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Top 10 reasons to get tested for HIV this Valentine's Day

You may be infected and not know it. In the U.S., nearly 1 in 5 people who have HIV do not know that they are infected. People who have HIV can feel, look and act just as healthy as people who don't have HIV. The only way to know for sure is to be tested for HIV.



The CDC recommends that all adults be tested for HIV. As part of its efforts to ensure that more people know their status and get tested for HIV, the CDC recommends routine HIV testing of all adults, adolescents, and pregnant women in health care settings in the U.S.

Being tested for HIV is quick and easy. For the first time ever, you can get tested in the privacy of your own home with the OraQuick® In-Home HIV Test, the over the counter rapid test that tests oral fluid, giving you accurate

See HIV, Page 4

Black History Gala in Irving on Feb. 23

The Black History Gala began approximately six years ago within the local walls of Bear Creek Community Church. A small group of church members presented Pastor Dennis Webb, and Irving City Councilman, with a small idea of allowing the younger youth to dress in costume attire and present

brief educational biographies of historical African Americans who have made great contributions to today's society.

This small gesture lead to a vision of the members creating an all adult presentation for the children educating them on our African American History. A small but dedicated com-



Irving's City Manager Tommy Gonzalez, guest speaker

mittee of adults each year began writing songs, skits, poetry, etc., exemplifying the many great contributions African Americans have made to our society.

The event four years ago became a formal affair including an elegant dinner. The event has, and intends to always be a free

See GALA, Page 11

When retiring together doesn't make sense

BY JASON ALDERMAN

Back when people from my parents' generation were first planning their lives together, most married couples looked forward to working hard for a few decades, buying a house, raising a family and then retiring together while

they still had enough money and energy to travel and pursue favorite hobbies.

Some couples do manage to pull this off and thrive; but for many others, any of a host of obstacles can block their ability to retire at the same time. For example:

- Thanks to periods of unemployment, home-value decline or 401(k) account loss suffered during the Great Recession, many couples simply don't have enough money to retire together comfortably.

- If there's a significant age difference, one spouse

See TAX, Page 11



Visit our Facebook page for details to win FREE tickets to UNCF Gala & Monster Jam!

COVER STORY

President Obama urges Congress "to finish the job" in State of the Union



President Barack Obama

See OBAMA, Page 9



Is A Good Day to Die Hard just a love story - with guns and bombs?

For more information see pg. 10
www.northdallasgazette.com

COMMENTARY

State of Equality and Justice in America: Fifty years later, the Lawyers' Committee remains in the vanguard

BY U. S. REP. JOHN CONYERS, JR. (D-MICH.)

(TriceEdneyWire.com)
At a time when our nation needed its legal community to step forward and join in the struggle for equality, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law was born. I was privileged to be present in the East Room of the White House on the day that President Kennedy urged a group of 244 lawyers to use their training and influence to

further the goals of the civil rights movement.

Within weeks, the formation of the Lawyers' Committee was announced as attorneys from around the country heeded the call of the President. Fifty years later, the Lawyers' Committee remains in the vanguard of both domestic and international initiatives to protect the rights of diverse communities.

While there is no question that America has

See EQUALITY, Page 3

INSIDE...

People In The News	2
Op/Ed	3
Community News	5
Event Page	8
Cover Story	9
Arts & Entertainment	10
Business	11
Classifieds	12
Career Opportunity	13
Church Directory	14-16
Sister Tarpley	15

People In The News...



Carolyn Stewart



DeDe McGuire



Dr. Tanya Reddick Rodgers

See Page 2

Carolyn Stewart

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Alpha Xi Omega Chapter invites the public to attend its annual 84th Founders' Day Luncheon at Noon, on Saturday, Feb. 23 at the Dallas Hilton Anatole Hotel, Khmer Ballroom, 2201 North Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX 75207. This year's keynote speaker is the sorority's International President, Attorney Carolyn House Stewart.

The Founders' Day Luncheon theme is, "Timeless Service through Worthwhile Effort." The chapter

will respectively honor members with 25 and 50 years of service. This year's honorees for fifty years of service include: Shirley Barton, Tredis Griffin, Thalia Haynes, Yvonne Rice, Floria Talbert, Jeweline Truitt, and Mary Kay Watkin. Twenty five year honorees are: Deje Reed, Vernita Rickett, Courtney Thompson, and Rachel Whitaker.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, the first Greek organization for college educated African-American females was founded on the campus of

Howard University in Washington, DC on January 15, 1908. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated mission of "Service to All Mankind" began in 1908 and has been at the forefront of positive change in American life, particularly in the African American community. The sorority continues to fulfill this service imperative avowed by our founders through creative programs, awareness, advocacy, action and collaborative partnerships. As we Committed Leadership is essential to address issues related to social justice, human rights, health, poverty, economic security, environmental sus-



tainability and to maintain a viable sisterhood of over 260,000 members.

Alpha Xi Omega Chapter was established in Dallas, Texas on June 6, 1929. Mrs. Florence Harlee Phelps, a Howard University graduate, initiated the effort to establish in her hometown a chapter of the first Greek letter sorority for African American women. The charter members of Alpha Xi Omega Chapter were: Ethel Boswell Darden, Alberta Adams Lott, Johnella Patton Lott, Florence Harlee Phelps, and Annie Lacy Watson.

See STEWART, Page 8

DeDe McGuire

DALLAS – Approaching the two-year anniversary of her show, DeDe McGuire has signed a new deal cementing her place in the top spot as host of KKDA K104 FM Morning Show, now named *DeDe in the Morning*.

"I'm trying to be the hardest working woman in radio," says McGuire, "I'm ready to take the thrown as the new king of mornings."

Officially joining the morning show team at K104 in 2009, McGuire played the co-host role to two other personalities before claiming the head position becoming DeDe in the Morning. Now as host of the morning show weekdays on K104, Lady Jade and comedian Michael Shawn, who recently joined the team, join McGuire.

Hosting a major-market morning show five



days a week, while also co-hosting a nationally syndicated afternoon radio show is almost unthinkable, unless you happen to be DeDe McGuire. With a workday lasting from pre-dawn to beyond sunset, McGuire is fueled by a midday lunch break and the passion that propelled her from small-town radio to legendary stations in San Antonio, Chicago, Philadelphia and Dallas.

As the host of her own show on Dallas/Fort Worth's K104 FM, DeDe in

the Morning and co-host of The Doug Banks Show each afternoon, McGuire has proven to be one of the most exciting and successful women in radio. With no signs of slowing down, McGuire continues to feed her millions of listeners with candid celebrity and political interviews, insider gossip and information to educate the masses.

Fans can listen to the show on the airwaves at KKDA K104 FM or also listen online at K104FM.com.

Dr. Tanya Reddick Rodgers

Board-certified dermatologist, Dr. Tanya Reddick Rodgers has announced the

care products designed to promote long term health and beauty of skin through en-

will officially premier at the "Evening of Beauty" product preview party taking place at Dr. Rodgers' dermatology medical practice, Skin Specialists of Addison, on Thursday, Feb. 28 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"I've always had the desire to create medical grade skin care products that would address the skin issues that I often see when treating my patients," said Dr. Tanya Reddick Rodgers, board-certified dermatologist and founder of SUGOI. "SUGOI is a skin care system that I will now recommend to my patients and all people wanting to have healthy and beautiful skin."

It was through the expressed needs and skin issues of Dr. Rodgers' dermatology patients that the SUGOI skin care concept was conceived. Developed after years of extensive lab and patient re-

search, the prescription-strength skincare products are non-comedogenic and clinically-proven to improve the overall appearance and health of all skin. Innovation in a collection of bottles, the SUGOI product line uniquely caters to an array of skin issues and meets specific needs for all skin types. This includes the treatment of brown spots, fine lines, wrinkles, skin tone, skin appearance, skin texture, dark under eye circles, hydration and the effects of aging. Available exclusively at Skin Specialists of Addison and Skin Specialists of Allen, the complete SUGOI skin care product line can be viewed at www.skin-specialistsOA.com.

"Most people have a difficult time trying to determine which products work for their particular skin, so they end up spending valuable time and

resources through trial and error," said Dr. Rodgers."

SUGOI removes the guess-

See RODGERS, Page 13



launch of SUGOI, her exclusive line of medical grade skin

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The Curtis Report: Calling for the real black man

BY BARRY CURTIS

I present for your consideration, the black man. Ah, the black man - where are you? Yeah that's what I thought.

The real black man is dead. Oh before you get offended hear me out.

Calling all black men! Yes, you there the black man in the unemployment line. Yes nearly 20 percent of all black men between the ages of 15 and 25 are unemployed. Is this the state of the real black man, jobless? Never mind the reason; if we are without a job, we are simply without a job. Does the reason really matter? Do real black men need an excuse to justify our de-

mise? Wow what a contrast, the vision of a proud warrior to the unemployment line.

Let's try this again. Calling all black men! Yes you, the high school dropout. Wait please before you get offended, hear me out. Only 54 percent of all African Americans graduate from high school compared to 80 plus percent of Asian Americans. That figure does include all the football and basketball players. I'm not sure if that figure includes black high school polo and lacrosse players, but I will check and get back with you on that.

Hey all black men! Yes you there, the black home-

owner whose home has declined in value. Before you get offended please hear me out. Blacks tend to buy homes in "black" neighborhoods. These homes do not appreciate as fast as white homes because whites tend to buy homes in "white" neighborhoods. That's just a fact folks.

Where are the real black men? Hey black men! Yes you there, the one that is walking out on your family. Wait please Sir before you get offended - females head 60 percent of all black households. We are making the black "disappearing" man a perpetual offense. We are telling our young men in these households that a fa-

ther figure is likely to abandon you, or at the least will not be present in the home.

Hey you there the black man filing for divorce. Wait! Don't get offended. About 70 percent of all black married couples have their marriages end in divorce. All this is a sad state of affairs.

Let's recap: Black men are uneducated, unemployed, poor businessmen, poor parents and bad husbands. OK, now you can be offended.

Barry Curtis is the host of *The Curtis Report* "your last report on Sunday talk" airing on KLIF every Sunday at 5 p.m. thecurtisinitiative.com

EQUALITY, continued from Page 1

made substantial progress over the last 50 years in creating a more just society, we cannot say that serious challenges to achieving the American dream do not exist for large segments of our society. I ran for Congress in 1964, a time when we battled Jim Crow era poll taxes and institutionalized discrimination.

In those days, the battle lines were clearly drawn and easy for anyone to see. Successful litigation and legislation have largely ended the practices of institutional discrimination and the Lawyers' Committee has played an important role. However, as the civil rights movement has expanded beyond race, we have seen a return of discriminatory practices that continue to challenge the goal of equality under the law.

The institutional memory found at the Lawyers' Committee is vital to ensuring that our society is not revisited by old discrimination in a new package. Its work during the 2012 election cycle, for example, was critical in protecting the voting rights of millions of Americans.

Just as Jim Crow era poll taxes were designed to erect barriers to the ballot box, the current wave of voter purg-

ing, citizenship and identification schemes were intended to make it difficult for young, minority and older Americans to equally participate in the political process. This organized and well-financed campaign to subvert the election process is ongoing and will require a combination of litigation and legislation to ensure that our campaign finance system and election laws reflect the important principle of equal participation in the political process.

While voting rights remain the touchstone in the quest for equal rights, millions are fundamentally deprived of their basic liberty by a criminal justice system in a race to incarcerate. The United States has the largest prison population in the western world, with 2.25 million people behind bars. This figure illustrates the greatest inequality facing the nation. Sadly, more than 60 percent of the people in prison are now racial and ethnic minorities.

For the African-American community, these statistics are devastating, with one in every 10 Black men in their 30s in jail or prison on any given day. A felony conviction can stifle economic independence by re-



John Conyers Jr.

acerbating the economic isolation of poor communities and their related civil rights burdens.

Ultimately, we must act to break the persistent link between poverty and the criminal justice system. Ending inequality in America is a battle that can be won, and although the barriers are still largely the same as those of the 1960's, our approach in the 21st century must not lack the strength and courage which brought us those earlier victories.

U. S. Rep. John Conyers, Jr., (D-Mich.), known as the dean of the Congressional Black Caucus, has served in the U. S. Congress since 1965. This article - the fifth of a 20-part series - is written in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. The Lawyers' Committee is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, formed in 1963 at the request of President John F. Kennedy to enlist the private bar's leadership and resources in combating racial discrimination and the resulting inequality of opportunity - work that continues to be vital today. For more information, please visit www.lawyerscommittee.org.

Keep America Beautiful program reduced cigarette litter by over fifty percent at nationwide study sites

STAMFORD -- Keep America Beautiful (KAB) reports an average 55 percent reduction of cigarette litter in the communities implementing KAB's Cigarette Litter Prevention Program (CLPP) during 2012. In 2012, the program's 10th year, there were 195 grant-supported implementations across the country in a variety of places including downtowns, roadways, beaches, parks, marinas, colleges/universities, tourist spots, and at special events.

Denton received two grants for their Keep Denton Beautiful program and Lewisville's Keep Lewisville Beautiful program also received a grant. Each grant was \$1,000 each.

Over the past seven years, the CLPP has consistently cut cigarette butt litter by half based on local measurements taken in the first four months to six months after a program implementation. Survey results also showed that as communities continue to monitor the program those reductions are sustained or even increased over time. For example, more than 100 communities that started programs in 2011 achieved an average reduction of 48 percent that year, and increased that reduction by an additional 17 percent when measured again in 2012.

"Cigarette litter may still be a significant issue throughout the country, but our Cigarette Litter Preven-

tion Program is making a difference in communities where the program is being implemented," said Matthew M. McKenna, president and CEO of Keep America Beautiful. "Through consistent and persistent public education in combination with access to receptacles, we can lessen the environmental harm cigarette litter places on our landscapes and waterways."

Tobacco products, consisting mainly of cigarette butts, are the most-littered item in America, representing nearly 38 percent of all items, according to "Litter in America," KAB's landmark 2009 study of litter and littering behavior. In response to this issue, KAB developed the CLPP with funding

from Philip Morris USA, an Altria company. Since 2010, the program has received additional support from RAI Services Company. Since its inception, the program has been implemented in 1,263 U.S. communities.

"We studied 12 sites over an 11-week period and realized a 68 percent reduction in cigarette litter at sites where we had public education, signage and ash receptacles as compared with control sites where we didn't have those CLPP program components," said Adam Roberts, executive director of KAB affiliate Hot Springs/Garland County Beautification Commission in Hot Springs, Ark.

"Ground crews and staff at every site where interven-

tions took place commented about the reductions in cigarette litter and – as important – litter in general," added Roberts, who noted a 33 percent decrease in the amount of general litter at those sites.

Research has shown that even self-reported "non-litterers" often don't consider tossing cigarette butts on the ground to be "littering." Keep America Beautiful has found that cigarette butt litter occurs most often at transition points—areas where a person must stop smoking before proceeding into another area. These include bus stops, entrances to stores and public buildings, and the sidewalk areas outside of bars and restaurants, among others.

To address cigarette butt litter, KAB's Cigarette Litter Prevention Program recommends communities integrate four proven approaches:

- Encourage enforcement of litter laws, including cigarette litter;

- Raise awareness about the issue using public service messages;

- Place ash receptacles at transition points such as entrances to public buildings; and

- Distribute pocket or portable ashtrays to adult smokers.

The "Guide to Cigarette Litter Prevention" provides information about starting and maintaining a Cigarette Litter Prevention Program and can be found online at PreventCigaretteLitter.org.

Nickel neutering for male cats in Plano

If your male kitty has a new twinkle in his eyes for the ladies, then sign him up today for nickel neutering at the Plano Animal Shelter. On Tuesday, Feb. 21, the Shelter will celebrate Spay Day USA by neutering 100 cats for a nickel each.

Participating cats must have an appointment. All cats must be delivered in a pet carrier labeled with the

owner's name. Owners must provide written proof of the cat's current rabies and FVRCP vaccinations, which if needed can be administered for \$9.95 for one shot or \$19.95 for both. Microchip implantation will also be available for an additional \$15 fee per cat.

Plano residents will be required to register their cats with the City's Animal



Services Division for \$10 or \$5 if the owner is a senior citizen or has proof of being low-income. Please visit www.petdata.com to get more information about the requirements for pet registration in the City of Plano.

Spay Day USA originated through the Doris Day Animal Foundation and is now an annual cam-

paign by The Humane Society of the United States. Neutering and spaying is essential to reducing pet overpopulation. Do your part – spay or neuter your cat.

The Plano Animal Shelter is located at 4028 W. Plano Parkway. To make an appointment or to get more details, call 972-769-4374.

HIV, continued from Page 1

results in 20 minutes. Also, many hospitals and health clinics offer confidential HIV testing. Go to www.hivtest.org to find a location near you.

If you test HIV negative, you can take steps to stay negative. Getting tested for HIV is the only way to confirm if you are HIV negative. Knowing that you are HIV negative means that you are not infected and can take steps to stay that way! It is important to learn about ways to reduce or eliminate your risk of HIV infection in the future.

Knowing your status helps you make smarter decisions. Knowing that you are HIV negative, you can take steps to protect yourself and minimize risks so you stay negative. If you learn that you are HIV positive you can seek

treatment, stay healthy longer or improve your current health. You can also take steps to prevent passing it on to someone else. Show your love for yourself and others by learning your HIV status this Valentine's Day.

Early treatment means you can celebrate more Valentine's Days to come. If you are HIV positive, getting connected to care early can save your life. People with HIV and AIDS are living longer, healthier lives today, thanks to new and effective treatments. Getting tested and connected to a doctor or healthcare professional can help you get the treatment you need and live a longer life with your loved ones.

Knowing your status protects you and your partner. By educating yourself against

HIV and AIDS and taking an HIV test, you are doing the right thing to protect your health and the ones you love. If you are HIV positive, practicing safer sex techniques can save your partner's life. If you are negative, practicing safe sex techniques will help you both stay negative for many Valentine's Days to come.

You may have been exposed to HIV without knowing it. HIV is transmitted from person to person during activities, such as sex or needle sharing, where contact with blood, semen or vaginal fluids can occur. HIV can also be passed from an infected mother to her child through her breast milk during breastfeeding.

If you are pregnant or are thinking of having a baby, getting tested for HIV

is an important first step in preventing your child from getting HIV if you are HIV positive. Screening for HIV can safeguard your reproductive health. If you are pregnant, learning your HIV status is critical. If you are HIV positive, special medical care and certain drugs given during pregnancy can lower the chance of passing HIV to your baby.

You'll be doing your part in the global fight against HIV. Currently, more than 33 million people around the world are estimated to have HIV/AIDS, and many of them do not know they are infected, because they have never been tested. By getting tested for HIV and learning your status, you are doing your part in the global fight against HIV.

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Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson Hosts 18th Annual Faith-Based Prayer Breakfast



Congresswoman Johnson pictured w/ Joel Allison of Baylor, Stan McKenzie, keynote speaker Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, and Rev. Claude Maples

Washington, DC – (Monday, February 11, 2013) – Today, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson held her 18th Annual Prayer Breakfast at the Baylor Health Care Diabetes Health and Wellness Institute at the Juanita J. Craft Recreation Center. The theme this year was “The Cost of Humanity: Protecting and Providing for Society’s Vulnerable.”

Congresswoman Johnson is a founding co-chair of the Congressional Homeless Caucus, and has identified an increased need for services for those who are lacking basic necessities in the 30th district. “Everyone in a shelter did not start there, and whether it’s a single mother, veteran, or professional who has fallen on hard times, it is our responsibility as a community to lift them up as they transition to improved cir-

cumstances,” said Congresswoman Johnson.

Bishop Vashti McKenzie, the presiding Bishop for the 10th Episcopal District for the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and a member of President Barack Obama’s Advisory Council of the White House Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, gave the keynote address. Congresswoman Johnson also honored Bishop J. Neaul Haynes, a long-standing board member of the Church of God in Christ.

“It is very fitting to honor Bishop Haynes among his peers at this year’s 2013 Annual Prayer Breakfast. His tireless service with the Church of God in Christ has served the North Texas community and the Nation for over six decades,” said Congresswoman Johnson.

Joel Allison, President and CEO of Baylor Health

Care System, also offered remarks during the prayer breakfast.

“Congresswoman Johnson has always been there for those who are in need of help. She has always been there for the downtrodden. We are grateful for her leadership,” said President Allison.

More than one hundred leaders of the North Texas faith-based community were in attendance and discussed the importance of providing assistance to those that are poverty-stricken in Dallas. A diverse group of faith leaders from the Baptist, Church of God in Christ, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, and Hindu communities attended the prayer breakfast.

Last Day to register to vote in May Election is April 11

Elections are scheduled throughout Texas on Saturday, May 11. Eligible Texans who are not registered to vote must register by April 11 to vote in the May

11 election. The Early Voting period is April 29 – May 7. The General Election will be held Saturday, May 11 from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

For more information visit the election web pages for Dallas, Collin and Denton counties or visit www.VoteTexas.gov.

Texas State Home School Basketball Championship comes to Frisco, TX

The Home School Athletic Association (HSAA) will host the 22nd Annual Texas Home School State Basketball Championship this week at the Frisco Fieldhouse, 6155 Sports Village Road, Frisco, Texas. Beginning on Thursday, Feb. 21 teams across the state will compete for the state title in their respective divisions.

“The tournament has grown considerably since coming to Dallas and hosted by HSAA,” says Tim Day, tournament director and vice president of the North Dallas-based HSAA. “The first year we hosted the tournament, just over 60 teams competed. Since then, we’ve experienced considerable growth, almost tripling in size since we took over the tournament 5 years ago.”

Day anticipates approximately 3,000 people to attend the tournament, which includes several college scouts who have found the

event to be a great opportunity to observe potential college stars. One such rising star is Houston homeschool star Justin Jackson (junior) who was named by ESPN as one of the top 25 high school players in the country. Another player to watch is Conroe’s Ryan Kemrite (senior), who has already signed with Division I Liberty University. On the girls’ side, the THESA Riders from Fort Worth has won five (5) straight state titles and is led by senior Melody Williams (University of Louisiana-Lafayette).

The Texas State Tournament is one of seven re-

gional tournaments in partnership with the Nationals organization (NCHBC). Results from the Texas State tournament will be used for seeding purposes at the National tournament held in Springfield, Missouri in March.

All championship games will be played on Saturday, February 23 at Heritage High School, 14040 Eldorado Parkway, Frisco. Prior to the Boys Varsity championship game, a 3-point shooting contest will be held.

For more information about the tournament, visit: www.thssbc.com.



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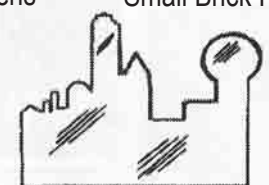
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UNCF'S 14th "Red, Hot & Snazzy" Gala to benefit Texas HBCUs and students

DALLAS - The North Texas area office of UNCF—the United Negro College Fund—the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization, will host its 14th annual Red, Hot & Snazzy benefit gala on Saturday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Dallas. The elegant affair will include a reception, red carpet arrivals, silent and live auctions, seated dinner, dancing and

sented to Alliance Data for their dedication to education.

North Dallas Gazette readers can register to win two tickets to the gala at Facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette.

A signature DFW metroplex event, the Red, Hot & Snazzy Gala benefits UNCF's Texas based member institutions and scholarships for low income students. Annually, UNCF supports 60,000 students at

member colleges & universities. that will help them continue to play a critical role in our communities.

"These students are our future. We are very grateful to those who've invested in UNCF's higher education mission by sponsoring our gala," said UNCF's Area Development Director Diane Stephenson. "Funds raised will help our colleges continue to play a critical role in our communities" she added.

we live and work. For over 40 years, we've been a supporter of UNCF, providing nearly \$1.6 million in donations to affiliates across the country," said Gala Chair Miki Woodard, vice president of philanthropy for jcpenny. "We are honored to continue our support as a sponsor of UNCF's annual gala which helps to raise awareness and much needed scholarships for financially challenged."

The Mistress of Ceremonies will be Fox 4 News Anchor Clarice Tinsley. State Senator Royce West and UNCF President/CEO Dr. Michael Lomax will make remarks. Local radio & TV personalities will serve as celebrity auctioneers during the Live Auction. Recording artist Toni



Redd will perform during the reception. Many local dignitaries and celebrities are expected to participate during the "red carpet opening".

Gala sponsors include, American Airlines, Citi, jcpenny, Ben E. Keith Beverage Distributors, BNSF Railway, Frito-Lay, Inc., Greyhound Lines, Kroger, Mary Kay Inc., Nationwide Insurance, Neiman Marcus,

Parrish Restaurants, Rent-A-Center, Wal-Mart and Wells Fargo.

Sponsorship packages start at \$5,000. Reserved tables for 10 are \$2,500 and individual tickets are \$200. To purchase tables, tickets or to make a donation, please contact the Dallas office of UNCF at 972-234-1007. For more information visit www.uncf.org/dallas.

Visit NorthDallasGazette.com to register to win tickets to the UNCF Gala and enjoy live performance by The Ohio Players!

a live concert performance by popular R&B legends The Ohio Players. UNCF's Excellence in Education award will be pre-

900 U.S. colleges and universities. In addition to raising funds for scholarships, proceeds provide vital financial support for UNCF's

"As a company founded on the Golden Rule, jcpenny has a strong legacy of giving back and supporting the communities in which

GISD honoring Board of Trustees in February

Garland ISD's School Board Trustees are responsible for 58,000 students, 7,300 employees, 72 campuses and an annual budget of \$383 million. While Trustees dedicate countless hours as advisors, decision makers, problem solvers and supporters of the district, they receive no compensation for their work to ensure excellence in education.

That is why GISD has designated February as School Board Appreciation Month.

"It's more important than ever before that we show support for public education," said Gary Reeves, interim superintendent. "Board members face critical challenges in their roles as advocates, but they continue to stand strong and guard against anything that threat-

ens to undermine the success of our public schools."

GISD Trustees include President Linda Griffin, Vice President Larry Glick, Secretary Cindy Castaneda, Assistant Secretary Rick Lambert and members Scott Luna and Steve Knagg. Combined, the group has 36 years of experience.

"Our district benefits from the contributions of

these local citizens who truly care about our kids," Reeves

said. "We applaud their willingness to serve."

Serving as a crucial link
See TRUSTEES, Page 7

American Airlines & USAirways merger expected to be announced

BY RUTH FERGUSON,
NDG EDITOR

It is a new day in DFW and soon in the skies, as American Airlines is expected to finally announce the company's merger with USAirways following approval by their respective Board of Directors Wednesday night. As of late Wednesday evening, the official announcement was not expected until Thursday, but CNN and others are reporting the boards for the two companies have agreed to the merger.

American Airlines has deep ties to the Dallas Fort Worth community and it is unclear how the



merger will impact jobs or airfares. It is not believed to have a great impact initially, because working out all the details can take up to a year. Also, American recently agreed to terms with

their various unions, likely with the merger in mind.

As far as airfares go, having less players could lead to higher prices but until the dust settles, no one knows for sure.

MHA Annual/Five Year Plan Input Opportunities

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice of Public Hearing on MHA Agency Plan Amendment March 5, 2013 at 5:30pm * McKinney Housing Authority Main Office

The McKinney Housing Authority has approval from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to convert Newsome Homes Apartments from Public Housing to the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program. Conversion under RAD is considered a significant amendment to the MHA Annual/Five Year Plan. In accordance with 24 CFR Part 903 for PHA Plan Amendments, MHA will hold public hearings on March 5, 2013 to receive comments regarding the proposed significant amendment.

A draft of the proposed Significant Amendment is available for review on the MHA Website (mckinneyha.org) and at the MHA main office located at: 1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX.

You can submit comments by hand delivery, mail, or email to McKinney Housing Authority Main Office; 1200 North Tennessee Street; Attn: Roslyn Miller; McKinney, TX 75069 or rmiller@mckinneyha.org. The final public hearing for plan adoption will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 5:30pm - McKinney Housing Authority community center.

Notice of Public Hearing on MHA Agency 2013 Annual/5-Year Plan Input Opportunity

A draft of the proposed Annual/Five Year Plan will be available for review on the MHA Website (mckinneyha.org) and at the MHA main office located at: 1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX on February 28, 2013.

You can submit comments by hand delivery, mail, or email to McKinney Housing Authority Main Office; 1200 North Tennessee Street; Attn: Roslyn Miller; McKinney, TX 75069 or rmiller@mckinneyha.org. The final public hearing for plan adoption will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2013 at 5:30pm - McKinney Housing Authority community center.

Fred Moses running for Mayor of Plano

Fred Moses, longtime resident and businessman in the City of Plano, has kicked off his campaign for Mayor of Plano. His wife of 43 years, Mазzie, and Moses have lived in Plano for 33 years.

He started his business in Plano 28 years ago, and believes he knows the benefits of having his business in Plano. According to Moses, factors include the people; the businesses and the school system. Together they make Plano an ideal choice for families and businesses.

Moses has outlined the following goals if elected as Mayor:

Keep taxes low by working to expand business and revenue base.

Support great school system by supporting the great work that the School Board leaders are doing.



Fred Moses

Work with City Council and citizens to develop a plan to address the needs of the aging city and maintain the quality of the city with the high standards that have come to be enjoyed.

Achievements by Moses of the years include:

A Member and ordained Associate Minister of the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Plano; Moses started the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration in Plano.

One of the founders of the Plano Community Forum and served as its President for the first four years.

Board member and President of the Plano Community Home serving seniors.

Plano Chamber of Commerce Executive Board for 7 years and Chairman of the Board in 1994; the year Plano was nationally recognized as an All-American City.

Member and Past President of the Plano Economic Development Board.

Treasurer of the Plano Day Care Center Board since 1984.

Moses has been recognized for leadership and contributions to the Plano community:

2012 Tom Landry Leadership Award by Dallas Baptist University.

See MOSES, Page 8

TRUSTEES, continued from Page 6



GISD School Board Trustees (l-r) Vice President Larry Glick, President Linda Griffin, Assistant Secretary Larry Glick, Trustee Steve Knagg, Secretary Cindy Castaneda, and Trustee Scott Luna

between the community and classrooms, school board members are elected by their constituents and generously give of themselves to ensure that decisions directly affecting local schools are made by district stakeholders. Their job is to establish a vision for GISD, design a structure to achieve that vision, craft policies, hire quality staff members, and recognize outstanding programs. Trustees

are also deeply involved in community and school activities, promoting a shared vision of student achievement.

In recognition of this service, Garland ISD honored its school board at the Feb. 12 during a work session in the Harris Hill Administration Building.

State leaders are also recognizing GISD Trustees. Governor Rick Perry declared January as Na-

tional School Board Recognition Month, and House of Representatives member Jeb Hensarling issued a statement saying, "I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to all Garland school board members for their continued dedication and hard work. Their contribution to the education of our children is truly helping to shape the future of our communities and our Nation."

Garland wins 2013 United Way Award

GARLAND - The United Way of Metropolitan Dallas recognized The City of Garland as a recipient of the LIVE UNITED Award for Public Services. By engaging city employees to coordinate fundraising activities to help support the United Way, more than \$68,000 was raised during 2012.

The campaign kicked off with a breakfast, and throughout the year, in-

cluded departmental bake sales, raffles, and popcorn sales. In addition, city employees could buy a Jeans Day pass to use on a workday other than Casual Friday. Also, Garland employees supporting the campaign gave presentations to help make coworkers aware of payroll deduction pledges to support the United Way.

In announcing the 2013 UW awards, Jennifer

Sampson, President and CEO of United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, explained, "Because of your organization's support, more students will graduate and succeed, more families will leave poverty permanently and more people will live healthy, responsible lives."

The City Garland will join other UW award winners at the Heroes of Hope celebration on February 19.

Johnson submits a bill to recognize students receiving academic scholarships

Last week State Rep. Eric Johnson (D-Dallas) filed HCR 40, which will designate a day to honor Texas students who have been awarded academic scholarships to attend college.

"While I want to congratulate those Texans who

signed their letters of intent to play football yesterday, I believe it is equally important to recognize those students who have worked hard off the field," said Representative Johnson. "With this resolution, I hope to encourage communities across the state to hold cere-

monies where these fine young Texans can get the recognition that they deserve."

HCR 40 would designate the Saturday before NCAA national signing day as Texas Academic College Scholarship Day.

Salute to Black History Month

BY CARRENZA THURMOND JR.

Willie C. Cochran, Pastor of the South Dallas Faith Base Outreach Ministry, takes pride in Black History Month. His church is located at 2822 Tanner St. in South Dallas.

Through his working ministry of faith, Willie has helped many people in his community to achieve higher goals in life, and to accept the significance of Black History Month. Willie says, "If we don't study the history of our people, how are we to achieve the future?"

Pastor Cochran however, is now in the process of building a larger church in South Dallas, on land that he has already purchased. He's



Willie C. Cochran, Pastor of the South Dallas Faith Base Outreach Ministry

reaching out to all people who would like to donate toward building a new structure that will serve the purpose of saving many lost souls in the South Dallas Community, who need salvation and help to survive in these difficult days in time.

In regard to the new structure being built, Willie says, "There won't be any need to go elsewhere for good organized community services. When you or a loved one need help, this new building could provide the assistance needed for you to make it in your time of need.

Organizations Activities:

•Coordinate visitation to disabled and elderly people.

•Help family, with funerals and funeral sermon speeches, devotion readings when called upon to do so.

•Work with young children and help them to read or write.

•Minister to college students and young people by phone are in person when making life decisions.

•Sharing information about organizations, jobs, educational programs, medical and dental aid, shelters for public help, phone numbers, address to emergency services, where to get food, hot meals and clothing.

•Housing crisis centers for homeless families such as single parents with children.

•Information for abused women and children victims of domestic violence.

•Numbers for runaways and youth to other outreach ministries.

•To sponsor people who are trying to quit drugs and alcohol.

•Try to help ex offenders who can't find work and to provide services to homeless and indigent individuals.

•Help with transportation when funds are available.

If you would like to do-

nate or receive services, please call Pastor Willie C. Cochran at 214-428-2390.

Come see the all new rental properties at Bexar Street Village located in South Dallas!

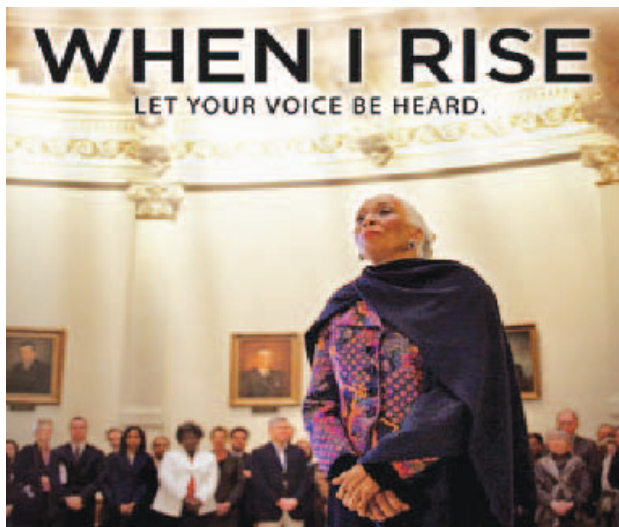
These are all new apartments and houses for rent. Come see the major change.

Call for more info at 214-421-2170.

Celebrating Black History Month in film

When I Rise

Dallas Film Society, the Video Association of Dallas, and TIFN, present *When I Rise* at the Angelika, Dallas on Feb. 20.



When I Rise is a feature-length documentary about Barbara Smith Conrad, a gifted University of Texas music student who finds herself at the epicenter of racial controversy, struggling against the odds and ultimately ascending to the heights of international opera. Executive Director, Don Carleton, will be in attendance.

Mighty Times:

Remembering Rosa Parks
Join the South Dallas Cultural Center as they celebrate Mrs. Rosa Parks 100th birthday and the re-



games, healthy snacks and popular of music from 1963.

So you think you know Rosa Parks? Actually most of us know only the media driven image of a timid little Black lady who did not want to stand up on the bus because she was tired and her feet were hurting. That is not simply who she was, as the film will spotlight.

Mrs. Parks was a life-long activist part of an organized movement to end legally sanctioned racial discrimination. Her courage, activism and defiance, changed the way of life for hundreds of thousands and the U.S. Postal Service unveiled a stamp honoring her legacy on Dec. 4, her 100th birthday.

cent unveiling of a US Postal stamp in her honor. The event will be hosted at the Aya Senior Housing located at 2607 Jefferies St in South Dallas at 10 a.m. on Feb. 23.

Seniors and guests will enjoy the award winning film *A Mighty Times: Legacy of Rosa Parks* followed by civil rights trivia

MOSES, continued from Page 7

The LULAC Community Service Award;

Reelected in 2012 as Chairman of the Collin County Republican Party;

The 2008 Community Leadership Award by the Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce;

2007 Board Leadership Award from the Texas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (TAHSA) when Chairman of the Plano Community Home board;

The Living Legend Award by Collin College in 2006.

Appointed by Governor Bush to the General Service Commission of Texas and currently serving as Commissioner of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations Commission under the appointment of Governor Perry.

STEWART, continued from Page 2

As Alpha Xi Omega Chapter celebrates more than 80 years, it is poised and ready to deliver even greater service to the Community. This large group of

exceptionally talented, college-educated African American women is committed to serving humankind and improving the quality of life for all.

Event tickets are \$60.00 and available via presale only from any member. For more information please contact info@akaaxo.org.

The History of the Buffalo Soldiers in Texas presentation in Irving on Saturday

The Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Center will present a special Buffalo Soldier event. Rosioletta "Lee" Reed will present the history of the Buffalo Soldiers in Texas and the individual story of Cathay Williams, the only documented female Buffalo Soldier.

The Museums will be open for tours from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. with the special program beginning at 2 p.m. Children and adults can also join in a



Buffalo soldiers of the 25th Infantry, some wearing buffalo robes, Ft. Keogh, Montana. Photo credit: WikiMedia

scavenger hunt for historic facts at the museum. Free and for all ages.

The event is scheduled for 2 – 3 p.m. on

Saturday, Feb. 16 at the Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Center located at 3925 Jackson St. in Irving.

FREE SCREENING WEDNESDAY FEB. 20TH!



Visit NorthDallasGazette.com for the link and code to a free screening next Wednesday for *Snitch* at AMC NorthPark @ 7:30 p.m. *Snitch* opens in theaters on Feb. 22.

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President Obama urges Congress "to finish the job" in State of the Union

The following is an excerpt of President Barack Obama's State of the Union address as prepared for delivery on Feb. 12, 2013.

"Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, fellow citizens:

Fifty-one years ago, John F. Kennedy declared to this Chamber that "the Constitution makes us not rivals for power but partners for progress...It is my task," he said, "to report the State of the Union – to improve it is the task of us all."

Tonight, thanks to the grit and determination of the American people, there is much progress to report. After a decade of grinding war, our brave men and women in uniform are coming home. After years of grueling recession, our businesses have created over six million new jobs. We buy more American cars than we have in five years, and less foreign oil than we have in twenty. Our housing market is healing, our stock market is rebounding, and consumers, patients, and homeowners enjoy stronger protections than ever before.

Together, we have cleared away the rubble of crisis, and can say with renewed confidence that the state of our union is stronger.

But we gather here knowing that there are millions of Americans whose hard work and dedication have not yet been rewarded. Our economy is adding jobs – but too many people still can't find full-time employment. Corporate profits have rocketed to all-time highs – but for more than a decade, wages and incomes have barely budged.

It is our generation's task, then, to reignite the true engine of America's economic growth – a rising, thriving middle class.

It is our unfinished task to restore the basic bargain that built this country – the idea that if you work hard and meet your responsibilities, you can get ahead, no matter where you come from, what you look like, or who you love.

It is our unfinished task to make sure that this government works on behalf of the many, and not just the few; that it encourages free enterprise, rewards individual initiative, and opens the doors of opportunity to every child across this great nation.

The American people don't expect government to solve every problem. They don't expect those of us in this chamber to agree on every issue. But they do expect us to put the nation's interests before party. They do expect us to forge reasonable compromise where we can. For they know that America moves forward only when we do so together; and that the responsibility of improving this union remains the task of us all.

Our work must begin by making some basic decisions about our budget – decisions that will have a huge impact on the strength of our recovery.

Over the last few years, both parties have worked together to reduce the deficit by more than \$2.5 trillion – mostly through spending cuts, but also by raising tax rates on the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans. As a result, we are more than halfway towards the goal of \$4 trillion in deficit reduction that economists say we need to stabilize our finances.

Now we need to finish the job. And the question is, how?

In 2011, Congress passed a law saying that if both parties couldn't agree on a plan to reach our deficit goal, about a trillion dollars' worth of budget

cuts would automatically go into effect this year. These sudden, harsh, arbitrary cuts would jeopardize our military readiness. They'd devastate priorities like education, energy, and medical research. They would certainly slow our recovery, and cost us hundreds of thousands of jobs. That's why Democrats, Republicans, business leaders, and economists have already said that these cuts, known here in Washington as "the sequester," are a really bad idea.

Now, some in this Congress have proposed preventing only the defense cuts by making even bigger cuts to things like education and job training; Medicare and Social Security benefits.

That idea is even worse. Yes, the biggest driver of our long-term debt is the rising cost of health care for an aging population. And those of us who care deeply about programs like Medicare must embrace the need for modest reforms – otherwise, our retirement programs will crowd out the investments we need for our children, and jeopardize the promise of a secure retirement for future generations.

But we can't ask senior citizens and working families to shoulder the entire burden of deficit reduction while asking nothing more from the wealthiest and most powerful. We won't grow the middle class simply by shifting the cost of health care or college onto families that are already struggling, or by forcing communities to lay off more teachers, cops, and firefighters. Most Americans – Democrats, Republicans, and Independents – understand that we can't just cut our way to prosperity. They know that broad-based economic growth requires a balanced approach



President Barack Obama

to deficit reduction, with spending cuts and revenue, and with everybody doing their fair share. And that's the approach I offer tonight.

On Medicare, I'm prepared to enact reforms that will achieve the same amount of health care savings by the beginning of the next decade as the reforms proposed by the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles commission. Already, the Affordable Care Act is helping to slow the growth of health care costs. The reforms I'm proposing go even further. We'll reduce taxpayer subsidies to prescription drug companies and ask more from the wealthiest seniors. We'll bring down costs by changing the way our government pays for Medicare, because our medical bills shouldn't be based on the number of tests ordered or days spent in the hospital – they should be based on the quality of care that our seniors receive. And I am open to additional reforms from both parties, so long as they don't violate the guarantee of a secure retirement. Our government shouldn't make promises we cannot keep – but we must keep the promises we've already made.

To hit the rest of our deficit reduction target, we should do what leaders in both parties have already

suggested, and save hundreds of billions of dollars by getting rid of tax loopholes and deductions for the well-off and well-connected. After all, why would we choose to make deeper cuts to education and Medicare just to protect special interest tax breaks? How is that fair? How does that promote growth?

Now is our best chance for bipartisan, comprehensive tax reform that encourages job creation and helps bring down the deficit. The American people deserve a tax code that helps small businesses spend less time filling out complicated forms, and more time expanding and hiring; a tax code that ensures billionaires with high-powered accountants can't pay a lower rate than their hard-working secretaries; a tax code that lowers incentives to move jobs overseas, and lowers tax rates for businesses and manufacturers that create jobs right here in America. That's what tax reform can deliver. That's what we can do together.

I realize that tax reform and entitlement reform won't be easy. The politics will be hard for both sides. None of us will get 100 percent of what we want. But the alternative will cost us jobs, hurt our economy, and visit hardship on mil-

lions of hardworking Americans. So let's set party interests aside, and work to pass a budget that replaces reckless cuts with smart savings and wise investments in our future. And let's do it without the brinksmanship that stresses consumers and scares off investors. The greatest nation on Earth cannot keep conducting its business by drifting from one manufactured crisis to the next. Let's agree, right here, right now, to keep the people's government open, pay our bills on time, and always uphold the full faith and credit of the United States of America. The American people have worked too hard, for too long, rebuilding from one crisis to see their elected officials cause another.

Now, most of us agree that a plan to reduce the deficit must be part of our agenda. But let's be clear: deficit reduction alone is not an economic plan. A growing economy that creates good, middle-class jobs – that must be the North Star that guides our efforts. Every day, we should ask ourselves three questions as a nation: How do we attract more jobs to our shores? How do we equip our people with the skills needed to do those jobs? And how do we make sure that hard work leads to a decent living?"

NDG Gossip: Rapper DMX arrested for driving without license

BY KENDRIA BROWN,
NDG INTERN

Rapper DMX was arrested for driving without a license in South Carolina. DMX, aka as Earl Simmons, was leaving a gas station when he was taken to jail and released upon paying his fine. The rapper reportedly had his 5-month-old daughter in the car with him at the time of his arrest.

"They followed me, watched me at the gas station get in the car. And he followed me around the corner, pulled me over. Why, first of all, he could have pulled me over at the gas station as soon as I got in the car. He didn't do that," stated DMX.

DMX went on, "He followed me around the corner, pulled me over,



DMX

Photo: nydaily news

knew I didn't have a license, put the 'cuffs on me, brought me here. I paid money when I could have just paid money right there on the spot. It's basically just five hours wasted for nothing, you know," he added. "I don't

have a court date, I don't have a court appearance. Yeah. I just paid the money and went about my way, and I had my 5-month-old daughter in the car."

DMX had tickets owed and reportedly had

only a state ID card on him, and no license. He had previously served time behind bars when his probation was revoked for the same reason- driving without a license- and not submitting to a drug test.

Is A Good Day to Die Hard just a love story – with guns and bombs?

BY RUTH FERGUSON,
NDG EDITOR

John McClane (Bruce Willis) is back and fans that love guns blazing, bombs exploding, incredible car crashes will be delighted. *A Good Day to Die Hard* delivers all of that in spades. The unique plan by 20th Century Fox to open the movie on Valentine's Day lends itself to the idea that at its core the movie is a love story. OK maybe so, but it is just not the type of love story Cupid had in mind. The primary narrative of the action flick is about family love.

John McClane has not seen his son estranged Jack (Jai Courtney) in quite a while. A few years to be exact, and he had no idea Jack is now a spy for the CIA. When his law enforcement buddy did a bit of digging and discovered Jack was slated to go on trial in Russia, he left that little detail out.

Following a touching moment with his daughter at the airport in the U.S. we next see John in Russia and



his timing is perfect. After he is serenaded by a Frank Sinatra loving taxi driver, John conveniently arrives at the courthouse right before the building explodes and his son comes out in shackles, with a gun (which he points in his father's face) and a fellow escaping Russian prisoner.

And then the fun begins.

Between John McClane's quips and smirks as he drives like a demon through the streets of Russia – while on the phone with his daughter – you quickly realize this movie has no intention of taking itself serious. So why

should you, just sit back and enjoy the ride. Don't over think it. Do not ask yourself how a man his age – heck ANY HUMAN BEING – could survive so many vehicle crashes in 10 minutes and not even have a limp, you will deprive yourself of adrenaline rushing fun.

I am convinced the movie was set in Russia AFTER a writer came up with the tagline: "Yippee-ki-yay Mother Russia!" It is just that unimportant to the fifth film in the *Die Hard* series.

Bottom line is that in this sequel John's son is all grown up and his Daddy is coming to rescue him. Because as John says in the midst of the climatic battle where he is about dangle from a helicopter, "The things we do for our kids."

Sure I could tell you more, but you don't need to know anything else. If you love super loud explosions, impressive CGI and the smart aleck smirk of Bruce Willis this R-rated flick is for you.



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NDG's Love Train concert winners!

Congratulations to two of our winners for tickets to see Patti Labelle and company at the Love Train show on Valentine's night at the American Air-



Karen Shodeke

lines Center. Karen Shodeke and Stefanie Pointer. NDG hopes you have a great time at the show listening to the melodies of Ms. Patti!

Performers wanted for talent showcase to celebrate Black History Month

The MLK Jr. Community Center is hosting a talent showcase for the Black History Month on Friday, March 1. Students attending elementary, middle and high schools are invited to audition for the

opportunity to perform at the show.

If you are interested, come to the audition on Saturday, Feb. 16 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. Qualified perform-

ers will be notified by phone call if they made the talent show on March 1.

For more information and rules, please go to the MLK Jr. Community Center website, www.mlkcelebrationdallas.org.

Do you have the new Next Big Thing product?

Dallas Market Center are accepting entries for The Next Big Thing, its national product search contest. Three finalists will show their products in front of more than 50,000 attendees during the Dallas Temp Show, to be held June 20-23 during the Total Home & Gift Market, June 19-25.

The contest is "for anyone who has the next hot product" - a product designer, entrepreneur, artist, stay-at-home mom, a next-door neighbor or any other creative mind. It offers the opportunity for those with innovative

products to make their dreams a reality, according to a press release.

"The Next Big Thing has proven to be a high profile vehicle for introducing new home or gift products to a large audience," said Bill Winsor, president and CEO, Dallas Market Center. "Finalists meet retailers from throughout the world and many have gone on to great success. Our marketplace welcomes fresh, innovative products through the contest and from all of our exhibiting companies."

The Next Big Thing allows three contest final-

ists, whether companies or individuals, to show their product in front of domestic and international retail buyers at Dallas Market Center. Products should be new and unique and cannot have been shown in retail or wholesale prior to January 2012. Products can be gift, gadget, or home items.

The finished product should be "distinctive with an outstanding design and concept." Applications can be downloaded at dallas-marketcenter.com/contests/thing. Entries should be submitted via email

See BIG, Page 15

Prosper's inspectors name Builder of the Year winners

PROSPER - The Town of Prosper's Inspections Division has released the name of the 2012 Builder of the Year along with two runners up, according to Wayne Snell, Prosper's Building Official.

"Our department is extremely pleased to recognize the builders that exemplify the kind of craftsmanship and attention to detail that our residents deserve and expect. Our inspectors find that, for the most part, builders who come to Prosper to conduct their business do so in a skilled and professional manner," he said.

The 2012 Builder of the Year is Mike Reynolds with Beazer Homes. The first runner-up is Mark Covington with Drees Homes, and the second runner-up is Jerry David with Bloomfield Homes.

The three were chosen from among a field of candidates who were all nominated for the honor based on the quality of work in the building industry, consistency in being ready for inspection when called for, minimal number of code violations during inspection process, and productivity and excellence of work done by each builder.

"The three finalists and their eventual ranking were determined by members of the Town's Building Inspection team. As in all previous years that we've had this award, the competition was at a very high level. The three awardees were among a solid group of builders who continue to strive for the highest in their industry," said Snell.

The winners were recognized at the Feb. 12 meeting of the Town Council. Reynolds received a plaque commemorating his accomplishment.

TAX, continued from Page 1

may not have accumulated enough Social Security credits to qualify for a benefit by the time the other is ready to retire.

- Women often worry that the couple hasn't saved enough since they're statistically likely to survive their spouses - often for a decade or more.

- One spouse must continue working to supply employer-provided medical coverage until both reach Medicare eligibility age (65 in most cases).

- One spouse is just hitting his or her stride, career-wise, and isn't ready to slow down.

Among couples who have managed to save enough to retire together, when it comes time to pull the trigger many realize they haven't fully agreed on where or how to retire; or they discover that their wishes have diverged over the years. This can put tremendous strain on a marriage if you're not willing to compromise and talk things through.

Long before you actually retire, ask yourselves:

- Should we downsize to a smaller dwelling or even move to a retirement community?

- Sell the house, buy a trailer and live like nomads for a few years?

- Move to a warmer climate or to be nearer our grandchildren?

- Move to a state with lower taxes or cost of living?

- Start a small side business to keep money rolling in?

- Are we finished supporting our children financially?

Even before asking those tough questions, you already should have begun estimating your re-

tirement income needs. Social Security has a helpful online Retirement Estimator that can help (www.ssa.gov/estimator). After you've explored various retirement scenarios, consider hiring a financial planner to help work out an investment and savings game plan, or to at least review the one you've devised.

Along with the financial impact retirement will have on your marriage, keep in mind that this may be the first time that you've been together,

day in and day out. Many people are so consumed by their jobs that they haven't taken time to develop outside interests and hobbies. Well before retirement, you and your spouse should start exploring activities and networks of friends you can enjoy, both together and independently. Consider things like volunteer work, hobbies, athletic activities or even part-time employment if you miss the workplace interaction and need the money.

And finally, if your plan is to have one spouse continue working for a while, try living on only that one salary for a few months before retiring as an experiment. This will give you an inkling of how well you'll do financially and whether you might both need to keep working to amass more savings.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.

GALA, continued from Page 1

event, allowing all community school age children to dress up in their Sunday best, learning through entertainment while enjoying the dinner served. This is the one night a year in which all children in attendance are allowed to participate in a Creative Writing and Arts Project (participants are awarded during dinner) and dress in formal attire. The youth also can enjoy their adult peers offering entertainment for them, and offer an educational experience intended to encourage by learning about past achievements and spotlighting the

future they can help to create.

The organizers believe this year's theme, "Where Do We Go From Here," is so fitting following the election of the first African American President for a second term. So, where do we go from here?

This year the program will expand to feature diversity and unity. Irving's City Manager, Tommy Gonzalez will serve as the guest speaker. The event will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Bear Creek Community Church located at 2700 Finley Drive in Irving.

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Daily
Activity Time Highland Hills at Highland Hills Branch Library, 3624 Simpson Stuart Rd.; 214-670-0987

Personal Views: Texas Black Folk Artists at African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave.; 214-565-9026

Every Tuesday
Dallas Comedy House Open Mic at 2645 Commerce St; 214-741-4448

Through February 24
The Nacirema Society at African American Repertory Theater, 211 E. Pleasant Run in Desoto; 972-572-0998

Through March 3
Goodnight Moon at the Dallas Children's Theater brings a favorite book to

life. Savor the whimsical and rich world of a child's imagination with stars, air and noises everywhere! This fanciful poem of goodnight wishes comes to life as an extravaganza of enchantment, singing, dancing and puppetry. Rosewood Center for Family Arts at 5938 Skillman Street in Dallas.

February 15
South Irving Library Groundbreaking Ceremony at 601 Schulze Dr. at 10 a.m.

February 15-16
Audacity: A Celebration of American History at Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 South Tyler Street; 214-948-0716

February 12-24
Catch Me If You Can at Music Hall at Fair Park, 909 First Avenue at Parry; (855) 289-2856

February 14
Valentine's Day Chocolate Romance Tour, presented by Dallas by Chocolate at Times Ten Cellars, 6324 Prospect at 6-9 p.m.; 972-814-5997

February 15
Keith & Margo's 23rd An-

nual St. Valentine's Mas-
sacre at Omni Dallas Hotel at Park West, 1590 LBJ Freeway at 7- 11 p.m.; 972-263-5178

Garland Symphony Orchestra, Concert V at Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium; 972-926-0611

February 15
2nd Annual Mardi Gras Ball and Scholarship Fundraiser at Edison's, 1724 Cockrell Avenue in Dallas at 8 p.m.; Cost: \$55 per person; <http://xuladfw2ndmardigras-ball.eventbrite.com> or 504-915-5979

February 16
Rec 'N Motion: Okinawan Karate 1 p.m. at West Irving Library- Learn self-defense and advance karate moves in this martial arts demonstration class. Open to ages 5 and up.

Sierra Leone/African film: Stories from Lakka Beach at Fine Arts Theater, 115 N. Elm Street in Denton at 2 p.m.; Cost: \$8; info@thin-linefilmfest.com or 888-893-4560

Black History Library Live! with **Alfreda Rollins**

at Dallas Public Library Mountain Creek Branch, 6102 Mountain Creek Pkwy in Dallas at 3- 4:30 p.m.; Free to attend; (214) 670-6704

February 17
Chocolate Fantasy Tour, presented by Dallas by Chocolate at Empire Baking Company, 5450 W. Lovers Lane at 1-4:15 p.m.; (972) 814-5997

Lounge Dominioniare at event1013, 1013 15th St. in Plano at 6 p.m.; (214) 929-2328

February 18
GameChanger Leadership Summit at American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Avenue at 8 p.m.

Relay for Life of Las Colinas Kick OFF at Irving Bible Church, 2435 Kinwest Pkwy in Irving at 6:30-7:30 p.m.; (817) 319-3954

February 19
John Mackey - Conscious Capitalism at The Westin Galleria Dallas, 13340 Dallas Parkway at 11:30 a.m.; (214) 965-8400

Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth at Verizon Theater in Grand Prairie at 8 p.m.

February 20
Orlando Magic vs. Dallas Mavericks at American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Avenue at 7:30 p.m.; (214) 222-3687

February 21
Sesame Street Live: Can't Stop Singing at Verizon Theater in Grand Prairie at 7 p.m.

February 22
A-WOW Bootcamp - Survival - Life Skills 2.0 at 6 p.m.; (214) 995-1927

P!nk at American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Avenue at 8 p.m.

February 23
UNCF's Red, Hot, & Snazzy Gala with *The Ohio Players* at Downtown Dallas Sheraton Hotel at 6 p.m.; 972-234-1007

February 28-March 23
"Death Takes A Holiday" by Garland Civic Theatre at Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre; 972-205-2790

March 2
Salutation of the Dawn at Zion Lutheran Church, 6121 East Lovers Lane at 7:30 p.m.

It's My Park Day at 1500 Marilla at 8 a.m.

March 3
Salutation of the Dawn at St. James Episcopal Church, 9845 McCree Road at 7:30 p.m.

March 6
Women In Leadership Luncheon; 11:30 am - 1:15 pm at the Richardson Woman's Club, 2005 North Cliffe Dr., Richardson 75080; Member \$35; Non-member \$55; Table \$250 (six seats)

March 9
The First Annual Changing Faces Changing Lives Charity Hair Show at 6-11 p.m. at Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. in Dallas. Info: www.charityhairshow.eventbrite.com, rcurrington@amoretransitional.org or 800-318-4284 ext. 101.

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Spirit Airlines hosting job fair in Westlake this weekend

Spirit Airlines is hosting open houses for new flight attendant jobs Feb. 16 and 17. The event is scheduled at the Dallas/Fort Worth Marriott Solana at 5 Village Circle in Westlake. Sign-in begins approximately one hour prior to each session and doors will close promptly at the following scheduled times: Saturday, Feb. 16 and Sunday, Feb. 17 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on both days.

Interested applicants should bring the following documents to gain entrance to the Open Houses:

- Resume
- Two forms of identification
- A current and valid passport or receipt of passport
- Names must be exact on passport and social security card
- Copies of social security card, driver's li-

cense and passport, and bring originals

- Proof of eligibility to work in the U.S.
- A copy of your high school diploma or GED

Spirit introduced its ultra low fares at DFW in May of 2011 and has continued to grow its operations there ever since. Today Spirit offers non-stop service to 19 destinations from DFW, including Atlanta, Baltimore/Wash-

ington, Boston, Chicago-O'Hare, Denver, Detroit, Fort Lauderdale, Fort Myers, Houston-Bush Intercontinental, Las Vegas, Myrtle Beach, New Orleans, New York-LaGuardia, Orlando, Phoenix/Mesa, Portland (Oregon), San Diego, Tampa, Toluca/Mexico City.

In the next several months, Spirit is adding nonstop service to the following cities bringing the

total number of nonstop destinations from DFW to 26:

- Minneapolis/St. Paul – April 4, 2013
- Philadelphia – April 4, 2013
- Los Angeles – April 25, 2013

• Oakland/San Francisco – April 25, 2013

• Cancun, Mexico – April 25, 2013

• Los Cabos, Mexico – June 13, 2013

• Latrobe/Pittsburgh – June 14, 2013

Engineering Week attendees will explore science and math in Ft. Worth

Eager learners will get the chance to see how much fun science, technology, engineering and mathematics can be during 2013 Engineers Week at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History Feb. 19-23.

Future engineers will take part in a week of discovery, building, experimentation and exploration through activities such as Lights, Camera, Chroma Key to experience the technology first hand with the help of IBM engineers, Flight Simulator to try their hand at flying a Lockheed Martin fighter, Electronics Dissection totake apart simple electronics and reveal interesting insides and Electrical Investigations to explore electricity and learn about semiconductors with Mouser Electronics.

"There's no better feeling than having a solid company behind you - one that shares a genuine excitement for advancing innovation," said Van A. Romans, President of the Museum of Science and History. "To remain at the forefront of innovation, we need to inspire a new generation toward rewarding engineering

careers. Mouser is a valued sponsor and a true partner."

Additional activities include KEVA® Competition to build the tallest, strongest structure possible, Digital Trail to learn how ranchers use technology and engineering to protect their herds and Telescopic Engineering to learn the ins and outs of how telescopes work with the Noble Planetarium staff.

Engineer's Week will also feature Engineer Meet and Greet where engineers from a variety of fields will be on hand to answer the toughest and most interesting questions and Girls Engineering Day Saturday, Feb. 23 for special activities created with girls in mind.

"National Engineers Week is an excellent opportunity for our wonderful Museum to partner together with local businesses to showcase the field of engineering and demonstrate its impact on our everyday lives," said Romans.

E Week is a national event founded in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers. It comprises a formal coalition of more than 100 engineering, education,

and cultural societies dedicated to raising awareness of engineer's positive contributions to our quality of life. E Week activities will be offered Tuesday-Wednesday, Feb. 19-20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 23 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. E Week is included with paid exhibit admission and is sponsored locally by Lockheed Martin, IBM, Mouser Electronics and Chase.

"Chase is proud to be a sponsor of the Museum's National Engineering Week program," said Todd Ritterbusch, Fort Worth Market President of the bank. "The Museum has earned its first-rate reputation for providing inspiring educational opportunities for our children. Chase celebrates the innovative programs and activities being offered this week. They provide an essential building block in developing tomorrow's engineering professionals and leaders."

For more information on Engineer's Week, visit www.eweek.org.

RODGERS, continued from Page 2

work, is backed by science and excludes all unnecessary ingredients such as fragrances and preservatives."

Dr. Rodgers and the Skin Specialists of Addison team of board-certified dermatologists and nurse practitioners will host an "Evening of Beauty" product preview party on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013 that will feature an exciting SUGOI runway show where the skin care products will

make their red carpet premier alongside beautiful models. This swanky evening of posh and pampering will also include complimentary hors d'oeuvres prepared by Award-winning Chef Keith "Buttens" Hicks, delectable desserts, crisp champagne and cosmetic beauty treatments that include Coolsculpting, chemical peels, Botox and wrinkle fillers. Guests can also enjoy over \$5000 worth

of product giveaways, door prizes and opportunities to win free dermatological services. There is no cost to attend the "Evening of Beauty" preview event, however a RSVP is required and can be made at ncarroll@tiffanydale.com.

Dr. Rodgers resides in Dallas, Texas with her husband and business partner, Tarik and two young sons, Camden and Carter.

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February 2013

For those in need and live in the 75074 and 75075 Zip Codes area, CALL TODAY about Avenue F Family Health Center's (AFFHC) Community Clinic. You can also set an appointment at 214-380-9713. Read this information on the following websites: www.affhc.org and/or www.avefchurchofchrist.org

Mondays – Fridays

Call 972-423-8833 for AFFECT, Inc. or email: AFFEC-TxInc@aol.com for counseling services, resources and assistance for job readiness and training programs for individuals. For couples we offer services for marital relationships and for ex-offenders we offer programs for getting back into the work force.

February 17, 2013 8 a.m.

You're invited to our Early Morning Worship Service; stay for Bible Classes at 9:30 a.m. and for Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.

**Brother Ramon Hodridge,
Minister of Education
1026 Avenue F
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833**

www.avefchurchofchrist.org

**BIBLE WAY
COMMUNITY
BAPTIST CHURCH**

February 15, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Women's Fellowship as we praise God; worship Him and Study His Word.

February 16, 9 a.m.

Join us for Men's Fellowship as we worship and praise God; and we study His Word.

February 17, 9:35 a.m.

You're invited to our Sunday School at 9 a.m. and to stay for Morning Worship at 11 a.m. as we worship and praise God.

February 20, 7 p.m.

Come to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word and help us to praise and worship His holy name.

Also bring your children to our Wednesday Night Children Program, three things are incorporated when they come, children learn and they play and have fun.

**Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Sr.
Senior Pastor
4215 N. Greenview Drive
Irving, TX 75062
972-257-3766
www.biblewayirving.org**

**CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH
IN RICHARDSON**

February 17, 11 a.m.

You're invited to celebrate our 14th Anniversary with guest speaker Rev. Stephen Brown from Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church.

February 20, 7:30 p.m.

Come to Bible Study as we go further in and deeper down into God's Word and we give Him all of the glory, honor and praise.

**Dr. Terrence Autry,
Senior Pastor
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at Jupiter Road
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**Rev. Kwesi R. Kamau,
Senior Pastor
14120 Noel Road
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972-239-1120
www.cctof.org**

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February 2013

For those in need visit Helen's House Tuesdays and Fridays (exceptions are bad weather and holidays) to receive, to give, to comfort and to fellowship.

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

TheShip3C's Prayer Lines for those that are in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567 or they may be submitted via email to: prayerline@the-ship3c.org

February 17, 2013

Come and grow with us. You're invited to a new series of teaching, "Guaranteed Victory". God will "Equip, Elevate, and Empower" you; call the church for details.

February 20, 7 p.m.

Join us for our Church Wide Fasting each Wednesday (100% juice & water only); the fast begins at 12:01 am with our 1st prayer at 3:30 am; 2nd prayer at 12 Noon, and the closing prayer at 6 pm. Then join us for Wednesday Night Live in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall on Belmont Drive, with old school prayer and testimony. Also, come to our Corporate Prayer and our Kidz Zone (an environment to equip children to grow and to show God's love.)

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Senior Pastor
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Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org**

**PROFESSIONAL ACHIEV-
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LENCE (PACE)**

February 17, 3 p.m.

African American Read-In Pace has partnered with the Josey Ranch Branch of the Carrollton Public Library to host their annual Read-In in the Community room of the library at 1700 Keller Springs Road, in Carrollton, Texas. Guest speaker, Ms. Willie Burgs author of Reading Made Easy: 101 Ways to "Teach Your Child to Read like Pro" will read an excerpt from her book.

This is the 24th National African American Read-In of the Black Caucus of NCTE and NCTE. The Read-In is endorsed by the International Reading Association. Over a million readers of all ethnic groups from the United States, the District of Columbia, the West Indies, African countries, and more have participated over the years. The goal is to make the celebration of African American literacy a traditional part of Black History Month activities. For information, please contact: Historian Committee Chair – Tracey Richardson, csrich47@hotmail.com (469)585-6844

**SHILOH MBC
IN PLANO**

**February 17,
8 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

Join us in our Sunday Morning Worship Service. After both services ministers and deacons are available to meet with you for prayer or questions.

February 20, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Midweek Service as we worship and praise God.

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

**THE INSPIRING BODY
OF CHRIST CHURCH**

February 17, 7:30 a.m.
Join us as we worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

February 18, 7 p.m.

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

**Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S. Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.ibocjoy.org**

**WORD OF LIFE
CHURCH OF
GOD IN CHRIST**

Early Prayer, 5 a.m.

Join us in prayer early in the morning at 5 a.m. on Monday – Thursday at 1-661-673-8600, Code # 142219 and please put your phone on mute. God will meet you and prayer does change people, things and situations.

February 17, 9:30 a.m.

Join us for Sunday School with Elder/Superintendent Greg Mason; Sis. Vicki Mason, adult class teacher and Evangelist Elizabeth McAfee, children class teacher and Director of our children's choir. Then stay for Morning Service at 11 a.m. as we worship, honor and praise God for His goodness.

February 19, 7:30 p.m.

You're invited to our School of The Prophets as Pastor Voss; who is also a prophet, bring the Word of God; and we worship and praise His Holy name.

**Dr. Gregory E. Voss,
Senior Pastor
2765 Trinity Mills Road
Building 300
Carrollton, TX 75006
214-514-9147
www.wordoflife09@live.com**

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Every Spring and Fall the United States Postal Service (USPS) in conjunction with companies, family members and/or organizations celebrates the issuance of a stamp honoring the life and legacy of an African American from all walks of life.

Using Black Heritage Stamps is one way of remembering Black Heritage and Legends year round.

"Buy The Stamps!" Is the battle cry of USPS. Every post office may not carry Black Heritage Stamps automatically, but, you can request that the post office nearest you "order" them; then buy and use the stamps on all of your mailings and discuss all of the individuals that are honored on the stamps with children, family, co-workers, associates and

friends; which could lead to discussions of other Blacks and their inventions and/or contributions.

Dr. Mark Dean, also known as (AKA) America's High Tech "Invisible Man" in the National Hall of Inventors. He was born March 2, 1957 and is a Black inventor and a computer engineer. He led the team that developed the Industry Standard Architecture (ISA) bus, and he led the design team responsible for creating the first one-gigahertz computer processor chip.

Dr. Dean has also helped in the early development of the computer keyboard. He holds three of IBM's original nine PC patents. In August 2011, writing in his blog, he stated that he now uses a tablet computer instead of a PC. Dr. Dean is the "Architect of the Modern-Day Personal Computer." He holds three of the original nine patents on the computer that all PC's are based upon.

Dr. Benjamin Carson, Sr., a pioneer in "Brain Surgical Techniques" is best known for leading the first

surgical team in 1984 that successfully separated a pair of seven months old Siamese twins, who were born, joined at the head.

Born in 1951, Dr. Carson came from a poor family in Detroit. As a child he had a difficult time in school. Undeterred, he studied hard in high school and won a scholarship to Yale University. He also studied at University of Michigan's School and became the first African American accepted into the residency program at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. After one year in Australia, Dr. Carson was promoted to Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at John Hopkins in 1984; at 31 years old, he was the youngest doctor to hold such a position.

INVENTIONS: Every Texan should be happy about this, the **Air Conditioning Unit**; and the **Portable X-Ray Machine** was invented by Frederick M. Jones. **The Automatic Fishing Device** was invented by G. Cook in 1899. **The Gas Mask** was invented in 1914; and the **Automated**

Three Way Traffic Light in 1923 both by Garrett Morgan.

Cash Registers were invented in the 1890's by **F. A. Hilyer**. **The Pillar's Mold** for Building Foundation was invented by **Elbert Robertson**. Bullet Resistant Plexiglass that are used in banks and other businesses was developed by **Emanuel L. Logan**. **The Paper Bag Machine** was invented by **W. B. Purvis**. **The Exhaust Purification Device** for cars was invented by **Meredith Gourdine**.

And **Ozzie Williams**, the first African American hired by Republic Aviation, Inc. developed the first **Airborne Radar Beacon** for locating Crashed aircraft.

Romare Bearden, an artist known as the "Master of Collage" (the art of covering a surface with fragments of pictures from magazines, drawing, painting, and whatever else the artist is inspired to attach. **Otis Boykin** in 1955, created an electrical mechanism regulating unit for the **first heart pacemaker**.



The Honorable Richard Fleming, Board Secretary for the Carrollton-Farmers Branch waving to the parade watchers in Dr. King's Annual Holiday in the City of Carrollton, Texas

Marshall "Major" Taylor, known as "The Black Cyclone" became the first African American to win a national title in any sport in 1898. In 1896 he won the World One-Mile Sprint Championship at a Montreal meet and set a world's record

in a Chicago bicycle race. Taylor took his motto from Booker T. Washington: "I shall allow no man to narrow my soul and drag me down." He concluded his autobiography by asserting, "I am a Negro in every sense of the word."

BIG, continued from Page 11

tothenextbigthing@mcm-mail.com or mailed to The Next Big Thing; c/o Dallas Market Center; 2100 Stemmons Freeway, MS 630; Dallas, Texas; 75207, no later than April 8.

The three finalists will be selected by a panel of industry experts as well as Dallas Market Center representatives and announced on April 24. The finalists will receive airfare and hotel for the Dallas Temp Show to show their product in a complimentary, custom exhibit space.

Judges from consumer and trade media as well as industry experts will help select the winner based on the finalists' products. In addition, the public will have a chance to vote to show their support for their favorite product/finalist on the Dallas Market Center Facebook page. The winner will be selected based on a combination of judges' feedback and popular vote.

The Next Big Thing winner will be announced on Saturday, June 22, and receive a prize package worth more than \$12,500 including a \$2,500 cash prize. The package includes exhibit space at the Dallas Total Home & Gift

Market in January 2014, a profile in Dallas Market Center's award-winning custom publication and consultations from industry experts regarding branding, marketing, public relations, visual merchandising and more.

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NDG Bookshelf



By TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Sometimes, you have a good nose for trouble.

One deep breath and you can practically smell mayhem. It's almost like a perfume you can't resist, a whiff of rebellion, and when that happens — when danger floats in the air — well, what can you do? You have to give in. You must follow it.

But what if that smell is something else? What if it's smoke or the scent of blood? In the new book *Sweet 16 to Life* by Kimberly Reid, somebody needs to pay at-

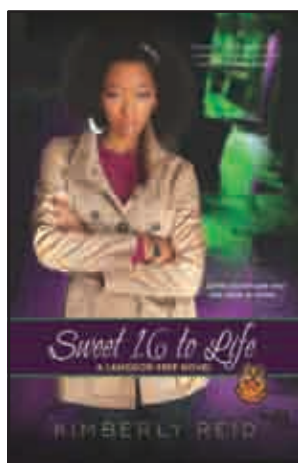
tention and keep her nose clean.

With just days to go, amateur detective Chanti Evans hoped her sixteenth birthday would be memorable. She dreamed of holding the arm of Special Someone while wearing the gorgeous dress that hung on the back of her bedroom door.

Unfortunately, that wasn't anywhere near reality. Marcus, her briefly-boyfriend, had recently broken up with Chanti because his parents thought she was dangerous.

Right. Like a few narrowly-missed homicides were a big deal.

Chanti never looked for crimes to solve; they found her instead. Case in point, the

NDG Book Review: *Sweet 16 to Life*

night her friend MJ's house caught fire. Thankfully, nobody was home and the blaze was easily extinguished but Chanti was suspicious: MJ was more worried about the contents of the basement than the rest of the house. Add in the creepy hoodie-

wearing dude who stood smiling as he watched the house burn, and something wasn't right.

Neither was the fact that MJ seemed to be awfully close to Hoodie Dude. She said it was nothing, that she was just creeping on her boyfriend, but Chanti thought it was more than that. And if there was trouble, it could jeopardize MJ's parole.

But watching her friend's back wasn't the only drama in Chanti's life. It seemed, for instance, that Marcus was always nearby, and he was too tempting. Plus, there was the stress of keeping her mother's job under wraps. It wouldn't do for everybody in the 'hood to know that Lana

was an undercover cop.

No, that would mean more danger, as if Chanti wasn't up to her nose in it already: it turned out that Hoodie Dude was a second-man gangster from L.A. and until he disappeared, leaving behind a pool of blood, he had his mind set on controlling Denver. Was this the one case Chanti couldn't solve?

Don't bet on it. In fact, don't bet on anything but enjoyment from this sharp, sassy mystery series.

Author Kimberly Reid's main character, Chanti, is like Nancy Drew in the 'hood: same savvy sleuthing,

but with the bite of modern realism and a good amount of humor. There's keen danger depicted here, but no profanity. Teen PIs will find a fun, not-so-easily-solved mystery but no hard-core violence. That makes this a perfect whodunit for readers ages 12-to-17.

This book is part of a series, so you'll probably be happier if you get up-to-speed by grabbing one of the earlier installments first. Once you do, then *Sweet 16 to Life* is a great book to have your nose in.

Sweet 16 to Life by Kimberly Reid (Dafina Teen, \$9.95, 256 pages)

Services for Mr. James David Demus, brother of Sister Tarpley, announced

The North Dallas Gazette staff extends our condolences to Sis. Shirley Tarpley, our long-time Religion Editor, and family on the passing of her brother Mr. James David Demus.

Mr. James David Demus was born on Nov. 22, 1935 and died Feb. 5, 2013.

The wake for Mr. Demus is Friday, Feb. 12 from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. at Golden Gate Funeral

Home's Chapel, located at 4155 South R.L. Thornton Freeway at Ann Arbor in Dallas.

The Church Service is Saturday, Feb. 16 at 11 a.m. at Greater Mount Hebron

Baptist Church, located at 2335 56th Street in Dallas where Rev. Fred Conwright is Senior Pastor.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Sis. Tarpley and her family.

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