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The 2018 race is on

By David Wilfong
NDG Contributing Writer

There has been a lot of talk in the media and online about the 2018 mid-term elections, and the race has definitely begun as the first episode of Monday Night Politics (MNP) was packed and enthusiastic on Jan. 8. MNP is hosted by the Dallas Examiner and takes place every Monday night through March 5. The forum is held at the African American Museum at Fair Park (3536 Grand Ave.) and runs from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. The event is free to the public.

On Monday night's forum, there were four political races presented, though none of the candidates for Texas Governor did attend. The positions presented were U.S. Representative District 32, Lieutenant Governor, and District Attorney.

A crowded field seeking to unseat Rep. Sessions in District 32

In the District 32 race; Colin Allred, George Rodriguez and Lillian Salerno were in attendance. The field also includes Brett Shipp, Ed Meier, and Ron Marshall, who did not attend. Democratic candidates in this race will be looking to unseat Pete Sessions, who has held the position since 2003 and was first elected to the District 5 seat in 1996. Sessions is also being challenged in the Republican primary by Paul Brown.



U.S. Representative District 32 candidates (left to right) Colin Allred, Lillian Salerno and George Rodriguez; listen to instructions from Monday Night Politics moderator Matt Houston during the first installment of 2018 season on Jan. 8. (Photo: David Wilfong / NDG)

"I played in the NFL, became a civil rights attorney and worked for President (Barack) Obama," said Allred. "It was all built on a foundation I had growing up here. I went to good Dallas public schools. I had a YMCA where I spent all my summers and every day when we didn't have school I was there."

Allred said his motivation was to serve the "unsung heroes" who shaped his life locally, and that he also sees 2020 as a "tipping point" for the country as a whole. He said Sessions did not communicate with the district outside Highland Park without a lobbyist and that he intends to "hold him accountable."

"After these recent elections, I looked at my neighbors," Rodriguez said. "I looked at the people in the

district where I have lived for almost my entire life. I looked at the people I serve in my profession as an immigration attorney – saw the anxiety. I realized that this administration was trying to change the social narrative of our country into something that it is not."

Rodriguez said the cornerstones of his campaign are economic fairness, and "building bridges, not walls." Labor-side economic development is high on his priority list, and he said he wants his signature piece of legislation to be changing the U.S. Department of Labor to the "Department of Workforce Development."

"We need somebody who will go up there and on day 1, start fighting

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Dr. Myrtle Hightower



Simeon Booker

READERS SOUND OFF!!!

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On the GO??? But still need to be in the KNOW!!! Bookmark NorthDallasGazette.com on your phone or mobile device!!!



Dr. Myrtle Hightower

By Shirley Tarpley
NDG Religious Editor



Dr. Myrtle Hightower of North Dallas on Sunday, January 7, 2018, was honored, and given a standing ovation for her presentation on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., his life and his legacy' and her impending retirement from all public service.

Less than 13 years of Dr. King's, leadership of the modern American Civil Rights Movement, from December, 1955 until April 4, 1968, Black Americans achieved more genuine progress toward racial

equality in America than the previous 350 years had produced.

Dr. Hightower took a confident approach to Dr. King's famous speech, I Have a Dream and it was interesting. The speech was

punctuated with songs associated with the Civil Rights movement.

Reverend Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Senior Pastor of Hill Chapel CME Church of Plano, where Dr. Hightower is a member, read the famous speech and would stop at a designated spot where a pastor and different members of the church would sing a song.

The first song was America, sung by Rev. Jeffrey Murray; the second song was Ain't Gonne Let Them Turn Me Around, sung by Sis. Donna Murray, this song was followed by Oh Freedom, sung by Rev. Murray.

The next song was Stand

by Me during the storms of life, sung Sis Ursula Harris. This was followed by Nobody knows the troubles I've seen, sung by Sis. Murray.

And, the renowned Mr. Doc Gibbs, the piano player for The First Baptist of The Colony sung Change Gonne Come; it's been a long time coming.

The next song was Walk with Me Lord while I am on this journey; and hold my hand, sung by Sis. Doris Lewis.

The last song was We Shall Overcome, with the audience standing and everyone singing.

Dr. Hightower began her career and her history of

community service in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She was instructed by her parents to always get involved in community services.

She held many positions in education in Oklahoma, including Dean of Women at her alma mater, Langston University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in English.

Dr. Hightower also earned a Master of Teaching degree from Northeastern State University; and a PhD from the University of Cincinnati.

Dr. Hightower was involved in community services, and services in the Plano Independent School

District (PISD) when she lived in Plano.

She worked in PISD for many years as a teacher and counselor. She has served on many committees and boards throughout the City of Plano, and has been honored with numerous awards.

To name a few, Dr. Hightower was selected as one of Plano ISD's 100 Heroes in 2017; she is a Collin College Living Legacy and a recipient of the Texas Hero for Children Award.

Along with her late husband, Professor John Hightower, Dr. Hightower has long been a resounding voice within Plano community.

Simeon Booker

A memorial service for trailblazing civil rights journalist Simeon Booker will be held on Monday, January 29, 2018, his wife, Carol McCabe Booker, has announced. The service is scheduled for 10 a.m. at the Washington National Cathedral, 3101 Wisconsin Ave. NW. Booker, a journalistic icon, died Dec. 10 at the age of 99.

Booker's more than half-century of civil rights reporting, most notably the brutal murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Mississippi, helped propel the civil rights



struggle onto the front pages of newspapers across the country which had long ignored the oppression of Black Americans. Previously, he had been the first full-time black reporter at

the Washington Post.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Simeon Booker Scholarship at Youngstown State University. All gifts designated for this minority scholarship are matched by the Youngstown State U Foundation, to which checks should be payable, at 655 Wick Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio 44502.

The biography of Simeon Booker is documented as follows at TheHistoryMakers.org:

Magazine and newspaper reporter Simeon Saunders Booker, Jr. was born on August 27, 1918, in Baltimore,

Maryland to Roberta Waring and Simeon Saunders Booker, Sr., a YMCA director and minister. After his family moved to Youngstown, Ohio, Booker became interested in journalism through a family friend, Carl Murphy, the owner and operator of Baltimore's The Afro American Newspapers.

In 1942, after receiving his B.A. degree in English from Virginia Union University in Richmond, Booker took a job at the The Afro American Newspapers as a young reporter. In 1945, he moved back to Ohio to work for the Call and Post.

Five years later, Booker was the recipient of the Nieman Fellowship from Harvard University to study journalism and develop his talent as a reporter. After leaving Harvard in 1951, Booker became the first full-time black reporter at The Washington Post.

In 1954, Booker was hired by the Johnson Publishing Company to report on current events in its weekly digest, Jet. In 1955, Booker helped to redefine the role of Jet and the entire Civil Rights Movement with his famous coverage of the Emmett Till murder and trial, turning an all too familiar

event in the Deep South into a national tragedy that united the black community. Booker remained on the dangerous front lines of the Civil Rights Movement, reporting on the 1957 integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

In 1961, Booker rode with the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE) Freedom Riders through the Deep South. When the buses were fire bombed in Anniston, Alabama, Booker arranged the Freedom Riders' evacuation with U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. Contin-

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NDG Readers Sound Off...

Is Dallas water safe to drink?

First, fluoride is fluoride. It doesn't matter the source. For a healthy individual, exposure via water, food, or breathing contaminated air is the same world-wide. For a healthy individual approximately 50% of the fluoride that one is exposed to on a daily basis will remain in the body, the other 50% will be excreted through the kidneys. This study found a very large effect. An increase in urine fluoride of 1 mg/L was associated with a drop in IQ of 5 to 6 points. To put this into perspective with the fluoride levels ingested by the Mexican mothers and the levels ingested in fluoridated parts of the USA, the average

fluoride intake in the Mexican mothers was about the same as that in women in the USA. It was not substantially higher. The range of fluoride levels in Mexico also corresponded closely to the range found in most of the USA. The higher levels were similar to what is found in areas in the USA with fluoridated water, and the lower levels were similar to what is found in most unfluoridated parts of the USA.

- Ellen C

"Fluoride is not Fluoride" as some may presume. Lack of knowledge is part of the problem.

Hydrofluorosilicic Acid is the additive the City of Dallas uses in the drinking water. It is a diluted version of fluo-

rosilicic acid not to be confused with naturally occurring calcium fluoride.

As mentioned on Organic Gardening-and-Home-Steading.com:

"Fluorosilicic acid is a waste product of the phosphate fertilizer industry and is heavily contaminated with toxins and heavy metals (including the cancerous arsenic, lead and cadmium) and radioactive materials. This substance is the waste residue from the superphosphate fertilizer industry, and about 70 to 75 percent of this stuff comes from the Cargill fertilizer manufacturing company."

Dr. J. William Hirzy, EPA scientist, is reported to have said, "If the stuff gets out into

the air, it's a pollutant; if it gets into the river, it's a pollutant, if it gets into a lake, it's a pollutant; but if it goes right straight into your drinking water system, it's not a pollutant. That's amazing!"

Will the Mayor of Dallas as well as the City Council even conduct their own study? Lack of leadership is another part of the problem. Appease the status quo.

I'm hoping that by the time the smoke clears on this matter, Hydrofluorosilicic Acid, the additive the City of Dallas uses in the drinking water will be viewed for what it is. Activists like Regina Imburgia will be owed a debt of gratitude and her critics will owe her an engraved apology.

-David Norsworthy

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An open letter to Governor Abbott



Straight Talk
Ed Gray
NDG Senior Columnist

Dear Governor Greg Abbott,

By now you have probably heard the controversy regarding your participation in the North Texas Regional Martin Luther King Jr. Parade. It is indeed, a great honor to serve as the governor of the great state of Texas. It is an equal honor for many to meet you, as you have achieved the highest political honor in this state. It is with that honor comes great responsibility.

For many African-Americans in this state, you have failed us. This failure can be described in the words as "huge." The animosity directed towards the selection of you as being the Hon-

orary Grand Marshall is that it is an oxymoron. This is a contradiction of terms, as your service as Governor and Attorney General has not been honorific, for African-Americans but horrific.

The Greg Abbott record of lawsuits and countersuits to restrict voting rights is contradictory to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. You, as attorney general, argued against voting rights and instituted a strict Voter ID that values identification of carrying a gun over carrying a book as proper identification. You marshaling the state's valuable resources to reducing voting instead of increase voting participation.

There is nothing great or grand, about one-third of our state, not being properly housed and malnourished. Texas also constantly ranks in the bottom ten in educa-

tion and in healthcare. Despite this, the Governor rejects the past help of the federal government, as he is pushed by some of his supporters yelling "states' rights".

These same calls Dr. King heard in the 1960s, when it was for Voting Rights, the retort was States Rights. When it came to Fair Housing, the retort was States Rights. That was 1968. In recent memory when it comes to providing health care to children with CHIP, it's "States Rights." When it came to respecting a black man living in the White House, it was "States Rights."

In 1968 when Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated, then Governor of Texas John Connally was not sympathetic. Governor Connally, who himself was a collateral shooting victim of the assassination of Pres-

ident John F. Kennedy, held the view that King was the victim of violence he had promoted. We have traveled a long way since those words in the spring of 1968.

As we live in the winter of our discontent in 2018 the debate on the legacy of Dr. King continues. Governor Abbott, you will no doubt participate in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade. Governor Abbott, riding on a float and having the title of Honorary Grand Marshal is mere window dressing. I sometimes wear my Dallas Cowboy football jersey, however, that does not make me a football player.

Sincerely Yours,

Ed Gray

Ed Gray, the host of The Commish Radio Show airing Saturdays 1-3 p.m. on FBRN.net, can be reached at eegray62@att.net.

What can be done about unsafe Dallas water?

By Regina Imburgia
Guest Contributor

The Fluoridation Program needs to end. It is that simple. A vote from the Dallas City Council can get this done!

There is nothing redeemable about adding neurotoxins to drinking water. It would be criminal for a citizen to add arsenic and lead to municipal drinking water but the DWU (Dallas Water Utilities) adds these toxins to drinking water every day. The hydrofluorosilicic acid (HFS) added to our municipal water to raise the fluoride level is invariably contaminated with arsenic, aluminum, lead and other poisons are known to cause neurological and other medical harm in consumers, despite its rubber stamp of approval.

Since December 2013, the Dallas City Council has turned a deaf ear to the pleas of several hundred citizens demanding an end to the unsafe and ineffective

Fluoridation Program. We have asked the Dallas City Council repeatedly for an open public forum where stakeholders and experts could have input. They ignore our requests.

The Dallas City Council cites the ADA and CDC endorsements of fluoridation as justification for their dismissal. But the CDC acknowledged in 1999, fluoride's benefit comes from the topical application of fluoride to the teeth in high concentrations such as toothpaste. In that fashion, it poisons bacteria.

It is also important to note the ADA (American Dental Association) is a trade group rather than a scientific association. The ADA mission is to benefit dentists, not public health. The ADA marketing implies that dentists are unanimous in their support of fluoridation policy, but only about half of dentist practicing in the United States belong to the ADA and not all ADA dentists agree with the

ADA pro-fluoridation policy. Moreover, several other dental and medical groups who do have a scientific mission oppose fluoridation, such as the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT) who issued a position paper against fluoride use in September 2017.

"There is no need to fluoridate the water supplies. Fluoride in the water is essentially a drug, it's an uncontrolled use of a drug.... The primary benefit of fluoride is topically, used as a topical addition, not internally." – Dr. Michael D. Fleming, DDS, member of ADA, NCDA, IAOMT and FDA advisor on medical devices including dental products (2007)

Given the longevity of the fluoridation program, one would think that convincing statistical evidence must prove the program worked as promised. It doesn't. Fluoridation for dental health is a 20th Century belief system – one that

ignores 21st Century evidence of medical harm.

Could this be why our politicians fund the fluoridation program? Because they don't want to admit that they have been on the wrong side of the issue for decades.

The Fluoridation Program needs to end. We must motivate the Dallas City Council to do their job as elected gatekeepers – to open their ears and minds to the testimony of citizens and modern science.

Please join us, the most vulnerable need us to speak for them. Tell the Dallas City Council to turn off the spigot.

Regina Imburgia is a local resident, for more information please visit DallasforSafeWater.com. NDG's recent story has resulted in a lively discussion via our comment section. Recently Ms. Imburgia, who spoke before the Dallas City Council last fall on this issue, was invited to submit a guest editorial.

Methodist NOW will provide virtual access for patients

Methodist Family Health Centers this week announced the launch of Methodist NOW – an online diagnosis and treatment service that enables patients to receive convenient access to care by connecting them virtually with trusted Methodist Family Health Center providers. Methodist NOW facilitates care delivery through evidence-based online interviews paired with real-time chat functionality that enables patients and providers to exchange messages when additional information is needed for a diagnosis.

"Our mission at Methodist Medical Group is to exceed our patients' expectations for



Army Medicine

expanded access through a transformation of care delivery that includes integrated urgent care, extended hours and same-day appointments, and now virtual care," said George Williams, MD, MMM, FACEP, President of Methodist Medical Group

and Senior Vice President of Methodist Health System. "We believe expanding access and reducing barriers to high-value, ambulatory care will not only improve consumer experience, but also long-term health and wellness for our patients and

community."

The trend toward health-care consumerism is increasingly at the forefront of health system decisions. In growing numbers, patients are making healthcare choices based on the ability of providers and health systems to bring value in the form of access and experience.

After logging on to Methodist NOW, patients complete a brief online interview during which they enter their symptoms and health history information. Once a patient's symptoms are entered, a Methodist Family

Health Center provider will review the interview results and then respond with a diagnosis and treatment plan. If medication is appropriate, prescriptions will be sent to the customer's preferred pharmacy for pick-up. Patients can access Methodist NOW at any time of day, with providers responding within one hour between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., seven days-a-week.

Meeting the demand for convenience, patients can seek care from their smartphones, tablets or computers and be treated virtually for more than 25 common health

conditions including minor skin conditions, pink eye, upper respiratory infections like cold and flu, and seasonal allergies – all for a set fee of \$40 payable by credit, debit or health savings card.

Patients will also soon be able to join Methodist NOW as subscribers, receiving unlimited visits for a low monthly fee. "Consumers need care to be available when and where they need it – a philosophy that Methodist Medical Group has embraced in their strategy to deliver greater access to care," said Jon Pearce, Zipnosis CEO.

In wake of #MeToo, TAASA releases assault prevention guidelines

AUSTIN - The Texas Association Against Sexual Assault released guidelines this month designed to help institutions and schools focus on sexual harassment prevention strategies.

"We reached a turning point in 2017, and we find ourselves asking, 'What's next?'" said TAASA Executive Director Rose Luna. "If we are going to end sexual violence, we cannot rely on the same policies and prevention approaches that have brought us to this point."

In a white paper titled, "Assessing Sexual Harassment Response and Prevention Strategies After #MeToo," TAASA outlines holistic sexual harassment prevention strategies, with an emphasis on key areas including leadership, policy, and training.

Leadership is the true cornerstone of sexual harassment prevention, the organization says, and harassment is more likely to continue without a demonstrated commitment to eliminating

it. Clear policies prohibiting harassment must be supported by managers and staff, and must be accompanied by accessible evidence-based training, sufficient resources, proactive steps to eliminate risk factors, multiple and easily accessible avenues for reporting, a process to protect against retaliation, and assurances that the organization will take immediate and proportionate

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Garland NAACP hosting 29th Annual MLK Parade and events

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Garland, Texas Unit will host its 29th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. parade and march on Saturday, Jan. 13, beginning at 10 a.m. Representatives from the City of Garland Parks and Recreation Departments will serve as grand marshals.

This year the MLK Parade starts on Dairy Road and Garden Drive (near Embree Park) and proceeds north on Dairy Road to Highway 66 (Avenue D) West (Left) on Highway 66 (Avenue D) to First Street



Courtesy photo

North (Right) on First Street to Highway 66 (Avenue B) West (Left) on Highway 66 (Avenue B) to Fifth Street North (Right) on Fifth Street to Main Street (turn left on Main and circle the

City Square). The Parade ends at the Granville Arts Center, located 300 North Fifth Street in, downtown Garland

The festivities continue with the 2018 MLK Com-

memorative Program with the theme “Completing ALL of King’s Dreams in 2018” at 11:45 AM. It will be held at the Granville Arts Center, 300 N. 5th Street, downtown Garland where the MLK Community-wide Youth Choir led by clinician Reuben Lael Griffin will be in concert. Winners of the 2018 MLK Parade and March Float Contest will be announced at the program. This event is free and open to the public.

MLK Youth Extravaganza on Jan. 14 is scheduled to be held at the Granville Arts Center Brownlee Auditorium

Youth groups from area churches and the Garland ISD will showcase their spiritual talents in praise dance and athletic talents in step routines on Sunday afternoon at 300 N. 5th Street, downtown Garland, beginning at 4 p.m.. Admission is free and the MLK Youth Extravaganza is open to the public.

For more information on these events, please contact the NAACP Garland Unit at 972.381.5044, voice box #5, or visit the NAACP Garland Unit’s website at: www.garlandtxnaacp.org.

#METOO,

continued from Page 4
action if harassment is found to have occurred.

“The anti-discrimination policies many institutions have in place are necessary, but not sufficient, to end harassment and abuse,” Luna said, adding that it is incumbent upon leaders to recognize their role in setting the tone.

“Incidents of sexual harassment and other demeaning behaviors at the workplace indicate a failure of leadership,” she said.

Thousands of North Texas students to learn about the Tuskegee Airmen with free hands on program

The Commemorative Air Force (CAF) will bring its RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit back to Dallas Executive Airport for a free Black History Month program January 29 – February 16, 2018. The CAF invites area schools, churches and civic groups to a free field trip that will provide students with an opportunity to learn about and be inspired by the Tuskegee Airmen, America’s first African-American military pilots and their support personnel.

The RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit is a mobile movie

theater operated by the CAF Red Tail Squadron, America’s tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen. It features a unique large-format curved screen theater allowing students to experience the original 30-minute film, “Rise Above,” in an immersive setting. The film tells the inspirational story of the Tuskegee Airmen and their struggle for civil rights and equality. It also gives viewers the exciting sensation of flying in a P-51C Mustang, the signature aircraft of the Tuskegee Airmen.

While emphasizing the valuable life lessons of the

Tuskegee Airmen, students will experience CAF’s Flight Plan for Life, a unique activity designed to help young people create a path to success while articulating their life goals. Visitors will also get “hands-on” with history, handling artifacts from World War II. Various veterans will be onsite during selected hours to meet with students and share their experiences.

“Our goal is to offer a quality and impactful event that will benefit students while honoring the many black Americans who have made important contributions

to our country,” said Bill Shepard, program leader and CAF Vice President of Education. “The Tuskegee Airmen played an important role in black history, and their life lessons can inspire people of all ages to rise above their own obstacles and find success.”

Space is limited for the free event and is booked by reservation only. Contact Bill Shepard at the CAF at bshepard@rogers.com or 214-330-1700 ext. 114 to schedule your school, community group or youth organization.

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Dallas scrambling to keep school crossing guard program

By Joe Farkus
NDG Contributing Writer

Beginning in 2012, the soon-to-be-defunct Dallas County Schools (DCS) took responsibility of Dallas's multi-million dollar crossing guard program for its public schools. With the organization dissolving this year, its dissolution committee has already approved the cancellation of this specific DCS service by Jan. 31.

Unlike many of DCS's

services which are being absorbed by Dallas ISD, the city will have to take over the crossing guard program if Dallas school children can expect to have crossing guards outside their schools this year and next – a service mandated by Texas law for a city the size of Dallas.

City Hall staff estimate the city will have to come up with nearly \$2 million to keep the program running for the remainder of the 2017-18 fiscal year and more than \$4 million for the

next. Some council members are already calling for raising revenues to pay for this program, which could very well mean higher taxes or new fees for Dallas residents.

"This is an ugly situation that we're in," commented Mayor Mike Rawlings during the City Council's Jan. 3 briefing. "Protection of children is foremost...we're going to have to work this out together."

Some have suggested a new fee on car registrations,

something Collin and Denton counties currently employ and DCS previously pushed for to help fund its child safety services in Dallas County.

There appears to be no support for the introduction of such a fee by the Dallas County Commissioners Court at this time to cover the cost of the city's new-found responsibility.

Read NDG's coverage of how Dallas ISD is handling the transition of services from DCS at our website.



While voters have decided to end the run of Dallas County Schools, districts are still scrambling to bring all transportation functions in-house. (Photo: Airman Ashley J. Woolridge/U.S. Air Force)

Hindus seek Diwali holiday in Coppell School District Calendar

Hindus are urging Coppell Independent School District (CISD) in suburban Dallas, with 47.4 percent students Asian, to proclaim official holiday on Diwali, most popular of Hindu festivals.

Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, in a statement in Nevada today, said that Diwali holiday in CISD would be a step in the positive direction in view of presence of a substantial number of Hindu students in the District; as it was important to meet the religious and spiritual needs of these pupils.

Zed, who is President of Universal Society of Hinduism, stressed that CISD

should seriously and speedily work towards declaring Diwali (which falls on November seven in 2018) as a holiday, thus recognizing the intersection of spirituality and education. Zed noted that awareness about other religions thus created by such holidays like Diwali would make CISD students well-nurtured, well-balanced, and enlightened citizens of tomorrow.

Diwali fell on October 19 in 2017 and six New York school districts declared holiday for students on October 19, which included: East Meadow School District, East Williston Union Free

School District, Half Hollow Hills Central School District, Herricks Union Free School District, Hicksville Union Free School District and Syosset Central School District. Mineola Union Free School District announced that no homework or examinations would be given on Diwali, reports suggest.

For 2017 in New Jersey; Glen Rock Public Schools announced closure of schools and offices on Diwali; in West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District, schools were closed on October 19; and in Piscataway Township Schools, there was "No School for

Students" on Diwali. And recently Millburn Township Public Schools announced Diwali day off for students for the next three years, reports add.

In 2017 Unionville-Chadds Ford School District headquartered in Kennett Square in Pennsylvania approved closure of schools on Diwali; while Harvard Public Schools in Massachusetts declared October 19 as "early release day", reports note.

Rajan Zed further said that since it was important for Hindu families to celebrate Diwali day together at home with their children, we did

not want our children to be deprived of any privileges at the school because of thus resulting absences on this day. Closing schools on Diwali would ensure that and would also display how respectful and accommodating CISD was to their faith.

Zed indicates that Hinduism is rich in festivals and religious festivals are very dear and sacred to Hindus. Diwali, the festival of lights, aims at dispelling the darkness and lighting up the lives and symbolizes the victory of good over evil.

Hinduism is oldest and third largest religion of the world with about 1.1 billion

adherents and moksh (liberation) is its ultimate goal. There are about three million Hindus in USA.

"High-performing and innovative" CISD, whose tagline is "Empowering Educational Excellence", serves 12635 students in 16 schools in 23 square miles area covering Coppell, Valley Ranch, Grapevine, North Irving, and Dallas (Cypress Waters). Tracy Fisher and Brad Hunt are Board President and Superintendent respectively of CISD, whose Mission includes "develop strong moral character". There was a school in the Coppell area as early as the 1870s.

Mesquite icon and City Attorney B.J. Smith to retire in 2018

City Attorney B.J. Smith, a living legend in the Mesquite community for more than 50 years, will retire in 2018. He will step down April 13.

Mayor Stan Pickett said, "B.J. Smith has been a pillar of the Mesquite community for generations. His life as a public servant and volunteer is extraordinary. The impact of his contributions to the

citizens of our community is immeasurable. He and his wife Ann have given their lives to the betterment of our community, and we will be forever grateful."

In 1963, B.J. Smith served as the first President of the Mesquite Public Library group and led the charge to get a \$500,000 library expansion approved in 1969. He served on the Mesquite

City Council from 1968 - 1977. He was Mayor from 1977 - 1981. He served on the Mesquite Independent School Board of Trustees for nine years. He is the only person in the history of Mesquite to serve the public as both the Mayor of the City of Mesquite and the President of the Mesquite Independent School Board. In 1988, he began serving

the community as the City Attorney.

He and his wife have been distinguished for their service and contributions to the community. The Mesquite Independent School District named B.J. Smith Elementary School in his honor. The City of Mesquite named Ann Smith Park to pay tribute to her. They were part of the MISD Foundation Founding

Donor Campaign to raise initial funds for the foundation's programs. In 1999, the Mesquite City Council proclaimed March 21 of that year "B.J. and Ann Smith Day" in Mesquite to acknowledge all of their contributions to the quality of life in the community. The Mesquite Bar Association honored B.J. Smith with a lifetime membership. The

State Bar of Texas praised his 50 years of service in the law profession.

B.J. Smith was born in Peeltown, Texas. He graduated from Southern Methodist University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1955 and a Juris Doctorate in 1958. He and his wife have five children, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

BOOKER, continued from Page 2

uing his work of in-depth reporting, Booker toured Vietnam and interviewed General Westmoreland for Jet in the mid-1960s.

In 1964, Booker outlined the importance of the ongoing Civil Rights Movement

in his book, Black Man's America. Booker covered every Presidential election since the Eisenhower Administration in his fifty-three years with Johnson Publishing until he retired in 2007.

Among his journalistic

holdings, Booker has also authored four books. They include a 2013 memoir, Shocking the Conscience: A Reporter's Account of the Civil Rights Movement, which was co-written with his wife, Carol McCabe Booker.

In 1982, Booker received

one of the most prestigious awards in journalism, the National Press Club's Fourth Estate Award. Booker was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Newspaper Publishers Association, The Black Press of America, in 2007. The National Associ-

ation of Black Journalists' inducted Booker into its Hall of Fame in 2013. He also received a career George Polk Award for lifetime achievements in journalism and the top award among journalists upon the 70th Anniversary of the Capital Press Club, pro-

claiming him "Dean of Black Journalists, Iconic Trailblazer for Justice in America."

He is survived by his wife, Carol, and four children, Theodore Booker, Simeon Booker III, James Booker, and Theresa Booker.

Dr. Zan Holmes to speak at Collin College's MLK Breakfast

The 2018 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Power Leadership Breakfast is planned for 8 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 13 at Collin College's Spring Creek Campus Living Legends Conference Center. This annual celebration of Dr. King's life and work is free and open to the public.

This year's leadership breakfast theme is "Shades of Unity." The breakfast will include presentations and student performances sharing Dr. King's message with a special address by Rev. Dr. Zan Holmes.

Dr. Holmes is a well-known community leader who has served in the Texas House of Representatives and has been recognized as one of the Civil Rights



Dr. Zan Welsey Holmes Jr. addressed the panel during at the Black Church and Economic Development town hall meeting on Nov. 9, 2017. (Photo Credit: Kelvin Bass)

Movement's "Invisible Giants" by the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute in Selma, Ala. Dr. Holmes is the former senior pastor of St. Luke Community United Methodist Church in Dallas and was the first African American to graduate from

Southern Methodist University seminary. The author of three books, Dr. Holmes is also known for his role as narrator and host of the Disciple Bible Study video series produced by Abingdon Press.

"We are delighted to have

such a distinguished keynote speaker as Dr. Zan Holmes," said Power Breakfast Co-Chair Evelyn McKnight. "We know his message will be well received by all. This is an important time in our history for communities to be united."

A Business and Information Expo will immediately follow the Power Leadership Breakfast in the Spring Creek Campus atrium. The public is invited to visit with local vendors and learn about local businesses in the health and education industries. Local businesses and nonprofit organizations may participate by signing up at www.tinyurl.com/CCMLK-Expo18. Collin College's Spring Creek Campus is located at 2800 E. Spring

Creek Parkway in Plano.

Other area celebrations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and work include:

- Taste of Talent, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018 at McCall Plaza, 998 E 15th St. in Plano. Enjoy live music and games in the arts district of downtown Plano. Local artists will have their work on display. It should be a great time for the entire family. Visit www.tinyurl.com/CCMLK-Talent18 to share your talent.

- Come Unity Night – "Shades of Unity," 6 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 14 at Chase Oaks Church, 281 Legacy Drive in Plano. Enjoy an evening of spoken word performances, music from the All City Choir, readings,

prayer and messages from local pastors aimed at launching "a movement in the church where the diverse body of Christ seeks to make God's name famous by taking steps toward relationships, reconciliation and collaborative action." Visit www.tinyurl.com/CCMLK-Choir18 to be part of the community choir.

- Shades of Unity Walk, 8 a.m., Monday, Jan 15, beginning at the Parker Road DART Station, 2600 Archerwood St. in Plano. Take a morning walk in celebration of Dr. King and geared toward reaching the dream of unity. Staging will begin at 8 a.m. at the Parker Road DART Station and the walk will end at City Hall in downtown Plano.

Sen. West's SB12 paves way for new protective gear for law enforcement

By Joe Farkus
NDG Contributing Writer

In the aftermath of the shooting in Downton Dallas on July 7, 2016, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick requested creation of a grant program that would help fund the purchasing of new protective vests and gear for Texas law enforcement officials on-the-job. SB12, authored by State Sen. Royce West, did just that by creating a \$25 million grant program from which law enforcement agencies across the state could apply to ensure men and women in uniform are better equipped to handle the dangerous conditions of their jobs. The program helps agencies purchase anything from protective plates to high-powered automatic weapons.

"I did not think twice when the Lt. Governor came to me with the idea that became SB12 in the aftermath of the unforeseeable event that happened [that] summer in Dallas," said Sen. West upon its passing. "While headlines have sometimes been made for reasons that cause us all to shudder, it does not de-



At Lt. Governor Dan Patrick's (L) request, State Sen. Royce West (R) authored SB12, which grants funds to law enforcement agencies for the purchasing of new protective gear (Courtesy Photo)

tract from the fact that those who wear the badge of law enforcement daily make the commitment and sacrifices that help keep all of us safe."

After passing the Texas Senate unanimously and the Texas House with only one "nay" vote, the program has gone on to award funds to more than 450 law enforcement agencies in the state. Currently, more than 32,000 vests or items of protective gear are ordered to be purchased at a cost of \$22.93 million. The Dallas Police Department alone has purchased 2,565 vests with assistance from the grant. The Dallas County Sheriff's Department has purchased 317 vests.

Sen. West joined Lt. Gov. Patrick and Governor Greg Abbott for the governor's announcement of the grants awarded through the Senator's program at the Dallas Police Association headquarters Tuesday, Jan. 9. The announcement coincided with Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

"The job of our law enforcement community is becoming more difficult as the threats our officers face continue to increase," Gov. Abbott said at the announcement. "That is why I'm proud to present these grants to Police Department's across Texas so they can equip their officers with the life-saving equipment they deserve."

Dallas

PRAI Beauty is partnering with the Humane Society of Dallas County and shelters affiliated with the Humane Society of North Texas to participate in **Free the Shelters** Friday, Jan. 12 through Sunday, Jan. 14 at various locations throughout Dallas, Keller, Benbrook, and Forth Worth, including the Humane Society of Dallas County located at 2719 Manor Way, Dallas. This location is open from 11:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. the entire weekend. The event will feature a waiving of all adoption fees as part of PRAI Beauty's national campaign to help homeless animals.

ABC's **Shark Tank** is hosting a **Casting Call** Wednesday, Jan. 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Dallas Small Business Expo at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center located at 650 South Griffin Street, Dallas. All entrepreneurs and innovators are invited to



Dallas area families will be able to adopt a new pet and save on waived adoption fees as part of the Free the Shelters events running Jan. 12-14. (Photo: Mary03101983 / Wikimedia)

register for this free event at www.theshallbusiness-expo.com/shark-tank-dallas and fill out the Shark Tank audition form. Make sure to arrive early on Jan. 24 and to bring your audition form to the event.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is holding its **2018 Founders Day Luncheon** Saturday, Jan. 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hilton Anatole Hotel – Imperial Ballroom located at 2201

North Stemmons Freeway, Dallas. Sorority President Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, L.H.D. will deliver the Keynote speech to commemorate the organization's 110th anniversary. Tickets for the luncheon may be purchased at www.memberplanet.com/events/omicron-muomegachapter/2018foundersday.

Duncanville

The **Recharged Conference** will take place Satur-

day, Jan. 13 beginning at 8 a.m. at the International Museum of Cultures located at 411 U.S. Highway 67, Southbound Frontage Road, Duncanville.

This rolling one-day conference will feature community experts sharing information regarding health, finances, education, cooking, exercise tips, self-development, marriage, and job searches. Admission to the event is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. To register online, visit www.recharged-conference.wordpress.com.

Garland

A **District 3 Town Hall Meeting** will be held Thursday, Jan. 25 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Toler Elementary School located at 3520 Guthrie Road, Garland. All residents of District 3 are encouraged to join Council Member Jerry Nickerson, Garland City Manager Bryan Bradford and other City staff to dis-

cuss the continued growth and redevelopment of the district. For more information, email MSullivan@GarlandTX.gov or call 972-205-2465.

Irving

The Irving-Carrollton NAACP Branch is hosting its **Riding to Freedom MLK Spaghetti Luncheon** Monday, Jan. 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Georgia Farrow Recreation Center located at 530 Davis Drive, Irving. The featured speaker will be Dora Joyner.

Irving's **2018 State of the City and Luncheon** will be Tuesday, Jan. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Irving Convention Center located at 500 West Las Colinas Boulevard, Irving. The Honorable Mayor Rick Stopfer will highlight the city's accomplishments and opportunities in this year's address focusing on the theme Irving: A Masterpiece in Mo-

tion. Register for the event online at www.irvingchamber.com. For more information, call 214-217-8484.

Richardson

The City of Richardson and Methodist Richardson Medical Center are sponsoring a **Health and Wellness Expo** Friday, Jan. 12 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Richardson Civic Center located at 411 West Arapaho Road, Richardson. This expo will afford participants the opportunity to explore local health options including finding a local doctor, dentist, dietitian, and/or gym. Weight, body mass index, and blood pressure screenings will be available as well in addition to healthy snacks. This event is free and open to the public.

To submit events and announcements, send an email to editor@northdallasgazette.com with headline *Community Briefs*.

Great Danebull 'Bullet Bob Hayes' makes remarkable early recovery

A young Great Dane Pit-bull mix, nicknamed "Bullet Bob Hayes" by his rescuer, was headed for continual neglect and abuse if not saved. Thanks to the generosity of one woman, he is placed in a loving home and has opportunity for vitality.

"When he came to our clinic recently, the 'Great Danebull' had multiple, large, infected wounds, several broken teeth, was se-



Courtesy photos

verely malnourished with protruding backbone and rib cage, and was barely able to stand up, let alone walk,"

said Helmut Block, DVM, veterinarian owner of Cottonwood Animal Hospital in Dallas. "Despite the abuse he sustained, he is extremely affectionate. After three days of critical care, a warm environment, and the right nutrition, his eyes sparkled."

Canine rescue is not new to Dallas native and Dallas Cowboys fan, Carla Brandt. Brandt, who often names her dogs after Dallas Cowboys

she admires, did the same for her most recent rescue. A strong advocate for loving care and treatment of domestic pets, Brandt shared, "Pet abuse should simply not be tolerated."

A neighbor informed Brandt about the mistreated Great Danebull. Brandt's immediate response changed his once fatal path.

While the Great Danebull received medical attention at

Cottonwood Animal Hospital, wonderful things happened: contributions came in to support his care, and mutual efforts landed him a loving family.

"We are privileged to have domestic pets in our lives for companionship and comfort," said Dr. Block. "Often, with love, oversight and the proper care, our pets provide so much more than we could have expected."

Florentino 'Tino' Ramirez to receive MLK Justice Award from Dallas Bar Association at Jan. 15 luncheon

Florentino "Tino" Ramirez, of Ramirez & Associates, P.C., will be honored by the Dallas Bar Association at the 26th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon as the recipient of the 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. Justice Award at a noon luncheon on Monday, Jan. 15, at The Belo Mansion (2101 Ross Avenue in downtown Dallas). The event is open to the public.

The award is presented to local leaders whose lives and practice exemplifies the



"Tino" Ramirez is being lauded by the Dallas Bar Association for his work in social justice. (Courtesy photo)

principles embodied by Dr. King's leadership. Former recipients include the late Hon. Barefoot Sanders,

Senator Royce West, Mayor Ron Kirk, Kim Askew, Rhonda Hunter, E. Leon Carter, Dr. Walter Sutton, Jr., Dr. Michael J. Sorrell, Rev. Richie Butler, and Justice Carolyn Wright.

The Dallas Bar Association is honored to present Tino Ramirez with this prestigious award for his service to the Dallas community.

"For decades, Tino has embodied the fight for social justice in a firm but calming manner. I have looked up to Tino since I

was a young lawyer for his leadership, professionalism and his role in paving the way for Hispanic lawyers throughout the State. I am proud to see Tino receive the recognition for all that he has humbly accomplished," said DBA President Michael Hurst.

The MLK award luncheon is open to the public; the plated lunch costs \$14.95. RSVPs are required. Contact bavina@dallasbar.org. For more information, call (214) 220-7400.

New 'Big Thought' leader named...



Courtesy photos

One of Dallas' most respected education nonprofits, Big Thought, this announced Byron Sanders as the next President and CEO of the organization. Sanders joins Big Thought after serving as Vice President and Institutional Client Advisor for U.S. Trust where he advised nonprofit institutions on investment management strategy. He previously served as Executive Director of the Dallas Education Foundation and in 2011, helped lead Group Excellence, an educational services company, which was named the 5th fastest growing education company in the country and featured on the prestigious Inc. 500 list.

Cowboys look to build on a year of disappointment

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports Contributor

FRISCO — Another season of high expectations for the Dallas Cowboys fell way short of its goal.

Trying to ride the wave of last season's 13-3 record, the Cowboys desperately needed a 6-0 win over the Philadelphia Eagles in this past Sunday's regular season finale just to finish the season with a ho-hum 9-7 record. That record is well below the Cowboys' high standards, but is enough to help head coach Jason Garrett keep his job.

In seven full seasons with the Cowboys, Garrett has made just two playoff appearances and won only one playoff game. But owner Jerry Jones said Garrett will be back to coach the Cowboys for an eighth season.

"Jason is in a good spot," Jones said on his weekly radio show on 105.3 The Fan. "We're in a good spot with Jason."

Garrett definitely appreciates the loyalty Jones has shown him.

"It means a great deal," Garrett said. "He's been an outstanding owner and certainly a huge figure in this league for a long time."

"He loves football, he loves the NFL, and he certainly loves the Cowboys."

Jones obviously loves Jason Garrett, too. And, apparently, he also has an affinity for offensive coordinator Scott Linehan and defensive coordinator Rod



Keith Allison / Wikimedia

Marinelli, since he said he wants those two coaches back with the Cowboys next season, too.

Whatever changes to Garrett's staff will be minor ones.

"I think there are a lot of good building blocks in place on our football team," Garrett said. "There will be some changes to our coaching staff, there will be some changes on our roster. We'll be very determined to make sure those changes are for the better, but there are a lot of positive things that we can build on as we go forward."

"Some good young players have been added to our team in the last couple of years. They've helped us win some games over the last couple of years and we'll keep trying to help those guys develop individually and help our team develop and grow and continue to take the next steps."

There was speculation as to whether this would be tight end Jason Witten's last NFL season. But the 15-year veteran — he turns 36 in May

— who has spent his entire career with the Cowboys squashed all rumors and plans to return next season.

"I'm as motivated now as I've ever been to play this position at a higher level and help my team in all situations as a leader (and) as a veteran, but most importantly as a tight end and what that role consists of in this offense," Witten said. "And with that we've got to get back to work and we've got to evaluate it and strip it down to the most simple form, and we all have to do that — players and coaches alike and the organization — and we will."

"I see a lot of good in this locker room. If I didn't, I wouldn't make a decision like that, because I know how hard and what all is put in to going into a season."

Defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence, who just finished the last year of his contract, also would like to continue playing for the Cowboys.

"I know the organization feels the same way about me, so I ain't worrying about that," Lawrence said. "I'm going to let everything fall into place and we'll see where it goes from there."

Lawrence finished this season tied for second in the NFL in sacks this season with 14 1/2. That translate into a very healthy payday for him.

"I ain't no numbers guy," Lawrence said. "I mean, I can count real well and I know how much a sack costs."

The loss of running back Ezekiel Elliott — the NFL suspended him six games for violating the league's domestic violence policy — contributed mightily to the Cowboys' failure to reach their goal this season. So, did the loss of linebacker Sean Lee and offensive left tackle Tyron Smith at various times.

The Cowboys went 3-3 in Elliott's absence, but where only 6-4 in games he played in. Elliott wanted no part of thinking how the Cowboys would have fared had he been available for the entire 16 games.

"What's the point of going 'what if?'" Elliott asked. "It already has been."

"So you just got to look forward and control what you can control and make sure we come back ready

next year. I wish we were playing in the playoffs right now, but I'm happy to have everything behind me, I'm happy to move forward and I'm going to use it as fuel for next year."

Quarterback Dak Prescott also plans to use the subpar season he had this year as fuel for next season. Following a stellar year as a rookie in 2016, Prescott threw nine more interceptions and one less touchdown pass this year than he did last year.

"There were ups and downs," Prescott said. "I think I played some of the best ball of my career this year and obviously I played some of my worst ball of my career this year."

"I'm going to call it a growing year. I'm going to learn from everything that's happened this year and

move forward to become a better player and a better person."

Prescott, who passed for less than 185 yards in six of the last eight games, also hopes to have a better on-field connection with wide receiver Dez Bryant, who, according to his declining stats, can no longer be considered an elite receiver.

"We've got to look at ourselves first and we're going to do that, I'm pretty sure, because everybody in here, including all the coaches, we're competitors," Bryant said. "I'm pretty sure all of us are looking forward to 2018."

"And we're all looking to see what we all can do better, and I think we're going to do that just because we are a damn good football team."



Keith Allison / Wikimedia

Frieda Porter for the Office of Justice of the Peace

(Tarrant County, Precinct 7) - Number 1 on the Ballot.

The Justice of the Peace Office governs over Landlord and Tenant Disputes, Evictions, Small Claims, Truancy, and some minor traffic tickets.

As a State Licensed Realtor of over 17 years and a Landlord, I've worked diligently to help build Homeownership. I've also worked hands on with the eviction process in the Justice of the Peace Courts to successfully resolve various Landlord and Tenant issues.

I've volunteered my services for the Arlington NAACP Using my experience and education of Fair Housing, Real Estate Law and Multi-Family Management to bring positive resolution to citizens with Landlord complaints.

Precinct 7 is my home. My children grew up here. As JP, I will use my office as a support to homeowners, renters and help our truants move into a positive direction. Remember, I'm Number #1 on the Ballot. Cast your vote for Frieda Porter for Justice of the Peace, Pct. 7 on March 6, 2018.

Note:

Precinct 7 includes Tarrant Grand Prairie, South Arlington, Mansfield, Kennedale, Dalworthington Gardens and Rendon
Pol. Adv. paid for by Frieda Porter for JP campaign



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Win tickets to *The Color Purple*

The Color Purple a hallmark book that became a landmark movie eventually took Broadway by storm. Now, local theater fans have an opportunity to attend the Dallas premiere presented by the Dallas Summer Musicals, Inc. and Broadway Across America of the production which garnered the 2016 Tony Award winner for Best Musical Revival. The show is on stage at the Music Hall at Fair Park Jan. 23 – Feb. 4. NDG readers have an opportunity to win tickets for two for Wednesday, Jan. 24. Visit NDG’s Facebook page or Instagram and tell us who your favorite character or a favorite line from the book or movie for a chance to win the tickets.

This joyous American classic about a young woman’s journey to love and triumph in the American South has conquered Broadway in an all-new “ravishingly reconceived production that is a glory to behold” (*The New York Times*) directed by Tony winner John Doyle. Cast members from the 2016 Broadway revival lead the touring company, including Adrianna Hicks (*Aladdin*, *Sister Act* – Germany) as Celie, Carla R. Stewart (*Ghost* – National Tour, *Rent* – Regional) as Shug Avery



Carla R. Stewart (Shug Avery) and the North American tour cast of *The Color Purple*. (Photo: Matthew Murphy, 2017)

and Carrie Compere (*Holler If You Hear Me*, *Shrek the Musical* – National Tour) as Sofia.

They will be joined by Gavin Gregory (*The Color Purple* – Revival, *The Gershwin’s Porgy & Bess*) as Mister, N’Jameh Camara (*X: Or; Betty Shabazz v. The Nation*) as Nettie, J. Daughtry (*The Color Purple* – Revival, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*) as Harpo, along with Darnell Abraham, Amar Atkins, Kyle E. Baird, Angela Birchett, Jared Dixon, Erica Durham, Bianca Horn, Gabrielle Reid, C.E. Smith, Clyde Voce, Nyla Watson, J.D. Webster, Brit West, Nikisha Williams and Michael Wordly.

Based on the Alice Walker’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel and the Warner Bros. / Amblin Entertain-

ment motion picture, *The Color Purple* is adapted for the stage by Tony- and Pulitzer-winner Marsha Norman with music and lyrics by Brenda Russell, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray. Tony Award-winning director and scenic designer John Doyle (*Sweeney Todd*, *Company*) recreates his award-winning work for the national tour, winning Broadway revival of *The Color Purple*.

Single tickets for the Dallas engagement of *The Color Purple*, starting at \$20, are now on sale at DallasSummerMusicals.org or by phone at 800-745-3000. They can also be purchased in person at the Music Hall at Fair Park Box Office Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bishop Arts Theatre and Jubilee Theatre partner to present Thurgood

Bishop Arts Theatre Center (BATC), in partnership with Jubilee Theatre, presents the critically acclaimed, *Thurgood* by George Stevens, Jr. Selmore Haines III comes to the BATC stage with his 2017 Dallas Theatre Critics Award-winning performance as Thurgood Marshall in this retelling of America’s first African American Supreme Court justice.

Emotionally charged, politically relevant, and historically entertaining, *Thurgood* offers insight into one of America’s most well-known, respected, and groundbreaking political and social justice activists of the 20th Century. *Thurgood* runs Feb.8-25.

Thurgood is suitable for audiences ages 13 and above; adult language is present. All performances

are presented at the Bishop Arts Theatre Center located at 215 South Tyler, TX 75208.

Showtimes vary for each production please visit www.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 x305.




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U.S. Small Business Administration to exhibit during Dallas Small Business Expo

The U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Dallas/Fort Worth District Office will be exhibiting during Dallas Small Business Expo, Wednesday, Jan. 24. The SBA will provide information on how to start and grow a small business.

According to recent new

reports, the area has seen phenomenal job growth as Dallas ranks #2 in small business index. Small Business Expo will return to Dallas for the 6th year in a row to bring together local small business owners and entrepreneurs to network with 100+ exhibitors as well as attend over 20+

free workshops led by business experts.

The SBA's DFW District Office is excited to team-up with Small Business Expo to provide local small businesses in the Dallas metropolitan area with resources on access to capital, counseling, contracting and disaster

assistance.

During fiscal year 2017 lending in the DFW district's 72 counties reached over \$1.187 billion to 2062 small businesses. Dallas County small businesses specifically received a record year in SBA financing. In FY17, the county received over \$366

million, which is up from just over \$357 million in FY 2016 and a little over \$340 million in FY 2015.

"The SBA always looks forward to participating in this yearly event to help small business growth in the DFW area. We will staff present to help answer your questions

and guide you to SBA's resource partners" said Herbert Austin, SBA's Dallas/Fort Worth District Director.

Dallas Small Business Expo will take place at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center | Hall A - 650 S Griffin Street, Dallas, TX 75202 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

North Texas Commission plan a push for business-friendly laws

The North Texas Commission announced a new initiative, the North Texas Advocacy Coalition, to convene the region's business community to strengthen and amplify the business-friendly voice in Austin during the 86th Legislative Session. In addition to the business community, the North Texas Advocacy Coalition will include chambers of commerce, municipalities, higher education institutions and other partner organizations.

"During the last session, we saw the true power that our region's stakeholders can wield when we all work together for a common cause," said James D. Spaniolo, president and CEO of the North Texas Commission. "Our goal for the coalition is to keep Texas, and North Texas, business friendly, to support our municipalities and higher education institutions, and to ensure that the businesses that have moved here in the past several years

feel welcomed."

The initial focus of the North Texas Advocacy Coalition will be helping the region's business community encourage their employees to participate in the March primaries. Members of the Coalition will be encouraged to participate in sub-committees focused on issues including education, transportation, business competitiveness and communication. These task forces will meet to develop a legislative

agenda, supporting tactics and communication. The North Texas Advocacy Coalition will remain active throughout the 2019 Legislative Session.

"The North Texas Commission is in favor of pro-growth state tax and regulatory policies that grow our economy and attract investment," said Chuck Allen, managing director, Government Affairs for American Airlines and Chairman of the North Texas Commission.

"We encourage policymakers to work to ensure such investment is unfettered and that Texas capitalizes on innovation to fuel additional job growth, business expansion, and investment. Fortunately, this state has a rich history of doing just that, and our goal is to preserve that path forward."

Organizations that have signed on to participate in the North Texas Advocacy Coalition include:

• Alliance Operating Serv-

ices

- American Airlines
- AT&T
- BNSF Railway
- City of Grand Prairie
- Fidelity Investments
- The Rios Group
- Texas Association of Business
- Texas Competes
- Texas Health Resources
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce

The initiative was announced one year from the swearing in of the 86th Legislative Session.

RACE, continued from Page 1

for you, and I've been doing that all my life," Salerno said. "I worked for the Obama administration for the last five years, creating economic opportunity for those 50 million people that live in small-town America. I oversaw 5,000 people and a \$30 million budget. What we know for sure, I that the deck is stacked against many of us."

Salerno also noted that Texas hadn't sent a new woman to Washington in more than 20 years, and of all the representatives from the state, only three are female. She also shared her experiences in the criminal justice system and starting a business which she believes gives her the background and skills to help "level the playing field."

Texas Lieutenant Governor race

Mike Collier and Michael Cooper are running in the Democratic primary for an opportunity to defeat incumbent Dan Patrick as Texas Lieutenant Governor (Patrick is also being challenged in the Republican primary by Scott Milder).

Cooper was the only can-

didate able to attend the forum on Monday night, and said, "It is time that we have someone who is worried about all the people." Cooper, who has served as a volunteer in the education system, said one of his first priorities is a pay raise for teachers. He is also in favor of vocational programs for graduate students who are "workforce ready." And he said he has already put in the time to determine how to pay for the improvements he wants.

"I'm not here to say I'm going to try to change things, but I have found the answers," Cooper said. "I've been on the trail for a long time. I'm ready to serve you and your children in the State of Texas."

A friendly competition to become the next Dallas District Attorney

The final office presented at the forum was the District Attorney. John Cruzot and Elizabeth Davis Frizell are vying for the Democratic nomination to face Faith Johnson. The DA's office has been a source of very public scrutiny in recent

years as Susan Hawk resigned following work attendance and health concerns. Other incidents involving allegations of abusive drunken behavior and prosecutorial misconduct by assistant DAs make this race more noteworthy this year than normal in Dallas.

Frizell and Cruzot seem to be running an amicable primary race, and both pledged that they will be campaigning after the primary regardless of which one gets the nomination. Both put criminal justice reform at the top of their agenda, and both come to the table with extensive experience in the justice system.

Cruzot said he emphasizes working with defendants over incarceration whenever possible. He touted a program he had spear-headed in the past to rehabilitate offenders, adding that successful graduates were in the room for the presentation.

"We put them in treatment, brought them back, worked with them and had significant reductions in probation violations, re-arrests, the whole thing," Cruzot said.

"That's why I'm running for District Attorney because I started criminal justice reform. As a result of these programs being a foundation we've closed eight prisons in the State of Texas."

He also said he wanted to begin awarding "certificates of rehabilitation" to help ease the difficulty of former felons in getting back to a productive job.

Frizell recited a long list of high profile cases of African-Americans who lost their lives in incidents involving law enforcement and said that is her inspiration for running.

"Deadly force should be the last resort, not the first," Frizell said, adding that "So many officers can get away with just saying 'I feared for my life.' Well, should you have feared for your life? Should it be a death sentence for you to be killed, shot, maimed or lose your life?"

She also notes her status as the only lifelong Democrat running, and recalled her past experiences trying to "turn Texas blue" on behalf of the party. Frizell emphasizes she is the candidate willing to fight (at one point even kicking off her shoes and striking a sparring pose).

MNP will be back again on Jan. 15 featuring candidates vying for State Repre-

sentative in Districts 100, 104, 109, 113 and State Senate District 16.



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EEO

For-profit colleges promise but seldom deliver gainful employment

By Charlene Crowell

Mounting student debt is a nagging problem for most families these days. As the cost of higher education rises, borrowing to cover those costs often becomes a family concern across multiple generations including the student, parents, and even grandparents or other relatives.

Today's 21st Century jobs usually demand higher education and specialized skills to earn one's way into the middle class. In households where educational loans are inevitable, it becomes an important family decision to determine which institutions are actually worth the debt incurred. Equally important is the institution's likelihood of its students graduating.

Higher education institutions that do not provide its students and graduates with requisite skills and knowl-

edge become money pits that lead to deeper debt and likely loan defaults.

New research by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) analyzed student debt on a state-by-state basis. An interactive map of CRL's findings reveal on a state basis each of the 50 states' total undergraduate population, for-profit enrollment, and the top for-profit schools by enrollment for both four-year and two-year institutions.

Entitled The State of For Profit Colleges, the report concludes that investing in a for-profit education is almost always a risky proposition. Undergraduate borrowing by state showed that the percentage of students that borrow from the federal government generally ranged between 40 to 60 percent for public colleges, compared to 50 to 80 percent at for-profit institutions.

Additionally, both public and private, not-for-profit institutions on average lead to better results at a lower cost of debt, better earnings following graduation and the fewest loan defaults.

"In many cases, for-profit students are nontraditional students, making sacrifices and struggling to manage family and work obligations to make better lives for their families," noted Robin Howarth, a CRL senior researcher. "For-profit colleges target them with aggressive marketing, persuading them to invest heavily in futures that will never come to pass."

CRL also found that women and Blacks suffer disparate impacts, particularly at for-profit institutions, where they are disproportionately enrolled in most states.

For example, enrollment at Mississippi's for-profit colleges was 78 percent fe-

male and nearly 66 percent Black. Other states with high Black enrollment at for-profits included Georgia (57 percent), Louisiana (55 percent), Maryland (58 percent) and North Carolina (54 percent).

Focus group interviews further substantiated these figures, and recounted poignant, real life experiences.

Brianna, a 31-year-old Black female completed a Medical Assistant certificate at the now-defunct Everest University. Once she completed her MA certificate and passed the certification test, she found she could only find a job in her field of study that paid \$12 per hour, much less than the \$35,000-\$45,000 salary that Everest told her would be her starting salary as a medical assistant.

She was also left with \$21,000 in student debt. As a result, she has struggled

since matriculation with low credit scores and cramped housing conditions for herself and three children. For her, public schools, according to Brianna, are "better in the long run" due to their lower cost despite having more requirements for attendance.

Similarly, Elena, a 35-year-old Latina enrolled in a for-profit institution after seeing television commercials for the local branch of Everest College targeted at those without a GED, like herself. Assured by Everest that she would earn between \$13-15 an hour working as a pharmacy technician, she thought that wage would have been enough for her to repay tens of thousands of dollars in student loans and interest she incurred. Yet, the best wage she could find with a pharmacy paid only \$10.50 an hour.

Elena also shared that the financial aid officers at

Everest encouraged her to apply for "all these monies [grants and loans] that I could get. And they took it all – all of it. And yes, I am left with this bill."

These two personal experiences are magnified across the country with high female for-profit college enrollment. For example, the Midwestern states of Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin have female-dominated for-profit enrollment and disproportionate Black enrollment too. These were also states with some of the lowest for-profit graduation rates after six years of study.

In Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi and North Carolina, median for-profit student debt levels at graduation in these five states was much higher than that of their public peers, ranging from \$29,947 to \$34,891 for for-profit stu-

See PROFIT, Page 16



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Upcoming DFW area job fairs

Jan. 14, 21 & 28 Six Flags Over Texas Job Fair

Six Flags Over Texas is hosting a job fair with on-the-spot job offers for many positions. Walk-ins are welcome to this hiring event. Interested applicants should complete an application online at sixflagsjobs.com. Applications should be completed prior to interviewing at the job fair. Team members will receive perks such as: pay above minimum wage, free park admission, health benefits, private employee benefits, reward programs, on-site training, flexible scheduling, a weekly pay day, and mentor programs. Positions include areas such as life-guarding, retail, guest services, entertainment, cooking, and ride operations. The company is looking for hard-working, enthusiastic and eager individuals who are ready for a challenging and rewarding position. This fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 2201 E Road to Six Flags Street, Arlington.

Jan. 16 Entel Marketing Career Fair

Entel Marketing, Inc. is hosting an open house job fair for job seekers looking for exciting employment op-



portunities. Participants are encouraged to come for on the spot interviews and or to simply drop off their resume. Entel offers its employees: weekly pay, bonus opportunities, vacation incentives, rapid advancement, career development programs, and more. All the company asks for in its employees is a positive attitude, a team player mentality, a strong work ethic, good communication skills, and a clear display of professionalism. For more information, call 972-891-9975. This open house job fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 5787 South Hampton Road, Suite 125, Dallas.

Jan. 17 Top Golf Hiring Event

Top Golf-Dallas is looking for candidates to fill hourly positions such as: guest service associate, porter, bartender, bay host, server, bar back, busser, drink runner, food runner, dishwasher, cook, and maintenance associate. Most positions with the company require the ability to stand and

walk for extended periods of time, and some require the ability to lift over 50 lbs. As an equal opportunity employer, Top Golf will engage in reasonable accommodations with regard to physical or mental disabilities. Candidates should come to the recruitment event with a resume and must attend the entire event to be considered for a position. This event will take place from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Top Golf Dallas located at 8787 Park Lane, Dallas.

Jan. 18 State Farm Plano Hiring Event

State Farm recruiters will be onsite to discuss current job opportunities with the company, benefits for employees and the application process. All job seekers are encouraged to bring copies of their resume. The company is looking to fill positions such as: administrative specialist, claim associate, IT student intern, internal audit intern, sales representative, customer service representative, and more. This fair will be from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas – Plano Workforce Center located at 1101 Resource Drive, Suite 100, Plano.

Jan. 24 Penn Apartment Staffing Job Fair

Penn Apartment Staffing provides quality full-time and temporary staffing for the apartment industry in Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston by recruiting candidates to meet all of a community's staffing needs. The company matches qualified candidates with positions such as: Property Manager, Assistant Manager, Leasing Consultant, Lead Maintenance, Make Ready, and Porter / Groundskeeper positions for Direct Hire, Temp-to-Perm, and Temporary opportunities. All job seekers are encouraged to book their spot for this job fair online at pennapartmentstaffing.com. This fair will be from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 10300 North Central Expressway, Dallas.

Jan. 30 Richardson Recruiting Event and Career Fair

This fair allows job seekers and potential employees to meet face-to-face with hiring managers looking to fill more than one hundred job openings. Free resume reviews will also be available by DFW Resume's Sara Timm. All jobs require U.S. citizenship and a minimum

two years of industry experience on top of a degree.

There will be a cocktail reception after the Career Fair from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The fair will be held from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Richardson Civic Center located at 411 West Arapaho Road, Suite 102, Richardson.

Jan. 31 Plano Career Fair

Participants are invited to this free career fair to meet face-to-face with hiring decision-makers from some of the area's top employers. Dress professionally and

bring plenty of resumes, because they will be there 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 job seekers. Attend the career fair and get in front of decision makers. This fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Plano Event Centre located at 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano.



Eco-Site LLC proposes to build a 110-foot Monopole Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 2215 Canada Drive, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75212. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Andrew, a.bray@trileaf.com, 2550 S. IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.



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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.



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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

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.

January 14, 2018, 9:45 a.m.

You're invited to our "Prayer and Meditation" at 9:45 am. You will be blessed and inspired. You don't want to miss this as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

January 17, 2018, 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. Spiri-

tual maturity is God's desire for you; it's Time to Grow in the Word of God.

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

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"

January 14, 8 a.m.

Join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joyce Turner Fellowship Hall; followed by our Sunday Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

January 17, 2018

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
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Plano, TX 75074
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972-379-3287

www.theship3c.org

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

January 12, 7 p.m.

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

January 14, 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.

Also, January 14, 2018 Every 2nd and 4th Sunday Reserve your seat at Rush-restaurant; it's all you can eat as long as you can eat. It's after Morning Worship Service. See you there!

January 15, 2018, 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
Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.Ibocchurch.org

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP) (Uniting the Body of Christ Among Nations)

January 14, 10 a.m.

Join us for Morning Wor-

ship 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.

January 17, 2018, 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
Plano, TX 75075
972-633-5511
www.mocop.org

NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH (Abiding in Christ)

January 14, 7 a.m.

Join us for our Early Service or our Morning Worship Service as we praise and worship God, you will be blessed.

January 17, 2018, 7 pm

Join us at our Wednesday's Intercessory as we pray to God for others.

Call the church for details for details.

Dr. Tommy L. Brown, Ed. D. Senior Pastor
9550 Shepherd Road
Dallas, TX 75243

214-341-6459
nmzbcofdallas@aol.com

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.

January 14, 2018

You are invited to our morning worship at 10 a.m. Sunday School will begin at 8:30 a.m. We would love to have you at our services.

January 17, 2018, 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.

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

PROFIT, continued from Page 12

dents compared to \$21,605 to \$23,638 for public students.

Public colleges and private, nonprofit institutions in these same five states combined also had average Black enrollment rates that were noticeably smaller: Georgia (32 percent), Louisiana (31 percent), Maryland (28 percent),

Mississippi (38 percent), North Carolina (23 percent).

These disparate outcomes are even more grievous when one takes into account that for-profit colleges are primarily funded by taxpayers, receiving up to 90 percent of their revenues from federal financial aid such as Pell Grants and federal student loans. Veterans educa-

tional benefits are additional taxpayer-paid revenues.

Finally, three years following graduation from a for-profit institution, former students in 44 states had double-digit default rates. These states included: Kansas, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia.

These and other findings document how Americans are investing heavily in

higher education. But in large part, the choice of institution determines whether they will receive what they paid for: gainful employment.

Charlene Crowell is the communications deputy director with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsible-lending.org.



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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

Let us not forget, Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. (Jan. 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968)



Sister Tarpley

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

It has been said, "That it is not when a man was born or when he died, that makes the difference in his life and his legacy; it is the dash or space between his birth and his death."

A son, brother, husband, father, uncle, a humanitarian, civil rights leader, author, teacher, preacher and a pastor – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was all of these and more.

Plainly put, Dr. King proudly changed the consciousness and character of America.

With his urgent messages of non-violence and justice for all Americans, Dr. King reached more people than any other Black leader in history, during his life time.

Dr. King was a Baptist minister and social activist, who led the Civil Rights Movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968.

Among many efforts, Dr. King headed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC.)

Through his activism, he played a pivotal role in ending the legal segregation of

Black citizens in the South and other areas of the nation.

Dr. King as well, was the creator of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

He became the youngest recipient of the world famous and coveted Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, among several other major honors.

Dr. King was assassinated in April 1968, and continues to be remembered as one of the most lauded Black leaders in world history; often referenced by his 1963 famous speech, "I Have a Dream."

Without a doubt, "I Have a Dream" was Dr. King's most famous and beloved speech; it was delivered to more than 200,000 people at the "March on Washington" at the Lincoln Memorial.

In the summer of 1963, the nation was seething with racial tension and frequent riots were tearing apart communities.

In the midst of this crisis, Dr. King conveyed his vision in a very powerful language that the world has not forgotten and probably never will forget.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King, Dr. King's wife, recalled, "At that moment it seemed as if the Kingdom of God appeared; but it only lasted for a moment."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Ten-

nessee. He was only 39 years old.

Some Timely Quotes of Dr. King: "A nation or civilization that continues to produce soft-minded men purchases its own spiritual death on an installment

plan."

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

"We will have to repent in this generation not merely

for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people."

"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase."

"Let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness."

"Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it."

"If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry.

He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.

Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge, to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation."

Something to Ponder: Four Things You Can't Take Back: 1) A rock, after it's thrown. 2) A word, after it's said. 3) An occasion, after the loss. 4) A time, after it's gone.



This week we take an opportunity to remember the life and contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as we observe his birthday this month.

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 Pastor Rickie G. Rush
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 www.igocchurch.org
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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

LIFE
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NDG Book Review: The *Fire and Fury* that is heating up the Trump White House

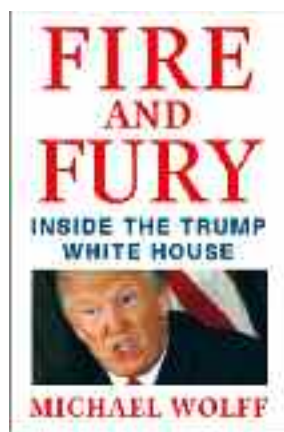
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Fit - or not?

Most likely, you had an opinion about a year ago, when Donald Trump was sworn in as our 45th President. Was he “Presidential,” or was he untested? Chances are, this entire time, you’ve never wavered in judgment. And then, along comes “Fire and Fury” by Michael Wolff.

Either with glee, or the fury in its title, the oft-asked first question is: “Is it true?”

Early in his book, Wolff says that he did “more than two hundred interviews...” Publicly, he’s said that he has tapes. The White House admits that he had access to the



Executive Mansion and journalists have corroborated his presence, so it must be assumed that Wolff was there with ears open, although quotes and points made here are not always attributed to testable sources. And so,

though it reads like a novel, this book is at least somewhat verifiable.

That aside, Wolff begins with something that has often been said: many people simply assumed that Trump wouldn’t win; in fact, his “tiny band of campaign warriors... were not ready to win.” Even so, Trump supposedly perceived a loss as a win: he believed it would help increase his presence and his brand. Wolff gives readers reason to question if the win, indeed, helped the Trump brand.

Following the inauguration, trouble happened almost immediately when Trump began focusing on

things that seemed unimportant, the size of inaugural crowds, and inaugural weather. Wolff says that the White House staff quickly learned that Mr. Trump needed flattery and aggrandizing on a constant basis, and their thoughts on “handling” him are not complimentary. Wolff reiterates those comments, and the alarm expressed by foreign diplomats over the Trump presidency; he also has some less-than-desirable things to say himself about Mr. Trump and his children – and yet, Wolff says that Trump can reportedly be a likeable guy.

Of course, Steve Bannon plays a large part in this ac-

count, and Wolff indicates that Bannon and other Trump staffers (including Trump’s family) conflicted constantly. Since this book’s release last Friday, readers may note that Bannon has stepped back on the things he’s supposedly said – but stepping back is not denial and it came after a lengthy pause.

Much like the Trump presidency, the fact is that this book will be argued along supporter lines and it’s not going to change any minds. Then there’s this to think about: yes, entire conversations are recreated here, conversations that Wolff may’ve gotten second-hand, which

inherently makes this book fiction to a point. But if what Wolff has written is even ten percent accurate, is that too much?

Overall, there’s not much inside this book that you haven’t already seen online, on social media, or in your newspaper. You’ve absorbed it already, in essence – so should you still read “Fire and Fury”?

My call: absolutely. This book seems as though it may be the cultural touchstone of the year and it may impact politics through at least 2020. Whether you are pro-Trump or pro-Twenty-Fifth amendment – today, this book fits.

MLK Day celebrations across North Texas

Carrollton

The City of Carrollton is hosting its **Carrollton MLK Parade** Saturday, Jan. 13 at 10 a.m. beginning at behind Carrollton City Hall on Rainwater Lane and ending at Ted Polk Middle School located at 2001 Kelly Boulevard, Carrollton. Since 1997, the parade has been sponsored by Christ Community Connection, Inc., the City of Carrollton, and Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD. This parade will celebrate friendship and community in honor of MLK Day. A program will follow the parade at 11:30 a.m.

Dallas

The Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center is hosting the **2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration: Candlelight Ceremony** Friday, Jan. 12 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 2922 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Dallas. The ceremony is sponsored by the Alpha Sigma Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Winners of the Dr. King Essay Contest will be announced during the program. The event is free and open to all.

The **36th annual MLK**



Awards Banquet will be held Saturday, Sat. 13 at 5:30 p.m. at the Dallas Hyatt Regency located at 300 Reunion Boulevard, Dallas. This black-tie awards banquet will be honoring sponsors and partners of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. Tickets are \$85 and will include a formal dinner, a silent auction, live entertainment and keynote speaker Rev. Dr. William Barber, II.

The Meyerson Symphony Center is presenting the **35th Annual Black Music and the Civil Rights Movement Concert** Sunday, Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at 2301 Flora Street, Dallas. This tribute will reflect on Dr. King’s life and celebrate and honor the struggles and

accomplishments of the Civil Rights Movement during the 1960’s. The event will feature film footage, narration, music, dance, and performances by the Black Academy of Arts & Letters 200=voice concert choir. Special guests at the concert will include Rahaan Patterson, B. Salde, and Malik Yoba. Tickets for the event start at \$15.

The annual **Dallas MLK Parade** will be Monday, Jan. 15 beginning at 10 am. Starting at the intersection of Holmes Street and MLK Boulevard and ending at Fair Park, Dallas. With an estimated 250,000+ spectators and participants – including elected officials, high school bands and dance teams, car clubs, horses, local businesses,

and other community organizations – this is considered one of the largest commemorative events held in the U.S. The event is free and open to the public.

DeSoto

The DeSoto Public Library is hosting **Remembering the Dream: A Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration** Saturday, Jan. 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto. The event will include intergenerational conversations about civil rights issues and experiences, craft stations, memory booths, special performers and an opportunity to sign the DeSoto Public Library Pledge of Unity. The event will culminate in a re-enactment of the 1963 March on Washington I Have a Dream speech. Admission to the event is free and open to all.

Garland

The NAACP Garland Unit is hosting the **29th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade and March** Saturday, Jan. 13 at beginning at 10 a.m. near Embree Park on Dairy Road and ending in Historic Downtown Garland on Fifth Street. A commemorative

program will follow at the Patty Granville Arts Center located at 300 N. 5th Street, Garland. All events are free and open to the public.

The Garland NAACP is presenting the **MLK Youth Extravaganza** Sunday, Jan. 14 at 4 p.m. at the Patty Granville Arts Center located at 300 N. 5th Street, Garland. The event will feature youth performances in celebration of Dr. King’s life, legacy and influence. Garland residents will honor the civil rights leader’s memory with step presentations, drill team performances, poetry reading, and praise dancing. Admission to the event is free.

Grand Prairie

The City of Grand Prairie is holding its **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade** Monday, Jan. 15 at 10 a.m., starting at the Liberty Bell on City Hall Plaza and ending at David Daniels Elementary Academy of Science and Math located at 801 SW 19th Street, Grand Prairie. The parade is sponsored by Grand Prairie ISD, the City of Grand Prairie and the Grand Prairie NAACP. This year’s theme is “A Day On – Not a Day Off”, highlighting the serv-

ice aspect of the day honoring Dr. King. Admission to the parade is free. There will be a celebration following the parade at 1:30 pm. at Dalworth Recreation Center located at 2012 Spikes Street, Grand Prairie.

Irving

The Irving-Carrollton chapter of the NAACP is hosting a **Luncheon Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.** Monday, Jan. 15 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Georgia Farrow Recreation Center located at 530 Davis Street, Irving. The event will feature special guest speakers to honor Dr. King. This spaghetti luncheon is free and open to all looking to celebrate Dr. King’s life and legacy.

Plano

The City of Plano is hosting a **Shades of Unity Walk** Monday, Jan. 15 beginning at 8 a.m. at Parker Road DART Station located at 2600 Archerwood Street, Plano and ending at City Hall in Downtown Plano. All are invited to bring their church, organization, and family and friends to join this morning walk geared towards reaching the dream of unity and healing racial divisions in our country.