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# The American education system is caught between Church and State

By Allen R. Gray  
NDG Special Contributor

In an American educational system, where bullying, school shootings and threats of violence are a daily occurrence, educators realize they are now obliged to address more than literacy and college readiness. There are social, emotional and even spiritual considerations to face down or surrender to when educating the students. How did we disintegrate to this state of affairs?

David Freeman spent 15 years serving on the Athens, Texas school board and is convinced he knows when public education took a turn for the worst.

"When Madalyn Murray O'Hair took prayer out of school, everything went downhill," Freeman contends. O'Hair, who won a 1963 Supreme Court decision challenging compulsory prayer in schools, once called religion "a crutch" and an irrational reliance on superstitions and supernatural nonsense." Freeman believes with the removal of time for spiritual meditation from students' daily school regimen, left legions of soul-sick and angry students on their hands. The kids do not even know what they are mad at or why.

The difficulties faced by students—Blacks and Hispanics especially—in our public school systems



Dr. Mack T. Flemmings, Sr., the pastor of Freedom, believes a stronger partnership between the faith community and local schools would benefit everyone involved. (Image: NDG)

did not begin with a matter of privilege, segregation or O'Hair. There was a time when the relationship between Church and school was a lot less controversial. There was a time when these two entities worked together as one.

The Church mandated free education for the poor as early as 1179. The Boston Latin School, established in 1635, is the first public school opened in the 13 American Colonies. It's still the nation's oldest public school. There was not a large population of Blacks at the Boston Latin School. America's Blacks were forced to pursue their own education and the Black church

led the way.

Palestine, Texas resident Joe Bobbie Gray talks of a time when combining church and school was an accepted—even an expected—part of students' upbringing. Gray, 82-years-old, fondly recalls when around 1930; Johnny Boy and Will Allen Calhoun donated an acre of land for the sake of Blacks living in the Tennessee Colony area of Palestine. They built New Chapel Baptist Church on this donated acre. Behind the church and to the left, they reestablished Union Academy School for Negroes. The school

See SCHOOLS, Page 6



## Tribute to a colleague and neighbor

-See Page 3



## Depression brings more health risks

-See Page 4



## Travel safe during this Labor Day

-See Page 5



## Irving invests in college readiness

-See Page 6



## Judges, Rep face crowd at MNP forum

-See Page 8



## Depth a question for this year's Cowboys squad

-See Page 9



## Black wealth may disappear by 2053

-See Page 10



## Sister Tarpley: Are you a fool?

-See Page 15

### INSIDE...

People In The News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community	5
Education	6
Wells Fargo	7
City Briefs	8
Entertainment	9-10
Marketplace	11-13
Church Directory	14-15
Beto for Senate	16

### People In The News...

See Page 2



Gaby Natale



PO2 Mikhail Flores

**READERS SOUND OFF!!!**  
See Page 2 to see what NDG readers are saying about the latest news!

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## Gaby Natale

Bestselling author, speaker and TV host Gaby Natale have inked a deal with PepsiCo to empower and inspire the company's employees as part of its commitment to celebrating diversity during Hispanic Heritage Month. The 3-time Daytime EMMY winner will hold two company-wide empowerment keynote speeches at the Dallas Cowboys World Headquarters in Frisco on Sept. 17 and at the Frito Lay Headquarters the next day, which will be telecast to field locations across the United States.

"We at PepsiCo are very excited to have Gaby Natale participate at our Hispanic



Heritage Month, where we have many great events planned around our theme, 'Many Faces, One Culture'. Gaby embodies the spirit of the Hispanic and Latino culture - making great contributions that many can be proud

of. As we get closer to celebrating the heritage and culture of our many Hispanic and Latino employees, we look forward to commemorating the month with such an accomplished individual as Gaby Natale" said Marissa Solis, PepsiCo Vice President and General Manager of the Hispanic Business Unit.

The workshops will flesh out Natale's renewed commitment to inspire Latinos to develop their potential, powered by the success of her bestselling book *El Círculo Virtuoso*, which made it to the top of Amazon's Hot New Releases on the same day it hit the shelves. Equal parts inspirational speech, career workshop and autobiograph-

ical manifesto, Natale's speech will use the arch of her life journey -from a carpet warehouse to the red carpet of the Daytime EMMYs- to start a conversation about the challenges and opportunities that Latinos face when they decide to turn their dreams into actions.

"I applaud PepsiCo's dedication to celebrating the contributions of the Hispanic community through 'Many Faces. One Culture'. Hispanic Heritage Month is a tribute to the incredible diversity, unity and passion that makes us thrive", said Natale.

Natale's deal with PepsiCo is the first in a series of collaborations that the SuperLatina will be focusing on as

part of a concerted effort by her company, AGANARmedia, to develop empowerment programs with organizations that are committed - in words and action- to the advancement of gender parity, pay equity and talent diversity.

On September 27, triple Daytime EMMY winner Gaby Natale will join one of the most exclusive clubs in the country: Latinas who have made it to the top of Amazon's bestsellers lists. The SuperLatina will join 13 other best-selling authors including TV host Adamari Lopez, Billboard executive director Leila Cobo and Univision executive producer Luz María Doria for the first

edition of The Bestseller Women, an event dedicated to honoring women who achieved #1 in Amazon's top sellers list.

"We created The Bestseller Women event to showcase the life-changing books that these trailblazing authors have penned, creating a path for other Latinas to follow and helping millions of readers find their voice. Having Gaby join the list is a special treat for me. I was the literary agent who helped her secure a deal with HarperCollins for her bestselling book *El Círculo Virtuoso*. We made it together, in a way" said Aleyso Bridger, CEO of Bridger Communications, one of the organizers.

## PO2 Mikhail Flores

By MC Erica R. Gardner  
Navy Office of  
Community Outreach

SANTA RITA, Guam – A 2009 Jack E. Singles Academy graduate and Irving, Texas, native is providing a critical maintenance capability to the U.S. Navy's submarine force in the Pacific as part of a hybrid crew of sailors and civilian mariners working aboard the expeditionary submarine tender, USS Frank Cable.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Mikhail Flores is a hospital



MC2 Jackson Brown / USN

corpsman aboard the Guam-based submarine tender, one of only two such ships in the U.S. Navy. The Frank Cable and its crew provides maintenance and resupply capabilities both in

port and at sea.

A Navy hospitalman is responsible for providing medical care to Navy personnel, family member, retirees, and civilian government workers.

"I am interested in the medical aspect of my job and the military," said Flores. "I specialize in radiation, which is cool."

Flores credits success in the Navy to many of the lessons learned in Irving.

"Team environment and work dedication are things I learned in my hometown," Flores said.

Guam is also home to four Los Angeles-class at-

tack submarines, Frank Cable's primary clients, but the ship can also provide repair and logistic services to other Navy ships like cruisers and destroyers. The submarine tenders provide maintenance, temporary berthing services and logistical support to submarines and surface ships in the Pacific Ocean as well as the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Arabian Sea, and parts of the Indian Ocean.

With a crew of more than 600, Frank Cable is 649 feet long and weighs approximately 23,493 tons.

According to officials at the U.S. Navy's Pacific

Fleet headquarters in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the ships, submarines, aircraft and Navy personnel forward-deployed to Guam are part of the world's largest fleet command and serve in a region critical to U.S. national security. The U.S. Pacific Fleet encompasses 100 million square miles, nearly half the Earth's surface, from Antarctica to the Arctic Circle and from the West Coast of the United States into the Indian Ocean. All told, there are more than 200 ships and submarines, nearly 1,200 aircraft, and more than 130,000 uniformed and civilian person-

nel serving in the Pacific.

The integrated crew of sailors and civilian mariners builds a strong fellowship while working alongside each other. The crews are highly motivated, and quickly adapt to changing conditions. It is a busy life of specialized work, watches and drills.

"I have been here for almost two weeks and I am here in Guam," Flores said. "I work with a great medical team. It matters who your superiors and your co-workers are."

Though there are many

See FLORES, Page 4

## NDG Readers Sound Off...

### Black Women's Expo in Dallas

NDG asked readers to share what woman inspired them for a chance to win tickets.

My mother, 3 yrs after her death is still the greatest inspiration in my life. Through every trial, I feel the comfort of her spirit daring me to give up and challenging the world to reveal yet another purpose for my existence.

-- Tracee Bond  
via Facebook

### Dallas Cowboys depth on offense is questionable

The depth issues are with



Keith Allison / Flickr

ownership and coaching. Nothing will change until a change at the very top. Will be lucky to get 8-n-8...

-- CJ Gresh  
via Facebook

### Tips for Finding the Right School for Your Child

My aunt's oldest daughter has been having problems at public school, so she's been looking for a new school to enroll her in. However, she isn't sure

via Facebook

what type of school her daughter would do best in. Thanks for the great tip for her to make a list of requirements that she wants in her daughter's school; this will really help my aunt out.

-- Taylor Anderson

### Alliance of groups moving to reform Dallas bail system

I am a candidate for Dallas City Council District 4. The bail system reform is part of my platform.

If elected, you will have a friend and spirited advocate at Dallas City Hall.

-- Obi E. Igbokwe

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# EPA roll-backs will hurt people of color

By Felicia M. Davis  
Director of HBCU Green Fund

President Trump visiting West Virginia to announce a major rollback in regulations limiting coal fired power plant emissions feels like being lost in a dark coal mine, reaching a fork in the tunnel with one direction pitch black and a bright light at the end of the other. The choice seems so obvious and yet the President of the United States of America intentionally heads into the darkness.

At the turn of the millennium we knew for a fact that the planet is warming and that greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide accelerate warming. We were aware of the human contribution and that limiting carbon emissions is the best way for humans to try to avoid catastrophic upheaval.

It took much time and work to get the Clean Power Plan in place that eliminating it is just short of insane. The president’s announcement sent me back to our 2002 report “Air of Injustice: African Americans & Power Plant Pollution.” The collaboration brought Dr. Joseph Lowery and Dr. Yvonne Scruggs-Lefwich of the Georgia Coalition for the Peoples’ Agenda and Black Leadership Forum, respectively, to-

gether with Martha Keating and Angela Ledford Anderson formerly with the Clean Air Task Force and Clear the Air to mobilize and educate the African American community about the impact of power plant pollution on air quality, climate change and public health.

We reported that coal-fired power plants are the largest industrial emitters of a list of pollutants with negative health impacts such as increased asthma, lung disease, premature deaths and even increases in infectious disease. Long before Hurricane Katrina we tried to sound the alarm connecting poverty, race, geography and even insurance status to climate impacts. Scientists tried to explain that while we can’t point to any single weather event as evidence of climate change, by the time the pattern is proven it will be too late. We’re like slowly boiling frogs unable to grasp the upheaval that climate change is already causing.

We did a poor job of explaining what a global degree Celsius actually means, our hockey stick graphs and bathtub analogies only worked for people who understand climate science. People can’t seem to connect floods, drought, fires, hurricanes and extreme weather to climate change. We should

have stressed the fact that there are only ten global degrees of difference between today’s climate and the ice age. We need to break things down in terms everyday people can appreciate. Perhaps we should remind Americans about the days of the Dust Bowl or the water wars between ranchers and farmers featured in western movies.

Looking back the 10 Principles of Just Climate Policy developed by the Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative (a diverse group of 28 US environmental justice, religious, policy and advocacy groups) included in the Air of Injustice appendix should have been featured more prominently. Principle number one: Stop Cooking the Planet and states plainly that, “Global warming will accelerate unless we can slow the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. To protect vulnerable Americans, alternatives must be found for human activities that cause global warming.”

If we started there and elevated these principles, there would have been a focus on workers and communities. We were adamant that “no group should have to shoulder the burden alone of transition from a fossil fuel-based economy to a renewable energy-based economy. We had in mind training and eco-

nomics development for miners and other displaced workers.

While caring about the needs of local communities down to the individual, it is important to recognize that, “Global Problems Need Global Solutions” and as one of the largest contributors the US should be out front. The Paris Agreement was a major accomplishment. After decades of negotiations finally the whole world was on one accord when it came to the urgent need to collectively work to reduce emissions and adapt to changes that are inevitable. Resilience emerged as a priority given the magnitude of change underway.

We were headed in the right direction. How could we know that the fact that progress was made under America’s first Black president, Barack Obama, would usher in a period that is best described as retrograde?

Truth and science are under attack and our most effective weapon is education. There is little that we can do to move those that know better but still make poor choices and head into the darkness. It is up to us to educate and embrace those that do not know better. We know better and it is up to us to do better.

# A tribute to my colleague and neighbor

By Congresswoman  
Eddie Bernice Johnson

For more than twenty years Senator John McCain and I were residents in the same condominium building in the suburbs of Northern Virginia near Capitol Hill. It was indeed a blessing to be his colleague and neighbor.

On the elevator in our building or in the halls of Congress, Senator McCain was a “gentleman legislator” who had a genuine concern for the well-being of others, and for the progress of the world and its people.

At the core of Senator McCain’s character was a sense of goodness and grace. During an epic moment during the 2008 presidential campaign, when a supporter

charged that his opponent, Senator Barack Obama, was an “Arab,” Senator McCain politely shook his head and said, “No, he is a decent family man, a citizen that I just happen to have disagreements with on fundamental issues.”

His statement was one that would not have been made by most politicians. It required immense courage to compliment an opponent during a heated election. The words he spoke came from the very depths of his soul.

In July of last year, having witnessed the necessity of the Affordable Care Act, Senator McCain moved against the wishes of his party and its leadership by voting against an attempt to repeal President Obama’s signature piece of

legislation.

While he was a member of the Republican Party, Senator McCain worked diligently across the aisle to pass legislation and create policies for the good of the American people.

In the areas of foreign policy, campaign finance reform, human rights, immigration reform and others too numerous to mention, he was a passionate and relentless visionary.

Senator McCain was uncompromisingly honest. After the 2000 South Carolina Republican primary he apologized for not stating during the contest that he opposed the flying of the confederate flag above the state house.

As a member and as chair-

man of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator McCain helped to mold our nation’s military policies. We are a safer nation, and our world is a better place because of his support of democratic institutions, his values and his selfless service.

When I think of my neighbor, who I will miss tremendously, I recall words found in the New Testament, which proclaim “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.”

Senator John McCain, a lion among us for six decades of national service, went quietly in the night. Yet, his presence will remain with us forever!

*Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson represents the 30th Congressional District of Texas.*



# Anxiety, depression, other mental distress may increase heart attack, stroke risk in adults over 45

Adults ages 45 or older who experience psychological distress such as depression and anxiety may have an increased risk of developing cardiovascular disease, according to new research in *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*, an American Heart Association journal.

In a study of 221,677 participants from Australia, researchers found that:

- among women, high/very high psychological distress was associated with a 44 percent increased risk of stroke; and
- in men ages 45 to 79, high/very high versus low psychological distress was associated with a 30 percent increased risk of heart attack, with weaker estimates in those 80 years old or older.

The association between psychological distress and increased cardiovascular disease risk was present



Thought Catalog / Unsplash

even after accounting for lifestyle behaviors (smoking, alcohol intake, dietary habits, etc.) and disease history.

“While these factors might explain some of the observed increased risk, they do not appear to account for all of it, indicating that other mechanisms are likely to be important,” said Caroline Jackson, Ph.D., the study’s senior author and a Chancellor’s Fellow at the University of Edinburgh in

Edinburgh, Scotland.

The research involved participants who had not experienced a heart attack or stroke at the start of the study and who were part of the New South Wales 45 and Up Study that recruited adults ages 45 or older between 2006 and 2009.

Researchers categorized psychological distress as low, medium and high/very high using a standard psychological distress scale which asks people to self-

assess the level.

The 10-question survey asks questions such as: “How often do you feel tired out for no good reason?” How often do you feel so sad that nothing could cheer you up?” How often do you feel restless or fidgety?”

During follow-up of more than four years, 4,573 heart attacks and 2,421 strokes occurred. The absolute risk – overall risk of developing a disease in a certain time period – of heart attack and stroke rose with each level of psychological distress.

The findings add to the existing evidence that there may be an association between psychological distress and increased risk of heart attack and stroke, she said. But they also support the need for future studies focused on the underlying mechanisms connecting psychological distress and

cardiovascular disease and stroke risk and look to replicate the differences between men and women.

Mental disorders and their symptoms are thought to be associated with increased risk of heart disease and stroke, but previous studies have produced inconsistent findings and the interplay between mental and physical health is poorly understood.

People with symptoms of psychological distress should be encouraged to seek medical help because, aside from the impact on their mental health, symptoms of psychological distress appear to also impact physical health, Jackson said. “We encourage more proactive screening for symptoms of psychological distress. Clinicians should actively screen for cardiovascular risk factors in people with these mental health symptoms.”

## A day for overdose prevention

International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) is commemorated each year on Aug. 31. It is a day aimed at increasing awareness about substance use disorders and remember those lost to a drug overdose. “A Time to Remember, A Time to Act” is the theme of IOAD. In 2015, 52,000 Americans died from drug overdoses and opioid overdoses account for the majority of them. More than two million Americans currently suffer from substance use disorders related to prescription opioids.

In 2015, there were 1,174 accidental poisoning deaths that involved opioids. According to Texas Overdose Naloxone Initiative (TONI), drug overdoses are the leading cause of accidental deaths in the U.S. Drug overdoses cause more accidental deaths than motor vehicle accidents and firearm homicides, combined. Reducing the stigma associated with substance use disorders also encourages people to seek treatment.

For more information, call 214-522-8600.

## Texans Can Academy - C/FB golf team wins championship

Texans Can Academies recently held their annual 2018 Dallas Can Academy Spring Golf Championship sponsored by the First Tee of Dallas on Thursday, May 24th, 2018.

The tournament, held at Grover C. Keeton Golf Course, included four competitive Texans Can Academies teams: Carrollton-Farmers Branch, Dallas Oak Cliff, Dallas Grant East, and Dallas Pleasant Grove.

Securing first place over the tournament was the student golf team from Carrollton/Farmers Branch consisting of Alice Garcia, Dominick Salas, Hailey



Courtesy photo

Caradine, Kaya Miller, Khalid Gill, Mama Konneh, and Marquise Winston.

The Carrollton-Farmers Branch Eagle golf team is coached by Krystle Martin and Patrick Ulbrich.

Texans Can Academies

are 14 free, open-enrollment dropout recovery schools that welcome all students ages 14-21, who have struggled in a traditional high school setting. There are currently six Texans Can Academies cam-

pus in the Dallas area.

The schools believe in providing the highest quality education for all students is necessary for ensuring their economic independence. To date, more than 143,000 students have

## FLORES, continued from Page 2

ways for sailors to earn distinction in their command, community, and career, Flores is most proud of receiving a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for zero deficiencies while conducting a Bureau of

Medicine and Surgery audit in 2007.

“I really worked hard, after work, and on the weekends,” said Flores. “I wanted to give the department a good name and make everyone proud.”

As a member of one of the U.S. Navy’s most relied upon assets, Flores and other sailors know they are part of a legacy that will last beyond their lifetimes, one that will provide a critical component of the Navy the nation needs.

“Serving my country, I

am ensuring that I am fighting for liberties and the people back home so they do not have to worry about the dangers that are out there,” Flores said. “I am putting a good name to my family and the ability that I can leave a great legacy in the Navy.”

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# Get home safe (and arrest-free) this Labor Day weekend

The Irving Police Department will conduct DWI No-Refusal operations during the Labor Day holiday weekend. Additional officers, whose primary focus will be to locate and arrest impaired drivers, will be on duty. The operations will take place on the nights of Friday, Aug. 31 and Saturday, Sept. 1.

The Department will utilize a no-refusal approach to DWI enforcement. Persons arrested for DWI will be offered a blood test only (no breath tests). Officers will seek a search warrant, signed by a judge, in order



"No Refusal Weekends" and DWI checkpoints are common during holidays like Labor Day. (Photo: versageek / Flickr)

to obtain a sample from anyone refusing consent to a blood test.

The Irving Police Department encourages drivers to "Plan While You Can" to avoid the consequences of

impaired driving. A person's abilities, decision-making skills and judgment can diminish while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Consider the use of a taxi or car service, a desig-

nated driver or public transportation as an alternative to driving after drinking.

If you see a suspected drunk driver, and you (or a passenger) can do so safely, please call 9-1-1 with the information.

## DART schedule changes for Labor Day

Labor Day marks the unofficial end of summer in the U.S. and is celebrated with parades, barbecues, shopping and trips. Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) will operate a modified schedule for Mon., Sept. 3., to get you to your holiday

event safely.

- DART bus, light rail and Dallas Streetcar services will follow a Sunday schedule.

- The Trinity Railway Express commuter rail will not operate.

- DART's administrative offices, Customer Care Center and Lost and Found will be closed.

- Customers with questions about schedules can contact DART's Customer Information Center at 214-979-1111 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- DART Paratransit services for customers with dis-

abilities will operate on a Saturday schedule.

The Paratransit Scheduling Center will be closed on Labor Day. Customers may call Thurs., Aug. 30, to book their trips through Mon., Sept. 3, and Fri., Aug. 31, to book their trips through Wed., Sept. 5. Customers may call Tues., Sept. 4, to book trips through Thurs., Sept. 6.

X-Press Booking, Web Booking and voicemail will also be available.

DART route and schedule information can be found at [www.DART.org](http://www.DART.org).

# Carrollton receives A+ ratings in national renter satisfaction survey

The City of Carrollton received A+ ratings in the Apartment List Renter Satisfaction Survey, a national renter's study which drew responses from 45,000 renters. Responses were collected from 49 states and 175 cities between October 1, 2016 and December 6, 2017. The highest-rated categories for Carrollton were safety and low crime, and state and local taxes. Both received A+ ratings and were followed by quality of schools and affordability (B+).

"Living in Carrollton can be like a dream if you're looking for a suburb in a lovely town," according to AL. "... and Historic Down-



town Carrollton is an attraction in itself.

"Renters gave Carrollton an A rating overall and gave most categories above-average scores."

Carrollton earned higher marks than Fort Worth (B), Arlington (B+), and Dallas

(B), and similar scores compared to other nearby cities such as Garland (A) and Plano (A+).

According to AL, the renter survey is the largest survey focused exclusively on renters, and provides unique insight into what

states and cities must do to meet the needs of America's 111 million renters. Renters gave their city an overall score, in addition to rating their city on 11 factors, including affordability, job op-

portunities, and safety. The study calculated overall satisfaction grades using the average city ranking from one to 10 and calculated category satisfaction grades using the percent of residents who

were "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with the aspect of their city.

To learn more about the City of Carrollton's awards and accolades, visit [cityof-carrollton.com/awards](http://cityof-carrollton.com/awards).

# Four Irving Companies earn places among Top 100 Retailers in America

Dallas-Fort Worth is a good place to climb the corporate ladder. The Lone Star State is well represented on the National Retail Federation trade association's annual list of the top 100 retailers in America, with eight of the companies hailing from DFW and four of them have a significant presence in Irving.

Of the eight DFW companies, four of the top 100 retailers have a significant presence in Irving. Irving-based 7-Eleven came in at No. 32; Irving-based craft store Michaels earned a

spot at No. 88; Irving-based oil behemoth Exxon Mobil Corp. found its way to No. 92; and iconic Dallas luxury legend Neiman Marcus just barely cracked the top 100 at No. 93.

The list was compiled with information from Kantar Consulting and ranks the industry's largest companies according to sales. "The list has changed very little over the past several years, thanks to retailers working smartly to modernize and reinvigorate their strategies and retail's measured pace of change," the

NRF says on its website.

The big Texas winner on the list was San Antonio-based HEB grocery store. Everyone has their favorite grocery store, but something about H-E-B inspires a fanatical devotion usually reserved for boy bands. That fandom helped propel it to become not only the top grossing retailer in Texas, but one of the top retailers in the nation.

Based on 2017 stats, H-E-B landed at No. 20 on the list with a whopping \$21.94

See RETAIL, Page 11

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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 exhibit was curated by Lorraine Schiller with support from Getty Images, Photo, Geoff Stoughton, White House Photographs, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston.

# Program to enhance college readiness efforts in Irving ISD

A nearly \$1 million investment from the Texas Instruments (TI) Foundation and the Irving Schools Foundation (ISF) will equip teachers with the tools they need to teach Advanced Placement (AP) courses more effectively at two Irving ISD high schools. Students who excel on AP exams could be rewarded for their success, as well as the teachers who teach them.

A \$750,000 grant from the TI Foundation and a \$150,000 award from ISF will fund the implementation of the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) College Readiness Program at two Irving ISD high schools for three years, beginning this school year.

"First, we want to thank the TI Foundation and Irving Schools Foundation for their generous investment in



Andre Hunter / Unsplash

the students and teachers of Irving ISD," says Laina McDonald, Ed.D., assistant superintendent of school leadership. "With this support, our Advanced Placement programs at Irving and Nimitz High Schools will receive ongoing resources for teachers as well as academic support for students."

NMSI's College Readiness Program offers comprehensive, content-specific

training and mentoring, instructional materials and ready-to-use classroom and lab materials for teachers, as well as expert-led study sessions, materials, supplies and mock tests for students. Students and teachers in the program also can receive monetary awards for their work and achievement.

"Irving is home to more than 30 national and international companies, where

skills in science, technology, engineering and math are critical," says Michelle Stie, vice president of teaching and learning for NMSI. "We are grateful to the TI Foundation and the Irving Schools Foundation for empowering us to deliver our proven programs in Irving ISD, and we are excited to get to work."

"Irving ISD teachers are some of the best in the business, so we leapt at the chance to partner with Texas Instruments Foundation to offer them reward and recognition for their results in the classroom," says Crystal Scanio, ISF president and CEO. "With the additional training that this grant will provide, we're confident that those results will be impressive indeed over the next few years."

Already, teachers have participated in training that

includes lessons and labs they can deliver to students, and school leaders have worked with NMSI to ensure more students can access AP math, science and English courses.

"We need more students to be college-ready, and that includes access to, and success in, challenging math and science classes," said Andy Smith, Executive Director of the TI Foundation. "The NMSI College Readiness Program addresses this need head-on through a teacher training methodology that continues to show dramatic improvements in student math, science and English Advanced Placement test scores. We're excited about taking this remarkable, proven program to two schools in the Irving ISD to equip an underserved population of students with the knowledge

and skills they will need to succeed after graduation."

NMSI and the College Readiness Program were founded in and continue to be operated from North Texas. More than 1,000 U.S. schools have participated in the program and after the first year, students have increased their number of qualifying AP exam scores by 10 times the national increase. That success is seen across student demographics and it continues to grow through the three-year program.

"Through the College Readiness Program, schools transform their cultures, teachers get the support they need, and students are propelled toward their highest potentials," says Stie. "These investments are a great development for Irving and for the future of North Texas."

## Kids in Birmingham 1963 meet for the first time more than 50 years after historic civil rights tragedy

BIRMINGHAM - Dale Long of Garland, Texas, will travel back to Birmingham in September, exactly 55 years after he escaped the church basement the day in 1963. The events culminating in

the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963 are widely recognized as pivotal in American Civil Rights. In the documented history of that time, a few

names stand out—the names of people who committed racial atrocities, those who led marches that helped turn the nation around, and those who died. But there are thousands of other names, those

of school children—both black and white—who were witnesses to history. On September 14-17, 2018, more than twenty of these Kids in Birmingham 1963 will meet in the city where they grew

up, many for the first time. During the unprecedented meet-up, those kids, now adults in their 60s and 70s, will take time for healing and renewal, participate in the 55th anniversary commemoration

of the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, and most important, share their stories with area students. Many of the activi-

See KIDS, Page 12

### SCHOOL, continued from Page 1

served students from the first through the twelfth grades—one room for elementary, one room for secondary with a kitchen dividing them.

Fast forward to present day when education is left in the hands of the State alone, schools face legislation like No Child Left Behind; and now replaced with Every Student Succeeds Act. The second "fix" is no better than the first. Academics were considered without care of the students' spirits and emotions.

"What the church provided was an avenue for students to have self-worth," Freeman says. "That's what the Bible teaches: that you

have to love yourself to love others."

In the Oak Cliff section of Dallas, the 3600 block of South Westmoreland runs north and south. Freedom Missionary Baptist Church is on the west side of the block, and Justin F. Kimball High School is on the east. Rudyard Kipling said, "East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet."

Dr. Mack T. Flemmings, Sr. is the pastor of Freedom, located on S. Westmoreland since 1979. For the past 44 years, Dr. Flemmings has looked across the six lanes of pavement dividing the church and school. He often considers ways his congrega-

tion might support their neighbor. But due to bureaucracy and apathy, those six lanes of roadway seem as vast and deep as the Grand Canyon.

Why can't those lanes be crossed? *NDG* asked Dr. Flemmings directly.

Dr. Flemmings suggests there are no lanes of division, but rather "The Wall" constructed by our founding fathers. The intent was to prevent the State from dictating how a man should worship his god. The interpretations of men, after that, have created a broad gray-line between church and state, according to Dr. Flemmings. Laws and governmental restrictions hamper the efforts of the church, but the biggest impediment fac-

ing the church is the unwillingness of men and women to get involved.

"There was a time when (Freedom MBC and the schools near it) were close. We've given our blood, sweat, treasure," Dr. Flemmings reflects.

Over the past 44 years, Dr. Flemmings has observed the ravaging effects of urban decay. He points toward rises in bullying, suicide, teen pregnancy, school dropouts and teen fatalities. "I'm burying more than I'm baptizing," Dr. Flemmings mournfully declares. He has also witnessed the birth of deep and brooding anger more prevalent in students today.

"It's really anger from home, and it's an anger due

to letdown," he suggests. Kids antics are desperate attempts to gain attention even if it is not positive attention. Dr. Flemmings contends the lack of enough adults teaching morals and values is a key factor. It is a result of parents often failing to teach their children boundaries and basic home values. "Everyone isn't religious, but we are all spiritual beings," he says.

Dr. Flemmings falls short of saying the mere infusion of the church back into the schools will solve society's ills, but he does believe, their absence is a part of the problem.

"There is no doubt in my mind that schools are less safe and less productive because of the separation of

church and state," he shared.

If Dr. Flemmings had his wish, he would like to see more young adults mentoring and talking to students in the language only the young can comprehend. "The only answer (students) have is to somehow get Christ back into the schools," he adamantly contends. "You can do that not by mentioning His name, but by presenting his character through you."

The six lanes of separation are seemingly impossible to cross. However, the prose of Kipling also offers some hope to those who would but dare to seek hope.

"But there is neither East nor West...When two strong men stand face to face."



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**Allen**

**Alfie from The Russ Martin Show** and the **Eagle Street Team** will be hosted on Sep. 1 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at American Shaman of Allen. There will be food, drinks, CBD and more. Everyone attending will have a shot at winning tickets to see Rise Against or Bullet For My Valentine.

For more information visit [Facebook.com/events](https://www.facebook.com/events).

**Carrollton**

**Labor DAY Daiquation** at Blends Daiquiri Lounge will be held on Sep 1 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Blends Daiquiri Lounge, in Carrollton. There will be n.o.l.a. inspired daiquiris, hookah lounge, upstairs VIP lounge extras, free parking, full dining menu, and drink and food specials. For more information and to buy tickets visit [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

**Dallas**

The **TBAAL Riverfront Jazz Festival** will be held on Aug. 31 to Sep. 2 at The Black Academy of Arts and Letters Inc., in Dallas. For three days, the 2018 festival attendees will browse and shop through vendor booths, experience diverse

foods and enjoy music performances. Produced by TBAAL, the Riverfront Jazz Festival promises to be another one of Dallas' annual major attractions for patrons, thousands of tourists and Dallas citizens. For more information visit [Facebook.com/events](https://www.facebook.com/events).

**Irving**

The **You Can Do It Conference** will be held on Sep. 1 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. to Homewood Suites Irving / DFW North, in Irving. This day will be jammed packed with powerhouse speakers Dr. Catrina Pullum, Kym Strong, Tammy Price, and Trenette Wilson. They will speak on subjects ranging from finance, business etiquette, startup businesses, and shifting the mindset will have every woman ready to live their best life. Be sure to arrive by 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$50.

For more information and to buy tickets visit [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

**Lewisville**

**Music, Tacos, & Games to Support Democratic Candidates** will be hosted on Aug 31 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Old Town Brewhouse, in Lewisville.

Join your fellow Democrats for a fun night with a DJ, karaoke, taco truck, and games to support our Democratic candidates in the Nov 6 election. Bring your favorite game. Democratic swag available for donation. Free Democrats Protect yard sign to everyone in attendance. For more information visit [Facebook.com/events](https://www.facebook.com/events).

**Plano**

Collin College will host the **THE ARTS FACULTY** on Aug. 29 to Sept. 26 at Collin College's Plano Campus, Room A175, in Plano. A free reception will be held on Sept. 6, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The diversity of media and styles will showcase professors' work collectively and for students to learn about art courses offered at Collin. Those courses include 2-D design, 3-D design, ceramics, communication design, digital arts, drawing, figure drawing, jewelry/art metals, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and watercolor. For more information about this or other exhibitions, contact Gallery Director Julie Shipp at 972.516.5070 or [jshipp@collin.edu](mailto:jshipp@collin.edu).

# Candidates for judge seats, state representative face audience questions at Dallas political forum

By David Wilfong  
NDG Contributing Writer

On Aug. 27 another round of Monday Night Politics was held at the African American Museum at Fair Park. Hosted by the Dallas Examiner, the series provides a forum for candidates seeking political office, and an opportunity to interface with the public. Monday night's event featured two judicial races and one campaign for state representative.

The first race highlighted was the 101st Judicial District Court, where Staci Williams is seeking to hold off a challenge from Republican Mike Lee in the general election. Williams was the only candidate appearing at the MNP forum (both candidates are invited in each race). She took the opportunity to remind the audience she had been there four years prior, and emphasized she had kept her promises made at the time.

Williams had told the voters she would make the process fair in her court, which is a civil court and has distinct differences from the criminal process. She said she has made a point to give attorneys ample time to prepare instead of rushing cases through. In the area of remaining involved in the community, Williams touted her personal program she has implemented to better inform Dallas County residents of the particulars of the civil court process.

"We'll talk about it more, but I want to talk about the Citizens Civil Academy which is a program that I created to educate citizens about the civil court process," Williams said. "It's free, non-partisan, and we take them all over Dallas County. In fact, we had over 250 graduates of the



Stephanie Fargo (left) was the first Republican of the season to accept an invitation to the Monday Night Politics forum. She is competing with Democrat Chika Anyiam (right) for the judge's seat in the Dallas County Criminal District Court No. 7. (Photo: David Wilfong / NDG)

Citizens Civil Academy and it doesn't cost the taxpayers of Dallas County one penny. It comes from my campaign fund."

The second segment of the evening featured both candidates for Dallas County Criminal District Court No. 7. In this race, Democratic nominee Chika Anyiam faces Republican Stephanie Fargo for the judges bench. Anyiam overcame a field of three competitors to gain the Democratic nomination. Fargo currently holds the position. Fargo comes to the race as a former prosecutor, and Anyiam's experience is in criminal defense.

"I think you guys can see from this evening that the criminal justice system, criminal justice reform should be a bi-partisan topic," Fargo told the largely Democrat audience. "Take the politics out of it. As a judge I seek justice. As a prosecutor, I sought justice. It was important to me, I'll say it again, to figure out why that case happened so that we can keep that person from coming back to the criminal justice system. The difference between me and Ms. Anyiam is that I now have a proven track record. I had a proven track record as a prosecutor, and now I have a proven track record

as a judge." Anyiam was quick to point out Fargo was appointed by Texas Governor Gregg Abbot, and was not put on the bench by the voters.

"Please remember that Judge Elizabeth Frizell was the judge of this court," Anyiam said. "(She) resigned and so we're both – my opponent and myself – are running for that bench. I have the experience, over 20 years as a criminal defense attorney. I have the track record. I was selected by my peers three times as one of their best; not just because I walk the halls and do pleas, but because I'm a trial lawyer, and we need a good trial judge as the presiding judge of the Criminal District Court No. 7."

The final segment for the evening centered on the race for Texas House of Representatives District 113. In that race, Democrat Rhett Andrews Bowers faces Republican Jonathan Boos. The current state representative, Republican Cindy Burkett is not seeking reelection, so there is no incumbent. Bowers was the only candidate attending Monday night's MNP forum.

Bowers said her oppo-

See MNP, Page 12

## Dallas Mavs Foundation open a career counseling center for homeless parents

The Mavs Foundation recently hosted an unveiling of a new Parent Opportunity Center Computer Lab at Vogel Alcove. On Tuesday, Aug. 14, Dallas Maverick Salah Mejri, representatives from the Mavs Foundation, PPG Paint, and Vogel Alcove attended the unveiling of the new center. The Parent Opportunity Center will be for homeless individuals, primarily young parents, in the Dallas area.

In the Parent Opportunity Center, parents will receive career counseling and coaching services free of charge to assist them with securing employment, training, and education, in order to provide for their



A special visitor gets some personal time with Dallas Mavericks player Salah Mejri at the opening of the new career counseling center. (Courtesy photo)

families. Along with the room renovation and new furniture, computers will be used for job searches, resume development and other education/training to pursue career advancement.



# Dallas Cowboys depth on offensive is questionable

By Dwain Price  
NDG Sports Contributor

ARLINGTON – Dallas Cowboys coach Jason Garrett will be the first to admit that backup quarterback Cooper Rush struggled mightily during last Sunday's 27-3 loss to the Arizona Cardinals in a preseason game at AT&T Stadium.

Garrett also will be the first to admit that there were mitigating circumstances attributable to those struggles by Rush.

In going down in flames to the Cards, the Cowboys played without – among others — center Travis Frederick, right guard Zack Martin, quarterback Dak Prescott and running back Ezekiel Elliott. Those four players are very key components to a Cowboys' offensive attack that's expected to make a lot of noise while advancing to the playoffs this season.

"We knew it was going to be a challenge (for Rush) with the combination of guys that we were playing with versus the combination of guys that they had in the game early," coach Jason Garrett said. "Obviously we were depleted on the offensive line, and that is one of the reasons that Cooper got the opportunity to play.

"They were playing their frontline guys, so we knew it was going to be tough sledding in that situation. But again, that's a great opportunity to evaluate a guy, to see how he handles that adversity. Unfortunately for him, turning the ball over a couple times hurt us."

Overall, the Cowboys turned the ball over a whopping eight times against the Cardinals. Obviously they hope to retain possession of the pigskin a bit more when play their final preseason game on Thursday at 7 p.m. on the road against the Houston Texans.



Rush, who is battling Mike White for the backup quarterback spot behind Prescott, was 11-of-17 for 93 yards and a pair of interceptions against the Cardinals. He's just happy the Cowboys are working on a short week after that disastrous showing against Arizona.

"You want to get back out there, you don't want to think about it all week," Rush said. "I'm really excited to go out there and get another shot at it.

"We've got a strong group of guys, a strong team. Everyone picks each other up. Throw that one away and get right back to this week for Thursday."

In the three preseason games, Rush is 32-of-49 for 275 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions, while White is 17-of-22 for 157 yards and one interception.

The Cowboys are closely monitoring Rush's performance just in case something happens to Prescott.

"I think the biggest thing you want to go back and look at is just play-by-play in how (Rush) responded to the adversity," Garrett said. "You just don't want to get out of whack when you're struggling as a group.

"You've got to maintain your poise, you've got to keep making good decisions. We'll evaluate that when we look at the tape."

Elsewhere, Prescott has only been on the field for four drives this preseason while leading the Cowboys to 17 points. With the regular season set to start Sept. 9 at Carolina, is that sufficient enough time to get on the

same page with a mostly new cast of receivers?

"I don't think there's never enough work, but I think we've had a lot of reps together, we've had enough to play well," receiver Cole Beasley said. "I'm going to continue to work with him until it's perfection, and I don't think that's ever achieved.

"We're going to keep grinding all season. There's always room for improvement."

In the meantime, Martin participated in practice on Tuesday for the first time since hyper-extending his left knee during the Aug. 18 preseason game against Cincinnati. Frederick, meanwhile, is suffering from an auto-immune disease call Guillain-Barre Syndrome, and it is not known how long he will be sidelined.

Frederick, in a statement, said he had received a pair of treatments already and will continue those treatments.

"After a very extensive examination and discovery process over the past few weeks, I have been diagnosed with having Guillain-Barre Syndrome which is an auto immune disease. I am feeling much better from an overall strength perspective.

"I am very optimistic about my condition and the immediate future, as I have been told that the illness was detected at a fairly early stage. My doctors have told me that it is not possible to determine a time table for a return to the field right now, but I am hopeful that I will be able to play as soon as possible."

The Cowboys also had to reluctantly address the status of defensive end Randy Gregory, who has returned this summer after being suspended three times by the NFL for violating its sub-

stance abuse policy. During the game against the Cardinals, a tweet by NFL writer Jason La Camfora raised concerns about Gregory's battle with addiction, but it didn't elaborate.

After Tuesday's practice, Gregory, who collected a sack against Arizona, repeatedly said he had no comment on the tweet. But owner Jerry Jones said: "His status is really day-to-day. Every day is another day there. Randy came into this league as an outstand-

ing player. There is no questioning his talent.

"Having said that, we just have to continue to work. He'll be the first one to tell you. It's the same story from me, but we have to go day-by-day with him. We wouldn't have him out there if we couldn't plan on him. You saw (Sunday night) and you saw in his other work – really, this entire training camp – that he gives us that additional pressure."

The importance of having Gregory on the Cowboys'

defensive front wall can't be overstated.

"He has just done a really good job, right from the start when we started practicing out in Oxnard," Garrett said. "He looked like he was in good shape, he looked like he had his football legs underneath him.

"He is a very instinctive player, a very instinctive pass rusher. He has got great quickness, speed, and explosiveness, and a real knack for getting to the quarterback."



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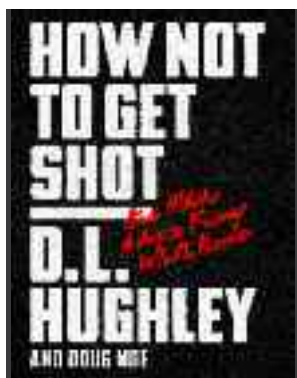
## NDG Book Review: *How Not to Get Shot – And Other Advice From White People*

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Stop.

Put your hands in the air and don't move. Keep 'em where they can be seen. Get down, get down, get down, get on the ground! Those are words that nobody wants to hear but read "How Not to Get Shot" by D. L. Hughley and Doug Moe, and you'll know exactly how to react.

For most of your life – and, for that matter, for most of your Mama's life, your Grandad's life, possibly your Great-Grandad's life – white people have been telling black folks



what to do. That's why you need this book; in fact, it "might be the most important book you buy this year..." because it's by a black man who translates the confusing parts of what white people say to black people. It's a book for black

people, but Hughley recommends that you pass it around because there's always gonna be somebody next.

The first thing you need to know might be the most important: how not to get shot. To start, learn how to "comply with police orders," because black people, says Hughley, are "very target-y-looking." If you're a mind-reader, that's good; that's what you really need to be.

Look online and you'll see that white people have made it simple: "Don't break the law and you won't get shot." Other things you

might want to remember: Don't use your pockets. Don't reach for a weapon, a driver's license, or dreams. Anything can look like a gun, so don't carry anything, ever, at any time.

"Do be an angel," but understand that things will still get "twisted" to make you look bad if you're arrested – even when you're innocent. Don't drive a car that's too nice. Never accidentally get lost in unfamiliar neighborhoods. Dress "less threatening" and "don't match the description." If you have to have tattoos, "get ones that are butterflies or Smurfs..." Know your history. And if

somebody brings up the subject of taking a knee and the NFL, remind them "who brought politics into the sport in the first place."

In a sea of humor books that are not funny at all, "How Not to Get Shot" is refreshing because it's very funny, in the most sarcastic way possible.

And yet, authors D.L. Hughley and Doug Moe have managed to do something unique: they'll make you snort just before they leap into serious-as-a-judge territory. No, this book isn't ha-ha-hilarious all the time; it's stand-up comedy on a page, but it's also edgy and

biting, and it talks to readers about things they've already been thinking but perhaps just haven't said. Hughley and Moe offer humor – but also commentary about events, past and current; real advice, usable and solid; as well as shared outrage.

And so. This book is funny, no matter how you cut it. It'll make you want to read bits of it aloud to your friends – but it's also sobering and nothing to laugh about. Once you start "How Not to Get Shot," though, you'll love it and you'll never want to

Stop.

## Labor Day options in Dallas includes fashion, Gospel music, yoga and more

By Tiffany Gilbert  
NDG Entertainment

**Culture Couture:** fashion show is Friday, Aug. 31 at 7 p.m. at the One Love Lounge. This is an opportunity to support your favorite local fashion designers and models. This multicultural fashion show and after party will offer a fusion of DFW's best Carribean, African, and American music, fashion, and cuisine all in one building. Register at Eventbrite.

Potter's House is hosting the **2018 McDonald's ICGT** on Aug. 31 at 7 p.m. the 12th annual McDonald's 2018 Inspiration Celebration Gospel Tour appeals to a wide range of gospel music lovers with a FREE and unforgettable music experience for the entire family. This year's lineup of award-winning talent includes Deitrick Haddon, Donald Lawrence, Ricky Dillard, JJ Hairston, LéAndria Johnson, Todd Dulaney and Canton Jones. Radio personality Lonnie Hunter resumes hosting duties. Register at Eventbrite.

The **DFW FREE DAY OF YOGA** is bringing back hybrid Hatha + Vinyasa class at Nike Dallas on Sept. 1 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.



Tone your core, create beautiful lines and build your mental strength. But hurry they only got 40 spots available so sign up quickly at Eventbrite.

The **You Can Do It Conference** scheduled for Sept. 1 at Noon at the 1600 Viceroy Dr. was created to ignite confidence, hope, and strategy for everyday women who desire balance in their personal and professional life. This event will expose toxic and thoughts that trigger unhealthy patterns, and actions that prevent us from unlocking our full potential, and creating streams of wealth from an authentic place. Tickets for the event are at Eventbrite.

**Beauty Boss Brunch** on Sept. 1 at noon is just the event for you to learn how

to start your own business in the beauty industry. Doing services and actually doing business are totally different. Come learn how to start or grow your business, social media, business laws, branding, build your website and more. Register for the Arlington event at Eventbrite.

**Piles** will be performing live Sept. 2 at 9 p.m. for Labor Day Weekend with an official all white affair. DJ Duffey will also be celebrating with a birthday bash with special guests like Trap Boy Freddy, Bay Bay, Mr. Hit That, and many more. The party is going down at 17727 Addison Rd with tickets starting at \$20 and can be ordered at Eventbrite.

Get your laugh on Labor Day at the **Laugh Out Loud Comedy Show** fea-

turing Roylee Pate, Kasey Evans, Jamaal Dennis, Lauren Ashley, and Kali Vega all under one roof on one night.

Live at the Texas Theater Center in Oak Cliff. Tickets

start at \$17.

**Black Women's Wall Street Networking Event** is for us by us, as we take entrepreneurship to another level. This will be an envi-

ronment to showcase your business and business ideas with other like-minded women on Sept. 5 at the Ricchi Towers starting at 6 p.m. More info on their Facebook page.



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# Without more federal reforms, Black wealth to be wiped out by 2053

By Charlene Crowell

For years, and particularly in recent months, major news outlets have heralded the nation's robust economic recovery. From rising corporate profits, to lower unemployment, or rising stock prices on Wall Street, many consumers might conclude that financial stability not only returned after the Great Recession but continues to climb.

But for people of color, and specifically Black America, the state of the economy has not recovered. Instead of low unemployment, many who were laid off during the foreclosure crisis today are under-employed and cope with paychecks that lead to more month than money. Recent college graduates remain living with their parents, often due to burdensome student debt that delays them setting up their own households. And according to a recent report by the Federal Reserve, a single \$400 unexpected expense led to borrowing, selling something or not being able to pay for four in 10 adults last year.

These seldom unacknowledged financial disparities emerged during testimony at a Capitol Hill hearing on August 21. A subcommittee of the U.S. Senate's Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions heard and learned about how a history of economic exclusion, combined with a more recent wealth shift to the top 10 percent of income earners, leads to a bleak financial future for people of color.

Scott Astrada, Federal Ad-

vocacy Director for the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), testified to the "fear, anxiety and despair facing millions of Americans as they look toward a financial future plagued with uncertainty and loss."

Citing data from multiple and recent research reports, Astrada noted a still-growing economic divide that has worsened since the Great Recession. Today, the wealthiest 10 percent now own 76 percent of the nation's wealth, and the median net worth of Blacks and Latinx are respectively \$11,000 and \$14,000. Further, the May 2018 Federal Reserve's Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2017, found that fewer than 40 percent of adults feel they are on track to retire with adequate savings, and 25 percent have no retirement savings at all.

"For households of color, the Great Recession erased the economic progress made over the past three decades in their entirety," said Astrada. "If current trends continue, it will take 228 years for the average Black family to reach the level of wealth White families own today. For the average Latinx family, matching the wealth of White families will take 84 years."

"Ultimately," Astrada continued, "if current trends continue Black household wealth is on the path to hit zero by 2053."

Two long-standing federal policies were cited as key components to today's financial disparities: government-backed mortgages and Social Security. Both federal

programs, according to Astrada, have a sordid history of discrimination that brought long-lasting and significantly diminished and deliberate federal efforts to diminish the financial well-being of Black Americans.

In 1935, the year that Social Security began as a financial safety net for older Americans, the New Deal program excluded domestic and farm workers. Representing nearly a third of the nation's workforce in the 1930s, these Americans were also largely people of color. A 2017 publication jointly released by Prosperity Now and the Institute for Policy Studies, The Road to Zero Wealth, tallied that long-time economic exclusion to be approximately \$143 billion in 2016 dollars.

Fast forward to 2018, and generations of lower wages and benefits translates into nearly a third of Black retirees relying solely upon Social Security as the sole source of retirement income for more than half of retirees for all races.

Similarly from 1934 to 1968, widespread redlining in the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) low-down payment, government-backed mortgages denied Blacks and other people of color opportunities to build and transfer wealth from one generation to another. During this 34-year span, only two percent of FHA mortgages were available to people of color. In just one city, Chicago, this three-decade exclusion shortchanged Black Chicagoans by \$3 billion in 2017 dollars.

"The harm of homeown-

those companies in large part due to its focus on local communities through programs that honor educators and invest in area nonprofits.

The grocery giant also endears itself to Texans by being a great place to work. In late July, Forbes ranked H-E-B as one of America's 300 best workplaces for women, using data that covered everything from diversity to working conditions.

ership disparities," added Astrada, "is especially clear when considering that two-thirds of the net wealth that is held by the middle 60 percent of families is in the form of home equity, resulting from, among other factors, invested wealth and appreciation."

The lack of convenient access to full-service banking was identified by Astrada as a third factor diminishing Black wealth. Communities of color, particularly those with low-incomes, frequently lack access to traditional banking. Often these same communities are where high-cost, alternative financial services offering check-cashing, money orders, or payday loans sell their predatory products.

"Individuals cannot simply save and borrow as necessary to smooth dips and spikes without access to affordable and wealth building credit," said Astrada. "Predatory lending ensnares families already in emer-

gency situations."

Since the onset of the Trump Administration, multiple federal agencies such as the Department of Education and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau have emphasized the need for more consumer information.

Although a 2017 report by Prudential Financial, Inc. entitled, The Financial Well-being of America, found that a majority of working Americans suffer from financial stress due to struggles to pay monthly bills, and/or saving for the future, the corporation's representative at the hearing representative attributed this financial angst to "the evolution of retirement and healthcare benefit offerings."

Vishal Jain, a vice president with Prudential Financial, Inc.'s Workplace Solutions Group testified, "Today's workers are having to assume increased responsibility for their financial security. When coupled with day-to-day financial obliga-

tions, such as mortgages and student loan debt, it is easy to understand why employees may be experiencing higher levels of stress about their financial situation."

None of the other persons testifying in the hearing spoke to the continuing discrimination that people of color encounter despite federal and state laws calling for equal treatment.

But Astrada did.

"For the purposes of this hearing, I want to underscore that financial literacy cannot, by any means, solve everything...Furthermore, the limits of financial literacy, in the context of discussion, require that strong regulators and sound consumer protection policy remain at the root for retirement readiness," concluded Astrada.

Charlene Crowell is the Communications Deputy Director with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsibleblending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsibleblending.org)

## RETAIL, continued from Page 5

billion in sales, coming in ahead of powerhouses like Kohl's, Starbucks, Nordstrom, and Wendy's.

The ranking is even more impressive when you consider H-E-B's number of stores. A handful of other grocers made the top 20, but H-E-B reached its figure with only 330 stores. Compare that to Florida's Publix Super Markets (No. 15) who made \$34.56 billion

with 1,384 locations or Illinois-based discount grocer Aldi, who netted \$25.86 billion with 2,250 outposts.

What inspired so many Texans to open up their wallets? The NRF didn't offer any context, but in June, professional services firm KPMG LLP conducted a study asking U.S. consumers to rate their feelings on 250 national brands. H-E-B landed at No. 4 among

## LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1847	<b>\$250,000 Cash Winfall</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.68	\$10	9/2/18	3/1/19
1626	<b>Did I Win?</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.51	\$1	9/6/18	3/5/19
1857	<b>Weekly Half Grand</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 4.62	\$1	9/8/18	3/7/19
2044	<b>The Cash Wheel</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 5.05	\$3	9/29/18	3/28/19
2037	<b>Some Like It Hot</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 4.70	\$1	10/24/18	4/22/19
1861	<b>Instant Bingo</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 4.24	\$2	10/24/18	4/22/19
2009	<b>Bling</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 4.65	\$2	10/24/18	4/22/19
2033	<b>High Roller</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.89	\$5	10/24/18	4/22/19
2036	<b>Power 5's</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.97	\$5	10/24/18	4/22/19
2026	<b>Super Hit Super Ticket™</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.45	\$10	10/24/18	4/22/19
1845	<b>\$100 Million Golden Treasures</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.16	\$20	10/24/18	4/22/19

For retailer address and game information, visit [texaslottery.org](http://texaslottery.org) or call 800-375-0000. Visit us often to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education and veterans. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. For help with a gambling problem, [supportgambler.org](http://supportgambler.org). © 2018 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

TEXAS LOTTERY



# To ex-felons: Keep your hustle, but change your product

By Shannen Hill  
NNPA Contributor  
Los Angeles Sentinel

Lamont Carey has taken his past and created a new future in literature, spoken word, motivational speaking and criminal justice reform.

Growing up in Washington, D.C., Carey saw family members and loved-ones arrested and harassed by police officers. He became a target himself, when he started selling drugs at the age of 11. Police were an enemy for Carey and at 16 years old, he was charged as an adult for armed robbery along with selling guns and drugs. He would go on to complete 11 years in

prison.

"I built up a dislike for police because every time I saw them, they were hurting or taking away someone that I love. What I didn't know as a kid was that the people who they were arresting were criminals," said Carey.

At the time, battle rap was popular and Carey would battle different inmates for fun. One of Carey's inmates told him that he was a good story teller and challenged him to write a book. His first book, *The Hill*, was a hit in prison and when Carey was released, he thought about publishing it. However, with not much of a following, he couldn't find a publisher who

was willing to give him a fair percentage of the sales.

Carey decided to put publishing the book on hold and got into spoken word poetry. At first Carey was just going to poetry clubs to listen, but after heckling a few of the hosts, he got called out to come to the stage and perform. Carey freestyled on the spot and got a great response from the audience. He decided to go back the next week with something written and not only did he get an applause, but an audience member asked for a copy of his poem on a CD. Once Carey started recording his poetry, he became popular on the poetry scene, so popular

that he received a call from Russel Simmons, himself, to be on the television show, Def Poetry Jam. Spoken Word Poetry became Carey's first major platform.

"People wanted to hear my poetry in other countries and some of the countries, I couldn't even travel to because of my felony conviction," said Carey. "The biggest problem I have with the criminal justice system is that I made mistakes in my past, but now I have been home over a decade and that criminal record still infringes on my rights to be able to thrive and move about."

Once Carey had a following, he decided to publish the

book that he wrote in prison, *The Hill*, which became a three-part fiction series about life in prison. Carey also worked with a school district in Albany, N.Y. to publish a poetry book for students to use in class along with a book about using art to be an entrepreneur. His latest novel, *Dead Before 18*, guides young men in finding positive ways to handle anger and stay out of trouble.

Along with literature and poetry, Carey also does motivational speaking and runs two companies. One of his companies, LaCarey Enterprises, focuses on helping youth express themselves through art, literature and spo-

ken word. His other company, Contact Visits, helps formerly incarcerated people transition back into society. One of Carey's main goals is to improve the criminal justice system. While he has been fortunate with success, he realizes everything that is stacked against criminals, even after serving their time.

Carey is dedicated to helping the formerly-incarcerated see their value and change their futures. For more information on Carey's businesses, visit [www.contactvisits.org](http://www.contactvisits.org) and [www.lacareyenterprises.com](http://www.lacareyenterprises.com). You can also find Carey on all social media platforms @Lamont-Carey.

## KIDS, continued from Page 6

ties planned for Kids in Birmingham 1963 TM will be open to the public.

Kids in Birmingham 1963 TM was formed as a website in 2013 by Ann Jimerson. Jimerson launched the site to document and feature the firsthand accounts of about 60 children who lived in Birmingham during the Civil Rights era. The website offers an opportunity for them to share their stories, docu-

menting how people of both races responded to and were affected by the events of 1963. Since then, the website has linked educators, students, and researchers who want to interview its members, to understand the dichotomies that existed under Jim Crow and segregation during the 1960s.

"In some cases, Birmingham children in 1963 lived in proximity to each other, but

due to the social and political climate, they had no contact with one another," says Ann Jimerson. "Today, that's nearly impossible for most children to imagine.

Contact: Ann Jimerson, (202) 425-5702 [KidsInBirmingham1963@gmail.com](mailto:KidsInBirmingham1963@gmail.com) @KidsInBham1963

"The mission of our coming together will be to continue to tell our stories. We think it's important to capture the voices of children to enrich the history of that pivotal

time. But most important we tell our stories to help make today's social and political climate in America better."

Jimerson continued, "Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it."

One of the highlights of this historic gathering will be a book signing by Sharon

Robinson, daughter of the first African American to play for Major League Baseball, Jackie Robinson. Jackie Robinson's life was chronicled in the highly acclaimed box office success "42." He often visited Birmingham during the 1960s. Ms. Robinson will speak about her

soon-to-be-published book of fiction for young adults, about the pivotal year of 1963.

The city of Birmingham, and some of the "Kids," play a role in her book.

For more information, visit [www.KidsInBirmingham1963.org](http://www.KidsInBirmingham1963.org).

## MNP, continued from Page 8

ment was funded by West Texas money and Empower Texans (a Political Action Committee). She also said he was an anti-vaccination advocate, which she sees as dangerous given the current rate of disease in nearby areas. A proponent of public education, she warned her opponent was a supporter of school vouchers. She also noted she would be the first African American to hold the seat in Austin.

"I want to bring representation to our community that represents us," Bowers said. "The district itself is 43.1 percent Anglo, 49.4 percent Black and Brown, and 7.5 percent 'other.' And what I found when I was that substitute teacher is that our students, and our community needs representation that looks like us."

There will be no MNP forum held on Labor Day, but it is scheduled to return

on Sept. 10. There may be changes to the venue and races in upcoming weeks due to candidate availability and size requirements.

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# Upcoming DFW area job fairs

## Sept. 5 GM Job Fair

A Job Fair will be held on Sep. 5 and will accept walk-ins from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the GM Universal Facility, In Grand Prairie. They are looking to hire forklift drivers and warehouse workers. 2nd and 3rd shift positions available. Applicants must bring two two pieces of valid/unexpired ID. For more information please contact Bryant Whitaker at 817-513-5402 or bryant@malacehr.com.

## Sept. 6 Job Fair Open House

The Job Fair Open House will take place on Sep. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 2120 West 33rd. St., in Dallas. They will be accepting on-the-spot interviews and applications from cooks, food preps, first airline food equipment handlers (must have class a or b cdl), driver helpers, materials storekeepers/forklift operator, food and beverage cart assemblers, equipment and sanitation utility workers, building maintenance, and vehicle mechanic (diesel/auto). May be subject to same-day background check and drug screening. Applications can be completed upon arrival or online at [www.lsg-group.com/work-us/jobs/](http://www.lsg-group.com/work-us/jobs/)

## Sept. 10 Dallas Job Fair

A Dallas Job Fair will be hosted on Sep.10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Double-Tree, in Dallas. Meet face-to-face with local recruiters & hiring managers who will be onsite and ready to offer on the spot interviews and job offers. Available positions range from entry level up to professional & management. To prepare for this event be sure to dress professionally and bring at least 10-20 copies of your updated resume. For more information call (508) 981-6995.



## Sept. 12 Dallas Career Fair - Meet Fortune 500 Companies

Dallas Career Fair - Meet Fortune 500 Companies will be held on Sep 1 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Double-Tree, in Dallas. You will be able to meet recruiters from local, regional, and Fortune 500 companies. Many of the companies represented at the fair will have base + uncapped commission pay structure, flexible work schedule, full benefits, 401k, stock options, company car or gas allowances, president club trips & other incentives, and opportunity for immense growth. Business professional attire is required, and be sure to

bring plenty of resumes. To register or apply visit CareerBuilder.com

## Sept. 13 Sales Associate Hiring Event

The Sales Associate Hiring Event will be held on Sep. 13 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at AutoNation Ford, in Frisco.

The Sales Associate will interact with hundreds of customers and help guide them in their vehicle purchase in a no-haggle sales environment. Base salary plus incentives will be offered.

Requirements: High school diploma or equivalent

- Proven ability to provide an exceptional customer experience

- Drive to set and achieve targeted goals

- Prior sales experience, retail preferred

- Excellent communication, consultative, interpersonal and organizational skills

- The willingness to follow up with customers

- Experience and desire to work with technology

- Valid in-state driver's license and an acceptable, safe driving record

To apply, send your resume to [figueroae@autonation.com](mailto:figueroae@autonation.com).

## Sept. 18 Dallas Job Fair

United Career Fairs is hosting DALLAS JOB FAIR Sales and Management on Sep. 18 starting at 6 p.m. at Renaissance Hotel, in Addison. Available positions range from entry level up to professional &

management. To prepare for this event be sure to dress professionally and bring at least 10-20 copies of your updated resume.

## Oct. 17 Dallas Career Fair - Sales, Management, Business Development

The Dallas Career Fair-Sales, Management, Business Development will be held on Oct. 17 at 6 p.m. at Hilton Garden Inn, in Las Colinas.

You will first be offered a formal executive presentation in which each company will introduce itself and the opportunities they offer. You will then be free to meet with hiring managers from each company that has

attracted your interest. At the same time, you will be able to network not only with various employers but also with other professionals.

Wear business professional attire and be sure to bring plenty of resumes.

## Oct. 25 Live Recruiting/Hiring Event

The Live Recruiting/Hiring Event will be held on Oct. 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Magnolia Hotel Dallas Park Cities, in Dallas. Be sure to register at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com). Dress professionally and be sure to bring plenty of resumes. For more information contact 877-561-5627.



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

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

**September 2, 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.

**September 5, 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 supporting chapters and verses. Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you; it's Time to Grow in the Word of God.

Dr. Terrance Woodson, Senior Pastor  
1944 E. Hebron Parkway  
Carrollton, TX 75007  
972-492-4300  
[www.bethelbiblefellowship.org](http://www.bethelbiblefellowship.org)

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

**September 2, 9 a.m.**

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

the Jocyie 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.

**September 5**

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**

**August 31, 7 p.m.**

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

**September 2, 10 a.m.**  
Don't forget to invite family and friends to join us for our Morning Service as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**September 5, 7 p.m.**

You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us.

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

**September 2, 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.

**September 5, 7 p.m.**

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's

plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Dr. Sam Fenceroy, PhD  
Senior Pastor and  
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Come and connect to God through Shiloh; grow in Christ through the study of God's Word; and Serve God through service to each other and to the world. John 12:26.

**September 2**

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.

**September 5,**

You're invited to our AWANA Registration at

**See CHURCH, Page 15**

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# Are you a fool?



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

NOTE: In Bible Study at 12 Noon on Sunday, 08-26-2018, Dr. Woodson, Senior Pastor, Bethel Bible Fellowship Church, was teaching on "The Traits of a Fool"; this was a good study with other scriptures to backup.

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline."* (Proverbs 1:7)

Marvin Wilson, author of Our Father Abraham, has written incisively about the various meanings for our word "fool": In Biblical wisdom literature, the pupils of the sages and mentors are the unwise, often termed "fools" (Proverbs 1:7) or "simple one" (Proverbs 1:22). In wisdom literature, the different levels of fools, both young and old, are the raw material on which the sages had to work, and they represent the varying degrees of rawness.

Perhaps as much as anything else, the term fool is descriptive of an attitude, bent of mind, or direction in life, which needs correcting. The various Hebrew words for fool occur more than a

hundred times in the book of Proverbs.

The reference to someone being a fool was not necessarily a negative term. A simple fool was a person who made mistakes, but quickly righted them and was restored to fellowship with God and with others. King David was a simple fool, one who made mistakes, but kept a repentant heart toward God. This is why God did not turn away from him for his many sins.

The hardened fool, makes mistakes, but never learns from them and will not listen to others. Such people can expect God's reproof to continue and will eat the fruit of their own way (see Proverb 1:31-32). The hardened fool "returns to his own vomit." King Saul was a hardened fool, one who made mistakes and continued in them even after realizing he was wrong. We're going to err in our ways. The question is, once we know we have made a mistake before God, do we make the necessary adjustments that will allow Him to intervene on our behalf? And, will we avoid the same course of action in the future? God says that if we do, He will pour out His Spirit on us (see Proverb 1:23). He will make known His words to us.

The third level of fool mentioned in Proverbs is the mocking fool. The mocking

fool mocks the things of God. This word means "scoffer" or "scorner." When you encounter cynical people who disregard the things of God, you know these people are "mocking fools."

The fourth level of fool is the God-denying fool. This term relates to the morally wicked person who ignores the disgrace he brings on his family and who despises ho-

liness (see Proverbs 17:21). This person says, "There is no God." By failing to acknowledge God for who He is, the God-denying fool, declares himself to be a "God-denying" fool.

It has been found that it is helpful to try to understand if people are teachable. Are they simple fools, those who make mistakes but seek to learn from them? These people can be worked with,

but if people sense they are working with a hardened fool, they know they should not spend much time on that person. Jesus did not spend much time trying to convince the rich young ruler. He presented truth, and let

him make his decision. Some people must get broken before they can become simple fools. Sometimes it is simply better to let Satan work on people until the ground is fertile enough to present truth to them.



GeRand Nelson and Terrance Woodson, Jr. in their camp shirts and head bands, when they showed film of camp activates for the week of camp.

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## CHURCH, continued from Page 14

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opportunities for motivation and growth; join us and see. Be blessed of the Lord.


Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.  
Senior Pastor  
920 E. 14th Street  
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**NDGtv** North Dallas Gazette takes a moment to reflect on the past with **Historical Perspectives from Sister Tarpley**

Hear what it was like growing up in a very different Dallas when Booker T. Washington was a black school. Sister Tarpley graduated from there and went on to college and later became a city councilmember in Carrollton.

**Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com**




 A photograph of Beto O'Rourke and Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson. Beto is on the left, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, looking towards Eddie. Eddie is on the right, wearing a white and pink striped top, looking back at Beto. They appear to be in a meeting or conversation.
 

Beto with Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson

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