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# Texas Comptroller complicates finding unclaimed funds

By Nicole James Scott  
NDG Contributing Writer

Finding money owed to you with the State Comptroller's Office previously was as simple as 1-2-3 but as of last September the process has become more difficult. Unclaimed money for years has been a guaranteed way of cashing in on some extra funds for a number of citizens. The amount can vary from as little as 25 cents to thousands of dollars and until recently to claim your funds all you had to do was go to [www.ClaimItTexas.org](http://www.ClaimItTexas.org), type in your name and press search. If your name appeared you would fill out a form and send it to the Comptroller's office.

Now, if you visit the site, it states funds under \$25 are not listed. So how do you know if you have money that is owed to you if it's not listed? How will you go about claiming your funds if the State's website does not list them? It may seem like a trivial amount, however last year alone the Comptroller's office processed 34,000 claims for funds less than \$25.

The Comptroller's office claims it is committed to transparency and keeping its citizenry informed so why the change? According to an official from the Comptroller's office it's a matter of numbers. The claim is, the average small claim is



*Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar addresses an assembly of bond buyers during a recent conference. The comptroller's office has made it more difficult to find unclaimed funds less than \$25 with recent changes. (Photo: Texas Comptroller / Flickr)*

\$10 and it requires \$13 to process each request, alluding to the State losing money.

According to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Annual Financial Report of 2014, the unclaimed property fund received \$460 million in gross revenues, made \$205 million in claimant payments and transferred \$255 million to the general fund.

Unclaimed money in the state of Texas is steadily rising and has hit an all time high, \$4 billion according to the State Comptroller's Office. And what do they do with all of those funds when no one claims them? According to the law, the

State cannot use the funds, however they can be used as a source of state revenue. In other words, lawmakers can use these funds to inflate their state budgets.

Unclaimed money comes from a number of sources. Some of which include:

- Dividend, payroll or cashier's checks
- Stocks, mutual fund accounts, bonds
- Utility deposits and other re-funds
- Bank accounts and safe deposit box contents

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**NDGtv**

North Dallas Gazette recently asked the question:  
**"What is the status of Dr. Martin Luther King's Dream?"**

Part 1: Dr. Gerald Turner, President of SMU  
Part 2: Michael Rawlings, Mayor of Dallas  
Part 3: Dallas County Commissioner, John Wiley Price  
Part 4: Texas Senator, Royce West

[Youtube.com/Channel/NorthDallasGazette](http://Youtube.com/Channel/NorthDallasGazette)



## NDG's Valentine Gift Guide

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## Education gaps hit minorities hardest

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## Win Tix to A Year With Frog and Toad!!!

For details, go to:  
[www.northdallasgazette.com](http://www.northdallasgazette.com)

**COMMENTARY**

## Hood removed by democratic process

NDG's View

Friday, Feb. 5, 2016, was a day in which history was made at John B. Hood Middle school. This school located in the city of Dallas' southeast Pleasant Grove area is but one of the 224 educational facilities housed in the Dallas ISD. It is, also, but one throughout the independent district that reflects the ethnicity of the students to be in the majority of non-whites, reporting 83% of student body to be Hispanic, 15% being African American and about 1%

White. This reflection prompted the students and faculty of Hood Middle school to raise questions. Those questions, led to the students exercising their freedom of speech while debating the issue, then to deciding through the democratic process to uphold and honor the decision of their majority vote.

Before exploring the unprecedented history made by these students, we must first take time to thank the faculty of Hood Middle school. This is

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Tarik Edmondson



Carmen Ponder

On the GO??? But still need to be in the KNOW!!! Bookmark  
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## A. Shonn Brown

SMU Dedman School of Law honored five highly accomplished legal, business and public service professionals at its 29th Distinguished Alumni Awards event Feb. 4 at the Belo Mansion & Pavilion in downtown Dallas.

Dedman School of Law's Distinguished Alumni Award is the most prestigious award bestowed by the school. Recipients are selected for being highly respected in the legal field; an honorary award also acknowledges outstanding service to the



law school.

A. Shonn Evans Brown, a '98 graduate and Partner at Gruber Hurst Elrod Johansen Hail Shank LLP, received the Emerging Leader Award.

Shonn Brown is a re-

spected trial lawyer and leader in both the legal and greater Dallas community. She has a sterling reputation among her professional colleagues, clients, members of the judiciary and community leaders.

Before earning a bachelor of science degree in sociology from SMU in 1995, she was an active student leader and accordingly honored with the coveted SMU "M" Award. She then attended SMU Dedman School of Law, continuing to lead by serving as secretary to the Student Bar Association and Board of Advocates. Upon graduation, Brown was one of 10

of the Class of 1998's top advocates to be inducted into the Order of the Barristers.

Brown began her practice in Dallas at Locke Purnell Rain Harrell (now Locke Lord), where after seven years she was elected to serve as partner. She credits her 14 years at Locke Lord for having helped shape her foundation as a trial lawyer and foster her passion for community service.

In May 2012, Brown became a partner with Gruber Hurst Elrod Johansen Hail Shank LLP, where she has won a number of significant jury-trial verdicts rep-

resenting both plaintiffs and defendants.

In support of SMU and the legal and greater Dallas communities, Brown has served on the SMU Alumni Board and is now a SMU Dedman Law Alumni Community Fellow for the Inns of Court Program and a mentor in the Mustang Exchange Flash Mentorship Program. Currently she also serves as a trustee of the Dallas Museum of Art and The Lamplighter School and as a director of the Dallas Women's Foundation, the Dallas Bar Association, Big Thought and Dallas Black Dance Theatre.

Other recipients included:

- Jim Baldwin '86 (Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Inc.), Award for Corporate Service.

- Cece Cox '04 (Chief Executive Officer, Resource Center), Award for Public Service.

- Windle Turley '65 (Founder, Turley Law Firm), Award for Private Practice.

- Catharina Haynes (Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit), Honorary Alumna Award.

## Tarik Edmondson

Atlanta, GA (BlackNews.com) -- Black History Month celebrates the contributions and accomplishments that African American trailblazers have made in the world of sports, politics, music, education and business. Now, a new generation of black history makers are stepping up to make their contributions to this proud and continuing legacy.

One such history maker is entrepreneur, Tarik Edmondson, owner & CEO of the sneaker company Sneakerscustom.com. In



less than a year, this Atlanta based company is making a big impact with its fashionable, athletic footwear by selling worldwide through its own innovative wholesale distribution pipeline.

Contrary to traditional

business models, the sneakerscustom.com products are not available thru stores, like Footlocker, Athlete's Foot or Finish Line, but thru independent wholesalers and from the website; www.sneakerscustom.com.

By using today's technology, anyone with the entrepreneurial drive can be a part of making Black History in the 21st Century, by becoming a wholesaler of this fast selling product line. If a consumer just wants to purchase a pair of these unique sneakers to add to their sneaker collection, they can order from their cell phones, tablets or their

laptops.

"The response has been global," says Tarik. "I've had calls from all over the world; Kenya, Nigeria, France, Canada, Namibia, The U.K., and the Caribbean."

The first product launched by Sneakerscustom.com is a beautiful black canvas sneaker with red & green trim that's an instant eye-catcher. The Red, Black & Green sneaker is quickly becoming a favorite for conscious African-Americans in the USA, Caribbean and even the United Kingdom.

Practicing the principles

of Ujima, which means "cooperative economics" Sneakerscustom.com will empower anyone who has the aspiration of being an entrepreneur. "We're helping to empower entrepreneurs and organizations in the community with our sneakers, which in turn generates income and pride back to the community," says Tarik.

The Sneakerscustom.com wholesale program enables entrepreneurs to get involved in a fast growing business without a huge investment. The wholesale program offers 50 custom sneakers for \$1,000 USD.

Each sneaker retails for \$40 USD, which allows the wholesaler to make a profit of \$20 USD per pair. All interested affiliates can visit the web link ([www.affiliately.com/af-10807/affiliate.panel](http://www.affiliately.com/af-10807/affiliate.panel)) for instructions and to sign up

Sneakerscustom.com is growing rapidly with new, ambitious people joining the team. Always on the cutting edge, Sneakerscustom.com has several new sneaker designs ready for 2016. To learn more about our line of products visit [www.sneakerscustom.com](http://www.sneakerscustom.com) or connect with us on Facebook and Twitter.

## Carmen Ponder

The Miss Black Texas US Ambassador Pageant are preparing for their Texas State Pageant and are currently accepting applications. The event is open to any young ladies, 14-26. The pageant is Aug. 6, 2016 in Dallas with the location to be determined.

The current Miss. Black Texas US Ambassador is Carmen Ponder, daughter of Victor and Deborah and the younger sister of Zachary. Ponder is a junior at Texas A&M University-Commerce where she is pursuing a BS in Paralegal Studies/Pre-Law, with a minor in Gender Studies. In addition to full time enrollment, Ponder works a part-time



job while volunteering 20-30 hours a month as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Hunt County. As a CASA volunteer, Carmen advocates for the child throughout the duration of the case while in foster care. Ponder is described as a young lady on the move and full of posi-

tive energy.

In December 2015, Ponder was crowned the 2016 Miss Black Texas US Ambassador and she is using her reign, to promote "The Time Is Now." As a Youth Advocate for Success, she is sharing practical tools to help high school students transition into college.

The Miss Black US Ambassador and Miss Black Teen US Ambassador Scholarship Pageant exists to give a once in a lifetime opportunity to young African American women. As Ambassadors of Change, each young woman embarks on the journey to encourage, empower, and enlighten, communities, states, and nations.

A Dallasite, Ponder is a member of Antioch Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas. In order to remain spiritually active, she participates in the Righteous Obedient Sisters in Eternity (R.O.S.E.) of Sharon Women's Bible Study group on campus and regularly attends Family Fellowship Church in Greenville.

Upon graduation, Ponder will be pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a Juris Doctorate. She plans to practice all areas of law, with an emphasis in Family, Juvenile, and Civil Rights Law.

More info on the pageant and application process is found at [www.them-busam.com](http://www.them-busam.com).

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**Publisher's Office:**  
publisher@northdallasgazette.com

**Sales Department:**  
marketing@northdallasgazette.com

**Editorial Department:**  
editor@northdallasgazette.com

**Online:**  
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# In it to win it – my head says Hillary, my heart says Bernie

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA News Wire Columnist

I am looking forward to November 8, 2016, and to voting for Hillary Rodham Clinton to lead these United States. I am so extremely excited that a woman of character, experience, and discernment can lead our nation. Even as I look forward to the November vote, I am fully enjoying the path to November.

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders has provided tone and texture to this race. He has forced Senator Clinton to hone her positions on health care, Wall Street and income inequality. He came so amazingly close to toppling her in Iowa that it gave me Post Dramatic Stress Syndrome. She did-

n't make my drama hers, though. She has managed, with stoic dignity, to stake her claim for this presidency.

My head is with Secretary Hillary Clinton, but my heart is with Senator Bernie Sanders. I realize that he has promised everything and hasn't shared how he might pay for much of it — free tuition, universal health care, or Wall Street reform. Still, his energetic bluster has been a galvanizing factor in a race that might otherwise have been seen as a cakewalk or a coronation.

Hillary needs to be pushed as hard as Senator Sanders can push her. And even though Sanders says he does not care about her “damn e-mails,” the e-mail conversation has to remind Senator Clinton that she

has to figure out ways to restore trust among those who support her positions but look askance at the ways she has been too frequently presented.

There is an element of sexism in this. Hillary Clinton has been on the national stage for several decades, from the time when her husband, was elected governor of Arkansas in the 1980s.

As First Lady, she had to juggle her smarts and her secondary role, blundering as she tried to offer clarity around health care, soaring as she provided rhetorical leadership on women and children's issues.

And since the Clintons left the White House, she has been nimble and focused as a Senator, managing to make friends in both political parties, and man-

aging to provide solid international leadership as Secretary of State.

Were she a man, would she be judged as harshly because some find her “unlikeable”? Would her every facial expression be parsed? Would opponents feel free to comment on her marital business?

Thrice-married Donald Trump has spoken of Bill Clinton's fidelity, but it is documented that he was a big time philanderer. Carly Fiorina says she would have left her husband if he'd cheated like Bill, but we don't know that, do we?

What we know is that Hillary's gender is a double-edged sword. I cringe whenever she says, “I am woman,” or “the only woman,” or some reference

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## HOOD, continued from Page 1

what it means to teach our children. Causing them to pause and think, then to create a solution that not only benefits them, but future generations; and, not only, creating a solution, but implementing a plan of action. In this case, the greater lesson is instilling in the students that they can change and improve their community by coming together through agreement and working together with respect for one another to deal with the issue.

The history making issue that arose at Hood Middle school had to do with the school's name; moreover, it has to do with the person in which that name belonged. General John B. Hood fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War.

Considering what history teaches (even in our white-washed Texas school text books) of the Civil War, and the reasons for its unrestrained passions' which led to it; one cannot fault this generation of students for questioning, why his name

remains as the title of their schoolhouse? Or why must they revere his name as part of their school spirit when cheering for their team, their friends (reflections)? Or why can't his name be removed from their school, especially, since they don't reflect his beliefs?

The students' voices were heard by one of their mathematics instructors, Cyntoria McDaniel. Ms McDaniel stated during a local news interview that she and most of her students did not agree with continuing to honor the general's name as a part of their school. She then solicited the school principal, LaTonya Lockhart. Ms Lockhart understood the students concerns, and decided to have an election. She stressed the need to have the students go through the democratic process of exercising their civic responsibility by debating the issue, marking their ballot, and casting their vote.

The only item on the paper ballot required the

student to select to either, “Yes” or “No” to remove the name John B. Hood from their middle school. The election was held during lunch on Friday, February 5th. Every student was required to participate. 61 percent of the students voted to remove the name John B. Hood.

In a few weeks, the students will hold another election to vote from a finalized list of student suggested and district approved names. After which, they will present to the Dallas ISD Board of Trustees in hopes of approval to rename their school.

Again, these students have made an unprecedented statement in the history of Dallas ISD. These students became uncomfortable in an environment that did not reflect who they are or what they represent. So, they stirred the pot by posing questions to those who could help their cause. The time came for each individual affected by the issue to voice their opinion on the matter.

Everyone's opinion was

taken to a tally, and the majority has spoken. Mostly, each individual has committed to continuing their involvement with the process to ensure the issue has been resolved favorably and as was agreed upon.

As a community, we should take heed to this most powerful history lesson unfolding before us; these students did not wait to be asked if they think they should change the name of their school. The students witnessed an injustice and took action to rectify; these students did not accept that this is the way society has to be.

The students decided to make a change for themselves and future generations, to remove any negative association to their school's name; these students don't even know if their actions will actually result in their school's name change. But, they are taking action anyway.

What a powerful reminder for our community. In order to make change, we must take action.



# Time to Brush Up: A lifetime of great dental health must start early

By Dr. Marshall Dawer  
M.D. M.S. F.A.C.P. ABEM  
Market Medical Director  
United Healthcare of North Texas

February is National Children's Dental Health Month, a reminder that good oral health is crucial to good overall health.

Tooth decay is largely preventable, yet it ranks as the most common chronic disease among children, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A recent survey by The Pew Center on the States gave Texas a "B" in managing children's oral health based on key measures such as optimally fluoridated water and availability of school-based dental programs.

Some people believe baby teeth are not overly important, yet decay even in baby teeth can lead to speech problems, oral infections and discolored, crooked and damaged adult teeth. It's important to keep baby teeth healthy and in place to ensure permanent teeth come in properly.

Maintaining proper oral health among children is relatively easy. For example:

For baby's teeth and gums: Never put baby to bed with a bottle of milk, formula, fruit juice or sweetened liquid. When these liquids pool in a baby's mouth, they form a sugary film on the baby's teeth, leading to decay and infection.

Starting at birth, clean the baby's gums with water and a soft cloth or child-sized toothbrush. Once a child reaches age 2, parents can start brushing a baby's teeth with a soft bristled toothbrush and a smear-sized dab of fluoride toothpaste (no larger than a grain of rice), making sure to teach the toddler to spit out the toothpaste.

Schedule the baby's first dental visit when the first tooth comes in, usually between the child's first six to 12 months.

For children's teeth and gums: Help your child brush twice a day with a small amount of fluoride toothpaste; for children ages 3 to 6, this means a pea-sized dab. Make sure your child does not swallow toothpaste, which may expose them to too much fluoride.

Begin flossing when back teeth

begin to come in. Toothbrush bristles cannot reach between teeth, leaving those teeth vulnerable to bacteria and decay.

Limit sugary snacks and drinks between meals. When sugar comes in contact with teeth, decay-causing bacteria can produce acids that damage your

child's teeth. Encourage children to eat healthy snacks, such as fruits and vegetables.

Take your child to the dentist regularly and ask about fluoride supplements, which make the tooth enamel strong and help protect it from decay. For most children, that means visiting the den-

tist twice a year.

Sealants are plastic coatings placed on back teeth to protect them from decay, and they are usually covered as a preventive service by many dental plans, requiring little or no out-of-pocket costs. Ask the dentist about placing sealants for your child once

he/she turns 6, when molars first come in.

Be sure to take advantage of your health plan's preventive dental benefit and visit your dentist regularly. By taking a few simple steps, you can start your children down the road of good oral health.

*Ava DuVernay  
Actress & Filmmaker  
(not shown)*

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# Gaps in teacher effectiveness hurt young, minority students

By Freddie Allen  
NNPA News Wire  
Senior Correspondent

Minority and low-income students are less likely to have consistent access to effective teachers between preschool and the third grade than students from high-income households, according to a new report by the Center for American Progress (CAP), a Washington, D.C.-based think tank.

Rachel Herzfeldt-Kamprath, a researcher at CAP and a co-author of the report said that research on brain development shows that kids are learning a lot during that time period and gaining foundational skills that they build on throughout the rest of their academic careers.

"So, having continuity across that time period is really important so that the skills are building on each other," said Herzfeldt-Kamprath.

The report found that more than 60 percent of children in prekindergarten that come from households earning more than \$100,000 have access to highly educated teachers (a bachelor's degree or higher), while about half (52 percent) of the



According to the CAP report 70 percent of Black children are enrolled in prekindergarten or childcare centers that receive food subsidies compared to 28 percent of White children. (Stock Photo)

students in prekindergarten that come from households earning less than \$20,000 have access those teachers.

"As children progress through elementary school, they are slightly more likely to have a highly educated teacher," the report said. "This is particularly true for children from higher income families: 60 percent of the highest income second-graders have a teacher with a master's degree compared to only 46 percent of kindergartners in the same income group."

However only about half of second-graders from households earning less than \$50,000 have access to

highly educated teachers.

This finding is particularly troubling, because studies show that African American children are more likely to be enrolled in prekindergarten or child care centers that receive food subsidies and are more likely to attend schools in poor neighborhoods than their White peers. According to the report, 70 percent of Black children are enrolled in such

programs compared to 28 percent of White children.

Black children are also more likely to have teachers whose household income is below \$50,000 when compared to their White and Asian peers, according to the report.

"In the early childhood field, studies have found both direct and indirect links between teachers' pay and the quality of education provided, with comparatively better-compensated educators creating a higher-quality classroom environment," the report said.

The report highlighted a number of priorities including increasing access to high-quality prekindergarten programs, raising teacher pay, promoting collaborative professional development and in-service training, and school-level support.

"These supports should include both infrastructure supports—such as up-to-date textbooks, technology,

and developmentally appropriate classroom materials—as well as environmental supports, including teacher-planning time during the school day; adequate teacher and school-administrator compensation; and a school community that empowers teachers to be effective," the report said. "Additionally, teachers need supportive school leaders; access to community social services to address the broader needs of children and families; and alternative approaches to

classroom and school discipline.

Herzfeldt-Kamprath said that parents need to focus on seeking early learning opportunities and high quality childcare centers that offer developmentally appropriate practices as part of their curriculum.

"The main takeaway is that we know that learning starts very early for kids and building those foundational skills is hugely important

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## Dallas Opera offering free performance at Mountain View College

The Dallas Opera invites guests to a community performance of John Davies The Billy Goats Gruff. An adaptation of the popular folk tale based on scenes from operas by W.A. Mozart, G. Donizetti, and G. Rossini. Sung in English, this story reinforces a strong anti-bullying message, the importance of kindness and attending school regularly.

The performance at Mountain View College will be a special abridged performance which will include a narrator and musical excerpts from the production.

### Schedule

- 12:30 pm Pre-performance



activities, hosted by Mountain View College

- 1:15 pm Theater doors open, all seating General Admission
- 1:30 pm Performance begins

The event is free, with no RSVPs required, families and music lovers are simply invited to come and enjoy. Theater size is limited and patrons will be admitted on a first-arrived first-seated basis.

## Remembering Black Dallas

P.O. Box 763981  
Dallas, Texas 75376  
(469) 399-6242 Office  
www.RBDallas.com  
Email: RBDallasinc@yahoo.com



Remembering Black Dallas is a non-profit organization that preserves and promotes the African-American life, history, artifacts and culture of Dallas and its surrounding cities.

You are invited to our upcoming Black History Events

**February 17th** Presentation of Remembering Black Dallas and A. Maceo Smith / Main lobby of City Hall, 1500 Marilla with Guest Speaker, Julia Jordan former friend of the late A. Maceo Smith 12:00 Noon, Open to public free of charge

**February 20th** Monthly meeting at 12:00, see website/call for location

**February 21st** Worship with us at St. Luke Community UMC at 11:00 service, 6710 E. R.L. Thornton FWY.

**February 24th** Open forum on African-American culture and race issues, First United Methodist Downtown, 1928 Ross Ave, call (469)399-6264 to reserve your seat(s) admission is free starts at 6:20, George Battles, moderator

**February 27th** Historical bus tour of Black Dallas; Departs for the African-American Museum, 3536 Al Lipscomb Way at 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. Tickets \$20 adults/ \$15 for children for tickets purchase and information call or visit website www.Rbdallas.com

**April 2nd** RBDallas' 1st Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet/fundraiser at the ThornTree Country Club, at 1:00 / 825 W. Wintergreen Rd., Desoto, Texas 75115. Tickets are \$50 per person. Time 1:00



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## TEDxPlano Tickets released for sale

Tickets to TEDxPlano 2016 are now available for sale. The theme is FWD: Thinking. Tickets are \$75 or \$50 for students. It will be held at the Courtyard Theater in Historic downtown Plano.

Now in its third year, TEDxPlano 2016 is dedi-

cated to ideas which drive vision and possibility, inspiring and motivating the next great thinkers in North Texas.

More than 50 applications were submitted from speakers and performers throughout North Texas and beyond. From these,

eight speakers have been selected to share their ideas worth spreading.

In addition to a diverse agenda of topics and speakers, TEDxPlano provides interactive, fun and creative opportunities throughout the event for attendees.

## Irving ISD staff and teachers have donated more than \$2.4 million for scholarships

Every year, Irving ISD teachers and staff donate for a great cause – to support student enrichment and staff development. Over the years, \$2.4 million has been raised through the Irving Schools Foundation Payroll Deduction Campaign when employees sign up to have a portion of their paycheck donated.

“Since 1992, the Irving Schools Foundation has received generous support

See ISF, Page 9



Irving ISD employees committed more than \$193,342 to support the Irving Schools Foundation (ISF) through this year's Payroll Deduction Campaign. Pictured are Kay Branch, Bowie Middle School counselor and ISF board member; Crystal Scanio, ISF executive director; Randy Randle, Irving ISD school board president; Jennifer Anderson, Bowie Middle School principal; Jennifer McKee, Kinkeade Early Childhood School principal; O.T. Thomas, MacArthur High School associate principal; Dr. Jose L. Parra, Irving ISD Superintendent of Schools; and Dan Cummings, MacArthur High School principal.

## FUNDS, continued from Page 1

- Insurance proceeds
- Mineral interest or royalty payments
- Court deposits, trust funds, escrow accounts

All businesses entities as well as government institutions are required by state law to report any funds or property when the rightful owner fails to claim it.

However, until recently these businesses were not required to provide the owner's details for properties under \$50. So for example, in 2014 the Comptroller's office received \$9.5 million reported as aggregate properties that could not be published, claimed, or returned to rightful owners because the property was reported without the owner's information. This restricted the ability of citizens' ability to claim ownership of their property.

It is not only the duty and responsibility of the State to make any and all public

information easily assessable to consumers but also act in good faith. By removing funds under \$25 from its website the State Comptroller's Office is pur-

posely engaging in trickery and disenfranchising a large portion of Texans. As it happens, one in four Texans has money being held by the State Comptroller's Office waiting to be claimed.

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## 2016 African-American Read-In pushes literacy

Reading is the gateway to most other forms of knowledge. For many students, however, learning to read and enjoy books does not come easily. Learning differences, inadequate exposure to books and reading instruction, language barriers and lack of confidence in their ability can all be reasons why some children struggle with reading mastery. The level of family literacy and the amount of attention paid to books and reading in the home can also impact when and how well students learn to read.

The annual African-American Read-In, set for 11 a.m., Sat., Feb. 20, is one effort focused on countering these roadblocks to reading. The free, family-friendly event will be held at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 1819 MLK Jr. Blvd. Free bus transportation is available from all south Dallas schools.

Dallas ISD Trustee Bernadette Nutall, the dis-



Dallas ISD's annual African-American Read-In is set for 11 a.m., Sat., Feb. 20, and is an effort focused on countering various reading roadblocks. Photo Courtesy: Dallas ISD

trict's African-American Success Initiative and Cornerstone Community Development Corporation are joining forces to attract students and families to the Read-In for a day of fun and learning. The celebration will feature music, dance performances, speakers, storytelling, book giveaways and snacks – all in the service of promoting books and reading.

“We want to instill in students a love for reading and help families build personal libraries to support reading at home,” said Trustee Nu-

tall who represents 30 district schools. “The Read-in is designed to create excitement in young readers in hopes they will become lifelong readers.”

Cornerstone Community Development Corporation has served as a Read-In sponsor for five years. Pastor Chris Simmons says the event is a perfect fit for the church's outreach programs, which are all focused on improving life options for students and families. “We promote reading in the African-American community because reading

is so critical to every aspect of daily life,” said Simmons.

“Reading has a way of opening doors and opportunities that would otherwise be closed to individuals. In our community, the better the reader, the better the chance of long-term success in life.”

Jamila Thomas, coordinator of Dallas ISD's African-American Success Initiative wants to be sure parents get the message that children who read more are virtually guaranteed to earn better grades, improve academically and ultimately have access to better careers. “This celebration is just one means of sparking families' interest in reading, not just as a classroom exercise but as a lifeline to greater life opportunities,” she said.

## Irving Arts hosting African American history program and reception

Residents and friends are invited by the Irving Black Arts Council and the City of Irving for their annual African-American History Month family program. This year's program will highlight:

“A Conversation with Robert Haynes”, Curator of the Interurban Railway Museum in Plano;

Special Guest Tuskegee Airman Homer Hogues; and the 2016 U.S.P.S. Heritage Stamp Honoree Richard Allen Unveiling by Irving Postmaster Rodney Malone.

The program is Sunday, Feb. 21 at 4 p.m. at the Irving Arts Center - Dupree Theater located at 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., in Irving.



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## CFBISD hosting first African American Read In

The Carrollton-Farmers Branch English Language Arts/Reading Department are celebrating literacy and Black History Month by attending at their first African American Read-in.

You and your students are invited to come and read a poem, a short story, an excerpt of a selection, a dramatic rendition written by an African American, or you can come and listen to others read and share.

The African American Read-in is built on an ambitious yet confident premise that a school and community reading event can be an effective way to promote diversity in children's literature, to encourage young people to read, and to shine a spotlight on African American authors.

The event will include schools, churches, libraries, bookstores, community and professional organizations, and interested citizens in reading the diverse literature of African American authors.

The African American Read-in is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 22 with elementary students read and listen from 5:45-6:30 p.m.

Middle and high school students will read and listen from 6:45-7:30 p.m. It is being held at The Texas Room, Education Services Division Complex at 1820 Pearl Street in Carrollton.

## Dallas just not that into Valentines?

With Valentine's Day just around the corner and America's sweethearts planning to spend an average of \$146.84 to a record total of \$19.7 billion collectively on the occasion, the personal finance website WalletHub conducted an in-depth analysis of 2016's Best and Worst Cities for Valentine's Day.

To find out which cities are the most romantic while going easy on couples' wallets, WalletHub's number crunchers compared the 100 most populated cities across 15 key metrics, ranging from restaurant-meal costs to number of attractions to number of florists per capita.

Celebrating the Day of Hearts in Dallas:

51st – Average Price per Valentine's Day Party Ticket\*

57th – Restaurant-Meal Costs (Three-Course Meal for Two)\*

37th – Number of Restaurants per Capita

22nd – Number of Attractions

69th – Average Price per Movie Ticket\*

21st – Number of Jewelry Stores per Capita

43rd – Number of Florists per Capita

67th – Average Wine Price\*

60th – Number of Specialty Stores per Capita

96th – Weather Forecast for Valentine's Day

*\*Cost data adjusted by the median household income of the city.*

### ISF, continued from Page 7

from our Irving ISD employees to help us fund scholarships for our students and classroom grants for innovative projects," says Irving Schools Foundation Executive Director Crystal Scanio. "We are so humbled by the fact that our staff is willing to put their own money into helping our students, and we feel that this show of support truly demonstrates that our staff is committed to student success."

This year Irving ISD employees raised more than \$193,342 and had 66 percent participation district-wide. The top fund-raising schools per campus level and the amounts they raised were as follows:

- Bowie Middle School, \$27,063

- MacArthur High School, \$26,958
- Good Elementary School, \$9,233
- Kinkeade Early Childhood School, \$2,268

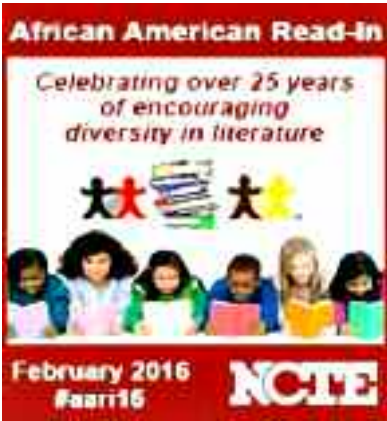
"We give because we believe in supporting our students and remembering those who have left a mark on our school," says Kay Branch, counselor at Bowie Middle School. Faculty and staff at Bowie Middle School have, over the past 10 years, established Irving Schools Foundation scholarships in memory of students or teachers and to honor cancer survivors. In the past three years, school staff has endowed three of their own scholarships—raising more than \$60,000 to sustain the scholarships for many years.

Scholarships will be awarded on Tuesday, April 26 at the Irving Convention Center.

## Monday, February 22, 2016

Elementary students read and listen from 5:45-6:30 p.m.  
Middle and high school students read and listen from 6:45-7:30 p.m.

**The Texas Room**  
**Education Services Division Complex**  
**1820 Pearl Street**  
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Please join the Carrollton-Farmers Branch English Language Arts/Reading Department in celebrating literacy and Black History Month by attending our first African American Read-in. You and your students are invited to come and read a poem, a short story, an excerpt of a selection, a dramatic rendition written by an African American, or you can come and listen to others read and share.

The African American Read-in is built on an ambitious yet confident premise that a school and community reading event can be an effective way to promote diversity in children's literature, to encourage young people to read, and to shine a spotlight on African American authors.

We look forward to seeing you at this historical event as we join schools, churches, libraries, bookstores, community and professional organizations, and interested citizens in reading the diverse literature of African American authors.

For additional information and/or ideas about selections, please contact one of the following persons:

**Dr. Shirley Wright:** [wrights@cfbisd.edu](mailto:wrights@cfbisd.edu)  
**Erica Ysbrand:** [ysbrande@cfbisd.edu](mailto:ysbrande@cfbisd.edu)  
**Susan Kelly:** [kellys@cfbisd.edu](mailto:kellys@cfbisd.edu)

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***Do you have an upcoming event? Contact NDG Entertainment at [jbrewer@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:jbrewer@northdallasgazette.com)***



# Three reasons why you should start your own business

By Aaron Zwas

It's nearly bedtime, but you find yourself sitting at your laptop finishing a report the boss expects in the morning.

Your daughter's soccer game starts in five minutes, but you're a 30-minute commute away.

More and more, the modern work world infringes on home life as professionals try to balance their career needs against personal time, and end up feeling dissatisfied, frustrated and exhausted.

"In our modern culture, we are time poor, with too much focus on work and not nearly enough time for life," says Aaron Zwas, an independent consultant and author of "Transition to Independence" ([www.t2iplan.com](http://www.t2iplan.com)).

That's all the more reason to take the reigns of your career, becoming your own boss and adding flexibility to your work-life balance, he says. It all adds up to a new level of freedom to pursue the things that matter to you most.

Zwas knows from experience. He once worked as a technical writer for a computer-software company, but a series of events led him to make the break from his corporate job and venture out as an independent consultant. That allowed him to set his own schedule and work from home, all the while increas-



ing his income by an average of 25 percent a year.

Plenty of people can benefit from working independently, though for reasons as varied as their circumstances, he says. They include the 20-something college graduate; the mother or father with young children who wants more flexibility; a stay-at-home mom returning to the workforce; or a middle manager recently laid off in the company's latest down-sizing move, just to name a few.

Zwas offers three reasons why going independent could be a good career move in 2016:

Career stability isn't what it once was. Macro-economic trends are changing how we work and those changes are coming quickly, Zwas says. Those trends include both blue-collar and white-collar jobs moving overseas; higher value being placed on ideas, giving those who can articulate their expertise in a consulting capac-

ity an advantage; and employers trying to minimize their costs by shifting from fulltime employees to a mix of independents. "They want to hire you only when they need you, just like you are a utility like water or electricity," Zwas says.

Commuting can become a thing of the past. The average American spends about 50 minutes a day commuting to and from work, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Beyond the usual stress of being in traffic, that's time lost from the day that could be devoted to family, leisure activities or whatever you choose, Zwas says. "That's nearly an hour a day spent commuting," he says. "What could you do with that extra hour if you had it back? Over the course of a year, that commute time becomes significant."

The timing has never been better. At no time in history has the barrier to entry for a new business been lower,

Zwas says. For example, he doesn't need a physical store, inventory or employees. He says his annual costs of running a consultancy from his home range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 annually, and the only time it reaches the high end of that range is when he buys a new laptop every three years or creates a new website every five.

Technology also makes it easier for an individual to accomplish what once required a small team, he says. And if there's something you can't do, there are plenty of specialists — such as web designers, social-media experts, researchers and others — available at reasonable per-hour rates.

There's money to be made by going the independent route — sometimes very good

money in the six-figure range — but that's not the primary reason to make the transition, he says.

"This is not about making \$1 million," Zwas says. "This is about improving your quality of life. It's about pursuing your passions, whatever they might be, while still being able to pay the rent."

Aaron Zwas, the author of "Transition to Independ-

ence" ([www.t2iplan.com](http://www.t2iplan.com)), is a consulting journeyman with 15 years of independent experience as a strategic technology advisor. His T2I Plan (for "Transition to Independence") provides a step-by-step plan that helps people move from traditional employment to a career as an independent consultant while minimizing the risks associated with career changes.

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# Five places to never use debit or credit cards

By Shaun Murphy  
CEO Private Giant

According to Consumer-Credit.com, 80 percent of consumers use their debit cards for everyday purchases like gas, meals and groceries instead of cash. While a card is more convenient to simply swipe through a machine versus counting out change and worrying if you have enough cash on hand to make a purchase, it is not always the safest way to pay. Cash cannot be traced to a bank account or to other personal financial information like a bank or credit card can.

Privacy and security expert Shaun Murphy, founder of Private Giant, has identified five places consumers should never use their bank or credit card in order to help prevent their identity from



being stolen and to protect their personal information.

Here are the places you should think twice before swiping or entering those priceless digits:

**Online shopping sites that are not secure.** Before you enter your credit or bank card information, look for the lock icon without any overlays. While you are checking

out, you should see this icon in your web browser:

**Bad Websites.** Some sites, Amazon included, will not show you a lock icon until you login to your account or begin the check out process. This means anyone can see what you are shopping for while you are browsing.

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See CREDIT, Page 13

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## Airbus Helicopters partners with Mountain View College for \$498,540 job-training grant

Airbus Helicopters, Inc. has partnered with Mountain View College to provide job training for 308 new and incumbent workers using a \$498,540 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The grant will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions

Greater Dallas area.

This grant will be used to provide customized training to 308 new and incumbent workers for industry-related topics with focused instruction on business and warehouse logistics management, FAA regulations for avionics, hazardous material transportation and fork-

lift operations. Trainees will include mechanical and industrial engineers, customer service representatives, production planning clerks, stock and shipping clerks, and aircraft mechanics. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$28.78.

TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar will present a check to representatives from Mountain View College and partnering business at a 1 p.m. ceremony to be held in Room 149 of the economic workforce building at 4849 W. Illinois Ave. in Dallas.

## CREDIT, continued from Page 12

**terminals.** A hidden terminal could be as simple as the gas pump furthest away from the center or an unattended station for automatic checkouts at the grocery store. These are sweet targets for credit card skimming devices that can sit there for months without anyone noticing.

**Cell phone charging stations.** While it may sound convenient to swipe your card to charge your

phone for free when the battery is nearly dead, but you should think again. Despite being ripe for credit card skimming or nefarious credit card information storage, these devices can also dump the information from your cell phone while charging! This attack method even has a cool name: Juice Jacking!

**Apps (desktop or mobile) that ask you for your credit card infor-**

**mation outside of the normal app store.** Chances are this is not a legit application, especially if it is threatening you (you have a virus, please deposit \$10... or I've encrypted all of your files and I'll unlock them for a price.)

**Services that claim to be free or a free trial but still need you to input a credit card before you can start using it.** It is almost guaranteed that service is either going to scam you or sign you up for

some paid service that will be impossible to cancel.

Now, if you are wondering how exactly you are supposed to pay for the services you need in situations like those listed above there are a few options. One of the easiest is to use your bank or credit card to buy one-time use/reloadable cards that do not have ties to your personal information. Just make sure when you are checking out at the store that you go to a clerk, not a self-checkout lane.

## HEART, continued from Page 3

to her clear self-evident gender. But I also cringe when the gender-bashers seem incapable of interpreting her words and her work fairly.

That's not why I'll vote for Hillary, though. I'll vote for her because she is a center-left moderate (Bernie Sanders is not in charge of who gets to be a progressive, and I really don't care as much about labels as about outcomes) who will pragmatically work toward social and economic justice. She isn't perfect and may, indeed, be fundamentally flawed (as most politicians are), but she has been a consistent advocate for the least and the left out – for children and for elders. Is she weak on Wall Street reform? Absolutely. But as Bernie Sanders pushes her, she gets stronger.

A year ago, many predicted this race as a dynastic smack down, with Jeb

Bush and Hillary Clinton winning primaries toe-to-toe. Who would have thought that an unhinged demagogue, Donald Trump, would suck much of the air out of the Republican space, leaving babbling bumbler to confuse ad hominem ignorance with issues? The collective performance of the Republican team could not equal that of either Sanders or Clinton, but those R's keep slogging on. To what end? Do we really want a President who will trash talk Putin, Mexico and the United Nations? Do we want sons of immigrants who so vilely disrespect their ancestors that they'd offer punitive possibilities for citizenship?

I'm not really torn between my head and my heart. I'm simply enjoying the excitement of Bernie Sanders, and the way he has galvanized young people, especially, to become

politically engaged. I am hoping that his commitment to the process is such that he will encourage his supporters to remain involved, even after Hillary wins the Democratic nomination. And I'm sad that a woman who might knock it out of the park can also be kicked to the curb if this campaign becomes corrosive.

Congressman Stephanie Tubbs Jones was a sorority sister (Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, of course), and a fierce legislator. She stuck by Hillary Clinton in 2008 even after then-Senator Barack Obama entered the Presidential race and earned the endorsement

and support of many "mainstream" African Americans. Stephanie and Hillary had "heart" with each other. As a woman, Hillary can't out shout Bernie without appearing shrill. She can't out-snide him without appearing b\*tchy. But she can out heart him if she channels Stephanie's energy. Stephanie Tubbs Jones was in it to win it.

*Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and Founder of Economic Education. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available for pre-order at [www.julianne-malveaux.com](http://www.julianne-malveaux.com).*



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**BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, CARROLLTON (A PLACE TO BELONG)**

**February 14, 9:45 a.m.**  
You're invited to our Sunday Morning "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship Service at 10 a.m. See what God is doing through and with us; you will be blessed.

**February 14, 12 Noon**  
How do you impact others? Join us Sunday at noon in Bible Study; Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Brenda Patterson and others will teach a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 1 through Book 7."

Learn how to introduce others to Christ and make Him known to them; to help others know and grow in God's word; to give others clarity and direction.

Learn ways to help others know and use God's Word to lead more people to Christ; and to encourage fellowship and build unity inside and outside the church. You don't want to miss this Bible Study Group.

**February 17, 7 p.m.**  
Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Dr. Woodson and/or Pastor Brenda Patterson teaching a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 1 through Book 7." Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you. It's Time to Grow; Ephesians 4:12 & 13.

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

**CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON**

**February 14, 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.**  
You're invited to our Morning Services as we worship,

honor and praise God for His blessings.

**February 17,**  
Join us at 12 Noon with Rev. Viveca Potter teaching on the Word of God; come back at 6:45 p.m. for Corporate Prayer and stay for Senior Pastor Autry at 7:30 p.m. teaching the Word of God. Our youth will come for Food and Fellowship at 7 p.m. followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Terrence Autry, Senior Pastor  
701 Centennial  
972-991-0200  
Richardson, TX 75081  
www.Christcommunityrichardson.org

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

**February 14, 8 a.m.**  
Join us as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 West Belmont Drive in Allen; followed by our Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 and bring someone with you; you will be blessed.

**February 17**  
You're invited to our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word at the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 West Belmont Drive in Allen. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all, be prepared to grow.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.  
Senior Pastor  
5705 Cheyenne Drive  
at Bolin Elementary School in Allen 75002 for Sunday Morning Worship and the Admin. Building Address is 200 W. Belmont Drive Allen, TX 75013  
972-359-9956  
www.theship3c.org

**INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH**

**February 14, 7:30 and/or 11:30 a.m.**  
You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

**February 15, 7 p.m.**  
Join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

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

**MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)**

**February 14, 10 a.m.**  
Join us for Sunday Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory. Call the church for details.

**February 17, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Pastor Sam Fenceroy  
Senior Pastor and  
Pastor Gloria Fenceroy  
300 Chisholm Place  
Plano, TX 75075  
972-633-5511  
www.mocop.org

**MT. PISGAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**New Year, New Location February 14, 10 a.m.**  
You're invited to join us in our Worship Service at our new home, 1020 Sherman Street in Richardson, Texas. Call the church for details.

**February 15, 9 p.m.**  
Join us for our Intercessory Prayer Ministry and our Monday's Conference calls.

R. W. Townsend, Senior Pastor  
11611 Webb Chapel Road  
Dallas, TX 75229  
972-241-6151  
www.dallasmtpisgah.org

**NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH**

**February 14**  
You're invited to join us for Early Morning Services at 7:30 a.m., followed by Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

**February 17, 7 p.m.**  
Join us for Sister-to-Sister meeting, call the church for details. We will resume on Monday, February 8.

**February 17, 7 p.m.**  
Join us in Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us for our growth.

Dr. Tommy L. Brown  
Senior Pastor  
9550 Shepherd Road  
Dallas, Texas 75243  
214-341-6459  
www.nmzb.org

**PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVERS COMMUNITY EXCELLENT (PACE)**

**February 21, 3 p.m.**  
PACE presents its 2016 African American Read-In at the Josey Ranch Lake Branch of the Carrollton Public Library. There will be readings and recitals from PACE members and local youth.

Free new and slightly used books will be given away to children in the audience. Books have been provided by PACE members, members of the public and a generous donation from Friends of the Library. Light refreshments will be served. Contact Tracey Richardson for book donations or information at pace-master@pacedfw.org. or call 469-585-6844.

**SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)**

**February 14, 10 a.m.**  
Join us as we praise and worship God in our Morn-

ing Worship Services. You will be blessed.

**February 17, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and growth; it's all for His glory and His honor.

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

**WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, LEWISVILLE**

**February 14 7:45 and 10:45 a.m.**  
You're invited to join us for Sunday Morning Worship as we praise and worship God for His many blessings.

Minister Thomas Bessix  
Senior Pastor  
900 Bellaire Blvd.  
Lewisville, TX 75067  
972-221-5668  
www.wbcchurch.org



# Black History Month continues



**Sister Tarpley**

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

The 2016 theme is: "Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories."

This week I will highlight Dr. Henry T. Sampson, the Black man who invented the Gamma-Electric Cell that brought us the Mobile phone that the world can't seem to do without it.

Everyday I am amazed; as I am sure Dr. Sampson is, of the improvements of the mobile phone and its many uses.

When I traveled to Hong Kong, China, it seems that everybody there had a mobile phone and no house phone; now all that you have to do in the United States is look around you and you will see the majority of people, adults and children of every race, creed and color with their own mobile phone.

I love to tell my version of how Dr. Sampson came up with the idea of the mobile phone. One day he was trying to get in touch with his wife, who had left home to go shopping, to no avail.

After several hours, he thought to himself, I can do better than this! And, he invented the Gamma-Electric Cell and the "mobile phone" was born. From that point on he talked to his wife whenever he had a need to communicate with her; and now all he has to do is text her!

Forth-five years ago, Dr. Henry T. Sampson invented the "gamma-electric cell", which pertains to Nuclear Reactor use, using math and science.

According to Dr. Sampson, the Gamma Electric Cell, it was patented on July 6, 1971, Patent No. 3,591,860, which produces stable high-voltage output and current to detect radiation in the ground.

Born in Jackson, Mississippi, he received a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University in 1956. He went on to the University of California, Los Angeles where he graduated with a Master of Science (MS) Degree in Engineering in 1961; University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, a MS Degree in Nuclear Engineering in 1965, and a PHD in 1967.

Mobile Communications took a big step forward in 1983 with the invention of the Cellular System regulating the portable telephones,

which use radio waves to transmit and receive audio signals.

Before this time, mobile telephone service in the United States, consisting mainly of car phones, and they were extremely limited because metropolitan areas had only one antenna for these purposes.

In addition, the Federal

Communications Commission (FCC) assigned only 12 to 24 frequencies to each area, which meant that only that many calls could occur at a time.

These limitations often meant a wait of up to 30 minutes for a dial tone and a five to ten year waiting list just to acquire the service.

With the invention of cellu-

lar phone service in 1983, personal communications no longer depended on wires.

In the 1990s it would become possible to connect to the Internet from virtually anywhere in the world using a portable computer and a cellular modem with satellite service.

Technologies that developed from different fields, such as personal communications, computation, and space exploration often worked together to serve the constantly evolving human needs of the information age.

He also pioneered a study of internal ballistics of solid rocket motors using high-speed photography. And, he was a producer of documentary films on early Black filmmakers and films.

Some of Dr. Sampson's Awards and Honors: Fellow of US Navy, 1962-1964. Atomic Energy Commission, 1964-1967; the Black Image Award from Aerospace Corp, 198; Blacks in Engineering, Applied Science; Education Award and Los Angeles Council of Black Professional Engineers, 1983.



Dr. Henry T. Sampson, Inventor

**Inspiring Body of Christ**   
Pastor Rickie G. Rush  
7701 S. Walnut Road #105  
Dallas, TX 75227  
972.744.1800  
www.bocchurch.org  
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Worship 10:00am - 11:00am  
Midweek Fellowship 7:00pm - 8:00pm

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Early Morning Service: 200 W. Belmont Drive, Allen, TX 75013, 8:00 am.  
Sunday Morning Worship: 200 W. Belmont Drive, Allen, TX 75013, 9:30 am.  
Wednesday Night Live: 200 W. Belmont Drive, Allen, TX 75013, 7:00 pm.  
Pastor: Dr. W.L. Stanford, Sr.  
Pastor: John Stanford

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Contact Information: 972-423-6695  
[www.smbcplano.org](http://www.smbcplano.org)



# NDG Review: *Mr. Goat's Valentine* by Eve Bunting

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Be Mine, Valentine.

Surrounded by pink and red hearts, that's what the card said and it came from your best classroom friend. Another Valentine is from your teacher, and you got one from a kid you know on the bus. Everybody gets Valentines on V-Day but in the new book "Mr. Goat's Valentine" by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Kevin Zimmer, some are more special than others.

The headline in the Goat Times was a big one. How could Mr. Goat miss it? It was Valentine's Day, and he had to find something really super-special for his first love. She surely deserved it. He wanted to tell her how much she meant to him, so



Mr. Goat put on his big straw hat and headed out.

He didn't go far before he came to Miss Nanny Goat's "weed stall."

Among the flowers and plants, Miss Nanny Goat had the perfect bouquet for Mr. Goat to give his first love. Everything was presented beautifully in a rusty, dented tin can – sticky weeds, ugly weeds, pigweed, ragweed, and crabgrass – and he knew his first love would enjoy that. She

was quite "fond of a ragweed salad" and rusty cans were yummy when you salted them.

Mr. Goat's nose took him to the next place on his journey: Mr. Pygmy-Little Goat was offering smelly rotten eggs for sale. "Guaranteed foul and disgusting," he promised, so how could Mr. Goat resist? He couldn't, so he bought four of them.

There were other stalls nearby but Mr. Goat wanted to hurry... until he came across Miss Skunk's pretty pink perfume cart. Being helpful, she spritzed Mr. Goat with her special perfume so he'd smell wonderful for his first love. As he walked away, she reminded him that he needed a Valentine card to go with the weeds and the rotten eggs.

After walking awhile, Mr. Goat began to think: maybe he did need a card to go with everything else, but where would he get one? And if he couldn't get one, what else could he do? What would his first love think?

Awwwww, who needs chocolates and roses when you can have stinkweed and rotten eggs for V-Day? Who wants a bunch of sappy cards? Your child

surely doesn't – especially when "Mr. Goat's Valentine" is already so darn sweet.

And yet, this book isn't sugary-smoochy. Author Eve Bunting and illustrator Kevin Zimmer instead allow your child to laugh at Mr. Goat's taste in food and gifts. There's a definite sense of "eeeeuuww" here (maybe even about mushy-gushy love in general), but it's there without giving the

slightest hint of who that "first love" might be or what she may think of the wonderful gifts. By the time you get to the end of this book, I think you'll both be charmed.

Kids ages 4-to-7 will get the giggles from this book, which makes it a just-right substitute for candy in this month of amour. One look at "Mr. Goat's Valentine" and your child will want it to be hers.

## TEACHERS, continued from Page 6

and parents can play as big a role as teachers can," said Herzfeldt-Kamprath. "Ensuring that they have access from birth is really critical piece."

Rebecca Ullrich, who also co-authored the report, said that parents should look for schools or childcare centers

that are making an effort to engage and involve families in their child's learning.

"Preschool itself isn't necessarily a one-off shot," said Herzfeldt-Kamprath. "We need continuity between prekindergarten and the K-12 system to ensure that kids

who get a good quality early education build on the skills that they learned rather than going from a system that takes care of their social and emotional development and their academic skills to an environment that does not necessarily provide the same support that they were receiving."

### Investors Liquidation Sale: Laurel Land Cemetery Burial Plot For Sale (one space) Section # 3, Space # 15, Lot # 20



Dennis Jarvis / Flickr

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