



Visit Us Online at [www.NorthDallasGazette.com](http://www.NorthDallasGazette.com)

# CRC outlines scope of bail reform lawsuit against Dallas County

By David Wilfong  
NDG Contributing Writer

Among minorities and economically disadvantaged, the subject of bail reform is one of the hottest topics around. During recent political forums in the Democratic judicial races, the concerns were a constant campaign issue for candidates. Not patient enough for a political process to play through, some local activists have started a "Community Bail Fund" to fill in the gaps and provide relief for low-income defendants who are already facing charges.

Almost two years ago, an organization called Civil Rights Corps (CRC) filed a landmark lawsuit against Harris County challenging the money bail system, calling it "unconstitutional." In January, the same group filed a similar case against Dallas County. Elizabeth Rossi, an attorney who took part in the filing against Harris County and is also working on the local case, spoke to the *North Dallas Gazette* by telephone.

"Texas has a problem, like most states, throughout the entire state, with pre-trials that rely on access to money to make release-from-detention decisions," Rossi said. "And Dallas is one of the most significant perpetrators in the sense that it operates, I believe, the second largest jail



*Dallas is one of at least three Texas counties now facing legal challenges to the money bail system from a wide range of legal, civic and activist organizations. Plaintiffs in a lawsuit against Dallas County claim such bail practices are unconstitutional. (NDG composite of Flickr photos by pgbailey and Ken Teergarden)*

in Texas after Harris County."

The fight over bail reform can become very expensive. Rossi reported Dallas County recently hired one of the same law firms representing Harris County, and the firm has already billed Harris County more than \$7 million in legal fees.

"Those are legal fees up until about six months ago," Rossi said. "Harris County has been refusing to respond to local activists' public information act requests for more information ... for copies of those bills."

Through communication and coordination with local community

groups and activists, CRC decided to add Dallas County to their legal agenda on Jan. 21. The organization now has 11 open challenges to the money bail system, having filed the first case in 2014. They have closed 10 cases in various locations such as Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Missouri.

In these cases, the people benefiting from the legal actions were charged with traffic or misdemeanor violations. In the Dallas and Harris County actions, they are seeking relief for those facing misdemeanor and felony charges as well.

See BAIL, Page 5



### Vote! Someone paid the price

-See Page 3



### Shedding the stigma of autism

-See Page 4



### Beto making return trip to North Texas

-See Page 5



### Social Justice in the world of sports

-See Page 6



### Toyota Music Factory opens in Irving

-See Page 7



### 'Raise Your Glass' celebrates empowerment

-See Page 8



### Benefits of owning your own home

-See Page 16



### Sister Tarpley: Believers made for heights

-See Page 15

## INSIDE...

- People In The News ..... 2
- Op/Ed ..... 3
- Health ..... 4
- Community ..... 5
- Education ..... 6
- Carrollton / Irving / Plano ..... 7
- City Briefs ..... 8
- Entertainment ..... 9-10
- Marketplace ..... 11-12
- Church Directory ..... 14-15
- NDG Book Review ..... 16

## People In The News...

See Page 2



Tonika Cheek Clayton



Toi Williams

### READERS SOUND OFF!!!

See Page 2 to see what NDG readers are saying about the latest news!

On the GO??? But still need to be in the KNOW!!! Bookmark [NorthDallasGazette.com](http://NorthDallasGazette.com) on your phone or mobile device!!!



## Tonika Cheek Clayton

The Dallas County Community College District Foundation has announced the appointment of five new members to its board of directors.

Tonika Cheek Clayton, managing partner at NewSchools Venture Fund, is among the new members.

The DCCCD Foundation provides students who attend the district's seven colleges with scholarships; supports educational programs; and works with other organizations to help remove barriers for students so that they can earn a college credential and either



start their careers or transfer to a university to further their education. The DCCCD Foundation also identifies and develops resources that help solve problems in the community that the district serves.

"The efforts of the DCCCD Foundation and the private dollars it provides for programs and projects that benefit our students is critical to our success as an educational institution as we partner with businesses, community members and other colleges and universities in our area," said Dr. Joe May, DCCCD's chancellor.

"As we build a higher education network that removes barriers to higher education, the foundation helps us provide opportunities for students to earn a college credential and build careers."

In 2017, the foundation

awarded more than \$800,000 in scholarships and has secured \$67 million in private funds since it was founded.

Cheek Clayton, who is managing partner at NewSchools Venture Fund, leads its tools and services team. Under her leadership, NewSchools has invested more than \$9 million in 58 for-profit and non-profit entrepreneurs who are developing digital tools and services that support teaching and learning in pre-K through 12.

NewSchools Venture Fund is a national non-profit organization that seeks to reimagine public

education so that all children – especially those who are underserved – have the opportunity to succeed.

Before she joined NewSchools, Cheek Clayton served as vice president of Amplify, a company that reimagines K-12 education by creating digital products and services that empower teachers, students and parents in innovative ways. She previously worked as a researcher for Harvard University's Public Education Leadership Project.

She started her career in marketing and public relations with the NBA, promoting the NBA Store and

NBA All-Star events before she transitioned to business development and the launch of the NBA's Development League.

Cheek Clayton graduated from Harvard College and earned her MBA from the Harvard Business School. She is a board member for the Canterbury Episcopal School, which serves a predominantly minority community in south Dallas. Cheek Clayton also has raised funds for her husband's congressional campaign, President Barack Obama, former Sec. of State Hillary Clinton and state Sen. Wendy Davis.

## Toi Williams

By Carla Meadows  
NDG Contributor

Since my family and I are regular visitors to Walt Disney World Resort, we know that it is magical place where dreams come true.

That's why it was such a treat to see a dream become a reality for a special high school senior from my hometown who was selected as one of 100 deserving teens from across the country at Disney Dreamers Academy with Steve Harvey and Essence.

Toi Williams from Plano,



Texas was picked out of thousands of applicants and received an all-expense-paid trip to attend the academy with her parents.

Toi experienced a once-in-a-lifetime educational and

mentoring program designed to inspire her to dream big and discover the world of possibilities that will help prepare for her future.

While at Epcot's World Showplace, I had a chance to catch up with Toi to find out more about her personal hopes and dreams.

Toi is a 12th grader at Plano West Senior High School. Although she's busy with her track team, she also enjoys a variety of other extracurricular activities like National Honor Society, Advancement Via Individual Determination and National Black MBA Association Leaders of Tomorrow Program.

After she graduates from high school in June, she plans to attend college and major in political science and obtain a law degree in order to be a civil rights lawyer.

During her four-day stay, the Toi was involved with a law mentoring program where she had the chance to speak and learn from leaders in their respective fields through interactive workshops and seminars.

Fellow Texas Dreamer Ryan Solis from El Paso Texas was another student from the Lone Star State that also attended the Disney Dreamers Academy and aspires to pursue a career in

political science.

From entertainment lawyers to C.E.O.s and everything in between, Toi and Ryan learned that a degree in law doesn't mean you must practice the law.

The Texas students joined other teens during the Law Deep Dive session and learned of multiple areas of legal practice, from transactional law to public interest law. Toi and Ryan also gained an understanding of ways to positively impact their community with a law degree, as well as various career options available to those with a law degree.

It was a great way for

these students to see how to roadmap their own journey to law school and beyond.

While there was plenty of time for the Dreamers to learn about their chosen careers, Disney made sure they had a considerable amount of time to play. All the Dreamers, along with their chaperones, enjoyed the park's rides, food, and, of course Mickey Mouse.

As part of the closing commencement ceremony students were given rings by their parents as a symbolic token to wear as a reminder.

To read more on this program visit [MommysMinivanMonologues.com](http://MommysMinivanMonologues.com).

## NDG Readers Sound Off...

For a chance to see **AMAZING GRACE THE MUSICAL** for free on stage at The Eisemann Center on Thursday night, *NDG* readers were asked to share with us via Facebook how do they choose which theatrical productions you choose to attend in DFW?

**Tracee Bond** the winner, responded: "I choose by relativity to my Life as well as classics, old time favorites and something new and exciting."

We hope Ms. Bond and her guest enjoys the show

and we invite all readers to follow our Facebook page for a chance to win tickets to upcoming entertainment events.

### Tweets from NDG Readers this week:

Thank you for the RTs this week! :) - @inkscrblr

See how @dreamersacademy inspired this #Plano teen to make her career dreams become a reality. @MommysMinivan

Read the full story in our People in the News section this week to learn more about Toi Williams from

Plano, Texas.

"Love it, thanks for the support!" @ToyotaMusic-Fac - read the full story 'Toyota Music Factory host grand opening' on page 7 this week.

@QuikTrip thank you for your sponsorship and for being a #safeplace for our youth and I thank @NDGEditor for your community event mention of this event. #ItTakesAVillage - @SharlaWooten

Thanks for the retweets this week @SLRPhillips

### Instagram conversations of the week

"Yum!" @funnmindy on hearing about the free yogurt at @tcby.musicfactory on Wednesday!

"Kindness looks good on you. #KINDCULT" - @kindcult to @Oprah following her appearance at @Minniespantry gala earlier in April

To share your opinion visit [NorthDallasGazette.com](http://NorthDallasGazette.com)

## \$69\* DIVORCE

Criminal Defense	Family Cases
• DWI / Suspended License	• Divorce / Annulment
• WARRANTS Removed*	• Child Support / Paternity
• 24 Hour Jail Release*	• Custody Modification
• Occupational license, felonies	• Restraining Order
• Protective Order	• Protective Order
• Misdemeanor/Felonies*	• Name Change / Adoption
	• Domestic Violence

### Easy Payment Plans

## Law Offices Of Vincent Ndukwe

**214-638-5930**

**817-277-0196 (Metro)**

2730 N. Stemmons Frwy, Suite 409 • Dallas, TX 75207

Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization  
\*If you qualify. \*Fees quoted above are minimum down payment needed to begin processing your case.



P.O. Box 763866 - Dallas, Texas 75376-3866

Phone: 972-432-5219 - Fax: 972-509-9058

**“Do what you say you are going to do ... when you say you are going to do it.”**

**Publisher's Office:**

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

**Sales Department:**marketing@northdallasgazette.com  
972-509-9049**Editorial Department:**

editor@northdallasgazette.com

**Online:**

www.NorthDallasGazette.com  
www.twitter.com/NDGEEditor  
www.facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette  
www.pinterest.com/NDallasGazette  
www.instagram.com/NorthDallasGazette

**STAFF****Chairman Emeritus**Jim Bochum  
1933 - 2009**Religious/ Marketing Editor**Shirley Demus Tarpley  
("Sister Tarpley")**Published By**

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

**Web Master**

Todd Jones

**Columnist**Ed Gray  
A.D. Jenkins**Community Marketing**

Nadina Davis

**Contributing Writers**Jackie Hardy  
Rachel Hawkins  
Jazlyn Mercer  
Dwain Price  
Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Nicole Scott  
David Wilfong**Account Executive**

Ana Comacho

**Production**

David Wilfong

**Editor**

Ruth Ferguson



North Dallas Gazette assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate revisions.

The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded in July 1991, by Mr. Jim Bochum and Mr. Thurman R. Jones. North Dallas Gazette is a wholly owned subsidiary of Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

**Opinion: Go vote! Somebody paid the price!**By Jeffrey L. Boney  
NNPA Contributor

All you have to do is crack open a history book, or sit with one of our experienced elders, and you will learn about the many sacrifices made by people of all races in order to ensure Black people obtained the uninhibited right to vote.

No other group of people in America have benefited more from the sacrifices made by so many people who fought, bled and died fighting for our freedom and the right to vote, as Black people have.

The freedom Black Americans experience today came with a significant price tag attached to it, and that freedom has definitely not been free. So much blood has been shed, and so many lives have been lost—all for our freedom and for the precious right to vote.

In fact, if you add up the number of Americans who died in World War I, World War II, the American Revolution, the War of 1812, all of the wars with the Indians, the Mexican-American War, the Spanish-American War and the Korean War, that number would not be as large as the total number of people who died alone in the Civil War fighting to end slavery.

After the Civil War, many Whites migrated from the North to the South in order to help Black people thrive in the new Reconstruction governments. Many of those White abolitionists ran for political office and won. Several Black men were also elected to the U.S. Congress and the South even elected some Black senators. These political gains and the progress made by Black people, as a result of the Reconstruction governments in the South, angered many Southern Whites.

Confederate Army supporters like Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest, and others, made up in their minds that if they wanted to re-establish control and dominance over Black people in this country, then they would

have to stop Black men from voting by any means necessary.

Nathan Bedford Forrest and several of his colleagues helped form the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), where he served as the first Grand Wizard. The Klan wore white robes and pretended to be the ghosts of dead Confederate soldiers in order to strike fear into the hearts of anyone, they encountered. Members of the Klan did not want to be recognized, so they wore hoods to cover their faces, primarily, because many of the members of the Klan were prominent citizens and local authority figures.

At night, the Klan would hang signs warning Black people not to vote and threatened to kill any Black man who voted. To further frighten Black voters, the Klan would gather together in their costumes and place a large wooden cross in front of a Black man's home and set it on fire. This served as a warning to any Black man who decided to vote in the next election. If a Black man defied the Klan and refused to adhere to their warning, he was lynched from a tree so everyone in the city would see him and have second thoughts about attempting to vote in future elections.

The Klan quickly grew across all Southern states and Black people were vulnerable to this heinous activity and their vicious attacks. Due to the constant harassment and brutal killings by the Klan, Blacks began to slowly dismiss voting. As a result, Black people began losing political representation, as well as the political advancements they gained during Reconstruction. As time progressed, future generations of White Americans began to slowly forget the struggles of Black people and were not as vocal or as dedicated to the plight of Black people in the South as they had been in the past.

If you fast-forward in the history books, you can see that Black voter intimidation and Black voter disenfranchisement continued well

beyond the blatant actions of the Klan. State governments in the South joined the party and began passing sweeping new sets of laws called "Jim Crow" and those laws were designed to separate White people from Black people.

Blacks could not eat in the same restaurants as Whites; there were separate schools for Black and White children; Blacks could not drink water from the same fountains as Whites; Blacks had to sit in the back of the buses, whereas Whites could sit up front; and Blacks could not ride in the same carriages as Whites on the trains.

All in all, this blatant form of voting disenfranchisement has significantly impacted the well-being and livelihood of Black people for centuries.

So, why has it been so important for other people to make it difficult for Black people to vote?

The reason, to me, is quite simple. Those who seek to disenfranchise Black people from the voting process know exactly how important voting is. Those who seek to disenfranchise Black people relative to the voting process know the profound impact that it has at every level of government—local, state, and national.

More importantly, those who seek to disenfranchise Black people from the voting process know that voting is so powerful that those in political positions of power are able to direct necessary and critical resources to select areas. They are also able to ensure that select people are appointed to key positions.

Nearly everything that impacts our daily lives, in some way, is influenced by an elected official or someone who is appointed by them. These elected officials draft policy, introduce legislation, and vote on bills, that eventually become laws.

Whether voting for the judge, who has the power to sentence your loved one to a lengthy prison sentence or voting for the judge who has the power to determine child

support payments and visitation rights through the family court—one or more of these elected officials will impact your life in some shape, form or fashion throughout your lifetime. Every elected official yields power and some level of influence that we as Black people should never ignore or take for granted.

It doesn't matter whether you believe your vote matters or not—and it most certainly does—you will have to adhere to any law voted on by those who've been elected to represent you. There is absolutely no level of complaining or reactionary response that will change that.

There are no acceptable excuses when it comes to voting. Either you do it or you reap the consequences. Engaged citizens must seek to understand politics if they wish to better understand the impact of the laws and decisions that politics produce.

I can only wonder, however, if many of our political martyrs, who sacrificed their very lives for the right to vote that we should all appreciate today, are flipping over in their graves as they look upon much of our squandered voting potential and overwhelming collective political apathy.

Maybe this election cycle will prove to be different, however. At least I hope it will.

Jeffrey L. Boney serves as Associate Editor and is an award-winning journalist for the Houston Forward Times newspaper. Jeffrey has been a frequent contributor on "The Nancy Grace Show" and "Primetime Justice with Ashleigh Banfield." Jeffrey is a radio personality and a dynamic, international speaker, experienced entrepreneur, business development strategist and Founder/CEO of the Texas Business Alliance. If you would like to request Jeffrey as a speaker, you can reach him at [jboney1@forwardtimes.com](mailto:jboney1@forwardtimes.com). Follow Jeffrey on Twitter @realtalkjunkies.

# Changing the stigma of autism

By Rachel Hawkins  
NDG Staff Writer

“It was the only time in my life that I completely lost control in public, fell to my knees and wept,” Whitney Ellenby said.

Autism.

Just the word alone may make certain people feel uncomfortable or have strong opinions based on the stigma that surrounds it in our everyday culture. It’s a topic in which many people may not understand or they simply try to avoid, but one mother is trying to change that.

Author, advocate, and mother, Whitney Ellenby new book *Autism Uncensored: Pulling Back the Curtain* will reveal the struggles and triumphs of raising her autistic son.

“It was devastating to learn about Zack’s autism at 19 months old, partly because I was completely unprepared,” Ellenby said. “I had assumed when he behaved oddly or missed milestones that he was merely developmentally delayed, not that he had a permanent, incurable brain dis-

order.

“In those early years the highs came from Zack’s growing and demonstrative affection for me, he went from having a flat, humorless affect to grabbing me and tackling me like a little linebacker,” Ellenby said.

“But the lows were profound as he approached age 5 with episodes of fecal smearing, insomnia and frequent public meltdowns that left me feeling humiliated and helpless,” Ellenby said. “There was also this pervasive sense since so much about autism is unknown and incurable that he might still be having tantrums at age 18, a terrifying thought, so there was no light at the end of a very dark tunnel.”

“What inspired me to write the book was from the moment of that first real-world exposure where he conquered his fears,” Ellenby said. “I became an ally with autism rather than an opponent, respecting this force of nature, harnessing it and redirecting its energy in a positive direction. I don’t believe I’ve ever experienced anything in my



Illustration from “Autism Uncensored”

entire time of parenting more exhilarating than the success born of watching Zack overcome his fears, adjust to an indoor theater show where I forced him to enter and remain, and come out the other side singing, bouncing, enjoying the show, fearless.

For every 68 births, 1 child is diagnosed with autism. 70 million individuals have autism worldwide.

Today Zack is doing well and he turned 17 years old. He navigates his community and the world fearlessly and competently, goes to

rock concerts, theater, and on an airplane. All the places he feared when he was younger.

There are no more meltdowns but his language never really expanded so he remains minimally verbal, still flaps, bounces and gallops everywhere he goes and it’s perfectly fine.

Since Zack’s diagnosis, Ellenby went from being someone whose identity and self-confidence was swiped by the early diagnosis to someone who passionately advocates for persons with autism.

“There is no right way to parent any child with autism, apart from providing unconditional love and support for who they are and the challenges they face,” Ellenby said. Many people are objecting to my unorthodox methods of physical restraint that I used when Zack was age five to help him overcome his fears. I don’t believe in infantilizing persons with disabilities, or talking about them in their presence as if they are not absorbing what’s being said about them. I do believe in being frank and honest with them about their disability, building up their self-esteem, and capitalizing on all the things they can do without getting mired in the limits imposed by their disability.”

“I believe autism cuts across all races and ethnicities equally, though I can’t say for sure whether the impact is the same,” Ellenby said. The lessons are the same, regardless of race. In my experience, the best intervention for Zack happened only when I took matters into my own hands, had the courage to disclose

his disability openly and in public, and stopped apologizing for his autism.”

“If you see a parent struggling with a child having a massive meltdown, wait a minute before reacting,” Ellenby said. “It’s natural to feel startled or annoyed but take a moment. Given our epidemic numbers, to consider that you might be witnessing an autistic meltdown and the parent is in genuine pain. If you feel able, ask the parent gently if you can help, but don’t judge, don’t glare, don’t make them feel unwelcome.

“In my opinion, there is no substitute for real-world exposure, so get your kids out into the world early and often,” Ellenby said. I want parents to shed the shame of behaviors their child exhibits, get them out into the world often and don’t be afraid to identify your child as having autism. There’s no room or reason for shame, don’t let others’ opinions keep you and your kids locked away at home, their lives are too precious. So is yours.

You can read the full story on the NDG website.

## Getting prepared for spring and seasonal allergies

By Lauren Woolbert, MD  
NDG Special Contributor

The cold weather is finally on its way out and the warm sunshine is inviting you to go outside and get active! However, in the North Texas community, your time outside can be abruptly interrupted by a vast amount of allergy related symptoms such as, a runny nose, congestion, itching eyes, sore throat, headache, and overall feeling run down. These symptoms are typically known as “hay fever” or seasonal allergic rhinitis. You are not alone if you have felt these symptoms recently, as pollen allergies are the most common source of environmental allergies.

There are several treatments you can do to help reduce your allergy symptoms. Pollen count apps can tell

you what allergens are heavy in the air and guide your daily activities. Small adjustments such as taking your morning jog on a treadmill inside instead of outside can help minimize symptoms. You can also consider getting an air filter for your home or cycling the air inside your car to reduce pollens and dust.

If you see there will be high pollen counts, you can be proactive and take an antihistamine before going out for the day. As there are several antihistamines available, your primary care physician can help recommend a suitable option based on your needs. The most widely known is Diphenhydramine (Benadryl), which can help relieve symptoms quickly, but can make many people drowsy. Another option is a second generation of allergy

medicine, which includes Zyrtec, Allegra, Claritin and Xyzal. With any medication, it is recommended to monitor how well they are controlling your symptoms. If allergies continue to persist, you can discuss other options with your physician. Allergists can provide additional support through specialized sensitization treatments that aim to reduce your body’s reaction to allergens.

How are pollen allergies diagnosed? Your physician can take blood tests that look at common pollens in your area and how your body reacts to those pollens. It is important to share if you are taking any antihistamines to treat your symptoms, as they could still be active and limit your blood’s response in the lab, leading to false negatives. Also, these tests can catch mild reactions in your

blood that might not actually cause you any symptoms. Another option is the skin prick test, which can be done in the office of allergists, some dermatologists and otolaryngologists (ENTs). In this test, the pollen is pricked into your skin and then monitored for a reaction. By following these guidelines and a personalized recommendation from your physician, you can be on the route to relief this spring season!

Dr. Lauren Woolbert is an integral member of the Village Health Partners medical team and is committed to providing outstanding family medicine and medical treatment. She is a firm believer in the benefits of preventative health care and educates patients on the importance of leading an active and balanced lifestyle. For more information on seasonal aller-

gies or to discuss your overall well-being with Dr. Woolbert, please visit [www.villagehealthpartners.com](http://www.villagehealthpartners.com)

or call 972-596-9511 to schedule an appointment.

**CASH TODAY!!!**  
Fair Price Offer For Oil and/or Gas Royalty  
Small “NET” Revenue Interest



**No Matter How Small**

Fax Information To:  
**972-509-9058**  
Call:  
**972-432-5219**  
(Leave Message)

Email:  
[inquiries1909@gmail.com](mailto:inquiries1909@gmail.com)

## Beto returning to North Texas after surpassing Cruz with cash in the bank

El Paso Congressman and Candidate for the U.S. Senate Rep Beto O'Rourke plans to return Dallas, Denton, and McKinney to continue his campaign from April 19 to 20. He will appear in Dallas on April 19 at 6:00 p.m. at The Rustic, in McKinney on April 20 at 8:30 a.m. at TUPPS Brewery, and in Denton at the University of North Texas Town Hall, on April 20 at 11:00 a.m.

Since starting his campaign a year ago, The Beto for Texas campaign has officially passed U. S. Senator Ted Cruz's campaign for the fourth time, and for the first time, now has more money in the bank than the incumbent. In the first three months of 2018, Beto's



Congressman Beto O'Rourke greets the waiting crowd after being introduced at a town hall meeting held at the Chocolate MINT Foundation in DeSoto on March 29. Beto is working to hit all Texas counties during the campaign to unseat Sen. Ted Cruz. (Photo: David Wilfong / NDG)

campaign raised \$4.1 million more than Cruz's campaign. Beto's campaign did this without taking any funding from PAC's or spe-

cial interests according to a statement issued by his campaign.

His success is spurred by the excitement such as

when Beto appeared at a packed-out town hall in DeSoto last month as covered earlier by NDG. He has traveled across the state of Texas and has visited more than 230 counties, where he held open dialogues with Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and non-voters.

"If you listen to my fellow Texans across 254 counties, they're all about getting big things done for our state, and we're building on their momentum each day without any corporate help, any special interests, any PACs," said O'Rourke. "This grassroots campaign has overcome the special interests and corporations because it is funded completely by people, more

than 141,000 contributions this quarter alone, most of them from Texans who are refusing to slow down as we come together to make something extraordinary happen."

During one of his campaign stops in Desoto with faith leaders, appeared to listen more than he talked, which was also covered earlier by NDG.

When a 2018 Public Policy Polling survey was taken, it showed the Democrat within single digits of Cruz. The incumbent's narrow lead disappeared altogether when Texans learned that O'Rourke is refusing to take money from PACs in his people-powered campaign for the Senate.

Currently, Beto people-

powered campaign has reported more than \$8 million on hand, whereas Ted Cruz's campaign has reported \$7.2 million on hand.

Below is the updated itinerary for Congressman O'Rourke visit to Dallas between April 19 to 20.

### Thursday, April 19

• 6-7:30 p.m. in Dallas at The Rustic

### Friday, April 20

• 8:30-10 a.m. in McKinney at TUPPS Brewery - Breakfast Town Hall

• 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Denton at the University of North Texas - UNT Town Hall

• 3-4 p.m. in Dallas at Bonton Farms - Visit to Bonton Farms

## BAIL, continued from Page 1

"It's important to remember that the constitutional principles are the same, regardless of whether somebody's arrested and charged with a misdemeanor or a felony," Rossi said. "Even though, if you provide the procedural protection, and base the substantive findings required for detaining someone before trial; it may be more likely that if a person is charged with a more serious offense that they end up detained on a properly-issued detention order in a serious felony case. It doesn't change the procedures that are required, or what the constitution requires the judge to determine, as a matter of fact, about why that person's detention is justified."

She said Dallas County is making many of the same arguments as it's neighbor to the south, including the assertion poor people "want to be in the Dallas County jail" because they know they will be fed and sheltered, or that releasing impoverished detainees is "setting them up to fail." She says such assertions illustrate there is a long way to go in changing the culture.

Bail reform might be a

frequent talking point in recent campaigns, but according to Rossi, there are not a lot of roadblocks to making changes at the local level. The current bail system in Dallas is a policy decision on the part of judges and the Commissioners Court.

"All they would have to do to fix the system is for the judges to vote – as they do as an administrative body – and promulgate a new bail schedule consisting of unsecured amounts, or to promulgate a new schedule with standard non-financial conditions," Rossi said. "And then they could start requiring the magistrates – whom they control, and who conduct the jailhouse arraignments – to conduct constitutionally adequate hearings to comply with due process to ensure that if a person is kept in a jail cell before trial that it is only because it is necessary to do so in order to reasonably assure court appearance or protect the community."

Rossi asserts that since 1999, Dallas County has only authorized pre-trial services to screen a very small segment of detainees for release on a non-finan-

cial basis. The majority she says – including homeless, people who don't have family or friends to verify specific information, those from other counties, and most others – will be required to remain in jail until a district attorney decides on their case. The process can take from five to 10 business days, one she also hopes to expedite. Also in contention is that currently, Dallas County holds bail proceedings behind closed doors.

The county has filed a motion to dismiss, and CRC has filed an "emergency relief" motion to stop Dallas County from implementing the money bail system while litigation is taking place. The CRC briefs are due in a week-and-a-half, with the county filing additional briefs two weeks after that. Rossi expects a hearing or oral arguments in late May or June but says she cannot be sure. The matter in Harris County has been ongoing for almost two years, so she says it's impossible to tell how long the process will take.

"I'm hopeful that Dallas County will take a different route, make a different strategic decision about the utility to the residents of

Dallas County, or the justice of fighting this," Rossi said.

The move for bail reform is picking up steam in Texas. The CRC joined the

lawsuit filed by the Texas Fair Defense Project, the ACLU of Texas, the ACLU, Faith in Texas and the Texas Organizing Project Educa-

tion Fund. On April 8 the ACLU of Texas announced plans to file a similar lawsuit against Galveston County.

Registration for summer  
and fall classes begins  
April 23.

northlakcollege.edu

Semester start dates:

Summer I – June 5

Summer II – July 10

Fall – August 27

North Lake College

DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

## Mountain View student receives national Jack Kent Cooke scholarship

Heber Bibang, a Mountain View College international student from Gabon, Africa, is one of 47 recipients of a 2018 Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. This national, competitive scholarship will provide Bibang with up to \$40,000 annually, for a maximum of three years, so that he can complete his bachelor's degree.

After he finishes his associate degree at Mountain View, Bibang plans to transfer to Texas Tech University, where he will major in petroleum engineering. At MVC, he is an active member of Phi Theta Kappa, a national academic honorary



Heber Bibang

for two-year college students, and was named to the All-USA Academic Team. Bibang said, "I believe that success is defined by the amount of effort, dedication and perseverance one puts into his work."

Six students from across Texas were selected to receive a Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. Bibang is the only recipient from the Dallas County Community College District.

"Community colleges provide an affordable first

step for many students with financial need to begin their higher education journey," said Harold O. Levy, executive director of the Cooke Foundation. "Cooke Transfer Scholars have demonstrated incredible ability and ambition, and we look forward to supporting their success at universities such as Stanford, Cornell, and MIT."

This year, nearly 2,500 students – including MVC's Bibang – applied for the Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. The foundation evaluated each

submission based on academic ability, persistence, leadership, and service to others. The recipients selected have a median adjusted gross income of \$5,000 and an average GPA of 3.92. Biological sciences, engineering, and computer/informational sciences are the most popular fields of study among the cohort.

The Cooke Foundation's mission is to advance the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need. Since

2000, the private, independent foundation has awarded \$175 million in scholarships to more than 2,300 students in grade eight to graduate school; it also provides comprehensive counseling and other support services to scholarship recipients.

The Cooke Foundation also provides significant grants for noteworthy and innovative initiatives that support high-performing, low-income students. For more information, visit [www.jkcf.org](http://www.jkcf.org).

## Summer Splash Camp registration begins April 28

City recreation centers will begin registration for the Summer Splash Camp on April 28. Five, two-week sessions will be offered beginning June 4 at all recreation centers, except Cimarron and Mustang camps that

begin June 11. Sessions will run from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and cost \$190 per child.

Campers will participate in gym games, arts and crafts and field trips in a supervised environment. Snacks and lunch will be

provided daily. Residents must present a valid Irving Parks and Recreation ID card and at least one session's payment at the time of registration. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and will re-

main open until sessions are full at each center.

Call a neighborhood recreation center for more information. Visit [CityofIrving.org/907](http://CityofIrving.org/907) for a complete listing of recreation centers.



City of Irving

## North Texans gather to discuss social justice in sports

By Rachel Hawkins  
NDG Staff Writer

It all started with a book, and then an idea.

Furqan Sunny Azhar is a man who wanted to bring light and awareness to a not-so-simple situation called social and racial injustice. It all began when he read a book called *The Long Shot*, by Craig Hodges. Because of this, he wanted to explore the ideas, topics, and deep meanings of what this not only means to sports players, but to average people in their everyday lives, and he decided to do this in a simple way. Through conversation.

On Saturday morning of April 14, a conference room began to fill with ages of young and old at Marriott at Legacy Town Center, in Plano. They came for one simple thing, answers. The audience wanted answers to the entire situation at hand and the meaning on how and why this continues to occur in our everyday society.

This event was split into four sessions where afterward, the audience was in-



(From left to right) Furqan Sunny Azhar, event creator, David Stephens, event's moderator, Craig Hodges, former NBA player, and Mahmoud Abdul Rauf former NBA player discuss why they got involved in activism. (Image: Rachel Hawkins NDG)

vited to engage, comment, and ask questions.

"This topic is so important, mainly because of the Colten Kaepernick movement, and what it means to the broader social justice movement," Azhar, creator of the event said. "Now is the time. Social justice movements are always timely, but when we talk about sports and social justice we have to empower athletics, and we have to talk about the important platform they have."

Kaepernick, a 49ers quarterback shocked the world when he quietly sat down

during the national anthem. When asked he responded, "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country which oppresses black people and people of color." Since then, he has been heavily invested in various social justice movements across the nation.

"That's a myth, and we need to understand athletics have an important, voice, and empowering them to exercise their voice is extremely important if we're going to bring about social change," Azhar said.

Azhar's goals were to inform people the ideas or the

misconception sports being disassociated from politics, should be dispelled.

"I went through college from being on the cover of magazines, being interviewed and achieving many accomplishments but yet I still looked at myself as being inadequate and inferior because I was raised in a situation to think less of myself," Mahmoud Abdul Rauf former NBA player said. "I remember scoring 53 points after one of my games and crying because I thought something bad was going to happen to me because things like that just don't happen to people."

"This was because of the images and messages society gave me every day," Rauf former said. "When I read the autobiography of Malcolm I got angry, but then I realized the worst thing that can happen to a human being is destroying a sense of knowledge itself, their persons and their culture because you always become susceptible to someone else interpretations of who you are. That's when I realized, if I had known about this back then, I

wouldn't have thought of myself that way."

Azhar decided to reach out to Craig and tell him Dallas needed to hear his message.

"I was put a mission early in life to become an activist," Craig Hodges, former NBA player said. "Not really knowing where it would take me, I realized the more information I got, the more knowledge I'd received."

"America has always encouraged communication action, where you would solve your problems by talking about it, but not necessarily showing your rage," Hodges said. "But when you look at the past groups like the Black Panther, they wanted to show their rage, and they used it as a political instrument. When you take drastic steps, it forces people to listen to you a little bit more than just sitting around and talking about it."

What captivated Azhar the most throughout *The Long Shot* was the powerful women in Hodges' life and how they were instrumental in his upbringing and de-

manded he have a higher sense of conscientiousness.

"Sports in many ways is what drives this country," said Wise. "It suggests sports is essential to how we understand ourselves, and it is a reflection of who we are and where we are as a nation. The movement is trying to remind us not everyone is experiencing the justice system the same. Not everyone is experiencing the school system, or the labor market or even the housing market the same. And until we do, protesting not only becomes necessary but critical."

Dr. Marc H. Ellis, Heather Mustain, Mustafa Carroll, and Joy Stephens were also invited to speak at the national conversation.

"It's the 50th anniversary of our social justice champion Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," Azhar said. "I don't want people to lose an understanding of the Civil Rights movement, and what it means today. I would hope people reflect and think about where we came from and how much further we still have to go."

# Toyota Music Factory hosts grand opening ceremony in Irving

By Rachel Hawkins  
NDG Staff Writer

Irving and fellow DFW foodies and music lovers are finally getting their place to shine. Guests, city councilmen, and workers excitedly gathered in the newly built Alamo Drafthouse, in theater two, on Friday April 13 to watch the ribbon cutting of the Toyota Music Factory, in Irving.

After years of hard work, it is finally up and running and ready to add a new twist to Irving's entertainment and nightlife. The grand opening festivities lasted from April 13 to 15.

The Toyota Music Factory is a \$200 million venue with more than 500,000 square feet mixed entertainment and lifestyle complex



Steve Curtis, Vice President of Media and Engagement Marketing of Toyota Music Factory (left) presents Noah Lazes, President of ARK Group and developer of the Toyota Music Factory (right) a crystal brick during the grand opening. (Photo: Rachel Hawkins / NDG)

located in the Las Colinas Urban Center. It features 25 restaurants and entertainment venues.

"We've been waiting for this moment since 2007 when Irving voters approved the financing for the newest grandest entertainment destination in Irving," Beth

Bowman, President, and CEO of Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce said. "This is the epic center for music, food, movies, and events of every type. With more than 15 restaurants, world-class entertainment, and a 3 in 1 outdoor pavilion, there is some-

thing for everyone in one place in the heart of Irving.

"It starts out with a dream," Rick Stopfer, Mayor of Irving said. "Everything starts out with a dream, but seeing them fulfilled is something we don't always get to see happen.

The Toyota Music Factory has an 8,000 capacity indoor and outdoor amphitheater, The Pavilion, and a 50,000 square foot event plaza. It is operated by Live Nation, one of the largest concert entertainment companies in the nation.

The Pavilion at Toyota Music Factory which is the centerpiece of the Toyota Music Factory plans to feature not only live music, but fashion shows, farmers markets, food festivals, and several events throughout the

year.

The entertainment development will also feature: the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema, an indoor theater that consists of movies and food all under one roof, Texas Lottery Plaza, the outdoor stage that plans to host live entertainment and special events, various type of restaurants that ranges from seafood, bars, Tex-Mex, pizzerias, frozen yogurt, salads bars, Japanese and Latin-inspired foods, New York-style delis and more.

"The dream for creating a city within a city is finally here," Noah Lazes, President of ARK Group and developer of Toyota Music Factory said. "What's a better place than Irving, the heart of DFW. We have a DART stop, fantastic trans-

portation, housing, and office spaces and now we have a new entertainment center to go along with it. We all know about the music side, but we need to realize that the factory is more than just music.

"There is something here for everyone," Lazes said. "Whether you are five or fifty years old, whatever your food, or music preference is we got something here for you. The city of Irving, and especially the City Council have been involved in this project for much longer than we have. The city of Irving residents is also to thank. Part of the funding for this project came from a voter referendum approved by the voters of Irving. The stood up and said we want this here."

## Dallas Area Drug Prevention Partnership taking back prescription drugs at 11 sites on April 26

On April 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Dallas Area Drug Prevention Partnership (DADPP) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its eighth opportunity in three years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to any one of the eleven sites DADPP is sponsoring (The DEA cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches.)

The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last October, Americans turned in 324 tons (over 647,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at over 4,114 sites operated by the DEA and its thousands of state and local law enforcement partners. When those results are combined with what was collected in its seven previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in over 3.4 million pounds—more than 1,700 tons—of pills.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse.

Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority

of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual

methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.



U.S. Air Force

**NORTH DALLAS BANK & TRUST CO.**

**Proudly serving our community with low-cost banking solutions since 1961.**

**972.716.7100**

Member FDIC  
Addison | Dallas | Frisco | Las Colinas | Plano

**Carrollton**

Carrollton Texas Parks & Recreation is inviting people in their pajamas to experience the **Ladybug release event** on Saturday, April 21 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Josey Ranch Nature Area. Guest will be able to watch ladybugs explore their new home, enjoy ladybug crafts, and learn why ladybugs are good for the garden.

**Dallas**



Nikole Hannah-Jones  
(Courtesy photo)

Nikole Hannah-Jones, writer for *The New York Times Magazine* and recent recipient of a MacArthur Genius Grant for her work

**“Reshaping national conversations around education reform”** is the featured guest speaker at El Centro College Common Book Program on April 24 from 11 a.m. and a second event at 2 p.m. Both events will take place in the Performance Hall, and are open to the El Centro College community.

NorthPark center is to host **Dallas Symphony Orchestra Concert Under the Stars** on Saturday, April 21 from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. This free open air concert will feature Renowned Music Director and Maestro Jaap van Zweden. Guest are invited to brink a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy food and drinks. This family friendly event will also feature classical pieces from composers like: Rossini, J. Strauss, and Wagner.

Wacoal is hosting a **Fit For The Cure** event starting this Saturday, April 21

at Belk on 13550 Dallas Parkway. For every woman fit, Wacoal will donate \$2 to Susan G. Komen® to benefit breast cancer research and community health programs. For every Wacoal or b. tempt’d item purchased during the event, they will donate an additional \$2.

**Irving**

Momentum Dance Company is presenting their **"Selections for Spring"** from April 20 – 22, at Irving Arts Center at 8 p.m. MDC will present new ballet/pointe, modern, musical theater, tap, and jazz works.

The **North Texas Teen Book Festival** is back again with even more new authors.

On Saturday, April 21 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Irving Convention Center, Kids, teens, and adults will be invited to get their favorite books signed, listen to panels, and meet several authors.

**‘Raise Your Glass Dallas’ is a celebration of women’s empowerment**

By Rachel Hawkins  
NDG Staff Writer



Dede McGuire, host of K104 FM’s *Dede in the Morning*, takes the stage as emcee. (Photo: Rachel Hawkins/NDG)

The garden’s freshly cut lush grass was consumed with beautiful bright vivid colors as they flowed with the wind on a Sunday afternoon. With the radiant sun shining down on them, the brilliant reds, popping yellows, deep blues, delicate pinks, and elegant purples brought class and charmed wherever they trailed. They sang, they talked, and they danced, surly symbolizing the beginning of a fresh spring. But yet, these elegant eye-catching colors weren’t flowers at all, they were dresses.

Sociologie Wine invited guests to raise their glasses and support empowering women and young girls on April 15, at the Texas Discovery Gardens.

The boho chic garden

party was created by Amy Hampton, the founder, and creator of Sociologie Wine.

Her event inspired guests to celebrate spring, while simultaneously highlighting women-owned businesses and supporting charitable community partners and non-profits organizations like: Dallas Women’s Foundation, IG-NITE, PeopleFund and Step Up.

A percentage of proceeds

raised during the event went towards these organizations.

“Women empowerment means freedom, love, and joy,” Hampton said. “You’re able to everything you ever wanted to do and more through your art and creativity and to make things happen for other people as well.

“My heart is over-

**See GLASS, Page 12**

Exclusive CD Offer

Premium rate. Guaranteed return.<sup>1</sup>

**2.15%**  
APY<sup>1</sup>

13-month CD

\$10,000 Minimum Opening Balance<sup>2</sup>

Ready to get started?

To take advantage of this special offer, call us at **972.578.5000** or stop by your nearest LegacyTexas bank location.



LegacyTexas.com

(1) APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Available as a standard Certificate of Deposit or IRAs CD. Rate is accurate as of the date of this publication. Rates are subject to change until the CD is opened. After the CD is opened the rate will not change until maturity. Fees could reduce the earnings on accounts. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. (2) \$10,000 minimum opening deposit must be funded from a non-LegacyTexas Bank account. (6/6/2018)

MEMBER FDIC



## 'Amazing Grace The Musical' on stage at Eisemann Center this week

Eisemann Center Presents AMAZING GRACE THE MUSICAL for three performances on Thursday, April 19 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Friday, April 20 at 8 p.m. AMAZING GRACE is a new original musical based on the awe-inspiring true story behind the world's most beloved song. A captivating tale of romance, rebellion and redemption, this radiant production follows one man whose incredible journey ignited a historic wave of change.

John Newton, a willful and musically talented young Englishman, faces a future as uncertain as the

turning tide.

Coming of age as Britain sits atop an international empire of slavery, he finds himself torn between following in the footsteps of his father – a slave trader – or embracing the more compassionate views of his childhood sweetheart. Accompanied by his slave, Thomas, John embarks on a perilous voyage on the high seas. When that journey finds John in his darkest hour, a transformative moment of self-reckoning inspires a blazing anthem of hope that will finally guide him home.

Brimming with emotion

and adventure, AMAZING GRACE is an unforgettable musical saga that captures the spirit of history's sweetest and most powerful sound: freedom.

Tickets range from \$36-\$64 and are available for purchase online at [www.eisemanncenter.com](http://www.eisemanncenter.com) or by calling the Eisemann Center Ticket Office at 972-744-4650 and group discounts are available for 10 or more persons.

The Charles W. Eisemann Center is located in the Galatyn Park Urban Center at 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson, Texas.



Michael Burrell as John Newton; Shannan E. Johnson as Princess Peyai put Thomas (Isaiah Bailey) in his place. (Photo: Stan Barouh)

## Irving Black Arts Council provides look through women's eyes

By Rachel Hawkins  
NDG Staff Writer

Throughout a woman's life, she will face many emotions dealing with the ups, downs, secret desires, sadness and personal triumphs. Depending on the type of situation and amount of pressure society places on her, she will act according to and hopefully overcome these struggles.

Styling Diva Productions, a multi-faceted company that produces a variety of events presented *Many Faces of Women* on April 14 in the Dupree Theater at The Irving Arts Center.

The production was a series of one-woman monologues which represented nine different women who are seen in our everyday society.

"What inspired me to take on acting was when I was in a stage play and I was asked out of the blue if I would be in a production for them and I agreed," Stephanie Dixon, founder of Styling Diva Productions said. "After that, I started writing my own stage plays and this is where I am now.

"Being a woman means being motivated, encour-



(Left to right) Candice Y. Johnson, LaTricia "God's Poet" Murray, Jessica Minaya, Harmoniee Valentine, Stephanie Dixon, Leah Hayward, and Catrina L. Handley, take their bows to the audience. (Photo: Rachel Hawkins / NDG)

aged, a conqueror and an overcomer," Dixon said. "For so long women have been the underdogs and basically treated like nobodies, but I believe that now, especially with movements like #MeToo and #TimesUp, I think it's time for us to branch out. Being a woman right now is the best thing you can possibly be.

"I try to ensure there was a select message in each monologue," Dixon said. "I want women to know that we are wonderful and great, but we need to start letting each other know that we're great and powerful, we can be successful and we can do all things. And we can simply do this by banding together and having self-motivation."

In Act 1 the audience first

watched *The Faithful Woman with the Unfaithful Husband*, where a woman discovered her husband's infidelity through a note and a diamond bracelet which was originally meant for his secretary during his work trip. In the note, he declared his love for her and excitement for starting their new lives together. Stephanie Dixon who portrayed the character discussed her denial, eventual acceptance and starting a new life with her children.

*The Single Woman and Mother*, played by Harmoniee Valentine featured a stressed single mother who consistently worries about her 16-year-old as he consistency hangs around the wrong crowd. After discovering her son was thrown

into jail for robbing a store, she then decided to let him stay overnight to teach him a lesson, and thus finally taking a break from working overtime.

*The Vain Woman* played by Stephanie Dixon, symbolized a woman who despite living a rich and extravagant lifestyle, was truly lonely because she desired a husband and children.

Leah Hayward plays *The Discouraged Young Woman*, a middle schooler who suffers from bullying daily. Following a suicide attempt gone wrong, realizes the worst mistake of her life would have been ending it. Later she gains the courage to stand up to her aggressors and for herself.

"We're not only celebrat-

ing women after Women's History Month, but we really celebrated the diversity that's out there for us," LaNita Johnson, event coordinator and Irving Black Arts Council's President, said. "That's what the Black Arts Council does. We find new fresh talent, and some of these women have never been on stage before. That's what it exists for, for the up and coming art or artists.

"Right now we live in a digital age, so for people to come into our seats and see our performers, photographers, and artists, that's a lost art now," Johnson. "Kids nowadays can see them on YouTube if they wanted to, but they didn't.

"This shows us that no matter how divided we think we are, we're all the same," Johnson said.

Act Two began with *The Church Woman*, played by Stephanie Dixon, a woman who realized she was judging people for her exact mistakes. *The Gossiping Woman*, played by Catrina Handley symbolized a woman who judged every person who walked by her house, only to later realize she was internally sad because her husband left her.

Jessica Minaya played

*The Abused Woman*, who comes to the conclusion to stand up for herself, face her husband and leave him after he beats her.

The last monologue was *The Woman Facing Alzheimer's Disease*. Played by Stephanie Dixon, a woman who is living in Alzheimer cares facility believes her family forgot about her and took her house after they just visited her. Throughout her story, she continues to talk about waiting for her husband to return from the store, but she soon discovers through an obituary pamphlet left in a laundry basket, he died many years ago.

"While watching this play and being in it, I can see the different type of women troubles altogether, and it makes you see what women are going through," Leah Hayward, actress and eighth-grader said. "It helped me see things from a different point of view and understand everything else.

"Being a woman means that I am strong and I will make it," I said. "In our times and troubles God will always be there for us, and it's up to us as women to pull together as one."

# 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!!!

## NDG Book Review: It's time to revisit *Strange Fruit* (Volume II)

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Apples, bananas, cherries, and oranges.

Tasty things, available from an appropriate tree, perhaps even one in your back yard. But what's the story about them? Who was the first brave soul to take a chance and take a bite? In the new book "Strange Fruit Volume II" by Joel Christian Gill, you'll see that some histories remain hidden on the vine.

Throughout history, a lot of untold things happened that deserve to be remembered and retold. That's especially true of Black history and in this book, author



Joel Christian Gill offers up a few tales of inspiration and amazement.

Take, for instance, the story of Stagecoach Mary Fields.

At a time when the average man was not quite five-and-a-half-feet tall, Mary stood six feet in height and

weighed 200 pounds. It's been said that she never backed down from work nor gunman, she was brave, she loved baseball, and when the Postal Service needed a stagecoach driver for a dangerous route, Mary literally fought to get the job.

And then there's the tale of Blind Tom Wiggins.

Born into slavery, Tom was without sight from his very first day. He was also autistic and because of that, his master didn't think much about him – until the day that Tom sat down at a piano and played beautiful music without having received any lessons at all.

Alas, his owner tricked Tom's mother into signing away his life and though Tom later became famous, he was never given his freedom.

On the other side of the world, Millie and Christine McCoy were perfectly willing to speak up for themselves. Also born into slavery, in 1852, the girls were conjoined at the pelvis and were exhibited in Paris as "freaks" that could sing; their managers, in fact, called them "The Two-Headed Nightingale." They performed beautifully, and at age 15, they used their voices to announce their decision that their perform-

ances would no longer include "embarrassing public medical examinations." At the height of the Civil War, the enslaved girls took complete control of their lives!

Have you ever thought about the parts of history you might have missed? A small story here, a single person there, things you might like to know about? If you've wondered, then you can stop now: "Strange Fruit Volume II" helps fill you in.

With a title based on a Billie Holliday song about lynching, you can bet that the tales inside this book – most of which come from the latter 1800s – are inspi-

ration in the courage shown by their subjects. Author Joel Christian Gill brings eight individuals to light, telling about them with sparse colors, illustrations, and few words; despite that the stories begin awfully abruptly, that irresistible artwork makes this book kid-friendly. A bibliography offers a path toward more information.

While adults can (and will) surely enjoy this book and may learn a thing or two, it's really meant for those 11-and-up. If a quick-to-read curiosity-satisfier is exactly what's needed for home or school, "Strange Fruit Volume II" is peachy.

## Artists kick off Dallas Art Fest preview collection

By Rachel Hawkins  
NDG Staff Writer

In the early morning of Thursday, April 12, art lovers, philanthropists, collectors, dealers, artists, and socialites of all types gathered at The Fashion Industry Gallery, in Dallas to celebrate Dallas Arts Month.

Dallas Art Fest, an annual arts festival celebrated their 10th year by holding a press conference and a preview of the collector's artwork. The fair ran from April 13 to 15. This event also marked the third year of the Dallas Art Fair Acquisition Program. This program was designed to establish a partnership and encourage the Dallas Museum of Art to look in new directions by using funds to acquire select selections of artworks from the exhibiting galleries for the museum's permanent collection.

"The art fair is composed



Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings, and John Sughrue, Chairman of the Dallas Art Fest. (Photo: Rachel Hawkins / NDG)

of 95 dealers from around the world," John Sughrue, co-founder, and chairman said. "There are around 40 dealers from overseas representing five different continents from more than 30 cities. This is a celebration of the contemporary visual arts and it's what's happening right now. It's not a museum experience. The artists that are being shown here this weekend either

will be or are in museums. But at the same time, these are the artist who is building careers and hope that someday they will be in the museums."

This year's art fest also marked the largest acquisition program reserve to date, with a generous fund of \$150,000. The artists who works were chosen from were: Sanford Biggers, Matthew Ronay, Brie

Ruais, Tony Lewis, Shara Hughes, Alicia Henry, and Geraldo de Barros.

"I strongly encourage those who don't know anything about art to come and look," Sughrue said. "It's a discovery process. You learn by seeing and I think the arts have the ability to expose us to different ideas, concepts, and broadens the mind. It doesn't mean that you're going to like everything you see, perhaps you're going to not like much of what you see. But my own personal experience was when I walked through an exhibition of contemporary art, there would be one to five things that could completely captivate my imagination. That discovery process to me is what life's all about."

The Dallas Art Fair continues its support to benefit the Dallas Contemporary, the Nasher Sculpture Center, and the Dallas Museum

of Art.

"Art is so important in our everyday lives because vernacular and a vocabulary that spans generations and ethnics and languages is something that we all respond to universally," Sughrue said.

The collector's preview that followed the press conference, gave Dallas art patrons an opportunity to buy artwork earlier than the general public.

"Dallas Arts Month started years ago as Dallas Arts Week when we decided that we would do art inspired things for a full week," Mike Rawlings, Mayor of Dallas said. "It started to grow and it started to be something that everyone wanted to participate in. This year we have jazz, poetry, theater and great conversations. One of the key corners of this was the formation of the Dallas Arts Fair. We continue to see

what this event has come, and we believe that for Dallas to become a great city, we have got to become a great art city.

"It's also important to realize that we are giving back to the art world," Rawlings said. "When John came and said what he was going to do to take this thing (the Dallas Art Fair) to the next level, we talked about how we would give back to the community. Dallas Arts District is the largest art district in the United States. No one has so much art in one part of the city with."

This year's Dallas Art Fest was filled with opportunity to bring in more diversity community engagement from around the globe. Many of the galleries feature a wide variety of work like paintings, sculptures, works on paper, photography, video and various types of installations.

## Weekends of Wellness planned to commemorate Dallas Civic Leader

Mary Lois Sweatt, a longtime Dallas resident, and founder of the Mary Lois School of Dance is being honored with a Weekend of Wellness Series by UNT Dallas beginning this month. For 24 days, the Weekends of Wellness Series

will focus on lifestyle and preventative medicine to help Dallas community residents improve and prevent diabetes, hypertension, weight management and inflammatory diseases such as arthritis, asthma, eczema and optimize overall health.

The series is the brainstorm of Dr. William Sweatt, son of Mary Lois and Dr. James Sweatt, III. Dr. James Sweatt III, a noted local cardiac surgeon, practiced in Dallas for over 49 years.

During the entire Weekends of Wellness Series, lab-

oratory checks and screenings will be provided by Charleton Methodist Hospital. Lifestyle lectures and natural remedies will also be a focus of the series. Nyse Collins, CEO of Sanare Life, and a celebrated health show television personality,

will host a speakers panel featuring Dr. William Sweatt, Dr. David Derose, National Lifestyle Medicine Leader and Dr. Errol Bryce, a preventative and internal medicine specialist.

Healing food demos are a featured part of the series

and admission is FREE to the public. 24 days to realistic health and healing will run four consecutive Saturdays, starting April 21, April 28, May 5 and May 12 at UNT Dallas, 7300 University Hills Blvd., in Dallas.

# Payday lenders wage new wars against consumers and regulation

By Charlene Crowell

Nearly seven years ago, Congress fought for and won enactment of reforms that would help ensure that everyone would play by the same financial rules. The promise to the nation was that the days of ignoring the long-term health of the national economy as an excuse to justify lucrative and short-term profits would be over. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act gave guardrails to lenders and consumers alike.

Charged to keep that vow was the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Serving as the nation's financial cop-on-the-beat, CFPB worked to bring fairness and balance to the marketplace. So much so that 29 million consumers received nearly \$12 billion in restitution from illegal and deceptive practices in its first years of operation.

Lately however, changes in Washington have wrought a different attitude, one that prefers stripping away rules and regulation that protect people, as unnecessary nuisances that

bother businesses trying to make a buck – even if it isn't an honest one.

Want an example? Consider the payday lending industry and its multi-pronged efforts to oppose reasonable regulation. Three recent developments unmask a determination that is as deceitful as the little loans it sells that set up deep debt traps for borrowers.

On March 22, South Carolina Senator Lindsay Graham introduced a Congressional Review Act resolution, S.J. Res. 56, to repeal the CFPB's payday lending rule and prohibit the CFPB from doing something substantially the same in the future. An identical action was introduced earlier in the House of Representatives. These measures await action in both chambers.

Then on April 9 and under the joint auspices of two payday lending lobbyists, the Community Financial Services Association of America (CFSA) and the Consumer Service Alliance of Texas, a lawsuit was filed that alleges the CFPB is "unconstitutional". The suit also takes aim at the same

payday and small-dollar loan rule set to take effect in August of next year.

According to the lawsuit, "The Final Rule rests on unfounded presumptions of harm and misperceptions about consumer behavior and was motivated by a deeply paternalistic view that consumers cannot be trusted with the freedom to make their own financial decisions."

Reactions from civil rights and consumer advocates clearly indicated they weren't buying that bit of swamp land.

"It's no surprise that predatory payday lenders are behind litigation like this," said Hilary O. Shelton, NAACP Washington Bureau Director and Senior Vice President for Policy and Advocacy. "With little accountability for their actions, predatory payday lenders have long preyed upon communities of color, draining them of their hard-earned savings, and with their debt trapping practices, our economic futures. This CFPB rule establishes a much-needed set of transparent responsibilities for

lenders and basic rights and protections for borrowers."

"At a time when many Americans are living paycheck to paycheck while financial institutions are making record profits, we need stronger protections for consumers against unscrupulous financial practices," said Marisabel Torres, Senior Policy Analyst, Economic Policy, UnidosUS.

"Yet the payday industry is proving once again that they are focused on lining their pockets, not on the devastating financial harm their products cause. The CFPB's payday rule has support from the Latino community, who are far too often targeted and exploited by predatory payday lenders, and we oppose attempts by the industry to impede the rule's swift implementation."

Two days later in an appearance before the House Committee on Financial Services, Mick Mulvaney, the CFPB's illegally-appointed Acting Director made clear that a different director was in charge.

"The Bureau's new strategic priorities are to recog-

nize free markets and consumer choice and to take a prudent, consistent, and humble approach to enforcing the law," said Mulvaney.

CFPB's mission statement, also changed under Mulvaney, shirks away from enforcement and instead will emphasize ways "to educate and empower consumers to make better informed financial decisions."

Pardon me, but if I've been financially snookered by a lender who promised one thing and delivered something entirely different, an "humble approach" to legal enforcement would not be in my best interests. Most consumers – me included -- would want full financial justice that held those who violate laws and rules accountable.

A bicameral group of 43 lawmakers told Mulvaney pretty much the same thing in a letter they sent to him on March 27.

Misleading promises are a key part of payday lending's deceit. Add triple-digit interest rates to that deceit and it becomes nearly impossible for consumers of modest

financial means to repay the typical two-week loan. Months, if not years later, loan fees wind up costing far more than the actual principal borrowed.

"The CFPB payday and car title lending rule is designed to help ensure that lenders only make loans borrowers can afford to repay—a baseline standard that responsible lenders already follow," noted Mike Calhoun, President of the Center for Responsible Lending. "This is the payday lenders' latest attack in their war against consumers."

From kitchen table discussions of household money woes, to predatory lenders seeking ways to bilk consumers out of their hard-earned monies, the CFPB was created to be the arbiter that brought balance and fairness to consumer lending.

Let the Bureau do its job.

*Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's deputy communications director. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).*

## EarthX brings world's largest environmental expo, conference and film festival to Dallas

With a mission to connect the global community to create a sustainable world for all life and future generations, Texas-based nonprofit EarthX is hosting the world's largest environmental expo, conference and film festival from April 13-22, at locations throughout Dallas.

The EarthX three-day expo, five-day group of conferences and 10-day film festival champions progress and innovation by bringing together environmental organizations, businesses, academic institutions, government agencies, interactive programming and thought leaders. The event also fosters celebration with interactive and immersive family entertainment, live music and sustainable food pavilions.

Founded in 2011 by Dal-

las-based environmentalist and businessman Trammell S. Crow, EarthX, formerly known as Earth Day Texas, began as an outdoor event spanning five blocks of Flora Street in the Dallas Arts District. It has grown to occupy approximately 1/2 million square feet of indoor and outdoor event space in Dallas' historic Fair Park. In 2017, the event drew 116,000 attendees, 800 exhibitors, more than 250 speakers. Approximately 1,200 volunteers will be needed to put on the massive event this year. Visit [earthx.org](http://earthx.org) to register for the 2018 event and receive free admission.

"While we didn't come up with the initial idea of a pro-business Earth Day, we ran with it and grew it into the world's largest gathering of its kind," said Tram-

mell S. Crow, founder of EarthX. "International environmentalists, elected officials, investors, business leaders, educators and families are coming to EarthX in Dallas for an array of conservation-focused offerings, exhibits, films and conferences, where Earth is our common ground."

Confirmed, renowned speakers in their areas of expertise for EarthX 2018 include astronaut Buzz Aldrin, Dr. Sylvia Earle, Mission Blue; James Baker, Former Secretary of State; John Kasich, Governor of Ohio; Susan Eisenhower, Presidential Blue Ribbon Nuclear Commission; Academy-Award winner Louie Psihoyos; Paul Watson, Sea Shepherd; mayors of Phoenix, San Antonio and other cities; Dr. Ved Chirayath, Director of Lab-

oratory for Advanced Sensing in the Earth Science Division at NASA Ames Silicon Valley; as well as representatives from National Laboratories.

EarthX features five days of conferences from April 18-22. E-Capital Summit will convene mission-driven investors, incubators, accelerators, researchers and breakthrough clean technology innovators from around the world to form partnerships having substantial, positive impacts on profits, people and the planet. EarthxHack, a 24-hour event, is the world's largest environmental hackathon, sitting at the intersection of innovation, technology and the environment. The platform will create groundbreaking solutions by utilizing the brightest technical minds of today

focusing on the problems of tomorrow. New for 2018, EarthxSolar will bring together change-makers in the business world and in solar energy. Other conferences, including EarthxOcean, EarthxResponsibleOilandGas, EarthxBridge Summit and EarthxPolicy: Energy Done Right, will encompass educational, municipal and environmental efforts.

Exhibitors of EarthxExpo, taking place at Fair Park April 20-22, include The National Audubon Society, Greenpeace, and The Plastic Soup Foundation, a nonprofit focused on reducing ocean plastic from Amsterdam, NL. EarthX has partnered with Trees for the Future to plant as many trees as possible in five African countries during the expo as well as with The

Great Seed Bomb and City of Dallas for the weekend-long Seed Bomb Blowout to help increase vital pollinator habitat here at home. In addition, Oncor will showcase the new Nissan Leaf with examples of EV charging stations, UPS is bringing its interactive education trailer on alternative fuel transportation, and TxDOT's Don't Mess with Texas Program offers an interactive virtual reality game about litter prevention.

EarthxExpo attendees can experience a wide range of educational and interactive activities for the whole family during the three-day event. There is plenty to do and see focused on sustainability and green living, from an Outdoor Adventure

**See EXPO, Page 14**

## Panel talks Dr. Ronald Walters' legacy, Black Power and the Black Press

By Freddie Allen  
Editor-In-Chief  
NNPA Newswire

Democratic strategist and author Donna Brazile called world-renowned scholar and activist Dr. Ronald Walters a genius, during a recent forum celebrating his legacy at the Thurgood Marshall Center for Service and Heritage in Washington, D.C.

In July 1958, when he was just 20 years-old and the president of the youth chapter of the NAACP in Wichita, Kan., Dr. Walters organized one of the first lunch counter sit-ins in the country to protest segregation. According to The New York Times, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Congressional Black Caucus in the early 1970s and served as "the deputy campaign manager and debate adviser for the Rev.

Jesse L. Jackson's presidential bid in 1984." Dr. Walters penned more than a dozen books on racial politics and Black Power and directed the African American Leadership Institute at the University of Maryland until 2009. He died from cancer in 2010.

"[Ron Walters] was smart. He was strategic. He understood politics. He understood power and he understood Black leadership," Brazile said.

Brazile, author of the book "Hacks: The Inside Story of the Break-ins and Breakdowns That Put Donald Trump in the White House," talked about working with Dr. Walters, when she was a "young, aggressive" community organizer trying to change politics from the inside out.

"Ron Walters provided us with a historical reference to

what we were doing and trying to accomplish," Brazile said. "Ron provided a scholarly roadmap. He made you understand that it was not just about the moment that we were living in, but the historical journey that we had been on for over 200 years. He talked about political power, not just in the abstract...he taught us to use our power and leverage it."

The forum included a panel discussion featuring Dr. Raymond Winbush, a research professor and director of the Institute for Urban Research at Morgan State University; "The Black Eagle" Joe Madison, a radio talk show host on Sirius; and Dr. Robert Smith, the author of the book, "Ronald W. Walters and the Fight for Black Power, 1969-2010."

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the president and CEO of the National Newspaper

Publishers Association (NNPA), moderated the discussion.

The NNPA is a trade group that represents more than 200 Black-owned media companies in the United States; that reach more than 20 million readers, combined, in print and online, every week.

Dr. Elsie L. Scott, the founding director of the Ronald W. Walters Leadership and Public Policy Center at Howard University thanked the NNPA for partnering with the Walters Center to co-sponsor the event.

Dr. Scott noted that Dr. Walters wrote a weekly column for the Black Press.

"He loved the Black Press, he believed in the Black Press, and he wanted to make sure that the Black Press survived," Scott said.

Dr. Winbush met Dr. Walters through his strong sup-

port of reparations for slavery.

"Ron spoke the truth, as he saw it, and he didn't care who heard it," Dr. Winbush said.

Madison said that Dr. Walters had the rare ability to combine scholarship and activism.

"Scholars have got to become activists and Ron was an activist," Madison said.

And when Dr. Walters needed to get a message out to the Black community and the world, he went to the Black Press, Madison said, because as a scholar and activist, he recognized the value and credibility of Black-owned media.

"Ron always went to the Black media, first," Madison said. "Not CNN, not to ABC, but to the Black media, first."

Smith, who collaborated with Dr. Walters on the book

titled "African American Leadership," said that as a Black intellectual and media commentator, Dr. Walters prioritized the Black Press.

"He saw the [Black Press] as a means to build Black Power," Smith said. "You want to talk to Black people, you talk to them through their media."

Dr. Chavis noted that the movements for Black Power and Black political leadership have evolved and that Dr. Walters' writings gave recognition to the diversity within the Black community, but also called for unity.

"He was one of the few political scientists that talked about the economics of Black Power," Dr. Chavis said.

A recent Nielsen study showed that Blacks have an annual buying power of

See PRESS, Page 15

## GLASS, continued from Page 8

whelmed with joy," Hampton said. "I love being able to put love into details. I being able to see people laugh and have a good time. Raise Your Glass was designed to give back to the community. I'm so thrilled and honored to be surrounded by powerful women who have so many great arts and many things to offer.

Guests were given the opportunity to enjoy tantalizing bites, live entertainment, see visual artists works, specialty vendors for shopping, and watch a fashion panel, and fashion show.

Dede McGuire, the host of K104 FM's Dede in the Morning, was invited to host the event as the emcee.

"I love the fact that Amy is giving back to women organizations and she's all about the empowerment and advancement of young girls and women," said McGuire. "I hosted the last event in November, and I just knew that this was something Dallas needed.

"Empowering women for me is making sure our women and girls are edu-

cated in this country and to make sure they have the resources to do that," McGuire said. "Helping to advance families because there are a lot of women who are the head of households, so it's about advancing that woman and teaching her the proper tools to raise her children. It's also about helping women move forward and ensuring they have a voice for themselves."

Amy teamed with the Dallas Women's Foundation. During the event, women-owned companies and vendors promoted their merchandises.

"I am here to showcase my new book Believe Bigger, it's the number one new release in the country for women in business," Marshawn Evans Daniels, author said. "I came all the way from Atlanta to support Amy and to inspire women to believe bigger.

"Women's empowerment means stepping into who you were always born to be," Daniels said. "To believe bigger is to believe beyond of what you may have

been through and what you think you know about yourself."

Throughout the day, the beautiful Texas weather inspired guests to red, white and rosé all day. They had the opportunity to enjoy unlimited wines, savory foods, and Sociologie Wine inspired flavored cupcakes. The live music was provided by various independent performing artists and Grammy award-winning DJ Babey Drew.

"I love not only Sociologie Wine, but creating a signature event like this in Dallas is Brilliant," Danyel Surrency Jones, CEO and Co-founder of Powerhandz said. "I'm here to support here as a woman-owned company, because I myself is one as well, and moving forward and growing something beautiful here in Dallas.

"Being a co-founder and coming from corporate America and then jumping into entrepreneurship, what that says to a little girl is powerful," Jones said. "It says to them, I can take whatever track I want and be successful in whatever I want, I just need to under-


stand how to get there"

The garden party created Instagram-worthy styled


photo-booths, where guests used the hashtag #RYGD2018 all evening to

promote the event. There were also games, giveaways, and free swag bags.


**COLLABORATE**



**LEARN & GROW**




**THRIVE**



*"I'm originally from Sacramento, California, so learning about the history and culture of Dallas is really cool to me."*

**Sasha**  
AGENT-MARRIER  
Special Education Teacher



apply online  
**CFBJOBS.COM**

# Upcoming DFW area job fairs

## April 20 PetSmart Hiring Event

PetSmart is looking for pet lovers to work at their distribution center in Ennis. The positions are full-time direct hires, not temp positions.

Within the first six months you can earn up to \$17.94 and enjoy paid time off 90 days from hire, health, vision and dental as well 401k saving plan. After 100 days you receive a \$500 retention bonus; and eligible to receive \$500 for referring a friend for hire. They are located at 2880 S. Oak Grove Rd. in Ennis. Open interviews are held on the third Tuesday of each month from 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

## April 21 EnjoyMint Job Fair

EnjoyMint, a new fast and casual dining concept created by Asian Mint, will host Job Fair Day on Saturday, April 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 300 W. Campbell Road, Suite 140 in Richardson. They are currently accepting applications for full-time and part-time positions. Applicants can submit a resume and schedule an interview slot during their Job Fair Day. The current open posi-



tions are: Greeters, Food Runner/Busser/Expo, Wok/Grill/Fry Experts, Bowlers, Utility Prep Cook, Key Hourly Positions, Assistant and General Manager positions.

## April 26 Texas Live! Job Fair

Texas Live! is hosting a job fair from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Globe Life Park, 1000 Ballpark Way. The event will take place inside Cholula Porch.

Open positions include: hospitality, food services, security, housekeeping, and entry level management opportunities. Make sure to bring plenty of resumes!

Pre-registration is required for this event. For registration and more information, please visit <https://texaslivejobfair.eventbrite.com>.

## April 26 Dallas ISD Public School Choice & Special Programs Job Fair

Dallas ISD is hosting a job fair from 5:30 p.m. to

7:30 p.m. at Alfred J. Loos Sports Complex, in Addison.

This event will be geared toward any campus that falls under the Public School Choice umbrella: Transformation and Innovation, Personalized Learning, Magnet, Montessori, Vanguard, Collegiate Academy, Choice Programs, Two-Way Dual Language etc.

For this event you will need your registration ticket and your certification or Statement of Eligibility. Check-in will start at 4:30 p.m. to register for this event please visit: [eventbrite.com](https://eventbrite.com).

## April 28 Career Expo and Job Fair Grand Prairie

Grand Prairie Libraries is providing a Career Expo and Job Fair from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be over 20 job representatives at this expo. Some employers will hold interviews

on the spot so make sure to bring plenty of resumes! Space is limited so be sure to register at [eventbrite.com](https://eventbrite.com).

## May 1 Texas Instruments Wafer Fabrication Job Fair

Texas Instruments is looking for full-time and weekend entry level wafer fabrication positions. This event will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Volt Workforce Solutions 8505 Freeport Pkwy.

- Perks include:
- Career path into a large professional corporate environment
- Stable full-time hours. Facility operates 24 hours/day, 365 days/year
- \$11-\$14 an hour (depending on experience and evaluation)
- Each shift is 12 hours in length (overtime pay after 8 hours worked each day)
- Shifts range from 7AM

- 7PM or 7PM - 7AM (compressed shifts - will work 3 to 4 days/week alternating). 15% more for night shift

- When a job offer is guaranteed.
- 3-4 days off per week

- Clean room environment, requires full smocking including face masks and goggles
- Retention Bonus (During first year)

To register please visit: [www.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).



**DO YOU WANT AN EXCITING AND REWARDING CAREER?**

**PURSUE A CAREER AS A POLICE OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER!**

- Competitive wages
- Array of benefits
- Education incentive pay
- ...and more

REGISTER ONLINE TO TAKE THE CITY OF IRVING'S NEXT CIVIL SERVICE ENTRANCE EXAM

[www.cityofirving.org](http://www.cityofirving.org)

*The City of Irving does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.*



**GARLAND**  
TEXAS WORKS HERE

**Attention Suppliers of Goods, Services and Construction**

Review Competitive Opportunities at <https://garlandtx.ionwave.net>

[www.garlandpurchasing.com](http://www.garlandpurchasing.com)

972-205-2415

**INVITATION TO BID**

**EAGLE CONTRACTING L.P.,** an Equal Opportunity Employer, is soliciting Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprises for Subcontract and Material Supply Bids for the following project:

**City of Farmersville, TX Wastewater Treatment Plant 1 Rehabilitation**

Bid Date: May 1, 2018 @ 2:00 p.m.

Contact:  
**Damon Brooks**  
[d.brooks@eaglecontractinglp.com](mailto:d.brooks@eaglecontractinglp.com)

817-379-1897  
Fax: 817-379-0610

**Eagle Contracting L.P.**  
Fort Worth, Texas

**TISEO PAVING COMPANY**

419 E. Hwy. 80, Mesquite, TX 75150  
Tel: (972) 289-0723 Fax (972) 216-5637  
[www.tiseopaving.com](http://www.tiseopaving.com)

Performing Concrete Street Paving in the Metroplex Area

We Accept Subcontracting Bids For All Public Works Projects in the Dallas Area.

We Are Accepting Applications for Concrete Mixer Drivers and Heavy Equipment Mechanics

**Equal Opportunity Employer**

**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)

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

Carrollton, TX 75007  
972-492-4300  
www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

**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.

**April 22, 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.

**April 25, 7 p.m.**  
Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner, Pastor Bernadette, and others conducting a new book study with "The Red Sea Rules" by Robert J. Morgan, 10 God-Given Strategies for Difficult Times, with supporting chapters and verses. Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you; it's Time to Grow in the Word of God.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,  
Senior Pastor  
1944 E. Hebron Parkway

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

**April**  
You are invited to look at our Church Demo on our website to see progress on the new building sight as we prepare for the future; and, don't forget to put it on your calendar for our Grand Entry Service on May 13th.

**April 22, 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.

**April 25**  
Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study class 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.

**April 29, 9:30 a.m.**  
You are invited to our VIP Sunday Worship Service at Story Elementary in Allen, Texas. It's for our Friends and Family. You are special to us.

**May 13, 9:30 am**  
You are invited to our Grand Entry Sunday Service. Mark your calendars! We are glad that God is

blessing us and we want you to share our blessings.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.  
Senior Pastor  
1609 14th Street  
Plano, TX 75074  
Future Building location is 2450 K Avenue #300  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-379-3287  
www.theship3c.org

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

**April 20, 7 p.m.**  
All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 7 p.m., (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

**April 22, 10 a.m.**  
You are invited to join us for our Morning Service as we celebrate of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**April 23, 7 p.m.**  
Join us in Monday School as we grow in God's Word and learn what God has to say to us.

**April 29, 10 am**  
You are invited to our Baby Christening Service. Don't forget to invite family and friends to this sacred event.

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

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

**April 22, 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.

**April 25, 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.

Dr. Sam Fenceroy, PhD  
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)**

**April 22, 7 a.m.**  
Join us for our Early Service or our Morning Worship Service as we praise and worship God, you will be blessed.

**April 25, 7 p.m.**  
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

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

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.

**April 20, 6:30 - 9 p.m.**  
**April 21, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
Men, you're welcome to our Annual Men's Conference to hear speakers, panel discussions and workshops for men and young men (ages 12 and older). We will look for you.

**April 22, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.**  
You are invited to join us as we celebrate the our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ this Sunday. We would love to have you at our services.

**April 25, 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.

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

**IRS Problems?**  
Call Kedra  
469.449.9833  
Kedra A. Flowers CPA PC  
www.IRSsafe.com

NDG now has a "Special Advertising Package" for churches and non-profit organizations that need to let the community know about your Special Event.

**Opportunity You Can Measure...**

**Church Events**

- Church Anniversary
- Pastor's Anniversary
- Women's Day
- Men's Day

**Non-Profit Org. Events**

- Fundraisers (Concerts)
- Special Events (Personal or Community)

**Special Rate \$199**

(Black & White, per insertion)  
Ad size - 4.905"x 6"(Quarter Page, B&W)  
(NOTE: Color Ad \$75 extra per insertion)

Production disclaimer - NDG ad meake-ready is not included in promotion. Layout/production of "copy ready"ad will be a nominal extra cost.

E-mail ad copy to:  
Marketing@NorthDallasGazette.com  
or call our Marketing Department today!

**972-509-9049**



**EXPO,** continued from Page 10

Zone featuring scuba diving to tree climbing and goat yoga and an Interactive Zone with virtual and mixed reality, to exploring a Tiny House Village or enjoying the Eco Auto Show, E-Bike track and science education trucks.

Prior to the launch of the

expo and conferences, EarthxFilm will commence on April 13 and run through April 22. EarthxFilm uses the power of film and emerging media to raise awareness of global environmental issues. Over 10 days, EarthxFilm will present over 60 features and

shorts at screenings and events across the city. EarthxFilm's educational components include Youth Online Filmmaking Competitions (open now), in-school screenings and hands-on workshops at EarthX. An EarthxFilm Awards Ceremony will be held on the last day of the festival, Sunday, April 22.

On Friday, April 20, EarthxGlobalGala will be a star-studded evening event that honors visionary leaders in environmental education, film and television. The Global Impact Awards will be given during this fascinating, fun and interactive night at the Perot Museum of Science and Technology.

# Believers are made for heights



Sister Tarpley

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

"The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like hinds feet, he enables me to go on the heights" (Habakkuk 3:19).

The book of Habakkuk inspired Martin Luther's reformation; and the book "Hinds Feet on High Places." Hind's feet enable a donkey and other such animals to walk up mountains without them falling off, the writer Hannah Hunnard wrote the book.

Habakkuk encourages us to question what God is doing in our lives and how we can increase our faith to do what God desire for us to do. Because some time when we are thrown into suffering for a period of time, or our enemies are prospering while we are just

barely getting by, we begin to wonder about the equity of God and our lives. Habakkuk affirms that God is God all by Himself and that we are made to scale the mountains of adversity whenever they come and whatever the direction they come from.

We just need to be still and know God is at work to make us more like Christ. He is who He says He is and does keep His promises, He is forever faithful. God equips believers to scale the heights even in the midst of great challenges. He enables us to go to the higher places with Him where we are set apart from the world. (A story is told of a man on a plane and saw a snake crawling around, the man told the captain. The captain said that he would take the plane to a higher altitude which would kill the snake.) There may be a time when the way we have to go to get us through suffering and sorrow is to

claim higher, and, if we rest in Him and trust Him we come out where He wants us.

When Jesus told the disciples that He was going to send the Holy Spirit to them, it was in order for them to scale the mountain before them with a new

form of power they had not experienced. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8).

If you find yourself in a

place of doubting God and His plan for your life, know that this is a normal aspect of your journey in God. However, know that God has made available His Holy Spirit in order for us to accomplish the tasks that lie ahead. God's Word gives us so much enlightenment and precious promises that we may trust and cling to. "Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me." John 12:26

Ask God to lift up your

brothers and sisters in Christ who are so faithful to follow Him anywhere they are persecuted for doing so. God has promised to honor them for believing in Him and standing in faith. Pray that God will meet their every need. Pray for peace beyond understanding for good health; for basic life needs of food, clothing, and shelter; for fellowship with other Christians; for protection from harm and evil; and for opportunities to share the Gospel and witness His love in the Name of Jesus.



Sisters-in-Christ, faithfully working in the church (L to R): Carla Barnes, Bobbie Hill and Denise Lewis for God's glory and honor.

**Inspiring Body of Christ** IBC  
Pastor Rickie G. Bush

7701 S. Walnut Road #115  
Dallas, TX 75227  
972-479-1888 (IBC)  
www.ibcdallas.org

Worship: Sunday 10:00am & 11:00am  
Monday School 7pm & Wednesday Fellowship 7:00pm

## PRESS, continued from Page 11

more than \$1.1 trillion, which continues to rise; however, this growing spending power has not translated to increased economic prosperity or wealth in the Black community.

Brazile said that the election of Donald Trump has changed political norms in the U.S. and it's critical that Blacks are a part of the next

phase of leadership.

"If Ron Walters were here, today, he would tell you that Black Power is not just about a single individual or one moment in time," Brazile said. "It's about a continuum, a long journey."

*This article was originally published on BlackPressUSA.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)

**LIFE**

Sundays | 10:30 AM

302 Centennial Blvd  
Richardson, TX 75081

**MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO**  
300 Chisholm Pl. Plano, TX 75075 972-633-5511

**Answers you need, Hope for today is waiting for you...**

- Sunday School for all ages 8:30 am
- Sunday Morning Prayer 9:30 am
- Sunday Service 10:00 am
- Wednesday Night Service 7:00 pm

Pastor Sam Fenceroy

Pastor Gloria Fenceroy

**MOCOP**

[www.mocop.org](http://www.mocop.org)

**Radio Programs**

"Vision & Truth Live"  
Call Pastor Sam  
Every Sun. 9:00pm-10:00pm  
KWRD 103.7 FM THE WORD

"Truth Made Simple"  
Listen to Pastor Sam  
Mon.-Fri. 5:25pm- 5:30pm  
KQGR 1040 AM

**Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church**

Serving the Plano Community for 128 Years  
Founded 1884  
920 E 14th Street Plano, TX

**SHILOH**  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
Where God's Word Matters

**Josiah Joshua, Jr.**  
Pastor

SMBC: A church Focused on Excellence while Teaching the Word, Preaching the Gospel, Reaching the World

Worship Times: 8 and 11 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Mid-week: Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Youth Church: Every 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sunday at 10:45 a.m.  
AWANA: Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
Contact Information: 972-423-6695  
[www.smbcplano.org](http://www.smbcplano.org)

## Rosé all Day in the Texas Discovery Gardens...



(Above left) The food was plentiful as flowers in the spring, and was provided by Nosh Box Eatery (Middle) Marshawn Evans Daniels presents her bestselling book "Believe Bigger." (At right) Tiffany D. Hunter (l) and Dede Mcuire (r) walks the red carpet for a photoshoot See story on Page 8. NDG Photos by Rachel Hawkins

# The Importance of Homeownership

Alterra Mortgage is a national lender, the second largest minority-owned mortgage company in the U.S., launched a new division named Legacy whose focus is on increasing the homeownership rate of African-Americans in the nationwide. The Legacy Division's key focus is to close the disparity gap of the African-American homeownership from a low rate of 41 percent (the lowest of all the minority groups) closer to the national average of 68 percent.

According to the Mortgage Bankers Association of America (MBA) report, in the next few years African-Americans between the ages of 30 and 59 will grow an approximate 1 million new households. Alterra's Legacy Division will be at the forefront of that growth, strategically targeting to serve these families.

For many African Americans the idea of owning a home can feel less like an achievable goal and more like a far-off dream. Many may be surprised at how attainable homeownership can be and how much more beneficial it is than renting.

Mortgage Credit Standards are relaxing, and as of January 2018 the average FICO score for borrowers obtaining an FHA loan was 645, which is the lowest it's been in years. However, Alterra Legacy offers loan programs with FICO scores as low as 580. We want to help the underserved to become homeowners. We will

educate all on what is needed to know about qualifying for a home loan and we will work hard with tooth and nail to get all approved and into homeownership no matter how long it might take; so that more people can start building sustainable wealth through homeownership. While one's income may vary, it's still very possible a home your own.

Come to our FREE, First-time Homebuyers Seminar, Saturday May 5, 2018 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Double Tree Hotel located at 8250 North Central Expressway, Dallas, TX 75206. While you are there not only will you learn how you can become a homeowner, you can enjoy a FREE Cinco De Mayo Lunch, and you will be entered-into a drawing to win a 50" Flat Screen TV, and you could be one of three attendees to win a \$100 VISA Gift Card.

If you are serious about learning how to become a Homeowner, go to [www.GoAlterraLegacy.com](http://www.GoAlterraLegacy.com) and register NOW! Seating is limited to the first 150 who register. Here are some important things you should know about homeownership:

### OWNING BUILDS EQUITY

Personal finance outlet The Balance puts it the simplest: "Equity is the amount of your home that you actually own." For renters, that amount stays put at 0 percent. For owners, however, that amount should steadily

rise as more of the loan is paid off. Paying off your loan is obviously a great way to build equity (and stay in the house). Improving the value of the property --- updating appliances to energy-saving models or renovating the kitchen, for example ---- is another way.

The more equity you generate from your house, the more you have to spend for other purposes through loans or selling the property. If you're renting, you're giving that equity away to the landlord."

### HOMEOWNERSHIP IS FREEDOM

As great as the financial benefits are, it's worth pointing out one major thing. Homeownership has long been considered the cornerstone of the American dream, and for good reason. Owning a home represents freedom---to live where you want when you're home. If you have ever tried to get permission to repaint a rented property, you probably understand the value of that; more places won't let you put a thumbtack in the wall, let alone paint it. Except for a few cases, homeownership means setting rules for your own space. That's what our country was founded on. It goes without saying that homeownership if not the solution for everybody. If you're considering purchasing for the next time you move, speak with a housing counselor and review your finances. You may be one of the many Americans who

stands to benefit and can start building sustainable wealth through homeownership.

### HOMEOWNERSHIP COMES WITH TAX BENEFITS

Along with jobs, homeownership is considered one of the most sacred promises for Americans among lawmakers, and they're willing to give out a

few bonuses to encourage more buyers.

Unlike renters, homeowners can deduct mortgage interest and property tax payments from their federal income tax, along with a few other items. The Tax Policy Center estimates that in 2015, 20 percent of all tax units would benefit from the mortgage interest deduction, saving home-

owners nearly \$80 billion. The proper tax deduction is estimated to have saved homeowners \$35 billion in 2016. Another benefit? A person who sells their home may exclude up to \$250,000 of those profits on their income for the year.

Homeownership can be in your future, come and join us Saturday May 5, 2018 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.