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# Sparks fly at District 3 commissioners' forum

By David Wilfong  
NDG Special Contributor

It was a lively exchange to say the least when the four candidates for District 3 on the Dallas County Commissioners Court met for the *Dallas Examiner* Monday Night Politics forum at the African American Museum in Fair Park on Monday night.

The candidates appearing were incumbent John Wiley Price, Micah B. Phillips, Cedric Davis and Dwayne Caraway.

Price, who has held his position on the Commissioners Court for 31 years, received the lion's share of criticisms hurled by each of his three challengers. The most recurring of which was a lack of water service for people living in the Sandbranch community.

"For 15, 20 years they have been without water because a plan has been put in place to take the land away from them," Phillips said. "By digging down to the water table – at the gravel level, the sand level – would suck their wells dry."

Price responded that the Sandbranch water situation has been brought up to draw a false parallel with crisis in Michigan.

"The people who are there, part of them squatters, have got to under-



(Left to right) John Wiley Price, Micah B. Phillips, Cedric Davis and Dwayne Caraway are vying for the District 3 seat on the Dallas County Commissioners Court in the Democratic Primary. The position has been held by Price for 31 years. (NDG photos by David Wilfong)

stand that we cannot build (water service)," Price said. "FEMA said you cannot go in there unless you are going to elevate the structures at least 10 feet. That is just impossible ladies and gentlemen."

There was only a brief mention of the legal troubles facing incumbent Price, and it came in the form of potential roadblocks to economic development in the area.

"Let me just get it out there," Phillips said. "This indictment has hurt us. No one wants to invest their money in District 3, but I guarantee you on day one I have a plan and it's

contextualized." Price rebuked claims of underperforming development and emphasized numerous corporate investments in his district.

"What is it that nobody seems to understand?" Price said. "We helped drive those initiatives ... so when you look at it, we got the jobs. We got thousands of jobs. The problem still is the infrastructure."

Price ended his presentation by saying he has a history of getting difficult projects done with very lit-

See FORUM, Page 7



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North Dallas Gazette recently asked the question: **"What is the status of Dr. Martin Luther King's Dream?"**  
Part 1: Dr. Gerald Turner, President of SMU  
Part 2: Michael Rawlings, Mayor of Dallas  
Part 3: Dallas County Commissioner, John Wiley Price  
Part 4: Texas Senator, Royce West



## First case of Zika found in Dallas

-See Page 4



## Chico DeBarge set to perform on local stage

-See Page 9



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COMMENTARY

## What do we say to our ancestors?

NDG's View

The 2016 calendar has rolled into the month of February. This is a beautiful time of year; whereas, winter is still celebrated, for some, and as others are awaiting the beauty and newness of the signs of spring to highlight afresh. Even still, there are lovers among us who await their special day of love to be recognized and celebrated by all who care to indulge.

As for those of us who are lovers of America's favorite past time, we know

this month of February is the beginning of training camp, and is the wonderful start of another statistically challenging season, to carry us through to the pinnacle of this year's Series.

One of the most special items about this month of February is it falls in a leap year, thus we welcome the 29th as a special day, and some may choose to honor that date with a day celebration. Yet, we must not forget to honor those special leaders to America's history on Presidents Day.

See SAY, Page 3

## INSIDE...

People In The News .....	2
Op/Ed .....	3
Health .....	4
Community .....	5
Education .....	6
Plano / Irving .....	7
Black History Events .....	8
Entertainment .....	9-10
Market Place .....	11-13
Church Directory .....	14-15
NDG Book Review .....	16

## People In The News...

See Page 2



Michael J. Feeney



Dr. Gail C. Christopher



Bridget L. Moore

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## Michael J. Feeney

WASHINGTON -- The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) mourns the loss of member Michael J. Feeney, a former reporter for The New York Daily News, immediate past president of the New York Association of Black Journalists, and a past recipient of NABJ's Emerging Journalist of the Year Award.

Feeney, 32, died Sunday after going into cardiac arrest while being treated for a staph infection in his kidneys, according to an obituary published in The Daily News.

"I am shocked to learn of



Michael's passing. He was a respected leader within NABJ having served with distinction as chapter president of the New York Association of Black Journalists for years. His leadership led to that chapter receiving the

NABJ Chapter of the Year Award," NABJ President Sarah Glover said. "He was a tenacious journalist who possessed a passion and energy for telling stories reflective of diverse communities -- stories which otherwise might not have been told."

"I am heartbroken to hear of Michael's untimely passing as I have watched him grow from a young inquisitive child into a remarkable man and journalist," said Allison J. Davis, an NABJ founder. "Michael often thanked me and the late great Reggie Harris for igniting the spark that ultimately became his profession, but it was I who

thanked him for making us so proud of his many accomplishments in the industry we so dearly loved. His death is a great loss to journalism, NABJ and to our community of Teaneck, New Jersey, a place he still called home. He will truly be missed by all the lives he touched."

For five years, Feeney distinguished himself as a versatile reporter at *The New York Daily News*. Feeney advanced from being a crime reporter to covering Upper Manhattan, which included the Harlem, East Harlem, Washington Heights and Inwood neighborhoods. While excelling as a beat

reporter, he also covered entertainment and culture showing an innate ability to shift from hard news to feature reporting.

As a freelancer, Feeney covered the riots in Baltimore following the death of Freddie Gray for NBC BLK. Prior to the working for *The Daily News*, he covered entertainment and culture for The Record in North Jersey and news and entertainment for TheGrio.com. He contributed to EBONY Magazine, including a feature story on actress and HIV/AIDS activist Sheryl Lee Ralph and Hairfinity owner Tymeka Lawrence.

A proud native of Tea-

neck, New Jersey, he was a 2005 graduate of Delaware State University. Feeney was a champion of historically black colleges. Upon being honored with NABJ's Emerging Journalist of the Year Award in 2010, he went on a speaking tour which took him to several HBCU campuses.

"Michael was a gregarious, warm, and joyous person," Glover added. "Feeney, as he affectionately was known, inspired veteran journalists and aspiring journalists because of his energy, his enthusiasm and his commitment to helping others. He was a little brother to me and so many NABJers."

## Dr. Gail C. Christopher

Washington, DC (BlackNews.com) -- Fifty years ago, the Civil Rights Movement led to a series of laws banning public discrimination. African Americans were no longer barred from certain restaurants, some schools were integrated and fair housing laws created more living options. But today, it's clear that court rulings and legislation didn't change the root cause of conscious and unconscious bias -- the widespread belief in racial hierarchy still exists. As a nation, we didn't understand the power of this



belief, this misguided notion that some people are either superior or inferior because of the color of their skin.

This bias manifests in many ways. Unarmed men and women are killed by police and civilians, the justice

system seems tilted toward whites, and there remains unequal treatment for children and adults when it comes to health, education, housing and employment. David R. Williams, a sociology professor at Harvard University, cites studies showing that when whites, blacks and Hispanics visited hospital emergency rooms with the same ailment, white patients received pain medication more frequently than people of color.

Does that make the physicians racist?

That may not be the case. With the advancements in neuroscience, we now know

much more about the power of the mind. We understand that unconscious beliefs are deeply held, that centuries of this belief system have unconsciously shaped how some of us respond. But now, 21st century technology -- YouTube, cell phones, dashboard cameras, body cameras -- are leveraged to shape new beliefs about our humanity. They are capturing and exposing vivid samples of people of color abused and dehumanized. We must move beyond the absurd notion that some people have more value than others.

What's promising is that recent polling data demon-

strates a palpable desire for a positive change in how we view one another and how we shape our society to reflect the inherent value of all people. We have carried the burden and the weight of this mythology of a hierarchy of human value, allowing it to weigh our country down for centuries. We must jettison that belief and move forward with the truth of our equal values as a human family.

It's significant that a polling analysis conducted by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in conjunction the Northeastern University School of Journalism has found that a majority of

whites now acknowledge that racism still exists, and that it creates bias in structures such as the criminal justice system. Furthermore, a majority of Americans believe more needs to be done to eliminate racism. In a poll last year, 53 percent of whites said more changes needed to be made to give blacks equal rights with whites, up from just 39 percent a year earlier.

Those findings underscore that now is the time for the Truth Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) process, which the Kellogg

See CHRISTOPHER, Page 4

## Bridget L. Moore

Between being a visiting professor at Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, South Korea, creating a new dance work for Dayton Contemporary Dance Company in Dayton, Ohio, and choreographing a world premiere for Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Bridget L. Moore is used to crisscrossing the globe enjoying the ability to work in the field of her passion - dance.

On Thursday evenings you will find Katricia Eaglin at the Dallas Black Dance Theatre Academy working with the 14 students in the Allegro ensemble. Katricia is the director of that gives about 10



performances a year in the community. All of the Allegro students take classes at Dallas Black Dance Academy (DBDA), the official school of Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Her Allegro ensemble students are aged 14 to 18 and are from Dallas, Fort Worth, Lake Dallas, Plano, Garland, and Ar-

lington. The ensemble recently performed in Denver, Colorado at the International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference. Katricia is an American Ballet Theatre (ABT) certified instructor and teaches classes at DBD Academy.

Princess Grace Foundation Choreography Fellowship Award recipient Bridget L. Moore is choreographing a world premiere performance for Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Cultural Awareness series. Katricia Eaglin is setting a Dallas premiere for the same series taking place February 19-21, 2016, at the Wylie Theatre.

Both Bridget and Katricia grew up in Dallas. Katricia credits the company leader-

ship with shaping her career. Bridget says just seeing the dance company inspired her in elementary school.

"Dallas Black Dance Theatre came to my elementary school once a week for a short period of time through an arts and education program. It was my first time ever moving in a dance class and I believe the exposure sparked my curiosity," explained Bridget L. Moore. Ms. Moore later auditioned for the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. She was accepted in the music department as a pianist and eventually switched clusters to start

See MOORE, Page 16

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# Standing on sacred ground

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA News Wire Columnist

Three unarmed Black men encountered a group of White men walking down a dirt road in Slocum, Texas on July 29, 1910. Without warning, and with no reason, the White men opened

fire on the Black men. And for two days White men simply slaughtered Black people. Eight deaths have been officially acknowledged, but historians who have studied the Slocum Massacre say that it is likely that dozens more were killed, with some saying as

many were killed in Slocum as in Tulsa in 1921 (and those numbers range into the hundreds). The New York Times quoted William Black, the sheriff at the time of the massacre:

“Men were going about killing Negroes as fast as they could find them, and so

far as I was able to ascertain, without any real cause. I don't know how many were in the mob, but there may have been 200 or 300. ... They hunted the Negroes down like sheep.”

History mostly swal-

See SACRED, Page 11

## SAY, continued from Page 1

Nor, shall we forget to honor the honorable leader of the special leaders of the United States, President Lincoln, for his Emancipation Proclamation that freed the Africans, made American slaves.

What a beautiful month of celebration for America. We have much to celebrate in the name of America's history. As Americans of every color, creed, race, etc. we come together in celebration of Valentine's, baseball, President's Day, and we celebrate these events with the joy and love, maybe even a paid holiday given by your company, or better still, our children being privileged enough for our public schools to allow the white-washed truths to be shared about those special leaders we honor. We all come together because these holidays and events have been approved as reasons for celebration by our white supremacy racists' society. Approved.

Therefore, one is allowed to speak about, with freedom, and in public, without any backlash of these societal approved events in which we celebrate in the month of February. And, of course, one is allowed to participate in all the transactions, labeled as sales, in order that one is sold in the midst of these societal approved celebrations. Certainly, one will not manage to move, on life's board, throughout the month of February without spending and becoming a pawn played in America's perpetuation of greed. Regardless, of one's budget in crisis and in need of protection, greed, more likely than not will prevail, even if it bears guilt, depression or

debt, it will prevail. Because these are our society's approved events to celebrate in the month of February.

Purposely, throughout this article, celebrating Black History is not mentioned.

Yet, our History exists in every aspect of American history. Just as the previously mentioned approved events are parts of America, and are recognized and celebrated by all, so should Black History.

Our history is not faded, it is now. And we must continue to write it to be shared among our future generations.

This is WHY BLACK LIVES MATTER.

Although, we are labeled African Americans, it is very unfortunate; we do not know our African history because it was stripped from us. Then we were made into Americans forced through submission. Yet, throughout this time in history in which our ancestors endured this unimaginable transformation, our History was being made, America's history was made. Our ancestor's lives mattered.

As history carried on, we fought for freedom from slavery, and freedom from Jim Crow laws, and freedom of Civil Rights, and freedom of our rights to education, to utilizing our voices through the Ballot. Our people did all of this because our lives mattered.

Today, we fight to be good stewards of what we've been given. Yet, we must recognize, although, this month of February is a time of celebration of our History, we are still in the fight. How dare we sit back and allow gerrymandering, and our

voting rights to be toyed with when our History tells of how blood was shed just so we could have a say in our lives. How dare we turn our sacred pulpits into a stopping point along the campaign trails for candidates who don't share in our ideals in the uplifting and the progression our people. But, they will share an offering for an allotted block of time to coerce a congregation's vote. (We need to start turning over some tables in our Father's House.) How dare we not investigate and study the candidates hoping to be elected to our school boards, the very people making decisions for our children, shaping and molding our children's future. All the while, their children are educated elsewhere. (Our children deserve to eat at the table and not from the scraps that fall.)

The most beautiful lesson shared with us from genera-

tion to generation, from the first slave ship arriving in 1619 to our present is, we matter. Regardless of the obstacles we face, we matter.

This month, in which we celebrate us, we tell the world, Black Lives Matter. And as long as America exists, we exist, because we matter. We will not allow our History to be faded into the background. America's history cannot be told, truthfully, with our Black Lives that Matter.

Let's celebrate us with the joy and love of our ancestor's sacrifices. Let's celebrate us with standing with our Ballot. Let's celebrate us by not being ashamed to allow those who came before us to speak through us to remind the world that we matter.

And let us say to our ancestors, “Thank you for speaking throughout History Black Lives Matter and we will continue to honor our people by doing the same.”

### Thoughts

*We were sought,  
Hunted, then caught,  
Middle Passage we fought,  
We landed and were quickly bought.  
Then stripped of any cultural thought  
Conformed to what Massa brutally taught  
Bought into what he thought we ought*

*Hunted, kidnapped, bought  
Stripped, conformed, mis-taught...*

*Now we choose not to seek, so nothing's sought,  
We claim to be free, but really we still caught,  
Our complacency insults those who stood and fought,  
Pawns of fool's gold, keeps us selling, so we bought.  
Writing our own history should be more than a thought  
Surrender, repent and ask for wisdom to be taught  
So we can live according to His Will, as we ought*

*Seek, claim, and free your mind of binding thought  
Surrender; stand unbossed, and unbought...*

*Just my thoughts  
La Royce*

# First Dallas County Zika Virus case was sexually transmitted

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) has received confirmation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the first Zika virus case acquired through sexual transmission in Dallas County in 2016. The patient was infected with the virus after having sexual contact with an ill individual who returned from a country where Zika virus is present. For medical confidentiality and personal privacy reasons, DCHHS does not provide additional identifying information.

“Now that we know Zika virus can be transmitted through sex, this increases our awareness campaign in educating the public about protecting themselves and others,” said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director. “Next to abstinence, condoms are the best prevention method against any sexually-transmitted infec-



tions.”

Zika virus is transmitted to people by mosquitoes and through sexual activity. The most common symptoms of Zika virus are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting several days to a week.

DCHHS advises individuals with symptoms to see a healthcare provider if they have visited an area where Zika virus is present or had sexual contact with a person who traveled to an area where Zika virus is

present. There is no specific medication available to treat Zika virus and there is not a vaccine. The best way to avoid Zika virus is to avoid mosquito bites and to avoid sexual contact with a person who has Zika virus.

“Education and awareness is crucial in preventing Zika virus,” said Dr. Christopher Perkins, DCHHS medical director/health authority. “Patients are highly encouraged to follow prevention recommendations to avoid transmitting and spreading

Zika virus.”

DCHHS recommends the following to avoid Zika virus: Use the 4Ds to reduce the chance of being bitten by a mosquito.

**DEET All Day, Every Day:** Whenever you’re outside, use insect repellents that contain DEET or other EPA approved repellents and follow instructions.

**DRESS:** Wear long, loose, and light-colored clothing outside.

**DRAIN:** Remove all standing water in and around your home.

**DUSK & DAWN:** Limit outdoor activities during dusk and dawn hours when mosquitoes are most active.

Travelers can protect themselves by doing the following:

Choose a hotel or lodging with air conditioning or screens on windows or doors.

Sleep under a mosquito bed net if you are outside or in a room that is not well-screened

Sexual partners can protect each other by using condoms to prevent spreading sexually-transmitted infections.

There are currently no reports of Zika virus being locally-transmitted by mosquitoes in Dallas County. However, imported cases make local spread by mosquitoes possible because the mosquitoes that can transmit the virus are found locally. DCHHS advises recent travelers with Zika virus symptoms as well as individuals diagnosed with Zika virus protect themselves from further mosquito bites.

For more information on Chikungunya, Dengue and Zika viruses, go to the DCHHS website.

## Borderline high blood pressure in late pregnancy could impact baby’s health

Women who develop prehypertension late in pregnancy may be more likely to give birth to underweight or stillborn babies than women whose blood pressure remains normal, according to new research in the American Heart Association’s journal Hypertension.

Prehypertension is a systolic pressure (the top number) between 120-129 millimeters of mercury (mm Hg) or a diastolic pressure (the bottom number) between 80-89 mm Hg, or both. Hypertension (blood pressure of 140/90 mm Hg or above) has previously been associated

See BLOOD, Page 5

## Free Heart Health screening offered Feb. 5

More than 43 million women are currently living with heart disease—the leading cause of death of American women.

Burlington Stores has teamed up with WomenHeart, The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease, for the fifth consecutive year to launch their campaign to raise awareness and combat heart disease.

On Feb. 5 (National Wear Red Day), from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., your local Burlington in Dallas will host free women’s heart health screenings to raise awareness. At the screenings, blood pressure will be checked, BMI will be screened, and fun but easy heart help tips will be provided.

The store location hosting the screening is:

Burlington Stores  
3131 Forest Lane  
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To find out more information head to [www.BurlingtonStores.com/HeartHealth](http://www.BurlingtonStores.com/HeartHealth).

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# City of Champions advocate announces bid for Duncanville Mayor

Mark D. Cooks recently announced his candidacy for Mayor of Duncanville, Texas. A former Duncanville city council member and longtime advocate for the city, Cooks is optimistic about the future of the city.

“The ‘City of Champions’ deserves a committed champion for its future,” Cooks said in announcing his candidacy. “Duncanville has long been noted for the success of its athletic teams, its family-friendly neighborhoods, and its comfortable place in the DFW Metroplex. My goal as a candidate for Mayor is to launch Duncanville into its rightful place – the best place to live, raise a family and elevate our city to its rightful place in the North Texas economy.”

Cooks is committed to using the skills and experience gained as a Duncanville City Council member, Mayor Pro Tem and President of the Duncanville Community and Economic Development Corporation to achieve his



Mark D. Cooks

vision.

“Duncanville is already a great place to raise a family. My goal is to make our city a great place to live, learn AND earn. We have great neighborhoods, great schools with winning traditions... all we have to add is the ability to earn a living right here at home,” Cooks said. “We are poised to be the economic engine of the Best Southwest community. Our proximity to Interstate 20 and Hwy 67 puts us squarely in the growth curve of Southern Dallas County. My candidacy for Mayor of Duncanville gives us the best chance for the kind of economic growth

our community deserves.”

Cooks’ tenure on the City Council provides ample evidence of his commitment to public safety, quality of life, and transparency in city government. His service on the Duncanville Community and Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors has resulted in the hiring of an economic development director who understands his vision for the city, and for the implementation of family-friendly ordinances that improve the quality of life in Duncanville.

“I’ve continued to listen to the citizens of Duncanville, even after my

service on the City Council,” said Cooks. “When citizens told me that we should push harder to make our city ‘smoke-free,’ I listened. I not only listened, I was able to convince our City Council that enacting a ‘Smoke-Free Duncanville’ ordinance is in the best interests of our city. Through my hard work and the support of committed citizens, the ordinance was passed. I’ve further demonstrated my commitment to a healthy Duncanville by sponsoring and supporting the expansion of our bike trails, our parks and programs that support our sen-

ior citizens.

“Most important, though” Cooks continued, “I’ve envisioned a Duncanville that harnesses the energy of our public schools to enhance the dynamic growth of our city’s economy. When we engage our young citizens in the development of our city’s strategic vision, we move closer to being the kind of city everyone wants to call home.”

“I want to be the Mayor of Duncanville,” Cooks said. “I believe that my years of service to our community, my relationships with neighboring cities, and my commitment to champi-

onship qualities makes me the best choice for our city’s future. There is no question that with the support of residents who share my vision, we’ll make Duncanville not only the ‘City of Champions’, but we’ll become the ‘City of SuperStars!’”

For more information about Mark D. Cooks and for ways you can join his campaign to elevate our Champions to SuperStars, visit [www.markdcooks4duncanville.com](http://www.markdcooks4duncanville.com), call 972-974-7643 or email Mark D. Cooks for Duncanville Mayor at [Mark4Duncanville-Mayor@gmail.com](mailto:Mark4Duncanville-Mayor@gmail.com).

## Dallas DA to host Town Hall, Feb. 11

Dallas County District Attorney Susan Hawk will hold a town hall meeting on Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016

“My hope is for our office to continue connecting with Dallas County neighborhoods so that we, as representatives of the criminal justice system, can maintain, rebuild and in some cases, even establish a positive relationship with our community,” Judge Hawk

said.

“My goal is to bring everyone to the table, to listen, and to formulate fair, balanced, effective solutions for the challenges we, as a community, face when it comes to our criminal justice system.” Hawk continued.

The town hall meeting will include an update on office initiatives, and seek input from attendees on

how the office can collaborate with the community to ensure that it continues its mission of seeking justice both in the courtroom and in the community.

This event will be open to the public: Dallas County District Attorney Town Hall Thursday, Feb. 11, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Greater Cornerstone Baptist Church 8350 Forest Lane in Dallas.

## BLOOD, continued from Page 4

with low birth weight and stillbirth. However, this may be the largest study to examine blood pressure changes to prehypertensive levels in women whose blood pressure was normal at the beginning of their pregnancy, researchers said.

“Working as a clinical doctor in obstetrics, I often meet women with ‘borderline high blood pressure,’ and I wanted to find out if they had increased risks of

adverse fetal outcomes,” said Anna-Karin Wikström, M.D., Ph.D., study lead author and associate professor of obstetrics at Uppsala University in Sweden.

Compared to women whose blood pressure remained normal, researchers found:

- Women who had prehypertension in late pregnancy (36 weeks) were 69 percent more likely to give birth to a baby that was underweight

and 70 percent more likely to have a stillbirth.

- Those who experienced a 15 point or greater increase in diastolic blood pressure and developed prehypertension were more than twice as likely to deliver a small baby.

- Among all women studied (with or without prehypertension), the likelihood of having a small baby increased by 2 percent for each single point rise in diastolic blood pressure.



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## Dallas ISD annual live forum gives parents information about STAAR

The Dallas Independent School District will livestream its annual bilingual STAAR Live Forum to provide information to parents about the 2016 administration of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness.

The STAAR Live Forum will be streamed from the district's administration building at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 10, and can be viewed on Channel

98 on Time Warner Cable, Dallas ISD 98 on the Dallas City News Section of AT&T U-verse, or on any device with Internet access at [www.dallasisd.org/liveforum](http://www.dallasisd.org/liveforum).

In addition to being able to tune in from home, parents will be able to join any of the 43 watch parties being held in schools across the district. During the watch parties, parents can get help asking questions,

enjoy refreshments and obtain resources they can use at home.

Questions for the panel of experts will be received via e-mail at [staar@dallasisd.org](mailto:staar@dallasisd.org) or by phone through a number that will be advertised during the event.

During the live forum—presented by the Office of Family and Community Engagement in collaboration with the divisions of Teaching and Learning and Eval-

uation and Assessment — parents can learn more about what is expected of students, find out about changes for this year's examination, and get answers to any questions they might have.

"I feel this event is very helpful for parents to understand more about the STAAR," said Lourdes Garcia, a parent who watched the 2015 live forum at Ann Richards Middle School.

Information on the 2016 STAAR Live Forum watch parties can be found in any Dallas ISD school or by visit [www.dallasisd.org/staar](http://www.dallasisd.org/staar).

In addition to the STAAR Live Forum, the Office of Family and Community Engagement in cooperation with Teaching and Learning will have a series of free PREP University All-STAAR workshops for families during February and March. The workshops will

provide information about STAAR, including changes for this year's administration, access to sample questions in reading, math, and writing, and information on passing standards for each test. Parents who attend the workshops also will be able to take with them helpful resources they can use at home.

Parent and student resources for STAAR are available at [www.dallasisd.org/staar](http://www.dallasisd.org/staar).

## U.S. Department of Education lays out plan for less testing

Acting U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. announced this week a new guidance to help states identify and eliminate low-quality, redundant or unhelpful testing.

"High-quality assessments give parents, educators and students useful information about whether students are developing the critical thinking and problem solving skills they need to succeed in life," said King. "But there has to be a balance, and despite good intentions, there are too many places around the country where the balance still isn't quite right. We hope this guidance will help restore that balance and give back some of the critical learning time that students need to be successful."

The guidance outlines how federal dollars may be used to help reduce testing in schools, while still ensuring that educators and parents have the information they need on students' progress to improve learning. The guidance shines a light on innovative work already happening across the country and provides examples of how states and districts can use their federal funding to explore new strategies for ensuring the use of high-quality, useful and well-constructed assessments, and the elimination of redundant and burdensome assessments.

The document builds on an October 2015 announcement by President Obama and a set of principles the

Department released, outlining that assessments must be worth taking and of high quality; enhance teaching and learning; and give a well-rounded picture of how students and schools are doing.

Last fall, the Council of the Great City Schools released the results of a comprehensive, two-year study on the scope of testing in schools, a report that has helped deepen the nation's understanding of assessments.

Some states and districts continue to look for creative ways to decrease testing burden on students and teachers while ensuring that new assessments measure vital skills like writing, problem-solving, and critical thinking. The Department is highlighting some of that work on its Progress blog with posts on strategies being used in Tennessee and in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

While this guidance addresses use of federal money under No Child Left Behind during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years, the Department will provide further clarification in coming months on how dollars under the newly adopted Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) can be used to support the reduction of unnecessary testing. The new law takes additional steps to support smart, effective assessments and to reduce over-testing, including efforts to encourage states to limit classroom time spent on statewide standardized testing and to strive for con-

tinued improvement and innovation in assessments. ESSA encourages a smarter approach to testing by allowing the use of multiple measures of student learning and progress, along with other indicators of student success, to make school accountability decisions. It also includes support for state efforts to audit and streamline their current assessment systems.

"As a teacher, you know

that information on your students' progress is crucial to tailoring instruction to their specific needs and to understanding whether a lesson has worked. As a school leader, you need tools to ensure that every student is learning and to support the growth of your staff," King said. "And yet, in both roles, you're also always seeking more opportunities for quality instructional time for your stu-

dents. Good assessments can actually be part of great learning experiences, but simplistic, poorly con-

structed, or redundant tests just take away from critical learning time, without providing useful information."

### Remembering Black Dallas

P.O. Box 763981  
Dallas, Texas 75376  
(489) 399-6242 Office  
[www.RBDallas.com](http://www.RBDallas.com)  
Email: [RBDallasinc@yahoo.com](mailto:RBDallasinc@yahoo.com)



Remembering Black Dallas is a non-profit organization that preserves and promotes the African-American life, history, artifacts and culture of Dallas and its surrounding cities.

You are invited to our upcoming Black History Events

- February 6th** come and celebrate our 1 year Anniversary at the African American Museum, 3536 Al Lipscomb at 1:00, a reception with a special showing of a vintage movie filmed in Dallas Admission Free
- February 17th** Presentation of Remembering Black Dallas and A. Maceo Smith / Main lobby of City Hall, 1500 Marilla with Guest Speaker, Julia Jordan former friend of the late A. Maceo Smith 12:00 Noon, Open to public free of charge
- February 20th** Monthly meeting at 12:00, see website/call for location
- February 21st** Worship with us at St. Luke Community UMC at 11:00 service, 6710 E. R.L. Thornton FWY.
- February 24th** Open forum on African-American culture and race issues, First United Methodist Downtown, 1928 Ross Ave, call (489)399-6264 to reserve your seat(s) admission is free starts at 6:20, George Battles, moderator
- February 27th** Historical bus tour of Black Dallas; Departs for the African-American Museum, 3536 Al Lipscomb Way at 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. Tickets \$20 adults/ \$15 for children for tickets purchase and information call or visit website [www.Rbdallas.com](http://www.Rbdallas.com)
- April 2nd** RBDallas' 1st Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet/fundraiser at the ThornTree Country Club, at 1:00 / 825 W. Wintergreen Rd., Desoto, Texas 75115. Tickets are \$50 per person. Time 1:00



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## Irving, Nimitz Academic Decathlon teams qualify for state competition

Two Irving ISD Academic Decathlon teams are headed to state following a stellar performance at regional competition last weekend. The Nimitz High School team finished second in Region IX, earning a bid to state competition for the 29th consecutive year. The Irving High School team finished fifth, qualifying for state for the first time in school history.

The Nimitz and Irving Super Quiz teams placed second and third overall, respectively. Individual Irving ISD student results are as follows:

### Honors Students (GPA 3.75-4.0)

•**Nikhil Arora** (MacArthur): Third in Speech  
 •**Carlos Estevis** (Nimitz): First in Economics; Second in Music; and Third in Math  
 •**Luis Govea** (Irving): Third in Interview; Third in Science; and Third in Art  
 •**Muram Ibrahim** (Singley): First in Interview  
 •**Brianna Rios** (Nimitz): Sec-

ond in Speech

•**Geoff Thomas** (Nimitz): Third in Essay

### Scholastic Students (GPA 3.0-3.74)

•**Lilian Garcia** (Nimitz): Second in Language and Literature  
 •**Teresa Lindero** (MacArthur): Second in Economics  
 •**Mathai** (Nimitz): First in Math; First in Music; First in Social Science; Second in Economics; Second in Art; Third in Science; and the Second Overall Scholastic Student

### Varsity Students (GPA up to 2.99)

•**Charlie Abrego** (Irving): First in Math; First in Science; and Third in Art  
 •**Miles Brownlee** (MacArthur): Second in Social Science and Third in Interview  
 •**Ramon Reyes** (Nimitz): First in Interview; Third in Music; and the Third Overall Varsity Student  
 •**Ryan Shelton** (Nimitz): First in Interview; Second in Speech; Third in Essay; Third in Economics; and the Fourth Overall Varsity Student  
 •**Seireadan Zipper** (Nimitz): Second in Math; Second in Economics; and the Fifth

Overall Varsity Student

The Nimitz team is coached by Greg Jackson, Greg Thomson and Marc Slette. Coaches for the Irving High team are James Newman, Randall Winter, Andru Gilbert, Marcus Jauregui, Frank Houser, Jonathan Fontenot, Yesenia Vasquez and Ben Bordle-may.

The Academic Decathlon Regional Tournament was held at Frisco ISD January 29 and 30.

Irving ISD will host the State Academic Decathlon Meet for Large Schools February 26 through 28. Nimitz and Irving will be among the 40 top high school teams from across the state to compete in this academically challenging, three-day event at Singley Academy on February 26 and February 27, and at MacArthur High School on February 27 and 28.



The Nimitz High School Academic Decathlon team qualified for state for the 29th consecutive year. Pictured are (back row from left) Coach Greg Jackson, Carlos Estevis, Ryan Shelton, Aaron Mathai, Seireadan Zipper, Geoff Thomas, Coach Greg Thomson, (front row from left) Ramon Reyes, Brianna Rios, Melissa Hernandez and Lilian Garcia.



For the first time in school history, the Irving High School Academic Decathlon team has qualified for the state meet. Pictured are (back row from left) Coach Andru Gilbert, Coach Randall Winter, Luis Govea, George Monsivais, Eduardo Torres, Nathan Schneider, Charlie Abrego, Luis Colin, Omar Lazcano, (second row from left), Irving High School Principal Ahna Gomez, Georgette Monsivais, Robert Gutierrez, Roman Rangel, Nalissa Houth, Leslie Lopez, Coach James Newman and (front row) Alejandra Carrizales.

## CHRISTOPHER, continued from Page 2

Foundation launched on Jan. 28. More than 70 diverse organizations and individuals ranging from the National Civic League to the YWCA USA to the NAACP are partners in the TRHT process.

This broad coalition seeks to move the nation beyond dialogues about race and ethnicity to unearthing historic and contemporary patterns that are

barriers to success, healing those wounds and creating opportunities for all children.

Specifically, the TRHT process will prioritize inclusive, community-based healing activities and policy design that seek to change collective community narratives and broaden the understanding that Americans have for their diverse expe-

riences. TRHT will assemble national and local commissions that will hold public forums on the consequences of racial inequity and work toward mobilizing systems and structures to create more equitable opportunities. In the forums, we will also discuss racial hierarchy and how best to dismantle it.

Clearly, there must be broader knowledge of the harm that comes from the devaluation and from the

structures of inequality. They create physical harm, they create mental and emotional harm, and when there's harm, healing is needed.

When an unarmed black person is killed, I have a bodily reaction to that tragedy. I relive losses of my own, such as when I was a teenager in Cleveland. My first cousin was shot and killed by a white thrill-seeker in our segregated neighborhood. I recall

that we buried her that week, while he enlisted in the Navy and left the city. It was the first funeral I ever attended. Despite all the joyful moments my cousin and I shared growing up together, my only lasting recollection is of her body lying in that casket.

All of us must become more cognizant of the cost of violence and the harm. We must be willing to invest in the processes that help to bring about healing.

TRHT will lead this transformation. Other Truth and Reconciliation efforts around the world aim to reconcile. But America's genesis is this hierarchy. And so we don't have to come back, we don't need to reconcile, this nation needs to transform. The TRHT will chart that course.

*Dr. Gail C. Christopher is vice president for TRHT and a senior advisor at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.*

## FORUM, continued from Page 1

tle resources.

"Talking about creativity, that's what I've had to do," Price said. "So if you'll look at the record, you can see. I provided."

Former Dallas Mayor Pro Tem Caraway, who arrived late, took little time in taking a shot at the character of Price and Phillips.

"What's the difference with me and John, and other gentlemen on this stage?" Caraway asked in his open-

ing round at the microphone. "I've never hit a woman."

Caraway quickly qualified the statement adding, "Cedric (Davis), that don't go for you."

Visibly irritated, Phillips fired back.

"The problem we have in our community, black men will go to jail," Phillips said. "I've never hit a woman in my life, but I've been arrested three times for

it. How many of y'all can identify with that? And I've never been found guilty."

Phillips also returned the favor, pointing to Caraway's past dealings on the city council.

"Ask him about the South Dallas Trust Fund money and where it's at," Phillips retorted.

He criticized the Caraway for "sagging pants" and a plastic bag program, continuing with allegations of criminal misconduct.

Phillips, a developer, ended the forum by telling

the audience he has a plan that would allow local residents to "buy in" to future businesses in the area and help direct the economic growth at home.

As to the criminal accusations, Caraway replied with "So let's just go to court about it." He then defended his handling of the South Dallas Trust Fund, saying that 60 business grants were given out under his direction.

"When you talk about jobs; you create the jobs for a brother, so that the brother

can hire folks like us, so they can go back out and enjoy a quality of life, then have jobs," Caraway later added.

Davis, former Mayor of Balch Springs, stayed out of the heated fray for the most part, choosing to continually go back to a record of development in his city.

"All these guys are my friends," Davis said. "But guess what? This is politics."

Davis said he excels in working with colleagues and that he will be a more

collaborative commissioner if elected.

"That's what I keep hearing up here, 'I ... I ... I,'" Davis said. "I didn't do things by myself. We hired great people (in Balch Springs). We worked together on our council. I'm not going to sit here and lie and say we didn't beat up on each other sometimes behind closed doors, cause we did. But the final product benefitted the whole, and that's what I'm about, being a bridge-builder."

# The history of Black History Month

By Margaret Freelon  
NDG Special Contributor

It is the month of February and it is the designated time of the year to celebrate Black or African American history. Many argue the month long acknowledgment of the substantial contributions of African Americans to the growth and vitality of America is not a necessary celebration. If this were true, Carter G. Woodson would not have felt the need to press for this observation of African



Carter G. Woodson, The Father of Black History Month. image: commons.wikimedia.org

American history to commemorate the contributions of black people to American culture.

Critics of the month long

celebration argue we have arrived. After all America has elected, and re-elected a black man president. According to them if we want equality we should get rid of Black History Month, because we are all Americans now.

Who is Carter G. Woodson? Carter G. Woodson was a child of former slaves who spent his childhood working in the coal mines of Kentucky. Woodson did not enroll in high school until he was 20, but once enrolled it only took him two years to

earn his high school diploma. After attending Berea College in Kentucky he worked for the U.S. government as an education superintendent in the Philippines. Then once returning stateside, Woodson earned his bachelor's and master's from University of Chicago.

Woodson later earned his PhD from Harvard. It was while completing his studies at Harvard he began to notice the history books largely ignored the African American contributions. He also noticed when blacks

were included it was to only to reflect the inferior position assigned to them at the time.

After he completed his studies at Harvard, Woodson decided to take on the challenge of making sure Black history was included in American History. He worked to establish the Association for Study of Negro Life and History in 1915 and a year later, the *Journal of Negro History* was founded.

To encourage the study of Black history, Woodson solicited help from schools and organizations including his

fraternity of Omega Psi Phi to participate in a program to encourage the study of African American History. The first celebration of African-American heritage and history began in mid-February 1925. The time was selected to incorporate the birthdays of abolitionist Frederick Douglas and President Abraham Lincoln who signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The observation period expanded to Black History month in 1976 in celebration of the US bicentennial.

## Learn more about Mark Twain's Jim from ancestor of inspiration

By Tom Keener

Learn the captivating story behind one of the most celebrated characters in American literary history, Jim from Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Gilded Age*. Larry McCarty, a direct descendant of Uncle Daniel (Dan'l) and the man who inspired Mark Twain to create the unforgettable Jim, will speak at 7:30 pm Thursday, Feb. 18, at the Allen Public Library.

Mark Twain spent summers on his Uncles John A. Quarles' farmstead in north-



Harve and Lucinda Green

east Missouri. A slave there, Dan'l Quarles, was identified by Twain in his autobiography: "I have not seen him for more than a half a century, and yet spiritually I have had his welcome company a good part of that

time, and have staged him in books under his own name and as "Jim" and carted him all around Hannibal, down the Mississippi on a raft, and even across the Desert of the Sahara in a balloon."

McCarty traced his family line by intersecting the legacy of Mark Twain with his own family roots in Northeast Missouri. "The Quarles family and part of the Clemens family, even after emancipation, were together in California and Keokuk, Iowa," he notes.

See **TWAIN**, Page 16

### Art exhibit and reception at Irving Arts Center

The Irving Arts Center is hosting a reception and exhibit the works of Johnathon Foster, Kirk Garnett, ShaLana Mitchell, Kevin Owens and C-Ray Rayson. The event is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 6 at 5 p.m. The Irving Arts Center is located at

3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.

### "The Divine Nine" celebrating Black History at Mountain View College

Mon., Feb. 15 –African-American fraternities and sororities known as "The Divine Nine" will be showcased during an information fair and step show at 10 a.m. in the West Hall-

way. A luncheon and information session follows at 12:30 p.m. in room S1029/1030.

"The Divine Nine" comprises members from Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Omega Psi Phi, Delta Sigma Theta, Kappa Alpha Psi, Zeta Phi Beta, Phi Beta Sigma, Iota Phi Theta and Sigma Gamma Rho.

### McKinney Housing Authority 2016 ANNUAL PLAN MEETINGS NOTICE



The Quality Housing & Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires the McKinney Housing Authority to submit an Agency Plan each year.

The PHA Plan is a comprehensive guide to public housing agency (PHA) policies, programs, operations, and strategies for meeting local housing needs and goals. There are two parts to the PHA Plan: the 5-Year Plan, which each PHA submits to HUD once every 5th PHA fiscal year, and the Annual Plan, which is submitted to HUD every year.

Below is a list of meetings that are scheduled to review and discuss the Agency Plan documents for the 2016 fiscal year.

Residents, the public and staff are encouraged to attend the meetings.

Date	Time	Meeting Type	Location	Address
Tuesday February 16, 2016	7:30pm	Board of Commissioners Strategic Plan Work session	Narratt Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069
Tuesday March 15, 2016	5:30pm	Public Hearing	Narratt Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069
Tuesday March 22, 2016	5:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Narratt Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069

A draft of the proposed ANNUAL PLAN and Significant Amendment is available for review at the MHA main office located at: 1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX.

You can submit comments by hand delivery, mail, or email to McKinney Housing Authority Main Office; 1200 North Tennessee Street; Attn: Roslyn Miller; McKinney, TX 75069 or info@mckinneyha.org. The final public hearing for plan adoption will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 5:30pm - McKinney Housing Authority community center.

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## August Wilson's *Seven Guitars* on stage

*Jubilee Theatre starts the new-year with its premiere production of Seven Guitars, written by master story teller August Wilson.*

In 1948 Pittsburg, a small group of friends gather following the untimely death of Floyd "Schoolboy" Barton, a local blues guitarist who was on the edge of stardom. Together, they reminisce about his short life and discover the unspoken passions and undying spirit



*Seven Guitars on stage until Feb. 28 (Image: Jubilee Theatre)*

that lives within each of them.

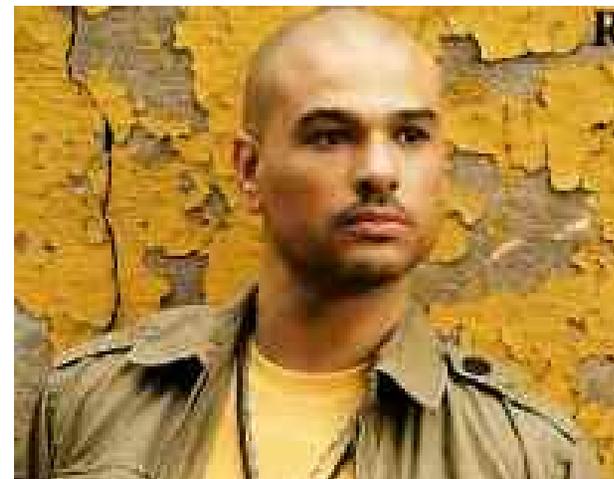
A timeless story of hope,

heartbreak and heritage of the African-American experience.

August Wilson (1945-2005) lived long enough to realize his dream of writing one play about the African-American experience for each decade of the twentieth century.

His work resulted in two Pulitzer Prizes with four more nominations, a Tony Award with eight more nominations, two Drama Desk Awards with five more nominations, and eight New York Drama Critics Circle Awards. In his quarter-century of playwriting, he achieved an unprecedented

See **JUBILEE**, Page 10



## NDG readers can win tickets to hear Chico DeBarge at TBAAL!

Ladies get ready, how would you like to hear Chico DeBarge sing to you? NDG readers have a chance to win tickets for two to hear the American R&B singer at TBAAL! Visit [Facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette](http://Facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette) for more details.

DeBarge takes the stage at the Muse two nights in Dallas, Friday and Saturday Feb. 19-20 at 9 p.m. each evening. He promises to give Dallas audiences just what they want, a dynamic

show of R&B and soul music. Chico is called the ladies' 'heartthrob,' and he even plans to throw in a little spoken word making the evening cozy and intimate for what Marvin Gaye called a "Trouble Man." This special event is hosted by TBAAL Board Member Albertus Lewis, Jr.

If you are not a lucky NDG winner, tickets are only \$20 and can be purchased by calling 214-743-2400.

## Film and panel discussion examines prison issues and solutions

A special event focusing on prison issues will be presented Feb. 16 from 7 to 9 pm by First Tuesday Social Justice Ministry at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff, 3839 W. Kiest Blvd., Dallas. Guests are invited to learn more about these two is-

suess affecting our society.

Documentaries on the incarceration of the mentally ill and "How to Release a Prisoner" will be shown. A panel discussion on recidivism and rehabilitation will follow these short films. The panel will include the

Prison Entrepreneurship Program's Executive Administrator Natalie Baker, a graduate of the program, Carmelita Pope-Freeman, President of NAACP Tri-Cities Unit, Retired, Southwest Regional Director, U.S. Department of Justice, Community Rela-

tions Service and NAACP's Teresa Cox, Tri-Cities Health Chair,

This free event is open to the public. Refreshments will be served and audience discussion will follow and input is encour-

See **PRISON**, Page 10



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# Soul Legend Bobby Patterson hits the stage in Allen

By Tom Keener

Legendary soul musician Bobby Patterson rips the stage at 7:30 pm Friday, February 19, at the Allen Public Library. Once featured on National Public Radio, Patterson has been singing R&B and southern soul for over half a century. Releasing countless singles in the 60s and 70s, his original tunes have been covered by artists as diverse as Little Willie John, Albert King, the Fabulous Thun-

derbirds, and Jeff Tweedy.

Having once performed at the Carousel Club owned by the infamous Jack Ruby, Patterson now is a favorite at Austin's South By South-west, Damrosch Bandshell in New York City, and at clubs throughout Texas. As a songwriter, he co-wrote "That's What the Blues is All About" with Al King.

Another of Patterson's songs, "She Don't Have to See You" was recorded by Golden Smog for their 1995 album Down by the Old

Mainstream.

He recorded a live album at the Longhorn Ballroom in 2002 and released I Got More Soul in 2014. Commenting on this recent album, Patterson declares, "More soul than more soul. More means more."

Produced by Zach Ernst, formerly with Black Joe Lewis and the Honeybears and currently the Relatives guitarist, I Got More Soul is comprised of covers and songs inspired by Patterson's witty radio punch

lines. For years, he was a disc jockey at KKDA-AM, Soul 73 in Dallas where he was the voice for soul in Dallas.

Patterson emphasizes, "Because, you know, a merry heart does good like a medicine. So I'd like for, you know, to open up your ears and take your medicine!"

Sponsored by Bach to Books, this program is free. The library is located at 300 N. Allen Dr. Call 214-509-4911 for more information.



Bobby Patterson will perform on Feb. 19 in Allen.

## North Texas Book Festival seeks authors for April 9 event

DENTON – This year's North Texas Book Festival is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at Patterson-Appleton Center for the Visual Arts in Denton. Authors from throughout Texas and surrounding states are welcome to sign up for tables.

Authors will sell and sign their books, and more than 30 authors had signed up to attend as of Jan. 25, a press release stated. There is

room for about 60 authors, and table prices range from \$30 to \$70.

Registration deadline is April 7. For information, go to <http://www.ntbf.org/authors.html>.

NTBF is in its 16th year, and the nonprofit raises money for grants for area libraries and literacy programs that encourage family interaction and reading together and the love of

books. The festival is open to the public and there's no admission charge.

Authors and the public also may attend the annual Book Trailers Dinner at 6 p.m., Friday, April 8, at the center, 400 E. Hickory St. The event will include the announcement of NTBF Book Awards winners in several categories, as well as grant presentations to several area libraries and lit-

eracy programs.

Dinner tickets are \$25 for NTBF members and \$30 for nonmembers. To attend, go to <http://www.ntbf.org/book-trailers-dinner.html> or email [ntbf10@verizon.net](mailto:ntbf10@verizon.net).



## PRISON,

continued from Page 9 aged.

This special event is part of a three month project on prison issues sponsored by the Social Justice Ministry. For more information about the film series, visit [www.firsttuesdayfilms.org/index.shtml](http://www.firsttuesdayfilms.org/index.shtml) or [www.facebook.com/firsttuesdayfilms](http://www.facebook.com/firsttuesdayfilms).

\$24 – \$28 and may be purchased online at [jubileetheatre.org](http://jubileetheatre.org), in person at the theater Box Office, located at 506 Main Street or by calling 817-338-4411.

Box Office hours of operation are Tuesday – Friday 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and one hour before each performance.

## JUBILEE, continued from Page 9

level of success.

33 year veteran Theater Director/Actor William (Bill) Earl Ray, who was last seen performing the role of Kenyatta in the Jubilee Theatre's 2015 production of Dominique Morisseau's *Sunset Baby*, is directing *Seven Guitars*

for the second time in this premiere production at Jubilee Theatre.

The show is on-stage through Sunday, Feb. 28, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Matinee performances are at 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Ticket prices range from

Book & Lyrics by Wilho Fiebig  
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NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit us on Facebook to win tickets to the Casino Party Bus & Soul At the Muse-Chico DeBarge

# Why we should all be rooting for women in technology

By Nicole McMackin

There is plenty of data illuminating the positive effects regarding the growing share of women in the business world.

The fastest-growing group of entrepreneurs in America is women, who are

launching businesses at 1.5 times the national average. When you let women be themselves in corporate settings, good things happen, according to a report from the Harvard Business Review. Even Kevin O'Leary of "Shark Tank" fame says that of his 27 companies,

only the ones with female CEOs make him money.

But Nicole McMackin, president of Irvine Technology Corp. ([www.irvinetechcorp.com](http://www.irvinetechcorp.com)), which specializes in information technology staffing and solutions, worries that similar progress in gender diversity

isn't being made in technology.

"There's at least one simple reason why women have proven to be a positive boost for business: we're half the population – a tremendous floodgate of talent has opened in recent decades," McMackin says.

"And, yes, we tend to have a different take on things, which has proven valuable. For example, women are generally more sociable and tend to excel in a group dynamic that enables them to

flourish, which helps others in the group."

Unfortunately, in an already male-dominated sector, gender distribution of

See TECH, Page 12

## SACRED, continued from Page 3

lowed the horror of the Slocum Massacre. Some descendants of those massacred pushed for official acknowledgement of the horror, but there have been efforts to cover up the carnage, with some in Slocum pretending that the Massacre never happened. It took more than a century, until 2011, for the Texas Legislature to formally acknowledge the massacre. A roadside marker commemorating the tragedy was just placed on January 26, 2016. A local member of the Anderson County Historical Commission opposed the marker because, "The citizens of Slocum today had absolutely nothing to do with what happened over a hundred years ago. This is a nice, quiet community with a wonderful school system. It would be a shame to mark them as racist from now until the end of time."

E.R. Bills, author of *The 1910 Slocum Massacre: An Act of Genocide in East Texas*, says that there are more than 16,000 historical markers in the state of Texas. "The Slocum Massacre historical marker will apparently be the first one to specifically acknowledge racial violence against African Americans." His book meticulously documents the Slocum facts, and asserts, "Many white folks got away with murder". Only 11 were arrested for their role in the massacre. Seven were indicted but none were prosecuted for their crimes. The eleven were only the known criminals. According to Bills, many murderers buried dead bodies on their land to perpetuate the cover up.

The Slocum historical

marker stands on sacred ground. There is much other sacred ground in these United States, ground that is soaked with the blood of lynched and murdered African Americans. Yet there are few markers of our nation's historical madness. The Equal Justice Initiative, an Alabama-based organization that has documented the magnitude of our nation's lynching history, hopes to build markers and memorials on lynching sites, much like the one in Slocum. We need these memorials to remind us of an era of racial terror, and to consider the contemporary consequences of that terror.

This year the association for the study of African American life and history (ASALH) has chosen Hal-

lowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories as their Black History Month Theme. While ASALH has not focused specifically on markers and memorials for sites of lynching and massacres, the focus location is important. They mention plantations, historic homes, and historic streets (like Beale Street in Memphis, Sweet Auburn Avenue in Atlanta, and 125 Street in Harlem) as important places to embrace and celebrate.

Many of our nation's major cities have experienced gentrification in the past decade or so. Washington, DC is no longer Chocolate City – more like neapolitan or chocolate chip. The 125 Street of the Harlem Renaissance has diversified, as young whites with deep pockets are push-

ing the prices of historic brownstones into the seven or eight figure price range. No matter. The places are still sacred ground, and should be recognized as such. It is important to acknowledge these places with statues, markers, and memorials, lest we forget.

Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it. We assert that Black Lives Matter because so many black lives were obliterated in Slocum, and because for far too long it was convenient and comfortable to forget a heinous massacre.

*Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and Founder of Economic Education. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available for pre-order at [www.julianmalveaux.com](http://www.julianmalveaux.com).*

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Specific information regarding the project is available by calling Katherine Upham at (512) 519-9388 during normal business hours.

Comments must be received at 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, ATTN: Katherine Upham within 30 days of the date of this publication.

**TECH,** continued from Page 11

STEM Bachelor's degrees shows women falling behind.

McMackin discusses the value of women in corporations and technology.

It's more than identity politics. A recent lawsuit exposed Silicon Valley and how challenging that environment can be for women, which is bad for business. Why? Women are the lead adopters of technology, according to Intel researcher Genevieve Bell, and Dow Jones found that successful startups have more women in senior positions than unsuccessful ones.

"Again, we're half the population and we have plenty to offer the tech field," McMackin says. "We're good for a tech team's culture and for tech users."

As more women lead businesses, the boys' club will need to adapt. More women are starting companies, and those who are

leading have been doing well. This may lead women business leaders to wonder why most of their tech divisions are dominated by men.

"Also, it may be that business leaders want more of a collaborative environment, which could be greatly facilitated by a technology professional who is a woman," says McMackin, whose company also specializes in staffing.

Educators see the importance of emphasizing STEM for girls. Sierra College has been holding its annual Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW) event to encourage high school girls to consider careers in science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM). Similar efforts continue to be made to encourage girls into the tech field.

Companies in the top quartile for gender diversity are 15 percent more likely

to have financial returns above their respective national industry medians, according to research by McKinsey & Co.

"This is an ultra-connected, multi-generational, multi-ethnic and global business world we're dealing in today," McMackin says. "We need all the talent, perspective and insight that we have. Encouraging girls and women to be themselves within the STEM and STEAM space is the smart thing to do."

*Nicole McMackin is president of Irvine Technology Corp. (www.irvinetechcorp.com), a firm that specializes in information technology solutions and staffing. She joined the company more than 10 years ago, initially serving as Vice President of Sales. McMackin has an established career in sales and management with a strong emphasis of account ownership within Fortune 300 organizations.*



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## SBA to offer free executive training for DFW CEOs

The U.S. Small Business Administration's 2016 Emerging Leaders executive-level training is launching in every state in the South Central Region – Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas - to help local entrepreneurs grow and succeed. Local recruitment is now underway with classes scheduled to begin in April.

"This entrepreneurial education initiative is a priority for our Agency because it trains already successful small businesses in how to become prosperous medium- and large-size businesses which are able to propel America's economy forward," said SBA South Central Regional Administrator Yolanda

Garcia Olivarez. "An added bonus is that class participants gain the opportunity to establish strong networks, share best practices, success stories and be a part of building each other's dream of entrepreneurship. I encourage you to contact Billy Medina in the Dallas/Fort Worth District Office at 817-684-5500 to find out how you can join this year's class."

More than 3,000 promising small business owners across the country in underserved communities have been trained since its inception in 2008, and its impact continues to expand. The seven-month intensive, executive entrepreneurship education series includes approximately

100 hours of classroom time per participant and provides the opportunity for small business owners to work with experienced mentors, attend workshops and develop connections with their peers, city leaders and financial communities.

In Dallas, David Shutler, president of Utility Systems Solution credits SBA's Emerging Leaders program with jumpstarting his understanding of small business.

"The Emerging Leaders course was a huge help to me as I experienced rapid growth and then a downturn. The course helped me institute a systems approach to the business that serves as a more stable

foundation for future growth. It also gave me great confidence to stay in the game, despite jarring setbacks. I highly recommend Emerging Leaders 2016."

Training graduates report a nearly 70 percent achieved revenue growth and over 80 percent have created new jobs or retained all existing jobs, nationwide. Graduates have secured federal, state, local and tribal contract awards of over \$700 million.

For more information about Emerging Leaders, please visit [www.sba.gov/emerging-leaders](http://www.sba.gov/emerging-leaders) or contact Ahmad Goree, public information officer at [ahmad.goree@sba.gov](mailto:ahmad.goree@sba.gov).

## TWAIN, continued from Page 8

McCarty, who lives in Grand Prairie, is the great-great-great-grandson of Dan'l.

McCarty's genealogical quest began with Dan'l's son, Harve Quarles, who was sold to one brother of John A. Quarles as a teenager, then to another, and eventually migrated with his owner to Texas, where the family put down roots. This proved to be an exhaustive, in-depth research on the slave family that was intertwined with Twain's family in his Missouri childhood.

"Everyone knows of John A., they know of Samuel Clemens and Mark Twain, but there had not been an academic study of the black Quarles (family) on the farm until I started this study," McCarty points out. "Quarles (were) separated by the bonds of slavery (and) reconnected after 150 years. Harve was sold and migrated to Texas, never knew of his family again. I have made the direct connection to Daniel, and now that family is whole.

During his presentation, McCarty will share important navigational tools for

African-Americans to locate their ancestors.

McCarty's book *Mark Twain's Jim (Daniel Quar-*

*les)*, From the Shadows to a Monument will be published in 2016.

A native Texan, Larry W. McCarty served our country in Vietnam as a member of

the U.S. Army and retired from IBM after 30 years.

The library is located at 300 N. Allen Dr. Call 214-509-4911 for more information.



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**February 7, 12 Noon**  
How do you study the Bible? Join us for Sunday afternoon Bible Study; Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Brenda Patterson and others will teach a series on "How to Study the Bible God's way." Learn how to know Christ and make Him known to others; to help you know and grow in God's word; to give you clarity and direction; to help you worship, honor and praise God; to help you know and use God's word to lead others to Christ; and to encourage fellowship and build unity within the church. You don't want to miss this Bible Study Group.

**February 10, 7 p.m.**  
Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Dr. Woodson and/or Pastor Brenda Patterson teaching on the subject of Spiritual Warfare. Learn what God says about critical issues and topics through the study of His word. Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you. It's Time to Grow; Ephesians 4:12 & 13.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,  
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**February 6, 12 Noon**  
You are invited to our 2nd Annual L.I.F.T. (Ladies in Fellowship Together), Luncheon at the Romano's Macaroni Grill in Addison, Texas for fun and fellow-

ship. Call the church for details.

**February 7, 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.**  
You're invited to our Morning Services as we worship, honor and praise God for His blessings.

**February 10,**  
Join us at 12 Noon with Rev. Viveca Potter teaching on the Word of God; come back at 6:45 p.m. for Corporate Prayer and stay for Senior Pastor Autry at 7:30 p.m. teaching the Word of God. Our youth will come for Food and Fellowship at 7 p.m. followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Terrence Autry,  
Senior Pastor  
701 Centennial  
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**February 7, 8 a.m.**  
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**February 10**  
You're invited to our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word at the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 West Belmont Drive in Allen. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all, be prepared to grow.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.  
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Join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

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**February 7, 10 a.m.**  
Join us for Sunday Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory. Call the church for details.

**February 10, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Pastor Sam Fenceroy  
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Pastor Gloria Fenceroy  
300 Chisholm Place  
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**February 8, 9 p.m.**  
Join us for our Intercessory Prayer Ministry and our Monday's Conference calls.  
R. W. Townsend, Senior

Pastor  
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**February 7**  
You're invited to join us for Early Morning Services at 7:30 a.m., followed by Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

**February 8, 7 p.m.**  
Join us for Sister-to-Sister meeting, call the church for details. We will reunite on Monday, February 8.

**February 10, 7 p.m.**  
Join us in Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us for our growth.

Dr. Tommy L. Brown  
Senior Pastor  
9550 Shepherd Road  
Dallas, Texas 75243  
214-341-6459  
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**February 10, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and growth; it's all for His glory and His honor.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.  
Senior Pastor  
920 E. 14th Street

Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-6695  
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Minister Thomas Bessix  
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# Black History Month



**Sister Tarpley**

Send email to: [businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com) to sign up for Sister Tarpley's weekly electronic newsletter.

The month of February is United States' observation of Black History. The 2016 theme is "Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories."

It is disheartening to think of the controversy surrounding this very important holiday.

Some people joked, "We were given the shortest month of the year to celebrate our history." This is not just Black History that we are celebrating, not just America's history, but history of the world.

Many great and useful inventions that are being used worldwide, and that are taken for granted were invented by Black people. The "gamma-electric cell" phone was invented by a Black man, the car battery and open heart surgery to name a few essential things that are in use today.

Some people think that it's by pure accident that some Black people, the same ones that we hear about year after year; have done something worthwhile.

People easily accept that we have a few famous entertainers, sports figures and a few entrepreneurs making millions of dollars; but they are slow to recognize that there are many Black people that have excelled, and are continuing to excel and inventing devices, and, they use math and science to make a difference in how we live, work, play, and entertain today.

As a retired teacher, I too wish that all history of great magnitude is put in our textbooks, especially Black history, which is American's history; in spite of what we have been taught.

But wishing it is not going to get the information in our textbooks on the grand scale that it needs to be.

The story of Carter Godwin Woodson, Father of Black History (December 1875 – April 1950) is a captivating and inspiration story in itself.

Dr. Woodson said, "Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history."

When Dr. Woodson established Negro History week in 1926, he realized the importance of providing a theme to focus the attention of the public.

The intention has never been to dictate or limit the ex-

ploration of the Black experience, but to bring to the public's attention to important developments that merit emphasis.

He believed that Blacks should know their past in order to participate intelligently in the affairs in our country.

Dr. Woodson strongly believed that Black history—which others (even some Black people) have tried so diligently to erase—is a firm foundation for young Black people to build on in order to become productive citizens of our society.

Prior to "Negro History

WEEK," Dr. Woodson and several of his friends established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In the 1960s it was established as Black History MONTH.

In 1912 Dr. Woodson, received his Ph.D in history from Harvard University. He developed an important philosophy of history.

History, he insisted, was not the mere gathering of fact. The object of historical study is to arrive at a reasonable interpretation of the facts.

History is more than political and military records of

people and nations. It must include some description of the social conditions of the period being studied.

Dr. Woodson often said that he hoped the time would come when Negro History Week would be unnecessary; when all Americans would willingly recognize the contributions of Black people as a legitimate and integral part of the history of this country.

His concept has given a profound sense of dignity to all Black people; and we must not forget it! Nor should we stop Black History Month.



Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Father of Black History

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Lady Lake Staff

# NDG Book Review: For fans, NFL Confidential is a big win

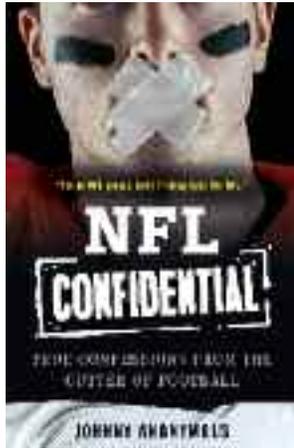
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Three points! That's all your team needs to win. Can they make it?

You're doing your part: you're wearing your lucky shirt and hat. A stuffed mascot is nearby, the team logo hangs on the wall, and you had coffee this morning in the Official Team Mug. You're doing everything you can for a win but, as in the new book "NFL Confidential" by Johnny Anonymous, other forces are afield.

Johnny Anonymous came to football later than most boys.

Looking to fill a void after his mother died, he joined his high school team



as a freshman. Neither he nor his father knew a thing about football but Anonymous learned quickly, just as he learned that he had talent for the game.

"Back in high school, football was fun," he says, but in college, "it was a full-

time job." College ball was serious, both mentally and physically; it was also where Anonymous began to understand what football would do to his brain and body. He suffered injuries playing college ball and he considered quitting, but going pro was a chance to "make a... ton of money."

He was cut from his first pro team, through no fault of his own. He started as third-string at his second team and soon decided that standing on the sidelines was an easy way to make a living – but then his teammates started getting injured.

They were out. Anonymous was in, at least for awhile.

He tried to bring fun back into the game. He tried to remember that it was a game, "not World War III," and he endured hassle from his coach and from fans. He repeatedly lost, then found, the anger that made him good at playing offense, and he ate constantly to maintain the weight the coaches unofficially said he had to have. He hurt everywhere, often, until his teammates returned from their injuries and Anonymous stepped back because that's what players do.

"... this isn't a fairy tale," he says. "This isn't a Hollywood story. This isn't a

happy ending.

This is the NFL."

There's a reason why author Johnny Anonymous has changed "Names, timeline, details, the usual" in this book. "Go ahead, try" to figure out who he is. I'm sure the League would like to know, too, because "NFL Confidential" is TNT on paper.

But here's the rub: it's easy to wonder if Anonymous is hiding behind a pseudonym in order to embellish the truth; because this book is funny, very entertaining, and more than a little smart-alecky, readers

may be tempted to dismiss his words. It would be likewise easy to say that it's just a profanity-laced, updated "North Dallas Forty," until you consider that what Anonymous describes seems to be on display, to a greater or lesser degree, each August-through-February: injuries, mental abuse, domestic issues, substance abuse, and more.

So ... truth? Or just a good story? You'll have your theories but either way, I think you'll love this book. For die-hard fans of the ol' pigskin, "NFL Confidential" is a big win.

## MOORE, continued from Page 2

training in dance. Bridget went on to earn a MFA from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts.

Bridget toured professionally with Ronald K. Brown's EVIDENCE, A Dance Company, in New York City. She later returned to Dallas to teach at her alma mater Booker T. Washington HSPVA. Dallas Black Dance Theatre gave Bridget her first opportunity to choreograph a dance.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre Founder Ann Williams nominated Bridget for the Princess Grace Award. "I went through the application process and received a choreography fellowship from the Princess Grace Foundation in 2012. It was an honor to be acknowledged with this prestigious award, but it was equally an honor to work with a critically acclaimed company such as Dallas Black Dance Theatre," said Ms. Moore. "I set my first work on the company titled, Southern Recollection: For Romare Bearden."

Bridget L. Moore created a world premiere titled Unearthed for Dallas Black Dance Theatre. "Unearthed is a creative protest against violence and racism in America. The iconic song,

"Strange Fruit," is also a protest song against the inhumanity of racism," explained Ms. Moore. "Abel Meeropol originally wrote it as a poem, after seeing a photograph of a lynching. The song first gained its notoriety through Billie Holiday."

Cultural Awareness evening performances will be held Friday and Saturday, February 19-20, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. The Sunday matinee performance on February 21 is

at 2:30 p.m. For tickets, call 214-880-0202 or visit ATTPAC.org. For group ticket sales, call 214-871-2390.

After the curtain closes, audiences can stay and enjoy DBDT ALL ACCESS for aTalkback with Choreographers after the Friday performance and an On-stage Dance Celebration following the Saturday performance.

For more information regarding the Dallas Black Dance Theatre, visit www.dbdt.com.



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