

# North Dallas Gazette



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## Irving delegation pursues federal funding for transportation needs

By DENNIS WEBB  
COUNCILMEMBER,  
CITY OF IRVING

At a time when there is no appetite to spend money on Capitol Hill, our nation's surface transportation needs are in great jeopardy, a sign of big trouble ahead for all cities, towns and states.



Irving City Councilman  
Dennis Webb

That was the message at the City of Irving-sponsored national transportation and infrastructure convention held in Washington, D.C. last week, where for four days leaders from cities across the country heard how federal deficit and spending tensions

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**Facebook.com/  
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Dream tickets.**

## Irving ISD to implement new vendor software



See SOFTWARE, Page 9

## Wells Fargo celebrates 160 years of service

Wells Fargo & Company on March 19 celebrated the milestone anniversary of 160 years helping customers succeed financially and communities thrive with a series of donations and volunteer activities across the nation.

To celebrate Wells

Fargo donated more than \$2.5 million to more than 60 nonprofit organizations across the U.S. In some regions, eligible Wells Fargo customers helped determine how pools of \$160,000 were divided among local non-profits by voting at Wells Fargo ATMs. In addition, Wells

Fargo will donate, build or renovate 160 homes in the communities it serves over the course of 160 days.

"We've been working with our customers and communities to help them succeed financially since 1852," said Chairman and CEO John Stumpf. "Our celebration includes ways

to honor our customers, communities and team members and says thank you for being with us over time."

The company also is organizing local volunteer activities for team members across the country in celebration of the anniversary.

See SERVICE, Page 5



Win Free Tickets to  
Disney's Dare to Dream!

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

## Trayvon Martin's death takes toll on family

By GEORGE E. CURRY  
(NNPA) Sybrina Fulton knows what she will be doing tomorrow. It is the same thing she did yesterday. And the same thing she will do today.

"I cry every day," she said Sunday on TV One's *Washington Watch* with Roland Mar-

tin. "I just don't understand. My son's gone and this guy has never been arrested."



George Zimmerman & Trayvon Martin

Her son, Trayvon Martin, an unarmed 17-year old high school junior with no record of trouble, was killed in Sanford, Fla. on Feb. 26 by George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch captain. Zimmerman was questioned by police and released after authori-

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The next issue  
for the  
**North Dallas  
Gazette is  
April 5. Visit  
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updates.**

COMMENTARY

## Corporations pay less in taxes than Buffett and Romney

By SCOTT KLINGER  
(American Forum) Corporations pay a lower effective tax rate than Warren Buffett and Mitt Romney, but you wouldn't know it from all the complaints that our corporate tax rate puts our country at a competitive disadvantage. Last year, U.S. corporations paid just 12.1 percent of their earnings in federal corporate income taxes. Buffett's tax rate is 17.4 percent; Romney's reported 2010 tax rate was 13.9 percent.

The corporate tax sys-

tem is riddled with loopholes and subsidies that do create competitive problems, but not the ones CEOs are talking about. Our broken tax system blesses U.S. multinational corporations with lots of loopholes that enable them to pay less in taxes than Main Street businesses. It allows large companies, even those in the same industry, to pay vastly different tax rates. It has starved our government of revenue, adding to the pressure for

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## People In The News...



Gloria Fenceroy



Stephanie Paris



Nova Browning Rutherford

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## Gloria Fenceroy

Gloria Fenceroy is a mother of three daughters and wife of Sam Fenceroy, Pastor of Mt. Olive Church of Plano. She specializes in women's ministry, marriage ministry, nursery ministry and counseling. Her greatest joy is counseling and working with adults and children ministry. She is also a vessel of God used to inspire, encourage, exhort, help and direct women into their destiny and their pre-ordained purpose in Christ Jesus. She has spoken to men and women on many occasions at various churches in the state of

Texas, Arkansas, and London, England and in parts of Portugal.

First Lady Gloria has the ability to speak directly to the core of women's situations and circumstances, sharing the power of God, and making plain His purpose for their lives. She has been known to touch the very depth of the heart of women of many races, ethnic groups, denominations, and economic status, opening the door for God to draw out fear, anger and confusion and pull down strongholds. Through her caring and forthright

preaching, she helps build the confidence of women, and helps them to understand God's call on their lives.

Mount Olive Church of Plano was organized on January 3, 1993, and Samuel Louis Fenceroy was called to be Pastor on April 24, 1994. Pastor Sam and Mount Olive Church of Plano began to move forward in his God given vision, uniting the body of Christ.

At Mount Olive Church of Plano, the congregation's focus is on uniting the body of Christ. Mount Olive Church of Plano is a Spirit-



filled, nondenominational church open to all races, backgrounds, nationalities.

Women of the Word (WOW) is MOCOP's Women's Ministry at the

leadership of Pastor Gloria Fenceroy. WOW ministers and nurtures every woman to meet her distinct needs and share a desire to be the best Christian she can be. Women of WOW come from different backgrounds and lifestyles, yet have similar needs to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; to be Christ-centered.

WOW women develop friendships, creativity, leadership training and encouragement during critical and

formative seasons. During meetings WOW enjoy fellowship, share prayer requests and an occasional speaker on various topics.

In addition to her involvement with ministry, First Lady Gloria has worked for 33 years as a licensed professional counselor. Currently she is employed as a counselor in the Dallas ISD at W.E. Greiner Exploratory Arts Academy.

The church is located at 300 Chisholm Pl., in Plano, Texas. If you have any questions, please call 972-633-5511 or visit <http://www.mocop.org/>.

## Stephanie Paris

We often take for granted that we can move. Unfortunately, there are many people who can't — because of a disease called ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, a progressive motor neuron disease that robs people of the ability to move their muscles.

You can make a move for those who can't by attending United We Dance

to Cure ALS™, a Zumbathon® charity event that gives people with this disease hope that one day they'll move again. You can dance and feel great knowing that 75% of ticket fees directly benefit MDA's Augie's Quest, a nonprofit research initiative dedicated to finding treatments and cures for ALS.

The Zumbathon® Cha-

rity Event hosted by Stephanie Paris (*Zumba® licensed instructor*) will be held Saturday, March 31, 2012 from 9 am – 11 am at the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club located at 435 South Fifth Street in Garland, TX 75040. Admission is a \$10.00 donation in advance and \$15.00 donation at the door. Limited spots available, so early registration is encouraged. Donations can also be made online via PayPal.

For more information contact Stephanie Paris by email at [stephanieparis@verizon.net](mailto:stephanieparis@verizon.net).

Vendor tables are also available at this event. If you are interested in purchasing a vendor table for your organization or business, please



email Stephanie Paris at [stephanieparis@verizon.net](mailto:stephanieparis@verizon.net) for more information.

Stephanie Paris, a licensed Zumba instructor, offers weekly Zumba classes at the Garland Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club (435 S. Fifth Street, Garland, TX 75040) on Thursdays at 7:00 pm and at Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church (1233 State Highway 66, Garland, TX 75040), every Saturday morning at 9:00 am.

## Nova Browning Rutherford

Nova Browning Rutherford is a motivational speaker, national radio personality, author, mentor, and activist. Nova has created high-energy workshops, training's, retreats, and seminars on a range of topics all dedicated to providing individuals with the

Since 2009, Nova has provided her dynamic programming to such organizations as the United Nations Association, Youth Mentoring Connection, The Remix Project, BlogTalkRadio, the AIDS Project Los Angeles, Ontario District School Board,



guidance and tools necessary to reconnect with their authentic selves in order to lead more joyful, meaningful, and creative lives.

and Manifesto Arts & Culture. Nova was the keynote speaker at the 2010 "Women Empowering Women Symposium," and

as a featured panelist for the "United Nations Association 100th Anniversary of Women's Day" in Los Angeles, California.

Nova is the creator and founder of ButILoveMeMore.com — a progressive online lifestyle community dedicated to promoting healthy choices and inspiring individuals to utilize valuable lessons learned by past adversity in service of creating a life aligned with their highest purpose. She is no stranger to adversity and the havoc it can cause in one's life.

Having overcome personal trauma and professional dissatisfaction, Nova is living proof past adversity can be transformed into future prosperity. Through her powerful storytelling, Nova inspires a generation to rise above their own personal challenges by applying her unique and proven three-step technique: "Acceptance, Accountability, and

Action."

Nova's ten-year expertise in the entertainment, music, and marketing industries provides nuance to her programming, as she uses her experience to warn others of the unfulfilling trappings of material wealth and prestige, and communicate savvy guidance on how to avoid these professional pitfalls. Nova remains deeply connected to the challenges youth face today from issues of self-esteem and self-identity.

Nova was asked to share her personal account of being an individual of mixed race ancestry for the acclaimed StoryCorps broadcast. Nova's compelling story serves as a witness to the rich diversity and complexity of the experience, and is now archived at the American Folklife Center at the National Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. As a mentor, Nova dedicates her energy to em-

powering and uplifting youth by emphasizing inner-vision, self-acceptance, confidence and creative self-expression. Nova's programming for

youth includes lively confidence walks, soulful sisterhood workshops, and the use of unique creative outlets.

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- Protective Order
- Misdemeanor/Felonies\*

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- Restraining Order
- Protective Order
- Name Change / Adoption
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The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones

## Give our graduates a break

BY RON MCGOWAN

Our graduates are being shortchanged. The workplace they are entering is the most challenging it has been in decades. By comparison, the workplace those who are responsible for education policy, funding, administration and delivery entered, was a piece of cake. These people have no affinity whatever

with the challenges today's graduates are facing.

Tom Friedman, the best-selling author and New York Times columnist met recently with Prem Kalra, the director of the new Indian Institute of Technology in Rajasthan. He told Friedman that he tells recruiters for major companies to stay away from his campus. He wants his Indian students to think about inventing their

first jobs, not applying for them.

That's exactly what we should be doing. Instead, our colleges and universities keep turning out graduates who expect that someone is going to offer them a job and when that doesn't happen, many end up unemployed or in low paying jobs in the service sector. The fundamental challenge is that for generations we have been

turning out employees. Now, increasingly, we have to turn out entrepreneurs or graduates who have an enterprising approach to finding work.

The area of career/employment counseling needs a complete overhaul with an objective of meeting the needs of today's graduates. A Canadian graduate who

See GRADUATES, Page 11

## TAXES, continued from Page 1

deep budget cutbacks rather than the investments needed to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure, educate our children and support the innovation needed for economic success.

President Barack Obama has called for corporate tax reform that is "revenue neutral" – using any revenues gained from closing loopholes and ending subsidies to pay for lowering the statutory corporate tax rate and extending or introducing other tax breaks. The problem with "revenue neutral" tax reform is that it locks in the corporate share of our government's bills at historically low levels. Tax reform that results in GE paying more and Wal-Mart paying less is not a step forward.

Contrary to common perception, U.S. corporations pay far less toward the cost of public services and infrastructure than they did in decades past, and less than foreign competitors pay in their countries today. In the 1950s, corporate federal income taxes accounted for nearly one-third of federal government revenue; in 2011, corporate taxes accounted for less than 8 percent.

U.S. corporate profits account for more than 10 percent of GDP, a 50-year high. Federal corporate income taxes collected as a percent of GDP are at a 50-year low.

U.S. corporate tax revenues as a percent of national GDP are lower than all but one industrialized country – Iceland. U.S. corporate taxes accounted for 1.2 percent of U.S. GDP in 2009, compared to 2.3 percent among the 26 industrialized nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that collect and

report tax data.

Meanwhile, U.S. multinational corporations are reporting record levels of profits to shareholders. And their balance sheets are loaded with record levels of cash – more than \$2 trillion at last count.

President Obama's tax framework addresses important issues such as curtailing the abuse of offshore tax havens, but the devil is in the details. For example, a proposed minimum global tax could reduce the incentive of U.S. multinationals to disguise domestic profits and shift them to low or no-tax corporate tax havens around the world. But if the rate, now unspecified, is set too low it could become a permanent tax break for U.S. multinational corporations whose ac-

countants are expert at assigning expenses to the domestic side of the ledger for U.S. tax deductions while assigning profits to the "foreign" side. And it doesn't take a large rate gap between the corporate tax rate and a minimum global tax to produce large tax savings for corporations with revenues in the billions.

One way Congress could address closing loopholes right now is through the Cut Unjustified Tax Loopholes Act introduced by Senators Carl Levin of Michigan and Kent Conrad of North Dakota. It would crack down on offshore tax haven abuses and close tax loopholes that encourage corporations to move jobs abroad. The challenge of corporate taxes and

competitiveness is not that rates are too high, but loopholes, preferences and subsidies make corporate tax collections far too low.

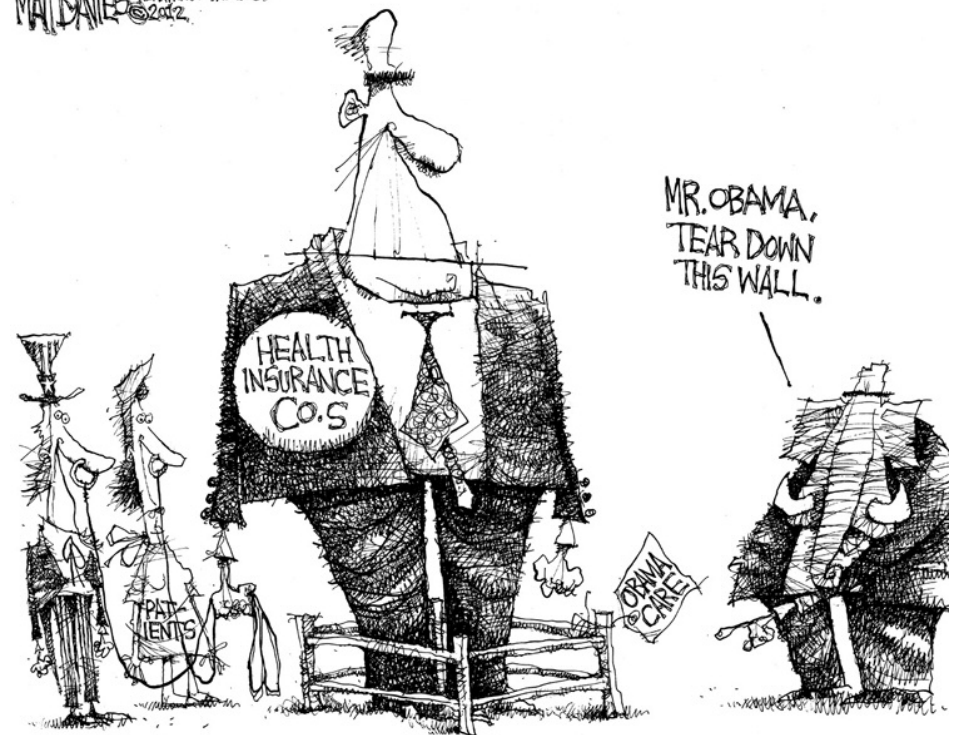
Big businesses want all the benefits of government spending – from government contracts, a publicly educated workforce, transportation networks and courts to enforce property rights, to scientific research they are happy to commercialize, and bailouts in the billions. Their increasing unwillingness to pay for the public services and infrastructure that underpin our economy is the real threat to America's competitiveness.

Klinger is tax policy director of Business for Shared Prosperity, a national network of business owners, executives and investors.

## Health care, Politics

*Pity the insurance companies, hemmed in as they are by the Affordable Care Act. Matt Davies observes that in the GOP's insistence on getting them their freedom back, there are others being ignored.*

MAT DAVIES REMAINING DEBATE/RC ©2012





## Plano daily center for Alzheimer's and dementia offers free trial for new guests

Encore Adult Daily Enrichment Center (Encore) is offering a free three-day trial for new guests at its memory care day center in North Texas. Encore provides a comprehensive program with stimulating activities, a cutting-edge life enrichment program and support designed especially for those with Alzheimer's, dementia and other memory impair-

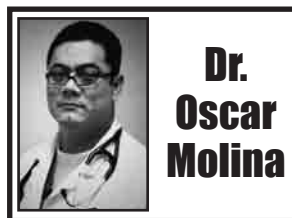
ments.

"In the state of Texas, the number of at-home caregivers has increased by 49 percent since 2009, said Encore's Community Director Gary Allinger. "We want to ensure those caregivers have a resource available for advice and a much-needed break. Offering this trial to the community opens our doors to those who may not have

known such a resource existed."

The free three-day trial is available to any member of the community with Alzheimer's or dementia who has not been to Encore within the past year. Encore provides a safe and secure day center for guests with Alzheimer's and dementia. As part of their stay, guests can participate

See DEMENTIA, Page 7



**Dr.  
Oscar  
Molina**

*What are the most important medical screening tests for women and what age*

## Ask the Expert

*should they have them?*

Women should have a pap smear as soon as they become sexually active and every year after. Women age 35 and older should have a yearly mammogram. The pap smear is the only way to check for changes to the cells

in the cervix. Mammography can identify abnormalities in the breast that are far too small to be felt during self-exams.

*For more information contact Dr. Oscar Molina at the Molina Medical Center at 972-259-6900.*

## Community Fest and Housing Fair in Irving

Enjoy a free day of fun at Community Fest from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., March 24 at Senter Park Recreation Center, 901 S. Senter Road. A variety of food, games, entertainment and children's activities will be provided. Informational booths from businesses and city departments also will be available.

Residents interested in renovating or purchasing a home are invited to attend a housing fair during the Community Fest. Visit with lending institutions, insurance agents and title companies.

For more information, about both events call 972-721-2641.

## Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship

Time is running out for high school seniors to submit their applications to Jackie Robinson Foundation. In addition to a financial grant, the Foundation also provides its scholars with mentoring, internships and leadership development. The deadline is March 30th.

To be eligible for a Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship, an applicant must:

- Be a graduating, minority high school senior;

- Plan to attend an accredited and approved four year institution within the United States;

- Show leadership potential;

- Demonstrate a dedication to community service;

- Present evidence of financial need;

- Be a United States citizen;

- A minimum SAT score of 1,000 combined on the math and critical reading sec-

tions or a composite ACT score of 22; and

- Not possess a degree from a 2 or 4 year College when applying for the scholarship.

The application process is "paper-less" and must be done online.

For more information, please visit their website at [www.jackierobinson.org](http://www.jackierobinson.org) and click on "apply", or e-mail them at [requests@jackierobinson.org](mailto:requests@jackierobinson.org).

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Together we'll go far



## NAACP Garland "Political Forum"

The NAACP Garland is hosting a "Political Forum" on Tuesday, March 27 featuring the candidates for Garland City Council Seats in Districts 1, 2, 4 and 5. The Garland In-

dependent School District Board of Trustees Candidates for Place 6 and 7 are also invited to participate.

Thurman Jones, the *Publisher of the North Dallas*

*Gazette*, will moderate the political forum. The forum will be held at The Garland Women's Activities Building located at 713 Austin St. (next to the downtown Library).

## Commissioner Court candidate hosting "Listening to You" tour

Daniel Davis Clayton, Democrat for Dallas County Commissioner District 1, is listening tour stops throughout District 1. The tours kicked off March 19 and end on April 11. The "Listening to You" Tour consists of a series of community dialogues throughout the major segments of District 1 and extends an invitation to all residents and leaders to help prioritize and develop a plan of action to address mounting concerns in the district.

Tour events scheduled include:

**Garland - Monday, March 26 6-8 p.m.** Audubon Recreation Center, 342 West Oates Road, Garland

**North Dallas/Hamilton Park - Tuesday, March 27 6-8 p.m.** Lake Highlands North Recreational Center, 9940 White Rock Trail, Dallas

**Mesquite - Monday, April 2 6-8 p.m.** Home of Elizabeth Walley, 1112 Siebold Court, Mesquite

**Ross/Swiss/Oak Lawn - Monday, April 9 6-8 p.m.** Home of Mary Warren, 4312 McKinney Avenue #16, Dallas, TX 75205

**Lake Highlands/Casa View/White Rock - Wednesday, April 11 6-8 p.m.** Home of Erica Cole, 9246 Forest Hills, Dallas

"We want to build a coalition of residents from all corners of the district, focused on identifying issues and developing solutions for Dallas County. I am excited about this effort because it provides me the opportunity to hear from Dallas County residents and bring about significant improvements to their quality of life," Clayton said.

## Richardson now requires garage sale permits

The Richardson City Council last week approved a new ordinance requiring people who hold garage sales to first obtain a permit. Permits will be available at City Hall or on the City website,

www.cor.net, beginning April 1.

No fee will be required for a garage sale permit, which must be obtained by midnight the day of the sale.

The City limits garage

sales to a maximum of three in any 12-month period at the same address, and no resident may conduct more than three garage sales in any 12-month period.

# Have a health insurance question or concern?

## Hope Cottage hosting relationship and parenting workshop

Hope Cottage is hosting a free relationship and parenting education seminar at the Dallas offices of Anthem Strong Families located at 12800 Hillcrest Road, Ste. A101. The seminar on March 31 is scheduled to begin at 9

a.m., ending at 4 p.m., with lunch provided. This seminar is highly recommended for adoptive and waiting families.

The topics will include: Conflict Resolution, Communication, Understanding Fam-

ily Values, Making Wise Choices, Anger Management, and Positive/Negative Thinking

RSVP are requested by Monday March 26 at mbomkamp@hopecottage.org or 214.526.8721, ext 211.

## SERVICE,

continued from Page 1

Among the many volunteer opportunities, in some regions Wells Fargo team members collectively are volunteering 160 hours at local food banks, and in others they are visiting 160 classrooms to read to students and provide financial education lessons.

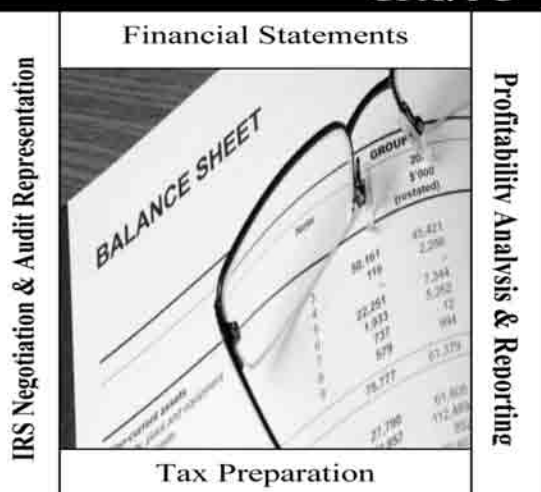
Wells Fargo team members also took part in a company-wide poll, which determined how the company would distribute \$160,000 among three national non-profit organizations. As a result of the voting, Feeding America® will receive \$100,000, and Semper Fi Fund and Teach for America will each receive \$30,000.

Founded as a banking and express company on March 18, 1852, in New York City, Wells Fargo opened its first western office on the waterfront of Gold Rush San Francisco on July 13, 1852, the site of the company's current headquarters. With the merger of Wachovia, Wells Fargo once again serves customers coast to coast.

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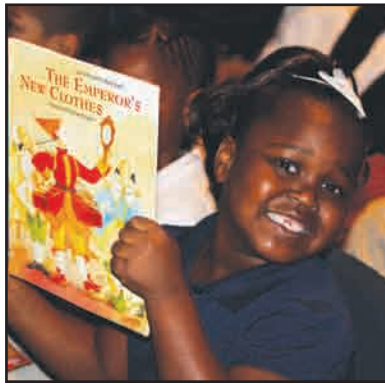


## Dallas Children's Theater Celebrates 10,000th Performance!

Wednesday, March 21 Dallas Children's Theater celebrated the 10,000th performance of the theater since its inception in 1984. Students from White Rock Elementary and Ronald McNair Elementary attended Young King Arthur by Kathy Burks Theater of Puppetry Arts, and enjoyed being a part of this special performance. An announcement about DCT's accomplishment preceded the show, and ten lucky students won books in honor of the event. DCT's 10,000th performance began on Wednesday,

March 21 at 10 am at DCT's Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman Street, Dallas.

"DCT has grown beyond my wildest dreams," says Robyn Flatt, DCT's Executive Artistic Director and co-founder. "What began as a modest idea has developed into a major cultural institution, and a national leader in the field of theater for young audiences. And, we keep growing! I am proud to lead such an active organization within the arts community, and to bring so many



Elementary student attending DCT's 10,000th performance. Photo by Rachel Wells.

uplifting theater experiences

to youth and families. Here's to 10,000 more!"

Young King Arthur by Kathy Burks Theater of Puppetry Arts runs through April 1. Anne of Green Gables opens this Friday, March 23 (with an opening night tea party beginning at 6:30 pm) and runs through April 1.

For additional information and to reserve tickets visit [www.dct.org](http://www.dct.org) or call 214-740-0051

## Irving ministers meet with candidates



Left side of table from front to back: Reverend Starks and AD Jenkins, candidate for Irving City Council, District 3; Right side of table from front to back: Reverend Robinson, Manuel Benavidez, local LULAC leader, Rick Stopfer, candidate for Irving City Council, Place 8 and Domingo Garcia, candidate for Congress, 33rd district. At the head of the table, Former Dallas ISD School Board Trustee Ron Price

## DEMENTIA, continued from Page 4

in therapeutic activities designed to enhance their lives through specially developed memory care practices. Activities include art, dance, pet therapy, cooking classes, exercise, even video games and more.

"Our daily enrichment activities focus on the physical, mental and spiritual needs of those with

Alzheimer's and dementia," said Allinger. "We ensure the sensory input, social engagement and acuity level needs of our guests are met. This provides at-home caregivers with a sense of relief knowing that their loved ones best interests are being taken into consideration and that the activities at Encore will

benefit their quality of life."

Located at 6505 W. Park Blvd., Suite 116, in Plano, Encore is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Guests are provided with breakfast, lunch and a snack. Transportation is available to and from Encore.

The free trial period ends in April. For more information on Encore Adult Daily Enrichment Center and the free trial, call 972-428-5400 or visit [www.EncoreDayStay.com](http://www.EncoreDayStay.com).

Photo: Encore residents participate in exercise activities



Lady Tasha Presents...

### Women Justified by Faith 2012 Conference

*"The Woman in the Mirror"*

Dr. W.L. Sheffield, Sr. EdD  
Fellowship Christian Center Church | Allen, TX

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Pratt and Worship Leader  
New Life Community Church  
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Pastor Nellie Bryant  
New Birth Christian Fellowship  
Harrisburg, PA

Minister Donna Edwards,  
First Lady  
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McKinney, TX

Elder Faith Johnson  
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*"But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like." (James 1:22-24 NLT)*

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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 meeting, monthly every 2nd Thursday, 6:30 p.m., at various locations within Collin

County. Speakers, Power Networking, Business Referrals, [www.ccblackchamber.org](http://www.ccblackchamber.org) or 469-424-0120.

**Through March 22**

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

**Through March 24**

Garland Civic Theatre will present **Love from a Stranger** Tickets: 972-205-2790, [GarlandCivicTheatre.org](http://GarlandCivicTheatre.org) or 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 April 16**

**AARP is offering free tax assistance** 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. every Monday at the Lewisville Senior Activity Center, 1950A S. Valley Parkway. Info: 972-219-5050.

**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).

**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.fissahaie5@gmail.com](mailto:hellen.fissahaie5@gmail.com)

**March 23**

**The Next Step in Technology Innovation** *What it could mean for North Texas*, featuring Dr. Wesley Harris, Professor, MIT at The University of Texas at Dallas - Galaxy Room, 800 W. Campbell Rd, Richardson at 11:30 a.m.

**Monuments of Stone: The Art and Architecture of Great Zimbabwe** at the Dallas Museum of Art at 7:30 p.m., tickets are \$10 214-922-1818

**March 24**

**"Sharia: Threat or Hype?" - Open House** at Islamic Center of Irving from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at 2555 Esters Road in Irving. Food and refreshments will be served. Also includes mosque tour. This event is FREE and OPEN to the public of all faith backgrounds. Pre-registration at <http://outreach.irving-masjid.org> or call 972-812-2230, ext. 1005.

**The 2012 Miss Blue Revue Scholarship Program** 7 p.m. to 12 midnight at The Westin Park Central located at 12720 Merit Drive, Dallas. The cost is \$45 + \$2 online service fee

**Irving Housing Fair** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Senter Park, 901 S. Senter Road.

**March 25**

**LegoMania!** from 2 – 3 p.m., at the Lewisville Public Library located at 1197 W. Main Street in the Bennett Program Room. Creating with Legos takes place on the fourth Sunday of each month. Children under 6 years must be accompanied by an adult in the program.

Plano Symphony Orchestra's **Porgy and Bess** 972-473-7262, or [www.plano-symphony.org](http://www.plano-symphony.org) Tickets start @ \$9.

North Dallas Community Baptist Church celebrates its 12th Anniversary with **"Serving in Unity for the Glory of God"** (Roman's 15:6) at 1718 Trinity Valley Drive, Carrollton, TX starting at 11am. Info: 972-484-1185.

**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

**March 30**

UT Arlington's annual **World-Class Glass Art Show and Sale** at the Studio Art Center, 810 S. Davis Dr., Arlington from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with silent auction bids accepted 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**March 31**

**25th Annual Funny Bunny Festival** from 8:30 a.m. to noon, at Toyota of Lewisville Railroad Park, 1301 Railroad St., Lewisville. Admission is \$1 per person, free for children younger than 3.

Keep Irving Beautiful will be participating in the **"Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off"** in conjunction with the Great American Cleanup from 8:30 a.m. to noon at T.W. Richardson Grove Park, 333 E. Interstate Highway 635, Irving. Info: [www.rockthegreen.org](http://www.rockthegreen.org) or 972-721-2175.

**April 1**

**2nd Annual Academy of McKinney & Plano The-**

**atres 2012 AMP Awards** at The Courtyard Theatre located at 1520 Avenue H in Plano.

**April 2**

**"What is New About Immigration in the United States?"** Nancy Foner, a Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York, will present SMU's 2012 George and Mary Foster Lecture in Cultural Anthropology. 5:30–7:30 p.m., SMU McCord Auditorium, 306 Dallas Hall

**April 4**

**"Screening of El Norte, with Commentary by SMU Distinguished Anthropology Professor Caroline B. Brettell."** The 1983 documentary *El Norte*, directed by Gregory Nava, is the story of two Guatemala Mayan peasants, a brother and sister, who flee their country because of political persecution and head north. 6:30–8:30 p.m., SMU McCord Auditorium, 306 Dallas Hall

**April 7-16**

**Spirit of Uganda's farewell** performance and event at SMU's McFarlin Auditorium.

**April 8**

**House of Blues Gospel Brunch** 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Live Show by Lady Diamond and Special guest at :2200 N. Lamar, Dallas; Tickets: 214-978-2583 or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

**April 13**

**4th Annual Spring Flower Fundraiser** to benefit Richardson's Network of Community Ministries Dental Clinic at Loveable Smiles, 1410 N. Plano Rd., Suite 200, Richardson. Info: 972-231-0585 or email [info@loveable-smiles.com](mailto:info@loveable-smiles.com)

**April 19**

**DFW International Dinner with the Mayors** at the Fairmont Hotel - 1717 North Akard Street Dallas at 6 p.m.

**April 21**

**2012 March for Babies** at White Rock Lake in Dallas; Info: [www.marchforbabies.org](http://www.marchforbabies.org), 972-669-3463

**April 26**

**"Environmental Justice and the Maquilladora Murders"** presented by Daisy L. Machado, dean of Academic Affairs and professor of church history at Union Theological Seminary in NYC. Evelyn Parker, associate professor of practical theology at SMU Perkins School of Theology. 6:30–8 p.m., Prothro Hall at SMU Perkins School of Theology, 5901 Bishop Blvd.

**May 5**

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

**May 18-20**

**The 20th Wildflower! Festival** will take place at the Galatyn Park Urban Center in Richardson.

**May 19**

**First Time Homebuyer Workshop** at Farmers Branch Manske Library, 13613 Webb Chapel Rd, 2 - 4 p.m.

**May 26**

Dallas International Festival is a free event at the Dallas Arts District along Flora Street from Pearl to Routh from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**June 8-9**

**Democratic State Convention** in Houston

**2nd Annual Glam Galore Shopping Soiree** at The Richardson Civic Center Grand Ballroom from 5 - 10 p.m.

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# Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community



# Irving ISD to implement new vendor software

## Move helps district reach HUB, D/M/WBE businesses

BY JACKIE HARDY  
NDG CONTRIBUTING  
WRITER

*Editor's Note: This is part two of a series looking at Irving ISD's purchasing program. Part one ran in our February 23, 2012*

district contracts, the district has hired a Dallas-based software company to manage its procurement process.

Rick Powell, director of purchasing for Irving ISD, said Tyler Technologies will implement the Minus®

opportunities are available or track the spending with vendors by certification designation. Without vendor participation, it will be difficult to register vendors due to limited resources for administrative purposes in the district," Powell said.

vendors on how to properly access the new software system, but provide handouts on how to participate in the procurement process and assist vendors on how to work with prime construction contractors through their Construction Manager and Risk companies.

The district hopes to get vendors of all types both certified and non-certified M/WBEs registered on their new software system. According to Powell, one issue they have encountered with the first wave of vendors selected from their current HUB and D/M/WBE list, is some vendors do not completely fill out the sections of the web pages, including the commodity codes of the goods or services they sell, or uploading their certificates for HUB and D/M/WBE.

Irving's ISD goals for participation states "twenty percent of all qualified D/M/WBEs and HUB vendors and of which, a goal of ten percent will be certified of annual controllable procurement expenditures which are defined as agreements between the IISD and a contractor to provide or procure labor, materials, equipment, supplies and services to, for or on behalf of the district."

Earlier this year, a public information request was submitted to the district (reference number 1037) regarding past contract agreements extended to Alert Services, Inc. Alert Services is the employer of previous Board of Trustee Randy Stipes, formerly of Place 3. According to Alert Services Inc. website, Stipes is the North Central Texas Sales Representative for the company that spe-

cializes in meeting the needs of athletic trainers and coaches.

In an email received by *North Dallas Gazette*, the district paid Alert Services, Inc. a total of \$123,978.58 from 2007-2011, according to purchasing documents dated on Dec. 15, 2011 from Irving ISD. During his tenure, Stipes filed a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement (CIS) on March 6, 2009 and Sharon Morin of Alert Services, Inc. filed a Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (CIQ) on Dec. 20, 2006, per the district website.

Stipes is a very recognized name within Irving ISD as his father, John Stipes served as a long-time Board of Trustee for the district and John and Margie Stipes Elementary school was named in honor of his parents for their many years of service to the Irving ISD.

No formal complaint regarding the conflict of interest with Alert Services, Inc. was brought against the district, according to the Public Records Office of Irving ISD. To further research the district policies on Ethics Conflict of Interest Disclosures visit: [http://www.tasb.org/policy/pol/private/057912/pol.cfm?DisplayPage=BBFA\(LEGAL\).pdf](http://www.tasb.org/policy/pol/private/057912/pol.cfm?DisplayPage=BBFA(LEGAL).pdf) and [www.tasb.org/policy/pol/private/057912/pol.cfm?DisplayPage=BBFB\(LEGAL\).pdf](http://www.tasb.org/policy/pol/private/057912/pol.cfm?DisplayPage=BBFB(LEGAL).pdf).

Powell also shared with the district it recently awarded several million dollars in roofing projects to M/WBE firms where six of the seven projects were awarded to certified firms with Castro Roofing of Texas being one of those certified HUB and D/M/WBE contract recipients.

Although the Irving ISD's HUB and D/M/WBE program is not yet perfected; Powell wants to assure he and his team are committed to the success of the program. Currently, the Purchasing team is working with its first wave of vendors registering on the Munis® Vendor Self-Serve system in the effort to test the ease of the registration process and the ease of following the on-line instructions. A second wave will begin when all results from the first wave have been evaluated and resolved with respect to issues on navigating the system.

Powell explained in a written response, "If I could appeal to your readers that may be potential vendors, I would ask them to please be patient and work with us to make this process successful for the vendors, the district and most importantly, the children we serve with the goods and services we procure. After the initial rollout phase when the registration process is opened to all, we need vendors to register and follow the instructions so we will have a useful and productive system that makes opportunities available to more qualified vendors. If we do this together, both the vendors and the public we serve will benefit with better value for our tax dollars."

For more information on the upcoming vendor training for the district's new software application and information on upcoming HUB and D/MWBE outreach events/bidding opportunities, visit <http://irvingisd.net>, then click on the Purchasing link and/or contact the Purchasing department at 972-600-5440.

### Irving's M/WBE Program Exceeds Expectations

*The City of Irving's Minority/Women Business Enterprises (M/WBE) program is celebrating the strides it has made in creating more opportunities for women and minorities to secure work from the city.*

*Since its inception in 2007, the M/WBE program has consistently improved women and minority inclusion in city projects. While the program has the stated goal of 26 percent of dollars awarded by Council going to M/WBE vendors, it has found a way to surpass this number year after year.*

*According to city data, from October 2010 to September 2011, more than \$36 million in contracts were awarded and almost \$12 million, or 33 percent, were given to M/WBE businesses. This means that Irving now ranks at the top of North Texas suburban cities in securing contracts for minority and women-owned businesses.*

*"Irving's success with its M/WBE program is great news worth sharing with the African American community of North Dallas," community activist Anthony Bond said. "It's an exciting time only the beginning of better things to come."*

*For more information on Irving's M/WBE program, visit [www.ci.irving.tx.us/purchasing/mwbe.asp](http://www.ci.irving.tx.us/purchasing/mwbe.asp).*



Tommy Gonzalez, Irving City Manager

issue and can be found online at [www.NorthDallasGazette.com](http://www.NorthDallasGazette.com).

To improve on its efforts to notify Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) and Disadvantage Minority and Women Business Enterprise (D/M/WBE) vendors about dis-

Vendor Self-Serve will operate as a procurement management tool in helping both the district and the D/M/WBE vendors streamline its data in the most efficient and effective way.

"Without this information, we cannot notify vendors when procurement op-

Speaking by phone on Wed. March 21, Powell indicated they are currently running a test phase with a group of vendors before they rollout training to all vendors. The expected date for the seminar is in April. The purpose for the meeting will not only be to train



## WIN two tickets to see Disney on Ice's Dare to Dream next week

The *North Dallas Gazette* is giving away tickets to enjoy a celebration of royal proportions when Rapunzel, Tiana and Cinderella star in *Disney*

world-class skaters brings the romance, humor and adventure of the films to life in this contemporary skating spectacular.

Experience Disney's hilarious hair-raising escapade, *Tangled*; as Rapunzel, her unlikely companion, Flynn, and Maximus, embark on an uproarious journey. Boogie to the beat of the bayou with Princess Tiana and Prince

gettable fantasy come true. All your favorite princesses take to the ice in a spectacular finale at the ultimate Disney Princess event.

The shows are Wednesday, March 28 – Sunday, April 1 at the American Airlines Center. Tickets are available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). The cost is \$75 (Rinkside), \$45 (VIP), \$30 and \$15. All seats are reserved, and tickets are available by calling Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000. Tickets may also be purchased at Ticketmaster Retail Locations or at the arena's box office.



*On Ice* presents *Dare to Dream*, an all-new live production at the American Airlines Center. To enter visit [Facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette](http://Facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette), click on the Disney Tickets on the left side and enter to win!

Relive memorable moments from *Tangled*, *The Princess and the Frog* and *Cinderella* as a cast of

Naveen in a magical, musical journey that all begins with a fateful kiss. And fanciful dreams become reality as Cinderella meets her Prince Charming, with a glass slipper fit for an unfor-



## Mary Poppins on stage at Bass Hall

*Mary Poppins* is one of the biggest stage musical successes to emerge from London or New York in recent years. Worldwide to date, the show has grossed over \$644 million and welcomed 9.3 million guests.

Based on P.L. Travers' cherished stories and the classic 1964 Walt Disney film, *Mary Poppins* the stage play features the Academy Award®-winning music and

lyrics of Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman.

*Mary Poppins* performance times are: 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 27; 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, March 28-29; 8 p.m. Friday, March 30; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, March 31; 1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, April 1; 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, April 3-5; 2 and 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 6-7; and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 8.

Ticket prices start at \$38.50. Ticket prices for the preview performance on March 27 start at \$19.25. Beginning tickets are available at the Bass Hall Box Office and online at [www.basshall.com](http://www.basshall.com). Box office hours are 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday. To charge tickets, call 817-212-4280, or for orders for groups of ten or more may be placed by calling 817-212-4318.

## Circus coming to town this weekend

Carson and Barnes Circus, one of the last of the great American traveling big top circuses, will perform three dates in Allen, Texas at the Millennium Business Park Friday through Sunday, March 23-25 to benefit the Kiwanis Club of Allen.

Show-times underneath the big top began at:

•Friday, March 23: 4:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.



• Saturday, March 24: 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

• Sunday, March 25: 1:30 p.m. & 4:30 p.m.

Ticket prices are \$14 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under when purchased in advance online or from local Allen area ticket locations. Discount coupons for a savings of up to \$4 on adult tickets are available locally and at [BIGTOPSHOW.COM](http://BIGTOPSHOW.COM)

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## Houston Sun Newspaper co-publisher Lonal Robinson dies

Lonal Robinson, 63, co-publisher of *The Houston Sun Newspaper*, passed away on March 17 after a four-month hospital stay. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Dorris Ellis Robinson, his four children and five grandchildren.

The entrepreneur and community volunteer, was well known for his work coaching and training youth in football, basketball and baseball. Lonal, an athletic star born in Lima, Ohio, organized sports leagues and teams for children in each

community in which he lived including Champaign, IL, Madison, AK, and Houston.

In collaboration with Houston ISD and the City of Houston, Lonal spearheaded the creation of a multi-use sports field for children in Third Ward and established the Houston Metropolitan Youth Sports Association, which teaches boys and girls football and baseball. His most recent civic activity was to support the Friends of Emancipation Park efforts to renovate

the 140-year-old historic landmark. Mayor Annise Parker recently announced an \$18 million renovation and upgrade project for Emancipation Park.

In 1983, Lonal and his wife, Dorris, established *The Houston Sun Newspaper*; and in 1990 he opened the first black-owned comedy club in the Southwest, the Comedy Place, which featured acts including Chris Rock, Adele, DL Hughly, Adele, and Ricky Harris.



**Sports  
Talk with  
Spider**

In his hey day he was the Little Wayne of the NBA with tattoos from head to toe, custom braids and a traveling hair stylist to maintain the braids after each game. His

## The Answer now has Questions?

jewelry had more diamonds than Liberace and his entourage doubles that of Muhammad Ali during his boxing career.

Only six feet tall and 165 lbs., depending on the meal, Allen Iverson on the court was a combination of a NFL running back with injuries

that never went away and a magician who could create his own shot over giants twice is statue and weight. The "Answer" was his anointed name that the hip-hop community gave him. Reebok co-signed with a \$50 million lifetime contract to compete with

**See QUESTIONS, Page 16**

## Dickey's Barbecue Flying High at Love Field

Dickey's Barbecue Restaurant is building a signature store in the new Love Field terminal. As a Dallas-based company, Dickey's looks to represent lip smackin' Texas barbecue in the expanding airport.

"We were born and bred in Dallas and so this is a natural choice for a signature

store," said Roland Dickey, Jr., president of Dickey's Barbecue Restaurants. "The Love Field Modernization Program is exciting news for our company and the city of Dallas."

The Love Field Modernization Project is designed to create a cohesive, modern facility that will serve the

needs of Dallas citizens and travelers. Dickey's Barbecue is part of the "food court" amenities that will be provided.

"Our Love Field store is going to be a signature design for Dickey's," said Joette Young, Director of Marketing for Dickey's Barbecue Restaurants.

## GRADUATES,

continued from Page 3

sought help summed up her experience by saying that "I decided I really didn't want to speak to the nice lady who had been doing that job for the last twenty years."

Our graduates need access to people who are experienced in today's workplace and who can show them how to market themselves effectively to employers and how to create their own jobs as freelancers, consultants, or small business owners. Showing graduates how to succeed in today's workplace should be an integral part of their education, not an option as it currently is. And we need more resources in this area.

Graduates can't wait for the education system to enter the twenty-first century; they need to take charge of their own success. And, with a little bit of help, they're absolutely capable of doing that.

Ron McGowan is the author of "How to Find WORK in the 21st Century", currently in use at over 400 colleges and universities worldwide. The 2012 edition will soon be released in print and ebook form: <http://www.howtofindwork.ca>

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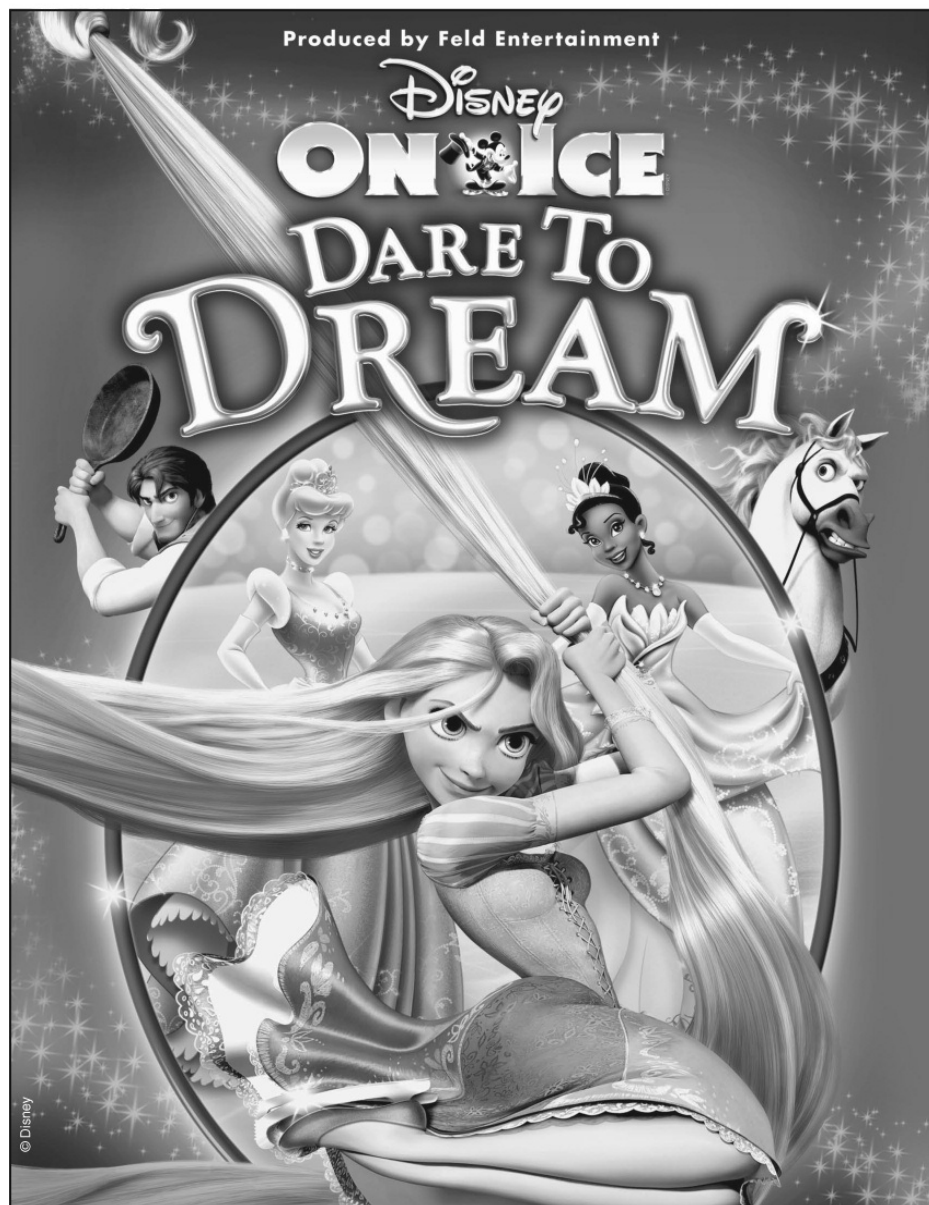
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\*Performance in Spanish

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**MARTIN,** continued from Page 1

ties took his word that he was acting in self-defense, a version of events contradicted by witnesses and calls to 911.

Martin, an honor student who lived in Miami with his parents, was visiting in the gated community of Twin Lakes in Sanford, 20 miles northeast of Orlando, with his father when the incident took place. He had gone to a nearby 7-Eleven store to pick up a bag of Skittles and a can of iced tea during halftime of a televised NBA game.

Walking back, he was spotted by Zimmerman, who was driving a SUV. Zimmerman, a wannabe cop, dialed 911 to report seeing a "very suspicious" Black male in the neighborhood.

Under pressure, Sanford police released 911 tapes that clearly show that Zimmerman disobeyed police instructions that he avoid making contact with Martin.

Zimmerman told the 911 dispatcher, "This guy looks like he is up to no good. He is on drugs or something." He also claimed Martin had his hand in his waistband and was looking at homes as he walked.

"These —holes. They always get away," Zimmerman

told the dispatcher. When the 911 dispatcher asked Zimmerman if he were following Martin, he replied yes.

"OK, we don't need you to do that," the dispatcher told Zimmerman. Not only did he disobey, Zimmerman got out of this SUV, confronted Martin, and fired the deadly bullet into his chest.

Benjamin Crump, the family's lawyer, also appeared on Roland Martin's show with the parents.

"He [Zimmerman] gets out of that car with a 9 millimeter gun, weighing 200 pounds and confronts this kid, weighing soaking wet 140-150 pounds, who has only a bag of Skittles. George Zimmerman has a red sweat shirt and jeans on. We believe Trayvon Martin went to his grave not knowing who was this strange White man confronting him."

Several witnesses have disputed the idea that Zimmerman was acting in self-defense.

"I heard someone crying — not boo-hoo crying, but scared or terrified or hurt maybe," Mary Cletcher told the *Miami Herald*. "To me, it was a child." She explained, "This was not self-defense. We heard no fight-

ing, no wrestling, no punching. We heard a boy crying. As soon as the shot went off, it stopped, which tells me it was the child crying. If it had been Zimmerman crying, it wouldn't have stopped. If you're hurting, you're hurting."

Sanford, Fla. has a checkered race relations record.

In 2005, two parking lot security guards, one the son of a Sanford police officer, fatally shot a Black teenager, Travares McGill, in the back. They, too, claimed self-defense and had their case dismissed in court.

Last year, Police Chief Brian Tooley was forced from office after the son of a lieutenant was caught on camera beating a defenseless homeless Black man. The department refused to prosecute the officer, Justin Collison, until after the footage was posted on YouTube.

*George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine and the NNPA News Service, is editorial director of Heart & Soul magazine. He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com You can also follow him at www.twitter.com/currygeorge.*

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## SPENDING, continued from Page 1

among lawmakers threaten to affect all of us very soon.

What became clear is if nothing happens in Congress by March 31, current highway funding runs out, and all highway projects will come to a halt, including maintenance. There will be no way to pay for any highway improvements, as federal gasoline tax revenues will end.

In all, 27 members of Congress spoke at the transportation convention in Washington, sharing their ideas on how to avoid this looming setback. In its fifth year, those attending the conference from over 20 states held a national conversation about local transportation needs, sharing concerns and trying to persuade lawmakers to take action soon on highways, bridges, roads, mass transit and other projects.

Getting a long-term surface-funding bill (which is supposed to be renewed every five years) has eluded Congress since the last bill expired in 2009. Since then, temporary extensions have been granted again and again.

Congressman John L. Mica, R-Fla., chairman of the

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, has proposed a 5-Year \$260 billion funding bill, but it failed to get enough support among his party members, mainly those who oppose deficit spending.

Last week, while we were in Washington, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, rebelled against House tradition and gave the job of getting a transportation bill passed to Rep. Bill Shuster, R-Pa., taking it away from Chairman Mica. Conservatives felt Mica's bill contains too much deficit spending, which Mica estimates to be \$15 billion. Boehner may accept a temporary two-year funding proposal put forth by the Senate or a more temporary extension while a compromise is worked out.

Where does this leave Irving, Dallas, Fort Worth, Plano, North Richland Hills, Houston, Austin, Los Angeles, Miami and other cities? It is more important than ever to go to Washington, sit down with members of Congress and explain the dire needs in our community for transportation improvements, whether its roads, high-

ways, interchanges, bridge replacement, light rail or even plans for high-speed trains or ports. And invite your member of Congress to come and see the needs in your town.

If Congress does not act, highways, roads and bridges will continue to deteriorate as our infrastructure problems grow. Nobody wants another budget impasse in Congress, another funding standoff like the one affecting the Federal Aviation Administration that lasted for a year of rancorous debate and a partial two-week shutdown. This time, cooler heads must prevail, and we must focus on transportation infrastructure as the proper expense that it is: an even greater

investment in our future.

Nowhere is this focus brought more keenly to everyone's attention than at the two transportation meetings Irving sponsors. The March D.C. convention is a prelude to the larger worldwide transportation summit that Irving has sponsored each August for the past 14 years. This summer the 15th meeting will be in the new Irving Convention Center for the first time, and will feature the DART Orange Line connection for participants to ride light rail between DFW Airport and Irving's convention hall.

Among the current gridlock of issues in Congress, none is more critical to solve than finding a way to finance the next

five years of surface transportation spending. And at no time is it more important to a city than understanding what its leaders can do now to increase their chances of getting federal dollars to assist with transportation needs. My colleagues, Council members Joe Philips and Rose Cannaday along with the city of Irving staff members, went to Washington to reach out to other cities, encouraging them to join us in this critical time and move Congress to act in a positive way for our citizens and taxpayers. Our local members of Congress, including Reps. Eddie Bernice Johnson, Pete Sessions and Ralph Hall took time to join Congressman Mica, Congressman Jesse Jack-

son Jr. and others to speak at the convention, and to listen to us.

Throughout the Washington convention week, many people praised the City of Irving for its progressive commitment to transportation needs, and its efforts to bring together visionaries, legislators, Congress members, private companies, local elected officials, educators and federal agency officials in strategic positions of national and international transportation. This is just too important to get mired in partisan politics and internal party disputes over national policy. In this case, national policy is very local policy, as close as the street running by your driveway or office.

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The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is seeking a qualified consultant to conduct a transit needs assessment and planning study. Several communities and public transportation providers in the region face continued intense population growth, public transportation funding challenges, and service coordination barriers. The intent of this effort is to identify existing conditions, detail existing needs for public transportation, describe future growth of those needs, and create a realistic menu of transit options that could be implemented in the next three to five years.

Proposals must be received no later than 5:00 pm, on Friday, April 13, 2012, to Jessie Huddleston, Principal Transportation Planner, North Central Texas Council of Governments, 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, Texas 76011. Copies of the Request for Proposals (RFP) will be available at [www.nctcog.org/trans/admin/rfp](http://www.nctcog.org/trans/admin/rfp) by the close of business on Friday, March 16, 2012.

NCTCOG encourages participation by disadvantaged business enterprises and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or disability.



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**March 25, 10:45 a.m.**

Take charge of your life and your health, come for our Worship Services and stay for our FREE Blood Pressure Clinic.

**April 7, 7:30 a.m.**

Join us for our Ladies Prayer & Breakfast meeting at the IHOP, 933 N. Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75075. Come fasting, if you can, and have a thirst for righteousness. Everyone is welcome. For details call Sis. Misty Rockwell at 214-244-1142 or Sis. Deadra Pete at 469-667-5865

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9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

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

**March 23-24**

Lady Stafford presents: Women Justified by Faith 2012 Conference, "The Woman in the Mirror." "Anyone who listens to The Word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself/herself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like." James 1:23-24 (NIV)

Friday Night registration starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by a conference session at 7 p.m. Saturday Morning registration/continental breakfast start at 8 a.m. followed by some conference sessions at 9 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be vendors, door prizes, spoken Word, Ministry in Dance and breakout sessions, Ministry of the Word, deliverance and more at the Hilton Garden Inn, 705 Central Expressway South, Allen, TX 75013.

*Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed.D.  
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1550 Edelweiss Drive  
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www.theship3c.org*

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**March 25, 7:45 a.m.  
and 11 a.m.**

Join us in Sunday Worship as we give God excellence praise without excuse.

**March 28**  
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  
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**March 25, 11 a.m.**

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mans 15:6

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**March 24, 8 a.m.**

Men of God our Brotherhood of the Cup presents: Men-2-Men Summit 2012 in our Fellowship Hall. There will be sharing, bonding, fellowship, leading and worshipping God. Breakfast and lunch will be served.

**March 24, 12 Noon**

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

**April 14, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.**

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*Dr. Leslie W. Smith,  
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**ROCKBRIDGE CHURCH**

**March 25**

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.

**March 28, 7 p.m.**

You're invited to Bible Study and Awana as we worship and praise God.

*Timothy Jones,  
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**March 25, 8 a.m.  
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Join us in our Morning Worship times and stay for our Sunday School at 10 a.m.

**March 28, 7 p.m.**

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Service as we worship and praise God.

*Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.  
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**March 25, 7:30 a.m.**

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**March , 7 p.m.**

Come to Monday School as we study the Word of God and worship and praise His Holy name.

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—Eleanor Roosevelt.

**Constance Motley** was the first Black woman to be appointed to a federal judgeship in the United States.

Her parents had been emigrants from the Caribbean Island Nevis. Motley's father was a cook at Yale University and her mother founded the New Haven chapter of the NAACP. This gave Constance Motley both an academic background and an insight into American civil rights.

In 1946 she became the first Black woman to receive a law degree from Columbia Law School. She argued a number of cases at the Supreme Court level winning

nine out of ten decisions.

One of Motley's best known decisions occurred when she helped James Meredith break segregation at the University of Mississippi. Motley decided to enter politics, and in 1964 became the first Black woman to win a seat in the New York State Senate. Her political career was relatively short when, in 1966, she was made a federal judge by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

She was appointed to a Chief Justice in 1982 and then to the role of a Senior Justice in 1986. Motley was presented with a Presidential Citizens Medal by President Clinton in 2001.

**Hallie Quinn Brown** was a Black educator, writer and activist. Born March 10, 1850 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, one of six children. Her parents Frances Jane Scroggins and Thomas Arthur Brown were freed slaves.

She was a frequent lecturer on Black issues and the temperance movement,

speaking at the International Woman's Christian Temperance Union conference in London in 1895; and representing the United States at the International Congress of Women in London in 1899.

Brown was a founder of the Colored Woman's League of Washington, D.C., which in 1894 merged into the National Association of Colored Women.

**Elizabeth Duncan Koontz** served as president of the National Education Association (NEA) in 1968-69 and set as her theme, "A time for Educational Statesmanship." She called on teachers "to make use of their united power to bring about change." In her acceptance speech in Dallas, Texas, she further emphasized "that educators . . . men and women . . . young and old . . . Black and White . . . stand together."

Born in Salisbury, North Carolina, on June 3, 1919, to Samuel and Lean Duncan, she attended the Salisbury public schools and Livingstone College. Koontz re-

ceived a Bachelor's degree in English and elementary education in 1938, and a Master's degree in elementary education from Atlanta University in 1941.

Koontz pursued additional training in education for the mentally retarded at North Carolina Central University (NCCU). She devoted her entire life to the field of education.

Other firsts for Koontz included being the first North Carolina Teachers Association member appointed to the NEA Commission. In 1968, she was elected president of the NEA, another first for her and for African-Americans.

As NEA president, she outlined a nine-point program for her tenure in which she called for a unified, secure, respected, informed, and socially aware profession; a profession undivided by artificial differences.

During the presidential Administration of Richard M. Nixon, Koontz headed the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor and



*Author Tracey Richardson is preparing for the 2012 Female Author Summit to be held at the Button's Restaurant in Addison this Saturday, March 24th, at 1 p.m.*

served as a delegate to the on the Status of Women in United Nations Commission

**See WOMEN, Page 16**

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## QUESTIONS, continued from Page 11

Nike and the Jordan brand for basketball shoe supremacy.

Allen Iverson has always had the inclination that the he had the answer before the question was even asked. How? Because he was going to do it his way, and only his way.

With Allen some of the questions never registered with him. How long will this NBA fantasy last? Will I become old someday? How to save my money for a rainy day? These questions and others were not considered by

Iverson even when he was being drafted by Philadelphia 76ers as the number #1 pick of the 1996 NBA draft.

Iverson and other superstars never wanted to listen to the advice of those who had their best interest at heart. Instead they insist on listening to the voices of the "yes" men who pop champagne bottles and ran up large debts at casinos throughout the United States.

Now, he is reportedly broke after making over \$154 millions during his NBA career.

Buying hard-to-sell mansions, and diamond-studded watches will do that for you, Gulfstream jets, fur coats, overpriced jewelry, fancy cars and the Bentley with the personalized plates are gone or in liquidation. The entourage of fifty people is down to a couple family members who are still loyal to the possibility that a NBA team may sign him for a playoff run.

The lecture that all rookies receive by the NBA does not work. According to Sports Illustrated 60 percent of NBA

players are broke within five years of leaving the game. During his career you would think a genuine financial friend would have asked the Answer some questions on his lottery mindset, the hangers-on, traveling hair stylist. Surely one true friend would have encouraged him to start saving and investing wisely.

Now he is an NBA all-star of financial tragic with the likes of Derrick Coleman, Antoine Walker, Latrell Sprewell, Ray Williams and WNBA legend Sheryl

Swoopes who once earn \$50 million during her career. Maybe now he will have time to listen to the questions now his basketball career is over.

You can listen to Donald "Spider" Willis on Sport Talk

with Spider each Sunday from 7-9 p.m. CST on fishbowlradio network.com.

For suggestion and topics call 469-335-6668 or email dwillisdw@yahoo.com.

## WOMEN, continued from Page 15

1970.

**Jean Blackwell Hutson**  
Born in Sommerfield, FL; daughter of Paul O. and Sarah Myers Blackwell. She earned a B.A. from Barnard College, 1935; M.L.S., Columbia University, 1936; Teacher's Certificate, Columbia Univ., 1941.

Housed in the Schomburg is a vast collection of manuscripts and artifacts from the Caribbean, Amer-

ica, Europe, and wherever else the slave ships offloaded their tragic cargo. Some items, like lists and diaries from the old Southern plantations, are records of the places Black people once occupied in a world which refused to acknowledge their rights or their talents.

Hutson an official Schomburg curator from 1948-72, built the collection into one of the best resources

on Black culture to be found anywhere in the world.



Ramon Hodridge, Minister

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