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# Accusations of dirty politics taint Democratic Primary in judge's races at MNP forum

By David Wilfong  
NDG Contributing Writer

Much was made of who was *not* at the Monday Night Politics hosted by the *Dallas Examiner* on Jan.22, who was there, and *why*.

Suggestions – if not outright allegations – of dirty politics are flying in all directions between the candidates in the District Judge’s races in Judicial Districts 68, 160 and 193 (as well County Court 4, not presented Monday night).

Moderator Mercedes Fulbright addressed a question to the candidates concerning whether allegations of an organized effort to challenge specific white male judges with minority female opponents are true; and whether or not a slate of white female candidates then entered the race on behalf of incumbents, to intentionally dilute the female vote. This following assertions made in a recent news article.

The second half of that equation was never denied, primarily because the other women in question were not present at the forum. Jim Jordan and Carl Ginsberg, the incumbents in Districts 160 and 193 respectively, represent two of the races involved in the four-way, judicial campaign spat. Incumbent Martin Hoffman of District 68 was also present. However in that race his only challenger attending the forum was one of the female candi-



*Bridgette Whitmore (at left) takes strong exception to accusations that she was recruited to run in a demographically-engineered race against incumbent Judge Carl Ginsberg (seated at right). District 193 is one of four races where filing actions have raised eyebrows heading into the primary. (Photo: David Wilfong / NDG)*

dates whose motives for running were questioned in the media. The female African-American challenger in the race – Kim Brown – was not at the forum.

Ginsberg in the District 193 race, was the most direct, telling the audience that the issue stems from a legal team which lost an NFL-related case in his court. He defended his ruling in the case, and said the losing party’s legal team – or at least some its members – is looking for revenge.

“I’m going to be as diplomatic as I can,” Ginsberg said. “There’s a reason I was targeted. I had a case and

the lawyers lost it. And they were furious. I dismissed the case. And those lawyers specifically went out looking to recruit someone to run against me to punish me. That is nothing shy of an assault on the independence and integrity of the judiciary.

“It has tried to bully and intimidate judges. The message is if they succeed, then all my colleagues, ‘Hey you know what happened to Ginsberg? You’re next.’ And a lot of my lawyers that I’ve talked to who are absolutely friends, (were) absolutely

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## James Armstrong III

Builders of Hope Community Development Corporation announced its Board of Directors appointed James Armstrong III, as the new President and CEO, effective immediately. As President and CEO, James will continue the development corporations mission to transform Dallas urban areas by building affordable housing, providing homebuyer education, workforce development, and community pride.

"This is a huge victory in the fight to improve economic mobility in Dallas and I look forward to the work ahead, Armstrong said."



Armstrong has been an innovative leader for the Community Fellowship Church since becoming Senior Pastor in 2015. Through community outreach programs and corporate partnerships, Community Fellowship Church,

under Armstrong's leadership, has become an instrument of transformation for the West Dallas community and a helpful resource for those in need.

His addition community leadership includes Managing Board Member of the Dallas Housing Finance Corporation, 2nd Saturday Board Member- Secretary, Mayor's Grow South Advisory Council and the Chairperson of the West Dallas Housing Taskforce.

Builders of Hope is a Christian ministry transforming Dallas urban areas by building strong families and healthy safe neighborhoods through discipleship, community pride, and the devel-

opment of quality affordable housing. A major part of maintaining a safe and healthy community involves drawing upon the energy, ideas, and experiences of the residents themselves. Builders of Hope continuously engage the communities in which they build homes on community pride events.

Partnering with lending partners, churches, neighborhood groups, individuals, and residents, Builders of Hope works with volunteers on beautification projects and neighborhood cleanup. They believe that when they involve the community not only do they get something tangible such as new land-

scaping, painted community centers, or painted/rehabbed houses, Builders of Hope receives smiles, engaged citizens, and the confirmation of building hope in others.

Builders of Hope operates a unique workforce development program known as Project REACH that combines life skills and character development in an attempt to deal with high unemployment and crime. They strive to make West Dallas, Pleasant Grove, and Oak Cliff an affordable, attractive option for potential home buyers, as well as improve the condition and value of existing homes.

Finding and purchasing the right home at the right price can be a challenge. Families

on a limited budget, in particular, face barriers such as the shortage of gap financing, credit counseling, and special financing. Builders of Hope homebuyers services staff works with homebuyers to help make the process of purchasing a home less intimidating.

The staff works maintains relationships with realtors, lenders, title companies, as well as the City of Dallas to make the process run smoothly for homebuyers. Homebuyers services works with the buyers and coordination of all involved entities to ensure buyers go from renting to owning and from contract to closing.

## Harriet Lee Elam-Thomas

NEW YORK — After a four-decades-long career at the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service including being appointed as U.S. Ambassador to Senegal in 2000, Harriet Lee Elam-Thomas is now looking back on her remarkable career and life. In time for Black History Month, her new memoir, *Diversifying Diplomacy: My Journey from Roxbury to Dakar*, presents readers with insight into her work in diplomacy around the world along with firsthand accounts of a life spent breaking barriers as a Black woman growing up in segregated Amer-



ica.

Through examination of her life, career and family tree, Elam-Thomas offers readers a unique glimpse of Black History during the days of Reconstruction, Jim

Crow, segregation and beyond—and offers strategies for success in breaking through in any field. What this "hidden figure" in diplomacy has to say may be just what America needs during this divisive political era when old stereotypes are resurfacing, and Blacks and women again find they need to prove themselves.

With *Diversifying Diplomacy*, Elam-Thomas has crafted a book that provides readers with a personal view of a bygone epoch of American history. Raised in a working-class family in Roxbury, Boston's Black enclave, in the middle of the 20th century, she was encouraged

from an early age to excel in all areas of life. With an older brother who ran a law practice with famed African-American U.S. Senator Edward Brooke and a grandfather who served as the first Black speaker of the house in South Carolina, Elam-Thomas did not lack for examples of greatness.

As she traversed the globe and rose through the ranks of the Foreign Service, she never lost sight of those who had inspired and encouraged her during her early years and remained steadfast in the knowledge that in each nation she visited she was not only a representative of the United States of America, but

also of her Roxbury community, of Black America and of women. As she worked to create peace, she also challenged the stereotypes that many carried about African Americans and women.

Having defied the odds and reached career heights closed to many women and people of color at one time—with her appointment as U.S. Ambassador to Senegal from 2000 through 2002 serving as a true testament to the respect she earned in the diplomatic field—Elam-Thomas continues to work to bring the United States closer to its full potential as a nation offering opportunity to all. Currently the director of the Uni-

versity of Central Florida Diplomacy Program, Elam-Thomas works to create the next generation of diverse diplomatic leaders. Her efforts are directed at helping inspire people of color and women to break down new barriers in any field of choice.

"As you move through your career and life, you will feel the scrutiny and may face naysayers and those working to minimize/stifle your advancement because of your gender and race," said Elam-Thomas. "Remember that you are prepared. Exude confidence and integrity, tempered with civility, and you will succeed."

## NDG Readers Sound Off...

### Guest Op-ed: Do Dallas Residents Need Community Water Fluoridation? Yes, and Here's Why

It is apparent that enough people exist in Dallas to warrant a change in the fluoridation policy. Large numbers of people do not want fluoridation of the water supply. Fluoridation should be stopped.

The question is; How can fluoridation be stopped? Where is the political machine to change this policy? Where is the politician who will support the people by pushing to get this policy change? I wonder if Dallas, Texas can advance a new trend or not. Can this be

done in a city that often resists change?

-- Anonymous

Beth Stewart, have you lived in a closet all your life? The latest is that fluoride does little to help dental caries, causes gingivitis (additional cost for dental patients) and worsens several serious diseases. And, if that was not bad enough, the proponents of forced community fluoridation of our water supply are robbing us of our freedom of choice.

-- Dr. Michon Hawkins

As usual, fear-mongering is the rhetoric of the fluoridation opposition. All claims, and no real proof. The PROOF is fluoridation

is safe and effective, 70 years of research has shown that. Over 211 million people in the US benefit from fluoridation- at the optimal level. If it was not true, courts would have eliminated it decades ago. It's a mineral, an essential trace mineral that has benefits to the body, just like iron.

-- SKaye

-Who was the city of Dallas vendor that the DOJ fined \$2B to cleanup hydroflorilic acid? (should have been \$50B).

-What year did the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) acknowledged for the first time that the African American community has

higher rates of dental fluorosis (almost twice that of Caucasians)?

-Why is Linda S. Orgain, MPH, Health Communications Specialist, Division of Oral Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion unable to provide the data that drives the constant in calculating the .7ppm "optimal fluoride "level claim? This is something that has been claimed to exist since the early 1960's.

Only you can end the power of willful ignorance.... and remember what Doc Brown says,,,,, "the future is what you make it."

-- Paul McKinney

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# Blacks and Politics: Either get engaged or get left behind

By Jeffrey Boney  
NNPA Member  
Houston Forward Times

Okay, everyone, if you are reading this, welcome to 2018. You made it, and with that being said, I feel that this is the perfect opportunity for us to be honest about an important truth.

First of all, as I see it, it is extremely clear to me, and should be quite evident to anyone who would just simply open up their eyes to see it for themselves, that the Black vote can either make or break an election.

If you don't believe me, I would encourage you to take a look at previous elections where the Black community was actively engaged and driven to get out and vote in a local, county, state or federal election, versus the times where they were not as excited or motivated to do so.

Take Alabama's recent special U.S. Senate election race involving Republican Roy Moore and Democrat Doug Jones, where people were overwhelmingly surprised to see the exit polls that showed that Black voters made up 29 percent of the overall voter turnout in the entire election—18 percent of Black women and 11 percent of Black men. Exit polls also showed that 98 percent of Black women cast their vote for Jones, while 93 percent of Black men cast their vote for Jones.

These were phenomenal numbers, and definitely the type of numbers that Jones needed to pull off an unexpected victory in a historically and traditionally red state like Alabama.

It was exciting to see this type of political difference making by the Black community, but that excitement was immediately quenched and short-lived, after reading reports that a letter was sent to Jones on Dec. 19 from the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and 16 other organizations practically begging him "to com-

mit to hiring a staff that reflects his constituents' racial diversity."

Why wasn't this letter sent before Jones won? Why not get this type of commitment from Jones before engaging the Black community to come out and vote for him, and doing what the Black community always does when it is expected to deliver the turnout and votes necessary to secure a victory for select candidates or select issues on the ballot? I believe it is, because the Black community has grown accustomed to not being respected, especially within the Democratic Party where they are the most loyal. And before "loyal" Democrats come for my head, because they consider this an attack on the Democratic Party or as an opportunity to try and have us compare the Democratic Party to the Republican Party, I believe the Black community needs to ask itself some really tough questions.

When it comes to the Black community's involvement in the Democratic Party, how are Blacks truly viewed within the party? Despite the Black community having such a strong and dedicated voting bloc across the nation, how many Blacks actually hold key positions within the Democratic Party on a local, statewide and/or national basis? How many Black people are senior staff members in county, state or federal offices across the country?

According to a detailed report released by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies last year, the majority of White Democratic lawmakers in the U.S. Senate, who have millions of Black constituents, have no Black senior staff members at all. The report also found that while Blacks make up 13 percent of the U.S. population, they only make up 0.9 percent of the top Senate staffers. Is this by design or just an unfortunate over-

sight?

See, it is one thing to look out at these local, county, state and federal Democratic meetings and conventions and see this sea of diversity, with Black faces mixed in with faces from all other races and backgrounds, but it is an entirely different thing to know that Blacks are not given opportunities to have a real impact in the Democratic Party from within, other than just voting.

Secondly, as I see it, it is abundantly clear to me that the Black community is oftentimes ignored, disrespected and disregarded by both major political parties until they are needed in the midnight hour to deliver for those who only want their vote but nothing else.

This is important to highlight because, over the last several decades, Black people have voted for Democratic candidates 94 percent of the time in critical federal and state elections.

Black voters turned out in record numbers in 2008 to elect Barack Obama as the first Black president of the United States, with the primary belief that by letting their voices be heard, they would experience the "Hope and Change" he campaigned on. As a result of this record turnout, Black voters helped elect President Obama to the highest office in the land and they helped elect Democrats to other key positions that helped Democrats gain control of both the House and the Senate. And what did the Democratic Party do as soon as they got control of the House, Senate and the White House? You guessed it! Respective groups within the Democratic Party began advocating for their own competing interests and could care less about Black issues.

And how were Black people rewarded for their 96 percent voting loyalty in 2008? Subsequently, the many issues impacting the Black community were ignored and got pushed further

and further to the back of the bus, and Black people were pushed to the bottom of the totem pole.

During a time where Black people should have been experiencing tremendous gains, we saw Black unemployment at its highest point, increased poverty, property loss and home equity loss at record-numbers in the Black community, and the wealth gap tripled between us and Whites.

Sadly, as I see it, the role of Blacks within the Democratic Party has been one that has relegated us to only being good for faithfully voting Democratic that is known for hitting the pavement to rally the voters in the hood and in the church, while not having a true voice within the Party. That has to change starting in this New Year of 2018. It's extremely clear to me that we as Black people need to wake up and get more actively involved with politics, because if we don't do it, we will continue getting screwed over by people who don't have our best interest at heart and who would rather see us "begging" them for scraps from the table, rather than demanding a seat at the table. We can complain all day about how "White" and "not culturally diverse" the Republican Party is, but the one thing I can respect about them is when they choose to come together about the things that are collectively important to them—they come together.

Don't get historical amnesia on me. Let's we forget that there was a time, not long ago, where the Republican Party once advocated for Black people and Black issues, while the Democratic Party served as the home of the Ku Klux Klan and advocated for segregationist policies that violated and went against the Civil Rights of Black people.

As I see it, the Democratic Party is getting more and

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# Four benefits of laughing your way through the New Year

Like clockwork, people are composing their lists of New Year's resolutions, and at the same time they're ending this year with some of the same problems, frustrations or worries of past years. They want to take a brighter outlook and ride those resolutions to a higher quality of life in the New Year – but inevitably, familiar issues get them down year after year.

How can this New Year be different? How can you stay more positive and hopeful despite problems that won't go away when the big ball drops in Times Square?

"Making laughter a part of your every-day life is the answer. When life gets tough, laughter begins," says Lee Volpe (www.LeeVolpe.com), a humorist and author of *Black Sheep Tries Bleach: Humorous Stories to Ease Life's Growing Pains*.

"We all have humor in-



naomii.tumblr.com / Flickr

side us. It is so healthy to use it in a variety of ways. When you really deconstruct some things in your life that may be problems or annoyances, you can creatively come at them with laughter, and your whole outlook changes."

Mentally and physically, the benefits of laughter are many, Volpe says, and she lists five of those benefits that can help you make 2018 a happier New Year:

- Reduces stress. Laughter reduces the level of stress hormones, such as cortisol and epinephrine (adrenaline), and it boosts the im-

mune system. Science has further shown that after a good laugh, muscles can be relaxed for up to 45 minutes. "Laughter is a free stress-management strategy, and in today's pressurized, problem-filled world, there's a big premium on that," Volpe says. "Laughter is often the best kind of therapy."

- Burns calories. Everybody wants to lose weight in the New Year, right? "Laugh hard enough and you may be able to skip some gym visits – and who doesn't want to do that," Volpe says. Studies show that a good stream of laughter can burn

40 calories in 30 minutes. "I saw where you really can burn 75 calories in 30 minutes by banging your head against a wall," Volpe says. "Knock yourself out."

- Becomes a coping mechanism. Laughter makes us feel good. Instead of complaining about life's frustrations, trying to laugh about them helps. "Humor helps you keep a positive outlook through difficult situations," Volpe says. "When something extremely frustrating or depressing occurs, try to take the longer view and envision that one day you'll be able to look back on it and laugh. But why not laugh right now? You also feel stronger. This approach will also make you better equipped to deal with future negative events less stressfully."

- Brings people together, strengthens relationships. Laughter connects us with others. You can't enjoy a laugh with other people un-

less you take the time to engage with them. "It improves the quality of social interaction you have with your friends, co-workers, and acquaintances," Volpe says. "The old saying is, 'Laughter is contagious.' If you bring more laughter into your life, you can help others around you to laugh more and reap the benefits of humor, which in turn helps them with their problems. It makes other people happy, because it's very infectious, just like anger is."

"We all need more laughter with the way the world is

these days," Volpe says. "Maybe you can start by laughing at your own New Year's resolutions list. For a lot of people it turns out to be a joke anyway. And it doesn't have to be a new year to start a new day, a new outlook, for yourself."

Lee Volpe is the author of *Black Sheep Tries Bleach: Humorous Stories to Ease Life's Growing Pains*. After a short career as an actress, Lee found her voice as a humorist, and has never looked back. More information can be found at [www.LeeVolpe.com](http://www.LeeVolpe.com).

## Flu-related death toll continues to rise

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is reporting three additional flu-related deaths in Dallas County totaling 43 flu-related deaths for the 2017-2018 season. The patients range in age from 53 to 93 and were residents of Grand Prairie and Dallas. All patients had high risk health conditions and died after complications from the seasonal flu. For medical confidentiality and personal privacy reasons, DCHHS does not provide additional identifying information.

"Staying home when you are sick and practicing good health habits like covering your cough and washing your hands helps stop the spread of germs and prevents respiratory illnesses like the flu," said Ganesh Shivamaiyer, DCHHS interim director. "If you have a high risk condition, remember to keep a safe distance from individuals who have flu like symptoms."

"Older adults, individuals with chronic health conditions, pregnant women, young children and infants

are more vulnerable to flu illness," said Dr. Christopher Perkins, DCHHS health authority/medical director. "With influenza activity on the rise, individuals in these groups should take special precaution as we continue throughout the season."

Simple actions can be taken to help prevent the spread of seasonal influenza. If you haven't done it already, protect yourself with a flu vaccination. Cover your cough with a tissue or cough into your

sleeve. Wash your hands and keep your hands away from your face. Avoid close contact with people who are coughing or appear ill. Stay home if you are sick or keep family members home if they are sick.

## Garland residents urged to register for It's Time Texas Community Challenge

Garland has once again joined the It's Time Texas Community Challenge, and the community is encouraged to help! The challenge begins Jan. 8 and is presented by H-E-B to unite and mobilize community members, schools, businesses and organizations to see which communities can demonstrate the greatest

commitment to healthy living.

Communities can earn points by participating in a variety of activities such as posting "healthy selfies," taking healthy pledges and tracking physical activity. The community with the most points earned by March 4 will win the Healthiest City prize for

their population size category. Garland won the large city category in 2016 and 2017, so let's keep the momentum going!

Garland residents are encouraged to register at [ITTCCommunityChallenge.com](http://ITTCCommunityChallenge.com). Every registration earns Garland 500 points! See the City of Garland website for more details.

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## Former First Lady Michelle Obama speaking in Dallas on March 8

Michelle Robinson Obama served as First Lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017. Now The AT&T Performing Arts Center Presents A Conversation with Former First Lady Michelle Obama at the Winspear Opera House this spring as a part of their #HearHere Speaker Series. It is an add on available only to season subscribers.

Other speakers include Steve Wozniak, Rita Moreno, Rob Lowe and Bill Murray & Friends.

As a transformative First Lady, Mrs. Obama launched and led four key initiatives: Let's Move!, to address the challenge of childhood obesity; Joining Forces, to support veterans, service members and their families; Reach Higher, to

inspire young people to seek higher education; and Let Girls Learn, to help adolescent girls around the world go to school.

Before becoming First Lady, Michelle Obama attended Princeton University and Harvard Law School. She started her career as an attorney at the Chicago law firm, Sidley & Austin, where she met her future

husband, Barack Obama.

She later worked in the Chicago mayor's office, the University of Chicago, and the University of Chicago Medical Center. Mrs. Obama also founded the Chicago chapter of Public Allies, an organization that prepares young people for careers in public service.

For tickets and more information visit [attpac.org](http://attpac.org).



Courtesy photo

## National group names TAG teacher a Top 10 Educator of the Year



For the second consecutive year, Talented and Gifted Teacher, Thelvie Cullins, Jr., was named as a Top Ten Claes Nobel Educator of the Year. (Photo: Dallas ISD)

The National Society of High School Scholars has named Thelvie Cullins, Jr., an Advanced Placement Calculus teacher at the School for the Talented and Gifted, as a Top Ten 2017 Claes Nobel Educator of the Year.

This is the second year in a row that Cullins has received this honor.

According to the National Society of High School Scholars, Cullins aids students in both grasping difficult mathematical concepts and developing into hard-working, passionate learners.

"Mr. Cullins' personal classroom results are astounding, but what is most impressive is the impact

he's had on those around him and our school," TAG Principal Ben Mackey said.

The Educator of the Year Award recognizes 10 exemplary educators who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to preparing students for success. These 10 educators, who are all members of the Claes Nobel Educators of

Distinction program, applied for the Educator of the Year Award to spotlight their accomplishments. Since the inception of the Educators of Distinction program in 2004, NSHSS has recognized more than 40,000 educators worldwide.

"I am honored to receive this recognition. It lets me

know that everything I do sincerely for students, not only can I do it and have the students benefit, but it also seems to be recognized in some kind of way," Cullins said. "That gives students more confidence in me, and it gives me more confidence in what I'm doing and in my ultimate goal: helping other people."

## ATTPAC's Elevator Project application period closes Jan. 31

The nonprofit AT&T Performing Arts Center today reminded all Dallas-based arts groups and artists that the application period for the Elevator Project 2018-19 season closes next week.

Applications will be accepted through Wednesday, January 31, 2018 online. The Elevator Project is a program that presents small, emerging and/or culturally specific Dallas-based arts groups and artists in performance spaces on the Center's campus in the Dallas Arts District.

Through the Elevator Project, the Center pays performers a negotiated fee to present their work. The cur-

rent 2017-18 season of eight shows includes American Baroque Opera Company, Dark Circles Contemporary Dance, Jake Nice, Bandan Koro African Drum & Dance Ensemble, Adam Adolfo, Soul Rep Theatre Company, Therefore Art & Performance Group and Cry Havoc Theater Company.

Most works are performed in Hamon Hall, a flexible performance space in the Winspear Opera House, or the Studio Theatre, a black box space on the sixth floor of the Wyly Theatre. However, artists are encouraged to consider creating work for other spaces on the Center's

campus such as Sammons Park, the donor reflecting pool, Sammons Community Stage, spaces within Strauss Square, the Brierley Esplanade in front of the Wyly Theatre and more. Center support includes venue management, operations, ticketing and promotion. Each annual season is now curated through a multi-level review and approval process that includes panels of arts professionals, educators, advocates, the Center and the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs.

Submissions:

- Participating artists and organizations must be based

in the city of Dallas.

- Applications will be accepted online through January 31, 2018.

- Priority will be given to submissions: From arts groups and artists that help create a diverse season for Elevator Project, For new, original and experimental work, For works unique to the performance space, For works designed to engage diverse audiences and geographic communities, From artists and groups without an official performance venue or home.

Submissions will first be reviewed by the Elevator Project Advisory Panel, a

group of 5 panelists jointly chosen by the Center and the Office of Cultural Affairs.

These panelists may include arts professionals from Dallas or other cities, arts educators and advocates.

The names of the panelists will remain confidential until the selections are announced.

No artist/group with a submission, or with an immediate family member or partner with a submission, can participate on the Advisory Panel.

The panelists will select and prioritize submissions.

The recommendations will then be reviewed by the

Center, the Office of Cultural Affairs and the Chair of the Cultural Affairs Commission. They will make the final selections.

Center staff will take those recommendations and begin discussions with the artists/groups to establish the fee paid for each performance and secure the space and calendar.

Applicants who have participated in two consecutive seasons must take a year off before applying again.

Questions or requests for the technical specs for Elevator Project venues can be e-mailed to [ElevatorProject@attpac.org](mailto:ElevatorProject@attpac.org).

## Applications for fifth-annual Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program now being accepted through March 6

Apply now through March 6 for the Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program to be part of an amazing "learn-and-earn" opportunity that teaches essential workforce skills and provides connections to some of the area's top corporations and nonprofits. The eight-week paid internship program runs June

11-Aug. 3, and students earn a minimum of \$9 per hour working 20-to-40 hours weekly.

Celebrating the fifth year of the program, Mayor LaRosiliere reports that students benefit from real-life experiences in the workplace, meaningful assignments and opportunities to shadow ex-

ecutives. Interns get to observe company operations, network with managers and executives, and gain exposure to a wide array of careers. Participating companies from past years include Baylor Scott & White, JCPenney, PepsiCo/Frito-Lay, Toyota Motors North America, Capital One Bank,

NTT Data, Dell Services, Ericsson, Hilti and McAfee. Nonprofits included Children's Health, the Plano Chamber of Commerce and Salvation Army.

Students also benefit from the rigorous internship prep training, highly competitive Job Fair and other enrichment opportunities.

"Each year I am so proud to see these motivated and determined students who push themselves to get to the next stage in their journey," said Mayor LaRosiliere.

To qualify, students must complete an online application, which includes a short essay. Additionally, applicants must be enrolled as

sophomores or juniors (seniors are not eligible) at a Plano ISD high school; have a 3.0 GPA (minimum); be 16 years of age by June 11, 2018; and be eligible to work in the United States.

In addition, a mandatory Internship Prep training will be held Saturday, March 24,

See Interns, Page 15

# Dallas ISD specialty schools application deadline is Jan. 31

The application deadline for Dallas ISD's specialty schools is Wednesday, Jan. 31.

Parents who need help to navigate the application process have additional opportunities to get hands-on

assistance in completing their child's application for collegiate academies, magnets, dual language, Montessori, Transformation and other specialty schools.

• Application workshop: 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Jan.

25, at W.W. Samuell High School, 8928 Palisade Dr., and W.H. Adamson High School, 309 E. Ninth St.

• Prep-U Event: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 27, at Oran M. Roberts Elementary School, 4919

Grand Ave. Free immunizations, including flu vaccines will also be available during this event, as well as the opportunity to win prizes such as school supplies.

• Application workshop: 6 to 8 p.m., Monday, Jan.

29, Lincoln High School and Communications/Humanities Magnet, 2826 Elsie Faye Heggins St; and David W. Carter High School, 1819 W. Wheatland Road.

Parents who prefer to

complete applications on their own can download a list of links to applications for various specialty schools on the Dallas ISD administration's website. Remember, the deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 31.

## DCCCD, TWC partnership helps veterans transition to civilian life, new careers

Active duty service member one day. Veteran the next. What comes after that transition? Finding ways to use skills learned in the military to start a career or earn a college credential is a concrete, logical step.

More than eight percent of the Dallas-Fort Worth area's adult population across 13 counties comprises veterans — one of the most concentrated areas in the U.S. that former service members call home. The Dallas County Community College District can help those former service members earn credit for the knowledge and skills they learned on active duty and apply them toward a credential that will help build a new career and a new life.

Through the College Credit for Heroes program at DCCCD, with grant funding provided by the Texas Workforce Commission, student veterans now can earn college credit for classes or skills learned through all branches of service.



DCCCD began participating in CCH several years ago, offering college credit in the field of information technology. Beginning with the spring 2018 semester, the district has added three new fields to the program: welding, heating/ventilation/air conditioning (or HVAC) and logistics/supply chain management/manufacturing technology.

“Through TWC’s College Credit for Heroes and DCCCD’s Veterans Educational Transitions program, we can offer student veterans college credit for the courses and training they received in

the military,” said Phillip Hoy, senior manager of grants projects in the DCCCD veteran services office.

He added, “We have the criteria in place and evaluations for military training from all branches of service in information technology, welding technology, HAVC and logistics/supply chain management/manufacturing technology. Eastfield and Cedar Valley colleges are associated with all three new programs.

“Any veteran who is interested in looking at college credit he or she can earn

through prior military training can go to the DCCCD website and check those classes for credit against the evaluations we have posted online,” added Hoy. “The amount of college credit we can give veterans will be based on their military experience and training.”

DCCCD evaluated the classes that its colleges offer in comparison to military training in order to determine the amount of credit that a veteran can receive, according to Hoy. “Our goal is to attract students to the website and look at their training. They may need to take only one or two classes with us to earn a certificate that can lead to employment. Associate degrees take longer to complete.”

He added, “Those credentials help increase earnings and build careers. Not all military members or veterans will be able to earn credit through College Credit for Heroes.”

The DCCCD Veterans Ed-

ucational Transitions website includes sections organized by each branch of service where training courses are listed by name, along with the equivalent course offered by the district and the amount of credit given for each course. Visit [www.dcccd.edu/veterans](http://www.dcccd.edu/veterans) and click on the link for Veterans Educational Transitions (VET) to read more and start that process.

Veterans will need their joint services transcripts to check those courses and potential credits, said Hoy, in addition to following other steps. Once an evaluation is done by a DCCCD college where those four programs are offered, then the student veteran can receive credit for specific military training courses.

Student veterans can take credit courses using their GI Bill benefits. The state covers continuing education classes under the Hazlewood Act for Texas veterans who qualify; that program is over-

seen by the Texas Veterans Commission.

“We’ve worked for several years to establish and then expand our VET program,” said Hoy. “We’ve compared and evaluated DCCCD and military courses in order to determine college credit for student veterans. Now we encourage veterans to visit our VET pages, look at the courses they took through their own branch of service and then come to DCCCD to get credit and take remaining classes that will help them earn certificates or an associate degree.”

Although the spring semester has started at all DCCCD colleges, flex credit courses are scheduled throughout the semester, as well as continuing education classes.

For more information about DCCCD’s College Credit for Heroes/Veterans Educational Transitions program, contact Hoy by email at [phoy@dcccd.edu](mailto:phoy@dcccd.edu) or by phone at 214-378-1723.

## Study: Recent spikes in homicide rates don't tell whole story

Recent spikes in homicide rates across the nation have been attributed to causes ranging from civil unrest to the opioid epidemic, but new UT Dallas research published in the journal *Homicide Studies* found a much simpler explanation: The increases follow predictable fluctuations in rates over the past 55 years.

“If you look at the trends over time, you can often see ups and downs of that magnitude,” said Dr. Andrew Wheeler, assistant professor of criminology in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences.

The fact that homicide rates in most cities remain relatively stable, but with minor fluctuations from year-

to-year suggests that long-term factors such as segregation and/or concentrated poverty play a more important role in the increases, said Dr. Tomislav V. Kovandzic, associate professor of criminology and co-author of the study.

“That doesn’t mean we shouldn’t pay attention to short-term spikes, as they may — if not addressed — contribute to a city’s long-term homicide level,” Kovandzic said. “But it does mean policymakers and journalists could be missing the forest for the trees if they insist on focusing on the here and now.”

The U.S. homicide rate — 5.3 homicides per 100,000

residents — climbed nearly 12 percent from 2014 to 2015, one of the largest increases in decades, according to a U.S. Department of Justice report. It rose nearly 8 percent from 2015 to 2016. The numbers have generated headlines, raised concerns and led to speculation about the causes.

Trends in homicide rates are typically calculated by comparing the percentage change from one year to the next. But the UT Dallas study cautions that this method can create a distorted picture.

Researchers used a data analysis technique called funnel charts to compare homicide rates between cities with different populations, based

on FBI Uniform Crime Reporting data from 1960 to 2015. They found that the increased homicide rates in many cities stayed within predicted levels based on past year-to-year changes.

Wheeler and Kovandzic used another data analysis technique — time series fan charts — to examine trends in each city over time. In most cities, the recent increased homicide rates were still much lower than rates in the early 1980s and 1990s. In others, high homicide rates were nothing new. For example, cities including St. Louis and Baltimore had experienced high homicide rates for decades.

In 2015, the homicide rate

in Milwaukee was one of the nation’s highest at 24.3 per 100,000 residents. The study found that the predicted rate for the city would likely fall between eight and 23 homicides per 100,000 residents based on rates before 2015. As a result, the increase was only slightly more than what could have been predicted based on Milwaukee’s history.

The study also questions theories about homicide increases in some cities. For example, some attribute the rise in homicide rates in Chicago and Baltimore to decreases in police stops and arrests that resulted from civil rights litigation. But the authors point out that New York City,

which also has experienced decreases in stops and arrests, has not seen increased homicide rates.

Understanding expected changes in homicide rates over a longer period of time can prevent the media, policymakers and the public from misinterpreting fluctuations, Wheeler said.

“We hope that this information can illustrate that homicide rates are volatile, so it’s important to consider the size of a city and historic levels of homicide when analyzing homicide rates,” Wheeler said. “Researchers focusing only on very recent homicide trends are likely to overestimate the effect of recent events.”



## Bloomberg Philanthropies selects Irving for Data Initiative

Irving Mayor Rick Stopfer recently announced that Irving has been selected as one of five new cities to participate in Bloomberg Philanthropies' national What Works Cities initiative – one of the largest-ever philanthropic efforts to enhance the use of data and

evidence in the public sector.

As a selected city, Irving will receive technical assistance from world-class experts to build its capacity to address local issues.

"We are honored to have been chosen to participate in this renowned program.

Irving is a dynamic city, and we believe Bloomberg Philanthropies' national What Works Cities initiative will help fine tune our objectives and supercharge our progress," said Stopfer. "Irving's residents and business partners will benefit from this powerful philan-

thropic effort."

The project will incorporate stakeholder feedback to make municipal data more accessible and engage residents around government priorities and services. Such practices demonstrate the city's commitment to fostering an open and transpar-

ent government. In addition, Irving will work to enhance its ability to treat data as a strategic asset, and leverage it for reliable measurement and insights. The result will improve the effectiveness and equity of service delivery, while creating a positive and mean-

ingful effect on the community.

For more information on the initiative, visit [WhatWorksCities.org](http://WhatWorksCities.org). The report "What Works Cities: How Local Governments Are Changing Lives" summarizes cities' accomplishments with the initiative.

## Downtown Carrollton slated to host at 3rd annual TEXFest

Strap on your cowboy boots and get ready to have a Texas-sized good time at TEXFest, a free celebration of Texas Independence Day, featuring craft beer and local artists performing Texas music.

The third annual festival takes place on Saturday, March 3 in Historic Downtown Carrollton (1106 S. Broadway Street) from 3-9 p.m.



Texas country music artist Grant Gilbert and country and Southern rock group

The Jimmy Lee Jordan Band will warm up the crowd before headliner The Black Lillies take the stage. The internationally renowned band of rock-rooters will perform songs such as "Ruby," "Smokestack Lady," "Mercy," and "Hard to Please" that will blur the boundaries between folk, soul, red dirt country, blues, and rock.

Attendees will enjoy good

food, craft beer from a variety of local breweries, and wine from a local vineyard. They'll also have a chance to take a ride on a mechanical bull and capture the celebration by taking a photo with a longhorn steer.

A social media contest will give attendees the chance to win their very own cowboy hat. The first person to find the hidden "silver star" at the event, post it on

Facebook, and share the post to the Historic Downtown Carrollton Facebook page will win a gift card to complete their cowboy look.

Megan Gordon, City of Carrollton Community Events Specialist, said she is looking forward to carrying on the TEXFest tradition and bringing more people to the streets of Downtown Carrollton to celebrate this great state.

"I'm extremely excited to continue such an esteemed event," Gordon said. "TEXFest has brought our community together for a good time these past few years, so expect this year to be even more impressive."

For more information on the event, including parking options and volunteer opportunities, or to listen to music from the artists, visit [cityof-carrollton.com/texfest](http://cityof-carrollton.com/texfest).



The City of Plano is looking for public input in planning ahead for future city park needs. (Photo: City of Plano)

## Step inside the park master plan meeting

If you're tracking updates for the Plano's Parks and Recreation Master Plan, join us Tuesday, Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. at Oak Point Park Nature & Retreat Center, 5901 Los Rios Blvd, for the latest. We will share the citizen survey results and explore the feedback gathered. Once approved, this plan will serve our community's recreational needs for the next 20 years.

This update serves as the Park Master Plan's eighth revision since 1977. We've fine-tuned the plan with the

latest demographic data, assessment tools and resident feedback to establish specific criteria for the locations, designs and development of all parks and recreation facilities. As Plano grows, ages and becomes more diverse, we are constantly addressing the changing needs for parks, recreation and athletic programs, trails and connectivity and open space. Thank you for sharing your experiences and insights throughout this process. Visit the plan webpage for plan details.

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**Dallas**

Having healthy food available and affordable allows people to make healthier food choices. When healthy foods are not available, people may settle for foods that are higher in calories and lower in nutritional value.

In a continued effort to promote workplace and community wellness, Dallas County Health and Human

Services (DCHHS) has partnered with Baylor Scott and White Health and Wellness Center (BSWHWC) to bring a **Community Farm Stand** with fresh fruits and vegetables to county employees and the community for nominal costs at 2377 N. Stemmons Frewy.

Ongoing pop-up farm stands are scheduled to occur twice monthly every second and fourth Thursday from 10

a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first-floor lobby.

Guests are invited every 2nd and 4th Thursday, 2377 N. Stemmons Freeway, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Garland**

The 2018 severe weather season is fast approaching. Are you prepared to recognize clues that suggest large hail, flash flooding or a possible tornado?

The National Weather Service will host its annual **SKYWARN Storm Spotter Program** on Saturday, Feb. 17. The program is FREE and open to the public.

Presentations run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth St.

More details are available of page 4 in the January edition of the Garland City Press.

**Richardson**

The City of Richardson Health Department will offer a **Free Childcare Training Seminar** for childcare providers Saturday, Jan. 27 from 8 a.m.-noon (registration begins at 7:45 a.m.) in the Grand Hall of the Richardson Civic Center/City Hall complex. A variety of guest speakers and a puppet-making ses-

sion are included.

For more information and to register online, visit [www.cor.net/childcaretraining](http://www.cor.net/childcaretraining). This seminar may be used for four hours of continuing education units (CEUs) for childcare providers as specified in the "Minimum Standards." A certificate will be provided electronically after the seminar.

**RACE,** continued from Page 1

appalled and offended at that. And some of them said, 'You know, we will not let that happen.' And so the truth is, these down-ballot races can often be a crapshoot. You all are informed voters (but many are not). Long story short, some people decided that they didn't want to reward those lawyers ... for doing their tactics."

Jordan did not name a specific "recruiter" moving in on his race, but said the filing of at least one of the women in question was a reaction to an unusual move by his opponent. When asked whether or not he had anything to do with the other two female candidates in the race, Jordan said, "One of them I've had no discussion with before or after," Jordan said. "The other one, Bonnie Wulff is a good friend of mine."

Responding to the earlier article, Jordan said there were inaccuracies in the story and that he had been misquoted. He said Wulff got in the race as a result of challenger Aiesha Redmon switching from running for County Court at Law to the District Court race with only five days left in the filing deadline, suggesting the make-up of potential opponents might have been at least part of the equation. As to whether or not Wulff is a legitimate candidate, Jordan said that from his conversations with her, she will continue the campaign if she wins the nomination.

Redmon said it only made sense for her to make the move from a basic career standpoint.

"The county commissioners are trying to get rid of those courts," Redmon said, noting they had seen a 68 percent drop in caseloads. "It has nothing to do with me

not wanting to face an opponent."

Redmon said she chose the 160th District Court because, "The insurance companies and big businesses get what they want out of this court and I'm running to give it back to the people." As for her commitment to the office, she pointed out that she had already made a professional sacrifice to be able to run.

Bridgette Whitmore, who is challenging Ginsberg for the seat in District 193 took special exception to the suggestion she had been "recruited" for the race by attorneys from a lost case.

"Well after I read the article it was very clear that there was some recruitment of attorneys to run in the race, to dilute the vote so my chances would decrease," Whitmore said. "That is the absolute truth. And this idea that somebody put me up to running against him; I ask this question, 'What about an Ivy League-educated, 20-year attorney, a former partner at a law firm, been a DA for six years, worked for the state, has traveled all over the country ... why would anyone think I would need to be put up, to running for judge?' I am qualified."

Later she further asserted, "No one encouraged me," and went on to say that Ginsberg had received low marks for "impartiality," while Ginsberg shook his head in rebuttal behind her.

In District 68, the only two candidates at the forum were the incumbent, Hoffman, and Amanda Ghagar, who were linked together as allegedly part of a vote diluting plan in the article.

Ghagar made it clear she feels she is qualified to hold the position, having litigated

civil claims of up to a half-billion dollars in her nine years of practice. She said she is dedicated to providing access to judicial services regardless of gender, religion, race, wealth, sexual orientation or political affiliation.

"My personal experiences in addition to my professional experience advocating for a wide range of clients – both plaintiff and defendant – I think makes me uniquely qualified to serve you in a fair and impartial way," Ghagar said.

Hoffman stood on his record, as ultimately all three of the embattled judges did. He emphasized experience that preceded his time on the bench with 13 years specifically in civil litigation. His Democratic Party service goes back to the Ann Richards campaign in 1990.

Ginsberg and Jordan as well, have many years as judges and in legal practice, and both are also part of a very few on the bench who are board certified. Both were also part of the effort to "Turn Dallas Blue" in 2006.

But their opponents –

Whitmore and Redmon – feel it is time for a change, not only in those specific offices, but across the board to have more women of color in judicial positions.

Redmon's legal experience spans both civil and criminal cases in private practice and the DA's office. She is also the chair of the Dallas Chapter of Women in the NAACP. Whitmore is a "born and bred Dallasite" with a Yale education and experience partnering at a private law firm in between periods of public service at the DA's office.

Add in to this mix the optics which have developed in these particular races, and the Democratic down ballot in the primary is sure to get a little more attention this time around.

**Jones vying for District 203**

Raquel "Rocky" Jones is the challenger in the race for District 203. She is looking to defeat incumbent Teresa Hawthorne. Jones was the only candidate to attend in that race.

"I do have the back-

ground," Jones said in her closing remarks. "I do have 21 years of legal experience. I have been a defense attorney as well as a prosecutor. And more importantly, I think it's important when people walk in our courts that they see someone that they believe will understand the culture and the situation and circumstances they live in."

"I have been doing that for nine years at the Dallas County DA's office this time around. The same thing that I've done every day as a prosecutor, whether I think the case should go forward, or if I think a case should be dismissed; or whether I think a person just needs a second, third or fourth chance. I've done that for nine years in Dallas County, I now want to do that on the bench."

**Duplantis challenging Kemp for District 204**

The final race of the night also featured a white male candidate running against a Black female, but this time there were no extra women on the ballot, and the white male is the challenger.

Steve Duplantis is looking to unseat Tammy Kemp as District Judge in Judicial District 204. In a far cry from the sentiment displayed in earlier contested positions, Duplantis often deferred particular questions, saying Kemp's answers were "absolutely right" and shared by him as well.

In closing, Duplantis said he recalled the fake drug scandal in Dallas, and asking, "Where are the riots?" In his perspective he didn't think there was enough outrage over that incident in the community and he has been looking for a way to contribute ever since.

"I want to thank you all for coming out tonight and staying with us," Kemp said in closing. "It's been a little warm in the room tonight."

In terms of the underlying sense of inequality toward defendants, Kemp reminded the audience of an apprenticeship program she has operated through the AFL-CIO, giving non-violent offenders a chance to turn around their lives after an initial run-in with the courts.

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# The message of *The Color Purple* remains just as relevant today

By Ruth Ferguson  
NDG Editor

The *Color Purple* can be life-changing, that is how Carla Stewart describes the iconic play. Stewart plays the pivotal role of Shug Avery in the Dallas premiere on stage at the Musical Hall in Fair Park through Feb. 4.

Originally from Chicago, but living in New York City now, Stewart knows a little something about life-changing events. Initially, she was happy to be a background singer and perform in community theater in Chicago. However, destiny had a different plan for her. When offered a chance for a bigger role in a local production, Stewart initially declined.

"But she saw something in me and told me, 'do this or have a nice day,'" Stewart shared. She was nervous but took a chance and has not looked back since.



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

"I am so grateful she was so adamant about it," Stewart stated. "It changed my life and my career."

Later Stewart made the leap to the Big Apple, becoming an AMDA New York graduate. Her career has grown from the National tour of *Ghost the Musical* where she played Oda Mae Brown, to Dorothy in *The Wiz*, Joanne in *Rent* and Nell in *Ain't Misbe-*

havin'." "I feel like I have graduated every step in my career," and her graduation was to start out as a church lady in the Broadway production of *The Color Purple* to playing Olivia. Basically, she went from covering one song and being a person in the crowd to singing three songs in the 2016 Tony winner for Best Musical Revival.

Now Stewart finds herself playing Shug, a role made memorable by Margaret Avery nearly three decades ago in the film directed by Steven Spielberg. However, Stewart did not grow up watching the movie, nor had she read the book before getting the part on Broadway. According to Stewart, she draws more of her inspiration from Alice Walker's groundbreaking book than the movie, although she appreciates both.

"So much inspiration to so many people," is what Stewart discovered while performing on Broadway in *The Color Purple* and re-

ceiving feedback from the audience and other cast-mates.

Stewart believes *The Color Purple* has a timely message needed just as much in 2018 as ever before with the troubling headlines throughout 2017, spotlighting the seething division that remains in the country.

"Overlooking someone simply based on their appearance," is one of the parallels Stewart sees to the story and the anger and division voices filling our airwaves. However, the power of the moment when Shug sings the song "I am Here" as she comes to realize she is enough is profoundly

moving for Stewart and the audience.

She is hopeful fans will see what Stewart described as the moments of forgiveness despite everything that Mister has done to women in the story. Stewart believes we all will be better when "We move beyond color and get to the heart of who the human is."

Stewart invites theater fans, "To go on this journey and open your heart to love - it can be life-changing."

*The Color Purple* is on stage at Music Hall in Fair Park until Feb. 4 and tickets are available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com).

## Dallas' Hip-Hop renaissance

Ladarrion Burton, known aptly by his stage name, '7 Tha Great,' is a Dallas-based rapper who earned his seat atop Dallas' hip-hop food chain using little more than a cellphone and raw talent.

"His [7 Tha Great] story is inspiring and offers hope to a city of artists who have talent and ambition but very little to help cultivate it," said Phantom City founder, Chris Nicolaou.

In 2015, Burton garnered attention from Dallas' hip-hop elite after dropping "7 Days," an unmastered mixtape detailing the rappers life-long commitment to hip-hop. Within weeks, the project went viral, crowning 7 Tha Great Dallas' new "Underground King."

Three years later, Dallas entrepreneur, Nicolaou un-



7 Tha Great and Poofy Man put in time mixing tracks in the studio. (Courtesy photo)

veiled a three-year passion project called Phantom City Records, Dallas' first and only full-service hip-hop record label. According to Nicolaou, the "historic," title says very little about Phantom City's big vision, and more about the sobering state of Dallas' hip-hop scene.

Using a hand-crafted renegade model, he's dubbed, "community enterprise," Nicolaou and his

team have been able to provide the city a clean business with a solid corporate structure and firm commitment to sourcing the community and consolidating talent.

Armed with a similar community vision, Burton and his label, FGMG decided to link up with Phantom City in August of 2017 to help establish legitimacy

See RAP, Page 12

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### Frieda Porter for the Office of Justice of the Peace

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

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

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



I've volunteered my service for the Arlington NAACP using my experience and education of Fair Housing, Real Estate Law, Deceptive Trade Practices Act and Multi Family Property Management to bring positive resolution to citizens with Landlord complaints. Service is a great way to give back to my community.

Precinct 7 is my home My children grew up here. As JP, I will use my office as a support to everyone and help truants move into a positive direction. Remember, I'm #1 on the Ballot and the ONLY Woman in this category.

Cast your vote for Frieda Porter for Justice of the Peace, Pct. 7 on March 6, 2018.

Note:  
 Precinct 7 includes Tarrant, Grand Prairie, South Arlington, Mansfield, Kennedale, Dalworthington Gardens, and Rendon

## Enter to Win! Ticket Giveaway

NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Follow North Dallas Gazette on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to keep up on all the latest!!!



# Win tickets to DCT's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* is on stage at the Dallas Children's Theater and NDG readers can win tickets to see the show this weekend. For a chance to win tickets visit our Facebook or Instagram and let us your family's favorite children's book to enjoy together.

It is a chance to see for yourself the illustrations of beloved children's author Eric Carle leap from the page to the stage in a display of color and artistry like you've never seen before in this Southwest premiere.

DCT audiences are among the first to experience the larger-than-life world of 75



Dallas Children's Theater

loveable puppets that will delight and captivate people of all ages. The play has been an Off-Broadway and Lon-

don hit. Visit [DCT.org](http://DCT.org) to purchase tickets to the show which is on stage until Feb. 25.

## This Spring discover creativity from around the globe without leaving Dallas

March brings to the Dallas Museum of Art (DMA) the acclaimed touring exhibition of American artist Laura Owens after its successful opening at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Laura Owens has been praised by national and international publications with *The Art Newspaper* calling the show "tremendous", *The New York Times* called the show "superb" dubbing Owens an "innovative explorer", *ArtNews* declaring the exhibition a "game changer" with her working being "rambunctious, ingenious, undogmatic, sassy, and forthright", and *The New Yorker* naming her one of the "women who shaped the art world in 2017." Dallas art lovers will have an opportunity to see the comprehensive exhibition of Owen's 20 year career when it opens at the DMA on March 25 running through July 29.



Courtesy photo

The DMA organized exhibition *The Power of Gold: Asante Royal Regalia* from Ghana will shine bright this spring when it opens on April 15. The exhibition, curated by the DMA's Dr. Roslyn A. Walker, Senior

Curator of the Arts of Africa, the Americas, and the Pacific and The Margaret McDermott Curator of African Art, DMA, is inspired by five works from the DMA collection and will explore approximately 200 gleaming gold items of regalia. This impressive exhibition feature loans from national and international public and private collections including highlights from the Brooklyn Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and British Museum. *The Power of Gold*, on view through Aug. 12, marks the first exhibition in three decades highlighting Asante regalia.

These two Spring open-

ings are accompanied by diverse exhibitions on view this Spring. This month, the DMA organized exhibition *Hopi Visions: Journey of the Human Spirit* opened with much awe from DMA visitors with numerous people posting on social media about the beauty of the work. The exhibition, on view through Dec. 2, highlights the mural *Journey of the Human Spirit*, by Hopi artists Michael Kabotie and Delbridge Honanie, narrates the history of the Hopi people along with work from the DMA collection.

*Laura Owens and The Power of Gold: Royal Regalia in Ghana* will require a special exhibition ticket.

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The New York Times

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CSM TEXAS INSTRUMENTS



# Dallas Mayor's Intern Fellows Program kicks off for the 11th year

Urging businesses and nonprofits to sign up by March 15, Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings today kicked off the 11th year of the Dallas Mayor's Intern Fellows Program with an aggressive campaign to increase the number of businesses providing eight-week paid internships to Dallas public and charter high school students this summer. Joined by dozens of employers who have provided internships, Mayor Rawlings asked the business community to dig deep and invest in "our youth and the future of our city" so that more high school students can take advantage of these invaluable real-world internships. He also reminded high school students that their registration deadline to apply is Jan. 31.

"Businesses ask me all the time 'What can we do?' and my first response is to sign up for the Mayor's Intern Fellows Program," said Mayor Rawlings. "There is no greater contribution a city can make than educating our children, and the Mayor's Intern Fellows Program is a great way for public high school students to make the connection between a college education and great career. I truly appreciate the businesses that step up each year to invest in our youth and future workforce."

Held at Dallas City Hall's Flag Room, the program featured remarks by Dallas ISD Deputy Superintendent Israel Cordero, Mike Peterson of AT&T, Gillian Breidenbach of Bank of America, Jay Clingman of JP-Morgan Chase, Mark Okada of Highland Capital Management, Marcia Page of Education is Freedom, and Betsy Cox of VNA Meals on Wheels and Nutrition Services.

Six star intern alums were also on hand to share testimonials and push student recruitment, including Sundai Gibson of Kimball High School who interned at AT&T; Bryan Estrada of Moises E. Molina High



Courtesy photo

School who interned at HDR; Sally Furlich of Lake Highlands High School who interned at Children's Health; Brenda Flores Skyline High School who interned at VisitDallas; and David Moreno of Harmony School of Nature who interned at the Dallas Business Journal.

Since its inception in 2008, 2,175 Dallas ISD, Richardson ISD and public charter high school students at 52 schools have participated in the program. The 2017 edition of the program was the biggest ever – 2,150

high school students applied for internships, 1,150 qualified for the Job Fair, and a record-breaking 392 students were hired by more than 240 businesses and nonprofits. However, more than 750 students did not land an internship, which is why Mayor Rawlings is encouraging more businesses and nonprofits to step up.

In his call to action, Mayor Rawlings asked businesses to increase the number of interns at their workplace and to recruit vendors, customers, clients and neighboring businesses.

And if a company cannot sponsor an intern at their business, he said they can underwrite an intern to work at a local nonprofit agency or be a program sponsor. He also made a plea to small- and mid-sized businesses – who illustrate the spirit of entrepreneurship – to join the effort in hiring a teen. To sign up, go to [mayorsinterns.org](http://mayorsinterns.org) by March 15.

Students have until Jan. 31 to submit their applications for an internship at [mayorsinterns.org](http://mayorsinterns.org). This year, interns will receive a \$1 raise – making at least \$10 an hour working 20-to-40 hours a week. To date, the interns' cumulative payroll is over \$4.6 million!

The eight-week internships will begin June 11 and conclude Aug. 3. The Mayor's Intern Fellows Program celebratory luncheon is July 27 at the Hyatt Regency Dallas.

Mayor Rawlings shared that many organizations, such as Jacobs, were so impressed with their interns that they've hired them as regular employees who work year round, come back during holidays or even while in college.

Entering its 11th year, the Mayor's Intern Fellows Program introduces high school students to careers and employment opportunities in industries and companies where they have expressed interest. Modeled

after the prestigious White House Fellows Program, the Intern Fellows Program prepares motivated teens to become the leaders of tomorrow.

The students – rising juniors and seniors from Dallas ISD, Richardson ISD and public charter high schools – get exposure to a variety of fields, including technology, healthcare, law, finance and accounting, education, the nonprofit sector, advertising/marketing/public relations, engineering, manufacturing and hospitality, and many more. In 2017, the interns went behind the scenes at City Hall, shadowed surgeons, learned

See MAYOR'S, Page 16

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# Decrypting Cryptocurrencies: Unraveling the mysteries behind Bitcoins

The use of cryptocurrencies to make transactions online has grown in popularity over the past few years, but only one has begun to dominate the market – bitcoin. According to Bitcoin.com, there are currently 16.67 million Bitcoins in supply with 12,000 online transactions made per hour. Several businesses in major Texas cities like San Antonio and Austin even accept it. As popular as this new form of currency has become, many are left wondering what it is, how it even works and about the risks involved.



Zach Copely / Flickr

Unlike dollars, pesos or yen, bitcoins are not backed by a government or distributed by a central bank. Instead, bitcoins are simply lines of programming code created on a peer-to-peer network through a process called “mining.” People involved in this process use special computer resources to

compete with other “miners” to solve complex mathematical puzzles. Solving the puzzle awards the winner a “block” of bitcoins. Transactions can then be made online or through an app on your phone.

Since there is no regulatory agency, this currency comes with its own unique risks. The value of Bitcoin can fall just as quickly as it can rise depending on demand. For example, the value of Bitcoin hit a record high of nearly \$20,000 per coin back in December. It has since dropped to less than half that value and, by the

time you read this article, that number will probably be drastically different. Payments made with virtual currencies are not only irreversible, they also do not have the same legal protections as most traditional payment methods, such as the ones you have when using a credit card. The Federal Trade Commission has found that some online merchants that accept Bitcoin as payment do not deliver the product on time or they provide refunds with store credit rather than currency. That is why it is important to always know the seller and their

policies before making a purchase.

Better Business Bureau advises that if you choose to use or invest in Bitcoin, use extreme caution. Be sure to do your homework first, to understand the rules and risks of Bitcoin transactions.

- Check out the seller’s reputation. Make sure you know where the seller is located and how to contact someone if there are problems.

- If you pay with bitcoins, the only way to get a refund is through the seller or payment processor, so it’s important to choose companies

you trust.

- How much will your refund be? The value of a bitcoin changes constantly so the seller should tell you before you buy what exchange rate will be used for refunds.

- Read the seller’s privacy policy to find out what other information might be collected and shared. If the seller uses a payment processor, check its privacy policy, too.

If you have a problem with a bitcoin-related product or service, file a complaint with the FTC. To report a scam, go to the BBB Scam Tracker. To find trustworthy businesses, go to BBB.org.

## RAP, continued from Page 9

and grow the business, but more importantly to help Nicolaou and his new label navigate Dallas’ foreboding music scene.

“I saw something in their model that I’ve never seen in this city...something Dallas really needs, a true label

that puts the music first and wants to help the hip-hop community on a fundamental level,” Burton said.

In the months to follow, both Nicolaou and Burton would find themselves at the apex of a citywide hip-hop revival. But, all big vi-

sions come with a price tag, which Burton and Nicolaou pay in time, money and stress every day.

“Negotiating growing pains is arguably the most exciting part of the process, said Nicolaou, “but I never anticipated the number of obstacles we would have to hurdle.”

He went on to touch on a litany of concerning macro-level city dynamics. Chief among them, the bizarre cultural divide fixed square between Dallas Proper and south Oak Cliff, a rift he refers to as, “the invisible partition.”

To a natural Dallasite, the term ‘Dallas Proper’ unani-

mously refers to exactly everything, except South Oak Cliff. Albeit sad, it’s the cold, hard truth. Both Burton and Nicolaou, comically agree, they would never have met, known each other existed, nor cared, had it not been for the ‘majestic power of music.’

“This may sound dramatic but, I remember being a little terrified, after listening to our [Dope Ninja] EP for the first time all the way through ... no bulls\*it, I knew, in an instant, that Phantom City represents much more than hip-hop music, or any music for that matter.”



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Or email your resume to: [careers@edbellconstruction.com](mailto:careers@edbellconstruction.com)


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# Upcoming DFW area job fairs

## Jan. 28 Six Flags Over Texas Job Fair

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



job openings. Free resume reviews will also be available by DFW Resume's Sara Timm. All jobs require U.S. citizenship and a minimum two years of industry experience on top of a degree.

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

### Raytheon veteran mentoring

Raytheon is hosting a Dallas Veteran Mentoring Event at UT Dallas on Jan. 30 from Noon - 2 p.m. at University of Texas, Dallas TBD 800 W. Campbell Road in Richardson.

### Jan. 31 CSM hosts event at Garland Workforce Center

CSM Bakery and The Garland Workforce Center are hosting an onsite hiring event at 10741 Miller Road in Dallas on Jan. 31 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Resume writing classes are available

at all Greater Dallas Workforce Centers.

The company will be hiring for the following positions:

- Manufacturing
- Forklift
- Machine Operator
- Mixer

Candidates are invited to dress for success and come with a current resume. Please be prepared to interview as the hiring managers will be on site.

### Plano Career Fair

Participants are invited to this free career fair to meet face-to-face with hiring decision-makers from some of the area's top employers. Dress professionally and bring plenty of resumes, because they will be there to hire.

Walk in and start interviewing, it's that simple. Save time, money and effort interviewing with multiple companies in one day at one location.

Many of these companies have several openings and are eager to meet with job seekers. Attend the career fair and get in front of decision makers. This fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Plano Event Centre located at 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano.

### Irving Workforce hiring event

The Irving Workforce Center is hosting a multi-employer hiring event on Wednesday, Jan. 31 from 10 a.m.-Noon. Irving Workforce Center is 2520 W Irving Blvd Suite #100 in Irving.

The industry sector hiring event will be interviewing in the following industries:

- Technology
- Finance
- Healthcare

For more information please call 972-573-3500.

### Jan. 31 & Feb. 1

### Burlington Stores Hiring Event

Burlington Stores, Inc. is opening a new store soon in Fort Worth and is looking to hire multiple candidates for cashier positions prior to opening. Candidates can expect a competitive wage, flexible hours and an associate discount with their employment at this new Burlington location. As a rapidly growing brand, the company offers a variety of training and development opportunities for its employees. All candidates must be able to work a flexible schedule, including nights, weekends and holidays as required. Responsibilities include: delivering

excellent customer service with a positive, professional attitude, accurately and efficiently ringing on register, processing layaways, returns, and exchanges, and performing other tasks as assigned by manager from time-to-time.

Both fairs will be from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 31 and Thursday, Feb. 1 at Burlington Store 550 located at 5201 S. Hulen Street, Fort Worth.

### Feb. 3 & 6

### Crayola Experience

Want to be a part of the Crayola family? Now's

your chance. The Crayola Experience is set to open in early 2018 at the Shops at Willow Bend in Plano and the attraction needs employees. Crayola is seeking to fill 200 open positions.

The job fair being held on Saturday, Feb. 3 is from 9 a.m. - Noon and the job fair scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 6 is from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Jobs include admissions, retail, EMT, cash office, attractions, food & beverage, custodial and entertainment.

Visit [crayolaexperience.com](http://crayolaexperience.com) to register and for more information.

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## Paid Internship opportunity for writers, college students in the Dallas Area

The North Dallas Gazette has an internship position available. The goal is to provide students and aspiring writers an opportunity to gain published clips, experience and professional feedback.



The position is for up to 20 hours a week at \$8.00 per hour. Applicants must have reliable transportation.

**Send resume and writing samples to:  
[businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com)**

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

*NOTICE: Pastor Woodson serves the community by providing "Professional Therapy and Counseling Services" on a "Sliding Fee" scale. To schedule an appointment call the Pastoral Counseling Center at 972-526-4525 or email the church at www.bethelbiblefellowship.org*

Discover Hope and Help for daily living; and, you don't have to be a member to come. The Connect-2-Reflect (C2R) meetings are held in comfortable and relaxed homes, one in Carrollton and one in Plano, refreshments are served. Call the church for details.

**January 28, 2018, 9:45 a.m.**

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

**January 31, 7 p.m.**

Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Pastor Brenda Patterson, Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner, Pastor Bernadette and others conducting a new study on the book of Ephesians with supporting chapters and verses. Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you; it's Time to Grow in the Word of God.

**February 3**

Join us for Women of Reconciliation, Truth and Hope (W.O.R.T.H.'s) monthly meeting, the first Saturday of the month, we are studying the War Room; it's an inspiring book that is full of faith and hope. We are praying to see you at the church, address below. We have learned that prayer is a powerful weapon.

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

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

**January 28, 8 a.m.**

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

**January 31, 2018**

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D. Senior Pastor

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

**January 26, 7 p.m.**

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

**January 28, 10 a.m.**

You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name in songs and the spoken word.

**January 29**

Join us in Monday School as we grow in God's Word and learn what God has to say to us.

**January 11,**

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

Pastor Rickie Rush  
7701 S Westmoreland Road  
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972-372-4262  
www.Ibocchurch.org

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

**January 28, 10 a.m.**

Join us for Morning Wor-

ship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory; and don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

**January 31, 2018, 7 p.m.**

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

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

**NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH (Abiding in Christ)**

**January 28, 7 a.m.**

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

**January 31, 2018, 7 pm**

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

Dr. Tommy L. Brown, Ed. D. Senior Pastor  
9550 Shepherd Road  
Dallas, TX 75243  
214-341-6459  
nmzbcofdallas@aol.com

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Come and connect to God through Shiloh; grow in Christ through the study of God's Word; and Serve God through service to each other and to the world. John 12:26.

**January 27, 10 am**

Join us at Shiloh's Career Connections Ministry for our "First Impression" Workshop.

**January 28, 2018**

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

**January 31, 2018, 7 p.m.**

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and growth; it's all for His glory and His honor. We are, "Growing in Christ through the study of His Word."

Our church ministries offer opportunities for motivation and growth; join us and see. Be blessed of the Lord.

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**LEFT**, continued from Page 3

more fragmented, while the Republican Party remains consistent with their message and their actions, even if it costs them votes or support. They have conviction and stick to their guns for the whole of the Party. At the end of the day, the Republican Party appears to be on one accord publicly, even when there may be discord internally. This has not been the case with the Democratic Party over the last several

decades.

As I see it, Blacks cannot be political squatters, sitting with our hands out, begging for scraps from the table and waiting to be given our next assignment and told our next move.

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick said it best at the last Democratic National Convention, when he told attendees that they needed to get some "backbone."

All I know is this, Black

folks had better get some "backbone" and wake up before we find ourselves becoming comfortable with sitting at the back of the bus again, while the Hispanic community and Asian community figure out a way to work collectively together to advance their political and social position in this country.

If we find ourselves in the back of the bus, sadly, it won't be the Republicans' fault or the Democrats' fault. This time, it will be no one's

fault, but our own.

Dear Black people: We either get engaged or get left behind.

What's it going to be for 2018 and beyond?

*Jeffrey L. Boney serves as Associate Editor and is an award-winning journalist for the Houston Forward Times newspaper. If you would like to request Jeffrey as a speaker, you can reach him at jboney1@forward-times.com. Follow Jeffrey on Twitter @realtalkjunkies.*



# Let us not forget, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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

*(Editor's note: This is Part 3 in a month-long look back at the life of MLK)*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. messages had an enormous effect on race relations in the United States, beginning in the mid-1950s.

Through his activism and inspirational speeches he played a pivotal role in ending the legal segregation of Black citizens in the United States.

Dr. King helped in the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights of 1965.

In his short lifetime Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, among several other coveted honors.

He continues to be remembered as one of the most influential and inspirational Black leaders in the history of the world.

Born as Michael King Jr. he was the middle child of Michael King Sr. and Alberta Williams King.

Reverend King Sr. was a successful minister, and adopted the name Martin Luther King Sr. in honor of the German Protestant religious leader Martin Luther.

In due time, Michael Jr. would follow his father's lead and adopt the name himself.

Growing up in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. King entered

public school at age 5 and attended Booker T. Washington High School.

Dr. King skipped both the ninth and eleventh grades, and entered Morehouse College in Atlanta at age 15, in 1944.

In his junior year, Martin

took a Bible class, renewed his faith and began to envision a career in the ministry. In the fall of his senior year, he told his father of his decision.

In 1948, Martin Luther King Jr. earned a sociology degree from Morehouse

College and attended the liberal Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania.

He thrived in all his studies, and was valedictorian of his class in 1951, and elected student body president. He also earned a fellowship for graduate study.

During his last year in seminary, Dr. King came under the guidance of Morehouse College President Benjamin E. Mays who influenced King's spiritual development.

After being accepted at several colleges for his doctoral study, including Yale

and Edinburgh in Scotland, King enrolled at Boston University.

During the work on his doctorate, Dr. King met Coretta Scott, an aspiring singer and musician.

They were married in June 1953 and had four children, Yolanda, Martin Luther King III, Dexter Scott and Bernice.

In 1954, King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church of Montgomery, Alabama.

He also completed his Ph.D. and earned his degree in 1955. Dr. King was only 25 years old.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
(January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968)

## INTERNS, continued from Page 5

focusing on resume development and interviewing, business communication, professional dress and personal goal planning.

Once those requirements are met, employers will interview intern candidates at the program's highly competitive Job Fair slated for Friday, April 20, from 2-7 p.m. at Collin College's Spring Creek Campus Conference Center. Selected students will receive a formal job offer in May. If chosen, students will then complete an additional two days of Intern Training

and Enrichment on Wednesday, June 6, and Thursday, June 7, when business soft skills, networking, team-building and work-readiness topics will be addressed.

The program culminates each summer with Mayor LaRosiliere hosting a luncheon honoring the interns and employers on Monday, July 30, at the Hilton Granite Park.

Details and online application are available at [planomayorsinterns.org](http://planomayorsinterns.org). For questions, contact Mary Peltier at [mary.peltier@vwaitgroup.com](mailto:mary.peltier@vwaitgroup.com).

**NDGtv** North Dallas Gazette takes a moment to reflect on the past with **Historical Perspectives from Sister Tarpley**. Hear what it was like growing up in a very different Dallas when Booker T. Washington was a black school. Sister Tarpley graduated from there and went on to college and later became a city councilmember in Carrollton.

Look for NDGTV at [NorthDallasGazette.com](http://NorthDallasGazette.com)

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# NDG Book Review: *Libba: The Magnificent Musical Life of Elizabeth Cotton*

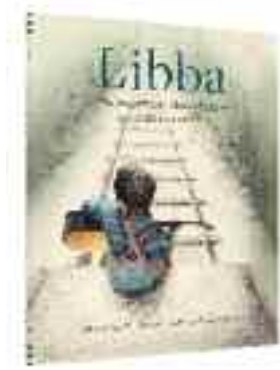
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Oopsy-daisy.

That's what Grandma might say when you're tumbling around and your head holds your feet up. The world sure looks different when you're toes are on top and you're looking at things from upside down, and in the new book "Libba" by Laura Veirs, illustrated by Tatyana Fazlalizadeh, that's not the only thing that's all out of order.

Music was everywhere, for Libba Cotton.

When she fetched water for her mother and brother, she heard river music. The axe she used to chop wood



sang to her. There was a clicky-clack of music in the trains as they sped by on two tracks.

Libba "heard music everywhere" and she longed to make it herself but her brother didn't like anyone touching his guitar.

Even so, whenever he wasn't home, Libba went to his room, took up the instrument, and played – even though she was left-handed, and had to do it upside down and backwards. To anybody else, that would have been weird but to Libba, "it was the way that felt right..."

Her brother, Claude, hated that Libba borrowed his guitar but "DANG!" she was good. She could play well, and she even wrote songs. That's how it was, until Claude moved away and took his guitar with him. Libba did chores and saved money until she was able to have a guitar of her

own.

And she played. Upside down and backward, until time passed and she stopped.

Years later, when Libba was much older, she met a woman from a "musical family" who hired her to work as a housekeeper at a home that was filled with music! There were "banjos in the bedrooms, pianos in the parlor, and bass drums in the basement." All day and all night, musicians drifted in and out, men with names like Muddy Waters and Woody Guthrie, and Libba started hearing music again.

Then one day, when no-

body was paying any attention and nobody would care about how she strummed, Libba borrowed a guitar. And she played music.

Upside down. And backwards.

Before you snuggle up with your child for an inaugural round of "Libba," take a few minutes to read the book yourself, so you're fully prepared for what you'll see.

Oh, that artwork! Through Tatyana Fazlalizadeh's charcoal drawings, musician Elizabeth Cotton's story is told so exquisitely that it may render you almost speechless. Chances are, your child might not

notice but you will. Be prepared.

What your child will find here is a story of keeping a dream alive, even when it's been shelved for a long time. In telling this tale, Laura Veirs's words dance like fingers on frets as she lends lightness to the story, despite its Depression-era theme. Be sure to read her Author's Note, which explains much more about Cotton and her work.

If yours is a musical family or if your child does things a little different, then this is a story you'll want to read again and again. For you, for sure, "Libba" is a book that holds up.

## MAYOR'S, continued from Page 11

to use a drone, explored the worlds of journalism and real-estate, helped families at community health clinics, worked at engineering and law firms, and more.

AT&T is the Founding Sponsor and Bank of America is the Presenting Sponsor of the 2018 Mayor's Intern Fellows Program, and JPMorgan Chase is the Lead Intern Sponsor. Highland Capital Management is the sponsor of the Job Fair set for April 3 at the Hyatt Regency Dallas, where students will be interviewed by human resource professionals and receive formal job offers. Alliance Data is the Intern Fellows Training Sponsor, to provide the in-

terns with three days of intense training – including Microsoft Office and leadership training – before their summer positions begin. As the Community Service Sponsor, Tenet Healthcare will underwrite a service day at the North Texas Food Bank on June 23. Turning-Point Foundation is the Transportation Sponsor.

Other program sponsors include Atmos Energy, Dallas ISD, Dallas Business Journal, Kroger, Lisa K. Simmons and Texas Instruments.

The Mayor's Intern Fellow's Program is facilitated by Dallas nonprofit Education is Freedom (EIF), a comprehensive college-

planning program offering a dedicated team of school-based experts who offer college-access programming in numerous Dallas ISD high schools.

Employers are asked to provide at least one eight-week summer internship for a student fellow for 20 to 40 hours weekly, pay the interns the recommended minimum rate of \$10 per hour, and pay a program fee

of \$500 per intern, which covers the intern's participation in 32 hours of workforce and work-readiness training, the Job Fair, Community Service Day and a two-week bus pass.

Businesses also are asked to provide students an opportunity to shadow executives and observe company operations. Probably one of the most important aspects is to set up one-on-one con-

versations with managers and executives regarding college and career prospects and to share information about the company's industry and variety of career options.

The program is open to Dallas public or charter current high school sophomores and juniors who are eligible to work in the U.S. during summer 2018. High school sophomores and jun-

iors who live in Dallas but attend Richardson ISD are also eligible. Students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA, a solid attendance record, and a recommendation from campus leadership. They must also participate in the required training sessions prior to their internships.

To learn more or register online, go to [mayorsinterns.org](http://mayorsinterns.org) or call 214-871-0783.

## 'State of the City' slated for Feb. 15 in Plano

Join us for the annual State of the City address where Council and Mayor Harry LaRosiliere will highlight the City's successes from the past year and provide insight on the year ahead. 2018 is the year of The New Frontier. The program begins at 7 p.m. and doors to the lobby open at 6 p.m. Arrive early to visit with representatives from various City departments and programs at the "Plano Faces Fair." Explore

opportunities to volunteer within your city, ask questions and sign up for regular communications.

Meet the faces serving you through Emergency Management, Libraries, Neighborhood Services, Parks and Recreation, Plano Fire-Rescue, Plano Mayor's Summer Internship, Plano Police, Plano Stages, Sustainability and Environmental Education, and Volunteers in Plano. Admission is free.

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