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# New Nielsen study reveals growing spending power, influence of Black women

By Stacy M. Brown

(NNPA) A new report detailing the record-setting spending power of African American women has further buoyed the confidence of Black female entrepreneurs, who said the information proves their undeniable value to the United States and the global economy.

The report titled, "African-American Women: Our Science, Her Magic," was released by Nielsen during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's annual legislative conference; it revealed that African American women's consumer preferences and brand affinities are resonating across the mainstream culture, driving total Black spending power toward a record \$1.5 trillion by 2021.

The report also noted that Black women comprise 14 percent of all females in the U.S. ("24.3 million strong") and 52 percent of all African Americans.

With an average age of 35.1 years (versus 42.8 for non-Hispanic White women and 39.4 for all women), Black women have enjoyed steady growth in population, incomes and educational attainment.



Cheryl Grace, the senior vice president of U.S. Community Strategic Alliances and Consumer Engagement for Nielsen, says that marketers must recognize the intercultural influence of Black women on the general market. In this photo, Grace (née Pearson-McNeil) speaks during the 2017 NNPA Mid-Winter Conference in Fort Lauderdale. (Fredie Allen/AMG/NNPA)

Sixty-four percent of Black women currently enroll in college right out of high school and 23 percent over the age of 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher, up from 18 percent in 2005.

Further, the report noted that the number of businesses majority-owned by Black women grew 67 percent between 2007 and 2012,

more than all women combined.

The latest U.S. Census figures show African-American women have majority ownership in more than 1.5 million businesses with over \$42 billion in sales.

"This report is helpful to show banks and brands that Black women

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Monifa Maat



Todne Thomas

**READERS SOUND OFF!!!**

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On the GO??? But still need to be in the KNOW!!! Bookmark [NorthDallasGazette.com](http://NorthDallasGazette.com) on your phone or mobile device!!!



## Monifa Maat

(Black PR Wire) New York – Mind-body corrective exercise specialist Monifa Maat (CPT), will be signing copies of her book, *Bed Aerobics Fitness Flow® 18 Mind-Body Exercise Steps for Strength, Flexibility & Balance* at Sisters Uptown Bookstore, 1942 Amsterdam Avenue at 156th Street in Harlem on September 27th, between 6pm – 8pm.

Bed Aerobics Fitness Flow® ("BAFF") is a mind-body, therapeutic bed exercise system to prevent and manage the onset of joint pain, anxiety and seden-



tism resulting from health related problems such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, arthritis, obesity and other chronic diseases. The aim of BAFF is to provide an alternative to individuals who are

sedentary, or on bed rest as prescribed by their doctor and even healthy individuals looking for variety and more effective results from their workouts. BAFF is a simple, convenient and affordable way to progressively increase cardiovascular health as it strengthens and stretches the body for better mobility and overall quality of life.

BAFF combines a series of 18 exercise steps which flow seamlessly from one to the other. Each step is combined with a unique motivational affirmation called a "Pillow Quote", that while rooted in biblical scripture is applicable to all faiths. Pil-

low Quotes are intended to reinforce how one's thoughts and spiritual connectedness may have a direct affect upon the state of one's physical and emotional well-being.

"Deep in my core, miracles are in store..." (Twister, Step #3)

According to the Geriatric Research Education Clinical Center, "inactivity and prolonged bed rest are unnatural states of the human body". One of the best advantages of BAFF is the convenience and practicality of engaging in a healthful, hassle-free workout routine that requires no special equipment and helps you move better, sleep better and feel better, before

even getting out of bed. BAFF can be practiced safely alone or with the assistance of a healthcare professional such as a physical, occupational or exercise therapist with a doctor's approval.

This coming Fall, Monifa Maat teams up with Ghanaian born two-time body building champion Martin Luther King Addo, founder of Southbridge Fitness Center located in lower Manhattan, New York City (and home to Southbridge Towers, a residential building catering to a large senior population) to offer Bed Aerobics Fitness Flow as a one hour, 8 session course cater-

ing to seniors, health care professionals and busy professionals in need of wellness solutions for joint pain or limited mobility.

Bed Aerobics Fitness Flow: 18 Mind-Body Exercise Steps for Strength, Flexibility & Balance is currently available in full color, over 100 photos and images. For individual copies or if you need information about bulk orders: monifa@bedaerobic-fitness.com.

For more information about Bed Aerobics Fitness Flow: 18 Mind-Body Exercise Steps for Strength, Flexibility & Balance please visit [www.TheHealthyMotivator.com](http://www.TheHealthyMotivator.com).

## Todne Thomas

One will teach on the history of science and can't wait to take her students to see 15th- and 16th-century books in Houghton Library. Another, who will teach religion, is thrilled to call scholars whose work she admires her colleagues. A third, at the Business School, feels happily overwhelmed by teaching, advising students, and taking on administrative responsibilities.

Each year, Harvard welcomes a new class of ladder faculty. Theirs are the other new faces on campus, and their excitement is some-



what similar to that of freshmen. They start their academic careers with a mix of glee and wonder.

"It's almost surreal," said Todne Thomas, an assistant professor of African-Ameri-

can religions at Harvard Divinity School and the Suzanne Young Murray Assistant Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. "Seeing faculty whose work I've been reading over the years and finding out that they're just down the hall, there is a kind of positive surreal quality to it, even as you're trying to find your way into the new culture."

Hannah Marcus, an assistant professor at the Department of the History of Science, said she felt the same way.

"I'm thrilled to be here," said Marcus, whose teaching

interests include the early history of medicine and the body, art and technology in the Renaissance, and the relationship between faith and science in the early modern period. "Getting started at Harvard is very exciting. There are so many fascinating people to meet and infinite resources to support my teaching and research."

For Scott Kominers, M.B.A. Class of 1960 Associate Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School (HBS) and a faculty affiliate at the Department of Economics and the Center of Mathematical Sciences and Applications,

teaching at Harvard is a wondrous opportunity.

"It's awesome," said Kominers. "I literally have my dream job."

The three newly appointed professors attended the New Ladder Faculty Institute last week at the Faculty Club, along with 50 other incoming faculty members from across the University. The event, hosted by the office of Faculty Development and Diversity, was a chance to meet new colleagues and learn about resources for teaching and research.

It was also a chance to take stock of the Harvard's

efforts to develop a more diverse faculty. According to the Faculty Development and Diversity office, of Harvard ladder faculty, which includes tenured full professors and tenure-track faculty, 30 percent are female and 22 percent are minorities.

In the class of new tenure-track faculty, more than 40 percent are female and 37 percent are minorities, which is "very different from the Harvard of the past," said Judith Singer, senior vice provost for faculty development and diversity and the James Bryant Conant Professor of Education.

## NDG Readers Sound Off...

**Ed Gray, NDG Senior Columnist: Dallas Sleeps Because It's Good for Business**

Whew! I was about to fall totally asleep before I read Barbaras' comment. That woke me straight up wide awake and I read the whole article and then tried to dial up the radio show at FBRN.net. That didn't work. So I guess I'll have to roll back over and go to sleep.

- Anonymous

Well said Ed.

- Mary Warren



**North Dallas Gazette's editor featured in 2017 Who's Who In Black Dallas**

Writer Ruth Ferguson is one of the honorees in this year's Who's Who In Black Dallas. Congrats Ruth! @ruthdfw

@NDGEditor

- Elena Arney via Twitter

**Ed Gray NDG Senior Columnist: Taking a Knee in America**

Bravo @edgray1906 The display of week 3 in

the NFL was ignited by 45, not deeply held beliefs. Via Twitter @Jim-miesMess

**Elliott's lackluster effort is uncharacteristic according to Garrett**

Other concerns; like being home or out in clubs, rather than on a football field. There are consequences for our actions! #doingstupidstuff via @JaelY007 on Twitter

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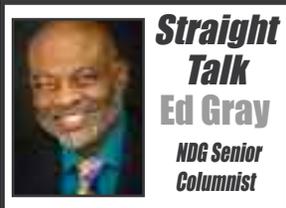


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# Taking a knee in America



**Straight Talk**  
**Ed Gray**  
NDG Senior Columnist

The Confederate Statues are finally coming down, and the National Football League players are protesting. I was impressed, taking a knee for justice. I ask, however, what is next? Some Dallasites did not see the importance of taking down a Confederate statue, but they cheered when the NFL players took a knee. Let's get real, this was great theater.

In a case of WWJD, not what would Jesus do, it was what will Jerry do? Mr. Jones took a knee. We all celebrated that America's Team took a knee. For what? Did Jerry sign Colin Kaepernick and hold a press conference to say that his blackbaling was wrong.

Did Jerry sign Colin Kaepernick and hold a press conference to say his blackbaling by the NFL teams



Dallas Cowboys players and staff kneel before the national anthem for which they stood. (Image via Dallas Cowboys Facebook page)

was wrong. No, he just took a knee with his players. Kind of stylish, I can't wait until Pop Warner football players take knees in the end zone. If he wanted to do something, he should have signed Colin to a contract, instead of taking a knee.

Now don't get me wrong I support taking a knee, it gets attention to a cause, that exists – protesting police killings, and supporting the Black Lives Matter Movement. Taking a Knee is fashionable, however, it only became fashionable when President Donald

Trump said Colin Kaepernick was a son of a shut your mouth. Trump was talking about Colin and we didn't dig it. After the symbolism is gone, and everyone gets off their knees, the reasons for the protest that drove Kaepernick to his knees will still be there.

Police brutality and its ancestors the slave catchers, night patrollers, and vigilantes still run rampant in the heat of the night. Preying upon black citizens in their most vulnerable states, impoverished, marginalized, and often times young.

The climate of these times demands more than being on bended knee like a bad remix the song from "Boys to Men" singing group.

We need to do more than symbolic boycotts of the NFL, or applaud millionaires protesting temporarily for the needs of the permanent oppressed.

To be Black in America, we are always on our knees in prayer, but very seldom do we stand up for self. Next week the symbolism of this past week will be history, what will we do then? The seeds of injustice that drove Colin to his knees will still be there, and we will still have the opportunity to take a stand for Justice.

What will you do? It's more than symbols, it's about substance.

I am Ed Gray and this is straight talk.

Ed Gray is the host of The Commish Radio Show airing Saturdays 3-5 p.m. on FBRN.net, can be reached at [eegray62@att.net](mailto:eegray62@att.net).

## The Forgotten Issue - Police violence against Blacks

By Jesuorobo Enobakhare, Jr

A photo of Colin Kaepernick tweeted out by Jennifer Lee Chan on August 26, 2016 launched a public debate. Kaepernick stated his action (sitting, which led to kneeling, during the anthem) was due to the oppression of people of color and ongoing issues with police brutality. However what was intended to draw attention to the demand for justice for people of color, quickly turned into a debate centered on patriotism, supporting the US Armed Forces, and First Amendment Rights; meanwhile the subject of his action was quickly and quietly ushered off of the main stage.

Let's take a moment to acknowledge a few of the unarmed men and women of color killed by police courtesy of Daniel Funke and Tina Susman of the LA Times:

- Alton Sterling, 37 Baton Rouge, LA - 2016

- Gregory Gunn, 58 Montgomery, AL - 2016
- Samuel DuBose, 43 Cincinnati, OH - 2015
- Brendon Glenn, 29 Los Angeles, CA - 2015
- Freddie Gray, 25 Baltimore, MD - 2015
- Natasha McKenna, 37 Fairfax County, VA - 2015
- Walter Scott, 50 Charleston, SC - 2015
- Christian Taylor, 19 Arlington, TX - 2015
- Michael Brown Jr., 18 Ferguson, MO - 2014
- Ezell Ford, 25, Los Angeles, CA - 2014
- Eric Garner, 43, Staten Island, NY - 2014
- Akai Gurley, 28, New York, NY - 2014
- Laquan McDonald, 17, Chicago, IL - 2014
- Tamir Rice, 12, Cleveland, OH - 2014

A few of the names you may be familiar with, all of the names many are not. But most are familiar with Colin Kaepernick and by his actions he spoke for all of them.

In 2017 Colin Kaepernick opted out of his contract with the 49ers. As of yet he has not been signed by another NFL team while at the same time police violence against black men and women has continued. Once again the conversation is not about the victims but has now shifted to the reasons for Colin Kaepernick not being signed by an NFL team, First Amendment Rights and NFL boycotts.

This reminds me of a scene from The Dark Knight - "You spat in the faces of Gotham's worse criminals. Didn't you think there would be some casualties? Things were always going to get worse before they got better." - Alfred Pennyworth to Bruce Wayne (Batman).

Football is the most popular sport in America. Racism and oppression of people of color has been a part of the American way since the founding of this country. Colin Kaepernick unintentionally (or intentionally)

drew a battle line against racism and oppression in front of millions of NFL fans. The battle for the soul of our country was laid bare for all to see. But instead of the issue being confronted and finally resolved, the NFL owners have decided to fight to restore the status quo by the supposedly "quieting" of one voice.

Colin Kaepernick took a knee, not for you nor me, he took a knee for those voiceless known and unknown black men and women who were the victims of police violence and it is now up to us to not only be their voices in protest, but to also work to change the system and end the bloodshed so that those lives lost will not be lives lost in vain.

The opinions expressed in this commentary are solely those of Jesuorobo A. Enobakhare, Jr.

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# Keep close watch for suicide warning signs in kids

For the first time ever, suicide has passed homicide as a leading cause of death for young people in America, prompting pediatricians and mental health experts to sound the alarm for parents, teachers and healthcare providers to be alert to warning signs that could signal children at risk. September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and experts urge adults to learn more about this growing threat to young lives.

Parkland Health & Hospital System began screening pediatric patients to identify kids at risk long before the Netflix 2017 season hit show "13 Reasons Why" put teen suicide in the headlines. In 2015, Parkland launched a unique Universal Suicide Screening Program to screen not only adults but also youth, ages 12 to 17, to help save lives by intervening immediately with those who need assistance.

"Research has shown that today's teens are exposed to more stresses and pressures than ever before. According to the National Alliance on Mental Health, one in five kids experience a mental health condition, but only 20 percent receive services. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for 15 to 24 year olds," said Kimberly Roaten, PhD, Director of



Yavi Panda / Flickr

Quality for Safety, Education and Implementation, Department of Psychiatry at Parkland and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

"At Parkland we recognize that we have the opportunity to identify children and young adults coming to us for other health services who may also need mental health services. By asking a few questions of every patient, regardless of why they come in for medical care, we can determine if there are reasons for concern and take steps to help."

Parkland uses the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS), a validated screening tool, with adults 18 and over and the ASQ (Ask Suicide-Screening Questionnaire) with 12-to-17-year-olds.

The Parkland Algorithm for Suicide Screening stratifies patients into three sui-

cide risk categories based on their answers to the screening questions: no risk identified, moderate risk identified and high risk identified. Those at high risk are immediately placed under one-to-one supervision, suicide precautions are implemented, and an evaluation by a behavioral health clinician is initiated. Patients at moderate risk are automatically referred to a psychiatric social worker and usually are seen during the same visit. Moderate risk patients who choose not to speak with a psychiatric social worker during the visit receive a follow-up phone call to provide additional support and resources. Parents and caregivers are engaged in the screening process and both patients and their caregivers are provided with printed information about suicide warning signs and community mental health resources.

"Social media, cyber-bul-

lying, easy access to drugs and alcohol, dating violence and teen pregnancy are just some of the threats facing young adults," Dr. Roaten said. Although the screening tool can help healthcare providers identify kids at risk, she added that it's important for family, friends, teachers and school officials to know the warning signs that should prompt them to seek professional help for a young person struggling with depression or mental health problems.

Since May 2015, more than 67,000 suicide screenings have been completed for Parkland patients between the ages of 12 and 17. Approximately 2.8 percent of all adolescent patients were found to have potential suicide risk through the screening. According to Dr. Roaten, girls are almost twice as likely as boys to endorse at least one positive suicide screening item and older kids are more likely to endorse a suicide screening item than younger adolescents.

Following are common warning signs of potential suicide risk in adolescents to watch for:

- Threats or comments about killing themselves, also known as suicidal ideation, as well as preoccu-

pation with death in conversation, writing or drawing

- Increased alcohol and drug use

- Aggressive or hostile behavior

- Social withdrawal from friends, family, school activities and the community

- Dramatic mood swings or personality change, such as from upbeat to quiet

- Giving away belongings
- Impulsive or reckless behavior

- Feeling excessively sad or low

- Confused thinking or

problems concentrating and learning

- Changes in sleeping habits or feeling tired and low energy

- Changes in school performance

- Running away from home

- An intense fear of weight gain or concern with appearance or neglecting personal appearance

"It's important to know that suicide is preventable and everyone should be fa-

**See WATCH, Page 5**

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## Most employees want more money instead of better health benefits

SAN ANTONIO - Sixty-three percent of employees in America indicate that receiving higher wages is more important to them than having better health benefits. These findings are according to the 2017 "Getting Paid In America" survey conducted by the American Payroll Association (APA) for National Payroll Week. The results for 2017 reflect a 12.5% increase over the 2016 replies for this question.

"A wage increase is easy for workers to understand. The value is clear and immediately apparent," said Mike Trabold, director of

compliance risk for Paychex. "In 2017, considering today's unpredictable regulatory environment, the same can't be said for better benefits."

The annual APA survey asked, "What's more important to you, better health benefits or higher wages?" Sixty-three percent of respondents indicated higher wages are more important than health benefits. The number of survey participants with this preference rose 12.5% from the 2016 results for the same question, which indicated only 56% of employees shared

this sentiment.

During National Payroll Week, the American Payroll Association shares information for employees to better understand their paychecks. This knowledge can help them make smarter decisions with how they're paid.

"Maximizing your paycheck is immensely important," said Dan Maddux, executive director of the American Payroll Association. "During National Payroll Week, we teach employees to better understand their payroll-related benefits and how to use them to get the most each paycheck."

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# DART adds service for Texas-Oklahoma football rivalry

Rivalry football games are exciting for teams, fans and programs, and none is bigger than the annual AT&T Red River Showdown between Texas and Oklahoma, Sat., Oct. 14. Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) will be ready with additional service as thousands travel to the State Fair to be a part of the game day atmosphere.

Arrive early since trains typically begin filling more than two hours before kickoff. DART staff will be at Parker Road, Victory and Pearl/Arts District stations four hours before game time to assist customers with ticket purchases.

The fairgrounds are served by two Green Line stations - Fair Park, located on Parry Avenue at the main fair entrance, and MLK, Jr., located



David Wilfong / NDG

south of R.B. Cullum Boulevard and convenient to the Gate 6 entrance and the Cotton Bowl Stadium. To accommodate the game day crowd, DART will place into service additional light rail, buses and Trinity Railway Express (TRE) trains:

- Southbound Green Line trains will leave every 10 minutes from North Carrollton/Frankford Station for

MLK, Jr. Station as early as four hours before the game. These trains will not serve Victory, West End, Akard, St. Paul, Pearl/Arts District, Deep Ellum, Baylor and Fair Park stations. Transfer to the Green Line circulator at Union Station to reach those stations. The special Green Line circulator starts four hours before the game and operates six trips per hour.

The circulator does not stop at Convention Center or Cedars stations and operates continually until approximately four hours after the game.

- Northbound Green Line trains leave every 10 minutes from Buckner Station for MLK, Jr. Station as early as three hours before kickoff. These trains will not stop at Fair Park.

- Southbound Red and Blue Line passengers can transfer to the Green Line Circulator at Pearl/Arts District Station while northbound Red and Blue line passengers can transfer at Akard Station.

- Specially marked southbound Red Line trains will leave every 10 minutes from Parker

Road Station to MLK, Jr.

Station starting as early as four hours before kickoff. The specially marked southbound Red Line trains will not stop after Cityplace/Uptown Station and will head directly to MLK, Jr. Station. Passengers on these trains will not need to transfer.

- Southbound Red Line trains going to Westmoreland Station will operate on a regular Saturday schedule with departures every 20 minutes.

- Northbound Red Line passengers will follow a regular Saturday schedule.

- Southbound Blue Line trains to Pearl/Arts District Station will leave every 15 minutes from Downtown Rowlett Station starting four hours before kickoff.

- Northbound Blue Line passengers will follow a reg-

ular Saturday schedule.

- Eastbound Orange Line passengers from DFW Airport and Irving's five stations will transfer to the Green Line at Bachman Station.

- TRE passengers will transfer at Victory Station to shuttle buses to complete their trip to the fairgrounds.

## Ride a direct bus

To help customers avoid rail crowding DART is offering direct bus service to Fair Park from Victory, Bachman (Green, Orange Line), CityLine/Bush, Mockingbird (Red, Blue Line), Pearl/Arts District (Blue, Green Line) and Trinity Mills (Green Line) rail stations. Buses will depart these stations when full or approximately every 10 minutes.

## WOMEN, continued from Page 1

are highly qualified to be recipients of fair lending and to be fairly represented in advertising campaigns," said Samantha Gregory, the founder of the website richsinglemomma.com, a platform developed to help single mothers earn extra cash. "As a Black woman in technology and personal finance, who is also a business owner, those statistics are useful, when I am making a case for working with brands for my blog and business.

Gregory continued: "However, if the powers that be are not educated about these statistics, it is still challenging to get a seat at the table, where all the prime contracts are being handed out."

Briana Santirosa, the founder and CEO of online retailer, Casa de Reinas, said that after working in retail for four years, she made the decision to start her own business.

Santirosa said that fashion and beauty industries often chose to ignore the purchasing power of Black women.

"I do see the market beginning to recognize Black women more and cater to our spending preferences," Santirosa offered.

In Nielsen's new Diverse Intelligence Series report, the global researcher paints a portrait of Black women as trendsetters, brand loyalists and early adopters, who care about projecting a positive self-image. As they wield that #BlackGirlMagic, Black women play an increasingly vital role in how all women see themselves and influencing mainstream culture across a number of areas, including fashion, beauty, television and music, the report's authors said.

"Black women have strong life-affirming values that spill over into everything they do. The celebra-

tion of their power and beauty is reflected in what they buy, watch and listen to, and people outside their communities find it inspiring," said Cheryl Grace, the senior vice president of U.S. Community Strategic Alliances and Consumer Engagement for Nielsen. "Understanding how Black women's values affect their buying decisions has long been a marketing necessity."

Grace continued: "Now, marketers must also recognize the intercultural influence of Black women on the general market, as an increasingly vital part of how all women see themselves, their families and the rest of the world."

The African American woman's independent mindset is present in her growing confidence, self-awareness and rising income, according to the report.

Black women are not only redefining what it means to be a woman for

themselves, but are at the vanguard of changing gender roles and unlimited possibilities for American women of all ages and races.

The report noted that 64 percent of Black women agree their goal is to make it to the top of their profession; 58 percent agree that they don't mind giving up their personal time for work—20 percent higher than non-Hispanic White women.

Further, 14 percent of Black women have annual incomes of \$50,000 or higher with ages 35–49 enjoying the highest income within the Black female cohort.

For millennial women, 81 percent have never been married, up from 71 percent in 2005 and, with an average household size of 2.47, 29 percent of total Black American households contain a married couple.

Black women also have embraced the social media

movement #BlackGirlMagic, a term that describes a cross-platform gathering of empowered Black women who uplift each other and shine a light on the impressive accomplishments of Black women throughout the country.

According to the report, Black women "over-index by 29 percent for spending three to four hours each day on social networking sites and by 86 percent for spending five or more hours each day on social networking sites."

Especially adept at using technology and social media to trade opinions and offer recommendations, Black women 18 and older, more than any other demographic group, have taken social media and adopted it for higher purposes, the report found.

Whether they are buying cars, jewelry, smartphones or beauty products, the advice, referrals and feedback they receive from friends

and community play an important role in Black women's purchases, the report said.

Forty-three percent of Black women say they like to share their opinions about products and services by posting reviews and ratings online; 47 percent agree that people often come to them for advice, before making a purchase.

"The trend of Black women becoming increasingly educated and driving the buying power of Black households, means that they are making purchase decisions that historically they didn't make," said Bianca Blake, a marketing specialist. "Couple that with trends of the millennial generation marrying and starting families later, the Black woman becomes an independent decision maker for much more of her journey through life, as opposed to abiding by decisions made by her parents, husband or heavily influenced by her children."

## WATCH, continued from Page 4

miliar with warning signs and how to respond if a friend or loved one seems to be at risk," Dr. Roatan said.

"Asking a young person how they are feeling and whether they have thoughts of suicide can open the door

to conversation about their problems so we can help them get the counseling or professional assistance they need," she said.

If you or someone you

know is in an emergency, call 911 immediately. If you are in crisis or are experiencing difficult or suicidal thoughts, call the National Suicide Hotline at 1-800-

273 TALK (8255) or text the Crisis Text Line at 741741. Parkland's Victim Intervention Program/Rape Crisis Center offers a 24-hour Sexual Assault and Domestic

Violence Crisis Hotline at 214.590.0430.

To learn more about services at Parkland hospital, visit [www.parklandhospital.com](http://www.parklandhospital.com).

# UNT Dallas announces record enrollment for the Fall semester

University of North Texas at Dallas President Bob Mong today announced record enrollment of 3,513 students for the fall semester at Dallas' only public 4-year university. This new record comes one year after UNT Dallas exceeded 3,000 students for the first time last fall and marks the third straight semester for record enrollment at UNTD.

"Our growing enrollment numbers are really a product of all UNT Dallas has to offer its students – we have dozens of quality degree programs designed with career opportunities in mind, we just opened a new residence hall, a new student center is under construction, our law school was recently accredited and we were re-



UNT Dallas

cently ranked No.2, nationally, for lowest student debt among public universities," Mong said. "We are Dallas' emerging urban university and our enrollment numbers reflect the hard work of our students, faculty and staff to make UNT Dallas special."

UNT Dallas Vice President for Student Access and Success Stephanie Holley leads enrollment efforts for the university and praised

her team.

"For the second year in a row, UNT Dallas has exceeded its enrollment goal thanks to a tremendous team effort," Holley said. "Thank you to everyone who put in long hours and made the extra effort to make sure every interested student had a place here at UNT Dallas. I'm proud of our university and I'm proud of our team. We are excited for what lies

ahead."

UNT Dallas isn't just growing from an enrollment standpoint. The tree-lined, 264-acre campus – located just 10 miles south of downtown – is evolving physically, as a thoughtfully-designed campus master plan fills out to accommodate more trail-blazing students. The university's first residence hall is open and full, and it has transformed UNT Dallas into a residential campus. A new \$63 million student center is opens in 2018 and future projects include an amphitheater that will look out onto campus.

In Downtown Dallas, the UNT Dallas College of Law's historic, soon-to-be home – the former Dallas

City Hall at 106 S. Harwood St. – is undergoing a \$56 million renovation in order to house the City's only public law school. This historic repurposing of one of Dallas' most-cherished landmarks will be completed in 2019 and is accompanied by a recently-completed \$15 million exterior facelift of the building by the City of Dallas.

Texas State Senator Royce West, a staunch advocate of higher education in Dallas, is quick to point out that UNTD is the most affordable 4-year university in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, offering tuition to full-time students for under \$8,000 per year. UNT Dallas is diverse, as more than

75 percent of its student body is African-American or Hispanic, which reflects the areas the university serves.

"I am proud of UNT Dallas and this year's new record for enrollment shows that the university is growing with our diverse, urban population," West said. "I championed the creation of the first state-supported, public, four-year university in the city of Dallas because it was time for the largest city in our nation's fourth-largest metropolitan area to have a public university within its boundary. The second was that I wanted accessibility and affordability to higher education for the constituents I served and those yet unborn."

## College affordability is an affair for the whole family

By Johnny C. Taylor, Jr.  
President and CEO  
Thurgood Marshall  
College Fund

Do you have \$100,000 saved for your child to earn a four-year public college degree or as much as \$200,000 for that same student to attend a private university? Paying for the high cost of college is a major burden facing many families across the country. In fact, according to a recent study by the Institute for Higher Education Policy, for families from low-income communities, the financial burden can seem daunting and even insurmountable. The cost to earn a college degree can sometimes eliminate higher education options for many deserving and qualified students. Fortunately, across government, corporate and philanthropic circles, millions of people are dedicated to addressing this issue by providing much-needed resources.

As we work toward equalizing college access and affordability, it is up to families to take specific action in identifying the ele-

ments that can make for the best collegiate experience as shaped by costs, training, and student culture. As a parent myself, and leader in the Historically Black College and University (HBCU) space, the issue of college affordability is one that I confront regularly. The good news is that there are things we can do to make sure every student with the grades, desire and work ethic to go to college can do so without finances being the barrier to their success.

Parents Must Start the Conversation Early and Take The Financial Lead

Even if a child is poised to be the first in his or her family to attend college, which should be applauded, it is up to the parents to know key details about applying, enrolling, and paying tuition along the way.

High school students usually consider which colleges they want to attend for a myriad of reasons outside of their career interests and what they can afford. Parents, so excited their child has decided to go to college, then begin the process of

figuring out how they will meld savings, get loans and apply for scholarships to cover the cost, sadly on a semester-by-semester basis. This is before figuring out if the school of choice is a good fit for their child's aptitude and outlook on education and professional development.

Parents should have honest conversations with their children beginning as early as the sixth grade about how much personal money may be available for college. There are a lot of hidden college-related costs outside of just tuition. Remember, there are application fees, medical examinations and vaccinations, travel costs, payments for housing, food, books, supplies, and computers.

If parents don't have the extra money to contribute to their children's education, they must look at alternate options available based on their combined family income. Parents or guardians should also inform their children early that they must also contribute to helping fi-

See COLLEGE, Page 12

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# Irving City Council votes to raise property tax revenue

By Joe Farkus  
NDG Contributing Writer

The Irving City Council voted to maintain its current property tax rate of \$0.5941 per \$100 assessed valuation, raising revenues for the city as a result of increasing property values at its Sept. 21 Council Meeting Thursday night. The arguments in favor of maintaining the tax rate centered around the city's need for more revenue to meet the challenges of both funding new projects and addressing aging infrastructure. Despite broad



Council member Oscar Ward spoke out against the property tax revenue increase (City of Irving)

agreement on the need to meet these challenges, two council members proposed enacting the effective rate (a lower rate that would bring

in roughly the same amount of tax revenue as last year). "We can accomplish everything we need to accomplish at the effective

rate," Council member Phil Riddle told his peers.

"I think we owe it to the citizens who choose to be here – that choose to be a part of this city – I think we owe it to them to hold the line on tax rates this year," Riddle declared in a sharp criticism of companies who are getting paid by the City of Irving simply to remain in the city.

Council member Oscar Ward agreed with Riddle, suggesting there are certain actions the city could take to offset the revenue that would be lost by enacting

the reduced tax rate.

"[There would be] no cut in any employees, public safety employees, general employees; nothing cut in wages or salaries with this reduction," Ward claimed. "I think it's time to give a little back to the citizens of Irving."

Ward and Riddle proved to be the two lone voices speaking out against a property tax revenue increase. The rest of the council defended maintaining the rate of \$0.5941 rate which was adopted in 2015 and maintained in 2016.

"We have to catch up to what we didn't do the past five years," Council member and Mayor Pro Tem Allan Meagher implored. "We're way behind on fixing our streets. We're way behind on our infrastructure."

"There a percentage of people who will pay more [in] taxes," he continued, "but it's not that much."

The council voted to maintain the property tax rate at \$0.5941 with a vote of 7 – 2. Ward and Riddle served as the only votes against the motion.



The winner in the Hospitals category was Texas Health Center for Diagnostics & Surgery. (Photo: City of Plano)

## Plano announces 2017 Food Safety Award Winners

Selection of award finalists was based on routine inspection scores, types of food preparation processes, number of meal periods per day, and opening date of the establishment. Criteria related to routine inspections included: maintaining a score of "A" on all routine

inspections, zero critical violations on a routine inspection, zero valid complaints, no enforcement closures or

municipal court citations. Award winners were selected based on group inspections during the month of August.

More than 1,700 food establishments in the City were divided into seven categories for the purpose of the Award.



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## City Briefs

### Allen

Twin Creeks Golf Course is hosting a charity **Golf Event** on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 501 Twin Creeks Drive, Allen. Check-in is at 7 a.m. and the price for sponsorship is \$115 per individual and \$400 for a group of four. The event will feature prizes, team trophies, former professional football player participation, goodie bags, hot lunch, an auction and raffle, and a chance to win a \$10,000 cruise trip.

### Carrollton

All ages are invited to attend the Library's monthly **Lego Night**. New building challenges will be provided each month for children and their parents. Bring the whole family the third Wednesday of every month. Come out on Wednesday, October 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs Road). For more information, visit [cityofcarrollton.com/library](http://cityofcarrollton.com/library).

The City of Carrollton will be hosting a **Fall Family Campout** from Saturday, Oct. 7 at 5 p.m. to Sunday, Oct. 8 at 9:30 a.m. at the R.E. Good Soccer Complex at 2355 Sandy Lake Rd, Carrollton. The event will provide families the opportunity to enjoy dinner and a movie under the stars as well as the opportunity to camp overnight. Participants must provide their own camping equipment. Admission for campers is

\$7 and \$5 for the dinner and movie – Back the Future (PG). Registration is required and will be allowed onsite from 4 p.m. until dark Saturday afternoon.

### Dallas

The Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Police Department will be hosting a free **National Night Out** against crime event Tuesday, Oct. 3 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The public is invited to meet police, fare enforcement officers, staff and neighbors in the parking lot of police headquarters, 2111 South Corinth Street Road, Dallas. The event will feature food, beverages, face painting, and music. Crime prevention information, safety information, and health and wellness literature will be available for visitors.

### Farmers Branch

The City of Farmers Branch will be hosting **Murder & Mayhem Tours** on Friday, Oct. 13 and Saturday, Oct. 14 at Farmers Branch Historical Park at 2540 Farmers Branch Lane. Tours will take place every half hour between 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. each evening. The tours will educate participants on famous and infamous murders, murderers, and mayhem dating back to the Victorian era and beyond. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be preordered by contacting the Historical Park at 972-406-0184 or [historicalpark@farmers-](mailto:historicalpark@farmers-branchtx.gov)

[branchtx.gov](http://branchtx.gov). The event is intended for mature audiences; no one under the age of 16 will be admitted.

### Garland

Crafts Made in High Heels will be hosting the **Sidewalk Craft Fair** on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 2660 Beltline Rd, Garland in the parking lot of Springcreek Church. This outdoor craft fair will have on display handmade items, crafts, unique gifts, and local art. Event organizers are still looking for vendors for the event and are encouraging prospective vendors to contact them at [craftsmadeinhighheels@gmail.com](mailto:craftsmadeinhighheels@gmail.com) or 972-400-5710.

### McKinney

The McKinney Police Department is hosting a **Coffee with Cops** event on Saturday, Oct. 7 at the Starbucks in Adriatica at 6841 Virginia Pkwy, McKinney. The McKinney PD invite residents to join officers for a casual conversation over a cup of coffee, providing a unique opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about their local police department.

### Lewisville

The Lewisville Fire Department will hold its annual **Open House** on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Central Fire Station, 188 N. Valley Parkway.

There will be free hot dogs, popcorn and drinks available. Activities will include firefighting demonstrations and programs, a safe house maze for kids, simulated vehicle rescue, dive/rescue operations, the Fire Safety Clowns, and appearances by CareFlite and PHI Air Medical.

Members of the Lewisville Police Department will join their fire department colleagues for this event. Carter BloodCare will be on site for a blood drive.

### Plano

8&1 will be hosting the **Heart and Dance Festival** on Saturday, Sept. 30 at the Courtyard Theater at 1509 H Avenue, Plano. The festival will begin at 7 p.m. and will feature many dance companies and artists coming together to raise money for children with cancer and their families. Proceeds will benefit Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation with tick-



The Cottonwood Art Festival will feature the nation's top visual artists and local bands performing live music (Cottonwood Art Festival)

ets going for \$22.50 for adults and children under 12 getting in for \$13 per person.

### Richardson

The **Cottonwood Art Festival** will be held on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Cottonwood Park at 1321 West Belt Line Road, Richardson. The event will

feature local bands performing rock, country, jazz, blues, swing and folk and the nation's top visual artists competing in a variety of art categories. The admission and parking for the event is free.

To submit events and announcements, send an email to [editor@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:editor@northdallasgazette.com) with headline Community Briefs.

## Dallas Cowboys unified in protest and victory

By Dwain Price  
NDG Sports Special Contributor

Even with a night to sleep on it, it still was difficult for Dallas Cowboys coach Jason Garrett to tell if all the commotion surrounding the national anthem protests played a role in his team's poor start Monday night against the Arizona Cardinals.

In response to negative comments made last Friday by President Donald Trump about National Football League players who protest and don't stand while the national anthem is played, the Cowboys locked arms with each other and knelt down on the sidelines prior to the singing of the national anthem of Monday's game. Then they promptly stood up — arms still locked — while the national anthem was sung.

From there, the Cowboys looked terribly discombobulated before finally finding their way and regrouping in time to struggle to a hard-fought 28-17 road victory over the Cardinals.

Garrett said at the outset of the game his players didn't seem distracted by the national anthem flap.

"But again, you have to go out there and play," Garrett said. "And (the Cards) did a good job moving the football, making the plays they needed to early on in the game to sustain drives, and we did not."

"But I really thought our team did a good job just staying dialed in, staying locked in, putting the previous plays behind them and just focused on what we needed to do to get it going offensively and make some stops defensively. And also, the momentum of the game shifted in the second quarter and we started playing the kind of football we wanted to play."

An 8-yard touchdown run by Ezekiel Elliott with 4:57 remaining in the game put

the Cowboys up by 11 and sealed things. However, before the game flipped in the Cowboys' favor, they looked like the same team that was destroyed last week in Denver when they were ambushed by the Broncos, 42-17.

By the end of the first quarter against Arizona, the Cowboys ran just plays for three yards and had the ball for only one minute and 54 seconds. By contrast, the Cards had accumulated 140 yards on 21 plays and possessed the ball for 13 minutes and six seconds.

Despite all of this, Arizona only took a 7-0 lead into the second quarter. In the meantime, the game turned for the Cowboys in the second quarter when the Cards first had a TD nullified by a holding penalty, then Phil Dawson missed a 36-yard field goal.

"We talk a lot about momentum, but momentum is earned and you earn your momentum by executing," Garrett said. "When they're executing, the way you stop their momentum is you execute and do your job."

Quarterback Dak Prescott tied the game at 7-7 late in the second quarter when he took a read-option for 10 yards and flipped into the end zone. Prescott also tossed a 15-yard TD to Dez Bryant and a 37-yarder to Brice Butler while finishing the night with 13 completions in 18 attempts for 183 yards.

Garrett praised the patience Prescott exhibited as the Cowboys ran their record to 2-1.

"It's challenging because in a game like that when (the Cards) have the ball in that initial drive and go right down and score, and you come out and you have a three-and-out and they go again and they have another long drive," Garrett said. "You look up at the clock and you say, 'Wait, we're into the second quarter, we're midway through the second quarter, we've run six

plays?'"

"As a quarterback sometimes you start getting a little anxious, you start getting a little excited. But I thought our defense did a good job — even though (Arizona) had some success moving the ball — making a critical stop, forcing them to kick a field goal on that second drive. Fortunately, (Dawson) missed the field goal, and getting a stop on the third drive and that gave us a chance offensively to get going."

Spearheaded by defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence, the Cowboys sacked Arizona quarterback Carson Palmer six times. Lawrence picked up three of those sacks and joined Mark Gastineau (1984) and Kevin Greene (1998) as the only players in NFL history with at least two sacks in each of the first three games of a season.

"He's been battling through things the last couple years and he feels better now," Garrett said of Lawrence. "He's certainly getting off the football and he's playing with a relentless spirit and it's showing up in his production and that production is contagious."

"He did a good job as that game went on (Monday) night getting around the quarterback and affecting him and certainly sacking him."

Meanwhile, Elliott bounced back from the worst game of his career by rushing for 80 yards on 22 carries. That came one game after Elliott's disastrous performance against Denver when he totaled just eight yards rushing on nine carries.

Elliott, of course, is getting used to a newly configured offensive line that has Chaz Green making just his third start at guard and La'el Collins making only his third start at tackle.

"I think you're always striving to work together to get more comfortable together," Garrett said. "He just needs to run the plays —

everybody just needs to do their job."

"But there's no question there's a familiarity and a continuity to the group up front, those guys together. And also how that group fits with the runner behind them and just how they see things together. You improve by experience and the best experience is game experience."

Of course, the big mystery entering Monday's game was what type of display — if any — the Cowboys would make in regards to last Friday's disparaging remarks by President Trump. And the



Dak Prescott's leaping touchdown was a key play in Monday's victory over the Cardinals (Image via Facebook)

See COWBOYS Page 13

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# Tribute to Ray Charles featuring Joe McBride coming to Bishop Arts Theatre Center

Bishop Arts Theatre Center (BATC), pays homage to music icon, Ray Charles by presenting *Unchain My Heart: A Tribute to Ray Charles* featuring Joe McBride on Oct. 26-29. This production opens BATC's 2017-2018 Theatre Series entitled *Breaking Boundaries* which is a celebration of the freedom of expression and perseverance. Jazz great, "Smokin'" Joe McBride, takes on the role of blues legend Ray Charles, in this tour de force solo performance. McBride electrifies the stage with musical renditions of the Ray Charles classics like *Georgia*, *I Got A Woman*, and *You Don't Know Me* creating a memorable evening.

Much like McBride's muse, Ray Charles, this Fulton, MO native was forced to overcome the challenges



of a sensory disability due to an illness to make their mark in the music industry. McBride began playing the piano at age four. His earliest influences were gospel music, bebop, straight-ahead jazz, Motown, and '70s R&B and funk. As a teenager, he began singing and playing at jazz clubs.

Around this time, McBride was stricken with a degenerative eye disease that eventually claimed his sight, but his passion for music didn't diminish. He continued his musical studies at the Missouri School for the Blind and Webster University in suburban St. Louis, where he majored in jazz perform-

ance. He also attended the University of North Texas.

In 1983, McBride began playing with the band *Fatburger* and guitarist Steve Laury in San Diego, CA. Following the short stint, his visit to Dallas, TX evolved into an abundant opportunity. He was flooded with performance offers, leading to McBride becoming a popular musician of the city's jazz club scene. During that time, he met a young trumpeter named Dave Love at a function for North Texas State University. The two became fast friends and when Love ventured into the other side of the music business he immediately signed McBride.

McBride's debut album, *Grace*, released in 1992, instantly made him a core

artist at smooth jazz radio. McBride's other albums released during the '90s include *A Gift for Tomorrow* (1994), *Keys to Your Heart* (1996), and *Double Take* (1998). A stellar guest list of artists that have appeared on his releases includes Grover Washington, Jr., Richard Elliot, Phil Perry, Peter White, Dave Koz, Rick Braun, and Larry Carlton, among others. McBride has also been the opening act for Whitney Houston, Larry Carlton, and the Yellowjackets.

The hits continue as McBride's long sought-after dream came to fruition with the album release with his band, *Texas Rhythm Band*. The album featured such notable hits as *Howzit in Dallas*, *Everything Remains the Same*, the tender ballad

*It's You*, the snappy *Lone Star Boogie*, and the humorous *Texas Blues Cruise*. He continued recording during the new millennium, as 2002 saw the release of *Keepin' It Real*, while *Texas Hold'em* came out in 2005. *Lookin' for A Change* appeared in 2009 from *Heads Up Records*.

*Unchain My Heart* is suitable for audiences ages 13 and above. All performances are presented at the Bishop Arts Theatre Center located at 215 South Tyler, TX 75208. Showtimes per vary per production please visit [bishopartstheatre.org](http://bishopartstheatre.org) to verify dates and times. General Admissions fees are \$18 to \$30. Discount tickets are available for groups of 15 or more and may be purchased by calling 214-948-0716.

## Victoria & Abdul provides viewers with a delightfully charming piece of history

By Joe Farkus  
NDG Contributing Writer

Set at the turn of the 20th century and adorned with all the pomp and ceremony one would expect with a period piece set in Victorian England, *Victoria & Abdul* proves to be a delightful, heartfelt, and charming film. It tells the story of two young Indian men – Abdul (Ali Fazal) and Mohammed (Adeel Akhtar) – who are chosen to become servants to Queen Victoria (Judi Dench) in the 1890's.

Abdul charms his way into a much closer role advising the Queen and becoming her most intimate confidant, confounding the aristocratic circle surrounding her (including her own royal family). Abdul's relationship with the Queen sets the stage for conflicts throughout the film regarding race, class, and culture.



*Victoria & Abdul* opens in select theaters nationwide Friday, Sept. 29 (Photo Courtesy of Focus Features)

These conflicts are consistently presented as the result of the hostility the white English upper class has for racial minorities, especially those of lower economic status.

Dench authentically portrays a sick and dying Queen whose passion for life is reignited by her friendship with Abdul. Her ability to effectively

demonstrate both Queen Victoria's often austere demeanor as well as rare glimpses of kindness and compassion gives the film a central performance with enormous credibility.

Another surprising highlight of the film was Adeel Akhtar's performance of Abdul's fellow servant Mohammed, who manages to

See **VICTORIA**, Page 15

## The 43rd Annual Harambee Festival

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# Investors launch new BlackConnect.com website

New York, NY (BlackNews.com) -- Today, a group of investors announced the launch of BlackConnect.com, a web-based business and social network with a mobile application. Black Connect is the missing link in social media that connects social interaction and business networking for millennials, and connects minority business owners, entrepreneurs, and consumers in a universal way.

Ivan Conard, a recent graduate of Morehouse College, is Black Connect's Di-

rector of Sales, Operations, and Development.

"As a sales and finance professional, I find networking to be a seminal tool in empowering both students and entrepreneurs to their full potential," says Conard. "Currently, there are a number of social and employment oriented networking platforms available. While having a similar function, other social media leave a void that Black Connect fills. We want to encourage entrepreneurship among millennials, and help all minority

business owners gain exposure and increase revenue. Our goal is to be the force that elevates minority owned businesses and corporations."

Platinum selling, veteran music producer Rodney (Show) Lemay, and his son, Jahlil Lemay are a father/son entrepreneurial team as co-owners of D.I.T.C. Recording Studios in New York City. "I've been an entrepreneur all my life," says the senior Lemay. "It's what I believe in and it's what I instilled in my son. I know that

an integral part of the success of every entrepreneur is connections."

At 21 years of age, Jahlil is a college student and the head engineer. "My dad and I love to support other minority-owned businesses," says Jahlil. "We have so much positive energy for the future of Black Connect and the growth and development of the network."

Morehouse College student, Marshawn Kelly Dickson, is one of Black Connect's HBCU Ambassadors. "Black businesses still repre-

sent less than ten percent of all U.S. businesses," commented Dickson. "As a young, future entrepreneur, I'm happy that there is now a business and social network that thoughtfully addresses my needs."

Black Connect's Interactive Business Directory System allows business owners to engage with consumers within the business directory and the online store. Black Connect members can search for minority-owned businesses in their area, and provide feedback to businesses.

Businesses can feature products and create promotions to attract new clients and customers.

Black Connect also connects businesses with investors, and facilitates partnerships and mergers. In addition to providing business services, Black Connect also provides the bells and whistles that keep millennials engaged. Black Connect allows members to socialize by sharing photos, video, music, and events. Members can create groups, pages, and much more.

## U.S. Appeals court permits parts of Texas 'sanctuary cities' law to be enacted

By Joe Farkus  
NDG Contributing Writer

A three-judge panel ruled on Monday, Sept. 25 that elements of Texas' Senate Bill 4 (SB4) immigration legislation can be enforced. The

legislation cracks down on sanctuary cities and passes on immigration enforcement responsibilities and powers to local government and law enforcement agencies in conjunction with federal immigration law – including the

ability to interrogate crime victims and witnesses on their immigration status.

"SB4 "Show me your papers" is really bad for Texas," Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Beto O'Rourke posted to Twitter shortly after the

announcement. "Ask the sheriffs and police chiefs. [It] makes us less safe to begin profiling fellow Americans."

The ruling comes after federal Judge Orlando Garcia placed a temporary injunction blocking the enactment

of certain parts of the bill that would require jail officials to honor all detainees.

Monday's decision by the

U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals declared that the detainee provision could be enacted.

## Lowe's Cleburne location accused of discrimination

Lowe's Companies, Inc., a chain of home improvement and hardware stores with locations across the United States, violated federal law when it refused to accommodate a department manager with a disability at its store in Cleburne, Texas, and instead demoted him to a lower-paying position, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) charged in a lawsuit filed today.

According to the EEOC's lawsuit, the employee is disabled because of a spinal cord injury that substantially limits the use of his right arm.

The employee was hired by Lowe's in 2006 as a customer service associate and was promoted to a department manager in 2008.

The company was aware of his disability at the time he was selected for promotion, and he successfully worked as a department manager for six years.

The EEOC said that the disability prevents the employee from using power equipment that requires the use of two hands, but that he delegated that task to associ-

ates under his supervision. The EEOC claims that in June 2015, Lowe's notified the employee that he could no longer be provided with a reasonable accommodation, and demoted him to a non-supervisory associate position. Because of the demotion, his hourly rate of pay was cut by over \$4 an hour.

Such alleged conduct violates the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which protects employees from discrimination based on their disabilities and requires employers to make reasonable accommodations for known disabilities.

The EEOC filed suit in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission v. Lowe's Companies, Inc., Civil Action No. 4:17-CV-02589-M), after first attempting to reach a prelitigation settlement through its conciliation process. The agency seeks back pay, reinstatement of the discrimination victim to the department manager position, and compensatory and punitive damages for the employee, as well as injunc-

tive relief.

"This employee devoted over a decade of his life to Lowe's, and spent the vast majority of those years in management working successfully with an effective accommodation for his disability," said EEOC Senior Trial Attorney Meaghan L. Shepard. "The sudden revocation of that accommodation and the demotion in responsibility and pay clearly constitutes discrimination in violation of federal law."

EEOC Regional Attorney Robert Canino added, "It does not appear that Lowe's engaged in a constructive approach -- which the law requires -- to maintain a fair accommodation and retain a proven employee when the company denied him the authority to delegate and use teamwork. Establishing a solid foundation through a workforce should include building on opportunities for employing persons with disabilities."

### Paid Internship opportunity for writers, college students in the Dallas Area

The North Dallas Gazette has an internship position available. The goal is to provide students and aspiring writers an opportunity to gain published clips, experience and professional feedback.

The position is for up to 20 hours a week at \$8.00 per hour. Applicants must have reliable transportation.

Send resume and writing samples to:  
[businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com)



# Target raises minimum hourly wage to \$11

## Commits to \$15 minimum hourly wage by end of 2020

Target Corporation announced plans to raise its minimum hourly wage for all team members to \$11 in October, along with a commitment to increasing the minimum hourly wage to \$15 by the end of 2020. This significant investment

in its team will allow Target to continue to recruit and retain strong team members and provide an elevated experience for its guests and in the communities it serves.

“Target has a long history of investing in our team

members. We care about and value the more than 323,000 individuals who come together every day with an absolute commitment to serving our guest,” said Brian Cornell, CEO and chairman of Target. “Target has always offered

market competitive wages to our team members. With this latest commitment, we’ll be providing even more meaningful pay, as well as the tools, training and support our team needs to build their skills, develop professionally and offer the

service and expertise that set Target apart.”

By moving to an \$11 minimum hourly wage this fall, Target will provide pay increases to thousands of team members across the country before the holiday season. This increase will

also apply to the more than 100,000 hourly team members that Target is hiring for the holiday season. The commitment to move to a minimum hourly wage of \$15 will be implemented between now and the end of 2020.

## Study shows average Texas worker feels they deserve a \$8,757 raise

It appears Texas workers feel they deserve a little more than what they are getting. In fact, recent poll shows they want an extra 10 days of vacation each year and more money.

What would we definitely like more of? Two things spring to mind: more money, and more vacation time, right? So if it was left up to us, and not our employers, how more of each would we award ourselves? How much do we think we actually deserve?

To find out, recording systems and equipment firm, Intelligent Video Solutions – (ipivs.com) – carried out a survey of 3,000 U.S. workers,

and came up with some pretty interesting results. Firstly, it’s no surprise that we all think we should be in line for a pay raise – on average, Americans believe we deserve a not-insignificant 37.6% increase (or \$11,378.52 more per year than our current salary). That did vary across the states, however, with Marylanders believing they are the most undervalued, and be should be paid \$17,508.31 more per year. Those who are happiest with their current remuneration are West Virginians, who would be happy with just \$2,271.40 more a year. Texans feel they deserve an extra \$8,757 per year.

Intelligent Video Solutions

also surveyed workers by industry. While attorneys get a bad rep as being shark-like, they’re actually the industry who feel they deserve the least raise, at only a 30% increase. While they may not all be pro-bono, it looks like they might not be that unreasonable after all when it comes to pushing up their hourly rates!

Perhaps surprisingly, the industry you might think would ask for the least actually asked for more than the lawyers: charity workers believe they deserve an increase of 32.22%! And despite the telephone-figure salaries we imagine bankers must be on, they’re still not happy, and

feel underpaid; they feel they deserve 41.43% on top of what they currently earn. However, they’re not the most money-grabbing industry of the lot – that accolade

falls to the tech industry. Even though we’ve all read news reports which regularly inform us that this or that tech company has recently floated on the stock exchange for

gazillions of dollars, apparently it’s still not enough for these Silicon Valley whizz kids! They feel they deserve over 50% more money: 57.69%, in fact.

## COLLEGE, continued from Page 6

nance their college education through good grades, summer jobs, high test scores, and community service that will earn them scholarships and grants. It’s not just the parents’ responsibility; our children have some responsibility too.

Parents, if you do not know how to take the lead, that is okay; don’t be afraid to seek help. There are plenty of free resources, books and reputable online services that can help ranging from the Department of Education to Strada Education Network.

Families Should Consider All Options and Available Resources

Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) works to provide graduating high school students and current HBCU students with scholarship opportunities and in-

formation on college prospecting. In many instances, attending one of our publicly-supported HBCUs, coupled with a TMCF scholarship, can prove to be a smart value proposition for incoming freshmen students. With programs like our Leadership Institute and our list of scholarships and wrap-around services, I have seen TMCF scholars graduate debt-free ... with job offers! We take great pride in working with select students to identify programs of strength at our 47 member-schools. TMCF works with families to pair students with programs to create the best geographical, financial and cultural fit based on the interest and talent level of each student upon graduation.

Choosing the right college is a decision requiring

substantial research and a strategic approach. Even if the best fit for a student is starting off at a community college program with matriculation agreement to a publicly-supported HBCU, be encouraged, be open and be focused. The school and, ultimately the career, we choose will affect the trajectory of our financial health and our professional mobility. And it will impact how we invest in, influence and guide the next generation of engineers, teachers, public servants, and entrepreneurs.

*Johnny C. Taylor, Jr. is the President & CEO of Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF), the largest organization exclusively representing the Black College Community. Prior to joining TMCF, he spent many years as a successful corporate executive and attorney. Follow him on Twitter at @JohnnyCTaylor Jr.*

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# Upcoming DFW area job fairs

## Oct. 4 100,000 Opportunities Initiative Job Fair

Register now! Major employers will be hiring on the spot! Up to 30 national and local employers will be available to meet you and conduct onsite interviews at the Southwest Center Mall at 3662 W Camp Wisdom Rd., Dallas from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Practice your interview skills with one-on-one coaching. Create or improve your resume with personalized support. Get help with job applications. Learn about options to earn your high school equivalency and explore college options. Find a mentor, a job training program, and much more!

## Oct. 11 Dallas Job Fair

Come meet with hiring managers from local, national, and Fortune 500 companies for free at our Dallas Job Fair. You will be meeting with decision makers face to face, so wear a suit and dress for success.

Update your resume and bring 15+ copies to be able to offer a resume to every manager you speak with. There might be companies and industries you are not familiar with, but take the time to speak with them.

It might be your dream job. The fair will be held from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel by the Galleria at 4801 Lyndon B. Johnson Freeway, Dallas, TX 75251.

## Oct. 12 The Power of Money: Career Fair The Council for Inclusion



in Financial Services continues "The Power of Money" Financial Series with a Career Fair! There will be employers from many sectors of the Financial Services industry! Upload your resume onto [www.councilforinclusion.com](http://www.councilforinclusion.com) today! Need help with your resume or tips for a successful interview? Experts will be there to guide you to "Get The Job"! The fair lasts from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and will take place at 8737 King George Drive #200, Dallas 75235.

## Oct. 12 Best Hire Career Fairs – Dallas Job Fair

Open the doors of opportunity when you meet and interview with the top hiring companies in Dallas. This career fair will allow you to learn about the businesses that are hiring and what their hiring needs are. Tired of sending your resume over the web to get no responses back? Put a face with a name and make a great first impression. Register today, and you could get hired live at our next career fair in Dallas. Be prepared to interview with hiring managers and recruiters from the top hiring companies in Dallas. Dress to impress and bring plenty of resumes. The fair will be held from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel at 2015 Market Center Blvd, Dallas, TX 75207.

## Oct. 16 Job Fair Dallas by LocalWork.com

Companies in the Dallas area are hiring for thousands of positions! Finding the right job can be a challenging process. This is why we built a face-to-face event to allow you to interact directly with the hiring company at the Hilton Garden Inn at 1001 W President George Bush Hwy, Richardson from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We always recommend bringing 10-15 resumes. Employers aren't focused just on what you're wearing as much as they are looking to see how committed you are to doing your best.

## Oct. 19 Dallas Career Fair by Choice Career Fairs

Do you have a resume, but aren't getting called for interviews? If so, it means your resume needs improvement to catch the attention of hiring managers. Bring a copy of your resume and receive a 10-minute resume consultation. Find out about small changes that can make a big difference in getting your resume noticed. You'll meet face-to-face with hiring de-

cision-makers from some of the areas top employers.

Dress professionally and bring plenty of resumes, because they're here to hire. Walk in and start interviewing, it's that simple. Save time, money and effort interviewing with multiple companies in one day at one location. Many of these companies have several openings and are eager to meet with you. You're no longer just a piece of paper. Attend the career fair and get in front of decision makers. The fair will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Hilton Arlington at 2401 E Lamar Blvd, Arlington, TX 76006.

## Oct. 26 Dallas Career Fair by Choice Career Fairs

You'll meet face-to-face with hiring decision-makers from some of the areas top employers.

Dress professionally and bring plenty of resumes, because they're here to hire. Walk in and start interviewing, it's that simple. Save time, money and effort interviewing with multiple companies in one day at one location. Many of these companies have several openings and are eager to meet with you. You're no longer just a piece of paper. Attend the career fair and

get in front of decision makers. The fair will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Comfort Inn & Suites Plano at 700 East Central Parkway, Plano, TX 75074.

## Nov. 1 Arlington Career Fair by National Career Fairs

Ready for a new career? National Career Fairs is under new ownership and we are driving employers and future employees together faster than ever before. We are helping America get back to work! The fair will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the La Quinta Inn & Suites – Arlington at 825 N. Watson Rd, Arlington, TX 76011.

## Nov. 16 Plano Career Fair by National Career Fairs

Are you looking for a job? Are you tired of sending resumes left and right

and never getting an answer? If you are, dress in your best professional clothes, bring resumes and visit our Plano Career Fairs. You will have the opportunity to meet top employers and to interview for several positions during the course of the day, meeting the people who make the hiring decisions. You will save a lot of time since there will be no need to craft a customized personal statement for each company you visit:

You'll be able to tell them why you wish to work for them, and you'll have the chance to sell yourself. Our employers send their managers to carry out onsite interviews. Don't wait for someone to call you for an interview. Sign up for our next career fair and give off a first impression that makes a lasting career. The fair will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Comfort Inn & Suites at 700 Central Parkway East, Plano, TX 75074.



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## COWBOYS, continued from Page 9

Cowboys were emphatic with their decision, with owner Jerry Jones and Garrett kneeling down and locking arms with their players.

"The reason that I'm particularly proud of this team and the coaches that coached them is because we all agreed that our players wanted to make a statement about unity and we wanted to

make a statement about equality," Jones said. "They were very much aware that that statement, when made or when attempted to be made, in and a part of the recognition of our flag, can not only lead to criticism but also controversy."

Elliott noted that the goal was to strike a chord of togetherness and free speech.

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Discover Hope and Help for daily living; and, you don't have to be a member to come. The Connect-2-Reflect (C2R) meetings are held in comfortable and relaxed homes, one in Carrollton and one in Plano, refreshments are served. Call the church for details.

**October 1, 9:45 a.m.**  
You're invited to our Sunday "Prayer and Meditation" at 9:45 am. You will be blessed and inspired. You don't want to miss this! And, join us in our one hour only Sunday's Bible Study at 12 Noon, continuing on the book of Ephesians with other supporting chapters and verses.

**October 4, 7 p.m.**  
Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Pastor Brenda Patterson, Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry

Gardner, Pastor Bernadette and others conducting a new study on the book of Ephesians with supporting chapters and verses. Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you; it's Time to Grow in the Word of God.

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**FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"**

**October 1, 8 a.m.**  
Join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Jocyie Turner Fellowship Hall; followed by our Sunday Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

**October 4, 7 p.m.**  
Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D. Senior Pastor  
1609 14th Street  
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972-379-3287  
[www.theship3c.org](http://www.theship3c.org)

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

**September 29, 7 p.m.**  
All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 7 p.m., (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

**October 1, 10 a.m.**  
You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name in songs and the spoken word.

**October 4, 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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**October 1, 10 a.m.**  
Join us for Morning Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory; and don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

**October 4, 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  
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**SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)**

Come and connect to God through Shiloh; grow in Christ through the study of God's Word; and Serve God through service to each other and to the world. John 12:26.

**October 1, 8 a.m. And 11 a.m.**  
Join us for our morning services; you will enjoy the fellowship during our 8 a.m. and in the 11 a.m. Worship Services.

**October 4, 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."

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

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**Church Happenings is a weekly calendar of religious services produced by the North Dallas Gazette.**

To make additions or corrections to the calendar, contact: [religion@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:religion@northdallasgazette.com)

# Our staff as our protector



Sister Tarpley

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

"The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands'" **Exodus 17:9.**

Moses' staff represented his vocation as a shepherd. When God first met Moses in the desert at the burning bush, He told him that He was going to use his staff to perform miracles and bring a people out of slavery.

God related to Moses

through his vocation as a shepherd. Moses later faced one of his enemies in the new land, the Amalekites.

God told him to go to the top of the mountain and hold his staff up to heaven. As long as his staff was outstretched to heaven, Israel would win the battle. But if it was not uplifted, they would suffer defeat.

"So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning."

**Exodus 17:10-11.**

Isn't this an interesting picture? When we raise our "staffs" up to the Lord, He becomes our protector. He

is our defender. As long we offer up our staffs before the Lord, He can work through it.

He works on our behalf. When we lower it, we lose the blessing of God. When God told Moses He was going to use his staff to bring a people out of bondage, he first had to lay his staff down on the ground.

God changed it into a snake and then God told Moses to pick it up by the tail. God was telling Moses

to take authority over the serpent in this prophetic act.

When Moses picked up the staff, the scripture tells us it is no longer Moses' staff, but it is now the staff of God.

My Christen friend, the lesson for us is to continually offer up our lives to the Lord and see His protection and blessing upon us as we continually raise our lives to the Lord for His use.

Tell God that for every hurt, every fear, every worry, every need, there is a

remedy--through the power of the Resurrection, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the care of the Almighty, and everything is going to be all right.

As long as God is in control of your life, everything is going to be all right. I hold to the Savior's invitation to "come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). Praise the Father, for loving you so much that He sent His only begotten son, full of grace and truth, to take our sins upon Him that we might be made righteous in God's sight.

Thank You God, for the tremendous sacrifice, for Your love and mercy, for life eternal, for being all that really matters--for being our Remedy. Tell God that you I love Him, In the name of Jesus.

## VICTORIA, continued from Page 10

fill the film's first half with blow-by-blow comic relief and well-placed humor. Ali Fazal as Abdul, however, is completely unremarkable and flat, portraying the character as a saintly figure whose morality and wisdom is beyond question. Fortunately, the rest of the cast (including the likes of Eddie Izzard and the BAFTA award-winning Michael Gambon) counterbalance the lackluster performance effectively.

All in all, the film provides an easy-viewing ex-

perience that hits you with humor and heart-warming moments at the beginning and leaves you with sadness and moments of heartbreak right at the end. The elaborate sets and majestic scenes of India and the English countryside serve as lush backdrops to a story that, up until recently, had never been told. If this film accomplishes anything, it at least proves that it's a good thing that has changed.

Victoria & Abdul opens in select theaters nationwide Friday, Sept. 29.



Councilman Young Sung, Place 6, doing business for Carrollton's residents in the Council Chamber on Jackson Street

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

**Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com**

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# NDG Book Review: *Rise of the Jumbies* could be child's next favorite

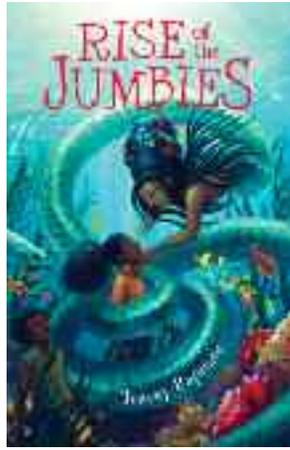
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

What lives beneath the waves?

Fish, of course. Seahorses, clams, lobsters and whales, turtles and mermaids, too. You'd be surprised at what lives under the sea, but in the new book "Rise of the Jumbies" by Tracey Baptiste, there are also things that you don't want to know about...

It'd been bright and sunny on the day the waves thundered.

Everyone along the beach scurried inland toward the village. Parents snatched their children and ran, but Corrine wasn't scared. She



knew instantly what was happening. She'd been through something like this before.

As she watched Papa's boat rock in the waves, Corrine recalled the undersea battle she'd had just months

before. Her mother's sister, Severine, was a jumbie, and she'd threatened the people of Corrine's Caribbean island home. Corrine fought Severine and won, but it hadn't been easy. She knew in her heart that Severine could return.

And then the children started to disappear.

At first, her neighbors thought she was to blame; Corrine was half-jumbie, and everyone knew it. She had to make them believe that she wasn't bad, that it wasn't her fault when the sea took children. To do that, to fix everything, the island's white witch said Corrine had to go beneath

the water.

As the villagers presented gifts to the sea, Corrine let the waves take her to Mama D'Leau, the powerful ruler of the jumbies. The white witch said that Mama D'Leau does what she wants. Never ask more than one question, Corrine was told. Don't try to be clever, and be ready to grant her wishes. Corrine knew that Mama D'Leau could be generous, but not often.

She only wanted the safe return of the island's children, who'd been snatched by someone – or something. She didn't want to meet with the fearsome Mama D'Leau, but there was no

other way. Corrine had to risk her own life and memories, but could she risk her friends' lives, too?

Put "Rise of the Jumbies" against your ear, and what do you hear? Not the ocean, but you may hear your child ask for this adventure-filled book. Just be aware that you might need to dive in to help with it.

Packed with West African and Caribbean tales, this book takes young readers both underwater with mermaids and to a forest of enchanted beings. Kids who can't get enough of legends or fantastical stories will be wide-eyed at both story and action, the latter of which is

truly heart-pounding but can also be confusing: there are many fine characters in author Tracey Baptiste's tale, but when several of them swirl in a single scene, it can be messy and in need of sorting. Parents may also want to guide youngsters to an understanding of subtle slave ship references that constitute a well-done story-within-a-story.

Savvy readers ages 8-12 may be able to jump into "Rise of The Jumbies" feet-first without reading its predecessor, "The Jumbies," but I'd recommend starting there anyhow. Try that, and your child can wave "hello" to her next favorite series.

## NDG readers just keep on winning tickets to the best events

The *North Dallas Gazette* provides readers with not only news and information to use, but also free tickets to a variety of entertainment events across the Metroplex.

To make sure you receive the latest news about upcoming contests, follow us on Facebook!

Recent winners include:  
**Goosebumps: The Mu-**

**sical** – Cami Wimberley, Peggy Hart, Sharon Jones-Scaife, Parker Jackson and more.

**Plano Balloon Festival** – Angelina Serrano, Gladys Ramsdell, Leah James, Joseph Perez, Mellionie Rogers, LaRonda Jones, Stacey Roberts, Rachel Bowlden and more

**Take Me to the River** – Earnestine Williams and

Yolanda Williams (not related)

**State Fair** – the first winner selected is Mariah Hildebrand with more to come throughout October.

But there is plenty more where all that came from. NDG will continue to receive tickets to give out to our many readers, keep up

with NDG for your chances to win.

Currently, on-going contests include the State Fair Classic Game featuring Prairie View vs. Grambling (with the best halftime show in the world between the two universities' marching bands) and more State Fair of Texas tickets.



Earnestine Williams celebrates winning her free tickets to "Take me to the River" in a recent NDG contest.

## Collin College professor elected president of psychology national honor society

Collin College psychology professor Jennifer O'Loughlin-Brooks was recently elected to serve as the national president of Psi Beta, the national honor society in psychology for community colleges. O'Loughlin-Brooks is an award-winning faculty advisor for the college's Psi Beta chapter. She was officially installed at the national convention of the American Psychological Association in Washington D.C.

"Following in the footsteps of past presidents, I feel privileged to be serving alongside many passionate and committed national council members. My journey in Psi Beta National Honor Society began 22 years ago as an advisor to

my college chapter and led eventually to my role as the southwestern regional vice-president. It is an honor to serve in this new role," O'Loughlin-Brooks said.

Psi Beta is an affiliate of the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Association for Psychological Science (APS). Psi Beta's mission is to professionally develop outstanding students at two-year colleges through promotion and recognition of excellence in scholarship, leadership, research and community service.

Collin College serves more than 53,000 credit and continuing education students annually and offers more than 100 degrees and certificates.

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