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Skanska accused of avoiding payment to minority contractor at Toyota Music Factory

By Nakia Magazine
NDG Special Contributor

Construction giant Skanska USA, Inc. is a well-known organization in the real estate industry as a lead developer of multimillion commercial building projects. However, the company's ethical practices are in question as it potentially faces a lawsuit brought by a Dallas/Fort Worth-based minority contractor. The lawsuit stems from the construction of the Irving Music Factory (now known as the Toyota Music Factory).

The ARK Group, developers of the Toyota Music Factory, awarded Skanska a \$94 million construction contract in February 2016 to build the entertainment complex. According to the press release heralding the deal, the project was slated to convert the 16.8 acres into an entertainment complex featuring the Pavillion for indoor/outdoor concerts able to seat up to 8,000 music lovers. Throughout a seven-building venue, visitors would enjoy a premier entertainment destination featuring more than 250,000 square feet of retail, restaurant and entertainment options. Plans included a six-level parking garage for 1,200 visitors.

Recent headlines related to ARK's ongoing dispute with Billy Bob Barnett, the owner of Big Beats Dallas, a former tenant at the Toyota Music



Shandra Colón with the President of the Regional Black Contractors Association spoke earlier this week to Robert Ashley on KHVN. (Image shared via Facebook by Marina Ecolatino)

Factory relate to the Pavillion and parking. As the *North Dallas Gazette* (NDG) reported on June 21 in the article entitled "ARK Group Faces More Heat from Irving Taxpayers and the Honky-Tonk King", the completed project did not include covered space for the Pavillion as initially planned or sufficient parking for guests visiting the five restaurants and indoor/outdoor concertgoers.

As a result of these and other allegations, the local taxpayer advocacy group, Irving Taxpayers Matter, launched a petition requesting the City of Irving not release payment of \$44 million to the ARK Group to cover additional expenses for the

building project. For more details read NDG's July 3 article entitled "Irving citizens learn about concerns related to Irving Entertainment Center." The article also includes allegations that during the construction phase, they played musical chairs with the accessories, including toilets, countertops, etc. to gain Certificate of Occupancy (CO).

Our article, as spotlighted on the Dallas Eater blog recently, also included concerns regarding allegations related to "ARK Group's allegedly discriminatory music clause in its lease agreements that states, 'A

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Bishop T.D. Jakes



Clay Myers

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 on your phone or mobile device!!!



Bishop T.D. Jakes

NEW YORK - BLACK ENTERPRISE will present its highest honor in recognition of the achievements of black men when it presents the XCEL Awards at the 2018 Black Men XCEL Summit on Aug. 29 in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. The Black Men XCEL Summit celebrates the achievements of today's black men.

The Summit, which offers executive development and leadership for men of color, annually attracts more than 800 corporate executives, professionals, and businessmen and women from across the country. The Summit will take place Aug. 29–Sept. 2,



2018, at the PGA National Resort & Spa.

The XCEL Awards recognize outstanding impact, achievement, and leadership by men in business, the arts, education, government, and other influential areas. Past

XCEL Award recipients include luminaries such as U.S. Rep. John Lewis; award-winning actor Robert Townsend; historian, author, curator and Founding Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture Lonnie G. Bunch; and Ariel Investments Founder and CEO John Rogers.

Honorees to be recognized at the 2018 Black Men XCEL Awards Dinner, include the following outstanding achievers:

Bishop T.D. Jakes, a charismatic leader, visionary, provocative thinker, and entrepreneur who serves as senior pastor of The Potter's House, a global humanitarian

organization and 30,000-member church located in Dallas. Named "America's Best Preacher" by Time Magazine and CNN, Jakes' voice reverberates from the world's most prominent stages from the White House to the Aspen Institute to Nasrec Expo Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa. A new model for the 21st-century Renaissance man, Jakes is a committed philanthropist who gives back on an ongoing basis to the communities that he serves worldwide. As a business leader, his media and entertainment empire spans film, television, radio, music and best-selling books.

Kenneth Chenault, spent the past 17 years steering

American Express into profits. Referred by billionaire investor Warren Buffett as "the gold standard for corporate leadership", Chenault currently serves on the boards of Facebook, Airbnb, and as chairman and managing director of General Catalyst. Chenault is the first black person to serve on Facebook's board of directors. Chenault joined American Express in 1981. Under his leadership, American Express built one of the world's largest customer loyalty programs – Membership Rewards – and earned global recognition as a leader in customer service. He launched lucrative corporate partnerships with companies including Delta Airlines.

In 1997, Chenault was named president and chief operating officer of American Express. He was named CEO in 2001—becoming one of the first African Americans to lead a Fortune 500 company.

Tommie Smith, during the historical 19th Olympiad in Mexico City in the summer of 1968, Smith broke the world and Olympic record with a time of 19.83 seconds and became the 200-meter Olympic champion. As "The Star-Spangled Banner" played, Smith and John Carlos stood on the podium, draped with their Olympic medals, each raised a clenched fist covered in a black leather glove in a historic stand for black power, liberation, and solidarity.

Clay Myers

APGA Tour presented by LEXUS proudly announces their Dallas event July 30 - 31 at TPC Craig Ranch. The mission of the APGA Tour is to promote greater diversity in the game of golf by developing African Americans and other minorities for careers in the golf industry.

Dallasite Clay Myers is a professional golfer living in Dallas is slated to participate in the tourney. Introduced to the game at the age of 8 years old by his father, he progressively got better throughout the years and



has played on every competitive level from middle school, high school, collegiate, to professional. Clay has worked in almost every field in the golf industry from club repair and equip-

ment sales, to planning and organizing golf tournaments. He has also caddied on the LPGA TOUR for Cheyenne Woods, and Natalie Sheary, became a First Tee Coach and TPI Certified in Dallas, and currently is working at Northwood Country Club. Staying fit, reading books, traveling the world, and working to be a positive role model for others that want to be successful fuel his passion in life, golf.

"I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to turn my dream of playing golf professionally on the PGA Tour into reality." After

moving to Florida and turning professional in the fall of 2012, Clay has played on various tours such as NGA Hooters Tour, E-Golf Tour, Florida Professional Tour, Fore the Players Tour, West Florida Tour, Advocates Pro Golf Tour, and PGA TOUR. Clay has also played international golf tours in Dubai, China, and Argentina. "My experiences in golf motivates me through my performance but keeps me grounded and humble through my success." However, having such huge aspirations comes with a price tag that is hard to acquire on his own. Please consider

making a donation to support Clay in his quest for the PGA Tour.

The APGA Tour started in 2010 with three professional tournaments, 80 player entries, and \$40,000 in prize money. By 2018 the tour has grown to seven tournaments, 450 player entries and \$200,000 in prize money. Members also compete for the Lexus Cup (given to the top player on the tour) and \$29,000 in bonus money.

"We are excited about our Dallas event," says Kenneth Bentley, APGA Tour President. "TPC Craig Ranch is an outstanding golf course

and will be a real test for our players. The event will be special because it will be our first on a TPC course and highlights our six-year partnership with the PGA TOUR."

Dallas is the fifth stop on the 2018 APGA Tour. Many of the top minority professionals in the country are expected to compete including PGA TOUR Latinoamérica winners Tim O'Neal and Felipe Velazquez, three-time APGA Tour winner and PGA TOUR Latinoamérica member Willie Mack. Ad-

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NDG Readers Sound Off...

Black Workers Need 'Real' Not 'Fake' Paid Family Leave

Real Family Leave is not all that Black workers need. We need a "Living Wage" that goes up every year - based on the cost of living increases that come with inflation, etc. The "Minimum Wage" conversation has outlived its' usefulness. We need vacations like the kind they have in France. We need laws that allow us to speak our minds and organize ourselves at our jobs without fear of being fired.

The US needs to catch up with the rest of the worlds



industrialized countries when it comes to the treatment of working people.

-Anonymous

Free HIV and STD testing offered today by DCHHS

I think this is one of the most vital info for me. And i'm glad reading your article. But want to

remark on few general things, The

website style is great, the articles is really nice : D. Good job, cheers

- Emory

Irving fire stations collecting back-to-school supplies

Thank you, @NDGEditor, for helping us spread

the word about Supplies for Success 2018 - and thanks as always to @IrvingFire for providing dropoff locations. Remember, the drive continues through July 31 - learn more at <http://irvingschoolsfoundation.org/supplies-for-success/>.

- @IISDFoundation via Twitter

Thank you for the retweets and likes this week on Twitter: @FairParkRising, @Rachelhawkins1 @ArlingtonBlckBz, @attorneydortres and @DanielHalseth

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Lost Art: Spiritual Education



A.D. Jenkins
NDG Columnist

As July comes to an end, all students should be in full summer mode while enjoying rest and relaxation. Soon it will be time to get into the regular routine of getting up early in the morning, catching the bus to school and taking on advanced courses to stay on pace globally. Of course, this schedule is followed by extra-curricular activities, going to bed and preparing to do the same the next day. But with all of the emphasis on education, we are overlooking key lessons students cannot learn in a classroom.

(What is the purpose of this paragraph - are you talking about money a family spends, the government or ... I'm speaking of funds which come from state and local government/mostly sales and property taxes) We spend millions of dollars on education which I feel is money well spent because this investment will reap the rewards in the fu-

ture. I want to be on record saying I have no problem with the concept of using financial means to pay it forward for the next generation.

However, I have an issue with lost resources in not only Texas but across our wonderful nation. I do not think any community, city or state are exempt from this matter. The development of a child's spirit and faith is too often ignored, overlooked or abandoned. There are such things that you can not touch with your hands nor see with the naked eye.

I am not going to jump on the bandwagon of putting "God back in school" because we simply can't boss Him around. God will never leave nor forsake us but what we have done is weaken our position at schools by not utilizing the One Source that is steadfast and unmovable. Computers cannot understand it, the software cannot interpret it, hardware cannot hold it, nor can technology explain it.

A great deal of blame has been placed on schools for lack of education and acknowledgment in this area. However, this is indeed a

major component that should be shaped and molded at home. I am aware this presents another challenge when speaking of the home environment. That is a sensitive topic for another article, but home life is next of kin to school life.

As we go further down this path, respect continues to lose value. Many youth have no clue what it means to be respectful, nor how to conduct themselves among elders and anyone in authoritative roles. On the other hand, we as adults are too busy attempting to generalize our youth and rely on traditional training and concepts. Respect is a two-way street, but this issue has surpassed the roads and is wreaking havoc on the highways with no speed limit in sight. Good private home teaching and training beget good public habits and decisions. Again, a subject for another article to come.

The facts are simple - we must place value in the whole child, not just educational sense. We as adults must provide the pathways of effective modeling and not give up on being the pacesetters.

The Bible reminds of the importance of religious education. (hope you don't mind I added more verses for context...I'm good with it...Thanks)

Deuteronomy 11:18-21 states, "Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth."

Let's get back to the Source and the resources will follow.

A.D. Jenkins serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Irving Independent School District. The views and opinions expressed herein of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Irving ISD, its Board of Trustees or its employees.

The time to conserve water is now

By Lewisville Mayor
Rudy Durham

You might have seen a notice from the city on Sunday about the urgent need to conserve water. One of the large pumps at the water treatment plant broke on Thursday and will not be replaced until Tuesday. That, combined with drought conditions and record high temperatures, put a lot of strain on our water system.

Lewisville is not running out of water. We have the ability to purchase additional treated water from Dallas Water Utilities if we exhaust our own capacity. That would come at a cost - about \$280,000 per year for each additional million gallons made available for

Lewisville (a little more than a dollar per month for the typical water bill). But it is an important safeguard.

Once the pump is replaced this week, our system will go back to normal. However, the pump is not our greatest concern right now. Machines break down so you have to be prepared, and we were prepared for this.

I'm more worried about the dramatic unsustainable increase in water consumption we've seen during July.

Stage 1 restrictions allow outside sprinkler systems to run twice a week, and do not prevent residents from filling their pools. Stage 2 restrictions are much more severe, including outdoor watering only once per

week. If the current rate of consumption continues, I as mayor will have to consider activating Stage 2 restrictions. That's not a threat of any kind. It's just a statement of fact.

It's only natural, when summer comes along, to use more water for lawns and swimming pools and other more mundane purposes. We always use more water during July than we do most of the year. But this year's water use during July has been unusually high. August is our biggest month every year in terms of water usage, so I don't see those numbers getting any better unless a lot of us change what we're doing.

As Americans and as North Texans, we've be-

come accustomed to having water on demand. When you turn the faucet handle you know water is going to come out every time. That's not the case in many parts of the world. If we want it to continue being true in North Texas, we've got to change the way we think about water.

We need to view water as a highly valuable commodity, something we could run out of, something we would never waste because it's worth too much. It's not enough to know that we have water today - we want to make sure we also have water tomorrow, next week, next month, and next generation.

Please join me in being water wise.

Plano therapists use pilates for injury prevention, rehab and sports performance

Pilates is increasingly being used in physical therapy clinics as a complementary form of treatment, said Jake Spivey, a physical therapist with SportCare & Rehabilitation -- a Vista Rehab partner.

As such, Spivey's clinic in Plano, Texas has one certified Pilates instructor and three more physical therapists trained in Pilates positions and equipment.

"Most people seek out a physical therapist for a particular issue -- for example, recovery from an injury or surgery, or pain in a particular part of the body," Spivey said. "Incorporating Pilates into the treatment plan goes beyond rehabilitating one



teammarche / Flickr

area of the body to improving overall strength and movement throughout the entire body."

Pilates is a system of exercises designed to improve physical strength, flexibility and posture designed in the early 20th Century. It can be

done on the floor with a mat, but it often involves special apparatus, including the Reformer, which is a sliding carriage inside a large frame connected to springs, ropes and pulleys.

According to Spivey, one of the key benefits of Pilates

is building core strength and stability. When your core is strong, it serves as the center of power so your limbs don't have to work as hard at moving.

"Think of Pilates as using dynamic motion to create strength and flexibility," Spivey said.

Pilates exercises are typically controlled and precise, allowing the body to build strength in the smaller muscle groups that, in turn, allow the larger muscle groups to move more smoothly and efficiently.

Pilates is especially effective in helping with back pain, Spivey said. A stronger core supports the spine better, it teaches and helps maintain

proper alignment and posture, and it promotes gentle stretching of tight back and neck muscles.

Other benefits include improved posture, longer and leaner muscles, better coordination and balance, and increased circulation and energy. All of these result in increased performance in several sports and hobbies including strength training, running, skiing, tennis, golf, dance, and yoga, all of which can be prone to repetitive stress and injuries.

Pilates also promotes movement in several planes, moving the spine from flexion to extension and internal rotation and side bending, which improves flexibility.

Maintaining precise and controlled movements reinforces effective movement patterns that reduce stress on joints, tendons, muscles and ligaments.

Decreased stress and increased strength and flexibility minimize injuries.

Finally, Pilates improves bone density. Bone is also a dynamic tissue that responds to resistance and weight-bearing exercise, according to Spivey.

"Pilates is an incredibly effective tool in restoring our clients to performance levels," he said. "Once they've done it, they also see the advantages in continuing that form of exercise and movement."

Congresswoman Johnson's National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act Passes House

Washington, DC -- Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson this week secured the passage of H.R. 2345, the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act, in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill proposes meaningful changes to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and Veterans Crisis Line. Co-authoring the bill with Congresswoman Johnson is Congressman Chris

Stewart (R-UT).

The bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 379-1 and received overwhelming, bi-partisan support. It now goes to the U.S. Senate for consideration.

"I am pleased by the bi-partisan support this bill received, which proposes meaningful changes to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and Veterans Crisis Line," Congresswoman

Johnson said. "This legislation sets out to enact easily-implementable improvements to our nation's current suicide-prevention infrastructure. Once the provisions in this bill go into effect, we will make more resources available and available at much greater ease, so more Americans in distress can access the resources they need and fewer will feel the only solution is to

take their own life."

The bi-partisan legislation tasks the Federal Communications Commission and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to study the creation of a three-digit dialing code, similar to 9-1-1, as a suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline. Additionally, it directs the agencies to perform a cost and benefit analysis of the

hotline's creation and provide recommendations to improve the overall effectiveness of the current system.

"Today's legislative accomplishment lays the groundwork for real progress to be achieved in saving lives. This bill is about improving our country's primary suicide-prevention communications system and equipping it to

carry out its mission with greater efficiency. I am appreciative to Congressman Stewart for his support during the entire process of introducing the bill and, ultimately, helping it pass today. The success of this legislation is a testament to the work Congress can still successfully undertake to make our country better for everyone," said Congresswoman Johnson.

AMAC supports Congressional BOLD initiative to combat 'the scourge' of Alzheimer's disease

WASHINGTON -- The Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] has endorsed bi-partisan legislation in Congress to focus attention and resources on "the scourge" of dementia and, in particular, Alzheimer's, which is America's most expensive disease.

The BOLD [Building Our Largest Dementia] Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act [S.2076] and the House version of the bill [H.R.4256] were both introduced last November with bi-partisan support. Susan Collins [R-ME], Chairman of the Special Committee on Aging, introduced the bill in the Senate. Rep. Brett Guthrie [R-KY] sponsored the House version. The measures would provide "research funding ...

needed to achieve our goal of preventing and treating Alzheimer's by the year 2025," according to an online post by Sen. Collins.

AMAC president Dan Weber sent letters of support to Senator Collins and her cosponsors in the Senate and to Representative Brett Guthrie and his cosponsors in the House. In his messages, Weber stated: "The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act will empower those living with Alzheimer's, and their caregivers, by increasing access to education and expanding necessary support services. The steps outlined in this bill will ensure both patients and caregivers are best positioned to deal with the effects of Alzheimer's and preserve the financial integrity of our healthcare

system by averting a potentially disastrous public health crisis."

Weber has long been calling for a new focus on Alzheimer's and says "it's about time that one of the most devastating diseases afflicting older Americans receives the full attention of the U.S. government. It is destructive to the individuals who suffer from this malignant form of dementia and their families. But it also has the potential of overwhelming America's healthcare infrastructure if it is not checked."

Weber notes that AIDS, a disease that is in decline and afflicts 1.1 million Americans, receives some \$32 billion in Federal funding. Meanwhile, he points out, the National Institutes of Health [NIH] says it will

spend just \$1.9 billion this year to fund research on Alzheimer's -- a disease that plagues the lives of more than 5.7 individuals in the U.S. and is expected to destroy the lives of as many as 14 million by the year 2050."

Former U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, who also served as the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Alzheimer's is the most under-recognized threat to public health in the 21st century."

In an appeal for support of the BOLD Act, Satcher said that the legislation would create a "public health infrastructure across the country to implement effective Alzheimer's interventions." It would:

- Establish Alzheimer's Centers of Excellence that would increase early detec-

tion and diagnosis, reducing

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Domingo Garcia elected national president of LULAC

PHOENIX, AZ - Domingo Garcia, a practicing civil rights attorney from Dallas, Texas and lifetime social justice advocate who pledged to make immigration reform, assistance for veterans and seniors plus tuition-free higher education his top priorities was elected LULAC National President today at the organization's 89th Annual Convention.

"This is the moment in our nation's history when we must confront and overcome the greatest challenges facing our country to ensure that justice and liberty rings true for all, not just some," stated Garcia. "We must never forget that



Domingo Garcia (left) has been a local advocate for immigrants such as 2016 McKinney Boyd Valedictorian Larissa Martinez (right) for many years. He was recently elected national President of LULAC. (Photo: David Wilfong / NDG)

the greatness of our union has been forged from the strengths of all immigrants who arrived upon our shores and the price to maintain

our freedoms has been redeemed with their blood, sacrifice and lives," he added.

Garcia is a former Texas

lawmaker who served as the youngest Mayor Pro Tem ever elected in one of America's largest cities and author of the state's DACA laws, the first in the nation and the template for the DACA protections enacted through Executive Order by President Barack Obama.

"It is up to us now as the fastest growing community in the United States to mobilize, register to vote and have our voices heard at the ballot box, both this November during the critical mid-terms and in 2020 when we decide what kind of an America we want for our future and that of generations that will follow,"

stated Garcia

Garcia outlined his platform which includes growing the membership, expanding the organization's budget to \$20-million to support local LULAC Council programs and increased emphasis on developing the youth, young adult and collegiate components to ensure their future opportunities.

"I want to once again thank all the LULAC members, friends and family, and great LULAC Team who helped me win the national presidency of LULAC," Garcia addressed to his supporters following the win. "LULAC founded in 1929,

is America's oldest and largest civil rights organization. I have gotten congratulation calls from Multiple elected officials including Senator Bernie Sanders, Congressman-elect Chuy Garcia (Chicago), former US VP Joe Biden, Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins, but the most important ones were from dozens of people who wanted to join LULAC and support us. Looking forward to building our membership to one million and recruiting the next generation of leaders. Standing with Dreamers, veterans, seniors, educators, and community leaders to change America."

Local animal advocates form coalition, take on the City of Dallas

Animal advocates announced this week a citizen-led campaign for a dedicated animal cruelty unit within the Dallas Police Department. They have organized as a coalition called Just Save The Dog (JSTD).

"For the past three years, advocates reporting animal abuse to the authorities have been met with hands-in-the-air, 'It's not our job' excuses," said Alisia Lowder, a member of the Dowdy Ferry Animal Commission and Just Save The Dog. "It's time for the city to get serious about those crimes and take care of our companion animals."

JSTD members note while several organizations are responsible for handling the issue, they're uncoordinated, lack accountability and collectively accomplish less good than a single one could.

In fact, four law enforce-

ment agencies investigate cruelty to animals within the city of Dallas: the Dallas County Sheriff, Dallas Police Department (DPD), Dallas Animal Services (DAS) and SPCA of Texas.

Of the ten largest cities in the United States, only Dallas lacks a dedicated animal cruelty unit.

The four groups have separate databases and do not collaborate on cruelty investigations. Any investigation undertaken by one is not known to the others. Lack of coordination, knowledge of animal law and confusion about their areas of responsibility result often in deadly missed opportunities – to prevent animal abuse or to remove an abused animal from their home before it worsens.

The result: while DAS receives about 4,000 reports of

animal cruelty annually, the DPD conducts around fifty investigations and makes just around 7 arrests per year.

"Most people don't know that making an animal cruelty report to DAS doesn't result in criminal charges," said Holly Morgan, public relations director for Just Save The Dog. "They assume it will be prosecuted and taken seriously. What really happens is each time, it's citizen advocates who push and prod and babysit the case through the ranks of those agencies to find someone who will take it on and prosecute – with rare success. That's not just unacceptable in a city the size of Dallas, it's disastrous."

Members of the JSTD coalition are visiting with city leaders, attending budget town hall meetings, speaking before city council, spreading the word among Dallas citi-

zens and building their coalition – to call for funding in the fiscal year 2019 city budget for a dedicated animal

cruelty unit within the Dallas Police Department. That budget vote takes place September 5, 2018.

They encourage everyone to contact their council members by phone and email to support the mission.

BOLD, continued from Page 4

risk, preventing avoidable hospitalizations, reducing health disparities, supporting the needs of caregivers and supporting care planning for people living with the disease.

- Provide funding to help public health departments implement effective Alzheimer's interventions.
- Make available funding

for the Increased data collection, analysis and timely reporting needed to support research aimed at controlling and controlling the disease.

"The BOLD Act provides a new, sorely needed perspective on Alzheimer's disease and much needed, substantive support in the quest for a cure. Along the

way it will help researchers to come up with new, more effective ways of managing this insidious form of dementia. Meanwhile, the more we learn about the pathways of Alzheimer's with help from the public sector, the more effective medical researchers in the private sector can be in checking the progress of the disease among older Americans," Weber said.

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Rebel Spirits: Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. was produced by Wiener Schiller Productions and is presented locally by The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. The exhibition was curated by Lawrence Schiller with support from Getty Images, Photo, Carl Stoughton, White House Photographs, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston.

Students raise voices in Dallas' first youth-led protest

By Rachel Hawkins
NDG Staff Writer

Amid the political clamoring of voices, one single voice may appear to be weak and small in our vast fast-paced world. However, the chants of dozens of passionate youths were undoubtedly heard throughout the streets of Dallas over the weekend.

On July 21, several students led Texas' first youth-led rally, Youth Protest Trump's Supreme Court Nominee (YPTSCN) and protested in front of Senator John Cornyn's office in Dallas. They brought forth their concerns on President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Judge Brett Kavanaugh.

Dozens of students, youth leaders, and members of Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas, Young Progressive Christians, and Dal-



Michelle Landry, student and creator of the Youth Protest Trump's Supreme Court Nominee, speaks to the crowd on current issues. (Image: Rachel Hawkins / NDG)

las Women's March attended the rally to show support.

With the guarantee of a conservative majority on the Supreme Court, many issues heavily debated in our society could take a turn and impact the nation in a vastly different way. These issues include Trump's campaign promise to nominate a judge

who would overturn *Roe vs. Wade* (1973), and reconsider the topic of race in university admissions. With rulings like the Masterpiece Cakeshop, LGBTQ rights, along with reproductive, immigrant, and affirmative rights are also threatened by another staunchly conservative voice on the Supreme Court.

Michelle Landry is the creator of the YPTSCN event and a student at the University of Texas at Dallas, and she plans to become an attorney. She is a history major and was an organizer for the Democrat Party of Wisconsin for several months.

"I think it's so important to have your voice heard, I believe there is value in coming together, to be frustrated together and get energy from each other," Landry said. "It's important to create a platform like this to talk about the issues that happens nationally as well as locally here in Texas."

When Landry heard about the Supreme Court nominee, her heart drop to her stomach. The week before the rally Landry reached out to Denise Rodriguez, Public Affairs Manager at Planned Parenthood on Facebook

seeking to get involved in Planned Parenthood because she wanted to do something about the Supreme Court. At the time they did not have a plan but were open to taking the lead.

Once Landry and Planned Parenthood came out with an outline for the protest, they found people ranging from students, social workers, to immigrants to speak at the rally. She created a team, and together they lead outreach and recruitment to organize the protest.

"With everything going on it's easy to feel helpless about what's going on, but it's good to build and strike for the community and to know that there are organizers on the ground who are doing fantastic work," Landry said.

Landry hopes and wants George W. Bush to use his library to get all of the

records open on Kavanaugh nomination. She firmly believes the public should have access to those records during the nomination.

According to a poll from the Pew Research Center, the majority of Americans oppose the confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh.

Since the election of President Trump, it is said that 20 percent of the youth are planning to come out and vote for the next election.

Landry also wants Senator Cornyn to know there are Texans who dislike what is going on, and would also like to bring awareness to local issues and organizers.

"This is their future. There is still a small and passionate group of people that care about it," Landry said. "We're going to be living with the consequences of it for the next few decades."

Principal's passion sparks direction for new IGNITE Middle School

While enrolled in medical school and doing night rounds at a hospital, Michael Gayles came to a life-changing decision: he would follow his dream of becoming an educator.

After graduating from medical school, Gayles went on to serve as a teacher at North Dallas High School and, several years later, as an assistant principal at T.W. Browne Middle School. Today, Gayles is helping open and serving as principal at IG-



Principal Michael Gayles
(Photo: DISD)

NITE Middle School, the new Dallas ISD Personalized Learning transformation campus opening in Au-

gust.

For Gayles, his goal for IGNITE Middle School is simple: help students envision their best possible life, and set them on the path toward making that life a reality.

"Growing up I didn't have anyone who helped me think about what I was passionate about or possible career paths I could pursue," Gayles said. "What I'm most excited about is how Ignite Middle School will help students discover

their passions at an early age."

IGNITE Middle School is seeing tremendous interest: more than 700 incoming sixth-graders applied for what was originally 150 seats. Due to the high interest, the campus increased its inaugural class to 230 students.

IGNITE Middle School is a Personalized Learning campus that will provide individualized instruction, not only based on each student's academic needs, but

also on their interests and goals. The students will take field trips to high schools, colleges and workplaces to help them better envision their future.

"The most important resource in a child's educational life is their own potential. If we can ignite that potential, they will be unstoppable," Gayles said. "Ignite is dedicated to helping students discover their super powers."

IGNITE Middle School is opening thanks to the Of-

fice of Transformation and Innovation' Public School Choice Competitive Proposal Process. The process gives educators the chance to create high-quality, best-fit options for Dallas ISD students to realize their full academic potential.

The Public School Choice Competitive Proposal Process, Version 5.0, is currently underway for any educator interested in rebranding their campus or designing a new choice school.

Irving Parks and Rec seeks public input through online survey

Irving's parks and trails, pools, recreation centers and sporting venues are some of the most popular places around town for residents play and learn. The Parks and Recreation Department and Halff Associ-

ates continue to gather feedback about the future use and needs for the community, which will shape the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Residents are invited to participate in an online sur-

vey. The survey is 19 questions long and should take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

The survey seeks to gauge if during the last year a resident has visited one of the city's parks, recreational

centers, or participated in a city-wide youth or adult athletic league. They are also trying to understand what do residents expect to enjoy when they use one of these facilities or organized sporting groups.

Once the public input period is complete, the Halff team and city staff will evaluate the feedback and data gathered to build a forward-looking, prioritized master plan.

The plan will include

identified funding options and recommended programming, and will establish operational and staffing needs. The master plan will include a five-year implementation period, with a 10-year horizon outline.

Carrollton Public Library hosting job search classes in August

The Carrollton Public Library is offering a Job Search Jumpstart Series of classes to assist local job seekers in pursuit of that next employment opportunity.

Six sessions will be conducted in August from 7-8 p.m. at Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs Road). Three sessions in English will be

available on Wednesdays and three in Spanish on Mondays.

**Resume Writing –
Wednesday, Aug. 8**

Before you hit the send

button on your computer, learn the top tips and resources for creating a winning resume. Whether you're updating an existing resume or creating a new

one, discover pointers on wording, formatting, and presenting your work history in the most effective way.

Presenting Your Best

Image – Wednesday, Aug. 15

Learn how to prepare for the big day. First impres-

See JOB, Page 11

ADVERTISEMENT

Wells Fargo ups donations to more than \$1 Million a day to charities

Wells Fargo & Company last year continued to invest in communities across the country through its philanthropy and volunteerism, donating more than \$286.5 million in 2017 to more than 14,500 nonprofits, the company announced.

The company's plan to target \$400 million in donations to nonprofits and community organizations in 2018 is an increase of approximately 40 percent from 2017.

Wells Fargo already is one of the top corporate cash donors, ranking first among financial institutions and third among all U.S. companies in a 2016 report (most recent ranking) by The Chronicle of Philanthropy.

"We understand the important role we play in helping our communities, so we will continue to identify additional opportunities where Wells Fargo can make a difference," CEO, Tim Sloan

said. "Wells Fargo's increased philanthropy will have a positive effect on the causes and communities we support and further enhance our Corporate Social Responsibility efforts, which will continue to focus on advancing diversity and social inclusion, creating economic opportunities in underserved communities, and accelerating the transition to a lower-carbon economy and a healthier planet."

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**WELLS
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Wells Fargo commits \$3.5 million to increase financial capability across U.S.

Toncé Jackson was at a low point four years ago. In Chicago's Cook County Jail for a fourth time, she was struggling with substance abuse, had no job, a limited education, terrible credit, and was burdened with debt — she didn't even have a bank account. Caught in a painful cycle that was destroying her family, she resolved to change.

"I wanted to start my life over," said Jackson. "I just needed a little help with my beginning."

The Wells Fargo Financial Capability Grant program focuses on helping people, like Jackson, who are facing destabilizing economic challenges. Started in 2017, the program's grants help people from diverse populations who are underbanked by connecting them to income supports and financial training.

The program has just awarded \$3.5 million to two nonprofits with thoughtful and focused financial capability programs — the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and the Cities for Financial Empowerment (CFE) Fund.

The Wells Fargo grants will provide \$1 million funding for the CFE Fund and \$2.5 million funding for LISC financial capability programs in a total of 25 U.S. cities and regions over three years.

"All of the cities we are working with demonstrated that they are looking to make financial empowerment front-and-center in the work they can do," said Tamara Lindsay, a principal at the CFE Fund. "The long-term vision is to create a permanent home for this work, to help make sure it is sustainable."

City leaders collaborate with CFE Fund partners to open Financial Empowerment Centers, or FECs, for their residents. At FECs, professionally trained counselors help consumers with low and moderate incomes manage their finances, pay down debt, increase savings, establish and build credit, and access safe and affordable mainstream banking products. The FEC model integrates counseling into other social services, including housing and foreclosure prevention, workforce development, prisoner reentry, benefits access, domestic violence services, and more. First piloted in New York City under Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in 2008, the FECs are a proven success — about 80,000 consumers have reduced individual debt by almost \$94 million and increased their families' savings by about \$12 million. A recent CFE Fund evaluation showed that this program works even for residents with very low incomes and other complex financial challenges.

"Offering financial counseling as a public service, through local governments, helps stabilize struggling households and communities. Local leaders know the importance of helping families and neighborhoods build financial stability and make better use of social services," said Jonathan Mintz, president and CEO of the CFE Fund.

Wells Fargo's grant to LISC will strengthen and expand the Financial Opportunity Center, or FOC, model across 15 target markets. Working through local nonprofits nationwide since 2006, FOCs

offer services including employment and career counseling, one-on-one financial coaching and education, and connect individuals with low-cost financial products that help build credit, savings and assets. FOCs also have a remedial education component that provides participants with foundational reading and math skills that they need in order to get into job training programs that can lead to higher paying, living-wage careers.

"Promising talent exists in all our communities, and we have to invest to help people realize their full potential. That's where FOCs come in," said LISC CEO Maurice A. Jones. "By connecting people to the tools they need, they can compete for the quality jobs that employers must fill to innovate and grow. They'll be able to earn more, save more and access life-changing opportunities for themselves and their families."

During a conversation with her parole officer, Jackson found out about a local Financial Opportunity Center housed at Chicago's Jane Addams Resource Corporation, a nonprofit local community resource center. The FOC helped Jackson find additional education opportunities and got her into a job placement program. After she successfully landed her welding job, Jackson continued to receive guidance from a financial coach. She created a budget, reduced her medical debts, and established credit.

Mike Rizer, head of Wells Fargo Community Relations, said results like Jackson's are the goal.

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Dallas

Autism Speaks Dallas/Ft. Worth is hosting the **Dallas Kick Off Event** on July 29 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Microsoft Store NorthPark Center, in Dallas. As they prepare for their walk you can enjoy an evening of fun, food & inspiration. For more information visit act.autism-speaks.org.

Frisco

Calling all Heroes! Veterans, Military & First Responders will be held on July 28 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Frisco Athletic Center,

in Frisco. Veterans, Military, Police and Fire/EMS will receive free admission to the Frisco Athletic Center. There will be a special two-hour private swim from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. for honored personnel and their guests. There will also be free snacks, drinks, and an appreciation gift. You must show military or first responder ID. A maximum of five people admitted with each ID. For more information visit FriscoFun.org/CallingAllHeroes.

Garland

Dallas Harley-Davidson is

hosting **DOG DAYS OF SUMMER** on July 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1334 W Centerville Rd, in Garland. There will be FREE Hot Dogs & Dog Treats, a Bikini Dog & Bike Wash, Free Raffle, and Pictures by the Pup-parazzi! If you bring needed donations in for the rescue you will receive a 20 percent discount towards Licensed H-D Merchandise! Items needed for this event are:

Pine-Sol cleaner (original pine scent); Dawn Dish Detergent; Large Kong Dog Toys, Canned Kitten, Cat & Dog Food, Gift Cards to Pet

Supplies Plus, Lowe's or Home Depot. Cash Donations for Rescue Animal Vet Services are Welcome!

Irving

The Let's Play Gaming Expo 2018 Satellite Event will take place on July 28 to 29 starting at 10 a.m. at the Irving Convention Center, in Las Colinas. There will be a \$20 entry fee for the Tecmo Super Bowl (NES) but the rest of the events are free. To find out more and to pre buy your tickets, visit [http://retroworldseries.com/2018-19-season/2018-lets-](http://retroworldseries.com/2018-19-season/2018-lets-play-gaming-expo/)

play-gaming-expo/

Plano

Yoga in the Box Garden at Legacy Hall will be held on July 29 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Lexus Box Garden at Legacy Hall, in Plano. You can enjoy a morning of yoga at Legacy Food Hall, followed by a complimentary retax: mimosa or Bloody Mary. Later stick around to snack on local food trends. Tickets are \$25. They will include your yoga mat spot, and Yoga Digest Goodie bags. A portion of the proceeds will go to the One Love Movement benefiting under-

served youths around the world. To purchase tickets visit eventbrite.com.

Richardson

Karting Academy Dallas will be held on July 28 to 29 starting at 8 a.m. at K1 Speed, in Richardson. K1 Speed Karting Academy is for both beginners and advanced racers who want to learn more about Karting and motorsport. Feel free to contact K1 Speed today for more information or to schedule a reservation. For more information, please visit: <http://k1speed.social/dallas>

Dallas Bar Association dedicates 28th Habitat for Humanity house

On Saturday, July 21, the Dallas Bar Association dedicated its 28th house for Habitat for Humanity. The Dallas Bar Association began building Habitat homes in 1991 and is the longest running whole-house sponsor in Dallas.

This year's donors include:

Gold Hard Hats (\$5,000+): Baron and Blue Foundation; Thompson & Knight Foundation; Vinson

& Elkins LLP

Silver Hard Hats (\$3,000-\$4,999): Cozen O'Connor; Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP; Kane Russell Coleman Logan, PC; Vistra Energy

Bronze Hard Hats (\$1,500-\$2,999): Austin Industries; Canterbury, Gooch, Surratt, Shapiro, Stein, Gaswirth & Jones P.C.; Clark Hill Strasburger; Cokinos Young; Cutler-Smith P.C.; and more.

The Dallas Bar Association Home Project Committee coordinates the build and is led by co-chairs David Fisk, of Kane Russell Coleman Logan PC, and Michael Bielby, Jr., of Vinson & Elkins LLP.

Volunteer attorneys carry the torch, making the project what it is today: a coordinated effort by hundreds of Dallas attorneys that give their time and money to support the cause of affordable,

decent housing. The central theme is that no commitment of time or money is too small; every hour and every dollar make a difference.

For more information about the Dallas Bar Association, visit www.dallas-bar.org. To learn more about the DBA Home Project Committee's work with Habitat for Humanity, log on to <https://www.facebook.com/DBAHomeProject>.



Courtesy photo

Southeast Dallas residents welcome new playground at Bitter Creek Park

Southeast Dallas residents will join Dallas Park and Recreation officials at a ribbon-cutting ceremony 9 a.m. Saturday, July 28 to welcome a new playground at Bitter Creek Park, 912 Woodgreen Dr. in Dallas.

Ceremony participants include Dallas City Council member Rickey D. Callahan; Dallas Park and Recreation Board member Yolanda Williams, and representatives from area community groups.

According to park offi-

cials, vandals destroyed the park's existing playground a few years ago. A Community Development Block Grant has funded the new playground and Park and Recreation Planning, Design, and Facility Services employees developed the playground's design and provided construction and installation of the new equipment.

The City of Dallas has more than 200 playgrounds at park sites throughout the city.



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Dallas Cowboys start new season with new faces

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports Special
Contributor

Primarily out of necessity, the Dallas Cowboys have hit the reset button and are ready to start anew.

Gone from a year ago are veteran mainstays Jason Witten, Dez Bryant and Orlando Scandrick. Randy Gregory and – the Cowboys hope for a whole season – running back Ezekiel Elliott are back this year.

With an influx of young players and the addition of receiver Allen Hurts and running back Tavon Austin, the Cowboys believe they have enough game-breaking weapons to qualify for the playoffs after missing out on postseason play last year.

“It’s fun to have some of the young guys -- they bring enthusiasm, they’re great,” linebacker Sean Lee said. “But it definitely gives you a sense of urgency that for me if we need to make a move now and win now, my impact has got to be greater than it ever has been.”

If the playoffs are indeed in the Cowboys’ future, they know they’ll have to do better than the 9-7 record they finished with last season. The work on improving that record starts in earnest on Thursday when the Cowboys open training camp in Oxnard, Calif.

“Our guys worked really hard in the offseason, and we saw a lot of growth individually and collectively in our team over that time” head coach Jason Garrett said. “So you get away from it, and now you get a chance to come back, and everybody’s re-charged, and it’ll be fun to see these guys in their training camp environment.

“You try to get yourself refreshed and re-charged to get ready to go once training camp starts,” he added.



Ezekiel Elliott (left) and Dak Prescott are familiar faces returning to a squad with a host of new players. (Photo: Keith Allison / Flickr)

New faces catching the ball

For the first time since 2002, the Cowboys will be going to training camp without Witten, who retired in the offseason and is now working as an NFL analyst on ESPN’s Monday Night Football. Before hanging up his football cleats after 15 years, Witten left the Cowboys as the team’s all-time leader in receptions (1,152) and receiving yards (12,448).

Meanwhile, the Cowboys released Bryant on Apr. 13, ending his eight-year tenure with the team. In 113 games for the Cowboys, Bryant had 531 catches for 7,459 yards and a franchise record 73 touchdowns.

However, Bryant clearly has lost a step or two, so the Cowboys decided it was time to part ways. And Hurns, the newcomer, is being touted as the Cowboys’ No. 1 receiver.

Or, is he?

“As far as (the wide receivers go), we don’t talk about that at all,” Hurns said. “As far as the fans or the media, if they want to talk about that, talk about it.

“The main thing for us is we’re working each and every day so when we go out there on Sundays that we won’t be the weak point of the team.”

In short, Hurns, who

caught 189 passes for 2,669 yards and 21 touchdowns in four seasons with the Jacksonville Jaguars, said he did not join the Cowboys strictly to replace Bryant.

“Me and him are two totally different players,” Hurns said. “As far as me, I feel like this is a big opportunity for me, but that’s something that I got to come in each and every day and work towards.

“It’s not something I can do in one day or tomorrow. It’s a gradual thing that I’ve got to come in each and every day, even at training camp.”

To help with the bonding between himself and his new crop of receivers, quarterback Dak Prescott and receivers Lance Lenoir, Deonte Thompson, Michael Gallup and Hurns all recently went to Disney’s Wide World of Sports in Orlando.

“It’s about being a family, not just being a team,” Prescott said. “The moment we walk in here we’re a team.

“Finding winning where we can get that camaraderie in the right way, we grow with each other. As I said, be a brotherhood and be a family.”

The Cowboys unceremoniously put the 2017 season to bed knowing it could have easily ended much

better if they had the services of Elliott for the entire season. Dallas was 5-3 and in the thick of the playoff race when Elliott was suspended for six games by the NFL for violating the league’s personal conduct policy.

With Elliott sidelined, the Cowboys went 3-3 and basically had very little chance of punching a playoff ticket.

Changes on the defense

Defensively, the Cowboys are hoping to be much improved than they were last year. The Cowboys used the No. 19 overall pick in the draft to select Boise State linebacker Leighton Vander Esch.

Defensive end Randy Gregory, who missed last

season for violating the league’s substance abuse policy, has been reinstated by the NFL and should give the Cowboys some added punch once he gets his legs under him.

“He’s been off a long time -- he’s talented, no question, and he’s a great guy, and he’s smart,” defensive coordinator Rod Marinelli said. “But the No. 1 thing we’ve got to do is just groove him back in.

“Like I say, it’s kind of like golf. If you don’t play for a year, it’s not the same. So I’m just excited to get a chance to work with him again.”

Elsewhere, the Cowboys released Scandrick, who was one of their cornerbacks since they drafted him in 2008. But the Cow-

boys believe they have enough young defensive backs to stem the tide.

They also feel the same way about their offense, despite the losses of Witten and Bryant, with holdovers Terrance Williams and Cole Beasley hopeful of having a breakout season at the wide receiver spots.

“I think we’ve got really good depth -- it’s young across the board,” offensive coordinator Scott Linehan said. “Our running back position, tight end position and our receiver position, they’re young.

“We’re a little bit of a no-name group out there right now. But they get an opportunity to make a name for themselves now with more opportunities.”



Enter to Win! Ticket Giveaway

NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit us on Facebook to win tickets to the the hottest events in Dallas/Fort Worth!!!!

Win tickets to see Gladys Knight and The O'Jays

Whether you want to catch the *Midnight Train to Georgia* or the *Love Train*, fans of Gladys Knight and the O'Jays have an opportunity to win tickets to the legendary acts perform at the Toyota Music Factory (TMF) on Wednesday, Aug. 8 at 7:30 p.m. Visit NDG's Facebook page and join our community by liking the page, then tell us your favorite Gladys or O'Jays song.

For more than 50 years Gladys Knight has delighted audiences no matter the genre whether it was Pop, Gospel or R&B. First as the lead for Gladys Knight & The Pips before transitioning to a solo career. Multiple Grammys and NAACP Image Award are just a few of the honors bestowed on her over the years.

The O'Jays, who personified The Sound of Philadelphia, added songs like



Gladys Knight still sounds wonderful 50 years later. (Courtesy photo)

Backstabbers and *Use Ta Be My Girl* to our soundtracks over the years. Eddie Levert Sr., Walter Williams Sr. are still performing with the group along joined in 1995 by Eric Nolan Grant.

For a chance to win tickets tell us your favorite song by Gladys, solo or with the Pips; or from the O'Jays at

our Facebook page. A winner will be selected, notified and will need to visit our office off at Stemmons and Regal Row.

The TMF is located at 316 West Las Colinas Boulevard in Irving. Tickets are available at LiveNation with prices ranging from \$29 - \$99.

Concerts coming to DFW this fall

Whether you love hip hop or soulful ballads, concert lovers will have options this fall. Drake is playing at American Airlines Center in September and Maxwell will perform at the Toyota Music Factory in October.

Platinum selling artist **Drake** announced the 'Aubrey and The Three Amigos Tour.' Drake will be joined by special guests and "Walk It Talk It" collaborators **Migos** on a North American run throughout this summer and fall. Produced by Live Nation, the 41-date outing will kick off July 26 in Salt Lake City, UT and visit Dallas' American Airline Center on Sept. 26. The tour announcement follows the release of Drake's hit singles "God's Plan" and "Nice For What," leading up to his highly-anticipated fifth studio album *Scorpion*.

Maxwell announced his "50 Intimate Nights Live" tour, a 50-date trek to many of North America's top theatres, including New York's



Drake fans can hear him in Dallas this fall (Image: Shot by Drew: Drake (The Come Up Show) via Flickr)

Beacon Theatre, and the Toyota Music Factory in Irving on Oct. 27. Following on the heels of performances at North Sea Jazz Festival in Rotterdam and Afropunk Paris, the multi-GRAMMY-winning soul singer will debut new material during these intimate shows alongside his many critically acclaimed hits.

Tickets will go on-sale starting this Friday, July 27th.

Last month, Maxwell de-

buted "We Never Saw It Coming," his reflective new song and his first piece of new music since 2016. The song's music video, 'The Glass House,' is a chilling music short-film starring Maxwell and activist/actress/model Yomi Abiola. The film was written and directed by Jay Z collaborators Gerard Bush and Christopher Renz.

Tickets for both shows are available at LiveNation.com.

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For information about the Army ROTC program at Texas Christian University, please contact Eddie Smith at eddie.smith@tcu.edu, call 817-257-6461 or visit goarmy.com/rotc/le98.



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Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce Small Business Expo

MCKINNEY – Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce (CCBCC) announce that they will host the fifth annual Small Business Expo on Friday, August 10, 2018 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Spring Creek Campus of Collin College located at 2800 E. Spring Creek Pkwy. in Plano. This event is the premier small business expo for compa-

nies located in Collin County and open to all businesses and professionals. By sponsoring the expo, the CCBCC brings several state agencies, local corporations, vendors and dynamic speakers together for a full day packed with knowledge and opportunities. The event underscores the mission of CCBCC to empower and support Black busi-

nesses in Collin County.

"The Expo allows businesses & corporations in Collin County to continue to improve and increase diversity", said Terri Thomas, President of the Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce.

Signature sponsors for this event are Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce & Texas African

American Association of Chambers of Commerce. Additional sponsors include, Telecom Electric Supply Company, Goldman Sachs, and Regions Bank to date. Please check our website www.cblackchamber.org for most up to date information.

The expo will feature speakers in the Working with Millennials, Technology

& Social Media, and Business Resources & Access to Capital.

The expo will also include opportunities for local businesses to meet with state agency purchasing department representatives. There will be a "speed networking" session that will allow participants to get face time with decision makers for several state

agencies.

The CCBCC is a member of the US Black Chambers, Inc. and Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce (TAAACC). The Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to achieving their mission for small businesses in Collin County.

Activities beyond the screen to teach your kids to be financially fit

By Hugh Norton

Parents take their children's financial future seriously, and technology provides an ever-evolving variety of fun and innovative ways to teach kids about money. However, some parents are concerned about limiting their kids' screen time, and others may be looking for more hands-on activities to use to add to their children's financial tool kit. Luckily, there are many off-screen ways to discuss, explore and learn about personal finance.

When un-plugged from devices, there are lessons and activities available to promote financial fitness, which can vary depending on your child's age and temperament. Here are a few ideas to get you thinking about how you can to approach this important topic.

Have them compare everyday expenses. Regularly discuss how much everyday items, such as groceries, meals out and household supplies, cost. Then have your kids brainstorm

ways to save money. Whether they're comparison shopping or coupon hunting, they'll learn what a normal week's expenses might be and practice budgeting in the process.

You can also segue these activities into discussions about wants versus needs, such as the need to eat dinner versus the want to make a spontaneous trip to an expensive restaurant. Or the want for a game that they can't afford unless they make money and save up first. These are good financial habits to instill and remind yourself of at any age.

Practice calculating savings. Looking for ways to save money can also double as a math lesson – good for staying sharp during the summer – and may lead to some surprising discoveries. For example, a sale where you buy one item and get a second of equal value for 50 percent off is equivalent to 25 percent off your purchase. Twenty-five percent off may not sound as enticing to them as 50.

The exercise could help

teach them to consider how much they're going to spend rather than how much they'll "save." You can use these sales-related examples to point out that if you weren't planning on making the purchase anyway, buying something because it's on sale isn't really saving at all. I had a college friend that loved to quote his father saying, "never spend a dollar just to save a nickel."

You can also combine financial education with math practice when you dine out by having your children calculate the tip. Reviewing the bill could help them appreciate the true cost of a meal, which may be much higher than the menu price due to tax and tip.

Make saving a regular and physical activity. Creating several savings jars is a common practice among parents who are teaching their kids about money, and it's one worth considering as a precursor to opening an account. The idea is simple: have three jars (piggy banks or other containers) for spending, saving and char-

ity.

Whenever kids get an allowance, money from work, a gift or any other sort of income, you ask them to split it up among the three jars. The split could be done evenly or divided in another way; that's a decision that you can make together.

Having the physical jars can be helpful, especially with younger children, as they can see the money

grow over time. Once they're older, you can continue a similar practice by introducing them to checking and savings accounts.

Be honest and open the books. It's up to you to decide how much detail you want to share, but offering examples of how you manage your finances could help your children prepare for the real world. Sharing food and household expenses with

them could be a starting point, but you may also want to consider adding other, recurring bills into the mix.

For example, you could go over the monthly utility bill together and discuss how the family's energy-related actions affect the bill and ways you could all help cut costs. Or go over a bank or credit card statement to-

See FIT, Page 16

JOB, continued from Page 6

sions are always important, especially during a job interview. Start with planning your skincare and choice of clothing. Have a confident handshake and discover how to look and be at your best.

Interview Success – Wednesday, Aug. 22

Learn tips to stay cool, calm, and collected while presenting your best image.

Gain strategies to prepare for the interview, answer common questions, and learn how to follow up.

"These job search classes are a new and different avenue for the Carrollton Public Library," said Rachel Young, Josey Ranch Lake Library Branch Manager. "Carrollton is excited to bring these courses to the community in English and

Spanish. A good first impression starts with a well written resume and a good interview, and that is only the beginning. The Library hopes this series will help residents positively improve the whole job-seeking experience from that first impression through the interview and beyond."

For more information, call 972-466-4800, or visit cityofcarrollton.com/library.

Register now for Fall 2018!

northlakecollege.edu

Registration ends August 22.
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North Lake College

DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

SKANSKA, continued from Page 1

tenant shall not permit two (2) 'hip-hop or Tejano' or 'rap' music formatted songs to be played back to back." Both articles contain a link to The Irving Taxpayers Matter's petition. Any Irving resident interested in signing the petition is invited to contact Anthony Bond at 214-830-6719.

Visit NDG's website to view a video on NDGTV featuring Thurman R. Jones, NDG's publisher, speaking at a recent meeting with concerned Irving citizens discussing Skanska's half faith effort to meet the stated goal of 32 percent minority participation in the construction phase of the Music Factory. However, as NDG's July 23, 2016, Irving's Music Factory project is off key for minority businesses pointed out they were only at 8.45 percent. By the time of the publication of our follow-up story on Oct. 4, 2017, entitled, "New Irving entertainment complex construction falling far short of minority participation goals" showed the participation rate had increased to 13 percent with a final goal of 19 percent.

"I don't believe the commitment was ever there," Jones stated in the recent video. "We have real reservations about the certification of this 19 percent," he said in light of learning about Skanska's history of falsifying minority participation in earlier projects.

City of Irving and ARK Group dispute

A video is also linked in the July 3 story featuring City of Irving Mayor Rick Stopfer discussing his displeasure with how the city's partnership with ARK Group has resulted in what he characterized as mistreatment of city staff and threats of lawsuits from parties representing the ARK Group.

NDG reached out to each City of Irving council member asking for their comment on the allegations of bogus inspections, minority contractor participation and if they plan to vote in favor of releasing the \$44 million in TIF monies to the ARK Group.

We received a response from Susan Rose, the City of

Irving's Communication Director via email stating, "At this time, due to pending litigation, the City of Irving is not able to comment." Otherwise, NDG received no response from any member of the council, including Dennis Webb, the only African American member of the council.

Also this week, CBS 11 aired a report indicating the City of Irving is considering rescinding their agreement with the ARK Group because it prevents the city from supporting any entertainment venue similar to the Toyota Music Factory. This contract clause potentially impacts plans to build an entertainment venue on the site of Texas Stadium, the former home of the Dallas Cowboys.

Council Members, local professionals, and residents have publicly expressed outrage and find the clause restrictive to commercial growth and revenue. Irving City Council Member Allan Meagher described the agreement's clench on the development of similar businesses as "not right." Meagher suggested Irving, which he referred to as the "heart of Texas" should be able to cultivate its own music culture without having the type of stronghold levied by the TMF agreement.

Longtime Irving Realtor Lisette Caraballo referred to the restriction as "discouraging" and insisted it is impeding growth opportunities on the whole for the community.

Noah Lazes sent a statement to the news station acknowledging the non-compete clause in the agreement. However, he contends it does not prevent the construction of similar venues but does not allow the city or ARK to finance or support any future similar venues.

The city and the ARK Group are reportedly scheduled to go to mediation later this month to discuss this issue and other points of contention.

Skanska's checkered past

With more than 11,000 U.S. based employees and 2017 earnings of \$7.3 bil-

See Related Story, Contractors reflect on Irving's entertainment project controversy On Page 16

lion, the company prides itself on employing strong diversity metrics. Consistently, Skanska has shaped its corporate image to support its claim of fostering a culture of inclusion. This effort extends reportedly to their partners as well. For example, each year, the New York City-based enterprise hosts free training opportunities for minority contractors.

President and CEO, Richard Kennedy, has made strong, compelling public statements about Skanska's commitment to safety and diversity. Partnerships with minority contractors and the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) have been strategic and highly publicized. However, Skanska's actual performance scorecard as it relates to contracts with minority channel partners is unimpressive.

Over the last decade, Skanska received two infractions related to unethical business practices aligned with contractual obligations to minority contractors. In 2011, Skanska USA was ordered to pay \$20 million for using a bogus minority-owned firm to win a multi-million dollar bid. The company faced national scrutiny for engaging Environmental Energy, a minority-owned front company, to win New York City Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Port Authority contracts at the World Trade Center site and Kennedy Airport.

The NY Daily News reported prosecutors argued that while Skanska created the appearance a minority contractor was receiving a percentage of contract revenue, actual compensation was awarded solely to Skanska.

Four years later, Skanska was fined again for more minority-related misconduct. The company was ordered to pay \$95,000 to settle a racial

harassment and retaliation lawsuit filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). According to the EEOC's suit, Skanska violated federal law by allowing workers to subject a class of black employees to racial harassment and then firing the employees when they complained to Skanska about the misconduct.

John Proctor, President and Chairman of the Regional Black Contractors Association (RBCA), is not surprised to learn about previous allegations.

"Skanska is no different than any other heritage general contractor in north Texas; black contractors are not allowed to participate in the great construction North Texas boom," Proctor stated. "We are at 1 percent now and been there for years."

Skanska's familiar patterns persist in Irving

Skanska later had an opportunity to rectify prior dealings with the Minority/Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE) program and minority contractors when, after winning the \$94 million contract from the ARK Group, it hired Butler Masonry to complete work at the Toyota Music Factory. The minority contractor claims Skanska did not honor the terms of their agreement. Other minority contractors reportedly have similar concerns NDG has learned and the company might face civil rights allegations.

Butler Masonry is a total service masonry company specializing in completing customized brick, block, stone, and cast stone construction projects on time, according to specifications. The company is a multi-generation family owned, minority entity respected for quality craftsmanship and precision. The company cur-

rently lists close to a dozen completed commercial projects in its portfolio.

After an extended period of waiting for revenue due under its masonry contract, Butler Masonry, represented by Dallas based construction litigators, Griffith Davison & Shurtleff, PC, is currently suing Skanska for unpaid debts surpassing the \$1 million mark. The company describes the work performed at the Toyota Music Factory facility as complete and fit to contract specifications.

Both Butler Masonry and Skanska have elected not to comment publicly on this matter. Attorney Stewart Shurtleff, representing, Butler Masonry, offered a "no comment" statement to NDG regarding the case.

Shandra Colón, a member of the board for RBCA, spoke earlier this week to Robert Ashley on KHVN Radio.

"Our concern is our members are informing us that it has been over a year since they have been paid. These are the type of issues that put our black contractors out of business for good. And I am not talking small dollars; I am talking million dollar contracts that have not been compensated to our members and our contractors," Colón stated.

Colón who is also the Founder and CEO of The Catalyst Company, emphasized they are not only advocating on behalf of their

member companies or even just minority contractors. She stressed the importance of all contractors who have completed their work in good faith should receive payment due.

"When they don't get paid on time, their bond is jeopardized," she stated. According to Colón the delay in payment is caused by disagreements between the developer, general contractor.

"If black contractors can get through the eye of the needle, they meet the fate of our member the Butler brothers. They worked for Skanska and completed the job successfully, then there a problem with the money," Proctor shared. "This is constant with the RBCA members with these big companies, that's why the lifespan for black business don't exceed five years, it doesn't matter their qualifications. The big construction boys groups say no blacks allowed and it is strictly adhered too."

A bold statement, to which Proctor has a response.

"If this statement is not true, prove it," Proctor challenged.

RBCA is encouraging the City of Irving not to issue the requested \$44 million TIF monies while these substantial payments remain pending completion of a full investigation regarding the outstanding monies owed to the contractors according to Colón.

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July 28

L&S Hiring Event

They are having a hiring event on July 28 starting at 12 p.m. at Town East Mall in Mesquite. The event will extend through very week-end until August 26th at Come see them and learn more about their story, culture, and all the opportunities you can have at L&S. Free swag will be offered .

July 30

Inside Sales Hiring Event

The Inside Sales Hiring Event will take place on July 30 – 31 starting at 5:30 p.m. at 14460 Varsity Brands Way, in Farmers Branch. Join the BSN Recruiting team, for their open house. They will be conducting in-person interviews and making offers to target our next Inside Sales Training Class.



July 30

F-35 Productions Job Fair

Lockheed Martin is holding a F-35 Productions Job Fair on July 30 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Sheraton in Fort Worth. Lockheed Martin is experiencing tremendous growth within their F-35 production teams. To support this growth, they are hosting a hiring event. At this event you will have the opportunity to meet and interview with our Hiring Managers. We are hiring only for the following skill sets: Low Observable Coaters, Avionics Technicians, 5 Axis Milling Machinist (STEM Operator), Structural Assemblers, Aircraft Mechanics, Field &

Service Mechanic, and Electrical Assemblers. You must bring paper copy of current resume to event and non-registered/walk-ups are not guaranteed participation. For exact location and to register for a time slot, please visit this page: <http://jobs.lmt.co/4Z5ka>.

July 31

Afterschool Care - Hiring Event (Dallas)

The Afterschool Care - Hiring Event will take place on July 31 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Park South YMCA, in Dallas. Enjoy working with kids? Need a part-time

job? The Y is hiring Rockstars for our 70+ after school sites and we invite you to come in for a group interview. Staff will work from 2:30 -6:30PM M-F during the school year and have the weekends OFF! Additionally, as a staff member you will receive a Y membership for free! Interview slots are limited. You can sign up at app.mobilecause.com/form/NIP7JA.

August 1

Afterschool Care - Hiring Event (Irving)

The Afterschool Care - Hiring Event will host an-

other hiring event on August 1 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the YMCA, in Irving. The event will last around two hours.

Each interviewee will get a free week YMCA Guest Pass just for attend-

ing the interview. In addition, you can request to work in an area close to home.

Since slots are limited, be sure to sign up at app.mobilecause.com/form/NIP7JA.



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July 29, 9:45 a.m.

Join us in 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.

August 01, 7 p.m.

Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner, 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.

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FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"

July 29, 9 a.m.

Join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in

the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, followed by our Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed. It's for God's glory and honor.

August 01

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.

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

July 27, 7 p.m.

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

July 29, 10 a.m.

Don't forget to invite fam-

ily and friends to join us for our Morning Service as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

July 30, 7 p.m.

Join us in Monday School; come and see what God has to say to us.

August 5, 10 a.m.

Join us for our "The White-Out" Worship Service, every 1st Sunday of each month. Women are expected to wear white

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

July 29, 10 a.m.

Join us for Morning Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory. Don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

August 01, 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.

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July 29

You are invited to join us during our 8 am and/or our 11 am Worship Services. Sunday School will start at 8:30 a.m. We would love to have you at all our worship services.

August 01, 7 p.m.

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

See CHURCH, Page 15

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"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan." Proverb 29:2.

We hear a lot these days about being "politically correct." It seems we must be sensitive to every group, no matter how that group might negatively impact our lives or violate ethical or moral laws. When God created the earth, He did not care what people thought of His policies. His policy was THE way!

But his primary motive was not to control but to bless mankind, His creation. His nature was only good. In **Jeremiah 9:24** we find God's nature described: *"I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,"* declares the LORD.

God laid down rules in the Garden of Eden for Adam and Eve to follow. As long as they followed the rules, they would reign over every living creature. They were representing the Creator in all aspects. God's government was being expressed through his creation in humans, nature and ani-

mals. He was and is the ultimate righteous ruler. God's desire was to extend this mandate across the earth through Godly leaders who could represent and legislate His Kingdom in all spheres of life. This is why He said in **Deuteronomy 28:13,14**: *"The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom."*

God desires to raise godly leaders who can represent His interest on the earth. He has called you and me to be one of His representatives. Then the world will go from adversary to destiny. *"The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position"* **James 1:9.**

Most of us try to avoid pain. We are so averse to pain that we think God must desire that we will experience pain-free lives. Although God takes no pleasure in our pain, we have to acknowledge that He sometimes allows painful circumstances to occur in our lives in order to shape us and make us more like Christ.

The following poem was written by an anonymous Confederate soldier, a devout young man who fought in the American Civil War. The lines of this poem ex-

press the soul of a man who has learned to view his times of adversity from a different perspective: I asked God for strength, that I might achieve; I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey. I asked God for health, that I might do greater things; I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.

I asked for riches, that I might be happy; I was given poverty, that I might be

wise. I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men; I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God. I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life; I was given life, that I might enjoy all things. I got nothing that I asked for but everything I had hoped for. Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.

I am among men, most richly blessed.*



2018 University Graduates from Bethel Bible Fellowship Church
Pictured (L to R): Ms. Maia Wilson, UNT; Ms. Devon Lewis, Duke University; and Ms. Kelsey Jones, DBU. Not Pictured: Ms. Brooke Ross, Spellman

Learn to trust God to lead us even though we can't see the pathway in front of us. Learn to trust Him to be all-knowing, all-loving, and all-powerful. Learn to believe He does all things well. As Paul wrote,

"Everything that does not come from faith is sin" **Romans 14:23.**

That's why God leads us through the dark places. Only in the darkness do we learn to walk by faith.

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CHURCH, continued from Page 14

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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

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NDG Book Review: *Ruff Justice* is an uncomplicated, fun read

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The buckle on the collar is fastened tightly.

It's not foolproof, but it's the best way you know to protect your dog. Add to that collar a leash with you at the other end, and Doggo isn't going anywhere without you. But in "*Ruff Justice*," the new whodunit by Laurien Berenson, a collar and a lead won't protect anyone from murder.

Thirteen-year-old Davey had high hopes.

His dog, Augie, was just a few points away from Champion and it had to happen that weekend. It had to. After all, as Davey's mom, Melanie Travis knew,



showing Standard Poodles was practically a family tradition and Davey was a natural in the ring.

But adding points toward Augie's Champion status wasn't the only remarkable thing that happened that

weekend. Though dog shows were usually social events mostly among friends, someone else thought differently and strangled Jasmine Crane, local artist and regular exhibitor.

But there was more: Abby Burke, sister of well-regarded dog-sitter, Amanda, came to Melanie's Aunt Peg's house, looking for Amanda, who was missing. Melanie agreed to help; she was good at that sort of thing, and when she learned that Amanda had rented an apartment from Jasmine, well, there were just too many coincidences.

Amanda, as it turned out, had a boyfriend, Rick, and

he was one truly awful human being. Then again, Jasmine was no sweetheart: having pilfered husbands as well as jewelry and expensive artwork, she was a thief of the highest magnitude. Was Jasmine having an affair with Rick – and if not, could Amanda be afraid of him somehow? And then there was Jasmine's supposed friend, Sadie, who liked dogs much more than she liked people and who almost refused to speak to Melanie unless Melanie brought her poodle, Faith, along. Sadie was eccentric, to say the least.

As Melanie poked around and asked questions, nobody within dog show cir-

cles was willing to point any fingers but it was obvious that Jasmine was nobody's favorite person. She was demanding, conniving, and few were sorry to learn that she was gone – but who would have reason enough to kill her?

Uncomplicated. That's how you want your reading at this time in the year, heading into back-to-school, done with vacations, sliding into fall. You want something not-too-intricate. You want "*Ruff Justice*."

For so many reasons, "*Ruff Justice*" may be perfect for you: this mystery doesn't have car chases or sniper's bullets. No interna-

tional spy stuff, no violence and only a small handful of the most minor of swear words. Yes, author Laurien Berenson packs a lot of characters into her story but overall, this is an easy book that doesn't take a thousand watts of brain-power to read or enjoy.

Pick-it-up-and-put-it-down easy. Just right for late summer.

Be aware that a basic knowledge of the dog show industry will help in enjoying this book but don't fret if you haven't got it. There are enough clues in this mystery to help even a neophyte catch up quick, which makes "*Ruff Justice*" a book anyone should collar.

Contractors reflect on Irving's entertainment project controversy

Rachel Hawkins
NDG Staff Writer

The controversy swirling around The ARK Group, Skanska and Billy Bob Barnett's Big Beat Dallas, still remains a hot topic in Irving. As residents continue to learn and discover new facts brought to light, it appears many seem to forget about a group caught in the middle: the contractors who helped build the project.

Steve Westbrook, presi-



Steve Westbrook, president of Highland Builders, speaks at the July 19 Irving City council meeting on non-payment issues.
(Photo: Rachel Hawkins/NDG)

dent of Highland Builders, who has delivered commercial projects in the City of

Irving for over 30 years. They were hired to build the Big Beat Dallas venues for

Barnett, but they have not been paid in full yet. During an Irving City Council meeting held on July 19, Westbrook during the Citizen's Forum segment on the agenda Westbrook requested the city step in and pay the balance owed so he can pay the subcontractors.

"We're owed approximately \$2.3 million," Westbrook said. "We did everything at 100 percent to everyone's satisfaction. Just because there is some techni-

cality between the developers and Billy Bob Barnett, does not mean that these hard working people should not be paid."

The minority partners working with Highland Builders are facing extreme financial hardship as a result of the long delay in payment.

"One of the sub-contractors is owed \$100,900," Westbrook said. "He is a small contractor, and he came to me around a week ago and said that he had to sell his

house to continue to provide for his family. We are requesting that you (the Irving City Council members) step in and pay us for what we have completed," Westbrook said.

The city council members are not allowed to comment or take action on items brought by residents during the Citizen's Forum as they are restricted because of the Texas Open Meetings law which prevents deliberation of items not on the published agenda.

Richardson's emergency management coordinator testifies before Congressional subcommittee in Washington, DC

Mistie Gardner, Emergency Management Coordinator for Richardson, testified on behalf of the U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers last week in front of a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.



The hearing, entitled "Are We Ready? Recovering from the 2017 Disasters and

Preparing for the 2018 Hurricane Season," included comments from Gardner and representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the BuildStrong Coalition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Emergency Management Association.

Gardner gave recommen-

dations for ways to improve U.S. systems of disaster recovery based on her 23 years of experience in public safety and emergency management, particularly her service after Hurricane Harvey.

Through Richardson's partnerships and coalitions for emergency response, Gardner served post-Harvey

as the Emergency Operations Center Manager for Dallas to help coordinate the sheltering of approximately 5,000 evacuees; worked in the State Operations Center to coordinate Public Works resources from throughout Texas; and was deployed to the Victoria Disaster District as part of a recovery assis-

tance team supporting the needs of seven jurisdictions, including help with public assistance, debris management and damage assessment.

Feedback gathered at the hearing is expected to help lawmakers as they draft the Disaster Recovery Reform Act.

FIT, continued from Page 11

gether and examine each transaction and how it played into the family budget or your individual budget.

You may also want to

share examples of monthly loan payments to prompt a discussion of interest rates. Reviewing savings or investment account statements can be an opportunity to

show how compound interest could help them grow their money.

Lead by example. Working on financial skills with practice, lessons and stories is important but many children also learn good and bad habits by the examples that

their parents set. Consider this an opportunity to brush up on your own financial knowledge and then practice the skills you'd like to pass down.

Bottom line: Financial literacy isn't something you can teach in a week or with a

single method. You may be able to memorize some practical knowledge, such as how interest works, but it can take time for the more important practices to become regular habits. By utilizing a variety of methods to teach and show your kids

how to handle money, you can help them prepare for a healthy financial future.

Hugh Norton directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/Practical-Money](https://twitter.com/Practical-Money).