

# North Dallas Gazette



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## DFW "Goes Red" and stands up to heart disease in February

The DFW Metroplex is gearing up to celebrate all things 'heart' when the American Heart Association (AHA) celebrates National Heart Month in February. Heart disease is still the No. 1 killer of women in America. This means mothers, sisters and friends are dying at the rate of one

per minute because they don't know that heart disease kills. That's why Go Red for Women is asking everyone in North Texas to participate in the 9th Annual National Wear Red Day on Friday, February 3, to make ending heart disease a reality.

Currently, nearly eight



million women in the U.S. are living with heart disease, yet only one in six women believe heart disease is her greatest health threat. In fact, 90 percent of women have one or more risk factors for developing heart disease. February is

See HEART, Page 5

## Tax refunds: Yours to keep, not lose to high-cost lenders

BY CHARLENE CROWELL

Each year as W-2s begin arriving in mailboxes, commercials start promoting a range of services to 'help' consumers with tax preparation. These advertisements beckon consumers to take ad-

vantage of convenient and worry-free services.

In reality, however, many tax season services are less about convenience and more about taking a hefty portion of refunds consumers have already earned. Each year, high cost tax-related services drain an estimated \$11 billion

from the pockets of 30 million households with moderate and low-incomes. Two of the most prevalent and high-cost financial 'services' are Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs) and Refund Anticipation Checks (RACs).

A RAL is a high-cost, short-term loan secured by

the taxpayer's expected refund. Interest rates on a typical RAL are about 150 percent. The fee for the RAL is in addition to the fee for tax preparation. Other add-on fees such as electronic filing, applications, and fees to cash

See REFUND, Page 12

## This Valentine's Day getting married is about love not money

Valentine's Day is usually about hearts, candies and greeting cards. For two local business owners, this Valentine's Day is about couples making their wedding day simply about love. Beginning February 12, 2012, owners of the Spa Bar and Events with Love are hosting 8 days of

wedding and vow renewal ceremonies under their Just Add Love event service. Just Add Love is a budget friendly service designed to take care of wedding day details; all the couples need to do is show up and add their love.

According to Cerissa Powdrill, a certified wed-

ding planner and owner of Events with Love, "our goal was to focus on love and bring simplicity to the forefront. We want the couples to enjoy their day and be surrounded by love."

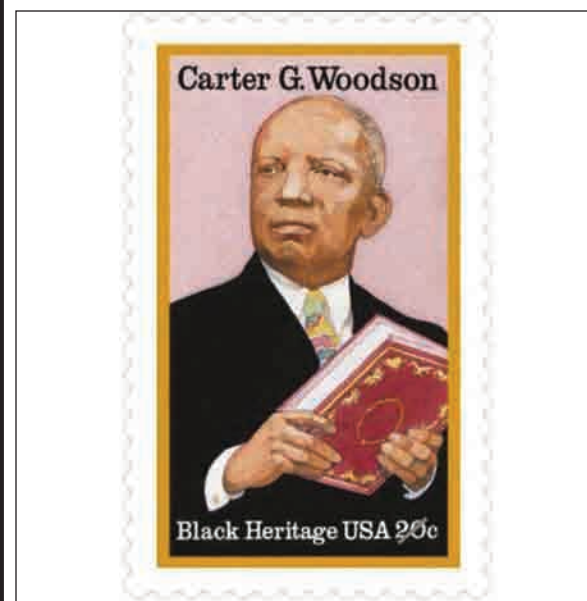
For \$1,500, couples will have a 2 hour event at the Spa Bar, which is located in the Design Ware-

house District. The event will be officiated by an ordained minister and includes such special touches as photography services, floral arrangements for the couple and event space, crystal chandelier, unity candle set and ceremony

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COVER STORY

## Recognizing the Father of Black History



See BLACK, Page 9



## Mary J. Blidge Has Man Problems Again

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

COMMENTARY

## Romney has faces to mend to gain Hispanic votes

(New America Media) Mitt Romney, the Republican Party's presumptive presidential candidate, made his first attempts to gain critical support from Latino voters in January, but failed to confront his own negative record on issues of high priority to Latino voters.

During a primary race stop in New Hampshire Jan. 9, he spoke of the need to "convince more Latino Americans

to vote Republican" if the GOP wants to be competitive in November against the Democrats and President Barack Obama, who is already campaigning for reelection.

Running against John McCain in 2008, Obama won 67 percent of the Latino vote.

In an interview with Univision Jan. 11, Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-Calif.) commented that if

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## People In The News...



Dr. Lawana Gladney



Ryan Crocker



James Brown

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## Dr. Lawana Gladney

Dr. Lawana Gladney (Dr.G), life expert, success psychologist and emotional wellness doctor has been recognized with two coveted honors. On Feb.3, she will receive the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce's "Quest for Success Award" and on Feb. 17, she will moderate a panel of health and wellness experts for Black Enterprise's 2012 "Women of Power Summit" taking place in Orlando, Florida.

"I am so honored to be recognized by the Dallas Black Chamber of Com-

merce for such a prestigious award and to be a participant of Black Enterprise's Women of Power Summit" said Dr. Lawana Gladney, life expert, psychologist and emotional wellness doctor. "Both organizations play such an integral role in positively impacting the African-American business community."

Dr. Lawana Gladney's business achievements, leadership and dedication to the community have earned her the "Quest for Success Award" which will be presented during the 28th Annual

Quest for Success Awards luncheon taking place at the Dallas Convention Center. Dr. G., along with other award recipients, will be saluted at the event with an award and video presentation documenting her professional success and accomplishments. Additionally, her wealth of knowledge and experience in emotional wellness and empowerment has earned her the role of moderator for the Black Enterprise "Women of Power Summit". At this empowering event designed to offer professional and lifestyle success strategies to executive women of color,



Dr. G. will lead a panel of health and wellness experts

recognized by Meetings Planners International with

in an insightful session titled: "The Na-ked Truth: Uncovering our Sex, Weight, Health & Beauty."

With a continuous commitment to positively impacting the community, Dr. G's business and community contributions have been recognized by several companies and organizations.

In 2011, she was recognized by Meetings Planners International with

the "Supplier of the Year" award and presented empowerment workshops and seminars on the Tom Joyner Fantastic Voyage Cruise and the Allstate® Tom Joyner Family Reunion. She also appeared as a guest expert on Washington Watch with Roland Martin and Baisden after Dark with Michael Baisden. For additional information about Dr. G and her array of empowerment workshops and seminars, please visit [www.emotional-wellnessinc.com](http://www.emotional-wellnessinc.com). To learn about Dr. G's audio coaching series, please visit [www.successinabox.com](http://www.successinabox.com).

## Ryan Crocker

Ryan Crocker is a sixth generation Texan—a fact he shares proudly. In 2011, after returning home from a two-year stint farming in New Mexico, Ryan began an urban-farming initiative in Denton, Texas that quickly grew in popularity. Soon, Earthwise Gardens included 35-plus CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) members, a steady following at the Denton Community Market, and customers clamoring for more! He needed a store. Earthwise Produce was born—a full-scale, local, organic produce shop in downtown Denton, promising the freshest pro-

duce in Texas and scheduled to open March 21, 2012.

Earthwise Produce will host its First Annual Local Food Festival on Saturday, February 11, 2012, from 11:00am until 7:00pm at the new location, 728 N. Elm Street in downtown Denton. This is a fundraising event for Earthwise, including the following local food vendors: Denton Vegan Co-op, Bookish Coffee, Denton Juice Co. and Independent Ale Works of Aubrey. There will be music and live entertainment throughout the day, including a couple of acts for kids, along with an art exhibition, featuring Texas artists, *Wise Earth: Art & Land in Texas*.

Earthwise will continue to design and plant edible gardens for the community, and cultivate its urban farm, with the storefront providing a market for the crops they grow and source locally. In addition to selling organic produce, Ryan hopes to provide a hub for the local food movement in Denton by hosting workshops and educational demonstrations on organic gardening and sustainable living.

Ryan wasn't born a farmer; he became one as he realized that reconnecting to our local land base is a key to solving our environmental problems. "Producing and consuming more food locally is huge," Ryan says.

"The energy saved on food miles is just the beginning — local food enriches people's lives and builds community around something of tangible beauty and quality — great tasting, fresh food!"

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology and spending three years traveling throughout Mexico and Europe, Ryan began his life as an organic farmer. Abandoning mainstream America for a far-flung valley in La Madera, New



Photo by Rowan Ogde

Mexico, he grew a variety of produce for sale at the Santa

Fe Farmers' Market using low-impact methods and plowing with donkeys.

In 2011, he moved with his family back to his home state of Texas. Currently, as the owner of Earthwise Gardens, he runs a CSA and provides local produce to his community in Denton, TX. Ryan has spoken on topics such as poverty for the "Pobreza: La Cara de la Esclavo Nuevo" conference in Mazamitla, Mexico while attending the University of North Texas. When he's not farming, Ryan spends time with his wife and two kids.

For more information visit: <http://earthwise-gardens.com>

## James Brown

Sportscaster James Brown, the host of CBS Network's "The NFL



Today" and Showtime's "Inside the NFL," has teamed with Verizon to launch a national campaign to end domestic violence against women and men.

"Domestic violence is an epidemic in all of our

communities," Brown said. "That deepened my personal commitment and desire to help end domestic violence. It's my hope that millions of men join me in this campaign."

Through this campaign, Brown is promoting respect and equality — respect for yourself and in your relationships — and he's asking men to be informed and be appropriately proactive when they witness disrespectful or abusive behavior.

"I'm here to encourage men and help them understand that they can have a very meaningful impact, much more easily than they think," Brown said. "Don't laugh at that inappropriate joke. Second, don't condone domes-

tic violence with your silence. If you know someone who is abusive — physically, verbally, emotionally or financially — you as men can play a positive role, just like the coach of a team, and be helpful in changing behavior. This campaign will build awareness around the issues of domestic violence prevention and the resources available for helping those experiencing domestic violence and those who perpetrate it."

Rose Stuckey Kirk, president of the Verizon Foundation, said: "Domestic violence knows no boundaries. It affects men and women, every race, every culture and all socioeconomic levels. That's why a very important part of this campaign is educating men and women on how to help someone in need. That means referring

people in need — men and women who are experiencing domestic violence — to resources that can help them live a violence-free life. Verizon welcomes this partnership with James Brown, whose leadership and commitment have helped elevate domestic violence prevention in our national dialogue."

Ted Bunch, co-founder of A CALL TO MEN, a leading national men's organization working to galvanize a movement of men committed to ending violence and discrimination against women and girls, said, "Violence against women is rooted in the underlying belief that women are less valuable than and the property of men."

Brown added: "I want dads, coaches, teachers and other men of influence who engage young men to actively reinforce the value

of women and girls. This is a major step in the process

of eliminating the problem. **See BROWN, Page 13**

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# The Real Ingredients in Class Warfare

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney constantly accuses President Barack Obama of fomenting "class warfare" and stoking "envy" among the have-nots for the wealth of the "haves." Without a doubt, class warfare is afoot in our nation, but it is Romney's own tax and budget plans that will further divide our nation because of his assault on poor and middle-class Americans alike.

Mitt Romney's tax and budget plans would undermine the ability of millions of struggling Americans to meet the basic need of securing affordable health care. This assault on the 99 percent comes in at the exact same

cost as his offer of additional tax cuts to the

wealthiest 1 percent of Americans.

Here's the math:

TABLE 1

## Romney's tax and budget plan and its consequences

Comparing his tax breaks for the 1 percent to cuts to healthcare for the 99 percent

Tax breaks for the 1 percent in Gov. Romney's plan	Cuts to health care for the 99 percent
<b>\$2.24 trillion over 10 years</b>	<b>\$2.17 trillion over 10 years</b>
Amount of tax breaks to the top 1 percent of earners in Romney's tax plan	Cuts to Medicaid (\$771 billion) and subsidies for low- and moderate-income families to purchase health insurance under health care reform (1.4 trillion)
<b>Beneficiaries:</b>	<b>People who could be affected</b>
The 1 percent with an average income of \$1.25 million	At least 72 million nonelderly people with Medicaid or who will be turning to new health exchanges or Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act as their primary source of coverage

Source: For the tax side, author's calculations are based on Tax Policy Center analysis showing that 34.3 percent of tax change goes to top 1 percent, and Center for American Progress Action Fund analysis shows that Romney's tax plan totals \$6.6 trillion over 10 years—34.3 percent of this is \$2.24 trillion. For spending cuts side, Medicaid and health reform numbers come from Center on Budget and Policy Priorities paper; and the 72 million Medicaid number comes from calculations based on CBO study.



## ROMNEY, continued from Page 1

Romney is serious about trying to recruit Latinos to vote for him, he must change his tough stance on immigration. "He's right that he has to attract Latino voters. He's wrong in that every time he says something, he does anything but attract Latinos to his candidacy," Becerra said.

Romney also stated during a Dec. 31 campaign stop in New Hampshire that, if elected, he would veto the DREAM Act.

On Jan. 11, the same day his campaign released a Spanish-language commercial, Romney enthusiastically accepted the endorsement of Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who helped shape Arizona's and Alabama's immigration laws. Kobach is active with the Federation for American Immigration Reform, an organization the Southern Poverty Law Center has identified as a "hate group."

Adam Busto, president of Somos Republicans, points to Romney's endorsement from Kobach as well as his stances on immigration and the DREAM Act as examples of how the candidate is out of touch with issues impor-

tant to Latinos. Somos Republicans is the country's largest such organization, with 6,000 members. Busto said that unless Romney changes his stance on the DREAM Act, the group would not support him if he becomes the Republican nominee. His group would even consider supporting a Democrat or a presidential candidate from another party, he

told Hispanic Link.

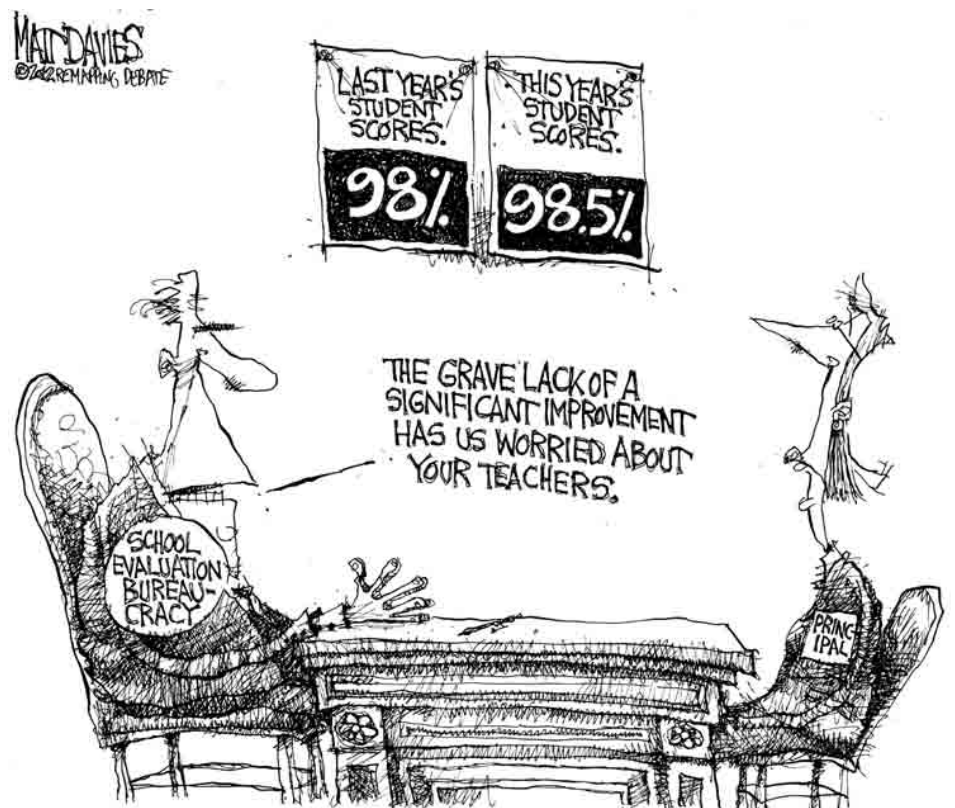
Busto states, "Any candidate that has the Latino support behind him could win the presidency" but Romney won't get support from Republican Latinos "if he's going to veto the DREAM Act, like he claims, and if he's going to accept the support of people like Kris Kobach."

Most analysts claim a GOP candidate must gain

at least 40 percent of the Hispanic vote to win the White House. A Dec. 28 Pew Hispanic Center poll showed in a match-up with Obama, Romney would get 23 percent of that vote while President Obama would get 68 percent.

Griselda Nevarez is a reporter with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C.

## Catch-22 for great schools





## Celebrities selected as spokespersons for 12th Annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Celebrities and community leaders such as Civil Rights Activist Reverend Al Sharpton; Actress and AIDS Activist Sheryl Lee Ralph; Television and Radio Personality Big Tigger, Congresswoman Barbara Lee; AIDS Activist Rae Lewis Thornton; Internationally Acclaimed Author and Pastor Terry Angel Mason; Pastor and Community Leader Reverend Edwin Sanders, Author and Political Strategist Sophia Nelson, Miss Black USA Ocelia Gibson, Author and AIDS Activist Marvelyn Brown, and HIV/AIDS Youth Advocate Christopher Barnhill have joined together to serve as the 2012 National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Spokespersons to empower thousands of Black communities across the country to mobilize and join a

national movement to stop the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Actress Sheryl Lee Ralph shared, "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is February 7, 2012. I am my Brother/Sister's Keeper: Fight HIV/AIDS is this year's rally cry for the Black Community to get educated, get tested, get treated, and get involved in the National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on February 7th. AIDS is destroying our Brothers and Sisters at an alarming rate. According to the Center for Disease Control, since this epidemic began nearly a quarter of a million African-Americans have lost their lives to AIDS. The most critical AIDS issue facing the African-American Community is ignorance and stigma. The more we concentrate on prevention, the more we'll see bits and bits of change, which is a good thing."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), African Americans are the ethnic group most affected by HIV. CDC's latest reports show that African Americans comprise 14 percent of the U.S. population but account for 44 percent of all new HIV infections.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is February 7, 2012. I am my Brother/Sister's Keeper: Fight HIV/AIDS is this year's rally cry for the Black Community

to get educated, get tested, get treated, and get involved in the National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on February 7th. AIDS is destroying our Brothers and Sisters at an alarming rate. According to the Center for Disease Control, since this epidemic began nearly a quarter of a million African-Americans have lost their lives to AIDS. The most critical AIDS issue facing the African-American Commu-



**Sheryl Lee Ralph**

nity is ignorance and stigma. The more we concentrate on prevention, the more we'll see bits and bits of change, which is a good thing."

"African American men, women, and young people are all affected by this epidemic," said Nycal Anthony-Townsend, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, Strategic Leadership Council Chairperson. "...so we selected spokespersons that can reach, influence, and empower all individuals to get educated, get tested, and get

treated for HIV/AIDS. Our theme this year is I am my Brother/Sister's Keeper: Fight HIV/AIDS, and we have to challenge that mindset in our homes, communities, workplace, churches, mosques, and temples, because we all need to take a stand against HIV/AIDS."

The mission of the National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day aligns with the goals of President Obama's National HIV/AIDS Strategy to:

1. reduce the number of people who become infected with HIV;

2. increase access to care and optimizing health outcomes for people living with HIV; and

3. reduce HIV-related health disparities.

"We are all sick because of AIDS – and we are all tested by this crisis" said President Barack Obama. "Neither philanthropist nor scientist, neither government nor church, can solve this problem on their own – AIDS must be an all-hands-on-deck effort."

As the first HIV/AIDS awareness day formed by any affinity group, the National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a national HIV/AIDS community mobilization effort designed to encourage Blacks across the U.S. and Territorial Areas to get educated, get tested, get treated,

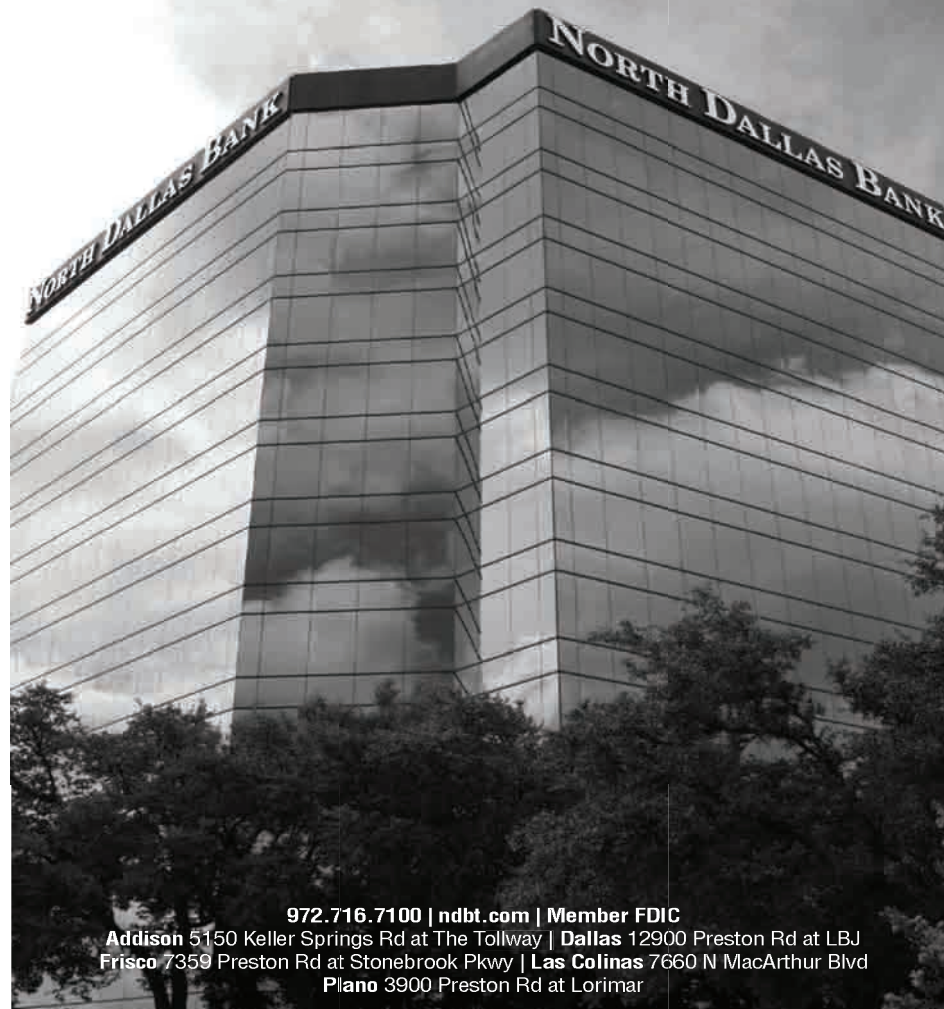
and get involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS, as it continues to devastate Black communities. Currently, the National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is directed, planned and organized by a group known as the Strategic Leadership Council who partners with 12 national organizations to mobilize communities and address specific issues in regards to local epidemics. They include:

- 100 Black Men of America, Inc.
- Advocates for Youth, Inc.
- Alliances for Quality Education, Inc.
- Balm in Gilead, Inc.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Huston-Tillotson University
- Institute of the Black World
- My Brother's Keeper, Inc.
- Multi-Cultural Addictions Network, Inc.
- National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS
- Rae Lewis Thornton Foundation, Inc.

For more information on National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, national spokespersons, or events that will be held across the U.S., visit [www.NationalBlackAIDS.org](http://www.NationalBlackAIDS.org).

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## Interested in running for office in Irving?

Residents who are interested in becoming a candidate for a City Council position can pick up a candidate packet from the City Secretary's Office at City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd. Candidate Packets also are available online. The 30-day filing period is Feb. 4-March 5.

This year, council places 4, 6 and 8 will be

elected in the general election held on May 12. Since Places 4 and 6 are single-member districts, candidates must be a resident of the city and have lived in the respective district for at least one year preceding election day. Position 8 is an at-large position and can-



didates can reside anywhere within the city limits.

For more information, call 972-721-2493.

## Proposed jointly funded recreation center gets input from residents

Last week, the City of Richardson and Murphy held a joint community meeting to gather input from residents regarding a new recreation center proposed for Breckinridge Park located in east Richardson. The two cities are currently funding a feasibility study to research the viability of a joint center, and to determine what kind of amenities to include if a new center is constructed. Nearly 200 people attended the meeting. They heard a presentation on the background of the project, and provided feedback on activities they desired for a future facility.

Breckinridge Park's master plan for the future includes a recreation center to one day be built on the site. Its close proximity to the



cities of Murphy, Garland, Plano and Sachse make it a good candidate for possibly creating a jointly funded facility that would provide extra amenities while also saving money. So far, Murphy and Richardson are the only two communities currently working together to

create the project, but it is hoped that others may also come on board.

Cost for a future facility will depend on the level of amenities that are added. Both cities agree that creating unique activities would create the most benefit to try to attract residents and other additional partners for the project. The City of Richardson anticipates that funding for a joint facility would need to be supported by a future bond program that would have to be approved by voters.

## LOVE, continued from Page 1

music. The ceremony will be followed by a champagne and cake reception for up to 40 guests and includes a 6"x8" 2-tier wedding cake, tables with linen, music and more.

The owners have reached into their "network of resources to identify some of the best vendors that will help make each ceremony special" said Fatesta Bateman, owner of The Spa Bar. "We're just excited to be able to do this at a reasonable price point. Couples don't have to go to Vegas or the justice of the peace to get married on a budget. They can stay here in Dallas and invite their closest friends and family to the celebration."

Couples interested in participating in Just Add Love should visit [www.justaddlove.eventbrite.com](http://www.justaddlove.eventbrite.com) or contact The Spa Bar directly at [event@thespabar.com](mailto:event@thespabar.com) or (214) 716-0529.

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## Gerontologist to speak at VNA Bereavement Luncheon February 23

Gerontologist Dee Wadsworth will speak on "Am I Losing My Memory? Tips and Tricks for Grieving People" at the February 23 bereavement luncheon hosted by the Visiting Nurse Association. The luncheon is from noon

to 1 p.m. at the Church of the Incarnation on 3966 McKinney Avenue in Dallas.

There is no cost to attend the luncheon, but reservations are requested and can be made through February 21 by calling

214-689-2633.

VNA's bereavement luncheons offer supportive company from friendly and understanding people to individuals who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

## HEART, continued from Page 1

filled with educational events and activities, and is geared to educate everyone, regardless of age, in the local community about the effects of heart disease and stroke. Go Red for Women is nationally sponsored by Macy's and Merck, and locally sponsored in North Texas by Texas Health Resources.

Friday, February 3rd is National Wear Red Day and local business and individuals pledge to 'Go Red' to show support for the Go Red for Women movement. For information on how a company can register, please contact Kathryn Bashaw for Tarrant County and Claire Kinzy for Dallas and Denton. For local information visit [www.heart.org/northtexasgoesred](http://www.heart.org/northtexasgoesred).

Heart Disease is the

number one cause of death in women over the age of 20. The Go Red for Women campaign is the AHA's movement that celebrates the energy, passion and power of women to band together to wipe out heart disease. The cornerstone of this movement is the Go Red for Women Luncheon, an empowering event that focuses on preventing heart disease and stroke by promoting healthy lifestyles and raising money to support awareness, education and research of heart health in women.

The AHA supports efforts to educate lawmakers through awareness activities related to the Go Red for Women movement, which helps women fight back against the number one killer of American women –

heart disease.

Go Red Por Tu Corazón: The truth is: Despite the heightened risk, most Latinas are still unaware of the threat to themselves and their families. On average, Hispanic women are likely to develop heart disease 10 years earlier than non-Hispanic white women. Small changes can make a big difference. Making heart-healthy eating choices helps ensure that you will be able to keep enjoying moments with those you love. The AHA's Go Red Por Tu Corazón invites Latinas across the country to learn the truth about heart disease. Visit [GoRedCorazon.org](http://GoRedCorazon.org) or call 1-888-474-VIVE to get a free red dress pin and heart health information for you and those you care about.

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**IT ALL BEGINS HERE.**



## Kennedy-Curry Middle School is dedicated

Dallas ISD Board of Trustees President Lew Blackburn and Interim Division Executive Dorothy Gomez joined Kennedy-Curry Middle School Principal Regina Rice, community leaders, students, district staff, and school alumni in a ceremony to celebrate the reopening of the school.

The event featured the Wilmer-Hutchins High School Naval JROTC and a performance by the Bluebelles Drill Team.

Kennedy-Curry Middle School received an expansion that added almost 60,000 square feet and renovations of more than 70,000 square feet of existing space as part of the 2008 bond program. The renovations included the addition of a new auditorium, locker rooms, and cafeteria expansion as well as new air conditioning units and electrical upgrades.

The environmentally sustainable school opened in the fall of 2011 and serves nearly 700 middle



school students. Previously, due to the closing of the Wilmer-Hutchins school district, children in the area had been bused to other schools throughout the Dallas ISD.



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### 7 Jazz Divas Concert

*Featuring*  
*Jazz In Pink*  
*and*  
*Maysa from Incognito*

Saturday, February 4, 2012  
8 PM  
Naomi Bruton Main Stage  
Dallas Convention Center Theater Complex  
(Corner of Canton and Akard Streets)  
Dallas, TX

Hosted by  
TBAAL Board Members  
Beverly Bolden, Annette Williams and Gwen Hunt  
and TBAAL Women's Guild

### The Black Academy of Arts and Letters

### Celebrating Cancer Survivors

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters invites you to bring a cancer survivor to 7 Jazz Divas featuring Jazz In Pink and MAYSA from Incognito! Don't miss this thrilling night of entertainment dedicated to cancer survivors.

We want to hear cancer survival stories. If you or someone you know is a cancer survivor, email stories to [marketing@tbaal.org](mailto:marketing@tbaal.org) or call 214-743-2442. Cancer survivors will be recognized at performance.

**\$15 Orchestra Level | \$10 Mezzanine**

**WELLS  
FARGO**



Col. George S. "Spanky" Roberts

Lt. Col. James A. Walker

## Honoring service that goes above and beyond

The Tuskegee Airmen soared to new heights when they became the first African American pilots to serve in the U.S. armed forces. They were known for their heroism, teamwork and honorable conduct in the air and on the ground. Following decades of distinguished military service, Tuskegee Airmen Col. George S. Roberts and Lt. Col. James A. Walker continued their commitment to service as two of the original personal banking officers at Wells Fargo.

Wells Fargo is proud to celebrate Black History as we honor the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and the contributions that African Americans have made in enriching our company and encouraging us all to reach new heights.

To learn more about the heroism of the Tuskegee Airmen, check out *Red Tails* – in theaters now.

[wellsfargo.com](http://wellsfargo.com)

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Together we'll go far





## Volunteer recognized by City of Irving

The Plano Senior Recreation Center will hold a dedication ceremony at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 2 to honor Joseph A. Hill, a senior volunteer for the City of Plano who passed away in 2011. Guest speakers at the event will include Mayor Phil Dyer, City Manager Bruce Glascock and retired City Manager Tom Muehlenbeck.

Following Joe Hill's death in January 2011, members of the Plano Senior Council voted to install a bronze plaque honoring Joe for his many years and thousands of hours of extraordinary volunteerism on behalf of the senior citizens of Plano. A volunteer-fundraiser was initiated to



Joe Hill

allow Joe's many friends to join in the effort to pay for the cost of this plaque. The response was overwhelming. This memorial plaque dedicated to Joe Hill has also been designed to recognize others who have provided a high

level of service on behalf of the senior citizens of Plano.

At the dedication ceremony, the first three recipients of the Joe Hill Distinguished Service Award will also be honored. Each was an integral part of the Plano Senior Coalition for which Joe Hill served as president. Each has distinguished himself over a period of years by providing the same level of extraordinary service deserving of special recognition by their peers. Those recipients are Dean Stewart of Plano, Sally Farley of Las Vegas and posthumously Cecil West.

The Plano Senior Recreation Center is located at 401 West 16th Street in Plano.

## Black History celebration at Allen Library

BY TOM KEENER  
NDG SPECIAL  
CONTRIBUTOR

A 33-year U.S. Army and Navy veteran, Col. Ralph Hodge's assignments included tours of duty in the Korean and Viet Nam conflicts and he served with a number of other esteemed military notables. He will discuss his role in those wars and his military career at the Allen Public Library, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 9. A recipient of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, Col. Hodge will be escorted to the podium by Boy Scout Troop 328.

A descendant of Captain



Colonel Ralph Hodge

Thomas Nelson and his mulatto servant Jenny, Col. Hodge has had a life-long fascination with his family genealogy. Captain Nelson served with General George Washington in the Battle of Trenton during the Ameri-

can Revolution. Nelson and Jenny had six children, one being Harry Spurlock from whom Col. Hodge's family descended. Because interracial marriage was prohibited at that time, the children could not carry their father's name.

"My grandmother was mulatto who appeared white and married Roger Hodge, a black man," Col. Hodge notes. "My family is comprised of red heads, blue-eyed whites and blacks."

Sponsored by Bach to Books, Adult Services and VFW 2195, this program is free. For information, call 214-509-4911.

## The City of Irving's Minority/Women Business Enterprise Program working well

BY LATRISHA  
MCDUFFIE

The City of Irving unanimously adopted the Minority/Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE) program in 2009. With each vote, the city

demonstrated its commitment to include minority- and woman-owned businesses at the table throughout the procurement process.

The idea behind the M/WBE Program was to ensure that qualified minority-

and women-owned businesses are actively solicited and given an equal opportunity to compete and participate in the City's competitive bidding process. Last year

See PROGRAM, Page 13



## Career Training That Works!

At North Texas Job Corps, students receive the skills needed to succeed in today's workforce - **AT NO COST** to them or their families!

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**THE SECRET LIFE OF GIRLS**  
presented by **THE HERSH FOUNDATION** and  
**THE M.R. AND EVELYN HUDSON FOUNDATION**  
**FEB 10 - FEB 26, 2012**  
BY LINDA DAUGHERTY  
ENJOYED BY AGES 12 AND UP  
CONTAINS MATURE SUBJECT MATTER AND STRONG LANGUAGE. MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR YOUNGER AUDIENCES.

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**Ft. Worth Councilman Joel Burns, Children's Medical Center,  
Girls to Women, and the Family Place**

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**Ongoing**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce general membership event, Monthly every 2nd Thursday, 6:30 p.m., at various locations within Collin County. Speakers, Power Networking, Business Re-

ferrals, and more! [www.ccblackchamber.org](http://www.ccblackchamber.org) or call 469 424-0120.

**Through February 6**

Lewisville Independent School District students will have a **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. art exhibit** on display at the Medical Center of Lewisville Grand Theater located at 100 N. Charles St. The works of art were part of the district's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art and Essay Contest.

**Through February 11**

**"Death By Chocolate"** by Garland Civic Theatre's Granville Arts Center Info: [www.GarlandCivicTheatre.org](http://www.GarlandCivicTheatre.org) or call 972-485-8884

**Through April 2**

**Intermediate Sign Language Classes** will be offered on Monday nights from 5:30-6:45 p.m., in the Britain library, 631 Edmondson. Classes are free to families of deaf students, \$10 for district employees and \$20 for all others. For more information, call 972-600-3821

**Through December 8**

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

**Through April 29**

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

**February 2-4  
6th Annual Texas Black**

**Film Festival** at the Studio Movie Grill in Dallas at Royal Lane & 75 Central Expy

**February 4**

**Royal Comedy Tour** featuring Sommore, Arnez J, Earthquake, Mark Curry, and Tony Rock on tap for the Verizon Theatre. [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**Advanced Real Estate Techniques** a full day workshop at Marriott Residence Inn, 7642 LBJ Freeway (at Coit Road), Dallas from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. EARLY Registration - thru Jan. 31 (11:30 pm) - \$ 175 or Advance Registration - after Jan. 31 & at the door\* - \$ 225. <https://www.wepay.com/events/87339>

**February 7**

At the request of the Garland City Council the public hearing for the **Envision Garland 2030 Comprehensive Plan** was rescheduled to allow for additional Council review.

**"Kid Power's Operation Lunch Line in 3D"** at 10 a.m. at the Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium in Garland, 1-800-834-9334 or [KidPowerPrograms.com](http://KidPowerPrograms.com)

**12th Annual Purchasing and HUB Connection** 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Teacher Retirement System of Texas located at 1000 Red River Street in Austin

**February 9**

**"The Route of Death: Mi-grants, Massacres and Cartels"** will feature a screening of Una Ruta Nada Santa, will feature Moises Gomez, its director, Hector Hugo Jimenez, and SMU Assistant Chief of Police Jim Walters, who worked on the case as director of the U.S. Department of Justice's Southern Border Initiative. 7-9 p.m., SMU McCord Auditorium, 306 Dallas Hall

**February 11**

**Plano Symphony Orchestra's 2012 Valentine Gala with Limelight**, an Emerald City band and with guest appearance by Broadway star James Moya. Silent and live auctions items include a gourmet dinner for 20, hand-crafted jewelry, and much more at 6 p.m. at Marriott at Legacy Town Center in the Trinity Ballroom, 7120 Dallas Parkway, Plano. Info: 972-473-7262 or [www.plano-symphony.org](http://www.plano-symphony.org), tickets are \$130.00 per person.

**February 13**

**Family Fun Night** at the Library at Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs) from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Families are invited to participate in a free night of games and crafts. Info: 972-466-4800 or [cityofcarrollton.com/library](http://cityofcarrollton.com/library).

**February 14**

**Love Bugs** from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for an adventurous Valentine's Day, chocolate covered insects, wine and champagne with a stimulating Valentine's Day talk on insect behavior and reproduction with John Watts, Entomologist. He'll cover everything from the dance that scorpions give when mating (the female is testing the male for strength) to the fact that some male mantises actually lose their head over love. Cost: \$25 or \$40 per couple. Info: [http://texasdiscoverygardens.org/events\\_and\\_classes.php](http://texasdiscoverygardens.org/events_and_classes.php).

**February 17**

**Old School 94.5 Love Train Tour** featuring the OJays, Chaka Khan, and hosted by Tom Joyner slated for American Airlines Center at 6 p.m. [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**Garland Symphony Orchestra Concert V** at 8 p.m. at Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium in Garland call 972-205-2790.

**February 19**

**African American Read-In** at the Carrollton Public Library at Josey Ranch Lake (1700 Keller Springs) and offered free to the public; call 972-466-4800.

**Arts-N-Lyrics Festival of Plays** at the Plaza Theatre in Garland at 4 p.m. Tickets: [www.artsnlyrics.com](http://www.artsnlyrics.com) or at the door. Online: \$17.50 Door: \$20.

**February 22**

**Hand In Hand** is a program designed for adults to enjoy with their preschooler. Each week enjoy stories, music, activities and c... Dallas Museum of Natural History. 214-428-5555

**DFW Writers Workshop** For over 30 years, members have met to read and critique each others work. 817-685-1649

**"Barbed-Wire Art, Border Myths and Immigration Violence"** with Maria Herrera-Sobek, professor of Chicana/o and border studies at the Univ. of California Santa Barbara; Josiah Heyman, anthropology prof at the University of Texas El Paso, and Roberto Villalon, sociology prof at St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. 5:30-7:30 p.m., SMU McCord Auditorium, 306 Dallas Hall

**February 25**

**Fine Arts Chamber Players'** FREE Bancroft Family Concert at the Dallas Museum of Art at 3 p.m. at 1717 North Harwood, Dallas. Info: 214.520.2219 or [www.fineartschamberplayers.org](http://www.fineartschamberplayers.org)

**Biology of Butterflies** is 10 a.m. to noon - Go beyond the butterfly basics at Texas Discovery Gardens Cost: \$15; \$10 for TDG Members; Info: [http://texasdiscoverygardens.org/events\\_and\\_classes.php](http://texasdiscoverygardens.org/events_and_classes.php)

**February 28**

**The North Texas Tollway Authority's Vendor Outreach Symposium** in Denton from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center, 1300 Wilson Street. Info: 972-447-3333 or [VendorOutreach@NTTA.org](mailto:VendorOutreach@NTTA.org)

**March 2 – 22**

**GISD Senior Art Show** at Granville Arts Center Gallery in Garland

**March 3**

Dallas County Sheriff Lupe **Valdez's Wine and Cheese Fundraiser** from 4- 6 p.m. Info: [msnilknarf22@att.net](mailto:msnilknarf22@att.net)

**March 11**

**"Preach Woman Preach" & "The Pastor's Wife"** at 7:30 p.m. at the Plaza Theatre in Garland Bridgette Monroe's two-in-one gospel music stage tickets available at [www.JabezEntertainment.ws](http://www.JabezEntertainment.ws) are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Info: 214-259-6052 or 214-607-2363.

**March 16-17**

Lewisville Summer Musicals season will kick off with **"His Eye in the Sparrow: The Ethel Waters Story."** This powerful musical drama by playwright Larry Parr is based on the heart-wrenching tale of Ethel Waters and her early life in Philadelphia. Tickets and info: [www.Texasfamilymusicals.com](http://www.Texasfamilymusicals.com) or 800-547-4697

**March 29**

**"Elections, the Law and Languages at the Border"** discussion by Luis Fraga, director of the Diversity Research Institute and political science professor at the University of Washington; Luis Plascencia, social and behavioral sciences professor at Arizona State University; and John Lipski, professor of Spanish linguistics at Pennsylvania State University. 5:30-7:30 p.m., SMU McCord Auditorium, 306 Dallas Hall

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# Recognizing the Father of Black History

BY THEMAN R.  
TAYLOR, SR. PH.D.

If a race has no documented history, then it becomes a negligible factor in the thoughts of the world and stands in danger of being exterminated from the world stage. According to the text, THE AFRICANS WHO WROTE THE BIBLE, by Alex Darkwah, the African People appreciated the value of documented history and traditions as reflected in the Bible itself; thus they are still a factor in world civilization. Additionally, Carter Woodson states, 'The achievements of the Negro properly set forth will crown him as a factor in early human progress and a maker of modern civilization.'

When the Harvard graduate initiate Negro History Week in 1926, the main thrust was to correct the omission of facts by historians and others that gave little thought or information to Blacks as contributors in building the country's past and present history. He recognized that part of the problem stems from what people are taught and learned. If one's contribution to history is suspect, one's humanity and personality will be also. In America what Woodson started was a restoration project: the demand to be re-entered into history teaching

At the beginning of the 20th Century, African American History took a giant step when the movement to rescue the African American from "History or His-Story" oversight came under the leadership of Dr. Carter G. Woodson. The Woodson restoration project forced us to re-examine America's past record that has contributed to the mis-education of the American

people and have unprepared us to deal with the present. Any environment or educational system which suggest that children be educated in an atmosphere of semi-permanent amnesia, humiliation, or small doses about their ancestor's contribution is a history not worth knowing. Recognition in some cases would be given in a passing note in the drama of Anglo-Saxon destiny and fulfillment.

Woodson, born of former slaves, Annie and James Woodson in New Canton, Virginia on December 19, 1875, is widely honored and recognized as the Father of Negro History Week (now called Black



Theman R. Taylor, Sr. Ph.D.

History Month, changed in 1976. During the Bicentennial celebration the change was made to include the entire month in order for more time for programs and celebration) on February 7, 1926. Prior to that he created in 1915 the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. (Changed in 1972 to the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. The change acknowledge the new consciousness, rediscovery and relationship with their African Ancestry, as well as her/his contribution to America's cultural life). Woodson selected February because he was attuned

to the symbolism of the American psyche: the birthdays of Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington and of course W.E. B. Du Bois are in February.

Academic success for Woodson was by no means easy. Because of conditions not controlled by African Americans he was forced

to work as a miner in Virginia when he was young, and when he entered Douglass High School in 1895 he was almost 20. Beginning his career as a High School Teacher, then Principal and later Professor and Dean at Howard University and West Virginia State College. Woodson was educated at Berea College and the Sorbonne in Paris, received his Master's Degree from the University of Chicago in 1908 and earned his Doctorate from Harvard in 1912. Dr. Woodson was one of the few formally trained African American Historians at the beginning of the

20th Century, the first being W.E.B. Du Bois, whose doctoral dissertation in history in 1895 from Harvard became the first title published in the Harvard Historical Studies. Unlike Woodson, Du Bois did not didn't make history his main emphasis: he turned to protest and agitation. Woodson perceived neglect for his people and spent his entire adult life striving to end it and according to the late historian John Henrik Clarke, restoring the missing segments of world history.

Prior to earning his doctorate from Harvard, Woodson had wanted to study African American History at the University of Michigan. He made this request to one of the leading so-called historians on slavery and the south, Ulrich Bonell Phillips, who was teaching at the Univer-

achievements would be forgotten and finally claimed by other groups." An example could be made and applied to Henry David Thoreau. Oftentimes Thoreau is given credit for setting forth the methods of resisting an unjust government without resorting to violence, principles laid out in his pamphlet on Civil Disobedience in 1849. His ideas are alleged to have influence Mohandas Gandhi and later Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. However an African American, William Whipple, one of the Founders of the American Moral Reform Society set forth these same principles in an article he wrote in 1837 for the 'Colored American' entitled "An Address on Non-Resistance to Offensive Aggression."

He insisted on research-

*"America is basically a multi-ethnic and potentially great country but when one examines the Black experience, this nation has never made the best use of the fact that it is multi-ethnic."*

Dr. Taylor

sity of Michigan. 'Told by Woodson that he would like to study African American History, Phillips replied, "There's no such thing." Dr. Woodson was convinced that "if a race has no recognized or recorded history, its

ing and publishing the facts as they were found, washing dirty linen in public regardless of who it affected. This might explain why wealthy patrons and foundations at times refused him money. Mary McCleod Bethune probably

best expressed the thrust and impact of Carter Woodson on his death, April 3, 1950: "I believe in Carter Woodson because he stirred the dormant pride in the souls of thousands and, ignorant or, unmindful of our glorious heritage...I love Carter Woodson, but I do not grieve for him, because I know on that April Day when he left his post...he left it to join ranks of those great servants of humanity whose leadership is timeless."

America is basically a multi-ethnic and potentially great country but when one examines the Black experience, this nation has never made the best use of the fact that it is multi-ethnic. Dr. Carter G. Woodson's restoration project and Black History Month challenges Americans to confront its past, good and bad, Black History Month should be used as a tool to measure African American people, past, present and future, not as a time for bring out of closets and boxes the picture of great, safe and approved African Americans (Knee-grows) only to tuck them away at the end of the month until next year. It must be observed twelve months a year with February being the month of reaffirmation, assessing the challenge and preserving African American Humanity.

A native son of Sunny South Dallas, H. S. Thompson, Lincoln High School Class 1960, Dr. Taylor, Ph.D., retired college tenured professor of History, recently moved back home, currently living in Lancaster, Texas with wife, Mary Alice Taylor. Both, members of St Paul Baptist Church, their Pastor is "Lelious The Magnificent", Rev. Lelious A. Johnson.



## NDG Gossip: Star Jones & Barbara Walters mend fences?

BY LATRISHA MCDUFFIE  
NDG STAFF WRITER

### Star Jones Will Return to the "View"

There will be a lot of chocolate at the table at "The



Star Jones

View" for Black History Month. You will remember back in 2006 Barbara Walters and Jones had a huge falling out that played out on national television. Things went back and forth between the two for years even after Star exited the show. Walters accused Jones of forcing her co-hosts to lie about her gastric bypass surgery and Jones took a few jabs at Walters for admitting to have an affair with a mar-

ried man in her auto-biography. Who says you can't go back to a job after you quit? Not Ms. Star Jones! "The View" announced last week that Star Jones will guest host the daytime talk show on February 22, 2012 to promote the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" public information campaign. Women everywhere are asked to wear red February 3 to show support for heart patients.

### T.O. Broke? Say It Ain't So

According to a profile in the latest issue of GQ Magazine, Terrell Owens has squandered the 80 million



Terrell Owens

dollars he earned playing 15 seasons in the NFL. Maybe, this is where "The Game" got its inspiration? Well, where did it go? A horrible mix of bad investments, trusting the wrong people, and child-support payments over \$44,000 per month is where it went!

### Mary J. Blidge Has Man Problems Again

Well, not with her hubby at least! This time "Oscar" as in the 84th Annual Academy Awards nominations was down right mean! The Academy announced last week nominations for best "Original Song". Mary was considered a front-runner for "The Living Proof" ballad she wrote for the movie "The Help". And get this, the category usually has five songs but this year they only had two. Mary took to her phone and tweeted: "I'm so thankful for true fans like you all. It saddens me & feels like the Academy is being mean. 2 only nominate 2 of the 5 slots is...." We can fill in the blanks for you Mary!

## Dallas Black Dance Theatre at New York premiere

"Fierce and Breathtaking" were the words used to describe the performances of Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) January 13-15, as they traveled to the Alvin Ailey Citigroup The-

ater. Led by Founder and Artistic Director, Ann M. Williams, the Company showcased its energetic and powerful dancers during a three-performance engagement. With partial funding

provided by the National Endowment for the Arts to acquire and restage classic works, the company showcased masterworks of dance by New York choreogra-

See DANCE, Page 11



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## Cowboy Style Philly Cheesesteak moves to new location

Over 1,500 miles from the city of Brotherly Love, its very own famous sandwich has been given a makeover; Texas style at Cowboy Style Philly Cheesesteak located at its new location in Irving, Texas.

Sean's love for all things Cowboy spurred him to create several football inspired varieties of "Phillies" with an in-house seasoning blend and his secret Cowboy cheese-sauce. Only in business for two years ago, the restaurant has already been featured at the Taste of Dallas and at the Texas State Fair.

"Motivation plus determination equals who I am," states Sean.

Cowboy's Style Philly Cheesesteak regulars like top sellers like the First Down that is a 5oz Sirloin Steak

with mushrooms, bell peppers, onions, and Cowboy Cheese Sauce as well as the Time Out that is topped with a Habanera pepper sauce. "You will have to take a timeout to take a drink of water when you eat this sandwich" states owner.

And for patrons who are still managing to keep that New Year's resolution there is the Audible. This veggie sandwich is served on walnut wheat bread and comes with black beans, corn, mushrooms, onions, and bell peppers slathered with Cowboy cheese-sauce.

A plentiful order of waffle or sweet potato fries can compliment any sandwich. The waffle fries are the talk of the Facebook page. You can try them with you guessed it the Cowboy

cheese-sauce. The owner calls this spin on nachos the Wildcard: waffle fries topped with chicken or beef, mushrooms, onions, bell peppers and covered in Cowboy cheese-sauce.

The atmosphere is a top priority for Sean. The dining area is Cowboy themed with a new urban twist. Patrons can play pool, air hockey, and buck hunter - a virtual hunting game for the true Southern sportsman with 3-D graphics. Four 60' inch televisions will be installed just in time for the Super Bowl.

Cowboy Style Philly Cheesesteak is located at 1150 West Pioneer Blvd, in Irving. Hours are Monday - Thursday 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. also on Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.



### Sports Talk with Spider

The Commissioner of the National Football League (NFL), Roger Goodell and his brass finally received a B- minus report card for the 2011-2012 seasons on racial diversity and gender. In the league 67 percent of the players are African-American but the decision making process is done by thirty-two white owners. These owners refusal to find a minority owner through expansion or the pending sale of a team is

## The NFL gets a good report card

ridiculous state of affairs in 2012.

Where is the Rooney Rule, established to help secure a minority head coach, for ownership. Keep in mind minorities are the biggest spenders on NFL merchandise, ticket sales and targeted advertising dollars?

While the NFL had to focus on labor issues, Commissioner Goodell continued to emphasize the importance of diversity. Hiring at the vice president (VP) level increased by 30 percent, from 20 in 2010 to 26 in 2011. The numbers of female employees also in-

creased at the VP level by 36 percent, from 11 in 2010 to 15 in 2011. Currently are two female owners in the NFL, Denise DeBartolo York, of the San Francisco 49ers, and Virginia McCaskey, of the Chicago Bears.

Yes, things are progressing. For example, in August 2009 Serena and Venus Williams purchased a small minority ownership of the Miami Dolphins. The tennis duo became the first female African-Americans to be part owners of an NFL team.

There were seven  
**See REPORT, Page 13**

## DANCE, continued from Page 10

phers Ulysses S. Dove, Elisa Monte, Francesca Harper, Christopher L. Huggins, Dianne McIntyre and Milton Myers.

In addition to the strong New York infused repertoire, the Company performed pieces by noted Dallas area choreographers. Listed as a highpoint of the performance in a review by Dance Magazine's Editor in Chief, Wendy Perron, was a solo choreographed by local artist Bruce Wood. The "dramatic flair, intensity and glamour made it stunning to watch," Perron notes. Also mentioned in Perron's review was what she called a "high octane closer" - Night Run by Christopher L. Huggins. Perron writes, "The dance and the dancing were one."

Also attending the performance was the New York Diversity Markets staff at American Airlines. "It was an amazing show," was the enthusiastic response of Diversity Manager George Carrancho after seeing the performance. The New York Season Premiere was presented by American Airlines, the official and exclusive airline of Dallas Black Dance Theatre.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre's 35th Anniversary

New York Season Premiere launches the Company's initiative for expansion of

national audiences and earned income opportunities through touring.

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REFUND, continued from Page 1

the loan check, wind-up with many taxpayers spending more than 10 percent of their refund, just to get their own money a few days sooner.

According to FINRA Investor Education Foundation, a national survey of self-reported RAL users showed that while 13 percent of African-Americans reporting using a RAL in the last five years, just six percent of whites did.

Similarly, RACs, temporary bank accounts opened for the sole purpose of receiving tax refunds, are another costly loan. Once the refund is deposited, the lender issues the consumer a paper check or prepaid debit card and then closes the account. RAC fees vary, but as with RALs, consumers often elect to have the tax preparation costs deducted from their refund. RAC customers are also charged checking cashing and other add-on fees for this short-term loan.

Consumers most vulnerable to the lure of expensive RALs and RACs are either unbanked or under-banked but are also eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). For 2011 and depend-

ing upon family size, the maximum EITC will range from \$464 to \$5,751. Anyone desiring to learn whether they qualify for this tax credit should visit IRS online at: <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96406,00.html>.

According to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), African-Americans alone account for 36.9 percent of the unbanked – consumers without a personal account with either a bank or credit union. Further, Latino and African-American communities together represent more than 60 percent of the nation’s unbanked households

Consumers with bank accounts who turn to non-bank fringe services for day-to-day money management are ‘under-banked’ households. Under-banked households pay more for basic transaction and credit financial services, and additionally are more vulnerable to loss or theft. These families also, according to FDIC, often struggle to build credit histories and achieve financial security.

Rather than wasting a portion of tax refunds on RALs or

RACs, consumers would be better served by accessing one of the free tax services available. These locations can be found online at: <http://rspnsb.li/wxAmeA>. Local IRS offices are available to assist or direct consumers to qualified preparers. Other non-profit, social service agencies or those serving older residents can also offer referrals to qualified low and no-cost tax assistance.

Most importantly, anyone who hires someone to assist them with their returns should be aware that IRS holds the tax filer accountable for their selection of a preparer. Every qualified tax preparer must sign the return and also enter their assigned Preparer Tax Identification Number. Tax preparers are also required to give taxpayers a copy of their own returns.

Tax refunds represent monies owed. Every consumer is entitled to keep as much of it as possible.

*Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at: [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).*

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will be closing soon:

GAME #	GAME NAME / ODDS	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1300	20X The Money - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.61	\$10	02/03/12	08/01/12
1329	Scorching 7's - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.42	\$7	02/03/12	08/01/12
1368	Merry Millionaire - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.07	\$20	02/06/12	08/04/12
1375	Merry Crossword - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.36	\$3	03/03/12	08/30/12
1028	Super Set For Life II - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.08	\$20	04/04/12	10/01/12
1297	Red Hot Cherries - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.46	\$1	04/04/12	10/01/12
1321	Veterans Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.29	\$2	04/04/12	10/01/12
1353	9's In A Line - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.93	\$1	04/04/12	10/01/12
1365	Haunted Halloween - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.15	\$2	04/04/12	10/01/12
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1369	Happy Holidays! - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.45	\$1	04/04/12	10/01/12



For detailed odds and game information, visit [txlottery.org](http://txlottery.org) or call 1-800-37LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas Education. © 2012 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

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**PROGRAM,** continued from Page 7

alone the City Council awarded 27 percent of budget dollars to M/WBE vendors surpassing the City's across-the-board goal of 26 percent.

Irving's City Manager, Tommy Gonzalez, recently announced on the Robert Ashley Show on Heaven 97 that 32.9 percent (\$11,954,276.20) of bids were awarded to M/WBE firms between October 2010 to September 2011 proving that the M/WBE Program is a great success.

Minority/Women owned businesses wishing to be included in the program can registrar with the city to receive e-mail solicitation notification for every formal bid. Business owners are required

are required to make a "Good Faith Effort" and document their good faith effort in the contract. Purchasing department staff is available to walk business owners through the process. Certifications from the North Central Texas Regional Certification Agency, Women's Business Council Southwest, Dallas/Forth Worth Minority Business Council, and Texas Building and Procurement Commission HUB Program are accepted by the City of Irving.

For more information about the M/WBE Program, please contact Deborah McVean at 972-721-3753 or visit the website at [www.ci.irving.tx.us](http://www.ci.irving.tx.us).

**REPORT,** continued from Page 11

African-American head coaches at the start of the 2011 season, up one from 2010. Three were fired and seven head coaches job were open. Currently, there are seven African-American assistant head coaches on NFL sidelines, none were hired for open jobs.

In recent years, the NFL has increased diversity in the ranks of its game officials. Carl Johnson, Vice President of Officiating, is an African-American, as is David Coleman, Director of Officiating. In both 2010 and 2011, nearly 28 percent of the officials were African-American, Latino or

Native American. Both represented an all-time high for the NFL as the number of diverse referees leading officiating crews has increased from one to three during that same time period.

This report card should be the template for other professional organizations when it comes to fighting diversity because it is here to stay.

*You can listen to Donald "Spider" Willis on Sport Talk with Spider each Sunday from 7 - 9 p.m. on fishbowlradionetwork.com. For suggestions and show topics call 469-335-668.*

**BROWN,** continued from Page 2

lem."

The Verizon Foundation championed this campaign as part of its effort to address the impact of domestic violence on individual health, family wellness and the community. To review the recent research by

the World Health Organization, which details the prevalence of domestic violence and validates strategies to reduce it from a gender perspective. For more information, visit [verizonfoundation.org](http://verizonfoundation.org).

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED  
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/  
BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Dallas

Contract 6207-21-001 for BRIDGE JOINT MAINTENANCE in DALLAS County will be opened on March 07, 2012 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$1,050,795.90.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Pre-qualified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Pre-qualification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 39174

State Office

Constr./Maint. Division  
200 E. Riverside Dr. | Austin, Texas 78704  
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)

Dallas District | District Engineer  
4777 E. Hwy 80 | Mesquite, Texas 75150-6643  
Phone: 214-320-6100

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.



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**Mondays – Fridays**  
Call 972-423-8833 for AFFECT, Inc. or email: AFFECTxInc@aol.com for counseling services, resources and assistance for job readiness and training programs for individuals. For couples we offer services for marital relationships and for ex-offenders we offer programs for getting back into the work force.

**February 2, 12 Noon**  
Come to a "Between Jobs Support Group" meeting at the Christian Works for Children, 6320 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75240. Call 972-960-9981 to register.  
**Brother Ramon Hodridge, Minister**  
1026 Avenue F  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-8833  
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

**BIBLE WAY  
COMMUNITY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

**February 5**  
Join us in Sunday School at 9:35 a.m.; and Sunday Worship at 11 a.m. as we worship and praise God. The Word of God transforms lives.

**February 8, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our Bible Class as we study the Word of God and give Him honor and praise.  
**Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Sr. Senior Pastor**  
4215 N. Greenview Drive  
Irving, TX 75062  
972-257-3766  
www.bwcbc.com

**DAYSTAR  
DELIVERANCE  
MINISTRIES**

**February 2012, New  
Days, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Visit Helen's House Tuesdays and Fridays (exceptions are bad weather and holidays) to receive, to give, to comfort and to fellowship. The give-a-way of food, love and household items is given freely to all those who could use a little touch.

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

**EIRENE CHRISTIAN  
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

**February 5, 8:45 a.m.  
and 11 a.m.**  
Join us in Morning Worship as we honor and praise God for His blessings.

**February 8, 7:30 p.m.**  
You're invited to Bible Class as we study the Word of God and give Him honor and praise.

**Pastor Autry**  
701 E. Centennial Blvd.  
Richardson, TX 75081  
972-991-0200  
www.followpeace.org

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9 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
TheShip3C's Prayer Lines for those in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567 or they may be submitted via email to: prayerline@theship3c.org

**February 5, 9:30 a.m.**  
Join us and experience the joy of praising and worshipping God to the fullest at Story Elementary School, 1550 Edelweiss Drive, Allen, TX. We will praise God for His blessings.

**February 8, 7:00 p.m.**  
You're invited to our Wednesday Night Live in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall on Belmont Drive. Also, come to our Corporate Prayer and our Kidz Zone (an environment to equip children to grow and to show God's love.)

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

**MT. PISGAH  
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BAPTIST CHURCH  
"The Rock"**

**February 5, 10 a.m.**  
Join us in Sunday Worship as we give God excellence praise without excuse.

**February 8**  
Come to our Noonday Bible Study to learn more about the Word of God; and at 7 p.m. for our Wednesday Night Bible Study.

**Pastor Robert Townsend**  
11611 Webb Chapel Road  
Dallas, TX 75229  
972-241-6151  
www.dallasmtpisgah.org

**NEW MOUNT ZION  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

**February 7, 6:30 p.m.**  
There are Reading and Math tutoring classes for grades 1-6, call for details and bring your children.

**Dr. Robert Price, Sr.,  
Senior Pastor**

9550 Shepherd Road  
Dallas, TX 75243  
214-341-6459  
www.nmzb.org

**NORTH DALLAS  
COMMUNITY  
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP  
CHURCH**

**February 10, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our Single Parent Support Group. Call Pastor Cooper at 972-437-3493, Ext 104 or email him at rcooper@ndcbf.org for details.

**February 11, 12 Noon**  
For those in need, come to our Grief Recovery Support Group. Call Tera McFarland at 972-437-3493, Ext 111 or email her at tmcfarland@ndcbf.org for details.

**Dr. Leslie W. Smith,  
Senior Pastor**  
1010-1020 S. Sherman Street  
Richardson, TX 75081  
972-437-3493  
www.ndcbf.org

**PROFESSIONAL  
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**February 19, 3 p.m.**  
Join us at Pace's African Americans Read-in. Hear wonderful stories, poems, music and meet authors at Carrollton's Josey Ranch Library, 1700 Keller Springs Road. Door prizes will be given and refreshments will be served.

**February 25, 9 a.m.**  
Pace has partnered with Bubb's Fundraiser in the Ultimate Recycling Program to benefit high school graduates with scholarships. You can help by donating your recyclables at 2000 Denton Drive in Carrollton, 75006 and get a tax credit for your generosity. For details go to pacedfw.org

**ROCKBRIDGE CHURCH**

**February 5**  
Join us in Prayer with Pastor at 8:30 a.m. and stay for Worship Celebration at 10 a.m. as we honor and praise God for His blessings.

**February 8, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to Bible Study and Awana as we worship and praise God.

**Timothy Jones,  
Lead Pastor**  
21 Prestige Circle  
Allen, TX 75002  
214-383-9993  
www.rockbridgechurch.com

**SAINT MARK MBC  
IN MCKINNEY**

**February 2, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our Wellness Ministry as we honor and praise God for His goodness.

**February 5, 9:30 a.m.**  
Join us in our Education Ministries; and stay for our Worship Celebration at 10:45 a.m.

**February 11, 12 p.m.**  
All Senior Saints are invited to our Double Nickel (55 and above) Luncheon @ the New-some Center on Amscott Street in McKinney. Activities include lunch, bingo and door prizes. Come and bring a friend. If you are homebound, we will deliver to you. Please call 972-542-6178 no later than the Friday, February 10th this month) before the luncheon and leave a message with your name, address, phone number and how many meals you need.

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

**SHILOH MBC  
IN PLANO**

**February 5, 8 a.m.  
And 11 a.m.**  
Join us in our Morning Worship times and stay for our Sunday School at 10 a.m.

**February 8, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our Mid-week Service as we worship and praise God.

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

**THE INSPIRING BODY  
OF CHRIST CHURCH**

**February 5, 7:30 a.m.**  
Join us as we worship, honor and praise God's Holy name.

**February 6, 7 p.m.**  
Come to Monday School as we study the Word of God and worship and praise His name.  
**Pastor Rickie Rush**  
7701 S. Westmoreland Road  
Dallas, TX 75237  
972-372-4262  
www.ibcjoy.org

**THE NEW LIGHT  
CHURCH**

**February 5**  
You're invited to worship with us on Sunday Mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Sunday School and 11 a.m. in Morning Worship as we celebrate, praise and worship God.  
**Shaun Rabb, Senior Pastor**  
9314 Elam Road  
Dallas, TX 75217  
214-391-3430  
newlightchurchdallas.com

**VICTORY BIBLE CHURCH  
INTERNATIONAL,  
(VBCI DALLAS)**

**February 5**  
You are invited to a Life Transforming Service that will change your life as we praise and worship God for His blessings.

1100 Business Parkway,  
Suite 1007  
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**WORD OF LIFE  
CHURCH OF  
GOD IN CHRIST**

**Early Prayer**  
Join us in prayer early in the morning at 6 a.m. on Monday - Friday at 1-661-673-8600, Code # 142219 and please put your phone on mute. Prayer will change people, things and situations. God is moving in powerful ways in early Morning Prayer.

**February 7, 7:30 p.m.**  
You're invited to our School of The Prophets as Pastor Voss; who is also a prophet, bring the Word of God; and we worship and praise His Holy name.

**February 9, 7:30 p.m.**  
Join us in our Gift Stirring Night as Saints of God bring God's Word and reveal their God-given talents.

**February 12, 11 a.m.**  
Join us for Morning Worship as we honor and praise God for His goodness; and stay for the Christening of Little Mr. Chance Jayden Jones-Thompson immediately following Morning Worship. Parents are Christiane Jones and Benjamin Thompson  
**Dr. Gregory E. Voss,  
Senior Pastor**  
2765 Trinity Mills Road  
Building 300  
Carrollton, TX 75006  
214-514-9147

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9:30 AM


**Wednesday Night  
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Allen, TX 75013  
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Pastor Sam Fenceroy



Pastor Gloria Fenceroy

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- Sunday Service 10:00 am
- Wednesday Night Service 7:00 pm

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Sister  
Tarpley

February is our nation's observation of Black History. It is disheartening to think of the controversy surrounding this very important holiday.

Some people have joked, "We were given the shortest month of the year to celebrate Black History." The truth is that Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Father of Black History picked February because it corresponded with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

This is not just Black History that we are celebrating but the history of America and the world. Many great and useful inventions that are being used daily and taken for granted is because many individuals wrongly believe that Black people are incapable of inventing anything worth while or that it's pure accident when Black Americans invent anything.

One prime example is Henry T. Sampson, the Black man who patented the gamma-electric cell, Patent No. 3,591,860, which gave birth to the modern use of cell phones, I-Phones and Blackberries, etc. on July 6, 1971.

Mobile Communications took a big step forward in 1983 with the invention of the Cellular System regulating the portable telephones, which use radio waves to transmit and receive audio

signals. There are many stories of lives being saved because of the use of the cell phones, I-Phones, Blackberries, etc., which are used World-Wide.

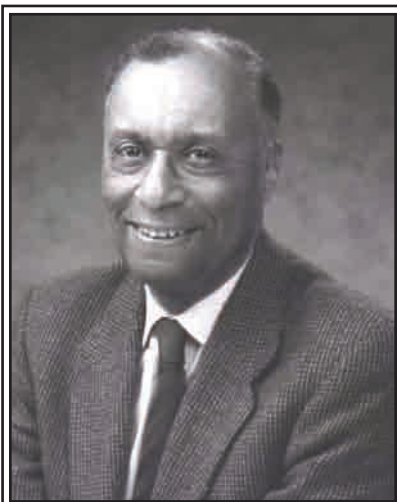
I often say, "Henry T. Sampson, could not have imagined the use of cell phones in today's society." On a trip to Hong Kong China one year I was amazed to see so many people with cell phones. I asked a Tour Bus Guide if she used her house phone as much as she formerly did before she purchased her cell phone, she told me that very few people in China had house phones; and now, the majority of people in America only use cell phones.

Many of my friends and associates do not have line-based phones in their homes, they say they never use them, only their cell phones, so why pay for a phone they never use, it's a waste of their money.

Some individuals easily accept that we have famous entertainers, sports figures and a few entrepreneurs making millions of dollars; but they are slow to recognize that there are many Africa Americans that have excelled, and are continuing to excel and invent useful devices using **math and science** to make a difference in

how we live, work, play and entertain today are invented daily by Black Americans.

Dr. Woodson said,

Dr. Henry T. Sampson – 1934, Nuclear  
Physicist, Writer and Film Historian

"Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history." He was a distinguished Black author, editor, publisher, and historian who put his money, life, blood, sweat and tears in establish-

ing Black History Week, (in the 1960s it was established as Black History "Month".)

Dr. Woodson also believed that Blacks should know their past in order to participate intelligently in the affairs in our country. He strongly believed that Black History—which others (even some Black Americans) have tried so diligently to erase—is a firm foundation for young Black Americans to build on in order to become productive citizens of our society.

Dr. Woodson of-ten said that he hoped the time would come when Negro History Month would be unnecessary; when all Americans would willingly recognize the contributions of Black Americans as a legitimate and integral part of the history of this country. His concept has given a profound sense of dignity to all Black Americans; and we must not forget it! Nor should we stop Black History Month.

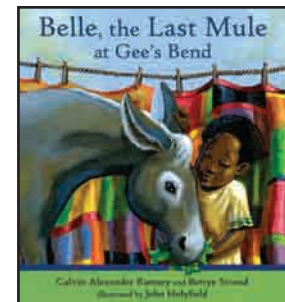
## Book Review

*"Belle, the Last Mule at Gee's Bend"* by Calvin Alexander Ramsey and Bettye Stroud, illustrated by John Holyfield c.2011, Candlewick Press \$15.99 / \$18.00 Canada 32 pages

Who is your favorite Superhero?

Does he wear a cape and fly through the air? Or does he have sharp knives instead of claws so he can really mess up the Bad Guys? Does your Superhero run fast, spin webs, jump high, control fire or wind, or is he able to swim through deep oceans with special gills on his neck?

Or maybe your Superhero has long ears and a swishy tail, and did something quietly wonderful. In the book *"Belle, the Last Mule at Gee's Bend"* by Calvin Alexander Ramsey and Bettye Stroud, illustrated by John Holyfield, you'll meet the hero who gently made history.



Alex was just killing time. His mother was doing some shopping at the Gee's Bend General Store and though he wanted to go play, Alex was told to wait for her.

And there he was, sitting on a bench, minding his mother and watching an old mule ac-ross the street, when an elderly woman sat down beside him.

Alex wondered aloud why the mule was allowed to just eat out of someone's garden. Wasn't the gardener mad about that?

The old woman smiled and began to tell Alex a story...

Once upon a time, everybody in Gee's Bend was poor. Most people didn't have cars because they couldn't afford them. All they had were mules and wagons. Benders – that's what they called themselves – used mules for just about

See REVIEW, Page 16

**Gina Smith,**  
**Attorney At Law**  
\*Personal Injury  
\*Criminal Defense  
\*Civil Rights



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## Black History Events

**February 1-28**

African-American History Month Showcasing the **Sedrick and Letitia Huckaby Exhibition "Me, We: A Portrayal of the Fibers of Life"** at the Irving Arts Center - Main Gallery, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving, Admission is free.

**February 4**

Visual Art Exhibition/Reception Showcasing the **Sedrick & Letitia Huckaby Exhibition "Me, We: A**

**Portrayal of the Fibers of Life"** from 5 - 8 p.m. at the Irving Arts Center - Main Gallery, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving and Admission is Free

**Stop, Drop & Dance! An Evolution of Movement 2-4 p.m.**, at the Eastfield College Performance Hall. Discover your own inner dancer during this step-by-step motion charged event. A showcase of talent by Steppin' Out Dance Studio, Dancin'Ovations and

Eastfield's Dance Group featuring former Alvin Ailey dancer Dereque Whiturs.

**February 7**

**Hip Hop Language & Culture** from 11 a.m.- 12:20 p.m., in C135 at Eastfield College. ~The Truth Behind the Message – Ever wonder how song lyrics can express almost anything? Hip Hop language is discussed as the truth behind the words sheds new light on tradition and popular culture.

**February 14**

**Interracial Love** – Does love come from within or is it based on skin? From 11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. at the Eastfield College in room G101. A panel of couples in an open forum will discuss and address the challenges; and share the success of personal relationship choices. With our growing population of people who are bi-racial and multi-racial, are we finally colorless? Or tolerant?

**February 15**

**22nd Annual Eastfield African-American Read-In** 11:28 a.m.-1 p.m. in room S100. Works of black writers are displayed, shared and read by volunteers. Local entertain-

ers as well as the Eastfield Jazz Ensemble will perform. Take the "A Train" to the S Building and celebrate as we go uptown to pay special tribute to the Harlem Renaissance. Open to the public.

## REVIEW, continued from Page 15

everything.

That old mule eating out of the garden? Her name was Belle and she had been around a long time – ever since Dr. Martin Luther King visited Gee's Bend back in 1965.

Dr. King had urged Benders to register for the vote, but white folks tried to stop them. Unafraid, Benders hitched up their mules, traveled a half a day to nearby Camden, and registered any-

how.

Mules meant so much to Dr. King's movement that when he was shot, someone called Gee's Bend and asked if two Bender mules could pull Dr. King's coffin through the streets of Atlanta. And one of those mules – a hero, to many – was eating collard greens out of that garden right across the street...

Sometimes when you're little, big concepts are hard to grasp. For very young chil-

dren, though, "Belle, the Last Mule at Gee's Bend" is a good start for understanding an important bit of history.

Authors Calvin Alexander Ramsey and Bettye Stroud tell this real-life story from an angle that children will love; partly because the storyteller is such a sweet character and partly because an animal is right in the middle of the tale (and what kid doesn't love animals?). Smaller children will also enjoy artist John Holy-

field's accompanying illustrations, while older kids will appreciate the behind-the-scenes information at the back of the narrative.

Despite the grown-up story inside it, I was charmed by this children's book and I think your youngster will be, too. For kids ages 4-8, when it's time to learn a different angle on the Civil Rights story, "Belle, the Last Mule at Gee's Bend" is pretty super.

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