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COVER STORY

Black media and big tobacco



Photo KOMU News / Flickr

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Mayor Beth Van Duyne and the city council's extensive search for a new city manager in Irving

By Anthony Bond
Special to the NDG



Allegations are being made that Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne is unethical, deceitful, manipulative, untrustworthy, and di-

abolical and has orchestrated the Irving City Council into an ethical mess. At the center of the charges is a possible illegal meeting where a consensus of the City Council chose

ton's City Manager, Steve Sarkozy to lead Irving City Hall.

City Councilman Alan Meagher is extremely upset about the process followed, where Beth Van

See Mayor, Page 7

Six ways to avoid abusive relationships

By D. Bryant Simmons



Excuses for domestic violence vary but they all have one thing in common—allowing the abuse to continue. Both victims and perpetrators make excuses, albeit for different reasons. Perpetrators want to maintain control over their victims and protect

their image so often times they will shift the blame.

A battered women will repeat the excuses told to her and convince herself that she believes them out of fear or desperation. She may be afraid of change — the prospect of building a new life apart from him might be more uncomfortable than the idea of stay-

ing. She might also be afraid of what he would do to her if she became confrontational. So, his excuses become her excuses.

We've all heard these excuses before, variations of he didn't mean to do it, he just got upset or he's sorry, it won't happen again. Implying that now

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Is there a new Crown Prince of comedy?

See Kevin Hart, Page 10

COMMENTARY

'Disrespected' Obama Appointed the Most Black Judges

By Freddie Allen

(NNPA) Despite the unprecedented levels of obstruction from Republicans in the Senate, President Obama has managed to get a higher rate of Black judges confirmed than any other president in history, according to a court watchdog group.

Research compiled by the Alliance for Justice, a national organization dedicated to progressive values and the creation of a just and free society, shows that so far during

the Obama administration, Blacks have accounted for 18.7 percent of the federal judicial confirmations, a sharp increase over the George W. Bush administration, where 7.3 percent of the judicial confirmations were Black. During the Clinton administration, 16.4 percent of the federal judicial confirmations were African American.

During the Obama administration, 41 percent of the federal judges that

See JUDGES, Page 3

Unleashed is hosting 5K Walk Against Islamophobia in Irving

Unleashed in Irving is working with students in and out of classrooms addressing prevalent issues around the world and the humanitarian efforts to fix those issues. Unleashed's ultimate vision is curing Islamophobia. They want to

be at the center of starting a dialogue about the effects of Islamophobia and our solution. The organization is seeking assistance from the public as they try to present classes and activities with students, parents, and people of different

faiths and backgrounds all around the world.

Instead of merely asking for donations, they are hosting the 5K walk with the goals of raising awareness of Islamophobia. Their aim is for the com-

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Dr. Bryant Webb



Gregory Moore



Michael Irvin

In December over 30,000 visited NorthDallasGazette.com - news added daily!

Dr. Bryant Webb

Bryant Cameron Webb, M.D., J.D. is a Resident Physician in Internal Medicine at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. He completed his undergraduate education at the University of Virginia (UV), majoring in interdisciplinary studies through the University's Echols Scholars program. After leaving UV, he sharpened his interests by developing a combined MD/JD graduate education program. He received his Juris Doctorate and Health Law Certificate from Loyola University Chicago School of Law, and

his Medical Doctorate from Wake Forest School of Medicine.

"Bryant Cameron Webb is without question one of the rising stars of the health equity movement. He adeptly straddles the worlds of medicine, law, and public policy, and commands a knowledge base that easily equals that of leaders far more senior than he. As a speaker, he imparts this knowledge with an ease and accessibility that few can match. With a charismatic delivery and powerful message, Dr. Webb will inform and inspire audiences seek-



ing to advance racial justice in the United States," according to Dr. Brian Smed-

ley, Vice President and Director of the Health Policy Institute of the Joint Center

for Political and Economic Studies.

Webb has served as a national board member of both the National Medical Association (NMA) and the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), including a term as the SNMA National President. During his graduate education, he completed internships at the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, and the American Medical Association.

Additionally, he spent time as a community organizer with the Service Employees International Union and as a health policy con-

sultant with the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Most recently, Webb co-founded the grassroots health equity nonprofit, EquityRx, as a vehicle for advancing the health equity movement.

Webb credits the interplay of his experiences as a community organizer, attorney, legislative extern, policy analyst and physician for providing him with a unique and valuable perspective on the health equity movement.

He is very excited about the prospects of working at the intersection of clinical medicine, health disparities research, community service and health policy advocacy for years to come.

Gregory Moore

Atlanta, GA -- The Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) Council of Presidents and chairman, Miles College President George T. French Jr., announced today that SIAC and Commissioner Gregory Moore have agreed to a contract extension.

"The Presidents Council of the SIAC has been very pleased with the work of Commissioner Gregory Moore across all sectors. In fact, this leadership in financial matters and in marketing the conference has

been transformational. The Council extended his contract with a unanimous vote," President George T. French, Jr. said. As the incoming Chair, I very much look forward to working with him."

During his five years at the SIAC Commissioner Moore's achievements include:

- Doubled SIAC revenues (largest revenue increase in NCAA DI, II or III).
- Nearly three-fold (265 percent) increase in sponsorship revenues.

- Retired all conference debt from SIAC balance sheet.

- First NCAA DI, II or III conference to launch a conference-wide digital platform that now attracts 1.5 million visitors per year.

- First NCAA DII conference to launch Android application.

- First NCAA DI, II or III conference to feature four female officials during regular season football game.

- Negotiated three-year national broadcast agreement with Bounce Network to televise SIAC football games.

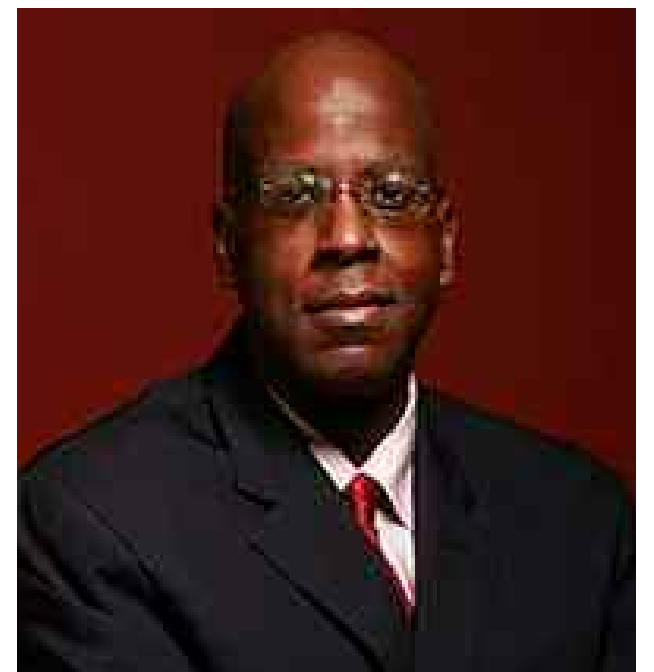
- Moved to East West

alignment creating first SIAC football championship game.

- Increased conference membership from thirteen to fifteen institutions.

Commissioner Moore stated, "I am extremely grateful for the trust accorded me by the SIAC Council of President.

My staff and I look forward to continuing our daily effort to identify creative and innovative opportunities to leverage intercollegiate athletics to advance the overarching objectives of our member institutions and enhance the experiences of our student-athletes."



Michael Irvin

DALLAS – The Cowboys & Cowboys Sky Ranch Gala is rounding up new supporters with Dallas Cowboys Hall of Famer Michael Irvin saddled up to lead the way. Irvin is the 2014 Honorary Celebrity Chair of the Cowboys & Cowboys Sky Ranch Gala, Dallas' chic western soiree. The event is set for Saturday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Omni Dallas Hotel, 555 S. Lamar St. Highlights will include silent and live auctions, raffle prizes, fine dining and entertainment.

"I am humbled and honored for the opportunity to help children who face challenges beyond their

control," said Michael Irvin, Honorary Celebrity Chair. "My prayer is that through the 2014 Cowboys and Cowboys Sky Ranch Gala, together, we can deliver the gift of Sky Ranch's camp – a camp that focuses not just on summer fun, but drawing out each child's potential to lead with godly character. This opportunity to make an eternal investment in the lives of these kids is a blessing."

This fashionable boots and bling event draws legendary cowboys from both the gridiron and the rodeo arena. Joining Irvin at this elegant western affair will be a host of other cowboy

celebrity icons from the NFL and the championship rodeo circuit, along with approximately 600 other friends and supporters of

Sky Ranch.

Sky Ranch Camps have served youth and families for more than 55 years by

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JUDGES, continued from Page 1

have been confirmed are women, compared to 22 percent under George W. Bush and 29 percent for Clinton.

President Obama has also managed to get more Asian Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans and gays confirmed to the federal bench than either Bush or Clinton.

"This is the best slate of judicial nominees I've seen from any president since I've been at the Lawyers' Committee, since 1989," said Barbara Arnwine, president and executive director of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, a nonprofit group that works for equal justice under the law. "I've never seen a more diverse slate, I've never seen a more highly-rated slate, I've never seen a slate with this kind of deep diversity."

Yet, the current slate of judicial nominees has faced unparalleled delays in the Senate. President Obama's judicial nominees have waited an average of 115 days between judiciary committee vote and confirmation, more than double the average wait time of President Bush's nominees. Forty percent of President Obama's district court picks have waited more than 100 days for a vote on the Senate floor, compared to eight percent of President Bush's nominations. Sixty-nine percent of President Obama's circuit court judicial nominations have waited more than 100 days for a vote on the Senate floor. Only 15 percent of President Bush's circuit court nominations waited that long.

Meanwhile, the problem of judicial vacancies is getting worse. During President Bush's sixth year, there were only 48 judicial vacancies. By 2013, however, there were 91 vacancies.

The slow churn in the Senate's judicial confirmation process continues to strain resources. By 2010, civil litigants were waiting more than two years (25.3 months) for a jury trial. That same year, the federal government spent \$1.4 billion to house prisoners before the start of their trial, due in part to the lack of judges to hear cases, according to the

Justice Department.

"It's been a countdown process since the president took office. They were counting down his first [term] in hopes that he wouldn't have a second [term]. Now they're counting down his second [term] because they know he can't run again," said Arnwine. "And that's the game they've been playing."

Arnwine added: "This political gaming results in damage to the American public."

Senate Republicans are gamming the judicial nomination process, utilizing a tradition that began nearly 60 years ago, when a segregationist led the Senate Judiciary Committee. The "blue slip" policy enabled a senator's objection to a president's judicial pick from his or her home state.

GOP Senators from Georgia have used the "blue slip" practice to delay some of President Obama's nominees for Georgia's northern district for years.

In an effort to fill those judicial vacancies in Georgia's northern district, President Obama worked with Republican Senators Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss of Georgia, striking a deal that has drawn sharp criticism from some of President Obama's long-time supporters and Democrats from the state.

According to Rep. David Scott (D-Ga.) and other Democrats who objected to President Obama's judicial selections for Georgia district, a deal was struck without consulting with civic groups that normally vet judicial nominees in that state.

Scott expressed his concerns about the nominees in a recent letter to Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Scott wrote: "If confirmed, the federal bench in Georgia will not reflect the current demographics of the state for at least another generation. There will soon be only one active African-American district court judge in Georgia. In addition, the views of some of these nominees reflect the regressive politics of the past. I want to share some very important and critical

background information with the Committee before these nominations are considered."

Scott added: "It is an abomination that these nominees for lifetime appointment were drafted in secret, not vetted by any legal groups among the President's supporters, and announced on a holiday weekend. We must not allow lifetime appointed judges to be rammed through the hearing process without sufficient input from the people who will be affected by their future judicial actions."

Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) Lewis, former chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, a former Atlanta-based civil rights group, said he and other Black leaders object to some of the Obama appointment of federal judges in Georgia.

"The group cites serious concerns that the proposed candidates do not adequately reflect the diversity of the northern district and that the selection process lacked meaningful community input," Lewis said in a statement. "Additionally, the coalition finds it troubling that several nominees include persons who have advocated in favor of Georgia's voter ID laws and for including the Confederate Battle Emblem as part of the Georgia State Flag."

Mark Cohen defended Georgia's restrictive voter ID laws that some civil rights leaders say discriminate against the poor and minorities. As a Georgia state legislator, Michael Boggs voted in favor of keeping the Georgia state flag that was based on the Confederate flag.

Georgia's Black population is 31 percent, twice the national average. In Alabama Blacks account for nearly 27 percent of the state's population and roughly 17 percent of Florida's state population. Only one of the judges currently serving on the 11th circuit court responsible for those states is Black and only one out of six of President Obama's nominees for that circuit is Black.

After years of blocked nominations and procedural delays employed by the Republicans, who are in the minority in the Senate, Democrats, headed by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid

(D-Nev.) pushed the button on the "nuclear option" last November that that allowed them to cease debate on a particular issue with a simple majority. The historic move cleared the way for some of President Obama's judicial nominations and executive-level positions to be confirmed.

"The [Obama] administration has really had a difficult row to hoe because of the difficulties in the Senate," said Arnwine of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. "The Senate has accorded this president less respect, less deference, and less cooperation than any president I've seen."

The Obama administration's success in the federal judiciary has not come without sacrifice. President Obama has been forced to withdraw five Black judicial nominations, most recently, William Thomas, an openly gay Black judge in Florida, because of a lack of support from Republican senators.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus are calling on Senator Patrick Leahy, who chair the Senate Judiciary Committee, to reform the "blue slip" process.

Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-N.C.) said that the "blue slip" process is being abused and that is having a chilling effect on qualified Black judicial candidates.

"The reform that we pressed so hard for in the filibuster reform process itself will be still-born if the 'blue slip' process is not also reformed," said Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-Washington, D.C.).

Rep. Butterfield said that no one is letting the president off the hook, because more diversity is still needed in the 11th circuit where Cohen and Boggs, two White male judges, were just nominated.

Butterfield said that the 11th circuit serves a large population of African Americans, that's why the region needs more Black judges on the bench.

"It's the Deep South and we must have some movement," said Butterfield. "If it means repealing the blue slip process that has been observed for years, then the blue slip needs to be discarded."

Heart disease claims author's husband, leading her to untraveled roads

LUFKIN – As reported by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. Coronary heart disease results in approximately 785,000 Americans a year having a first coronary attack. For Mary Ann Sheveland these stark statistics have personal meaning. In her intimate new book, “Journey of My Heart: A Memoir” (published by iUniverse), she walks readers through a 19-year journey of shar-

ing in her husband's battle with coronary artery disease and revisits the fateful winter morning when she discovered her husband's lifeless body.

In “Journey of My Heart” she shares a story written with love, humility and a great amount of faith. It is an account of emotional courage, determination and the desire to have the best quality of life in our allotted time. She chronicles the challenges faced when caring for a terminally ill

spouse and the love that she and her husband shared during the good and the bad times of their crisis. More than a simple autobiography, “Journey of My Heart” is an inspirational guide for others who find themselves faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges.

“I feel very strongly that I can offer guidance from my personal experiences with my husband's coronary artery disease,” says Sheveland. “This was a journey

that lasted 19 years, and through all the many medical crises and health challenges, we found joy and happiness along the way. Over the years, many of our doctors encouraged me to tell this story so I could reach out with my heart and touch others. It is therefore, with Sheldon's optimistic perseverance, the doctor's encouragement and many others support that I've been able to put this story into words.”

Buoyed by friends, family and

a love of music, travel and journaling, Sheveland emerged from sorrow stronger and wiser. She says, “I want the reader to know that they are not alone when facing a terminal health crisis; others have come down a similar road. With love, faith and by working together they can share an incredible amount of happiness in the time they have together.”

Sheveland's Journey of My Heart is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

← ABUSIVE, continued from Page 1 →

they can put this little hiccup in the past and go back to being the perfect couple.

If you know someone who has been abused once, twice, or every day for twenty years prepare yourself to have an uncomfortable conversation with her. Tell her in private that no matter what she did or didn't do, she doesn't deserve to be treated in that way. She deserves to feel happy and safe in her home and every day of her life. Tell her that real love doesn't leave scars and that's what you wish for her.

Best case scenario is she agrees with you but is unsure about how to leave.

If she denies that it's happening, then she's not ready to leave but take heart in knowing the time will come when she is ready. So, remind her how much you care about her and confirm that you will always be there for her, no matter what.

If she makes excuses for the abuser, impress upon her how important her safety is, that she shouldn't trade it for anything. Suggest that she speak with a counselor that specializes in domestic abuse. If she seems open to this have the number for the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-SAFE) with you and give it to her. If she's concerned about legal matters or law enforcement, she needs to speak with an attorney that has experience in domestic abuse cases. There are many websites to

help battered women located attorneys in their price range. For example, <http://www.womenslaw.org> / has resources for every state in the US.

If you are involved with someone that is verbally, physically, sexually, or emotionally abusive and you've had enough, here are six steps to save yourself from an abusive relationship:

Find someone to confide in. Someone who does not have direct contact with your significant other or who is loyal only to you. Share with this person what you're going through and decide on a code phrase that means you want them to call the police for you. Do not involve anyone other than your confidant in your plans to leave. Don't tell anyone (including your kids) any more than they need to know at the time they need to know it.

Know his schedule as well as your own. Know how long it takes him to get from work to home and the same for you. If he checks up on you throughout the day be prepared for this.

Gather your things. Any important documents like birth certificates, deeds, social security cards, bank records, wills etc. for yourself and your children. Get as much cash as you can without alerting your significant other and pack a bag with these items, an extra set of keys, any medications, and some clothes in a safe place that he can't get

to. If you have evidence of the abuse—photos, hospital records, journal entries pack that too.

Speak to a lawyer that specializes in domestic violence in your state, especially if there are children involved. She can help you get a restraining order, prepare custody arrangements, and any other legal matters that may arise.

Find a shelter or a place to relocate to if you are financially able. The internet is a wonderful resource. Remember to clear your browser history if you use the home computer. Then leave when he least expects it.

Keep your new address secret. Have your new phone number blocked. Change your cell phone number. Never share any information on social media about where you've moved to or what's in your area. Stay safe.

Find a girl, any girl, she doesn't have to be related to you. Let her know that she matters, that her voice matters. Listen to her. Empathize with her. Encourage her to love herself just as she is and to express herself in whatever means are most comfortable for her. Empower her to expect the same kind of support from everyone who claims to love her. Teach her to set boundaries and resolve conflicts. And celebrate her when she does the right thing.

Find a boy, any boy, he doesn't have to be related to

you. Let him know it's okay to feel every emotion on the spectrum and show him how to express them in a healthy way. Encourage him to help others even when it doesn't benefit him and to speak out when he sees injustice. Help him to understand that his pride is no more important than anyone else's. And celebrate him when he does the right thing.

Now think bigger. Start an educational and mentoring program at a high

school or elementary school. Create a documentary or short film about abuse. Start a petition to strengthen the domestic abuse laws in your state. Donate time, food, clothing, or money to local shelters. Bring someone else on this journey with you—child or adult. Tell the uncomfortable truth and most importantly never give up.

D. Bryant Simmons is the author of the new book, *How to Knock a Bravebird*

From her Perch.

She was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. She graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor Degree in Sociology and later earned a Master Degree in Elementary Education. Her passion for social justice, female empowerment, and children's rights is evident in her writing. For more information, visit: www.dbryantsimmons.com.



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Bush Library now accepting FOIA requests

DALLAS – The George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum began accepting Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for presidential records from the Bush presidency at 12:01 a.m. CST on Jan. 20.

Access to the Bush presidential records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) of 1978 which says, among other provisions, that records may be requested by the public five years after the end of a presidential administration - for the administration of George W. Bush, that date was Jan. 20, 2014.

Any individual – regardless of citizenship – as well as organizations, companies, and state and local governments will be able to submit FOIA requests.

All requests must be in a written format

(e-mail, mail, or fax) and must state that the records are being requested under the “Freedom of Information Act” or “FOIA.” If you are e-mailing your request please include your name in the subject line.

The contact information is as follows:

E-mail: gwbush.library@nara.gov

George W. Bush Presidential Library c/o FOIA Coordinator

2943 SMU BLVD

Dallas, Texas 75205

FAX: 214-346-1558 (please include cover sheet if possible)

Jan. 20 was the first day the Bush Library could accept FOIA requests for records pertaining to the Bush presidency and all FOIA requests are processed in the order in which they are received.

Collin County Homeless Coalition conducting 2014 Homeless Census

On Thursday, Jan. 23, the Collin County Homeless Coalition will conduct the 2014 Homeless Census in coordination with the Dallas Metro area. It's part of a nationwide count required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The results will determine funding to support programs and resources to assist the homeless. The information will enable the Coalition to raise awareness about homeless issues and find solutions that will enable people to be safely housed.

Since 2005, the City of Plano has taken the lead in working with our neighboring cities: Allen, Frisco and McKinney, along with nonprofits, advocates and interested citizens. The Coalition is part of the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance.

Last year's count revealed:

423 homeless individuals were represented in the Collin County surveys in 2013.

An estimated 36 percent of the homeless individuals were children.

There were 145 adults



Flu Facebook Town Hall on slate to help veterans in Dallas get facts on the flu shot

DALLAS – The VA North Texas Infection Prevention Team, Dr. Brad Cutrell and Dr. Roger Bedimo invite Veterans and their families to participate in a Facebook Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 28, from 9 – 10 a.m. titled, “The Flu Shot: Get the Facts.” Veterans will have an opportunity to ask these subject matter experts questions and receive immediate answers about influenza in general and about the flu shot.

VA North Texas Health Care System closely monitors patients with respiratory illness during influenza

season. This year, influenza has been more severe than previous years, particularly in young and middle-aged healthy adults.

Flu symptoms include: fever over 100 degrees, headache, extreme fatigue, sore throat, muscle aches, dry cough, and runny or stuffy nose. If you have flu symptoms and experience shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sudden dizziness, or pain or pressure in the chest, seek medical care as quickly as possible.

The best way to prevent the flu is to get vaccinated every year, and it is not too

late to get vaccinated. If already exposed to influenza, you may have a milder illness if vaccinated. The flu virus is spread through coughing or sneezing and by touching a hard surface with the virus on it, then touching the nose or mouth. You can also help reduce your risk of flu by washing hands frequently and avoiding those who are sick.

“Like” their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NorthTexasVA to participate on Tuesday

Pharmacy Tech Training program available from Ashworth College

Ashworth College, a leading online school, has expanded its certification preparation training for students earning their Pharmacy Technician Career Diploma to include certification exams that apply to students in all 50 U.S. states.

The online college offers all graduates of the Pharmacy Tech Training program the opportunity to sit for the National HealthCare Association CPhT certification exam.

While the current exami-

nation is sufficient for most students, Ashworth recently recognized that passing the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) exam would better enable graduates to meet applicable pharmacy technician licensing requirements in Arizona, California, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming.

In response, Ashworth College now includes PTCB exam prep materials and the PTCB exam as part of the program.

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reported being homeless for more than 1 year, which was a 37 percent increase from 2012.

Within Collin County, five ISD's identified a total of 1,812 homeless children enrolled in school on the day of the Count who were not represented on the surveys.

The top three needs were Dental Care, Permanent Housing, and Medical Care.

In November, the Coalition promoted National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week with several activities. In their Street Awareness campaign, they displayed cardboard signs stereotypically

associated with the homeless. However, these signs offered facts about Collin County's homeless.

Stacy Brown, Chair of the Collin County Homeless Coalition said, “Each homeless person needs to do a survey, so we can help them get back into a home and find them better jobs. Last year 57 percent of Collin County's homeless were employed, but their jobs didn't pay enough for them to make ends meet.”

To become involved in the Coalition's effort, follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/collinhomeless or visit their website at collincounty-homelesscoalition.com/.



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White House seeks to help expand education opportunity

By Jazelle Hunt

(NNPA) Thirty years ago, one year of tuition, room, and board at a nation's four-year, degree-granting institution cost \$8,756 on average (or \$3,499, when adjusted for inflation).

As of 2010, that figure had almost tripled to \$22,092 – and that's just for one year.

To meet this economic hurdle, 39.6 million Americans have turned to the student loan market, taking on more than \$1 trillion in debt of last year, according to the Department of Education's Federal Student Aid office. Higher education, once a pipeline to the American Dream, is quickly becoming just a pipedream for low-income and underserved Americans.

On Thursday, President and First Lady Obama invited education leaders and decision-makers to the White House to announce an intervention to allow more Americans the chance at a degree. The Expanding Education Opportunity summit aims to foster collaboration and brainstorm solutions to the dearth of college opportunities for low-income and disadvantaged students. The summit is part of the President's overall education agenda, which has advanced through Congress in fits and starts.

President Obama addressed the attendees and the press, stating, "The one reason we're here today is we want to make sure more young people have a change to earn a higher education. Today is a great example of how we can advance this agenda without a bunch of new legislation."

Without a college degree, children born in the bottom 20 percent of income distribution have just a 5 percent chance of getting into the top 20 percent as adults — and only a 55 percent chance of ever making it out of that income bracket, according to a 2008 Brook-



ings Institute study.

But there was a catch: Those invited could only attend the summit if they put their money where their mouths are. Attendees were required to submit (for review) a concise in-house plan of new actions for 2014 to combat the opportunity gap, and publicly commit funds to execute their plan.

"We do not have a more clear ladder of economic mobility than the attainment of a college degree for someone born into a low-income family. And yet the research shows that if you are born in the bottom quartile, by the accident of birth you have only a nine percent chance of graduating from college," says Director of the National Economic Council, Gene Sperling, who organized the summit. "We are a country that does not believe that the outcomes of your life should be overly determined by the accident of your birth. Yet these numbers show that to make good on that, we have to do much more as a country to help more people to succeed in college."

In preliminary efforts, the Department of Education and stakeholders identified four areas of focus that could have the greatest impact in expanding access to higher education: Matching students to their best possible schools and encouraging completion; increasing the pool of college-ready students; reducing inequalities in college advisement and test prep; and making remediation more effective.

An array of secondary institutions are included in the ongoing initiative, such as

MIT, College of the Holy Cross, Princeton University, Vassar College, and Navajo Technical University.

HBCUs Howard University, Morehouse College, Morgan State University, and Spelman College are also making commitments. Notable organizations involved include the College Board, Posse Foundation, and the American Association of Community Colleges.

Participants were required to focus their plans and resources on improving one or more of these areas. A majority of the schools and organizations involved have made pledges around increasing match and college completion.

The University of Chicago, for example, has pledged \$10 million for its College Success Initiative, which will reach 10,000 high schools across the next 10 years. Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts has a program that offers full scholarships for low-income, non-traditional age college students. Scripps College in California will increase its financial aid and scholarship endowment by \$35 million over the next five years. Boston's Bunker Hill Community College will allow incoming freshmen to start remediation before their first semester. College Board is setting up partnerships to waive student application fees.

Morehouse is piloting an alternative to the SAT/ACT. Howard is boosting success among low-income STEM students and matching Pell Grants by 100 percent. Morgan State is expanding its pipelining partnership

with the Community College of Baltimore College, as well as an initiative to help students who've left the university in good academic standing complete their degrees. And Spelman will continue to fundraise to financially support upperclassmen may not graduate due to the recession.

Absent from the summit is the trouble of ballooning college costs. The omission is deliberate; back in August, the president made college accountability, quality, and affordability his personal undertaking. His plan includes the creation of a College Scorecard (by 2015, which will be based on access, affordability, and outcomes), linking student's financial aid to their class completion, bolstering technology, and more.

The institutions and organizations involved will reconvene next year, when the White House will evaluate their progress and more

entities will be invited to join the strategy.

Before introducing the president at the summit, Mrs. Obama shared her own college experience, painting the story of a first-generation college freshman who didn't know how to navigate a campus and didn't see anyone with whom she could identify.

"I didn't even bring the right sized sheets for my dorm room bed . . . I was a little overwhelmed and a little isolated. But then I had an opportunity to participate in a three-week, on-campus

orientation program that helped me get a feel for the rhythm of college life," she said. "And once school started, I discovered the campus cultural center . . . where I found students and staff who came from families and communities that were similar to my own. They were there to answer the questions I was too embarrassed to ask anyone else. And if it weren't for those resources and the friends and the mentors, I honestly don't know how I would have made it through college."

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972-509-9149

Card game for movie lovers raises over 100 percent of funding in less than 72 hours on Kickstarter

Do you know more about movies than your friends?

Prove it with the Cinelinx card game. The people behind Cinelinx.com are very proud to announce a brand new card game for movie buffs of all varieties to enjoy with their friends.

"We've been running a movie website for a few years now but we knew upfront that we didn't want the game to be restricted to people who watch as many movies as we do. The Cinelinx game is designed to be accessible to all kinds of players," said Jordan Maison Editor-In-Chief.

The game is designed so that it can be quickly picked up and played with friends with a casual knowledge of movies, while allowing true movie buffs the opportunity to prove how deep their film knowledge goes.

For more seasoned card game players, there are op-



tions available to dive in deeper with more layers of strategy possible. So no matter what your level of skill when it comes to games, you'll find something exciting and enjoyable.

The creators took their game to Kickstarter to fund the manufacturing process and successfully raised over 100% of their \$12,000 goal

in less than 72hrs. Multiple tiers of backer rewards run the gamut from the full game, expansion packs, all the way up to the ability to create your own usable card.

Here's a simple breakdown of the game:

The Cinelinx game consists of cards that have either actors names, directors names, movie titles, quotes,

and genres on them. The point of the game is to play the hand you're dealt by finding connections between the cards. We've also added Wild Cards, Double Feature Cards, and Director's Cut cards to the game to keep things interesting.

Number of players: 2-6
Recommended ages: 17+
For more information

visit Cinelinx.com/Kickstarter or one of the url's below:
www.cinelinx.com

www.facebook.com/cinelinx
www.twitter.com/cinelinx
cards.cinelinx.com (coming soon)

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MAYOR, continued from Page 1

Duynes ramrodded the City Manager choice down the throat of Irving citizens illegally.

Councilman Meagher went on to say, "The mayor talks of transparency, but her actions in the past month do not reflect an open and fair process. For example, the mayor recently chose a developer for the Texas Stadium site and placed it on the agenda with no prior discussion with the rest of the City Council. In choosing a City Manager candidate and starting to negotiate his contract without any input from Irving citizens in an open forum is wrong."

The mayor is also known to criticize the city for not having a request for proposal (RFP) process. That is she is critical for any projects without a RFP – except the projects she wants. Beth Van Duyne, the *Dallas Morning News* and her con-

nection to wealthy donors are all tied together and it is time the citizens of Irving know the truth about Beth Van Duyne and her inner circle.

As a demonstration of how conniving Mayor Van Duyne is, she recently attended a mayors meeting with mayors from across the state and preceded to attempt to organize several of these mayors, into a Republican mayor club, where she allegedly told them, "We have to take back Dallas County for the Republicans."

Everyone knows City Council elections are non-partisan, but not so with Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne. The latest flap over the search for a new city manager is a vivid example of how Mayor Beth Van Duyne operates.

She is known to preach ethics in the *Dallas Morning News* and then proceeds to do some of the most un-

ethical things anyone has ever seen from an Irving mayor.

We have not heard the last about this fiasco around choosing a new city manager, but the focus should also be on the unethical and diabolical schemes of Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne.

The city elections are coming in May, Beth Van Duyne is running for reelection. In time, all her diabolical schemes, the biases toward her by the *Dallas Morning News*, and her ties to a few wealthy donors – who allegedly fund everything she does – will be revealed.

In the last three years Mayor Beth Van Duyne has overseen one of the most divisive regimes in Irving's political history.

It's time for a change!
Anthony Bond is the Founder of the Irving NAACP chapter and community activist for diversification and inclusion in Irving. You can reach Bond at 214-830-6719 or by email at aebond09@yahoo.com.

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Tamela Mann celebrates seven Stellar Gospel Music Award wins

DALLAS — GRAMMY-Award Nominated Vocalist TAMELA MANN scored seven Stellar Gospel Music Awards including the AT&T Artist of the Year, adding to the accolades surrounding her award-winning, chart-topping CD Best Days. Tamela landed five of the seven trophies during the Stellar Award Pre-Show held Friday evening at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, and she took home an additional two honors during the 29th Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards broadcast live Saturday night on the Up Network at the Nashville Municipal Auditorium in Nashville, Tenn. Tamela also presented during the main show with her husband David Mann, handing out the award for Male Vocalist of the Year.

“I am honored to be recognized by the Stellar Gospel Music Awards Academy and fans, but to God be all the glory,” said Tamela. “God is good, and I am blessed with and thankful for a loving husband and family, support from

my church and fans, and to be able to share His word through my music. It’s a great start to 2014.”

The 29th Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards was hosted by Sherri Shepherd and Rickey Smiley, and featured performances by an array of the biggest names in Gospel music. National syndication of the show is scheduled January 18 to March 2. For a complete list of air dates in each market, and for more information about the winners and the show, visit TheStellarAwards.com.

Tamela is also celebrating an NAACP Image Award nomination for the second year in a row for Outstanding Gospel Album for Best Days Deluxe Edition. Winners are voted upon by NAACP members and announced on Friday, February 21 (non-televised) and Saturday, February 22 (9:00 p.m. ET/PT tape-delayed) during the live two-hour star-studded TV One telecast.

Fans can connect with Tamela online: www.facebook.com/davidtamelamann.



Photo Jason Davis / CCP

Mann’s Seven Awards Include:

AT&T ARTIST OF THE YEAR

**ALBERTINA WALKER FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
CD OF THE YEAR- BEST DAYS**

TRADITIONAL FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

TRADITIONAL CD OF THE YEAR- BEST DAYS

URBAN/INSPIRATIONAL SINGLE OR PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR - TAKE ME TO THE KING

PRAISE AND WORSHIP CD OF THE YEAR - BEST DAYS

USMD Hospital at Arlington Ranked No. 1 for cancer care in Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and No. 2 in all of Texas

IRVING — USMD Holdings, Inc., a physician-led integrated healthcare system, has announced that USMD Hospital at Arlington has again made the CareChex Hospital Quality Rankings List for being a top-performing hospital. The cancer program is helping patients like Chris and Regina.

Retired Marine and now an engineer for Lockheed Martin Corporation in Fort Worth, Chris was diagnosed with bladder cancer in 2011. “I’d never been sick a day in my life,” said Chris. Despite treatment, his health was not improving until his medical team at USMD Hospital at Arlington took a closer look and found small-cell carcinoma. A golf ball-sized tumor was removed and chemotherapy administered. Today, Chris, who is cancer-free, describes himself as “a walking talking poster child for USMD.”

Regina, another patient, rates

USMD as Number 1 (“excellent”) in compassion, understanding and ability to communicate and walk the patient through a very complex process. Regina was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer (meaning the cancer had advanced beyond the breast and might be found in lymph nodes and surrounding tissue, but not in organs) when her healing journey began. “It’s scary and people need to understand about services available to them,” said Regina, “They don’t have to go to a big city to get good results and great service.” In her professional life, Regina is a customer service manager, so when she is greeted by name at the front entrance of the hospital, she is continuously impressed. “I have nothing but great things to say about my USMD team,” she added.

Stories such as these helped earn USMD Hospital at Arlington

a place at the top of the 2014 CareChex Hospital Quality Rankings List by Comparion Medical Analytics for being a top-performing hospital for a second year. Recipients are evaluated for quality measurements within these categories: mortality overall, complications overall, inpatient quality, core process, patient safety and patient satisfaction.

Within the ranking, USMD Hospital at Arlington is ranked #1 in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and #2 in the state of Texas for cancer care for 2014. The Cancer Care clinical category includes the medical treatment of malignant breast disorders, respiratory neoplasms and leukemia, as well as surgeries, including mastectomies, kidney procedures for neoplasm and lymphoma, with major operating room procedures.

The cancer treatment program at USMD Hospital at Arlington

utilizes a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach involving a team of experts that includes surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, gene testing and counseling specialists, nurse navigators and integrative health coordinators. The team works together to create a customized treatment plan tailored to the individual needs of each patient.

“Being ranked #1 in the DFW area by CareChex for cancer care is a huge honor,” said John House, M.D., chairman and chief executive officer of USMD Holdings. “USMD is committed to a patients-first culture and this year’s rankings are affirmation of that. It is great to see our team being recognized for their hard work and commitment to our patients and I want to congratulate all of the physicians and staff associated with USMD Hospital at Arlington on this incredible accomplish-

ment.”

USMD Hospital at Arlington is also ranked #6 in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and #15 in Texas for Overall Surgical Care for 2014. The Overall Surgical Care category consists of all inpatient surgical procedures performed by full-service hospitals, with the exception of Heart Assist System Implants and Pancreas Transplants.

“USMD Hospital at Arlington offers patients advanced medical treatment and state-of-the-art technologies, but more important than that, we offer our patients high-quality, compassionate care,” said Karen Fiducia, president of USMD Hospital Services, which manages the operations of the USMD hospitals. “These CareChex rankings are a testament to the type of care and quality of treatment we’re consistently providing to patients.”

Black Media Seeks Inclusion in Tobacco Settlement

By George E. Curry

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – The National Association of Newspaper Publishers (NNPA) and the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters (NABOB), two industry trade associations whose members reach more than 95 percent of African Americans, filed a friend-of-the-court brief objecting to the exclusion of all Black media companies in a proposed settlement that requires the tobacco industry to run ads and TV commercials to correct their misleading assertions about the harmful effects of smoking.

The amicus brief was filed last Friday in federal court in Washington, D.C. U.S. District Court Judge Gladys Kessler is expected to review the proposed agreement Wednesday and consider the merits of the brief filed by NNPA and NABOB.

An agreement was reached Jan. 9 between the U.S. Justice Department, the Tobacco-Free Kids Action Fund and the four major tobacco manufacturers – Altria, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco, Lorillard and Philip Morris USA – on what

the dangers of second-hand smoke and claims that low-tar and light cigarettes are healthier than regular cigarettes.

The Justice Department sued the tobacco companies in 1999, charging that they violated the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO). Judge Kessler found them guilty in 2006. The judge ruled that the companies were not liable for monetary damages under RICO, but ordered them to make “corrective statements.”

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has rejected two industry appeals. The Supreme Court has refused to accept an appeal from the tobacco giants, who are still suing over Kessler’s order to include the corrective statements in “point of sale” displays at retail outlets.

Under the proposed agreement, the tobacco companies must purchase full-page Sunday ads in 35 newspapers and commercials on either ABC, CBS or NBC network four days a week for a year. Target Market News, which broke the story of the settlement proposal, estimates the value of the ad buy



Photo Evert Barnes / Flickr

gle Black newspaper, magazine, or broadcast outlet was included on the list drawn up by the judge.

The Black media trade associations say that was a mistake.

“...The Defendants targeted the African America community with advertising campaigns which were delivered in part by their paid advertisements in African American print and electronic media,” the amicus brief states. “The proposed remedy does not list any media which specifically targets the African American community. To insure that the Corrective Statements reach the population that the Defendants targeted, the Court should require the parties to jointly select alternative newspapers that specifically target the African American community.”

Targeting Blacks with tobacco products has had a devastating effect on the African American community, the brief notes.

“Lung cancer is the second most common cancer in both African American men and women, and it kills more African Americans than any type of cancer,” it says. “According to the Center for Disease Control, while adjusting for age, from 2006 through 2010, African Americans had the highest incidence rates of lung and bronchus cancer (64.8 per 100,000 people) of any ethnic group and the general population (61.7 per 100,000 people).

“In 2011, more than 23,000 new cases of lung and bronchus cancer are expected to occur among African Americans and more than 16,000 African Americans are ex-

pected to die from the disease. African American teen smokers also have a greater risk of developing long-term consequences from smoking than other ethnic groups, and are in danger of experiencing the negative effects of tobacco earlier in their lifetimes.”

Despite the disproportionate number of deaths, tobacco companies looked to Blacks to replace those who died or quit using their products.

“The record clearly demonstrates that the Defendants specifically targeted African Americans to encourage them to smoke,” the brief observed. “The Defendants recognized that new smokers, who could replace smokers who died or quit, were essential to their continued profits. The Court noted, for example, an internal 1981 Lorillard document commenting that the company “must continually keep in mind that Newport is being heavily supported by blacks and the under 18 smokers. We are on somewhat thin ice should either of these two groups decide to shift their smoking habits.”

“To locate new black smokers, the Defendants used targeted marketing tactics. Tactics included sponsorship for youth sports teams, advertisements featuring black athletes, tie-ins with professional sports teams, tie-ins with record companies, and scholarships for underprivileged youth. One memorandum recommended ‘tie-in with any company who help blacks – We help them, they help us.’ It suggested targeting groups that are 16 and older, and sponsoring Miss Black Teenager

contests. It also specifically discussed ‘[h]ow to reach Younger Smokers: P.O.S. [point of sale] material, sampling, Black inner-city newspapers, [and] Tee-shirt giveaways.’”

The brief cited data showing tobacco companies “even designed brands with the express purpose of targeting the black community for their use.”

Special efforts to get Blacks to become smokers notwithstanding, the Black press is being ignored in plans to educate the public about the misdeeds of the tobacco industry.

Cloves C. Campbell, chairman of the NNPA said, “It is sad that an industry that sought to exploit our community with a product that is harmful to our health now seeks to further devalue African-Americans by ignoring the Black media when it is being forced to atone for what a federal judge determined was a deliberate effort to deceive the American public.”

A 2012 Nielsen report on African American consumers was cited in the brief to show that 91 percent of African Americans believe Black media is more relevant to them. In addition, 81 percent of Blacks believe that products advertised in Black media are more relevant to them.

If parties to the agreement are serious about reaching Black consumers, they can’t ignore the NNPA’s approximately 200 Black-owned newspapers and NABOB’s 200 Black-owned radio stations, three commercial television stations, and one cable TV network, the brief stated.

It said, “Advertisements with NNPA and NABOB will disseminate the information more comprehensively and more directly to members of the African American community, which was a primary target of the Defendants’ extensive marketing practices to promote smoking. Because the Defendants directly and intentionally targeted the African American community, the publication of the text of the court-ordered corrective statement by NNPA and NABOB members will be a more effective and complete remedy for the Defendants’ harmful conduct.”

“It is sad that an industry that sought to exploit our community with a product that is harmful to our health now seeks to further devalue African-Americans by ignoring the Black media when it is being forced to atone for what a federal judge determined was a deliberate effort to deceive the American public.”

**-Cloves C. Campbell
Chairman of the NNPA**

“corrective statements” the tobacco industry should be forced to make in ads to address the falsehoods they have been telling about the harmful effects of smoking, the addictiveness of smoking,

at \$30 million to \$45 million. In her initial ruling against the tobacco industry in 2006, Judge Kessler provided a list of publications where “corrective statements” should be made. Not a sin-

Kevin Hart becoming crown prince of comedy in 'Ride Along'

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

Kevin Hart is becoming the crown prince of comedy. These days, he's the little, impish comedian who serves up big, huge laughs. In fact, his comic chops are often one of the most redeeming qualities in the films he headlines. Point in case:

Rookie cop vs. a jaded career officer. It's a pairing that is almost cliché in cop movies (48 Hours). The formula gets a 2014 refresh courtesy of screenwriter Greg Coolidge (Employee of the Month) who concocted the storyline and fleshed it out with several other scribes. For the most part, the script sticks to comedy/action crime story fundamentals: two diametrically opposed cops, a skeptical commanding officer back at the precinct headquarters, a seemingly unsolvable crime and a diabolical villain. The success or failure of a movie that sticks to these essentials, rest more on the cast, their chemistry, the direction and the pacing of laughs and action than originality. When audiences enter theaters, based on commercials and trailers, they pretty much know what to expect. It's the aforementioned variables and finishing touches that will shape their opinions of films like Ride Along.

Ben (Hart) is a high-school security guard by day and a video game junkie on his off hours. He lives with his girlfriend Angela (Tika Sumpter) in Atlanta. He's ambitious enough to have put in an application at the local police academy, with hopes of a



promising career that will set him up to marry his lady friend. He sheepishly seeks the approval of her brother; an APD Detective named James (Ice Cube), who is not an ally.

James will only accept Ben as a genuine suitor for his sister's affections if he goes on a "Ride Along" with him and experiences a cop's life firsthand. The mouthy, ditsy, optimistic Ben rides shotgun as the sullen, curmudgeon and pessimistic James shows the wannabe brother-in-law the ropes. As James tries to solve a mystery involving an elusive drug kingpin named Omar (Laurence Fishburne), Ben is his wide-eyed apprentice.

Director Tim Story has not had the chance to demonstrate a great aptitude for the comedy-cop genre in previous films (Think Like a Man, Barbershop, Fantastic Four). His action scenes are decently choreographed, but not spectacular. He's better at ratcheting up the comedy elements and giving his cast plenty of room

to improvise and take verbal jabs at each other. And, he throws in some incredulous scenes where the duo bumbles things badly, yet their actions save them and evoke side-splitting guffaws: Ben and James are interrogating a suspect, Ben's bravado gets the better of him and he shoots the crook. It's shocking, funny and absurd. Fortunately, these staged moments appear frequently enough to offset some very predictable devices: You're expecting James' lieutenant to say at any moment, "I'll have your badge for this," or "I'm taking you off the case." The sentiments are there, the words are fortunately never uttered.

Kevin Hart is as animated as a puppy who has to pee and is looking for a clue that his owner is getting ready to take him to the park. The bashful eyes, the seemingly wagging tail, the simpering whine. He's vulnerable, manic and cuddly. It's hard not to like him as Ben. Hard not to see that he is building a faithful fan base

(young, urban, hip) that will give him a solid film career. Ice Cube is his perfect foil, he's mean and dead serious, "You thought I was crazy? No baby I am nuts." He growls, sneers and threatens like the future brother-in-

law from hell. Tika Sumpter is sweet and makes the perfect referee for the two opposing factions. John Leguizamo and Bryan Callen play James' fellow officers and Bruce McGill the precinct lieutenant. All are decent, but do not give indelible performances. Fishburne, with his behemoth frame and deep Othello voice, is more impressive and quite intimidating.

Christopher Lennertz's musical score plays a strong bass and drum beat at all the right times. Larry Branford's (Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol, Minority Report) cinematography is quite understated considering his credentials. Editor Craig Alpert (Pineapple Express) knows how to cut the film close to the funny bone.

The police dudes get themselves into a lot of predicaments. Just as you

think it's all over and the Fat Lady will sing – or pump a bullet – the movie gets a second wind and storms into a fourth act. Not sure how wise this is, but the added length is still, for the most part, engaging.

Rumor has it that at one point Ryan Reynolds was to play the Ben role and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson was to be James. The producers should thank their lucky stars this project didn't gel until Hart and Cube came along. They make the movie. They steal the film.

You walk out the theater and there's a thought bubble above your head that says: "Was this movie excellent? No. Do I want to see a sequel? Hell yeah!"

That little imp has done it again.

Visit [NNPA Syndication Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com](http://NNPA.SyndicationFilmCriticDwightBrown.com).

WALK, continued from Page 1

munity to come together walk and discuss ideas. Then of course, they also are seeking to raise money so they can implement their program.

The walk is scheduled for March 1 at from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at White Rock Lake Trail in Dallas.

The day will include speakers and vendors will

offer food. Also, parents can enroll their students in the Unleashed program.

Visit www.unleashedgenerations.com/walk-against-islamophobia/ to register for the 5K on March 1.

TWC slates Texas Business Conference for Jan. 24

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) will host Grapevine-area business owners and managers at the sold-out Texas Business Conference Friday, Jan. 24, 2014.

Employers will learn how to operate a business and discover techniques to more effectively manage employees. Employers will receive practical, up-to-date information and tools for finding workers.

The conference is from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center, Texas Ballroom, located at 1501 Gaylord Trail in Grapevine.

Registration is from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

I, Frankenstein opens this week in theaters

How do you go from being the President of the United States to Frankenstein?

Well we will see Aaron Eckhart give it a try in I, Frankenstein at movie theaters this weekend.

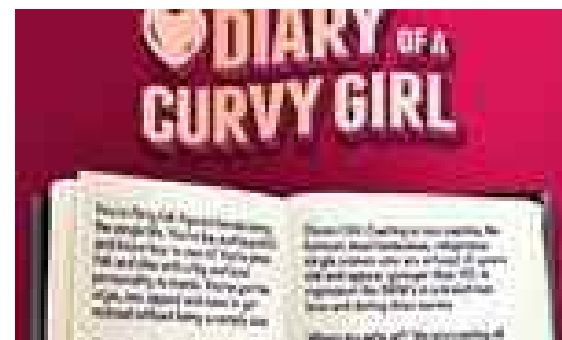
It is the tale of Dr. Frankenstein's creature, Adam, who still walks the earth over 200 years later.

Adam is plunged into the middle of a war over the fate of humanity and he finds out he holds the key. Will he destroy or save mankind?

Usually I have NO interest in these type of

flicks, however two of the lead characters are among my favorite actors: Aaron

Eckhart and Bill Nighy. So look for me front and center with popcorn.



Casting call for new docu-series featuring BBW looking for love

Doron Ofir Casting is now casting smart, beautiful and bodacious single women who are at least 21 years old and represent the BBW's in a brand new love and dating docu-series.

Time to show the world that big girls have more fun all the while

dating and looking for love in the their city!

They are interested in finding all types of single women whether you're nightlife's A-list, an on-line dating diva, a full-sized fashionista, domestic goddess or big or a business savvy beauty.

A few tips on how to spot a bad moving company

By Jason Alderman

Moving is already traumatic and expensive enough; the last thing you want to worry about is getting ripped off by your mover. Yet each year, the Better Business Bureau receives thousands of complaints against moving companies, mostly alleging lost or damaged property, not showing up on time, overcharging – or, in extreme cases, stealing or holding customers' possessions hostage while demanding more money than originally agreed upon.

Before you spend hundreds or thousands of dollars and entrust your valuables with strangers, here are a few tips for ensuring a positive moving experience, as well as scams to avoid:

Screen potential movers. All companies that do interstate moves must be registered with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (www.protectyourmove.gov). You can use its search engine to screen for complaints, safety information and company contact information by company name or

by the state where its primary business office is located.

Moving companies that don't cross state lines aren't governed by federal regulations, but rather, by individual state laws. Go to the State/Local Resources tab at FMCSA's site for links to each state's regulatory resources. Also make sure the company has at least a satisfactory rating from the Better Business Bureau.

Get written estimates. No reputable mover would ever give a firm estimate by phone or Internet, sight-unseen. Always insist on in-home inspections of your household goods and detailed, written estimates from at least three to five moving companies so you can get a sense of true market rates.

Movers need to know how much stuff you have, whether particularly heavy, valuable or awkward pieces need to be moved, if stairs are involved, and many other details that will affect their costs. Beware if an estimate is significantly less: This is a common ruse by unscrupulous companies to bind you to their service,

then later hit you up for hidden fees – perhaps even refusing to unload your furnishings until you pay up.

By law, movers must assume liability for the value of property they transport. Ask for proof your mover has insurance and make sure you understand what's covered. Base-line coverage they should provide is called "released-value protection." It's free, but if something is lost or broken, they only have to pay you 60 cents per pound. For an additional fee you can purchase "full-value protection," where the mover must repair, replace or provide cash settlement for damaged items. Also consider third-party moving insurance.

A few additional tips:

Ask if the moving company will handle the entire move itself or hire subcontractors. Apply the same due diligence to any subcontractors.

Ask whether crewmembers are employees or temporary hires and ask to see verification of background checks, either way.

Ask to see the company's "tariff," which outlines the

maximum costs and how they're calculated, as well as a list of all items for which you could face additional charges.

Be suspicious if the mover asks for a large cash deposit or full payment in advance. Also, don't make the final payment until you're sure everything was delivered undamaged.

Be wary if the company's website has no local address or license and insurance in-

formation, they refuse to put everything in writing or they use an unmarked truck rather than a company-owned vehicle.

Interstate movers are required by law to give you a copy of the FMCSA's booklet, "Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move." Even if your move is only local, be sure to read it for valuable tips.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education

programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/Practical-Money



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DISD celebrates 65 Healthier U.S. School Challenge Award schools

DALLAS – Dallas ISD held an awards ceremony at Sam Tasby Middle School to honor the 65 schools to receive the 2013 HealthierUS School Challenge Award. The HUSSC award, sponsored by USDA Food and Child Nutrition Service (FNS), is a voluntary national certification initiative for schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

The ceremony was hosted by School Zone Dallas student Kendell Long and included speakers Bill Ludwig, Regional Administrator-USDA Food Nutrition Services Southwest Region; Dallas ISD Executive Director of Food and Child Nutrition Services Dora Rivas; Jeannine Rios-



Healthy School Program Manager; Barbara Johnson Director of Dallas ISD Health and Physical Education Department; and fitness and health expert Larry North. In addition, each school sent a representative to receive their award. The Sam Tasby Leadership Cadet Corps drill team performed.

Thirty-four elementary

and 31 middle schools received awards.

To qualify, Dallas ISD schools worked hard to make changes to their school environment in order to (1) improve the quality of food served, (2) provide students with nutrition education, and (3) provide students with physical education and opportunities for physical activity.

Gold Level

Alex Sanger Elementary School
Arcadia Park Elementary School
Ascher Silberstein Elementary School
Clinton P. Russell Elementary School
Ebby Halliday Elementary School
Edna Rowe Elementary School
Edward Titche Elementary School
Esperanza "Hope" Medrano Elementary School
Harrell Budd Elementary School
Herbert Marcus Elementary School
Highland Meadows Elementary School
Ignacio Zaragoza Elementary School
James S. Hogg Elementary School
John Quincy Adams Elementary School
L.L. Hotchkiss Elementary School
Urban Park Elementary School

Silver Level

Everette L. DeGolyer Elementary School

Bronze Level

Alex W. Spence Middle School
Benjamin Franklin Middle School
Billy E. Dade Middle School
Boude Storey Middle School
Dallas Environmental Science Academy
E.B. Comstock Middle School
E.D. Walker Middle School
Edward H. Cary Middle School
Francisco "Pancho" Medrano Middle School
Fred Florence Middle School
Hector Garcia Middle School
Harold Wendell Lang Sr. Middle School
Henry W. Longfellow Middle School
John B. Hood Middle School
J.L. Long Middle School
L.V. Stockard Middle School

Louise Wolff Kahn Elementary School
Maple Lawn Elementary School
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Martha Turner Reilly Elementary School
Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School
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Nathaniel Hawthorne Elementary School
Onesimo Hernandez Elementary School
Paul L. Dunbar Elementary School
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Sudie L. Williams Elementary School
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Thomas Tolbert Elementary School

J.N. Ervin Elementary School

Kennedy-Curry Middle School
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Pearl C. Anderson Middle School
Raul Quintanilla Sr. Middle School
Robert T. Hill Middle School
Sarah Zumwalt Middle School
Sam Tasby Middle School
Seagoville Middle School
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Concorde Career College Adds Online Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration

Concorde Career College now offers a continuing education opportunity with its new Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration – Radiologic Technology. Students will be able to earn this Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration in as little as 15 months.

Concorde's Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration – Radiologic Technology program is the next step in advancing a career in Radiologic Technol-

ogy. This degree will expand student's potential and prepare them for leadership and management roles. By achieving new skills that include competency in research methods, improved critical thinking and the principles of management needed to work in cross-functional teams, graduates will be well prepared for their next career step.

"This online degree builds on the foundation of our entry level healthcare career programs by com-

pleting the career path for our current and future students," said Patrick Albert, Concorde CEO. "We pride ourselves in preparing committed students for success-

ful employment in rewarding health care professions. Our new bachelor degrees allow us to provide this support throughout the course of their career."

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IRVIN, continued from Page 2

offering safe, fun and character-building Summer Camps, Retreats and Conferences and Outdoor Education programs. With properties in Texas, Colorado and Oklahoma, Sky Ranch serves well over 50,000 guests annually.

Proceeds from the gala benefit Sky Ranch to support these invaluable outreach initiatives and help fund its expanding scholarship program. Scholarships raised during the gala are instrumental in helping send deserving kids to summer camp at Sky Ranch, who might not otherwise have an opportunity to take advantage of this life-enriching experience.

This year, the star-studded Cowboys and Cowboys Sky Ranch Gala may exceed fundraising expectations.

To help fund scholarships, guests may bid on luxury items such as jewelry, restaurant gift cards, travel packages, celeb-signed guitars, golf outings, local sports tickets and more treasures in the silent and live auctions.

"The gala is an exciting evening of entertainment and fun," said Irvin. "However, we never lose sight that the focus is on supporting the mission of Sky Ranch and helping change

lives one kid at a time." Individual tickets for the Cowboys & Cowboys Sky Ranch Gala are \$150. Sponsorships are available at various levels. For more information visit www.CowboysAndCowboys.com or call 469-484-4840.

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**January 26
9:30 a.m.**

You're invited to join us in our Sunday Morning Services.

January 29

Join us for Morning Bible Class at 10:30 a.m.; and come back for Evening Bible Classes at 7:00 p.m.

Brother Ramon Hodridge, Minister of Education
1026 Avenue F
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

January 26, 8 a.m.

You're invited to our Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and stay for Morning Worship Service as we praise God for all of His blessings.

Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Sr. Senior Pastor
4215 N. Greenview Drive
Irving, TX 75062

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

January 26, 8:45 or 11 a.m.

Join us in one or both of our Worship Services as we honor and praise God for His many blessings.

Dr. Terrence Autry, Senior Pastor
George Bush Fwy at Jupiter Road on the Garland/Richardson Border
972-991-0200
www.followpeace.org

DAYSTAR DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES

February 2014

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.

Pastor Minnie Hawthorne-Ewing
635 W. Campbell Road Suite 210
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For Community help the Assistance Center serves Collin County by responding to people in crisis for emergency shelter, clothing, food, and access to medicine and medical services for county residents. Call the church or Allen's City Hall for details.

January 26, 8 a.m.

Join us in Early Worship at 200 W. Belmont Drive location in Allen as we praise God and at 9:30 a.m. at 1550 Edelweiss Drive in Allen for Sunday Morning Worship.

What's on Your Mind? Don't copy the behavior, attitude and action of the world. Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Romans 12: 2a. Join us for one or both of our Worship Services as we praise God for the victories in our lives.

January 29, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's

Word

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed.D.
Senior Pastor
1550 Edelweiss Drive
In Allen for Sunday Morning Worship.
Admin. Building Address
Is 200 W. Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVERS COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE (PACE)

February 2, 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, Chuck Siler author, political cartoonist, and contributor to noted publications. He is a retired programs curator for the Louisiana State Museum and has been an artist/journalist since junior high school. Currently, he is a contributor to the Black Commentator, Chickenbones, See Me Online, and others.

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 csrich47@hotmail.com 469-585-6844 www.pacedfw.org

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

**January 26
8 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

Join us for one or both of our Worship Services as we praise and honor God. Sunday School starts at 9:45 a.m. After each service ministers and deacons are available to meet with you for prayer or questions.

January 29, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word; and/or our Health & Fitness Ministry in the annex will resume for 2014.

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

January 26, 7:30 a.m.

You're invited to join us as we worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

January 27, 7 p.m.

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

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Other Quotes by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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

Editor's Note: This column and photo was originally published in April 5, 2012 issue. It was the final column in a three part series where Sis. Tarpley reminded us of the many beautiful quotes and powerful messages from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

• "Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal."

• "Philanthropy is commendable, but it must not cause the philanthropist to overlook the circumstances of economic injustice which make philanthropy necessary."

• "Pity may represent little more than the impersonal concern which prompts the mailing of a check, but true sympathy is the personal concern which demands the giving of one's soul."

• "Property is intended to serve life, and no matter how much we surround it

with rights and respect, it has no personal being. It is part of the earth man walks on. It is not man."

• "Rarely do we find men who willingly engage in hard, solid thinking. There is an almost universal quest for easy answers and half-baked solutions. Nothing pains some people more than having to think."

"Science investigates religion interprets. Science gives man knowledge which is power religion gives man wisdom which is control."

• "Seeing is not always

believing." "Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will." "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." "That old law about 'an eye for an eye' leaves everybody blind. The time is always right to do the right thing."

• "The art of acceptance is the art of making someone who has just done you a small favor wish that he might have done you a greater one."

• "The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But... the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'" "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."

• "The hope of a secure and livable world lies with disciplined nonconformists who are dedicated to jus-

tice, peace and brotherhood." "The hottest place in Hell is reserved for those who remain neutral in times of great moral conflict."

• "The limitation of riots, moral questions aside, is that they cannot win and their participants know it. Hence, rioting is not revolutionary but reactionary because it invites defeat. It involves an emotional catharsis, but it must be followed by a sense of futility."

• "The means by which we live have outdistanced the ends for which we live. Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men."

• "The moral arc of the universe bends at the elbow of justice."

• "The Negro needs the white man to free him from his fears. The white man needs the Negro to free him from his guilt." "The past is prophetic in that it asserts

loudly that wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows." "The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important."

• "The question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be... The nation and the world are in dire need of creative extremists."

• "The sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality."

• "The time is always right to do what is right."

• "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

• "The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but

See KING, Page 16



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“Negroes and the Gun: The Black Tradition of Arms” looks back on our history with guns

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The headlines made you shake your head.

There was another shooting nearby the other night. Another senseless argument, another impulsive action, another life ended.

Sometimes, you wonder if things like that could’ve been prevented. But as you’ll see in “Negroes and the Gun: The Black Tradition of Arms” by Nicholas Johnson, history – both old and recent – has a lot of bearing on the bearing of arms.

Frederick Bailey had had enough.

He’d been raised as the slave-companion to a young white boy in a big-brother role and was “coddled.” His owner, therefore, thought it best that the sometimes-impudent Frederick be sent away and “broken.” But headstrong Frederick wouldn’t have any of that, and he fought back.

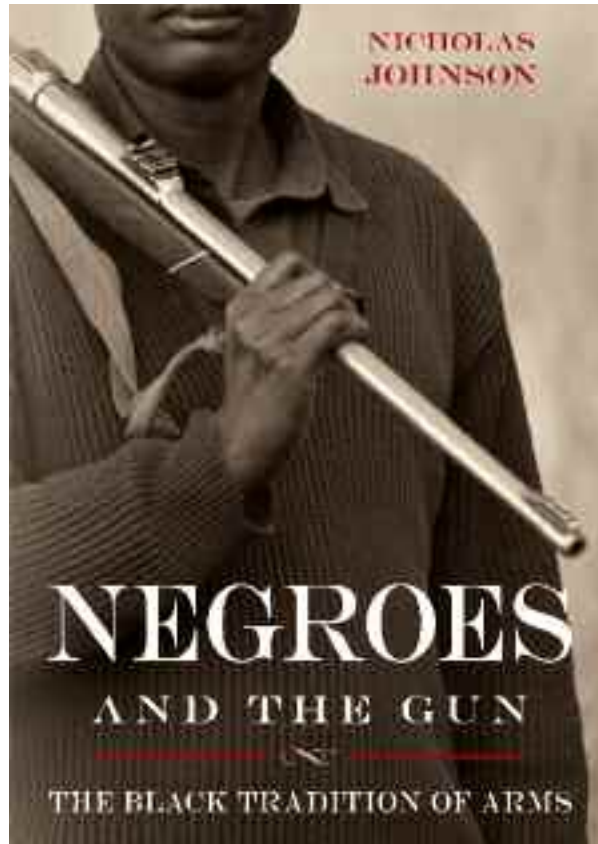
Frederick (Bailey) Dou-



Nicholas Johnson

glass was “far from the first to fight,” says Johnson; in fact, both slaves and black freemen in the early-to-mid 1800s used guns to defend themselves. For that, “Punishment was swift.” Still, pre-Civil War records from Vicksburg, Mississippi show that slaves had “direct access” to firearms and that merchants who illegally sold guns to slaves were “periodically” prosecuted.

Later, when Lincoln opened the Union Army to “Negro soldiers,” black men took up arms, “intent on proving themselves” and fighting for their freedom.



Once the war was over, black veterans petitioned Congress for their Second Amendment rights to bear arms, and then for a Fourteenth Amendment.

Using their guns, Negroes helped settle the Old West by cowboyin’ and stagecoaching. The “color line became blurred” then as “red, black, and white

men mixed together, but it wasn’t just a man’s world. “Stagecoach” Mary Fields (a.k.a. “Black Mary”) was known to be a better shot than any man in the state of Montana.

By the turn of the century, being armed was a near-necessity for many Negroes. It was a time of lynchings; race riots; Jim Crow laws; and occasional, surprising pockets of legal protection. Still, any white person who thought that a black man or woman wouldn’t dare shoot in self-defense was woefully mistaken.

That sentiment was still around during the Civil Rights Movement, despite “cautions” against violence from Martin Luther King – and, once again, women took up arms, too. But by the mid-1970s, black mayors and other officials were petitioning the government for a different action: to help take guns away from their black constituents.

When I first started “Ne-

groes and the Gun,” I figured that I was in for something dry and maybe a little boring.

I was wrong.

Author Nicholas Johnson tells the story of African American history through firearms, but his is a lively account. Not only are we given a thorough timeline that reflects this book’s title, but we’re treated to individual stories of people, famous and infamous: Ida B. Wells, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Louis Armstrong, Walter White, and, yes, the fascinating gunwoman of whom “men were rightly afraid...”

In the end, I highly enjoyed this book and I think you will, too, whether you’re pro-gun-ownership or not. For the history and its accompanying final, thought-provoking chapter, “Negroes and the Gun” is worth a shot.

A.C. Gonzalez named new Dallas City Manager

The Dallas City Council named A.C. Gonzalez as the City’s 15th City Manager. Gonzalez has been serving as interim city manager since June 2013. His extensive management background includes 32 years of experience in public administration and executive leadership.



ing closely with the Mayor and Council as well as city staff as we continue to make Dallas a great place to live,

work and play,” Gonzalez said. “I’m up to the challenge and ready to start implementing changes that will take our city to the next level.”

As Dallas First Assistant City Manager, Gonzalez led the effort to build the Omni Dallas Convention Center Hotel, managed the Love Field Modernization Pro-

gram, and won a federal grant bringing street cars back to Dallas.

Gonzalez was Deputy Superintendent and Superintendent of the Austin Independent School District from 1995 to 1999. In Austin, he developed the district’s first historically underutilized business program; and led development

of the district’s first joint building project with the City of Austin combining an elementary school with police, social services, library and park and recreation facilities.

From 1988 to 1995, he was Assistant City Manager of the City of Dallas and led negotiations of the Dallas Stars Reunion Arena lease;

developed and implemented programs such as Operation CLEAN, Volunteers in Patrol, SAFE (Support, Abatement, Forfeiture, Enforcement), and Expanded Neighborhood Patrol.

Gonzalez has a Bachelor’s Degree from the UT Austin and a Master’s from Trinity University in San Antonio.

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the silence over that by the good people.”

- “There can be no deep disappointment where there is not deep love.”

- “There is nothing more tragic than to find an individual bogged down in the length of life, devoid of breadth.”

- “To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”

- “War is a poor chisel to carve

out tomorrow.

- “Wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows.”

- “We are not makers of history. We are made by history.”

- “We have guided missiles and misguided men.”

- “We may have all come on different ships, but we’re in the same boat now.”

- “We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”

- “We must build dikes of courage to hold back the flood of fear.”

- “We must concentrate not merely on the negative expulsion of war but the positive affirmation of peace.”

- “We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our ene-

mies.”

- “We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.”

- “We must use time creatively.”

- “We who in engage in nonviolent direct action are not the creators of tension. We merely bring to the surface the hidden tension that is already alive.”

- “We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people.

- “Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality.”

- “Whatever your life’s work is, do it well. A man should do his job so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn could do it no better.”

- “When you are right you cannot be too radical; when you are wrong, you cannot be too conservative.”