislature. HB 2480 was officially returned to Calendars Committee on May 12. Also, Alonzo and fellow incumbents Casey Thomas and

JOB, continued from Page 11

being wasted because one person has been given too many. Those resources can be reallocated and used more wisely, or the person in that role could be asked to step up more.

Simons did a case study of different roles at Google. It turned out that the sales and marketing folks were overtaxed, while the demands were too soft on soft-

ware engineers. "The tool gave us insight for each job on how to improve it," he says.

Why that job is so hard Prior to developing the online tool, Simons used a paper model to analyze jobs with his MBA and executive education students in his management and strategy execution courses. It dawns on a good third of the busi-

Rick Callahan received, by far, the lowest level of financial support from the PAC. All three combined totaled less than \$21,000.

The For Our Community PAC also weighed in heavily in the District 7, lending its support of more than \$24,000 to incumbent Tiffinni A. Young. Young received the highest number of votes in the May 6 ballot, but did not gain a clear majority and will face challenger Kevin Felder in a runoff.

While the contributions of the For Our Community PAC have left many grumbling, no one has suggested that the PAC has done anything illegal. All indications are that the election rules were followed and these donations are completely allowable.

There are many voices being heard across the country calling for campaign fi-

nance reform, and assertions that money plays too big a role in U.S. elections. It was the primary rallying cry of U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders in the Democratic primary. Until such laws are changed, voters can expect to see such PAC activities continue.

(Disclosure: The North Dallas Gazette endorsed eight candidates in the May 6 election. NDG endorsed the same candidate as For Our Community PAC in the District 3 race, Casey Thomas; and endorsed opposing candidates, Tammy Johnston in District 7, and Tennell Atkins in District 8. NDG reached out to For Our Community PAC for comment, but did not receive a reply by press time.)

ness executives in his courses that either their own roles or other positions they have created in their organizations don't have enough support to meet the demands of the job.

"It's fun to do this with executives because you see the lightbulbs going off in their heads. I've had a number of people tell me, 'Now I understand why that job is so hard,'" Simons says. "It shines a light on the problem."

And at a time when workers are expected to have a laser focus on customers, executives also know good employees will opt to work for organizations that invest in the resources the staff needs to accomplish that task.

"The more you want to be customer-focused in a highly competitive environment," Simons says, "the more you have to give people in the organization the tools they need to succeed."

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Medscape Report: Black doctors make less than white doctors

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Contributor



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African-American physicians earn 15 percent less than White physicians—an average of \$262,000 compared to \$303,000—according to Medscape’s 2017 Physicians Compensation Report.

Approximately 19,200 physicians across 26 areas of medicine were asked questions about annual compensation, race, gender, geography and job satisfaction.

The report, detailed by CBS News, revealed that African-American doctors are less likely to say they feel fairly compensated, with only half agreeing that they’re earning what they should.

“Fifty-percent of African-American physicians don’t feel fairly compensated,” the report’s editor Leslie Kane, a senior director of Medscape Business of Medicine, told CBS.

Racial and gender discrimination may certainly

be a factor, Kane said, but there are other factors as well.

For example, if a doctor treats more Medicaid patients, their reimbursement is usually lower, since employer-insured patients tend to pay better.

How many hours a doctor works and whether they’re in private practice or a clinic can also explain some inequities in pay.

“Tons of factors play into how much a physician makes,” she said.

The survey found that the

gender pay gap is narrower among younger doctors.

Male doctors ages 55 to 69 make 27 percent more than women, but the divide shrinks to 18 percent in physicians under the age of 34.

Being a doctor pays well, but there are still major discrepancies when it comes to paychecks within the medical profession. For the first time, the annual report looked at race as well as gender and other factors, revealing some significant disparities in pay.

Physicians’ annual salaries averaged \$294,000, with specialists earning about \$100,000 more than primary care doctors.

Overall, average pay has risen by \$88,000 over the seven years Medscape has been conducting this survey—an increase attributed to intense competition for doctors among hospitals and health care systems.

The three highest-paying specialties were orthopedics (average annual compensation: \$489,000), plastic surgery (\$440,000) and cardiology (\$410,000). They earned well over twice as much as the average pediatrician (\$202,000) and family physician (\$209,000), the two lowest-paying categories.

A deeper dive into the data shows male doctors take home bigger paychecks in both primary care and specialty areas such as orthopedics and surgery.

Male primary care physicians made 15 percent more than women in 2016, while male specialists earned 31

percent more than their female colleagues.

Part of the reason may be that women are more likely to choose lower-paying specialties, Kane said.

“One of the things we look at is why there is this overall disparity. We look at what specialties women are going into and they go into less well-paying areas,” she said.

“Fifty-three percent of pediatricians are women, one of lowest paid specialties. Thirty-nine percent of family physicians are women, also a lower-paying area,” Kane said.

When it comes to the more highly paid medical specialties, only 9 percent of women are orthopedists and only 20 percent of general surgeons are female, Kane added.

African-American doctors typically work in primary care rather than specialties, the survey noted.

The annual compensation survey delved into race for the first time, said Kane, who has edited the report for seven years.

The report revealed higher salaries in rural states. Doctors in North Dakota are the highest paid in the U.S. followed by Alaska, South Dakota and Nebraska.

Washington D.C. counts as the lowest, while New York hovers toward the bottom of the list, which Kane and others chalk up to supply and demand; plenty of doctors cluster in big cities, while rural areas need to offer more money to attract staff.

Patients may be glad to know that regardless of pay, most doctors like what they do: eight out of 10 physicians said they’d still choose medicine if they had the chance to pick a career all over again.

TRAUMA, continued from Page 7

prior to survey and verification.

“This designation is part of Medical City Health-

care’s commitment to deliver the high-quality health-care services our community needs, when and where

they need them,” says Erol Akdamar, FACHE, president of Medical City Healthcare, “Patients now have access to some of the best clinicians and medical care in the region, and to-

gether, the Medical City Healthcare network of hospitals, surgery centers, ERs, and CareNow urgent care locations are unified in elevating the standard of care for all of our patients.”



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May 21, 9:45 a.m.
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May 24, 7 p.m.
Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Pastor Brenda Patterson, Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner and others teaching a series on "Design for Discipleship and Understanding the Bible, Book 7, Chapter 3." Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you. It's Time to Grow; Ephesians 4:12 & 13.

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May 21, 8 a.m.
Join us in our Sunday Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall followed by our Sunday Worship Services and bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

May 24, 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. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

June 11, 9:30 a.m.
You're invited to join us for "Graduation Recognition" with special performance by Chris Roland, AKA Samson, you don't want to miss this.

June 12 until August 20
This is a 70 Day Challenge in seven stages of development by praying daily; reading the book of the quarter, Chase the Lion by Mark Batterson; preparing a household budget for the summer; exercising at least three days a week; a Spiritual Workout on a Sunday, Wednesday or Saturday; Tithing the Bible Way; and learning how to forgive. Call the church for details.

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May 21, 10 a.m.
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as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

May 22, 7 p.m.
Join us in Monday School as we grow in God's Word and learn what God has to say to us.

May 23, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Mary L. Rush Children's College Graduation. Be a witness to these young people experiencing the joy of achieving a goal toward their future.

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May 21, 10 a.m.
Join us for Worship Service

as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory; and don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

May 24, 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.

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other and to the world. John 12:26.

May 21, 8 a.m.
Women's Day Celebration; ladies join the Women of Shiloh for their annual Women's Day Celebration activities started the week of the May 15. Call the church for details.

May 24, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to 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."
June 5-9, 7:30 p.m. Until 9 p.m.
Vacation Bible School Children from 3 years to 18 years are invited join us for fun learning, fellowship and inspiration. This year's theme is "Glow for Jesus".

Our church ministries offer opportunities for motivation and growth; join us and see. Be blessed of the Lord.

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Mothers, how special they are!



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Often when we were together reminiscing, as my siblings and I did from time to time, I thought about some of the "fun" things that our mother did and said to her children when we were younger; I would start laughing.

Our mother, Mrs. Cedella Baker Demus was funny, very smart, full of God's wisdom, trustworthy, loveable and the greatest mom, according to her eight children.

My siblings and I all agreed that if you would line-up mothers from one end of the world to the next and asked us to pick the perfect mother for us, without a doubt, Mrs. Cedella Baker Demus is our choice.

God made her special for us and to us. She has been in Heaven 33 years now and we still miss her.

Some years ago, I received the following from a friend; I am sharing this with you today in honor of my deceased mother and my daughter, Minister

Sheila Tarpley Lott, who is the mother of three of my four grandchildren, Tyanna, David and Philip.

I pray that it will cause you to pause and think of some of the fun things that your mom said as you were growing up.

My Mother Taught Me ...
...Consideration for Others: "Be nice and respectful because if I die, someone will want to help take of you."

... To Have a Clean Body and Clean under Garments: "Make certain you have taken a bath and have on clean under garments, you might have an accident."

... Logic: "If you fall off that swing and break your neck, you can't go to the store with me."

...Medicine: "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they're going to freeze that way."

... To Think Ahead: "If you don't pass your spelling test, you'll never get a good job!" ... **ESP:** "Put your sweater on; don't you think that I know when you're cold?"

... To Meet a Challenge: "What were you thinking?" "Answer me when I talk to you!" "Don't talk back to me!"

... Humor: "When that lawn mower cuts off your

toes, don't come running to me."

... How to Become an Adult: "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

... Genetics: "You are just like your father!"

... My Roots: "Close that door, do you think you were born in a barn?"

... The Wisdom of Age: "Just keep living; I don't have to say a word, you will understand."

... Justice: "One day you will have kids; I hope they turn out just like YOU what it's like!" (This one really is called the Mother's

Curse.)

Special gifts to give mothers: Your Assurance that you really do remember the things that you were taught and always will.

Plenty of Reasons for her to feel proud of you, which you will achieve by always striving to be and to do my best.

A Sincere Apology for any and all headaches that I caused you when I was growing up. A Gift Certificate of Love to be redeemed anytime and as many times as you want for anything that I can ever do for you.

My Promise that no mat-

ter how far away from home that I may travel, you are never far from my heart.

An Invitation to always be a part of my life and to never feel that you have to ask. A Bunch of Wishes that

you have the peace, joy and happiness in your life, which you are so deserving of.

My Love forever and always. —Anna Marie Edwards.

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Sister Tarpley was surprised by her son, Carl and Granddaughter, Kiersten Goff as they worshiped with her at church on Mother's Day 2017.

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

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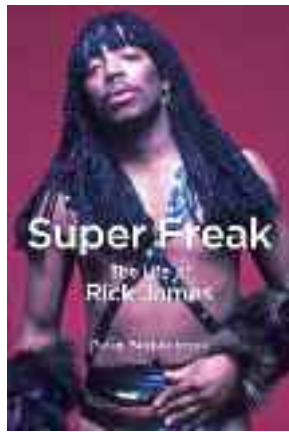
NDG Book Review: *Super Freak: The Life of Rick James*

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Your feet sometimes have a mind of their own.

You see your favorite foods, and they carry you toward lunch before you even realize you're hungry. When you're faced with danger, they take you in the right direction, away and safe. And when you read "Super Freak: The Life of Rick James" by Peter Benjaminson, your feet just gotta dance.

James Ambrose Johnson Jr. was born in Buffalo, New York, on February 1, 1948, into a family filled with talent and power: little Rick (no explanation for the nick-



name) was related to politicians and journalists, actors and performers. Even his mother had once been a dancer, and was said to have transferred her desire for fame onto her talented third-born child.

Though the family was often fatherless, Rick's mother ran a tight ship and worked as a numbers runner to feed and clothe her children, who later remembered being well cared-for. She also insisted that her children attend Catholic Mass, but Rick was a perpetual troublemaker. A former alter boy, he was kicked out of the program for being "too hyper," started running away from home at age five, lost his virginity at age nine, and began experimenting with drugs. As for school, it was something he "tried to avoid entirely."

At sixteen, Rick joined the U.S. Navy, but he

skipped out on his obligation and slipped into Canada in 1964. There, he found other musicians who let him perform with them, and his talent "was blazingly obvious." He founded bands, found sponsorship, and set his sights on Motown, where he was turned away at least twice before he was finally accepted to work as a producer and songwriter.

With his talents so openly on display, Rick began to work his way toward his goal of having a best-seller with Motown. He wrote, performed, got that hit, and was hired to produce for Diana Ross, a gig he turned down to work with Teena

Marie.

Unfortunately, he didn't turn down the drugs that had become a part of his life, nor did he turn down the many women who clamored for his attention on the road.

In the end, it was the former that contributed to his death.

Though it often reads like the combination of a novel and a supermarket tabloid, "Super Freak" isn't bad. It's not great, either.

Like so many biographers of music stars, author Peter Benjaminson includes too much here: too many names dropped, too much minutiae on performances and, when

it comes to Rick James' private life, too much information. Indeed, Benjaminson's occasional lack of discretion and his explicitness are cringe-worthy.

And yet, there are some nice surprises here: Benjaminson doesn't try to gloss over James' problems, legally, or with drugs or women. This book's early chapters set up a good story, which is readable even when the telling of it falters.

Overall, while it may be browse-able by anyone who loved music, circa 1969-1980, the audience for this book is much narrower: "Super Freak" is probably more for super fans.

Graphic novel about African slave turned prince in Sweden

(BlackNews.com) -- Author and illustrator Eric C. M. Basir releases a graphic novel project that is also a historical fiction masterpiece. *Badin and the Secret of the Saami* is a 116-page epic saga, set in 18th-century Sweden. This fast paced graphic novel involves a mystery, featuring Swedish (and African born) Prince Badin and the indigenous Saami community in an exciting adventure to save the future of humanity.



ready inhabited. Populations that have historically occupied these territories were often ignored, pushed aside, stripped of their rights, and omitted from history.

From the Saami peoples of Sápmi (modern-day Sweden), to Aborigines of Australia, to Native Ameri-

can nations and the indigenous populations of Canada, throughout history and from continent to continent, their plight has been echoed. Colonization ushered in not only the demise of indigenous populations, but in the most extreme cases, elimination. These

are the voices and stories of people who have been silenced throughout history.

Badin, an African slave adopted as a child by Queen Lovisa Ulrika, has mystified historians and writers for hundreds of years. Once adopted, Badin was embraced by the Swedish roy-

als and regarded as a trusted family member. He was fluent in several languages, became a member of several, exclusive secret societies -- including the Freemasons (only possible for those of the noble class), and was a volunteer in the Swedish Army. He was also affluent,

owning multiple properties and financially supporting his wife and her family. Badin's role in government was envoy to the Queen, and he may have also held a law degree, yet he is often slandered by historians and relegated to either an imp or an inferior sexual deviant.

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Panel Discussion to address 11 churches' responses to President Trump's stance on Immigration

WHEN: June 3, 2017 at 3:00 PM

Part 2 - WHAT: Confession - Recognition - Commitment

WHEN: Pentecost Sunday - June 4, 2017 at 4:00 PM