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Terry Meza is seeking support of District 105 voters in runoff election

By D'Andrea Willis
NDG Contributing Writer

Terry Meza is competing in a runoff election for State Representative for District 105 on May 27. The district includes Irving and Grand Prairie. Meza is confident she has the knowledge and the heart to qualify as the ideal candidate to serve.

As a Grand Prairie native, Meza understands the concerns of the primarily suburban communities. She attended high school in Irving before gaining a B.A in Spanish and History. She also earned a secondary teaching certificate.

Meza credits her mother as a great influence on her aspirations to further her education.

"My mother went to a one-room school house in Irving, the education only went as far as about 8th grade. She would repeat that story often, so it was clear that there was some disappointment there," Meza says. "My mother pushed me to get an education that she didn't get to have. My older cousin was the only college educated one in the family and she was a school teacher, when my cousin was dying, I dedicated my student teaching to her."

Following a career in education, Meza was offered an opportunity to become part of a fellowship that encouraged minority women to enter public administration. This doorway



Terry Meza (left) was delighted to receive an endorsement from Bernice Montgomery her former opponent in the earlier primary election.

led her to become an executive director for non-profit organizations. Meza worked for multiple causes, these included minority advancement, job placement, historic preservation, and many more. Meza went on to later become an attorney.

Meza wants to take all of her experience and use it to help the residents of Grand Prairie and Irving.

"My opponent has many things in common however; my education background is one of the factors that set me apart. The attorney background is good, but its combination with my other experiences is even better," Meza says.

Meza worked on legal affairs within the National Headquarters of Natural Disasters for Hurricane Katrina and Storm Sandy. "This gave

me the experience working with government affairs and disaster outreach. I have such a wide variety of experience that would guide me in making some helpful decisions at the state level," Meza says.

Meza pinpoints certain initiatives for each district. "Irving is most concerned about issues of transportation," Meza says. "Having the airport and the DART rails, Irving has positioned itself as very global when it comes to transportation. Whoever becomes State Representative will have to be someone who will fill that void regarding transportation issues."

"Grand Prairie wants economic advancement; there has been partic-

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Hernandez returns to Irving ISD Administration

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Black students score big with \$25k Buick scholarships

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Rihana signs with Jay Z's record label

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COMMENTARY

Does Alameel want the Black vote?

Texas Publishers Association

It has come to the attention of the Texas Publishers Association – The Black Press of Texas – that David Alameel's campaign has deliberately neglected the Black Press. Representatives of the Black Press have attempted to contact Alameel's campaign and his office on numerous occasions and received no reply.

Alameel is not seen at Black Churches, Black or-

ganizations and other venues to present his platform to the Black voting populations. The African American community deserves more than yard signs and blanket statements about how electing him to be our Senator is advantageous to the empowerment and continued strengthening of our communities.

We believe the African American press is the cornerstone for providing in-

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Jo Ann Jenkins



Shequeta Smith



Rev. George A. McKinney

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Jo Ann Jenkins

The Board of Directors of AARP, one of the nation's largest and most powerful nonprofit advocacy groups, has unanimously selected Jo Ann Jenkins (@JoAnn_Jenkins) as its new chief executive officer, to succeed longtime CEO A. Barry Rand on Sept. 1, 2014.

"After an extensive, thoughtful and deliberative national search, the AARP Board unanimously selected Jo Ann Jenkins as our new Chief Executive Officer," said Gail Aldrich, Chair of the AARP Board of Directors. "Jo Ann is a sea-

soned leader and innovator. She has an obvious passion for AARP and she fully embraces the social mission. Jo Ann is an inspirational leader who proactively engages at all levels of the organization and is comfortable operating in the public eye. She has demonstrated experience working across party lines that, coupled with her broad business experience, are essential to AARP's success at this time. Her in-depth knowledge of AARP, AARP Foundation and ASI (AARP Services, Inc.) provide her with an intimate fa-



miliarity with the key business models and operations of AARP."

"Jenkins's leadership style models the kind of behaviors that will drive required

cultural change including her sense of urgency, courage, willingness to make tough decisions, and ability to align groups to move forward in new directions," added Aldrich.

"Jo Ann Jenkins has high personal integrity and ethics. She leads by example and sets the right tone at the top for the organization. Jo Ann is also the type of leader who will partner well with the AARP Board," said incoming board chair Carol Raphael.

Jenkins currently serves as executive vice president and chief operating officer of AARP, a role she assumed in March of 2013. In

this position she has streamlined the organization's strategic planning, technology and digital operations to enable AARP to devote greater resources to its core mission. She led the development of the new enterprise-wide strategy that includes defining and facilitating operational priorities, as well as maximizing AARP's mission.

"I am grateful for the trust that the AARP Board has given me to lead this amazing organization," said Jenkins. "I truly believe that for every member of our society, age and experience

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Shequeta Smith

Hollywood is chalked full of great Directors and the alumni of talented African American Directors such as Steve McQueen, Lee Daniels, Spike Lee, Tyler Perry, and John Singleton is growing. However, what we are not seeing is an equal presence of female African American Directors, but one woman hopes to change that and that woman is Shequeta Smith, CEO of Rayven Choi Films.

A graduate of North Carolina State University, a professional resume that includes working on shows

like VH1's *Flava of Love*, the CW's *Everybody Hates Chris*, and a handful of successful short films she has directed; Smith now has her sights on feature films and has a hilarious comedy in the works and has launched a crowd funding campaign to get it off the ground

The film is titled *The Gestapo vs. Granny* and is a comedy set inside of a retirement home that centers around Agnes Monroe, a no nonsense eccentric senior citizen who has been kicked out of eighteen retirement homes

and been arrested nine times for bad behavior while leaving a trail of outspoken victims from her shenanigans. In a hilarious twist Agnes is recruited to take on the shrewd owner of a retirement home that the residents have nicknamed The Gestapo. Agnes' major "Senior Moment" is never realizing she is a senior ... not even for a moment.

Smith launched her crowd funding campaign on Indiegogo on Monday and has a goal of \$75,000 that her team is marketing as Agnes' bail money and promoting on social media as "Free Agnes Monroe".

Confident the campaign will succeed, Smith plans to shoot the film this Fall in Los Angeles with a dream cast and if all goes according to plan, Betty White will star in the film as Agnes Monroe. Smith has even initiated an online fan petition for Betty White to star in the role of Agnes.

To support *The Granny vs. The Gestapo's* Indiegogo campaign, log on to www.FreeAgnesMonroe.com. Follow the campaign and film on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/FreeAgnesMonroe and on Twitter, www.Twitter.com/FreeAgnesMonroe.



Rev. George A. McKinney

Pastor George A. McKinney and his family were hosting a pool party four years ago. Several children and families were gathered, fellowshiping and having a good time. Nothing out of the ordinary for this annual event, which Pastor McKinney had been hosting for more than a decade without incident.

"Albert was 7; my son was 9 at the time. They were friends. They had gone to Magic Mountain together. There were some other kids there as well and they were having a great time," McKinney remembers. He vividly remembers about six or seven children in the pool that time, saying, "Albert was running around

the house, having a great time, playing video games with my son. Normal kids' stuff."

But what was a normal, joyous time quickly turned to tragedy.

During the party, the kids were playing dead man float, and as fate would have it, Albert got in trouble. No one immediately noticed and before anyone caught on, Albert was at the bottom of the pool. Once he was discovered, a few people immediately dove to the bottom of the pool, and brought Albert to the pool's edge, began to perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation (CPR), as one of the parents called 911.

The paramedics came

and rushed Albert to the hospital. But he could not be saved. Pastor McKinney, his family and all families involved were deeply im-

pacted by the tragedy. Psychologist Lorraine Johnson, mother of Rudy

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P. O. Box 763866 • Dallas, Texas 75376-3866
Phone: 972-516-4191
Fax: 972-509-9058



Publisher's Office:

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:

opportunity@northdallasgazette.com

Editorial Department:

editor@northdallasgazette.com

Online:

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Brandy Jones-West

Published By

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Web Master

Todd Jones

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Terri Schlichenmeyer
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The difficult math of inequality

By William Spriggs

Thousands of fast food workers took to the streets recently, staging strikes in protest over their low pay. In states where the minimum wage has not been raised above the federal level, if a worker could put together a full-time, full-year schedule, she would earn just \$15,080 a year.

Some people scoff at raising the minimum wage for these workers, on the basis that "they only flip burgers." By that logic, what should you get paid if you are the chief burger flipper? Not much, right? Well, the CEOs of fast food restaurants average \$11,884,000 in pay annually. That's a lot of hamburgers to flip.

Here is where the math of inequality comes into play. We haven't given minimum wage workers a raise in more than five years, yet inflation has continued. So minimum wage workers' purchasing power has been falling. In 2009, \$15,080 a year would place a single mother with a child above the poverty threshold. Today, she and her child would be living in poverty.

Let's suppose the CEO wants his pay to keep up with inflation. Assuming inflation runs as it has the last 12 months, he needs a pay raise of 2 percent, or \$237,680. That raise equals an entire year's worth of pay for about 16 of his minimum wage workers. Company sales have to increase by almost a quarter million dollars to cover the CEO's pay raise.

You can see the hard math that inequality creates. When one worker makes 788 times what other workers make, the math of how much it takes to increase everyone's pay by the same amount gets tricky. Such a huge amount must go to just one worker. But raises for fast food CEOs haven't simply kept pace with inflation. Analysis by the Economic Policy In-

stitute shows that the average fast food CEO's pay has almost doubled since 2009.

That should appear odd. If CEOs' pay has doubled, then clearly we would expect the performance of their companies to have doubled. That would be the result of workers doubling their efforts since 2009 in increasing the companies' bottom lines. If that were the case, we should see workers' pay also go up. If performance didn't improve and workers weren't more productive, how did CEOs get rewarded for poor manage-



Photo: David Pilbrow / Flickr

ment?

Others look at the workers on strike and wonder what would happen to the price of their hamburger if the workers making \$7.25 an hour got a raise. But the real question is, what is it doing to the price of your hamburger that one person got a \$6 million raise since 2009. That raise is more than the combined annual earnings of 398 minimum wage workers making \$7.25 an hour.

Congress could act to rebalance the equation, but Senate Republicans blocked a vote to raise the minimum wage. Despite appeals from workers, the president and the secretary of labor, and despite polls showing support from the American people, House Republicans have indicated they also would block a raise for workers.

If it doesn't want to address the wage problem head-on, Congress could at least take action to get Americans back to work. A giant rally was held this week at the AFL-CIO headquarters with Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx to tell Congress it is time to pass the appropriations needed to put Americans back to work building bridges, fixing roads, updating sewer systems, providing more public transportation options and expanding port facilities. These are investments America must make to remain globally competitive. When we

don't make these improvements, our deteriorating infrastructure becomes a mounting debt we leave for our children to pay.

Full employment is a sure way to help raise the wages of all Americans. Just like pushing up wages from the bottom, it changes the math of inequality. Having job choices, and standing on a higher floor for wages, puts workers closer to eye-to-eye with CEOs when bargaining for wages.

Congress has choices. It can raise the minimum wage. It can invest in America. Or it can continue to make it hard to address American inequality by standing for the 1 percent.

Follow Spriggs on Twitter: @WSpriggs. Contact: Amaya Smith-Tune Acting Director, Media Outreach AFL-CIO 202-637-5142.

ALAMEEL, continued from Page 1

formation in African American communities throughout Dallas/Fort Worth and Texas. Many Black people rely on us to inform them of the issues and concerns the major media outlets overlook.

It is unfortunate that Alameel's campaign strategy is to continue to rely on and pay gatekeepers who pretend to have the best interest of the African American community at heart. Those same gatekeepers do not use the Black Press of Dallas/Fort Worth and

Texas to get his very important message out to the African American community.

Instead these political gatekeepers have kept a large number of African Americans in the dark through his lack of partnership with and using the resources of the Black Press throughout Texas. These media outlets could help energize the electorate and push his campaign to victory.

Kesha Rogers is Alameel's current Democratic opponent in the May

runoff. Rogers is a young African American woman with billboards throughout the African community featuring "Impeach Obama" as part of her campaign message.

Black people will not support anyone that boldly campaigns to impeach the only Black President this nation has ever elected. Hopefully, Alameel and his representatives are not solely relying on Rogers' campaign rhetoric to lure the Black vote to support his campaign instead.

Again we ask: DOES ALAMEEL WANT THE BLACK VOTE?

Community Walk hosted by BAPS Charities in Irving

Mehr Patel is only 12 years old. Everyone that meets her immediately smiles upon seeing her beaming face. Even though Mehr is still a kid she decided to fundraise for a cause close to her heart. To prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

The 2014 BAPS Charities walk in Dallas, TX, which took place on Saturday May 17, 2014, supported the American Diabetes Association. ADA's mission to help cure diabetes motivated Mehr and many other walkers to fundraise and walk for this cause, which hits near and dear to their heart. After living with the disease, Mehr has become committed toward living a healthier lifestyle and raising awareness so that people learn how to effectively manage and treat diabetes. She was thrilled



knowing that her efforts were going to make a profound impact in the community. For the last 3 months, Mehr took up the cause of raising funds to support the BAPS Charities Walk in Dallas and raised over \$700!

This year's walkathon brought together approximately 880 participants ranging from young kids at the age of 2 to seniors at the age of 75. The walk launched with a traditional prayer for world peace and an opening speech by Dallas

County Commissioner, Dr. Elba Garcia. "It is a honor to be here at the BAPS Charities walk this year, this is a great walk supporting a great cause. It is great to see all the people here today to support BAPS Charities and American Diabetes Association" stated Dr. Garcia.

Upon completing the 5k walk, Jitendra Bhatia proudly stated, "I was excited to join in this walk because it brings the community together, teaching kids to start being involved in charities from a young age".

Dr. Ankithbai Patel, a local volunteer for the walk, commented, "Participating in events like this is a wonderful opportunity for my entire family to come together and contribute to something that creates a positive impact in our community. Today, I walked with my

family and friends".

BAPS Charities undertakes many such charitable events throughout the year to support local communities. BAPS Charities' projects are inspired by Pramukh Swami Maharaj's motto, "In the joy of others, lies our own". Through this motto, Pramukh Swami Maharaj selflessly serves society through a variety of social projects and inspires thousands of others to do the same. In addition to the 40 such annual walkathons hosted across North America this year, BAPS Charities hosts a variety of programs to support healthy living, environmental awareness and education initiatives around the world. BAPS Charities sincerely serves the community, by improving the quality of life of individuals and families.

JENKINS, continued from Page 2

can expand your possibilities in life. I feel a great deal of responsibility for ensuring that AARP is here as a trusted ally for people 50+ and their families and that we protect the most vulnerable among us."

"As COO, Jo Ann has done a tremendous job of improving our organizational performance. She led the realignment of our internal operations, adopting an enterprise strategy that encourages greater creativity and accountability," said current AARP CEO Rand. "Through her leadership AARP has seen major improvements in operational efficiency, financial stewardship and excellence in execution."

Prior to being named chief operating officer, Jenkins served as President of AARP Foundation, where she developed and oversaw programs that have improved the lives of millions of Americans, fighting hunger, poverty, isolation, and unemployment among older adults and contributing millions of dollars to disaster relief. In her first two years at the Foundation, Jenkins grew its overall donor base by 90 percent.

In addition to her strong leadership and operations skills, Jenkins also has significant expertise on women's issues and intergenerational programs.

A key AARP Foundation initiative launched under Jenkins is Mentor Up, which encourages young people to engage in service on behalf of older adults and foster positive intergenerational dynamics.

Jenkins joined the AARP Foundation from the Library of Congress, where she served as its chief operating officer. During her 15-year tenure at the Library of Congress, she developed and directed two of its most renowned projects, the National Book Festival and the Library of Congress Experience, the largest and most complex program in its 210-year history.

In May 2010, Jenkins was recognized by the technology industry with the 11th Annual Women in Technology Award for her innovative leadership on the Library of Congress Experience. She is also a recipient of the Library of Congress Distinguished Service Award.

On May 17, Jo Ann will

receive an honorary doctorate of humane letters and address graduates at Washington College's 231st Commencement.

Earlier in her career, she directed the USDA's Office of Advocacy and Enterprise, worked at the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

She became a member of AARP Services Board of Directors in 2004 and its

chair in 2008, completing her service in May 2010. She is on the board of the Congressional Hunger Center. She was a delegate and founding fellow to the U.S.-Japan Leadership Program and a 1999 graduate of Leadership America. She is a Malcolm Baldrige Fellow (2013).

A native of Mobile, Ala., she earned her Bachelor of Arts from Spring Hill College. She is a 1998 graduate of the Stanford Executive

Program, offered by the university's Graduate School of Business.

Aldrich concluded: "The Board would also like to thank Barry Rand for his vision, leadership and stewardship which guided AARP through some challenging and exciting times these past five years.

AARP is a more vibrant, relevant, and financially healthy organization for people 50+ than it was when Barry joined AARP in

2009.

His legacy will be his financial acumen, creation of Life Re-imagined, ability to attract quality talent and focus on the changing multicultural demographics of the country. We are grateful Barry will continue to lead AARP until Jo Ann takes the helm on September 1.

We wish Barry all the best as he rediscovers what he wants to do in the next chapter of his very distinguished career."

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Dallas County Republicans: Deconstructing the Black conservative



Curtis Report

by Barry Curtis

Texas politics can be a rough and tumble business, that's the nature of the beast and as such that is fair. All Texas Republicans maneuver the treacherous political waters of this very red state with zeal and passion and they often win. However, if you are a black conservative Republican, there are more hazards and obstacles in the water that make swimming an impossibility and there is no life jacket in sight.

The Dallas County Republican establishment's lack of support of conservative black candidates is staggering in its audacity and

breath taking for its in-your-face boldness.

Here is the fundamental issue: When the establishment republicans fail to fully support black conservative candidates they are not just saying that black conservatives cannot be at the table, the republican's lack of support validates the belief that black conservatives do not deserve to be at the table.

We again go to the most blatant case of non-support in Dallas County. John Lawson, who is a Black conservative republican candidate running for the Texas State Senate in South Dallas. John Lawson is running against an entrenched solid Democratic incumbent by the name of Sen. Royce West. Keep in mind that John Lawson has no repub-

lican primary challenger. John is the republican challenger that will face Royce West in the general Election.

According to the Lawson campaign, he has received no support from the Dallas County Republican Party. There is no help in organizing a fundraiser, no one in the Dallas County Republican Party standing shoulder to shoulder with him as he fights this tremendous political battle.

The Dallas County Republican Party's lack of support of this black conservative is odd, strange, and should be concerning to all blacks no matter where you are on the political spectrum.

In contrast, let's look at the Dallas County Republi-

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Amon Carter Museum of American Art honors military personnel with Blue Star Museums program

FORT WORTH — The Amon Carter Museum of American Art announces today that it will honor military personnel this summer by participating in the Blue Star Museums program in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and museums across America.

The Blue Star Museums program allows free museum admission to active-duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Because admission is always free to the Amon Carter, the museum is offering a free souvenir. This memento is available to both active-duty and retired military personnel when they visit from Tuesday, May 27, to Sunday, Aug. 31.

More than 2,000 museums in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and American Samoa are taking part in the initiative. The complete list of participating museums is available at www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

"We are honored to join in the fifth year



of Blue Star Museums," says Andrew J. Walker, director. "The Amon Carter is pleased to share American art with our American heroes and extends its gratitude to our military and their families."

The Amon Carter Museum of American Art offers outstanding exhibitions and public programs for adults and children and is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday until 8 p.m. and Sunday from 12-5 p.m. Closed Mondays and major holidays; admission is free.

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ular concern about firing workers, and creating business development. The residents of Grand Prairie don't want to be left behind as a city in comparison to the newer cities," Meza says.

After a career in education, Meza has a strong desire to increase the effectiveness of the education system.

"Legislators have a lot to do with public education. I have the desire to do more, to be one of those voices that adequately funds public education. I also want to make higher education affordable for students again," Meza shared.

She is optimistic about the possibility of winning the run-off for State Representative.

"I have been watching the past few elections. When you look at District 105, the same person gets re-elected year after year, but if you look at the numbers, they are merely just getting by. This is a race that's winnable for the Democratic Party," according to

Meza.

Having the same republican winner discourages voters from voting. While block walking, Meza knocked on thousands of doors, and she learned from the experience.

"Part of the reason was to let people know that their vote does count. Just because we've been represented by the same person, it's important to let voters know that this district is still very competitive," Meza pointed out.

"I feel like I have something to offer, but it takes time, energy, and experience. In this district, there is a chance, and I feel like if I give it my all, then the time is now for a democratic to be elected for State Representative," Meza says.

"My education and experience mentally prepares me, but equally important is what gives me the desire," she shared.

Meza has been working with minorities for equality and justice.

"There are communities

that I've been working alongside for decades to help these communities gain justice, representation, and equality. They know that I'm not just asking for their vote, but that I'm working for the diversity that people commonly don't acknowledge exists within Irving and Grand Prairie. There's a lot of diversity, this is simply beautiful and should be celebrated," she shared.

Not everyone is so happy about diversity and Meza has received hate mail, and angry calls regarding her positions on various civil rights issues.

"There are many stories to tell where I addressed an issue that wasn't directly in my realm. I'm sure that my opponent believes in civil rights, but actually having to face and meet with sheriffs, schools, commissioners, etc. goes beyond presenting a paper in the courtroom," Meza points out.

Meza's key platform initiatives includes:

- working to ensure equal pay for equal work;
- an increase to a living wage so eliminate to lift working people out of

poverty;

- increase access to health services — specifically health services for women;
- support public education;

- and increase access to affordable higher education.

Through her service on behalf of District 105 Meza believes she will contribute to the success and development of the entire state.

"There should not be

much conflict with that mission, why should something that is beneficial to one district be a disadvantage to another," Meza shared. "I appreciate all of the support of the people that have supported me thus far; otherwise I wouldn't be where I am now."

The early voting dates began today and will end on Friday May 23. The election is set for Tuesday May

27.

Meza urges voters to consider and discuss their voting plans during the holiday weekend. If a voter has already voted in the primaries, they are still eligible to vote democratic as long as they didn't vote republican during the earlier primary election.

For more information visit <http://www.voteter-mymeza.com>.

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Black students receive \$25,000 a year Buick scholarships

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Washington Correspondent

ATLANTA (NNPA) – After attending a prestigious, predominately White private school, Ty’Quish Keyes yearned for a new cultural and educational experience. Keyes mother pushed him to excel in school and his community because she knew that college was the best way out of their crime-ridden North Philadelphia neighborhood, that held few opportunities for young, Black men.

In 2011, Keyes visited Morehouse College and found students and faculty that supported Black excellence and self-motivated, young Black men. It was a perfect fit for Keyes.

“I was visiting a whole bunch of schools and when I came to Morehouse, I realized that there was a lot I of things I didn’t know about African Americans, my culture and my history,” said Philadelphia teen. Keyes saw Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Chapel for the first time, learned about Malcolm X and about the sacrifices and the perse-

verance of the Freedom Riders; the richness and success of Blacks in American history, had been largely invisible in the curriculum at his high school. He was one of just a handful of Black students in his graduating class. “When I came to [Atlanta] it was shocking.”

Keyes earned enough scholarships to pay for his first fall semester at Morehouse College, but when his mother applied for a loan to help cover tuition and expenses for the spring semester of his freshmen year, she was denied.

During the first weeks of the spring 2012 semester, Keyes scrambled to find scholarships and raise enough money to continue at Morehouse. He watched as some of his classmates in similar financial straits were forced to abandon their college dreams, and the North Philadelphia native wondered if he would be next.

“I was freaking out,” said Keyes, recalling those nerve-racking hours, weighing whether to study for tests or complete assignments for classes, unsure if he would make it to the next week.

Keyes learned about the Buick Achievers Scholarship Program through connections at Morehouse College and applied, thinking that he had nothing lose.

It was a decision that saved his Morehouse College dream and quite possibly his professional career. Keyes, now a junior with a dual major in applied physics and mechanical engineering and a minor in mathematics, won the scholarship and it helped to cover the cost for his sophomore and junior years at Morehouse.

Under the program, students are eligible to receive up to \$25,000 per year to attend a four-year college. Every year the scholarships are awarded to 100 first-time freshman or existing college students and is renewable up to four years and one additional year for those entering a qualified five-year engineering program, according to program’s website, BuickAchievers.com.

To qualify, applicants must also plan to pursue STEM-related (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programs or a select number of design or busi-

ness-related courses of study.

College majors available for the Buick Achievers scholarship include: automotive technology, chemical engineering, computer engineering, computer information systems, mechanical engineering, automotive design, accounting economics, international business and business administration. The full list of eligible majors can be found at www.Buick-Achievers.com.

The scholarship award process also gives special consideration to applicants who are the first in their family to attend college, minorities and veterans.

“One of the unique things that we have done with the Buick Achievers scholarship program is that we have a component built in where we give extra points to individuals who are the first in their families to attend college,” said Vivian Rogers Pickard, president of the General Motors Foundation and director of Corporate Relations at GM. “We know that it impacts the African American and Hispanic communities. So we know that we are making a differ-

ence in the lives of families in those communities and really in our country.”

The funds for the scholarship come from the GM Foundation, not the General Motors Company, according to the scholarship’s website.

Karen Nicklin, the manager of educational initiatives for the GM Foundation and Corporate Relations, said 3,300 students have received \$16.5 million to make their educational dreams come true. The Buick Achievers Scholarship Program has awarded \$4.7 million to nearly 450 Black students, nearly half of them the first in their family to go to college.

Black students account for 20 percent of the scholarship applicants and 14 percent of the students who receive scholarships through the program, meaning that 70 percent of Black students that apply are accepted. Nicklin said that the scholarship program would be even more successful if more Black students were aware it existed.

See BUICK, Page 7

AT&T and UT Dallas hosting an app contest for Texas middle and high school students

OASIS, an ERG (Employee Resource Group) at AT&T is working in conjunction with the University of Texas at Dallas to introduce the Innovate, Develop & Enhance Your App Contest (IDEA). Open to all middle and high school students in Texas, IDEA provides a unique outlet for students to apply their STEM knowledge and creativity to build an original mobile app that can be used every day. Students will create an app that solves a problem they face or improve the way something is done today.

This competition is free of charge, and interested students must register no later than Friday, May 31st. Participants do not need to have any background in software programming or coding or making mobile apps. They will work in groups of 2-4 members, including a mentor (usually a teacher or parent). After registration, each team will submit their Mobile App Idea for the 1st round of the competition by June 14th. The teams that pass the 1st round will be trained using the MIT App Inventor software for the 2nd round submission. On the final day of the event, each team will have 15 minutes to present their app to a panel of judges. Please see below for the official timeline:

Registration Process		Timeline
Registration Deadline	Actual Mobile	May 31 June 14
App Idea Deadline	Results from the 1st Round Announced (Top 20 teams)	June 25
Intensive Training by MIT App Inventor Trainers	Final Ideas & Apps Submission	July 1-July 30 August 7
Presentations & Competition at UT Dallas Campus	Awards Ceremony at UT Dallas Campus	August 9, 10am August 9, 4pm

The winners will be selected based on originality, creativity, and implementation, which includes user experience and design. The prizes will be awarded as indicated below:

Prizes	Middle School	High School
1st place	\$750	\$1000
2nd place	\$500	\$750
3rd place	\$250	\$500

The IDEA Contest is part of a long-term initiative from both OASIS and Department of Computer Science in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science at UT Dallas, designed to provide a

See APPS, Page 13

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Proceeds Will Benefit Irving ISD Afterschool Programs.

Registration Fee of \$10 (Optional)

Hernández returns to Irving ISD as Assistant Superintendent of Administration

At the May 19 board meeting, the Irving ISD Board of Trustees approved the hiring of Magda Hernández to serve as assistant superintendent of administration.

As assistant superintendent, Hernández will oversee all aspects of the district's human resources

function. She will be responsible for the strategic planning and implementation of human resource programs, including professional and auxiliary staffing, wage and salary administration, leave administration, performance appraisal, employee relations and

benefits for the district's approximately 4,500 employees.

As a resident of Irving and former employee of Irving ISD, Hernández will be a familiar face in her new role. Hernández is currently the assistant superintendent for human resources in Wax-

hachie ISD. Prior to that, her roles in Irving ISD included director of human resources, HR staffing and recruiting coordinator, assistant principal at Townley Elementary School, and a bilingual and gifted and talented teacher at Good Elementary School as well as a bilin-

gual instructional aide at Good Elementary.

At Monday's meeting, Dr. Parra told members of the board, "The administration is very pleased to make a recommendation that the board approve the appointment of

See HERNANDEZ, Page 12

BUICK, continued from Page 6

"Some of these kids couldn't even have afforded to go to college, now they are at a Morehouse or a Spelman or a Tuskegee. That's life changing," said Nicklin. "Hopefully that exposure changes the beliefs of their families and other members of their communities so that they also believe that they can do it."

Nicklin said that ensuring a sustainable STEM pipeline for future workers is critical for companies like General Motors.

As the nation's workforce grows more diverse, investments in education and job development in the Black and Hispanic communities will become even more essential.

According to a 2013 report on the disparities in STEM employment by the United States Census Bureau, Blacks and Hispanics continue to lag behind their White counterparts in those fields.

The report found that in 2011, Blacks accounted for 11 percent of the labor force, but only six percent of STEM workers. Whites represented 67 percent of the labor force and 71 percent of the STEM workers.

"We want to help create that next generation of innovators and leaders," said Nicklin. "We have to cultivate and inspire them to reach out for that education."

According to a 2013 report by the National Center for Education Statistics a federal agency that collects, organizes and reports data related to education, the nearly 30 percent of Blacks who started a bachelor's program in a STEM field

left school without earning a degree and "36 percent switched their major to a non-STEM field." In comparison, roughly 20 percent of Whites who began a bachelors program in a STEM field left without ob-



TyQuish Keyes and Buick Scholars get up to \$25,000 a year for college education (NNPA Photo by Freddie Allen).

taining a degree and about 28 percent switched to a non-STEM major.

Students, who are often underrepresented in STEM fields leave for myriad reasons.

"Such factors include inadequate academic advising, career counseling, and institution support; feelings of isolation in STEM fields because too few peers pursue STEM degrees and too few role models and mentors are available (mainly pertinent to females and underrepresented minorities); distaste for the competitive climate in STEM departments (women especially); and perceived discrimination on the basis of sex and/or race/ethnicity in the STEM workforce," stated the report.

STEM careers are some of the highest paid jobs in country for people with only a bachelor's degree.

According to PayScale.com, the online salary profile database starting salaries can range from \$103,000 for a petroleum engineer to \$54,000 for a civil engineer.

Keyes said that highlighting Black students who are Buick Achievers who also attend HBCUs (historically Black colleges and univer-

sities) can help raise the profile of the scholarship program.

Michael L. Lomax, the president and CEO of the United Negro College Fund, the nation's largest provider of scholarships and other educational support to African American students enrolled in private, Black HBCUs, said that General Motors has been supporting UNCF for 70 years.

Lomax continued: "It's really important that what we're doing now is helping African American talent understand where the big opportunities and big challenges are," said Lomax. "We want to see more of our graduates designing the automobiles, and the systems that drive the automobiles and the only way that is going to happen is if they are pursuing STEM degrees."

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Meza receives endorsements from Irving leaders in runoff race for state representative

Terry Meza is facing a runoff election on May 27 to serve as Texas State Representative for House District 105 which includes Irving and Grand Prairie. Her campaign was bolstered by endorsements from key leaders in Irving.

First, Anthony Bond founder of the Irving Chapter of the NAACP

and vocal community activist; and Irving City Councilman Dennis Webb- reelected earlier this month for a second term, who is also a retired Grand Prairie fireman. In addition, Meza announced she was endorsed by her former opponent Bernice Montgomery.

"I am humbled to have the support of Councilman Dennis Webb

and of Anthony Bond in the runoff race for State Representative for Irving and Grand Prairie.

Together tonight we made a special announcement. Bernice Montgomery, who was also a candidate in the Democratic Primary, has graciously endorsed me in the runoff.

"My sincere thanks to her for

the confidence she has placed in me. We share the great democratic values of justice, equality, fairness, and compassion for the less fortunate.

"I welcome her participation in my campaign and that of her supporters. Together we hope to serve The residents of Irving and Grand Prairie and the State of Texas in

the state legislature."

Montgomery's endorsement could prove to be pivotal because together they received 53 percent of the votes cast in the March Primary election. Meza is facing Susan Motley on May 27 with early voting ending at 7 p.m. on May 23.

CURTIS, continued from Page 5

can's support of Ron Natin-sky. Ron is a Republican conservative running for county Judge. Don't get me wrong, I support Ron's bid for county Judge. I know Ron and he will make a fine Judge. Ron has no republican challenger in his bid for county Judge, hummmm,

just like John Lawson. Ron will face a staunch entrenched democratic opponent, just like John Lawson, hummmmm.

What follows is very different from John Lawson: Look at any Facebook post and various fundraisers and you will see a who's who of

Council swears in at Little Elm...



LITTLE ELM SWEARING IN – Mayor Pro Tem Curtis Cornelious (center) welcomed returning Council member Stephanie Shoemaker (right) and newly elected Council member J. Michael McClellan to Council Chambers after Town Secretary Kathy Phillips administered the oath of office. Of the seven Council members, the incoming are the only two elected at-large. Outgoing Council members Richard Stevens and Bill Roebken were also on hand to extend their congratulations.

QuEST Fun Walk slated for June 14

The Islamic Center of Irving (ICI) and QuEST (Quality Education for Students) are partnering to host the Fun Walk on Saturday June 14. The goal is to raise \$10,000 for Irving ISD's after school programs.

The district's after school programs previously were funded by a grant that ended earlier this year.

Parents and concerned citizens are uncertain the

district plans to fund these programs in the upcoming 2014-15 school year.

The line-up will begin at 8:15 a.m. with the walk kicking off at 9 a.m. at the Northwest Park Recreation Center located at 2800 Cheyenne St. Participants will receive a free t-shirt and free hot dogs, chips and drinks will be provided.

For more information call 214-404-7596.

Republican County establishment folks fawning all over our friend, Ron. You deserve it Ron, but John does too.

I do not know if the establishment Republicans have an issue with black conservative candidates or just conservative candidates

in general. It is clear that either answer reeks with the smell of uppity better-than-you sentiment.

In this environment we

have a national search committee considering a host of cities to hold the 2016 Republican Convention including Dallas, really?

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Rihanna leaves Def Jam, signs with Jay Z's Roc Nation label

By Chelsea Lenora White
Special to the NNPA from the
Houston Forward-Times

After almost a decade with Def Jam, our Barbadian rebel, Rihanna has reportedly decided to part ways with the record label. RiRi has of course thought this entire decision out and has already inked a new deal with Jay Z's Roc Nation label. Although she was not signed to Roc Nation (record label home to J. Cole and Rita Ora to name a few), Rihanna has been man-

aged by the label for the duration of her career.

Despite rumors, there is no bad blood between Def Jam and RiRi; and there should not be. Rihanna released SEVEN majorly successful and lucrative albums for the label! So we are sure that she has done more than fulfill her quota at the label.

With her latest career move, Rihanna has proven once again that she takes notes from her mentor, Jay Z. Last month, Jay partnered Roc Nation with one of music's largest corpora-

tions, Universal Music Group.

Don't expect to see Rihanna celebrating with her new labelmates on her infamous Instagram page, though, as it has been deactivated!

We're not sure if the pop star decided to deactivate it herself, or the risqué topless photos from her LUI Magazine shoot violated Instagram's terms and caused the app to deactivate her page altogether.

Either way, we're excited to hear some new music from RiRi with her new home team!



Mesquite Rodeo kicks off 2014 summer season May 30

MESQUITE – It's time to put your boots on, pull your hat down tight and ride to Mesquite, the "Rodeo Capital of Texas." Mesquite Rodeo's 2014 season – their 57th season kicks off May 30 with Wild West professional rodeo competition, pageantry, music, comedy and entertainment. From kids riding miniature bulls to comedy, trick horses, musicians, and trick riders, each week of the 13-week series offers specialty entertainment to complement the rodeo action.

"Each year, we create special openings, add new music and hire new specialty acts to keep each Friday and Saturday exciting and fresh," said Steve Gander, general manager, "Whether you're 2 or 82, we have 13 weeks of memorable entertainment. We are deep in tradition here, but this is not your daddy's old rodeo. We also serve the best Bar B Q in North Texas."

Keith Isley, a five-time PRCA "Entertainer of the Year," performs comedy for his fans during the season opener May 30-31. His horses, rope and whip tricks, musical routines, and jokes are considered crowd pleasers.

The 2014 rodeo season is packed with entertainment that complements the rodeo action. It includes an opportunity to see 11- and 12-year-old kids with nerves of steel riding 800-pound

bulls. Bert Davis and his comedy dogs, all rescued from shelters, will perform for the crowd. The Cowgirl Chicks will amaze with their entertaining trick riding that earned this "equestrian drill team" several nominations for PRCA Specialty Act of the Year.

Hispanic trick roper with national awards Tomas Garcilazo will showcase his skills during a special Hispanic Heritage Night. Hollywood Yates, a WWE wrestler and star of American Gladiator ("Wolf") who

is becoming country's newest singing sensation, will entertain the crowds with his larger-than-life presence and talent. Mesquite's own Hawkeye Henson of HBO's Deadwood makes a triumphant return with the Neil Gay Cowboy Reunion.

In addition to the specialty acts and extreme rodeo action, other family-friendly events will engage and entertain kids and adults alike. Mutton bustin' and calf scrambles allow the kids to get in on the action, rodeo-style. If you are

inspired to try riding a bull yourself, the Mesquite Rodeo would like to introduce you to "TEX," the mechanical bull. Ever thought to yourself, "I wanna be a cowboy?" Wonder no more as you get your own chance of that eight-second glory as TEX takes you for a spin! You can take home "I rode Tex" bragging rights.

While the action is hot, Mesquite Arena is a cool choice for a summer evening in Texas. The non-stop action at Mesquite Rodeo is every Friday and Saturday, June through August, in the enclosed, air-conditioned arena. The PRCA-sanctioned events include the best of championship rodeo: bull riding, saddle

bronc and bareback riding, cowgirl barrel racing, tie-down roping, steer wrestling and team roping. In addition to all the excitement of the rodeo competition, there is patriotic pageantry, comedy and kid-friendly activities, such as mutton bustin' and calf scrambles,

See RODEO, Page 13

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A call to end predatory small-dollar lending

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA Columnist

After waiting for more than a year for a hearing on a bill that would reform how small dollar loans operate, six U.S. Senators have now taken their concerns to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). A May 14 letter to CFPB Director Richard Cordray lays out how rule-making could accomplish much of what proposed legislation has aimed to do.

Speaking in a united voice, Senators Jeff Merkley (Oregon), Dick Durbin (Illinois), Tom Harkin (Iowa), Tom Udall (N.M.), Richard Blumenthal (Conn.) and Elizabeth Warren (Mass.) said, "Sadly, the evidence shows that these loans trap consumers in a cycle of debt in which consumers

end up owing more than the initial loan amount – an appalling practice that exploits the financial hardship of hard working families and exhibits a deeply flawed business model that does not consider borrowers' ability to repay the loan."

As sponsor and co-sponsors of the pending Senate Bill 172, Stopping Abuse and Fraud in Electronic (SAFE) Lending Act, the lawmakers urged CFPB to include the bill's provisions in its rulemaking. Despite being assigned to the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee since January 2013, no hearing has been held on the SAFE Lending Act. Should CFPB embrace the lawmakers' request, its new rules would achieve many of the same lending reforms.

The letter's timing is also significant, following a CFPB public forum in Nashville in late March. That event coincided with the Bureau's release of its own payday research. After analyzing 11 months of borrowing at 12 million storefront locations, CFPB confirmed that the industry relies not on individual borrowers' ability to quickly repay, but on their inability to repay, resulting in individual borrowers taking out many loans each year.

Additionally, CFPB found that four out of five payday loans are rolled over or 'renewed' within two weeks of when the borrower paid off a prior loan. Further, more than two-fifths of payday borrowers who were paid on a monthly basis – most of whom were public benefits recipients, including

those on Social Security – had 11 loans in its 11-month study period.

Earlier, research by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) found payday borrowers are annually charged \$3.4 billion in fees alone. The typical borrower takes out 10 payday loans in a year at interest rates averaging 391 percent over a year's time.

Importantly, the Senators urged CFPB to include more small-dollar loans, not just payday, in its reforms.

"Although your authorities may differ from that of the states, one especially critical lesson is that laws should apply not only to payday loans but also to auto title and other consumer loans. This broad scope of coverage has been essential to ensuring that regulating predatory payday

lending does not create opportunities for similarly harmful products disguised in different formats. We

urge the CFPB to follow a similarly broad approach

See LENDING, Page 12

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Irving Arts Center
3333 N. MacArthur #200

Increase in bankruptcy fees set to begin on June 1

Several bankruptcy fees will increase on June 1, under amendments to the Bankruptcy Court Miscellaneous Fee Schedule that were approved in March by the Judicial Conference of the United States.

The scheduled changes include:

A \$57 increase to the adversary filing fee in bankruptcy proceedings, from \$293 to \$350. The new fee will be equivalent to civil filing fees in federal district courts.

A new, differentiated administrative fee

structure will be assessed at filing in every bankruptcy case. Currently \$46 in all cases, the administrative fee will be \$75 for cases filed under Chapters 7, 12 and 13, and \$550 for cases filed under Chapters 9, 11 and 15.

The Judicial Conference also approved separate administrative fees when married couples divide a bankruptcy filing into two cases, often because a divorce or separation occurs while a case is being adjudicated.

HERNANDEZ, continued from Page 7

Magda Hernández as assistant superintendent of administration."

This was a recommendation the board unanimously approved, voting 7-0 in favor of the appointment.

"Ms. Hernandez has a rich and inspiring background in education, and a wonderful reputation in the Irving ISD," says Dr. Parra.

"I am tremendously excited to have Ms. Hernandez join us as she is a superb educator, and an intelligent, driven, and proactive individual who shares with me the vision of creating an outstanding Human Resources department focused on recruiting, developing, and retaining excellent teachers, administrators, and staff."

Hernández says she looks forward to returning "home" to Irving ISD where she began her career in education in 1992.

"I hold Irving dear to my heart as this is the district that has provided, and continues, to provide excellent education for my

children and grandchild," says Hernández.

"In addition, it also opened the doors of my career as I began my lifelong educational journey in 1992 as a bilingual instructional aide, and later transitioning into K-5 bilingual/gifted and talented teacher, campus administrator and central office leader – all in Irving ISD."

Hernández graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree from Texas Woman's University (TWU) and later returned to TWU where she earned her master's degree in educational administration.

She also holds superintendent certification from the University of North Texas and is pursuing a doctorate of educational leadership from Dallas Baptist University.

Hernández will begin her new role in Irving on June 23, replacing Karry Chapman who has been serving as interim assistant superintendent of administration and is stepping down June 30.

LENDING, continued from Page 11

for any rules it crafts in the small dollar lending market."

Auto title lenders take title to the borrower's car for security rather than direct access to the borrower's bank account, as payday lenders do. CRL's recent policy brief highlights these lenders' routine disregard for borrowers' ability to repay (<http://lnkd.in/bbEmSVJ>).

By broadly addressing the varied forms of these small-dollar loans, CFPB's rules would deliver reforms that would benefit consumers who reside in states where payday lending still allows triple-digit interest on debts.

Since 2005, no state has authorized high-cost payday lending. In fact, when voters have been given the opportunity to decide whether to allow or ban triple-digit payday lending, the overwhelming voter sentiment has been against payday. Arkansas, Arizona, Montana and New Hampshire are among the most recent states to ban this form of high-cost lending.

"Predatory payday lending has taken advantage of the fragile financial position of far too many hard working families", wrote the

Senators. "We encourage the CFPB to move as quickly as possible to propose rules that put a stop to predatory small-dollar lending practices, while preserv-

ing safer, more affordable alternatives."

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

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MCKINNEY, continued from Page 2

Johnson, came to counseling with everyone involved at the McKinney's home.

"During that meeting she talked about how to get over the trauma. These things are things that can happen. And certain things are God's will. And every experience, good or bad, can be a learning experience, or a teaching tool," she said.

But Pastor McKinney wrestled with Albert's death.

"I asked the Lord, 'What is to be learned from this?' To me it was a senseless tragedy. It was at that time, I initially started seeing some visions of a device. Then I had a dream and in the dream I saw schematics, what it would look like. The Lord started showing me these things. So I started committing my thoughts to paper, and that was the birth

of AJADD."

AJADD, named after Albert, is a life-saving device; an underwater distress signal device in the form of a watch or hand instrument that would be worn on the body. The device uses GPS technology, vitality monitoring, and swimmer identification technologies to alert of a swimmer's imminent danger. AJADD sends and receives signals in real time to a lifeguard, or a caretaker, on land, or on ship.

"The problem with most drownings is that you can't even tell, they look like they're just playing in water so before you know it, it's too late," said Pastor McKinney. "There's like a 2 - 3 minute window that you have to get to them. A device that creates early detection is so important."



During the patent process is when Pastor McKinney began to understand the devastating effects accidental drowning has on the African American community. He began to study drowning, and discovered the horrifying effects it has on African American children.

"I started inquiring into the lives of African Ameri-

can families, within my church and in the community and I found that many African American families have had a cousin, sister, or close friend who has drowned - but yet, nobody ever reports that this is a problem. This is an unaddressed problem in the African American community."

Pastor McKinney's father,

Bishop George D. McKinney, is a proponent of teaching youth to swim, taught Pastor McKinney and his siblings to swim at a young age. Pastor McKinney carries this sentiment with him, which helped guide him to the creation of AJADD.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 80 percent of people who drown are male. Children ages 1-4 have the highest drowning rates and most of those drownings occur in homes or swimming pools.

The disparity is widest among children 5 - 14 years old. But what is most discouraging is that the fatal drowning rate of African

American children in this age group is almost three times that of white children.

"Factors such as access to swimming pools, the desire or lack of desire to learn to swim - which usually comes from their parents - they don't want to get in the water, and choosing water recreational activities, contribute to these statistics," said Pastor McKinney.

"In the poorer communities, we don't choose water-related activities. So we're not accustomed. We get out there and we're not used to it, and we get in trouble. Choosing water-related activities contributes to the racial differences in drowning rates."

RODEO, continued from Page 10

that make for unforgettable family outings.

The 2014 Mesquite Rodeo season kicks off May 30 and runs every Friday and Saturday through August 23. Gates open at 6:30 p.m. and rodeo events begin at 7:30 p.m. More information and a full schedule can be found at www.MesquiteRodeo.com.

Looking for a "raw"

rodeo experience? Sit on the first three rows of the arena and eat like a cowboy at the 8-Second Club. A full meal, plus beer, wine and soda, in the up-close-and-personal first few rows will make your rodeo experience one to remember. Rub shoulders with rodeo athletes and immerse yourself in the western spirit.

Mesquite Rodeo is an af-

fordable family attraction. Reserved adult tickets start at \$20, with kids 12 and under getting in for half price. Coupons for a \$5 discount are available at O'Reilly Auto Parts and Tom Thumb stores. Seniors 60+ get \$5 off admission. Tickets for the 2014 Mesquite Rodeo season are available online at www.MesquiteRodeo.com or by calling Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000. Text

"RODEO" to 44544 for event updates and special offers.

APPS,

continued from Page 6

powerful learning experience for students in order to increase their participation in STEM education field. OASIS and UT Dallas hope to challenge students at a young age and offer stimulating projects to deepen their interest in STEM.

The registration deadline is coming up fast on May 31, 2014, so please feel free to share this program with your readers, friends, and family. Below are some links for further information:

Official website: <http://www.ut-dallas.edu/k12-app-contest/>



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Morning Services as we
worship and praise God for
all of His goodness.

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Join us for Wednesday
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for Evening Bible Classes
at 7 p.m.

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empower individuals to live
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and Savior.

May 28, 7 p.m.
Join us for Bible Study
Night as we learn what God
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Dr. Terrance Woodson,
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ship.org

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for county residents. Call
the church or Allen's City
Hall for details.

What's on Your Mind?
Don't copy the behavior, at-
titude 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.

May 25, 9:30 a.m.
You're welcome to join us
as we honor and praise God
for all His blessings at 1550
Edelweiss Drive in Allen in
our Sunday Morning Wor-
ship.

May 28, 7 p.m.
You're invited to Wednes-
day Night Live Bible Study
to learn more about God's
Word at our 200 W. Bel-
mont Drive location.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr.,
Ed.D.
Senior Pastor
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Admin. Building Address
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Come and bring someone
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May 25, 8 a.m.
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Worship Services as we
worship God for His bless-
ings.

May 28, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our

Wednesday's Bible Study to
learn more about God's
Word.

June 14, 7:30 a.m.
Join us for the Komen
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Sisters of Shiloh.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
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Plano, TX 75074
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www.smbcplano.org

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**May 25,
7:30 and 11:30 a.m.**
You're invited to join us as
we worship, honor and
magnify God's Holy name.

**May 26,
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
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mute. God will meet you
and prayer does change
people, things and situa-
tions.

May 25, 11 a.m.
All are welcome to join us
as we praise and worship
God; and as we honor all
mothers on this Mother's
Day.

Dr. Gregory E. Voss,
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"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." **John 14:21 (KJV).**

We live in a day of 12-step programs for this, four points to success for that, and all forms of programmed means of becoming successful. Have you ever wondered how you can guarantee a greater revelation of Jesus in your life?

Jesus tells us how this can be done. It is all tied to obedience. In John, He tells us that the key here is in the last three words. He will show Himself to us because of our loving Him through our obedience.

The more obedient we become, the more revelation of His presence we will feel in our life. Jeremiah tells us, "Call unto me, and

I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." **Jeremiah 33:3 (KJV).**

Many Christians wonder why they cannot hear or sense God's presence in their life. It is because they do not seek Him with a whole heart, and they are not obedient to the things He has asked.

God does not show us the next move until we are obedient to the first thing He has spoken to us. It is a progressive process. He entrusts the small things to us first, then moves us to the larger.

Many today are so focused on seeking the activity of God rather than seeking God Himself. Hebrews tells us that God rewards those who diligently seek Him.

In the Old Testament we are told, "But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul." **Deuteronomy 4:29.**

If you would realize that the way to hear God's voice, you must make time to seek Him and hear Him. You

have to spend time focused and alone reading, studying, and seeking His face only.

Jesus set the model for this when He often left the crowds to be alone and seek His heavenly Father. We must also tune our "radio" to His frequency. Static comes into that frequency when we are disobedient.

Our level of seeking God determines the power of our "radio" to reach Him. The more we seek Him, the more we hear Him. Seek the Lord today so that you may be empowered by His presence.

If God is for you, who can be against you? He spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all. How shall you not also freely give me all things?
Romans 8:31-32.

The things God gives are nothing like the things of the world. While the things of the world may entice and look pretty, they are temporary and cannot give true and lasting fulfillment.

The things of the spirit are eternal and bring meaningful and lasting fulfillment. Thank God for your blessings. Thank God for your family, both biological

and adoptive through the church of the living Christ.

Thank God for His encouraging touches and miracles in the midst of pain and suffering.

Thank God for teaching you through life's circumstances and for giving you strength to endure and peace for the journey.

Thank God for all things,
for every need He meet, and
for Jesus Christ in whose
name we should pray.

Then you too can say as Jesus said, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." **John 17:4 (KJV).**

The Lord has revealed to us that the number one thing we are to do is love the Lord our God with all our heart and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

His desire is for us to know Him and the power of His resurrection. These mandates deal with our relationship with Him. The fruit of this relationship must then result in our glorifying Him by completing the work He has given each of us to do. It will become a by-product of this relationship, not an end in itself.



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Dr. Louis W. Smith
 Senior Pastor

NDG Book Review: 1954: The Year Willie Mays and The First Generation of Black Superstars Changed Major League Baseball Forever

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You know the rules.

Each base must be touched, each ball hit within bounds – or so you hope. No spitballs, corked bats, pine tar, or steroids. Four bases to run. Three strikes, you're out.

Those are the basics of baseball. But rules, of course, can be changed, just like the game itself and in the new book "1954" by Bill Madden, you'll see how the game was altered forever by one simple fix.

It was a time when Perry Como dominated the music charts and Elvis was just some kid in Memphis. The Cold War raged; Brown vs. Board of Education was decided; and radio was king, although everybody wanted a television set on which to watch a few brief programs on a handful of stations.

It was 1954 and, like much of the world, baseball was in the midst of change, too.

Though Jackie Robinson had broken baseball's color line seven years earlier, many teams had rosters that

were still completely white. The Dodgers were "the most aggressive" on tackling segregation with six black players that year. The Indians had five and the Giants, four. That complete desegregation was coming was obvious, despite protests against it and owner reluctance.

Willie Mays, returning after two years in the Army, was one of baseball's 38 (out of 536) black players in 1954. Mays had been spotted by scouts while still in high school, but was denied a spot on at least one team whose owners refused to sign a black player. In 1954, he signed a contract for \$13,000 and became a Giant.

Mid-season, Ernie Banks joined the Cubs as "one of the elite players in the Negro Leagues." Hank Aaron was brought up for the Braves, though he'd been mercilessly (and racially) derided for his running style. Other talented black players followed them to the majors, and at the end of the 1954 season, fans gathered to "witness the first World Series game in history with players of color on both teams," a game between the Indians and the Gi-

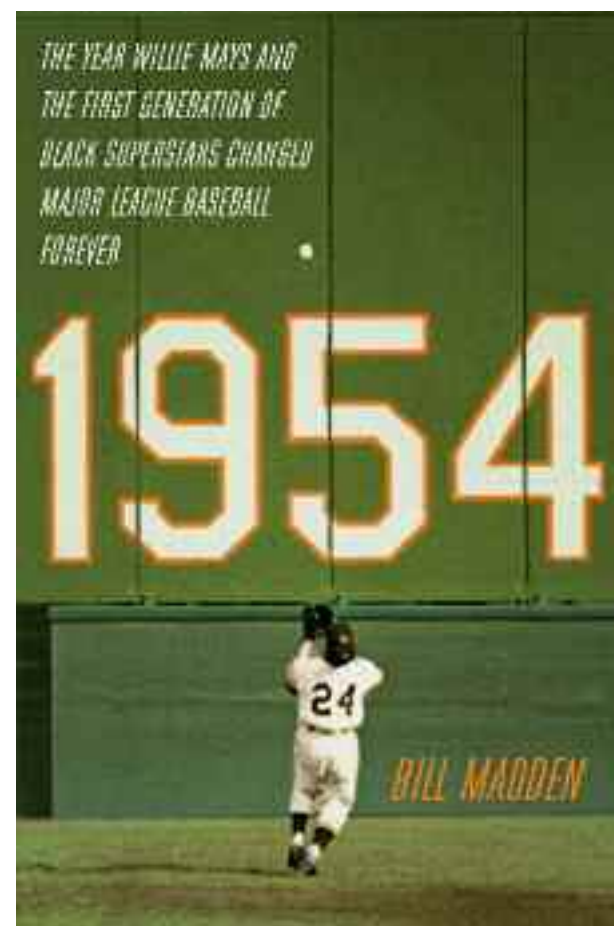
ants.

Four teams (the Yankees, the Tigers, the Phillies, and the Red Sox) had yet to integrate.

Recognize those names? It's likely that you do, especially if you're a baseball fan – and there's so much more here for you if you are. For everybody else, though, "1954" will be an eye-crossing, head-spinning mix of statistics and stories that won't mean nearly as much.

In the lightning-fast manner of a sportscaster, author Bill Madden tells a story that goes beyond Jackie Robinson's history-making 1947 debut. Readers will learn why 1954 was so important to the game; how racism continued to taint the industry for at least a few more months after this iconic season; and how, sixty years ago and despite that it had been around awhile, the game was really still evolving.

I can't stress enough that this is not a book for casual ball-watchers or followers of modern baseball. No, it's for fans who love the history of the game. For that kind of person, "1954" rules.



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I believe that my years of experience building strong communities and defending our values have prepared me to best represent House District 105.

I respectfully ask for your support and your vote in the Democratic Primary Run-off."

-Terry

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May 19-23
Election Day is
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FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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