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The quiet crisis of Black infant mortality

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Dallas ISD seeks to expand ACE schools success

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DCT presents Jack and the Beanstalk

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New tech helps small business to thrive

-See Page 11

Irving election rosters shaping up

By William Barnes
NDG Special Contributor

The City of Irving's mayoral and school board races have several declared candidates ahead of the filing deadline on Friday, Feb. 17. Below is information regarding the candidates as of Wednesday, Feb. 15 at the time of press.

Irving Mayor's Race

Mayor Beth Van Duyne, first elected in 2011 faces re-election this May. Van Duyne does not believe she is done making changes in Irving. She states via her website, "I recognize that people placed their faith in me to vigorously represent their concerns to the City of Irving and I hope they continue to feel I have fulfilled that commitment to them." She boasts that the city has enjoyed an increase in jobs and the tax base has grown.

Visit her website to see how Van Duyne plans to continue to shape the community. <http://www.beth-forirving.com/about>

Elvia L. Espino's campaign material proclaims, "Of course we can!" in her 2017 quest to become Irving's new Mayor. Her goal is to provide a bridge between the community and those who serve the community. A challenge she looks forward to meeting. Espino recognizes change is not easy.

"Change doesn't happen on the sidelines," Espino declared when



Dennis Webb seeking re-election to the Irving City Council, Place 3 Mayor Beth Van Duyne seeking re-election, Irving Mayor candidate J.C. Gonzales, Oscar Ward is seeking re-election to the Irving City Council, Place 5 and candidates for Irving Mayor include Elvia L. Espino and David W. Pfaff

speaking to voters at the recent Irving Political Coalition meeting.

Learn more about Espino at <http://www.elviaespino.com/> and what she plans to do for Irving.

Juan "J.C." Gonzalez is concerned for his community and small businesses due to a new proposed Texas budget, which could lead to a direct hit on the Irving community. He is currently the Chairman of the Board of Directors at Irving Hispanic Chamber and the Vice President / Branch Manager II at Wells Fargo & Co. His leadership in the community drives him to be active in current affairs and this helps to keep his compassion and awareness high.

David W. Pfaff, an Irving native and the CEO of Plantronics plans on merging his knowledge of business with his passion for the Irving community. Pfaff believes the diversity of the Irving community is the key to building Irving as a progressive and growing city. Not only for the business community but for the residents who will have increased employment and recreational opportunities. Pfaff has called Irving his home for years and has spent the last 20 years leading his family owned business.

Irving City Council Races

In addition to the race for Mayor,

See IRVING, Page 11

Civil rights will suffer under an AG Jefferson B. Sessions III

By Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.
Founder, Rainbow PUSH Coalition

Donald Trump's first three weeks in office have left Americans reeling from what Republican speechwriter Peggy Noonan called his "cloud of crazy." His cabinet nominees seem intentionally perverse: an education secretary who has no clue about public schools; an energy secretary who wanted to eliminate the department; a treasury secre-

tary from Goldman Sachs who ran a home foreclosure factory. So when a White nationalist sympathizer, Sen. Jefferson Beauregard Sessions III, was confirmed to be Attorney General, it passed by as just another absurdity.

The coverage of the confirmation battle focused primarily on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's outrageous muzzling of Sen. Elizabeth Warren as she tried to read

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Leonard Evans



Traci Otey Blunt



Bakari Sellers

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Leonard Evans

It's a Tuesday morning at McGowen Elementary, and it's difficult to get close enough to speak with the school's namesake Jesse McGowen, Jr. through the mass of 4th graders clustered around him and clamoring for his attention.

Many of the kids ask for his signature, and he patiently inscribes it on the bits of paper that they hold out to him. Most of them just want a hug.

They are black and Hispanic and white and Asian, and they all seem to hold genuine affection and reverence for McGowen.



The scene provides a fitting picture of the man who became the first black counselor at McKinney High School in 1973 to help ease tensions between black and white students at a time when

lingering resentment and conflicts in the wake of integration were still keenly felt.

It was the kids who got him through back then, he says, when he faced resistance from some adults. The kids and his faith.

And, when he talks about accepting that job, one finds that the impetus behind the decision really boils down to a love for the students of McKinney ISD. All of them.

McGowen is on the campus that bears his name to talk about some of those experiences with the school's 4th graders. He is accompanied by his wife June and his friend and former colleague Leonard Evans, the namesake of Evans Middle School,

who became the first black man to teach at a white school in McKinney and, later, the first black school board member for MISD.

Both began their careers teaching and coaching at McKinney's segregated Doty High School but were called upon by McKinney ISD officials to transfer to white schools. According to McGowen, the full integration of McKinney schools in 1965 found him moving from his teaching and coaching position at Doty to what had previously been the all-white McKinney Junior High School.

McGowen and Evans spend the better part of an hour telling stories about the

challenges they faced crossing that racial divide. The kids listen intently and make quick notes for a special writing assignment about McGowen.

He tells them of his time as a coach when he pulled his team out of a game, loaded them onto the bus and left in the middle of the contest to protect his players from the abuse they were receiving from their white opponents. In the days that followed, he weathered heavy criticism and demands for his firing.

"Nothing ever came of it because they knew that I was right in what I was doing in trying to protect the students that I was in charge of," he says.

For his part, Evans describes arriving for his first day of work as the first black teacher at a white campus—what is now Finch Elementary—to find a crowd of 150–200 men milling around outside, as he puts it.

"I didn't know what they were going to do," he tells the kids. "I depended on the Lord. My wife drove me in and let me out, and I went inside and everything went well. They did some talking, but I didn't say anything back."

They've each got volumes of stories to tell, of experiences and injustices that often seem so far removed from

See EVANS, Page 7

Traci Otey Blunt

Silver Spring, MD (BlackNews.com) — Robert L. Johnson, Chairman of RLJ Entertainment announced the appointment of Traci Otey Blunt as President of Urban Movie Channel (UMC). The network is the first premium subscription-based streaming service created for African American and urban audiences promising quality urban content across all genres, including feature films, original series, stand-up comedy, documentaries, and other exclusive titles.

"I am excited to an-



nounce Traci's appointment as UMC President. Two years ago, Traci joined the RLJ Entertainment management team as Executive Vice President for Corporate Marketing and Corpo-

rate Affairs and was assigned to launch and develop the company's proprietary streaming service Urban Movie Channel," said Johnson.

"Under Traci's leadership and management, UMC has built a strong business foundation to grow its subscriber base and distribute compelling content to its target audience. UMC has attracted talented producers and writers from the African American creative community and has acquired films and other content featuring some of the most prominent Black actors and actresses. I am con-

fident that Traci and her team will make UMC a successful and valuable digital channel for RLJ Entertainment," he concluded.

Miguel Penella, RLJ Entertainment CEO stated, "Traci has demonstrated an expertise of the digital entertainment industry in a short period of time. Her experience in creating successful campaigns to reach African American and urban audiences, coupled with her decisive results-oriented management style are an effective combination which will help UMC continue to expand. In addition to leading UMC, Traci

will continue to serve as the EVP for Corporate Affairs leading RLJE's corporate communications and public affairs."

"I am pleased and excited to have the confidence of RLJE management and the opportunity to lead and grow UMC at this time," said Blunt. "My immediate strategic goals for UMC are to grow our subscriber base by creating a destination for the UMC audience to find compelling and original content created by the most talented African American writers and producers. UMC will create a business model where the often un-

deremployed African American creative community will find a place to showcase their work product and be compensated by subscribers who enjoy watching UMC entertainment. We also want to further expand UMC's digital footprint by making UMC available on more platforms and devices.

"Finally, I want to come up with an innovative way that digital content providers can be recognized and rewarded by the industry and their peers for the outstanding creative content they produce now and in the future," she concluded.

Bakari Sellers

HAWKINS, TX — Jarvis Christian College has announced Attorney Bakari Sellers will be the featured speaker for the Black History Month Program on Tuesday, Feb. 21. The program will begin at 10 a.m. in the Smith-Howard Chapel on the Campus.

Sellers, who has practiced law with Strom Law Firm, L.L.C., in Columbia, South Carolina, since 2007, is a political commentator for CNN and MSNBC. He has also made multiple appearances on "Hardball with Chris Mathews" and "Morning Joe." In 2010, Sellers was named to Time Magazine's "40 under 40," a designation bestowed on individuals who represent the new generation



of civic leaders under the age of 40.

Sellers made history in 2006 when, at age 22, he became the youngest member of the South Carolina State Legislature. In 2014, he became the Democratic nominee for the Lt. Governor's seat in South Carolina. Sellers has worked for U.S. Congressman James Clyburn, former Atlanta Mayor Shirley

Franklin, the Democratic Leadership Council and Obama for America. He has been a member of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus since 2006.

Following in the footsteps of his well-known father, Civil Rights leader Cleveland Sellers, Sellers champions policies ranging from educational inequities, poverty, voter suppression, domestic and gun violence to childhood obesity and gender/orientation discrimination.

Sellers graduated from the South Carolina public school system and Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. While at Morehouse, he was elected Student Government Association President and served on the College's Board of Trustees. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in

2005 and attended the University of South Carolina School of Law, where he graduated in 2008.

Jarvis Christian College (JCC) is historically Black liberal arts, baccalaureate degree-granting institution affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The mission of the college is to prepare students intellectually, through academic programs that promote excellence in teaching and learning; socially, through student-centered support programs that encourage positive and constructive communication among peers, faculty, and staff; spiritually, through programs that stimulate spiritual growth and worship; and personally, through interaction that fosters self-development and maturity.

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The value of White Privilege and the American Dream

By Charlene Crowell
 NNPA Newswire Columnist

As 2017’s Black History observances unfold in communities across the country, new research on racial wealth gaps refutes the age-old advice for people of color to pull themselves up by their proverbial bootstraps. According to researchers at Demos and the Institute for Assets & Social Policy at Brandeis University, historical and systemic privileges afforded Whites and denied

to Blacks are the true root causes.

“The Asset Value of Whiteness: Understanding the Racial Wealth Gap,” analyzed data from the 2013 Survey of Consumer Finances. After examining individual differences by race in consumer spending habits, education, family structure, and employment, the report concluded that these factors are not “sufficient enough to erase a century of accumulated wealth.”

“For centuries, White

households enjoyed wealth-building opportunities that were systematically denied to people of color,” said Any Traub, report co-author and Associate Director of Policy and Research at Demos.

“When research shows that racial privilege now outweighs a fundamental key to economic mobility, like higher education, we must demand our policymakers acknowledge this problem and create policies that address structural inequity.”

The significance of these

new findings must not be lost during the month set aside to observe Black History. As observances honor those whose sacrifices and dedication led to notable achievements, February should also be a time to rededicate ourselves to the battles not yet won.

Public policies of the past systemically advantaged Whites and allowed their families to create intergenerational wealth that now

See VALUE, Page 11

NDG Readers Sound Off

Lack of Jobs Linked to School Gun Violence

Economic insecurity is related to a whole bunch of stuff. I think it is true that as the unemployment rate goes up, general death does also. Think suicides, crimes of passion deaths, deaths from illness, etc....

—Anonymous via NorthDallasGazette.com

Six Black History Scholarships accepting applications

2017 R.E.D. Educational Foundation Scholarship is available for the students who are enrolled full-time in an undergraduate or post-graduate study for the spring of 2017.

Applicant must be a citizen or permanent legal resident of the US, Canada

or Mexico.

Application Deadline is March 10, 2017

Students might find this information helpful while searching for alternative ways to pay for college.

—Thomas via NorthDallasGazette.com

Expecting Christian Behavior from Christians

Well said, I couldn’t

agree with u more.

The truth of the matter is this, none of these people are actually christians. They are just pretending.

—Lilly via NorthDallasGazette.com

To share your opinion visit NorthDallasGazette.com

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a 1986 letter from Coretta Scott King criticizing Sessions.

The muzzling was an unforgivable indignity. Lost in the furor was the thrust of King’s letter. She was writing to urge the Republican-led Senate of the time to reject President Reagan’s nomination of Sessions to the federal bench because he had “used the power of his office as U.S. attorney to intimidate and chill the free exercise of the ballot.” Sessions had opposed the Voting Rights Act, made racist statements and falsely prosecuted Black civil rights leaders seeking to register people to vote in Alabama. He was an ardent and unrelenting opponent of civil rights. The Republican Senate rejected his nomination.

Sessions views have not changed. He opposed Supreme Court decisions striking down laws banning homosexual sex and same-sex marriage. He voted against equal pay for women and against reauthorizing the Violence Against Women

Act, and he argued that it would be a “stretch” to call grabbing a woman’s genitals — as the president boasted of doing — assault. He is leading opponent of immigration reform and supported Trump’s ban on Muslims.

On civil rights he learned, as Strom Thurmond’s late operative Lee Atwater put it, that “you can’t say ‘n——’ — that hurts you. Backfires. So you say stuff like ... states’ rights and all that stuff.” Sessions remains a fierce advocate of states’ rights over civil rights. Even as he joined 97 senators in voting to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act in 2006, he gave a speech declaring its enforcement sections unconstitutional. When the Supreme Court’s conservative gang of five gutted the law, he praised their decision, saying preposterously, “(If you go to Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, people aren’t being denied the vote because of the color of their skin.”

Even as he was saying that, states across the South

were preparing a raft of laws to make voting more difficult for African-Americans and the young. Striking down the voter ID law in North Carolina, the federal appeals court found that the new provisions “target African-Americans with almost surgical precision,” while providing “inept remedies” for an alleged problem of voter fraud that is nonexistent.

Now Sessions will take his states’ rights views to the Justice Department. He will have more power than George Wallace ever had. Wallace had state power. Sessions has national power with a state agenda, with thousands of lawyers under his command. He will help shape the Supreme Court. And simply by inaction — by refusing to enforce the Voting Rights Act as states act to restrict voting — he can do more to undermine civil rights than Wallace could by standing in the schoolhouse door.

Every senator who voted for this nomination shares the shame. This isn’t or

should not have been a partisan question. This is a question of whether the Constitution that Lincoln fought a Civil War to forge and Dr. Martin Luther King led a movement to enforce will be respected. Donald Trump and the Republican Senate have put in office someone who is committed to undermining that Constitution. He is in position to poison the well of justice for a long time.

On the campaign trail, Donald Trump wooed African American voters, saying given disproportionate unemployment and poverty, they should vote for him. “What have you got to lose?” he asked. By making Sessions the next Attorney General, Trump has shown us what we have lost: a Department of Justice committed to equal rights, ready to defend the right to vote. People of color, immigrants, the LGBT and women are likely to experience justice denied directly, and the country as a whole will suffer as justice is defiled.

Neonatal Mortality: Quiet crisis of the African-American community

By Patricia Maryland, PHD
NNPA Guest Columnist

In my years working in healthcare, I have been blessed to see patients celebrate happy moments, but I have also witnessed times of profound grief. The loss of a baby is one such example that deals a devastating blow to our families, healthcare providers, communities and nation as a whole.

Most newborns grow and thrive, but in the United States, almost six out of every 1,000 babies die during their first year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Many of these deaths occur in the neonatal phase of development — the critical pe-



Patricia A. Maryland, the president of Healthcare Operations and Chief Operating Officer for Ascension Health says that will take all of us, working together, to ensure African-American babies born in America have every opportunity to thrive, photo: flickr/Mike Blyth

riod from birth to 28 days of life in which babies are more vulnerable to disease, infection and other complications.

No mother, family or community in our country should have to endure the pain of losing a child. It's all the

more shocking to learn that African-American mothers lose a child before their first month of life at more than twice the rate of white women — the highest rate of any racial group, according to the CDC. In some states,

the equity gaps are even wider.

These figures should sound the alarm for all Americans, especially African-Americans, policy makers, healthcare providers and community leaders. This cannot be our quiet crisis any longer. There are real lives at stake.

It will take all of us, working together, to ensure African-American babies born in America have every opportunity to thrive. Here are five steps we can take to get there:

Access

Increasing access to quality, timely and affordable healthcare is critical to our mission. African-American mothers who lost an infant

were 2.3 times more likely than White mothers to not begin prenatal care until the third trimester, or not receive prenatal care at all, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Culturally Competent Care

The factors that influence neonatal health are myriad and complex, but we must continue our efforts to build a culture of health in the Black community — one that competently serves the unique needs of mothers on their pregnancy journey and ensures they are at her healthiest even before they conceive. This work requires healthcare providers enhance our outreach to communities of color to forge bridges of

understanding among medical professionals and the patients they serve — relationships we know lead to better health outcomes across the board.

Early Intervention

Caring for healthy Black babies begins before conception and continues throughout a mother's prenatal and post-partum experience. Early care interventions are critical if we are to address and prevent neonatal and infant mortality, because they allow us to address conditions that could lead to poor birth outcomes. Hypertension — a disease that disproportionately affects African-Americans and can cause se-

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Farmers Branch residents headed to Austin over Addison water dispute

The Town of Addison is in hot water with community leaders and residents of Farmers Branch, who claim that Addison and private developers have ignored state environmental regulations and as a result have damaged wildlife, vegetation and property values along Farmers Branch Creek.



The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is scheduled to consider arguments between the two sides at a public hearing on Wednesday, February 15 at the TCEQ's headquarters in Austin. Interested residents from Farmers Branch have plans to privately charter a bus to accommodate the number of citizens who want to attend the hearing. Organizers invited interested residents to meet at Farmers Branch City Hall for the journey to the state capital.

The battle between the neighboring cities flows from a water rights permit originally granted to

Addison in 2011 by the TCEQ. That permit allowing for the construction of a series of expansive water features in Addison as part of the Vitruvian mixed use development, located along the Farmers Branch Creek just east of Marsh Lane.

Under the permit Addison was required to replace

the flow of water in the creek by tapping into the Trinity Aquifer, but Farmers

Branch property owners downstream soon began complaining about a sub-

stantial decrease. At times during the past three years the creek has been nearly

dry, although it is classified

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Trinity Chapter of the Links celebrating 10th Diamond and Sneakers Gala

The Trinity Chapter of The Links, Inc. is proud to announce the celebration of its 10th Anniversary of its signature "Diamonds and Sneakers" Gala.

The Gala will be held on March 4 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel at 6 p.m. The stunning evening of diamonds and sneakers will include dinner and dancing with the popular David White Band. The Gala supports an enrichment program which was developed by the Trinity Links in 2000 for elementary and middle school girls called SoS-MAART.

SoSMAART, which stands for "Students Set on Math, the Arts, Aviation, Reading and Technology, and is designed to stimulate girls' interest in the STEM fields of study and broaden their career objects in life. Over 1000 girls have benefited from the SoSMAART program over these years and Trinity has seen tremendous results with these young ladies. The Trinity Links have received many awards and recognition for this successful program.

The Gala also supports Scholarships for Excellence awards each year for deserving high school graduates who will pursue higher education. Trinity is proud of the recipients of these scholarships who have attend universities across the country and many pursue graduate programs and professional careers.

Sonya Hoskins serves as president of the Trinity Chapter of The Links, Inc. with over 50 active members. "We are so excited about celebrating our 10th year of the "Diamond and Sneakers" Gala and appreciate all of our supporters who have attended over the years", says Ms. Hoskins.

The highlight of the evening will be the Diamond and Sneaker contest as participants strut their stunning and creative sneakers across the room. This will be an evening of fun and celebration.

Sponsorship opportunities and tickets for the Diamond and Sneaker Gala are available. For more information visit www.Trinitylinksinc.org.

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Help your student prep for success



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD District 6 Trustee

February means prepping students to put their knowledge to the test during the upcoming STAAR exams in March. As parents and community members, we often look for ways to set students up for success. Below, are a three things parents can do to prepare students for upcoming testing:

1. Encourage students to do their best. Though we may be active parents and supporters of our students, helping with homework, visiting and communicating with teachers and principals, and active in the school environment, we must also verbalize our support for students. Acknowledge your

student's successes, his or her accomplishments and encourage your young scholar to continue reaching for the stars.

2. Take advantage of Saturday school programs.

Many District 6 campuses offer Saturday school programs to reinforce concepts and learning that takes place during the school week. Saturday school programs are a great way for students to receive individualized, small group instruction to help students master areas in which they may be struggling academically.

3. Provide opportunities at home to re-enforce learning.

Carve out time to learn at home together. Reviewing homework or reading together, watching educational shows, discussing current events or historical events are all ways families can engage in learning together.

Through its PREP U

Weekday workshops, Dallas ISD will offer families a series of workshops to learn more about the upcoming administration of the STAAR. Families will be able to view sample questions in reading, math, and writing, as well as learn about the passing standards. District experts will be there to answer questions on how the STAAR impacts high school graduation requirements and other topics. By attending the workshops, parents will have access to resources to take home.

District 6's workshop takes place, 9 a.m., March 1, Umphrey Lee Elementary located at 7808 Racine Drive, 75232.

District 6 will also host "Motivating your child to succeed" at 9:30 a.m., Feb. 24 at Maria Moreno ES located at 2115 S. Hampton Road. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Black History Month

Throughout February, Dallas ISD and District 6 are celebrating Black History Month. Contact your child's school for more information about upcoming celebrations.

African American Read-In

The 2017 African American Read-In is set for 11:30 a.m. Sat., Feb. 18, at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 1819 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. The event will feature free lunch, free books and backpacks and lots of fun activi-

ties for families. For more information, visit www.dallasisd.org/readinday.

CREST Awards

The Lone Star State School Counseling Association (LSSSCA) recognized DA Hulcy STEAM Middle School's Kimberly Miles and Thomas Tolbert Elementary's Rashunda Mendy counselors who exhibited excellence in advocacy, leadership, collaboration, and systemic change as supported by the American School Coun-

selor Association (ASCA) National Model.

African American Male Academic Bowl

A round of applause for Demarcus Banks, Corey Hamilton and Jadarrion Waites of Mark Twain Elementary. The trio beat out 41 other teams to win the AAMAB. The event is an academic tournament that invites teams to engage in a single-elimination tourna-

See PREP, Page 7

Dallas ISD to expand successful ACE program next school year

Dallas ISD is expanding an initiative that helps boost student achievement by staffing the highest-need schools with high-performing principals and teachers.

The district launched the ACE program, which stands for Accelerating Campus Excellence, last school year at seven historically low-performing schools. After just one year, six of those schools met state standards this year, and all seven campuses have shown significant improvement in student achievement.



The ACE program helps boost student achievement by staffing the highest-need schools with high-performing principals and teachers. (Image: DISD)

Dallas ISD is looking to build on this success by bringing an additional six

See ACE, Page 8

Lack of jobs linked to school gun violence

Economic insecurity is related to the rate of gun violence at kindergarten-12th grade and post secondary schools in the United States, a new study of a quarter-century of data suggests.

The connection is persistent connection over time in the country as a whole, across various regions of the country, and within affected cities, including Chicago

and New York City.

"The link between education and work is central to our expectations about economic opportunity and upward mobility in America," says John L. Hagan, professor of sociology at Northwestern University. "Our study indicates that increases in gun violence in our schools can result from dis-

See GUNS, Page 12

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Irving ISD's Brandenburg celebrates winning Made by Milk Construction Contest

Representatives from Evergreen Packing visited Brandenburg Elementary School on February 6 to celebrate the school's recent win in the 2016 Made by Milk Construction Contest.

In January, the company named Brandenburg and their team of 38 fifth graders among its list of winners for their aviation project, Up, Up and Away. The group of students constructed eight

model aircrafts resembling planes made between the years 1905 to 1994 using 1,244 cartoons.

Photos from the presentation are on the district Photo Gallery.



For winning the 2016 Made by Milk Construction Contest, Evergreen Packaging representatives presented Brandenburg Elementary School with a plaque and \$1,000 check. Students gathered with teachers Grizelle Larriviell (far right) and Irene Sosa (far left in black) and Evergreen Packaging executives, pictured on the front row with Superintendent of Schools Jose Parra, Ed.D., principal Julie Miller and student Juan Campos, who was the brainchild behind the project and served as the class environmental specialist.

Taking school pride on the road...



Richland College students traveled to Austin to attend Community College Day at the Texas State Capitol on Feb. 7. Through meetings with legislators and panel sessions with key policy makers, students had the opportunity to voice their opinions about how a community college education has impacted their lives. Front row (left to right): Bel Khuu, Zahara Wadud, Domenica Barboza, Michelle Callahan, Seth Sotelo. Second row: Greg Weasah, Daniel Vargas, Edward Sesay, Riyan Edris, Juan Molina, Yoselyn Diaz, Alejandra Rivera. Third row: Essence Provost, Clifton McVea. Photo by Keenan Cobb.

PREP, continued from Page 6

ment, which tests them on a wide range of topics in a timed, quiz format.

Dallas ISD Signing Day

Congratulations to dozens of student-athletes from District 6 who signed National Letters of Intent to solidify

athletic scholarships at the Dallas ISD National Signing Day Event held Feb. 1.

Thanks to the many teachers, coaches, administrators and parents who continue to give of their time to support our students' extracurricular

goals and activities.

Board Appreciation Month Gratitude

I would also like to extend a note of gratitude for the many well wishes and notes of appreciation during the recent observation of Board Appreciation Month. It is an honor to serve the families

and communities of Dallas ISD.

Former Board President Remembered

Former Board President and District 6 Trustee Hollis Brashear, who served on the Dallas ISD board of trustees for 14 years, passed away this month.

Brashear joined the board in 1992 and held various position on the board including second vice president, vice president, and president, a capacity in which he served the board for two terms. Brashear retired from Dallas ISD's Board of Trustees in 2006. He previously had a

21-year career in the Army.

As the current trustee presiding over District 6, I am truly thankful for Brashear's work and service to our schools and community. I extend my condolences to the families and communities affected by his passing.

EVANS, continued from Page 7

logic and sensibility, that McGowen and Evans sometimes chuckle at the absurdity of it.

Within those stories lie the reminders of the courageous first steps they and many others took when there was much that was very wrong with race and education in this part of the country.

McGowen explains to the students the flawed "separate but equal" justification for segregation by describing his experience with shoddy equipment as a football player at Doty.

"When I started playing football in the 9th grade," McGowen says, "the equipment that they sent over to Coach Evans for us to play in... I played in two left shoes for a whole year. I had the correct size left shoe, and the

right shoe was a size larger so that I could wear [a left shoe on my right foot]. I played a whole year in that because they did not have the shoes that would fit me.

"I was the first to wear a face mask at E. S. Doty High School at that particular time," he adds. "Well, the face mask was not perfect, and this tooth right here—that's how I got it knocked out."

One student asks, "How did you feel about going to work at the high school?"

McGowen is frank in his response. "When Mr. Faubion came and asked me if I would go to McKinney High School, I went to my pastor and my presiding elders and had a conference with them. And, what they told me



Jesse McGowen, Jr. (center) and Leonard Evans (seated, back) talk with 4th graders at McGowen Elementary in McKinney.

was, 'Mr. McGowen, you're going to make an impact on the lives of children. I know there are some other things that you would rather do, but I think that God has called you to this position, so you go ahead and do it.'

"Now, I was fearful because I didn't know what the outcome was going to be. I didn't know if I was going to be able to handle the situa-

tion, but they wanted me to correct what was going on at the high school. But, again, I give all praise to the Lord because He helped me and Coach Evans because we also worked together to calm things," says McGowen.

The kids connect easily with these strong, kind men who encourage them to not let challenges stand in their way of accomplishing all that

they are capable of. And, that message resonates deeply.

Fourth-grader Sanhitha Yeerelly says, "I'd say they're pretty amazing people. [I learned that you shouldn't] let the people that make your weaknesses stand out hurt your chances of doing something great."

In regard to the challenges he faced, there's a striking lack of bitterness with McGowen. As the kids begin to disperse, and he's finally able to step aside for a moment, he explains with a wide smile how he has avoided the pitfalls of bitterness and anger.

"I'm not bitter because... I think about my training, my mom and dad's training and because of the Lord, because of God being in my heart," he says. "He helps me be able to take many things that, otherwise... I would probably do

something else. So, I think it's because of Christ in my life. It's as simple as that."

As far as the kids are concerned, McGowen hopes that they feel encouraged after the day's talk.

"I'm hoping that they will take away from this that you can become anything that you desire if you work hard, have the right attitude and the right work habit. And, there's no difference in color. We're all God's children, and we should try to love each other. I think that's what the world needs.

"Not only these kids, but the world needs to reflect on that right now."

For additional information on McKinney ISD, contact Shane Mauldin, MISD Communications Coordinator, at 469-302-4007 or smauldin@mckinneyisd.net.



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Garland Mayor Douglas Athas will give his State of the City address at the Garland Chamber's February luncheon.

GARLAND Athas to deliver annual State of the City address

Mayor Douglas Athas will give his State of the

City Address at the Garland Chamber of Commerce's February Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27, at The Atrium at the Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth St.

Registration is required to attend. Cost is \$40 for Chamber members and \$50 for non-members. Visit GarlandChamber.com for details and registration.

RICHARDSON Chamber visiting leaders in Austin and Washington, D.C.

At both the local and national level, legislative bodies are preparing to

tackle issues which will affect the business and personal lives of all citizens.

The Richardson Chamber is hosting two trips - one to the state capital and one to the nation's capital - so local citizens, businesses of all sizes and community leaders can meet face to face with lawmakers and present our 2017 Legislative Agenda. The Chamber's Public Affairs Committee crafts legislative priorities for the Chamber every legislative year. Those priorities are based on the needs of their membership and the local community.

Black History Celebrations

African American Education Archives and History Program Announces Observance for Black History Month

"Crisis in Black Education" is the national theme for Black History Month. The African American Education Archives and History Program (AAEAHP) will present a special observance at noon, Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Good Street Baptist Church, located at 3110 Bonnie View Road.

Featured speakers are Dr. Wright Lassiter, retired

chancellor of the Dallas County Community College District, and Dr. W. Marvin Delaney, Associate Professor Emeritus, History Department of U.T. Arlington.

Special guests will be the incoming inductees for 2017 into the African American Education Archives and History Program Hall of Fame. Displays will include information about area schools named for African Americans, Remembering Black Dallas memorabilia and photos of

area history makers.

Celebrate Black History Month at the MLK Center

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center will host a panel discussion focusing on the challenges minority women face while serving as leaders in the public sector and in Corporate America. This event is on Thursday, February 23, 2017, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the MLK Recreation Center. There is

See HISTORY, Page 10

ACE, continued from Page 6

schools into the ACE program next school year.

"We have seen a remarkable turnaround at the ACE schools in a short amount of time, so we are thrilled to add these six schools to the program," Dallas ISD Chief of School Leadership Stephanie Elizalde said. "Dallas ISD is committed to ensuring every student receives a high-quality education, and the ACE program provides extra resources and highly effective teaching for schools that need it the most."

The ACE program incentivizes top teachers and principals to voluntarily work at the district's highest-need schools. The program combines effective instruction, additional class time and social and academic skill-building implemented in a culture of high expectations.

The new 2017-2018 ACE campuses are:

- C.F. Carr Elementary School
- Amelia Earhart Learning Center
- J.N. Ervin Elementary School
- Onesimo Hernandez Elementary School
- Edward Titche Elementary School
- J.W. Ray Elementary School

Additionally, the district is using this opportunity to combine George W. Carver

Elementary School into Amelia Earhart Learning Center and C.F. Carr Elementary School. The move will provide students and staff with more resources in a new learning environment.

ACE excitement

Given the successes they have personally seen, teachers and staff at the existing seven ACE schools said they are excited about the program's expansion.

The existing ACE schools are Anne Webb Blanton Elementary School, Billy Earl Dade Middle School, Edison Middle Learning Center, Roger Q. Mills Elementary School, Umphrey Lee Elementary School, and Sarah Zumwalt Middle School.

Dade Middle School Principal Tracie Washington said she often couldn't believe the enormous positive impact the program has had on the school.

"The ACE program has been a wonderful asset and benefit to our students, our parents and our staff," Washington said. "One of the key things is building a team that is able to come together with one vision and one goal, knowing that we are our students' best hope and that is non-negotiable in the work we have ahead."

For those interested in learning more about the ACE program, visit <http://dallasisd.org/ace>.

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DCT bringing *Jack and the Beanstalk* to the stage March 3-26

With great music and unexpected humor, Kathy Burks Theatre of Puppetry Arts (KBTPA) brings to life *JACK AND THE BEANSTALK*. This age-old fairy tale of a young hero's extraordinary climb up a magical beanstalk seeking great fortune will be told through the troupe's unique style of puppetry. Kathy Burks Theatre of Puppetry Arts' *JACK AND THE BEANSTALK* opens March 3 at the Rosewood Center for Family Arts home of Dallas Children's Theater.

The story, told using techniques of Black Theater rod



DCT / Sally Fiorello

puppetry, hand puppets, and shadows, follows Jack as he strives to save his family from ruin. During his climb

up a mysterious beanstalk, he encounters a few surprising characters, including the Man in the Moon and

Goldie, the talking hen. When he finally comes face to face with a fiendish giant, Jack must use his wits to escape the colossal villain's castle in the clouds.

In keeping with the season theme of Me, the Recipe, Dallas Children's Theater and KBTPA encourage all to come see the show with an open mind. Fairy tales open the doors for children to explore the true depths of their imagination through storytelling. "KBTPA always puts our own spin on fairy tales, and we've done that with this show. *JACK AND THE BEANSTALK*, much like

other fairy tales, is about fantasy and magic. So this version will give people lots to wonder and laugh at," says Sally Fiorello, Senior Designer for KBTPA.

KBTPA is the oldest professional resident puppet theatre in the Southwest. Established in 1973, the troupe has provided family entertainment for audiences in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex, and through the states of Texas and Oklahoma. They perform using all styles of puppetry, but have found a home in the niche of Black Theatre rod puppetry. Performance material ranges

from adaptations of classic stories and fairy tales to scripts based on original themes to puppet theatre interpretations of musical masterpieces, such as *The Nutcracker* and *Carnival of the Animals*.

As is standard on DCT opening nights, *JACK AND THE BEANSTALK* patrons will be treated to facepainting, giveaways, and fun at the Puppet Theater. Enjoy free show posters, a special sweet treat, and more on Friday, March 3 starting one hour before the show.

Tickets are available now at dct.org.

Win tickets to the 35th annual North Texas Irish Festival

Thirty-five years of a passion for the great traditions of Irish culture has made the North Texas Irish Festival one of the largest Celtic cultural celebrations in the country. *NDG* readers can win free tickets to the North Texas Irish Festival by checking in to the Facebook and Instagram accounts of the *North Dallas Gazette*.

In 2017, the North Texas Irish Festival celebrates with its largest festival yet, entitled "Texas Grown - Irish Roots," to acknowledge the Lone Star State's role in preserving, celebrating and furthering Irish culture in the U.S. Produced annually by an army of music-loving volunteers, the Southwest Celtic Music Association Inc., the North Texas Irish Festival is known for bringing in hundreds of performers from Ireland and all over the



world to entertain festival-goers here in North Texas.

Mark your calendar for March 3-5, 2017, when a 35th Annual North Texas Irish Festival lights up Fair Park with dining, dancing, music and revelry unlike anything you have yet seen.

"This festival began as a giant commotion when fans overran one of our favorite Irish bars to listen to their favorite bands," said Sheri Bush, president of the Southwest Celtic Music Association Inc., the all-volunteer organization that produced the North Texas Irish Festival and provides music

and dance scholarships to local children. "That quickly grew into our festival at Fair Park, where we could share this love of music and dance with all of North Texas. It has only gotten bigger each year."

Music, dancing, whiskey tastings, blacksmithing demonstrations, horse displays, Celtic storytelling, animal rescue groups, Shepherd's pie, Irish stew, dozens of activities for kids and child-friendly entertainment, and chef demonstrations are all found at this family-friendly festival that includes 13 stages of enter-

tainment.

Gates open on Friday evening, March 3, at 6 p.m. Hours are 6 to 11 p.m. on Friday; 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 4; and 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 5.

Tickets will be available online in February at www.ntif.org. Admission is

free on Friday from 6 to 7 p.m.; \$10 after (50 percent off coupons online at www.ntif.org). A one-day ticket is \$20 on Saturday and \$15 on Sunday at the gate, while a two-day ticket is \$25 and a weekend pass is \$30. Discount tickets will be available at area Tom Thumb and Albertsons stores in February. Children 11 and under are free when accompanied by adult family member. Seniors over 65 or current military members (with valid military ID) receive \$5 off all gate prices. Dogs are allowed in on a short leash with a \$1 re-

quested donation to animal rescue groups supported by the festival. Leprechauns (in full ceremonial dress and carrying pot of gold) are free.

Parking is available in and around Fair Park, or attendees can take the DART (take the Green Line!) to the front entrance of Fair Park and the North Texas Irish Festival. Detailed directions and parking tips are available at www.ntif.org. The public can call (214) 821-4173 or visit www.ntif.org for more information or to volunteer to work at the festival.

Despite noted reservations, Prince's work is now streaming

Prince fought for control of his music that for years he called himself The Artist Formerly Known as Prince. Now less than a year after his death, it appears his family has turned over the keys to his kingdom back to Warner Brothers. The music label sent out a press release proudly proclaiming that by Sunday night all of his music in their catalog will be avail-

able via streaming networks.

Although Prince supported online music streaming, he believed in having control of what he created. This feels like a bit of a betrayal to his legacy, presumably by whoever has control of his estate.

At the end of the day, it is another reminder of two things: you can't take it with you, but you should at least write a will.



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Christian Hip Hop duo Kolour release new single 'U Ah Mess'

MIAMI (EINPress-wire.com) — Musgrove Music Distribution, in conjunction with distributing giant Concore/Universal Music Distribution, announces the release of the new single, 'U Ah Mess', from Miami-based Christian Rap/Hip-Hop group, Kolour. 'U Ah Mess' is burning up the local airways and setting the charts ablaze with its witty yet compelling lyrics and its unmistakable signature Miami Bass sound. 'U Ah Mess' is available for purchase on virtually all internet download/streaming sites.



Kolour consists of (l to r) S. Caliber and King Ace (Courtesy photo)

Kolour cleverly delivers a consummate Sunday School message that allows young people and the young-at-heart to "turn up". If you want to dance; or elevate your mind through the lyrics; or "floss" in your ride while bumping the speakers with ground-shaking bass contained in the beat, 'U Ah Mess' has all of this for you and then some.

Kolour's 'U Ah Mess' brings into perspective the age-old problem of people in ministry who look down their nose at those who are at different places in their spiritual journey, particu-

larly newer Christians. The lyrics bring to light that everybody is an "ex-something," and that deliverance for all comes from the same place—God's grace. 'U Ah Mess' is a reminder to seasoned Christians that all children in the Kingdom of God are growing in Him, and that no Christians have "arrived" yet.

Kolour is a "dynamic duo" of talent, consisting of S. Caliber, a native of Miami, Florida; and King Ace, born in Brooklyn NY, but lived in Miami most of his life. As part of their identity, the guys also refer to themselves as "The Splash Brothers." When asked why, King Ace explains, "Kolour splashes! If

life is like a plain white canvas, we are the ones that add the color to it." And "splash" is exactly what they do, as they deliver their personal brand of rhythm and poetry that travels across the senses in waves of sound.

When asked about their musical influences, Kolour will point you in the direction of all things Miami, as their desire is to promote the classic Miami sound made famous by "Trick Daddy," "Uncle Luke," and other legends of the genre, but with one exception: they maintain that they want to keep the lyrical content of their music positive and substantive. They desire to make music that is

palatable to all audiences, as well as to have music with a message.

Previously, the Christian Hip-Hop duo bore the name 'Team Jesus.' During that time, their function was edifying the body of Christ while making their own unique contribution to Christian Hip-Hop culture (i.e. artistic expression, fashion, vernacular, etc.). But according to S. Caliber, "Team Jesus was the caterpillar—Kolour is the butterfly."

The group believes that God is "multi-dimensional," in that one single act of obedience garners multiple outcomes. These are the colors that God uses to make His presence known in the world.

"There is a 'language barrier' between the church and the world," says S. Caliber. "Kolour speaks the 'language' to overcome that barrier and reach the people that need Christ." This is the foundation of Kolour's ideology for evangelical outreach. They do music to edify the body of Christ, but they also have the musical "fish and loaves" in hand to feed a world of non-believers.

"U Ah Mess" came from

the group's concern with the so-called "perfect Christian." Kolour maintains that a "holier-than-thou" disposition detracts from the message of Jesus, as it shuns and "pushes away" people that aren't "perfect." Kolour is resolute in their goal to present an image of God that is accessible to a world that may feel alienated by the more "traditional" ways in which people entreat God.

When asked about the fu-

ture, Kolour makes it clear that they do not want to be placed in a "box" that demands that they do only Christian Hip-Hop.

Their intent is to cross over into other markets to deliver positive music to the masses in the most comprehensive way. Their intent is to be able to operate in both Christian and secular arenas, while maintaining the same positive message in both categories.



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HISTORY, continued from Page 8

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This year's theme, "Expose to Greatness," extends the mission which is to inspire, educate, celebrate, and galvanize the community of South Dallas and surrounding areas.

"We are so thrilled to present this phenomenal event to the South Dallas community in efforts to make a positive impact. February is a month for citizens to remember and learn that if it had not been for a great historian named Carter G. Woodson creating Negro History Week in

1925, there would be no Black History Month. This gives the community a chance to embrace its culture in a nation that is diverse and is built on immigration," says Pamela Jones, Manager of the MLK Community Center.

The panelists include the Honorable Tiffinni A.

Young, Dallas City Councilwoman; Ms. Zeronda Smith, Director of Risk Management for the City of Dallas; Dallas County Constable Tracey Gulley; Dr. Froswa Booker-Drew, Director of Community Affairs and Strategic Alliances for the State Fair of Texas; and Mrs. Shari Hicks, Vice President of Corporate Banking at Frost Bank. The

panel will be moderated by Pamela Jones. All media is invited to attend.

The event is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center is located at 2901 Pennsylvania Avenue in Dallas. Contact (214) 670-8418 or visit www.dallasmlkcenter.com for more info.



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How new technologies are giving small businesses a boost

(StatePoint) Small businesses employ half of the private sector in the US and create two out of three new jobs, according to the Small Business Administration. While the 28 million small businesses nationwide serve as an important economic engine of this country, keeping one surviving and thriving can be particularly challenging.



Luckily, hot new technologies are helping small companies flourish by eliminating much of the operational costs and grunt work associated with running a business, allowing them to

gain the efficiencies of a much larger operation. Chief among them are cloud-based solutions that are helping cut IT costs and make small businesses more efficient.

If you are an entrepreneur or manage a small business, keep in mind that human resources (HR) work consumes 25-35 percent of a small business owner's time, according to SCORE,

a nonprofit that helps small businesses get off the ground and grow. New services can help streamline this so you can get back to the basics of creating and selling your product.

"As a small business, we have the same amount of fiscal pressure as a big corporation, but we don't have the same resources," says Luigi Boccia, business development for Brooklyn

Tweed, a manufacturer of yarns and knitwear patterns.

Boccia's team uses Zenefits, a web-based service that combines HR, benefits, payroll and more, in one platform. And because many of these services are offered for free to businesses, companies can save significant time and money — as much as 30 days per

See TECH Page 16

IRVING, continued from Page 11

two current incumbents are up for re-election. Dennis Webb is seeking a third term for Place 3. J. Oscar Ward is running for re-election for Place 5.

Dennis Webb was re-elected to the City Council, Place 3, in May 2014 and is serving his second term. He has lived in the City of Irving for 30 years, graduating from Nimitz High School in 1977. Webb retired as a Lieutenant with the Grand Prairie Fire Department in 2013. He served in that capacity for over 15 years and was employed by the City for over 28 years. Webb is the Senior Pastor of the Bear Creek Community Church in Irving. His numerous civic involvement includes serving a full term on the Planning and Zoning Commission and on the Mayor's Human Relations

Advisory Committee.

Oscar Ward a longtime resident of Irving, was elected to the City Council by the voters of Place 5 in May 2014 and is serving his first term. Ward has a history of actively participating in government, community, and civic organizations. He has served as the chairman of the Charter Review Committee, Chairman of the Building and Standards Commission, past president of the Greater Irving Republican Club, and past president of the Cardinal Village Neighborhood Association. Ward is a member of the Irving Sunrise Rotary Club, Ambucs, Irving Heritage Society, Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce and Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

At the time of press,

NDG learned that Abdel ElHassan is running against Ward. No further information is available at this time.

Irving School Board Candidates

Candidates for Irving ISD School Board includes Sharon Deberry, Nell Anne Hunt and Dr. Steven Jones (Current District 1 Trustee and Board President) all have tossed their hats in the ring.

Sharon Deberry is an educator and has worked in Irving ISD for numerous years. She is running against Nell Anne Hunt to represent District 2. She is looking to re-engage the parents and the students of the Irving Independent School District. As the wife of Will DeBerry, the first African American Irving ISD School Board Trustee, Deberry has an understanding of the potential for growth for the school district.

WATER, continued from Page 5

as a perennial stream by the United States Geological Survey, meaning there should always be water flowing.

"Rather than follow the TCEQ's standards for water quality and flow downstream, Addison impounded that water and they turned what should be a healthy, free-flowing creek into a trickle at times," says resident Todd Womble, whose home is on Farmers Branch Creek. "By restricting the water flow in Farmers Branch Creek, Addison is violating state law, harming

a valuable ecosystem and causing nuisance conditions for residents, all to provide lakes and fountains for a private real estate development."

An investigation by Farmers Branch discovered that, contrary to the permit, Addison is pumping water from the inferior quality Woodbine Aquifer. Additionally, the data raises questions about the number of hours and volume of water Addison is pumping to offset the evaporative losses.

"We need the existing

permit to be followed and strong action taken to correct the problems and restore the environmental quality of Farmers Branch Creek," says Deputy City Manager John Land.

"Addison wants the state to ignore the ecological and aesthetic problems they've created and the violations of the original permit. We want the state to send a message that this kind of behavior will not be tolerated."

The TCEQ hearing will be held at 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building E, Room 201S in north Austin, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Nell Anne Hunt, an Irving resident for more than 40 years, is a current member of the Board of Trustees representing District 2 since 2014. She was an honor graduate of Texas Tech University with a major in speech pathology and a minor in English. She holds a Texas teaching certificate and has taught in four different school districts. Hunt has been a teacher of Reading is Fundamental and also taught English as a Second Lan-

guage. Currently, Hunt is a realtor with Ebby Halliday Realtors.

As an enthusiastic community volunteer, she has served in numerous ways. She is the Founder of the Great Flag Caper which places over 40,000 American flags in Irving on the 4th of July.

Dr. Steven Jones currently represents District 1 and is the Board President, a graduate of Irving ISD. He has previously served

as secretary of the Board of Trustees. Jones earned his BBA from Baylor University and his DDS from Baylor College of Dentistry. He is the founding producer of the nationally recognized and critically acclaimed Lyric Stage.

May 6 is Election Day in North Texas, with early voting starting on Monday, April 24. Don't forget to vote, it is your chance to shape the future of your community.



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Transformance offers opportunities to gain control of finances

Each month, Transformance hosts or organizes several seminars with community organizations. These seminars are designed to engage the general public and help those in need navigate the murky waters of credit and budget management, debt manage-

ment or buying a home.

- Homebuyer Pre-Purchase Class - 9 a.m., First Saturday of every month (unless noted otherwise) 8737 King George Drive, Dallas, TX 75235

- *Spanish Classes Available

- Building Your Dream

(Homeownership Workshop) - 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 18 - Transforming Life Christian Fellowship, 10005 Technology Blvd West Suite 151, Dallas, TX 75220

These are just some of the opportunities and services offered by Transformance.

Transformance was formerly known as Consumer Credit Counseling Services (CCCS) of Dallas and has been operating in Dallas since a group of Dallas businessmen came together in 1973 with a vision to help people struggling with debt.

They saw a need and met it. The need was for consumers to be better informed regarding to the wise use of money and credit for little to no cost.

The wheels began turning, and in January 1974, CCCS of Greater Dallas

made its first disbursement to creditors on behalf of its clients in the amount of \$5,000 and a nonprofit service organization was born.

For more information on Transformance, visit their website at www.transformanceusa.org.

GUNS, continued from Page 6

appointment and despair during periods of increased unemployment, when getting an education does not necessarily lead to finding work.”

Frequent school shootings have been a major concern in American society for decades, but the causes have defied understanding. For the new study, published in the journal *Nature Human Behaviour*, researchers used data from 1990 to 2013 on both gun violence in US schools and economic metrics, including unemployment, to get some answers.

“Our findings highlight the importance of economic opportunity for the next generation and suggest there are proactive actions we could take as a society to help decrease the frequency of gun violence,” says Adam R. Pah, clinical assistant professor of management and organizations.

Other key findings include:

- While Chicago is singled

out in the study as one of the six cities with the most incidents from 1990 to 2013, Chicago schools are not any more dangerous than schools in other large cities.

- Gun violence at schools has not become more deadly over time.

- Most shootings are targeted, with the shooter intending to harm a specific person.

- Gang-related violence and lone mass shooters comprise only small fractions of the gun violence that occurs at US schools. Gang-related violence constitutes 6.6 percent of all incidents.

The results suggest that during periods of heightened unemployment, increased gun violence may be a growing risk in American college and university settings.

The findings also show that the rate of gun violence at schools has changed over time. The most recent period studied (2007-2013) has a higher frequency of incidents than the preceding one



(1994-2007), contradicting previous work in this area.

“Our work helps us understand why the frequency of gun violence at schools changes, not necessarily why gun violence at schools in the United States exists at all,” says Luis Amaral, professor of chemical and biological engineering.

Symbols of upward mobility

In the last 25 years, there have been two elevated periods of gun violence at US schools, the researchers found; 2007-2013 was largely due to events at post secondary schools while 1992-1994 more often in-

involved events at K-12 schools.

The researchers say the study stands apart from earlier research on gun violence in US schools by considering the school-to-work transition in American society.

“We spent days doing nothing but reading about violence at schools, which is quite possibly the saddest thing I’ve had to do for research.”

“Once we consider how important schools are to American ideas about economic opportunity and upward mobility, we can better understand why school settings are revealed in our re-

search as focal points of violent responses to increased unemployment,” Hagan says. “Prior research about gun violence in schools has not adequately analyzed these connections.”

381 shootings

For the new study, the researchers collected previously used data sets, collated them into a single one and then individually sourced and read reports for each event to make sure it was actually an incident of gun violence at a school. The process yielded 379 events meeting the researchers’ strict criteria, and two additional events were found, for a total of 381 events for the final data set.

“We spent days doing nothing but reading about violence at schools, which is quite possibly the saddest thing I’ve had to do for research,” Pah says.

The researchers focused on all gun violence at schools, not only mass

shootings. They used the following criteria for an event to be included in the study: (1) the shooting must involve a firearm being discharged, even if by accident; (2) it must occur on a school campus; and (3) it must involve students or school employees, either as perpetrators, bystanders, or victims.

Next, the researchers evaluated the timing of these events against multiple indicators of economic distress, including unemployment, the foreclosure rate and consumer confidence. They then hypothesized that increased school shootings are a response to increasing unemployment and tested that hypothesis in two additional ways.

The results strongly support the hypothesis that a breakdown in the school-to-work transition contributes to an increase in gun violence in US schools.

Source: *Northwestern University & Futurity*

CRISIS, continued from Page 4

rious birth complications — is one such disease that can be managed through a mother’s ongoing relationship with her healthcare provider.

Self-Empowerment

Importantly, African-American mothers must take full ownership of their healthcare experience. That means taking advantages of every opportunity to access proactive preconception, prenatal and post-partum care, and feeling empowered to ask questions. Understanding what’s normal, when to be concerned and when to call a

doctor is the No. 1 thing African-American women can do to ensure their babies are born and stay healthy.

Healthy Communities

More cities and neighborhoods are waking up to the notion that where you live has a significant impact on your health. Addressing environmental and social factors of health — such as nutrition, stress, substance abuse and domestic safety — will do more than improve the lives of mothers and babies. Its impacts will be felt throughout the community. Healthy Neighborhoods Detroit, an

Ascension Michigan program, provides a powerful example of a community building its capacity to address holistic health needs. By integrating healthcare, education, grocery access and affordable housing in some of the city’s most blighted areas, the effort is creating nerve centers where all residents can access the services they need.

The health of our youngest citizens is the yardstick by which we measure the prosperity of our country and communities. Fortunately, we have made great gains in reducing high rates of neonatal mortality. But there is still

more work to do to address equity gaps for African-Americans. It will take a comprehensive, coordinated effort to eliminate this quiet crisis. By working together, we have reasons to hope for a future in which African-American babies survive, thrive and lead our communities into the future.

Patricia A. Maryland, PhD, is the President of *Healthcare Operations and Chief Operating Officer for Ascension Health, the healthcare delivery subsidiary of Ascension, the nation’s largest non-profit and largest Catholic health system.*

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VALUE, continued from Page 3

serves as a financial springboard for future generations. New public policy reforms must be enacted to correct and replace the harms Blacks have faced as a result of our financial exclusion.

For example, a college education is often cited as an essential gateway to higher incomes and America's middle class. Yet Blacks frequently pay the cost of higher education with a greater student loan indebtedness than their White counterparts.

Independent findings from the Center for Responsible Lending support the new report. Today more than half of Black families with a college student borrow to pay for college. Further, on average Black college graduates owe \$7,400 more on student loans than their White classmates.

When it comes to wages and employment, in 2012, the median full-time wage earned by Blacks was \$621 per week compared while the median wage for Whites was \$792 each week, the equivalent financial loss of \$8,892 per year. When gender was added, Black women fared even worse and earned only 68 percent – or \$28,005 of the \$41,184 made by similar White males.

With smaller paychecks and fewer discretionary dollars in household budgets, it is little wonder that the report also found that the median White single parent has 2.2

times more wealth than the median Black two-parent household, and 1.9 times more wealth than the median Latino two-parent household.

The only area where the new report found consistently higher Black consumer spending was for utility costs: electricity, heating fuel, water and sewer charges. The report cited risk-based pricing that often connects mandatory deposits or low credit scores for these services.

It is equally true, however, that older and less-insulated housing is also a relevant factor in driving up the price of utility services. In another professional post, as a local government official, I witnessed first-hand how winter utility bills force difficult challenges for many people of low to moderate incomes.

In cold-weather climates, winter heating bills can often be higher than the cost of housing itself. If utility providers are regulated by a moratorium on cutoffs for failure to pay winter utility bills, spring shut-off notices are as predictable as flowers in bloom. During cold weather months, delinquent utility accounts can run several hundred if not thousands of dollars in arrears. In warm-weather climates, the surge in utility costs are usually associated with spring and summer temperatures, but with the same financial burden.

Targeted public policy re-

forms are the key to closing the nation's wealth gap. These changes will require the same focus, vigilance and endurance of our historical efforts that forged laws addressing fair housing, voting rights, and equal employment opportunities.

We should all join together to dismantle the lingering legacy of economic exclu-

sion, and create a more financially inclusive future. When we do, in future years, new Black history chapters will note how we provided better opportunities for all of America's children.

It's past time for our 'fair share' of America's wealth.

Charlene Crowell can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

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

February 19, 9:45 a.m.
You're invited to our Sunday Morning "Prayer and Meditation" at 10 a.m. See what God is doing through and with us; you will be blessed.

February 22, 7 p.m.
Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Brenda Patterson and others teaching a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 6, Chapter 2." Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you. It's Time to Grow; Ephesians 4:12 & 13.

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

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

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

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

Dr. Terrence Autry, Senior Pastor
701 Centennial
972-991-0200

Richardson, TX 75081
www.Christcommunityrichardson.org

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"

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

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

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

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

INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH, Let's Go Fishing! MATTHEW 4:19

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

February 19, 10 a.m. (Only One Service, every Sunday)
You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

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

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
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972-372-4262
www.Ibocchurch.org

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

February 22, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Pastor Sam Fenceroy
Senior Pastor and
Pastor Gloria Fenceroy

300 Chisholm Place
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www.mocop.org

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVERS FOR COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE (PACE)

This Sunday February 19, 3-4 p.m.
PACE, in partnership with the Carrollton Library System invites YOU to join them for PACE's Annual African America Read-in at the Josey Ranch Library, 1700 Keller Springs Road, 75006. You will be blessed and inspired. There will be FREE books for children and refreshments for everybody. Don't forget the Read-In is this coming Sunday.

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)

February 19, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Join us for Worship Serv-

ices and fellowship as we give God all glory, honor and praise.

February 22, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and growth; it's all for His glory and His honor. We are, "Growing in Christ through the study of His Word."

Two Notices: Our AWANA (Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed from 2 Timothy 2:15) is held from 6:30 - 8:15 pm, now through May 2017. There is no charge

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

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Black History Month: Advances in healthcare



Send email to: businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com to sign up for Sister Tarpley's weekly electronic newsletter.

Daniel Hale Williams was one of the first physicians to perform open-heart surgery in the United States and he founded a hospital with an interracial staff.

Born on January 18, 1856 in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, Williams pursued a pioneering career in medicine. As a Black doctor in 1893 Dr. Williams opened Provident Hospital, the first medical facility to have an interracial staff.

He was also one of the first physicians to successfully complete pericardial surgery on a patient. Dr. Williams later became chief surgeon of the Freedmen's Hospital.

After the death of his father a 10-year-old Daniel was sent to live in Baltimore, Maryland, with family friends.

He became a shoemaker's apprentice but disliked the work and decided to return to his family who had moved to Illinois. Like his father, he took up barbering, but ultimately decided he wanted to pursue his education.

Dr. Williams worked as an apprentice with Dr. Henry Palmer, a highly accomplished surgeon, and then completed further training at Chicago Medical College.

He set up his own practice in Chicago's South Side and taught anatomy at his alma mater, also becoming the first Black physician to work for the city's street railway system.

Dr. Williams who was called Dr. Dan by patients, adopted sterilization procedures for his office, informed by the recent findings on germ transmission and prevention from Louis Pasteur and Joseph Lister.

Due to the discrimination of the day, Black citizens were still barred from being admitted to hospitals and Black doctors were refused staff positions.

He firmly believed this needed to change so in May 1891 Dr. Williams opened Provident Hospital and Training School for Nurses, the nation's first hospital with a nursing and intern program that had a racially integrated staff.

The facility, where Dr. Williams worked as a surgeon was publicly championed by famed abolitionist and writer Frederick Douglass.

In 1893, Dr. Williams continued to make history when he operated on James Cornish, a man with a severe stab wound to his chest who was brought to Provident.

Without the benefits of a blood transfusion or modern surgical procedures, Dr. Williams successfully sutured Cornish's pericardium (the membranous sac enclosing the heart.)

Thus becoming one of the first people to perform open-heart surgery; Cornish lived for many years after the operation.

Physicians Francisco Romero and Henry Dalton had previously performed pericardial operations outside of the U.S.

In 1894, Dr. Williams moved to Washington, D.C., where he was appointed the chief surgeon of the Freedmen's Hospital, which provided care for formerly enslaved Black people.

The facility had fallen into neglect and had a high mortality rate. Dr. Williams worked diligently on revitalization, improving surgical procedures and increasing specialization.

Dr. Williams also launched ambulance services and continuing to provide opportunities for Black medical professionals, among other feats.

In 1895, he co-founded the National Medical Association, a professional organization for Black med-

ical practitioners, as an alternative to the American Medical Association, which didn't allow Black membership.

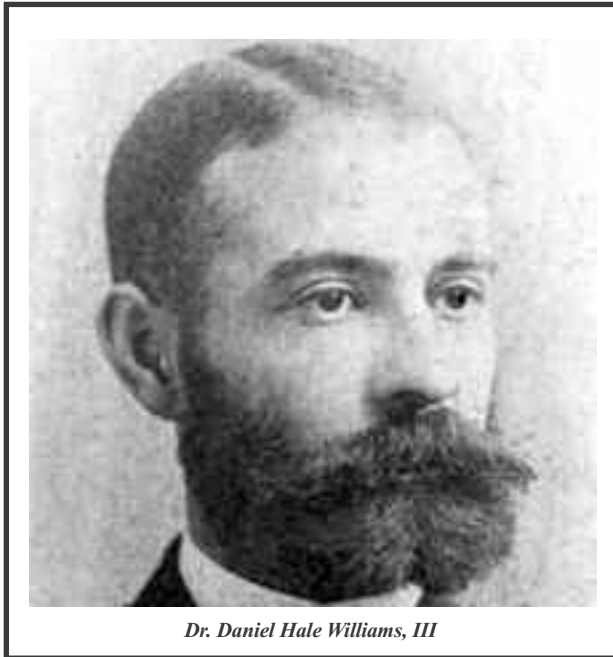
Dr. Williams left Freedmen's Hospital in 1898. He married Alice Johnson and the newlyweds moved to Chicago, where he returned to his work at Provident.

Soon after the turn of the century, he worked at Cook

County Hospital and later at St. Luke's, a large medical institution with ample resources.

Beginning in 1899, Dr. Williams also made annual trips to Nashville, Tennessee, where he was a voluntary visiting clinical professor at Meharry Medical College for more than two decades.

He became a charter



Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, III

NDGtv North Dallas Gazette takes a moment to reflect on the past with **Historical Perspectives from Sister Tarpley**. Hear what it was like growing up in a very different Dallas when Booker T. Washington was a black school. Sister Tarpley graduated from there and went on to college and later became a city councilmember in Carrollton.

Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com

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Pastor: Dr. W. Belmont, Sr.

member of the American College of Surgeons in 1913. In 1926 Dr. Williams experienced a debilitating stroke and died five years later on August 4, 1931 in Idlewild, Michigan.

Today, Dr. Williams' work as a pioneering physician and advocate for Black doctor's presence in medicine continues to be honored by institutions worldwide.

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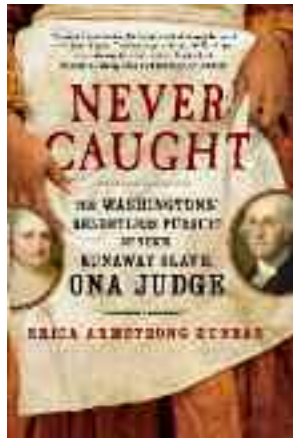
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NDG Book Review: *Never Caught* is a not-often-told chapter of history

By Terri Schlichenmeyer



Run, run, run. Some days, it feels like that's all you do. Run the kids to school, dash to work, rush with errands, and run yourself ragged before bed. You're always on the go, always moving, and in the new book "Never Caught" by Erica Armstrong Dunbar, your breath isn't the only thing to catch.

Twenty-one-year-old Mulatto Betty must've breathed a sigh of relief.

When Martha Custis married George Washington, slaves were shuffled as the mistress moved to Mount Vernon; miraculously and notably, Betty

moved and was allowed to keep her baby son with her. She was pregnant, too, by a white man with an "indenture agreement" and an eye for opportunity; their eldest daughter was born in mid-1773, and given the unusual name of Ona Maria.

At age ten, "Oney" Judge was brought inside the Washington household, in service to Martha Washington. There, the illiterate girl learned to care for Martha's clothing, to bathe the mistress, tend her grandchildren, and soothe anxieties – one of which was that Martha's husband had been asked to be the nation's first president, a post that Martha Washington wasn't keen on – and neither was Judge.

But, of course, Washington did take the position, which meant a household move from Virginia to Manhattan (the site of the first Executive Mansion) for the family and a handful of

slaves, including Judge. It's there, says Dunbar, where Judge most certainly tasted freedom through rare autonomy.

She was undoubtedly unhappy, therefore – but couldn't speak her mind – when the Executive Mansion was relocated to Philadelphia in 1790.

But there was a twist, for Judge and for the Washingtons: laws in Pennsylvania mandated freedom for any slave living in the state for six continuous months, meaning that the Washingtons would shuttle their slaves between Philadelphia and Virginia, to "reset" their status. Judge surely knew what was going on, but

when she learned that she would be permanently gifted as a wedding present to Martha's moody granddaughter, she could stand things no longer.

And so, as the Washingtons dined on a Saturday evening in May, 1796, Oney Judge slipped out the door and ran...

It's been a long time since I've read a thriller as heart-pounding as the one I found in this book. The difference is that "Never Caught" is all true.

But Judge's astounding, audacious story isn't the only thing author Erica Armstrong Dunbar brings to vivid life: she also sets the tone by explaining the

times in which Judge lived, and what life was like for slaves and whites alike. Thanks to Dunbar, it's easy to feel the busyness of Manhattan, to absorb the fear Judge surely felt, and to picture the elegant drawing rooms of the Washington home. On that note, we learn some not-so-savory things about George Washington, which makes the meat of this story an even bigger reason for gleefulness.

Now you have to find out what happened. If you love biographies, history, stories about remarkable women, or really exciting thrillers, "Never Caught" you need to read this book. Run for it.

TECH, continued from Page 11

year, according to the company's recent survey of nearly 500 businesses.

Keeping track of state and federal regulations and

reporting requirements can drain even more time from small business owners. For business owners who find compliance to be a particu-

larly challenging component of HR, a service like Zenefits can also keep a business up-to-date and on-track and help avoid costly fines.

Other web-based back-

office management tools, like Xero, can expedite accounting and bookkeeping, Expensify can simplify employee expense management, and Betterworks can help streamline employee

performance management.

While small businesses will always face challenges in a crowded marketplace, today's cloud-based solutions can help make them more competitive. Offering

the capabilities usually reserved for much larger companies, these technology systems are instrumental in supporting the 28 million small businesses that drive America's growth.



"My family came to America for a better life. I am living the American dream and have been blessed beyond description.

I now want to give back to this community. I offer international business contacts and insights that will help Carrollton get more jobs.

I ask for your vote on May 6th (early voting is April 24 - May 2) and look forward to serving you."

Pol adv pd for by the Young Sung Campaign
Larry Kelso, Treasurer, 4321 Millsap Dr., Carrollton, TX 75010

Community Involvement

- 35-plus year Carrollton resident
- Fluent in both English and Korean
- Active member of the Korean Chamber of Commerce
- Children are a product of CFBISD school system
- Member and Deacon at the Korean United Central Methodist Church
- Graduated from Newman Smith in Carrollton, TX
- Bachelors Degree in Business Management from Maryville College, Maryville, TN
- MBA from Le Tourneau University from Longview, TX

Professional Accomplishments

- Court Interpreter and Mediator
- Real Estate Broker
- Department of Justice Language consultant
- Holds an MBA degree
- Endorsed by the Korean Chamber of Commerce
- Former an All American collegiate soccer nominee
- Interpreter/Translator for Korean World Cup National Soccer Team in 1994