



North Dallas Gazette

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Irving students take flight to new adventures

By Rachel Hawkins
NDG Staff Writer

When you get on an airplane, the mechanics of flight and how the plane works is not typically what you are thinking about. Most likely it is the last thing on your mind in the midst of checking your overweighted luggage, being held up by TSA, and the chaos of finding your flight before takeoff.

But luckily for some Irving students, they are gaining a whole new understanding of the idea of "taking flight." In Irving High School's aviation science program, these students have the unique opportunity to learn about different types of aviation. Including how the varied forms work, and why.

Craig Heckel is the aviation science coordinator for Irving High School. The program launched in 2012, when the aviation industry was seeking more people to join the field.

"The industry is trying to grow, and it can't grow because there are not enough people coming in the front door to match the people who are going out of the back door," Heckel said. "The industry was recognizing that, and they were going to the colleges to do recruiting but that wasn't good enough. So now



Irving High School Aviation Science students include (from left to right); Gabriel Sanchez (senior), Caleb Fancher (junior), Javier Ramirez (senior), Jason Bernal (senior), Anthony Stahl (junior), Erika Gamboa (junior), Angie Maravi Campos (junior) and Craig Heckel (sponsor). (Photo: Irving Independent School District)

they are going to the high schools to start these programs to get people interested, and let them know there is a huge umbrella of aviation that you can work in electronics, computer programming, or be a fireman under aviation."

The program is open from ninth through twelfth grade. Everyone begins by taking principles of aviation in ninth grade. In tenth grade, their studies expand for an in-depth examination of various aviation concepts.

At the end of their second year, sophomores can select a specific

track to pursue for their final two years. Their options include drone engineering, flight, or the mechanical side.

"We teach about everything," Heckel said. "In their freshmen and sophomore year, we look at GPS, learning how to fly, various principles, and Newton's laws. So all of the things that affect aviation."

The program offers students the benefit of hands-on engagement.

"In some cases, I had the students build the equipment like wind tun-

See FLIGHT, Page 12



Starting off BHM with Blackface

-See Page 3



Better Chocolate choices for Valentines

-See Page 4



Richardson's Mayor condemns AOC tweet

-See Page 5



DISD begins process to find new Dist. 4 rep

-See Page 6



Carrollton library hosts STEAM fair

-See Page 7



Entertainment options for Valentines

-See Page 9



Win tickets to see Mariah Carey

-See Page 10



Sister Tarpley: Time for Black History Month

-See Page 15

INSIDE...

People In The News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community	5
Education	6
Carrollton / Irving / Plano	7
City Briefs	8
Entertainment	9-10
Marketplace	11-12
Legal Notices / Career	13
Church Directory	14-15
NDG Book Review	16

See Page 2

READERS SOUND OFF!!!

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

People In The News...



Rep. Helen Giddings



Ken Chenault

On the GO??? But still need to be in the KNOW!!! Bookmark NorthDallasGazette.com on your phone or mobile device!!!



Rep. Helen Giddings

Helen Giddings, former Texas State Representative, will be honored with the James C. Belt Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award by the United Methodist Men of St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church at the organization's 2019 Honors Brunch. The presentation event is set for 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 23 at Paul Quinn College.



Chair of the selection committee, Terry Robinson, said Representative Giddings' accomplishments exemplify the same spirit of leadership, civil rights and social activism demonstrated by the late attorney

James C. Belt Jr. for whom the award is named. Belt was an attorney and activist who served St. Luke UMC and represented a variety of civil rights causes for several decades.

"The Belt award is presented annually to an individual with a record of outstanding vision, dedication and commitment to serve the citizens of their community and the state," Robinson said. The first recipient of the award was Ron Kirk, Dallas' first African-American mayor and U.S. trade ambassador. Robinson said the goal of the recognition "is to shine a light on deserving individuals who have given of their time serving all people and ensuring that justice prevails for all."

Giddings is President of Multiplex Inc., a specialty concessions company, which she founded in 1989. Previously, Giddings served as Vice President of Leader-

ship Development at the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce and as an executive responsible for 11 states with Sears.

While serving in the legislature, Rep. Giddings served on and chaired numerous committees. She has a strong commitment to public service and has served on the boards of various organizations in the Dallas area including the Dallas Black Chamber and the Dallas Planning Commission. Rep. Giddings has served as President of the bipartisan 1600 member, National Foundation of Women Legislators and served on the Executive Committees of the Women's Legislative

Network of the National Conference of State Legislators and the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative (NOBEL) Women.

For ticket information, email St. Luke United Methodist Men at umm.stluke@gmail.com or email Terry Robinson at lawrence12202000@yahoo.com. A portion of the proceeds from the event will be donated to the James C. Belt Jr. Scholarship Fund at Paul Quinn College.

During her legislative career, highlights included successfully authoring legislation on dyslexia and other learning disabilities as well as programs which address

adult education. In higher education, Giddings led efforts to eliminate geographic and ethnic disparities in funding. Her endeavors have led to more equitable funding for institutions of higher learning in the Metroplex.

To provide equal opportunities for minorities and rural students, in 1997 Giddings joint authored the Top 10% rule. During the 79th Legislature as the Business and Industry chair, she jointly authored legislation creating the new Worker's Compensation system as well as authoring five bills focusing on Identity Theft Prevention, Punishment of Criminals, and Help for Victims of Identity Theft.

Ken Chenault

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS—The HistoryMakers announces the one-on-one interview program, An Evening with Ken Chenault. The hour-long program provides a rare, inside, look into the life and career of one of America's most successful CEOs — Ken Chenault. The program is hosted by CBS sportscaster and NFL network host James "J.B." Brown and serves up a master class on corporate and civic leadership featuring interviews from those who know and



have worked with Chenault during his phenomenal career.

Viewers will hear from Chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway Warren Buffett; former Xerox

CEO Ursula Burns; Merck CEO Kenneth C. Frazier; Lazard Freres Senior Managing Director Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.; Media legend Oprah Winfrey; Co-Founder and Co-Executive Chairman of The Carlyle Group David Rubenstein; former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg; Harvard President Larry Bacow and former Harvard University President Drew Faust; NBA legends and Hall of Famers Julius "Dr. J" Erving and Earvin "Magic" Johnson Jr.; Chair of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts Katherine

Farley; his sons Kenneth and Kevin Chenault and his wife, Kathryn Chenault, among many others. An Evening With Ken Chenault peers behind the veil of Chenault's rise to the head of one of the world's most successful companies, and sheds light on his effective leadership as well as his legacy.

"We're excited to have produced the 'must see' program," says Julieanna Richardson, Founder and President, The HistoryMakers. Having the opportunity to showcase the life and career of the most preminent

business leaders of our time — Ken Chenault presents a unique master class on corporate and civic leadership.

Chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, Warren Buffett describes Chenault "as one of the greatest leaders of our time. He is a leader, he is competitive, and he is smart. The real test of leadership is when you go up the mountain and your troops follow you," says Buffett. "They follow you because they believe in you and they believe you do see the value over the top mountain. If

they don't see it, they will still follow."

Chenault when asked about his legacy ends the program saying: "My most important legacy that I can leave is that I made a meaningful difference in people's lives, I hope I have been a catalytic agent for change," says Chenault. "I firmly believe that none of us should be satisfied by the status quo—you should always try to change the status quo."

Check your local listings for An Evening with Ken Chenault starting Sunday, February 3.

NDG Readers Sound Off...

Ricardson mayor condemns councilman's "bimbos" tweet to Rep. Ocasio-Cortez

Scott Dunn is our current District 3 representative, but does NOT reflect the values of our diverse and inclusive community.

"Mayor Voelker made it clear such comments, even when sent via a personal account, not a Richardson communication channel, is not reflective of the City's values."

-- Reid Robinson via Facebook

I'm starting to see this story on national news out-

lets. So embarrassing for Richardson.

-- Karen Blake Dunham via Facebook

To be clear, it would have been a nonevent had people ignored it. Not taking a position one way or the other on that issue -- just an observation. Dunn is not running for reelection in May so this could just as easily have been ignored. People say stupid things on Social Media all the time.

-- David Stephan via Facebook

Reader Recommendation

love looking to North

Dallas Gazette for all the upcoming live events!!

-- Angelina Serrano - Perez via Facebook

Win tickets to see Mariah Carey

Love every song, because mariah carey is amazing. So amazing i tattooed her autograph on my arm last summer but thats a story for another time. If i have to pick one song i guess i cant go wrong with the original greatness that was Vision of Love i had a vision of love and it was all that youve given to meeeeeeeew

-- Nikki Anderson-Browne

Fantasy is mine I'm probably one of her biggest fans I sat next to her twins during this show her Christmas show. I can't post the picture because I was asked not to share it by the her team but I do have the picture saved lol

I went several years to her shows in NYC real spectacular.

-- Aubrey Campos

My favorite song!?! There's too many ☑ I think ...• it's "Bye Bye or Cant Take That Away"

-- Joann J. Sosa

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Governor starts Black History Month with Blackface

By Roger Caldwell
NNPA Contributor

When the Republicans are calling for a Democratic governor to step down from his office because of a racist photo, something must be horrific and shocking. Virginia Governor Ralph Northam, during Black History month (February 2nd, 2019), acknowledged that a photo in his 1984 Eastern Virginia Medical College yearbook was him dressed in a KKK robe and hood or blackface.

Most Americans of any race or culture would consider this offensive, and someone must be held accountable for this breach of trust. Many would expect anyone connected in any way to this despicable display of sickness would automatically resign from office. But in the state of Virginia, they must operate on a different set of principles.

On Friday Senator Tim Kaine made a statement that read, “The racist photo from Governor Northam’s 1984 yearbook is horrible. This causes pain in a state and a country where centuries of racism have already left an open wound. I hope the Gov-

ernor – whose career as an Army officer, pediatrician and public official has always manifested a commitment to justice and equality for all – now takes the time to listen to those he has hurt and reflect on how to move forward.”

Even though Senator Kaine acknowledged that this act was despicable and horrible, he did not ask the governor to resign. He and his fellow senator of the state of Virginia, Senator Mark Warner, released statements that called for the governor to listen to the people, and consider the communities he hurt.

It is obvious that the community that this picture impacted the most was the Black community, and the Black community leadership was very vocal, and they expect the governor to resign. This is not a situation that the Black press will allow to be swept under the rug, and there is no excuse that can be made to justify this behavior from the governor.

The subject of racism is very difficult to discuss in 2019, and it appears that our president has gotten away with many derogatory racist statements.

When President Trump continues to get away with calling Mexicans and Latinos people with problems, drug dealers, criminals, or rapists, he creates division in the country. By continuing to demonize a race and people of color in America, these ridiculous statements from the White House get Trump supporters to believe these lies.

When racism is uncovered or exposed by anyone a change must take place.

The NAACP’s president and CEO, Derrick Johnson, immediately called for Governor Northam to resign on the day the event was exposed. The list [calling for the Governor’s resignation] continues to grow in the state and the [state’s] two senators have joined the Virginia Congressional Delegation, led by Rep. Bobby Scott, who believes the governor cannot effectively serve in his position with this cloud hanging over his record.

On the next day, which was Saturday, Governor Northam changed his statement and denied being in the medical school yearbook photo but admitted to wearing Blackface while dressing up like Michael Jackson at a

dance contest. At the time of the writing of the article, the governor has vowed to remain in office despite widespread calls for his resignation.

As the list calling for the governor’s resignation continues to grow, it makes no sense for him to continue to fight for his political career. The Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, Eric Holder, Tom Perez, Hillary Clinton, Rev. Jessie Jackson, Joe Biden, every Democratic presidential candidate running for office, U.S. Rep. Karen Bass, (Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus), and singer John Legend, have all called for his resignation.

The governor can apologize, but the damage was done decades ago, and everyday he is a reminder of bigotry, racism and White Supremacy. He has created a crisis in the Democratic Party in Virginia and the country, and it cannot be resolved without his resignation.

Pass the baton to the Lt. Governor, Justin Fairfax, a Black man, and the Virginia Democratic Party can move forward with no regrets, and a breath of fresh air.

Farewell my dear friend

By Congresswoman
Eddie Bernice Johnson

With the passing of former Michigan Congressman John Dingell Jr on Feb. 7, our nation has lost one of its greatest public servants whose selfless work helped to shape our country’s laws, policies and programs for more than half a century.

It was an honor to have served with him and to witness his unrelenting commitment to the finest principles that America stands for, and to see the passion which he displayed while serving people who came to know, respect and admire him.

Congressman Dingell’s interests and impact extended far beyond the Michigan district that elected him, beginning in 1955 when he assumed the congressional seat that was

held by his father, John Sr., who introduced legislation in Congress to provide health insurance for American citizens. The younger Congressman Dingell was a member of Congress longer than any other person who has had the privilege to sit in that body.

At the root of his beliefs was social justice. He was an ardent supporter of efforts to have the Medal of Honor bestowed upon Dorie Miller, the Texas native who saved many of his fellow sailors during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He worked to improve the environment, and to pass civil rights legislation.

As chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee in the House, Congressman Dingell guided legislation that promoted healthcare, consumer pro-

tection, government social service programs and many others of merit. His voice and presence gave hope to those who despaired, and provided light to those who felt as though they were consumed by bleakness.

At the beginning of each Congress in which he served after succeeding his father, Congressman Dingell introduced legislation that would have created what became in 1965 the Medicare program, providing health insurance to our nation’s senior citizens.

When the Affordable Care Act was signed into law by President Obama in 2010, the president said that Congressman Dingell was partly responsible for the legislation, stating that it was something that he had worked arduously to bring about. President Obama

called Congressman Dingell a visionary.

Congressman Dingell’s prescient and presence continues in the House of Representatives. His wife, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, was elected to his seat when he decided to retire from Congress. She has continued the Dingell tradition of legislative and personal excellence.

I have no doubt that when the history of Congress is written John Dingell’s name will be included amongst those that helped to guide our country, having served us with dignity and distinction.

Congresswoman Johnson represents the 30th Congressional District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives. She also chairs the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology.

Better chocolate choices for Valentine's benefit heart health

For Valentine's Day consideration, skip the milk chocolate candy and replace it with a cup of dark hot cocoa.

"In terms of protecting the heart, research suggests that drinking a cup of dark hot chocolate can be equated with drinking a glass of wine," says Dr. Lona Sandon, a registered dietitian at UT Southwestern Medical Center who



Jennifer Pallian / Unsplash

urges people to eat and drink in moderation.

Typical candy bars and

boxed chocolates may be tasty, but their added fat, sugar, and calories make

them less healthy treats, she says. But pure chocolate, made from cocoa beans, is rich in flavanol, an antioxidant that may help protect arteries from damage, maintain healthy blood flow, and fend off heart disease.

Dark cocoa and baking cocoa contain a higher percentage of cocoa solids and less or no added sugar, respectively. They are excellent sources of polyphenols,

a class of compounds that includes flavanols. Chocolate in its more processed form, meanwhile, is loaded with extra oils, milk, and sugars that combine to lower its level of polyphenols.

A bar of dark chocolate weighing about 1 ½ ounces contains approximately 950 milligrams of antioxidants, while a similar bar of milk chocolate contains only

about 400 milligrams. White chocolate is a confection of fat and sugar and contains no antioxidants.

"Cocoa by itself may provide some health benefits. It's what is added to it that's not so good for us," she says.

A day of indulgence should be tempered, she advises. It's still important to pay attention to the overall calorie counts.

Data shows E-Cigarette leading to an epidemic threat to nation's youth

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Results of the 2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) released this week by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention highlight the rapidly growing popularity of electronic cigarettes among youth. The results show that 4.9 million middle- and high-school students were current users of some type of tobacco product in 2018, an increase from 3.6 million in 2017, and that there were in excess of 3.5 million youth e-cigarette users in 2018, 1.5 million more than in 2017. The data show that not only are



Vaping360 / Flickr

more kids using e-cigarettes, but they are also using them more frequently.

The American Heart Association released the following statement in re-

sponse to the survey:

"These jarring numbers are further proof that the e-cigarette epidemic in our nation continues to escalate. Thanks to the tobacco in-

dustry's relentless targeting of youth, e-cigarette use is increasing exponentially and creating new avenues for nicotine addiction in kids. Data showing that e-cigarette use jumped by 78 percent among high school students and 48 percent among middle school students is cause for grave concern, especially with data showing that kids are often transitioning to conventional cigarettes and pairing e-cigarettes with other tobacco products or recreational drugs.

"E-cigarettes are reversing decades of progress in

reducing tobacco use among youth, and government action is necessary to counter this mounting threat. We welcome FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb's recent moves to restrict the sale of many flavored e-cigarettes in places such as convenience stores and gas stations, and we urge the FDA to take immediate additional steps to strengthen its crackdown on companies' aggressive targeting of children, including:

- Removing flavored e-cigarettes from the market;
- Prohibiting all marketing practices, including

those on social media, that are shown to appeal to children;

• Suspending online sales of e-cigarettes until effective age verification mechanisms are established; and

• Enforcing rules that prevent the sale of products that were not commercially marketed as of August 8, 2016, or were modified after that date, without premarket review.

"Absent immediate and urgent action, the epidemic of e-cigarettes will further spiral into an even greater public health crisis."

Love Field launches Aira Access service to facilitate travel for visually impaired

Dallas Love Field has launched Aira Access and joined the Aira Airport Network, a service that gives passengers who are blind or low vision instant access to the eyes of a trained professional while traveling through the terminal.

Aira is a mobile app that any person requesting assis-

tance can use once entering airport property. The app connects passengers with a trained agent through the lens of a smartphone camera to assist with navigation, check-in, concessions and other aspects of the airport experience.

Using Aira at Dallas Love Field is free for customers,

who simply download the mobile app to their phone. Through Love Field's subscription, the airport pays for usage minutes. A paid model is available for Aira as well, giving blind and low-vision customers the option of purchasing smart glasses.

"Love Field is always looking for innovative ways

to improve the customer experience," Department of Aviation Director Mark Duebner said. "Offering an accessible and welcoming facility for all travelers is paramount to accomplishing that goal. We are thrilled to join the Aira Airport Network."

Dallas Love Field is the first airport in North Texas to

enable Aira Access for customers. More than 30 airports across the nation have deployed Aira Access, including many Love Field destina-

tions. It is also available at sports venues, public buildings and retail stores. AT&T Stadium is another area destination in the Aira network.

Local church approved for Texas Historical Marker

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) has recognized Mount Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church as a significant part of Texas history by awarding it an Official Texas Historical Marker. The designation honors Mount Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church as an important and educational part of local history.

"The Official Texas Historical Marker program helps bring attention to community treasures and the importance of their preservation," said

Mark Wolfe, executive director of the THC.

Making sure the community today and in the future recognizes the contributions of the church is key to why it received the honor.

"Awareness and education are among the best ways to guarantee the preservation of our state's history. This designation is a tool that will increase public awareness of important cultural resources," Wolfe said.

A subject qualifies for a marker if two basic criteria

are met: historical significance and age. Historical significance is established by reviewing its role and importance in local history, and the age requirement depends on the topic.

Mount Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church is the oldest African American Baptist Church Congregation in Dallas County and the third oldest African American Baptist Church in the State of Texas. Mount Pisgah, affectionally called The ROCK was formed on the third Sunday

in June 1864, under an Elm tree in the Upper White Rock Community in Dallas County. Mount Pisgah will celebrate 155 years of continuous service in June of this year.

Texas has the largest marker program in the United States with approximately 15,000 markers. Seventeen states have used the Texas program as a model; the THC reviews more than 300 marker applications each year.

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Richardson mayor condemns councilman's 'bimbos' tweet to Rep. Ocasio-Cortez

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

Richardson Mayor Paul Voelker issued a statement indicating he was “extremely disappointed and embarrassed” by out-going Councilman Scott Dunn’s tweet referring to a U.S. representative as a bimbo. The mayor acknowledged Dunn and citizen has the right to share their opinion, however, doing so in a civil and respectful tone is necessary to lead to productive results. “Even when we disagree about important political and social issues, we



shouldn't resort to name-calling,” Voelker stated.

Dunn’s deleted tweet read, “The embarrassment is to have bimbos like you with nothing between your ear.

Mayor Voelker made it clear such comments, even when sent via a personal account, not a Richardson communication channel, is not reflective of the City’s values.

“I condemn the description of any woman in this manner as clearly inconsistent with Richardson’s values, as further articulated by the City Council’s Rules of Engagement as outlined in our 2017-2019 Statement of Goals,” Voelker stated.

Dunn, who announced last month he is not seeking re-election this spring, has deleted his personal Twitter account. However, former councilmember Amir Omar captured and shared via Facebook a screenshot of the tweet which was in response to a tweet from U.S. Representative Alexandria

Ocasio-Cortez representing New York. NDG does not have info on the original tweet to which Dunn was directing his reply. The congresswoman is a frequent target of criticism and attacks from both sides of the aisle.

“I really don’t care what political team you root for and whether you like one representative or another. I don’t even care that although you are representing a city in a non-partisan role, you can’t hold your tongue out of basic decorum. What I do care about is that you are so tone deaf that you

don’t realize that using sexist terms like this one reflects badly on our City. #richardsonroyalty,” Omar shared via Facebook.

This incident comes on the heels of Voelker response to NDG’s inquiry regarding the absence of any events hosted by the city in celebration of Martin Luther King Day. He pointed to the fact the library will include Dr. King and the accomplishments of others during Black History Month

“Richardson has a strong focus on inclusion, diversity and multi-culturalism,” according to Voelker.

Expunging the Past: Learn the in’s and out’s of clearing a criminal record

Cass Robert Callaway, a practicing criminal defense lawyer who represents individuals accused of misdemeanor and felony charges, will be the presenter for the February Lunch & Learn Series class at Frazier House. The class is Feb. 21 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Frazier House, 4600 Spring Avenue.

He will provide participants with strategies on how

to clear their criminal records. His discussion will focus on:

- effective strategies for preserving/allowing for criminal record clearing eligibility
- a view of the criminal record clearing process
- alternatives to getting around criminal record history when record clearing isn’t an option

• the do’s and don’ts of online criminal record databases/mugshot scam sites

- practical ways of getting criminal records cleared with an eye toward your finances

Callaway will discuss also how you can be an effective advocate for legislative and policy changes in your community, at work, and in your sphere of influence – to

make criminal record clearing more available to people fighting for a second chance.

Cass Robert Callaway is a practicing criminal defense lawyer. He also serves as local counsel for the online record clearing law firm – Higbee & Associates (www.recordgone.com). He has managed the filing and resolution of hundreds of expunctions, non-disclosures

and motions to set aside conviction. Callaway also serves as the presiding municipal judge in Hutchins, TX and the alternate municipal judge in Addison. He attended and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin, worked in politics in Washington, D.C. for several years, returned to Texas to attend law school at Texas Tech School of Law, and

now resides in Dallas operating his practice – The Law Office of Cass Callaway.

To register for the event: <https://www.zwhjccoc.org/classes-expunge/>

The classes are free and open to the public. Bring your lunch; they will provide the drinks. For more information, email: info@zwhjccoc.org or call Jasmine Anderson at 214-324-4443.

McKinney seeks citizen input in quality of life survey

The City of McKinney is conducting a resident survey to gauge citizen satisfaction in McKinney. Residents are encouraged to visit the city’s website to complete the online survey by Feb. 22.

“Citizen survey results are an integral part of our

strategic work and will help staff and City Council identify priorities for the community, learn of their concerns, and ultimately improve the quality of life in McKinney,” said CoCo Good, Communications and Marketing Director.

The city has been work-

ing with independent consultant, National Research Center, Inc. of Boulder, Colorado, to develop the survey.

The survey allows the city to compare results and benchmark residents’ opinions against other communities across the country.

The survey includes questions about quality of life, important characteristics of community, services provided by the city and priorities for the future.

“We hope all residents will participate in this survey,” said Mayor George

Fuller. “McKinney is a great community in large part because of the feedback we receive from the community. Before we make any changes, it is important for us to be able to measure how we’re doing. This survey allows the resi-

dents to help us identify areas where we can improve and it will help us ensure that services are being provided in the most effective and efficient manner.”

To take the citizen survey, visit online www.mckinneytexas.org/Survey.

State Representative Victoria Neave Files H.B. 1583 to Help the 35,000 Federal Employees in Texas Impacted by Government Shutdowns

AUSTIN — State Rep. Victoria Neave filed House Bill 1583 to provide emergency relief to federal government employees in Texas who are at risk of losing their homes because of a federal government shutdown. H.B. 1583 creates a

“Government Shutdown Housing Relief Loan Program” to provide furloughed federal employees with a 0% interest loan from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to pay for their rent, mortgage, or utility pay-

ments during a government shutdown. Over 35,000 Texans who are federal employees missed paychecks during the most recent federal government shutdown and may not get paid if another federal government shutdown occurs on Friday.

“While partisan bickering in Washington D.C. compromises the livelihood of dedicated public servants, federal employees, who are being used as pawns in political games, House Bill 1583 seeks to keep these working families on their

feet during future government shutdowns by providing an emergency loan,” said State Rep. Victoria Neave. “Working families should not be punished because of partisan gridlock.”

The most recent federal government shutdown, the

longest in history, lasted 35 days from December 2018 to January 2019. During this time, many federal employees struggled to pay for basic necessities like housing and utilities, and many workers had to take temp jobs to pay their bills.

Dallas ISD Board of Trustees seeking applicants to fill vacant District 4 seat

The Dallas ISD Board of Trustees on Feb. 5 accepted the resignation of Jaime Resendez, who represented District 4.

Trustees also approved a process to potentially appoint a trustee to temporarily represent the seat that covers Southeast Dallas, Seagoville, and Balch Springs. The ap-



pointment would last until May, which is when voters will elect a District 4 trustee to a regular three-year term of office.

Under the process approved by trustees, the district

on Feb. 6 will issue a call for resumes and statements of interest for candidates who meet the legal requirements and are interested in temporarily filling the District 4 seat.

Resumes are due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19 by email to boardservices@dallasisd.org.

Trustees will review candidates before the Feb. 28 board meeting, and then interview and potentially select a candidate on March 4 to temporarily fill the seat for about two months until the May election.

Below are qualifications for consideration of the District 4 seat:

- A United States citizen;
- At least 18 years old on the date of the appointment;
- Registered to vote in District 4;
- Has resided continuously in Texas for 12 months, and in District 4 for six months prior to the date of the appointment;
- Must not have been deter-

mined to be totally or partially mentally incapacitated by an appropriate court;

- Has not been finally convicted of a felony (or if convicted, has not received a pardon);

- Cannot have a final conviction for an offense under Texas Penal Code Section 43.02(b).

'Saturn V Girls' Team from Hockaday wins 1st Place Champion's Award at 11th annual North Texas First Lego League Regional Championship Robotics Tournament

After months of intense preparation, nearly 600 North Texas youth came ready to compete at the 11th-annual North Texas FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Regional Championship Robotics Tournament held Feb. 9 at Parish Episcopal School and Community Center. Tasked with this season's "INTO ORBIT" robotics competition challenge, the teams have spent hours studying the vast expanse of space and coming up with innovative solutions using science and technology. Winning the 1st place Champion's Award was the "Saturn V Girls" team, with students from The Hockaday School in Dallas, who will advance



Pictured from left to right are Kelly Goodner (Perot Museum FIRST LEGO® League manager), Anika Kapoor, Sydney Slay, Nina Dave, Jayna Dave, Celine Ebert of the 1st place championship team "Saturn V Girls" (Courtesy photo)

to the World Festival in Houston April 17-20. The 2nd place team – "Axis of Eagles" (with students from Carrollton's Prince of Peace Christian School) – will also head to the World Festival.

Taking 3rd place, the "Ambassador Lightning" team with students from Fort Worth's Bethesda Christian School will head to the LEGOLAND North American Open in Carls-

bad, Calif., May 17-19. And taking 4th place, the "STAR Fleet" team with students from Frisco will advance to the Razorback Invitational in Fayetteville, Ark., May 16-19.

Each Champion's Award team was recognized for fully embracing the FLL Core Values while achieving excellence and innovation in the robot game and project.

Produced by the Perot Museum of Nature and Science and supported by ARCO/Murray, Rockwell Collins and USAA, the FLL competition featured 60 teams of nearly 600 young "engineers in training" who learned about research and experimentation, teamwork

skills and robot-design strategies. Teams also built and programmed an autonomous robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS technology to score points in 2.5-minute "mission" matches on a space-themed playing field.

"FLL is not only fun and competitive, but teaches critical thinking, team-building, and presentation skills that will be key for our future workforce," said Dr. Linda Silver, Eugene McDermott CEO of the Perot Museum. "This program serves as a gateway for kids to pursue careers in STEM, which is pivotal to the Perot Museum's mission to inspire minds through nature and science. Our region

touts one of the fastest-growing leagues, and we look forward to producing the championship event for years to come."

This year's FLL journey began in August 2018, when 4,600 North Texas students ages 9-14 – and approximately 323,500 students worldwide – received the "INTO ORBIT" theme. They spent the next few months studying real-world challenges associated with the vast expanse of space and coming up with innovative solutions using science and technology. After qualifying rounds took place in December and January, nearly 600 North Texas youth qualified for the regional tournament.

Lecture explores the Greek Islands 'Then and Now'

Take a trip to the Cradle of Democracy through stories and pictures during Collin College's next Passport to the World event, "Then and Now: A Tour of the Greek Islands," Feb. 26 from 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at the college's Plano Campus Living Legends Conference Center. The event is free and open to the public.

Professor Ryan Fletcher will reflect on his travels to Athens, Crete and Rhodes, delving into the rich histories and cultures of the islands. Join him for a discussion of their place in history, connection to modern discourse and their importance in storytelling.

Passport to the World is a free event series led by

Collin College faculty and staff members who have traveled to a variety of global locations and share their newly-acquired knowledge about different cultures, art forms, architecture, music, religions, political systems and more. The series will continue in April with "The Aloha State: Saying 'Hello' and 'Goodbye' to the Hawaiian Islands."

Collin College's Plano Campus is located at 2800 E. Spring Creek Pkwy. in Plano. For more information about Passport to the World, visit www.collin.edu/academics/passport or contact Dr. Dallie Clark at dclark@collin.edu.

DCCCD hires founding dean for new bachelor's degree program

For years, Dallas County faced a shortage of qualified early childhood teachers, which limited the number of pre-kindergarten students who could go to school. Working to solve that labor gap, Dr. Joe May, chancellor of the Dallas County Community College District, asked the Texas Legislature in 2017 to support a bill that would allow DCCCD to offer a bachelor's degree in early childhood education. The new law passed, and the district began laying the foundation for its first bachelor's degree.

DCCCD took a major step forward in the program's development with

the appointment of Robert DeHaas as founding dean of the Early Childhood Education Baccalaureate Institute at Brookhaven College. Members of the DCCCD board of trustees approved his appointment during their regular monthly meeting on Tues., Feb. 4, 2019. DeHaas, who most recently served as founder and CEO of the Dallas Teacher Residency, starts his tenure immediately.

The bachelor's degree program will be offered by Brookhaven College and is supported by faculty, programs and degree pathways at several other colleges in the district. DCCCD expects to launch its early

childhood education bachelor's degree program in fall 2020.

"We are excited Brookhaven will offer our first baccalaureate degree program, particularly one that will help enable more young children to enter Dallas-area classrooms because we will have more teachers with K-3 credentials to teach them," said May. "The program fills a critical gap, and we welcome Robert DeHaas as its first dean."

DeHaas said, "I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to become the founding dean of DCCCD's Early Childhood Education Baccalaureate Institute. I look

forward to working with the district and community leaders to successfully establish this institute on behalf of all educators and our children, who deserve high-quality, educational experiences."

"With his established connections in both the education and non-profit sectors across the region, Rob DeHaas brings a wealth of talent and experience to the role of founding dean for the college's initial bachelor's degree program," said Dr. Thom Chesney, president of Brookhaven College.

Chesney added, "Rob's

See DEAN, Page 11

Carrollton Library hosts second annual Spring Break STEAM Fair

Carrollton, Texas – The Carrollton Public Library will host the second annual Spring Break STEAM Fair on Friday, March 15 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs Road).

The STEAM (Steam, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Fair will provide hands-on experiments for ages 6-12 from a variety of local businesses in the areas of science, tech-



Pawel Czerwinski / Unsplash

nology, engineering, and math. Activities are supplied by Schneider Electronics, the Perot Museum

of Nature and Science, UT Dallas, GoEngineer, and iCode. Admission is free, no registration is required, and parents are welcome to join in the fun with their kids.

Each of the hands-on, inquiry-based activities involved at this come-and-go event will allow participants to boost their knowledge, increase their imagination, and inspire new ways to integrate the five disciplines into their everyday lives.

There will be kits to assemble, circuits to investigate, mazes to build, and more to explore. The STEAM Fair wraps up a week of Spring Break Shenanigans at the Library presenting a different FREE boredom-busting activity each day for children ages 6-12 years.

The week's activities start on Monday, March 11 at 12 p.m. with a Movie Marathon of the Hotel Tran-

sylvania 1, 2, and 3 at Josey Ranch Lake Library.

On Tuesday, March 12 from 1-3 p.m., visit Hebron & Josey Library (4220 N. Josey Lane) to create some Book Art. The Library will be upcycling old books to generate unique craft projects or one-of-a-kind masterpieces.

An evening of Video Game Mania will be held at Josey Ranch Lake Library on Wednesday, March 13

from 6-8 p.m. Bring your friends or make new ones, as you meet other like-minded gamers.

On Thursday, March 14 from 12-2 p.m., Hebron & Josey Library will host a Library Scavenger Hunt for participants to explore undiscovered parts of the Library and win a prize.

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

Communities Foundation of Texas invests in Collin County with new office in Frisco

Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT) is pleased to announce the opening of a new office in Collin County, located in Frisco's Hall Park (2401 Internet Blvd., Suite 101, 75034). The new office extends CFT's far-reaching history of service in North Texas, dating back to 1953. Since 2006, CFT has awarded more than 4,000 grants to 923 nonprofits in Collin County totaling more than \$51 million.

"Communities Foundation of Texas has been serving donors and nonprofits in Collin County for many years and this new office will allow the Foundation to more easily meet the needs of those living and working in this burgeoning area," said CFT President and CEO Dave Scullin, who has resided in Collin County for more than 30 years.

Along with the new satellite office, CFT has established a Fund for Collin County to provide dedicated charitable resources to meet community needs now and in the future. The Fund was created in fall 2017 with an initial \$500,000 investment from CFT, and through the generosity of individuals and other stakeholders in Collin County, it has now grown to more than \$1 million.

"CFT is delighted to expand our commitment and investment in the communities of Collin County," said Sarah Beeks Higdon, CFT's director of charitable giving for Collin County. "We are encouraged by and grateful for the incredible support our expanded activities have received from the people and businesses here."

The first grants from the Fund have been awarded to two deserving nonprofit organizations, CASA of Collin County and ManeGait Therapeutic Horsemanship, both of which offer leadership and programming to address critical needs of the county's most vulnerable populations. CASA of Collin County, which provides volunteer advocates for children, and ManeGait, which provides equine therapy to children and adults with neurological impairments, will receive grants in the amount of \$20,000 each to help continue their unique services.

Additional examples of CFT's work in Collin County include:

- Collin County Nonprofit Leadership Institute: Capacity building for nonprofit organizations is available through the Collin County Nonprofit Leadership Insti-

tute, which is a CFT initiative in partnership with United Way of Metropolitan Dallas. Twelve agencies were selected through a competitive application process to be in the initiative's first cohort. The agencies will attend monthly sessions held throughout Collin County in 2019, with training focused on agency and program leadership, with learning opportunities for program staff and board members. Participating agencies also can receive a capacity building grant of up to \$5,000, contingent on their participation and attendance.

- North Texas Giving Day. Just last year, North Texas Giving Day raised more than \$5 million for 334 Collin County nonprofit organizations. The top categories of giving were Schools – \$1,366,000; Hunger, Food and Nutrition - \$811,000; Youth and Children - \$592,000; Animals - \$448,000; and Education - \$414,000.

- CFT for Business: Through the CFT for Business service offering, CFT works with businesses in Collin County to establish a customized philanthropic strategy and for their local corporate giving, providing

expertise and resources to help companies develop a culture of good corporate

citizenship. CFT for Business organizes volunteer events, educational and pro-

fessional development workshops, and networking events.

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Arlington

The **North American Reptile Breeders Conference and Trade Show** will be held on Feb. 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Arlington Convention Center, in Arlington. Top reptile breeders

from around the world showcase and sell their captive-born reptiles at this huge trade show. Thousands of reptiles, including snakes, turtles, geckos, iguanas and tortoises, will be on display and available

for purchase. Reptile enthusiasts of all ages can enjoy animal encounters, speakers and more. \$15 for adults, \$8 for children 6-12, free for children 5 and younger. Admission good for both days. Tickets can be purchased

online through PayPal or at the door (cash only). For more information visit www.narbc.com

Dallas

Don't miss the **Dallas Black Dance Theatre:**

Cultural Awareness from Feb. 15 to Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m. at Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre, in Dallas. This performance will honor iconic singers like Odetta Holmes and Nina Simone with soulful dance

pieces by Matthew Rushing and Dianne McIntyre.

Explore the Hidden History DFW: African American Tour on Feb. 16 from

See BRIEFS, Page 11

Texas Senate Finance Committee debates education funding

By Richard Lee
Texas Senate News

(AUSTIN) Members of the Senate Finance Committee on Monday considered the budget for the largest slice of state spending: public education. The Senate budget proposes spending about \$112 billion in general revenue over the next two years, and more than half of that goes to pay for public education.

The Senate budget bill, as filed, adds \$2.4 billion to cover projected enrollment growth over the next two years, but also \$6 billion above that to pay for increased teacher compensation and to offset whatever revenue is lost by any prop-



Senator Royce West of Dallas last week met with a group of constituents from Grand Prairie in the Old Supreme Court Room in the Capitol. Justices held court in this room until 1959, when they moved into their own building. The room itself was restored in the '90s and now serves as a historical exhibit open to visitors as well as an occasional meeting room. (Courtesy photo)

erty tax reform measures that become law. Both of these issues were among six labeled as emergencies by Governor Greg Abbott in his State of the State address last week, opening the door for immediate legislative action. Abbott, along with Lt. Governor Dan

Patrick and House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, vowed to fix the school finance issue this session.

Senate Finance Chair Senator Jane Nelson of Flower Mound and other members of the panel pushed back against reports claiming that

the state share of public education funding is decreasing due to policy decisions at the state level. It's the way that Texas pays for schools that causes this, said Nelson. For the most part, local property taxes go to pay for local schools, and that money gets kicked in first, with the state making up the difference between local revenue and statutory entitlements. So if local revenue for a certain district goes up, due to tax rate increases or growth in property values, the state sends less money to that district.

"I think there's some misconceptions out there in the public about how this works," said Nelson. "If we want to change it, so be it, but that is the way it is, and the

way it's been for as long as I've been here." That system has been on the books since 1949, she said later, and while the legislature can decide to change that system, it's not a new phenomenon. "It doesn't do any good to portray things inaccurately," said Nelson. "The Supreme Court said it's constitutional, but it's a mess... we need to fix it but we need to work together to fix it."

What most people think of as "education funding", said Senate Education Committee Chair Senator Larry Taylor of Friendswood, is actually just a part of the total funding called "maintenance and operation." That does include things like facilities funding, instructional materials, and other pools of money that

often do not get figured into the local-to-state funding ratio, he said.

Taylor's Education Committee will consider how to address a school finance overhaul this session. He will likely author the Senate bill aimed at education finance reform, and while the details haven't been released, Taylor gave a preview of how he expects it to proceed.

"We are making great strides in education. I am excited about this session," Taylor said. "We're going to put more money into education, but we're not just going to put more money into it, we're going to direct that money into programs that really work, have a history of

See SENATE, Page 16

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AARP celebrates Black History Month. Learn more at aarp.org/blackcommunity.

AARP
Real Possibilities

NDG Entertainment: Valentine options abound this week in DFW

By Tiffany Gilbert
NDG Entertainment

Experience **Obama-ology** From Feb. 8 to Feb. 24 at various times at Jubilee Theatre, in Fort Worth. When African-American college graduate Warren takes a job with the 2008 Obama campaign, he's fired up and ready to go – until he lands in the troubled streets of East Cleveland. But somewhere between knocking on doors, fending off cops and questioning his own racial and sexual identity, he learns that changing society isn't as easy as he imagined. Suggested for ages 16 and older. Tickets start at \$20. For more information visit <http://www.jubilee theatre.org/s/Obama-045%3Bology/29>.



Dallas Black Dance Theater

All You Need Is Art: Valentine's Day At The DMA will be held on Feb. 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Dallas Museum of Art, in Dallas. This one-night-only Valentine's dinner will involve Four-course dinner with optional wine pairings

(gratuity included), cocktails and DJ YeahDef, exclusive access to Between Action and the Unknown: The Art of Kazuo Shiraga and Sadamasa Motonaga, and valet parking. For more information visit www.dma.ticketleap.com/dma-valentines/.

Make it a non-date night and shred your ex at Bowl & Barrel for **Singles Awareness Day** on Feb. 14, starting at 6 p.m. Celebrate being independent by bringing a pic of an ex and enjoy complimentary passed hors d'oeuvres on us. Visit BowlandBarrel.com for more information.

Kitchen Dog Theater continues its 28th season of the-

ater with the regional premiere of **You Got Older** by Clare Barron. Mae's life is kinda falling apart. Her boyfriend dumped her, she got fired from her job, and she's moved back home to take care of her dad. As if that weren't enough, she has this weird rash and a fantasy cowboy that just won't leave her alone. What happens when your life path leads you right over a cliff? In this bawdy, irreverent and touching new play, up-and-coming playwright Clare Barron masterfully blends reality and fantasy in a dark comedy about falling apart as you're failing to launch, and what you might find instead. Opening night is Feb. 14 runs through March

10. Tickets and info at kitchentheatre.org.

Give the gift of belly laughter this Valentine's Day, when the one and only **Cedric the Entertainer** blows into Dallas for a special one-off stand up comedy show on Feb. 16 from 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Music Hall at Fair Park, in Dallas. Born and raised in Jefferson City, Missouri, the midwestern mogul cut his teeth on the Chicago stand up scene, which lead to appearances on the Steve Harvey show and multiple other sitcoms before the bright lights of Hollywood came calling in the late 90s. Returning to his live comedy roots for the special romantic holiday show, Cedric is sure to live up to his

namesake, wrangling laugh-till-you-cry moments from everyday observations and situations. Admission ranges from \$69 to \$79. To purchase tickets visit Ticketmaster.com.

Celebrate Black History Month with a Community Film Screening and Discussion of the 1991 film, **Daughters of the Dust** on Feb. 21, from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Central Library J. Erik Jonsson, in Dallas. The film screening will be followed by a discussion of the film and its cultural significance. For more information visit <http://dallaslibrary.librarymarket.com/daughters-dust-screening>.

Falsettos is beautifully executed

By Tiffany Alexander
NDG Entertainment

Falsettos is a story of a Jewish family that is dysfunctional, eccentric, but loving. While this may sound like the beginning of a typical musical comedy, but this Tony-Award winning story is a little different. Set in New York at the end of the 1970s, at first we meet what seems like an ideal family, but then they break apart and a new

family with new challenges takes its place.

Marvin (Max Von Esen) seemingly has the perfect family. Trina (Eden Espinosa) plays a sweet caring wife and mom to their son Jason (Thatcher Jacobs), but Marvin meets a man named Whizzer (Nick Adams) falls in love. When he leaves his wife and kid breaking up their happy home, the gloss of perfection is gone.

Although *Falsettos* was

not my cup of tea, I'd give it a 4-star rating on how beautifully the production was put together, from the acting to the singing.

The North American Tour of *Falsettos* is in Dallas only until Sunday, Feb. 17. Tickets and times for the performances at the AT&T Performing Arts Center Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House in the downtown Dallas Arts District are available at attpac.org.

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Win tickets to see Mariah Carey's tour kick off in Irving

Can anyone hit those notes like Mariah Carey?

Not many have her five-octave voice range and she has delighted audiences with it since her debut album was number one on Billboard for 11 weeks in 1990. International singing and songwriting icon Carey is launching her Caution World Tour to The Pavilion at Toyota Music Factory in Irving on Wed. Feb. 27. The multi-platinum selling, multiple Grammy Award winner will get closer to the fans with



what is promised to be her most intimate tour yet. The once-in-a-lifetime 22-city-run produced by Live Nation starts in Irving (Dallas) and will visit Atlanta,

Chicago, Toronto, Atlantic City, Philadelphia, and more.

NDG readers have an opportunity to win tickets for two to see the show. Visit our Facebook page first and then:

LIKE the post so you can receive updates easily;

JOIN the Facebook community by "liking" the page to receive updates; and

SHARE your favorite Carey hit song.

The winner will be notified via email.

Last fall, Carey released her anxiously awaited 15th full-length studio album, *Caution*. The songs included the brand-new song "The Distance," recent single "With You," and the first teaser track "GTFO."

Carey is a music powerhouse and the best-selling female artist of all time with more than 200 million albums sold to date and 18 Billboard Hot 100 #1 singles (17 self-penned) to her name.

The Irving engagement

kicks off a once-in-a-lifetime 22-city run produced by Live Nation and will visit Atlanta, Chicago, Toronto, Atlantic City, Philadelphia, and more.

Honey B. Fly is the official Mariah Carey fan community. Legacy members of Honey B. Fly will receive first access to tickets starting Tuesday, October 23 at 10 a.m. local time. Fans may purchase a "Honey B. Fly Live Pass" today, which gives them access not only to ticket presales, but also a

free membership to Honey B. Fly, the official Mariah Carey fan community. Fans who are already registered simply need to upgrade their account with the Honey B. Fly Live Pass on Mariah-Carey.com.

Tickets will go on sale to the general public starting Friday, October 26 at Live-Nation.com. Prior to kicking off the 2019 tour, Mariah will be in Las Vegas to continue her residency at Caesars Palace Colosseum, *The Butterfly Returns*.

La Llorona takes a raw, personal look at U.S.-Mexico relations at Oak Cliff's BATC

By David Wilfong
NDG Contributing Writer

The Bishop Arts Theatre Center took a turn toward the south with its production of *La Llorona*, a story taking place in Mexico City. It is a small and intimate production consisting of only four characters, a

young couple from Distrito Federal, and another from the U.S. as they arrive to work on the corporate expansion.

The story takes place against the backdrop of the early days of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), a time in which market uncer-

tainty led to high unemployment in Mexico. Needing to make ends meet, Carlos (portrayed by Coy Rubalcaba) and Irma (Nicole Romero) rent their family home out to the American couple; Jeffrey (Nolan Spinks) and Liz (Janae Hatchett).

The two couples, though

from different worlds, share a lot in common as both are expecting their first child when the play begins. Both couples are enduring a rough transition, and both find themselves in uncharted — and sometimes uncomfortable — living

See BATC, Page 12



Playwright Kathleen Anderson Culebro (second from right) fields questions from the audience following the Feb. 8 performance of *La Llorona* at Bishop Arts Theatre Center. She is joined by actors (left to right) Janae Hatchett, Coy Rubalcaba, Nicole Romero, and Nolan Spinks. (Photo: David Wilfong / NDG)



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MEMBER FDIC

CFPB makes move to support payday lenders during Black History Month

By Charlene Crowell

(NNPA) Each February, Black History Month commemorates the unique American experience of Blacks in America. This year marks the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown, Virginia arrival of captured and shackled Africans.

In the ensuing years, as slavery grew, so did the wealth of those who claimed our forefathers as ‘property’. By April 12-13, 1861, the wealth built on slave labor

was forcefully protected with the Battle of Fort Sumter, considered by historians to be the start of the Civil War that lasted until 1865 and the war’s end.

Slavery’s iron shackles that bound women, children and men may be gone. But in today’s America, the iron has been replaced by a different kind of shackle, just as debilitating as iron: predatory debt.

Abundant research has shown that payday and car-title lenders trap people in de-

bitating debt that can trigger a series of negative consequences: overdraft fees, the loss of a bank account, loss of personal vehicles and even bankruptcy.

So, it is indeed troubling that in 2019, that under the Trump Administration, the federal agency with a designated mission to provide consumer financial protection took an about-face to protect predatory lenders instead of consumers on February 6. Kathy Kraninger, the Director of the Consumer Finan-

cial Protection Bureau (CFPB) announced the agency’s plan to repeal a rule aimed at stopping the payday lending debt trap.

Promulgated by CFPB’s first director during the Obama Administration, the rule requires payday and other small-dollar lenders to make loans only after determining borrowers’ ability-to-repay. That now-suspended rule followed years of public hearings, rulemaking sessions, and research that ultimately found that triple-digit

interest rates on loans were virtual debt traps for borrowers. Further, the people targeted for these predatory loans are those who could least afford interest or fees that exceeded the principal borrowed.

The Bureau’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) announced by the CFPB offers a two-part plan. The first is to needlessly delay the effective date of a common-sense consumer protection rule. The second is to rewrite and likely gut the

substance of the rule itself. The likely cumulative effect will allow payday and other predatory lenders to continue to ply their wares and continue financially exploiting consumers of color.

Let us all hope and work for a different kind of emancipation: financial freedom.

Charlene Crowell is the Communications Deputy Director with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsible-lending.org.

BRIEFS, continued from Page 8

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at J.B. Jackson Jr. Transit Station, in Dallas. Tickets start at \$37. Hop aboard the Hidden History tour bus and learn about the rich history of African Americans in Dallas from the end of the Civil War to the 1960s. The three-hour guided tour visits more than 20 sites including Freedman’s Memorial Cemetery, historic 10th Street, Deep Ellum and more. Tour departs the J.B. Jackson Jr. Dart Transit Center at 9 a.m. Optional: Lunch is offered after the tour at an African-American restaurant. Price of lunch is not included with tour. For tickets visit <https://www.hiddenhistorydfw.com/>.

The South Dallas Concert Choir is inviting Dallas residents to their annual **Black History program: African American Music Roots and Evolution** on Feb. 16, starting at 3 p.m. at Greater

Bethlehem Baptist Church, in Dallas. South Dallas Concert Choir cordially invites you to come along on this journey as we remember and celebrate the many gifted African American musicians who have contributed to the various genres of music in America and abroad.

The Parrish Restaurants will present **Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame** on Feb. 22, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the African American Museum at Fair Park, in Dallas. The induction ceremony will be held on Feb. 23, starting at 11 a.m. at the Dallas Sheraton Hotel, in Dallas. Tickets start off at \$25. For more information visit <http://www.aamdallas.org/2019TexasBlackSportsHallofFame.asp>.

The **3rd annual Mother & Son Soiree 2019** in benefit of the Sigma Beta Club of Dallas will be held on Feb.

24, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the African American Museum at Fair Park, in Dallas. Join the Sigma Beta Club of Dallas for an evening of Dinner, Dancing, & Hors D’Oeuvres & Door Prizes as we raise money for our scholarship initiatives. Tickets are \$20. Tickets are limited and will NOT be sold at the door. Advanced ticket purchase is required. Tickets are available via Eventbrite or emailing sbdcdallas@gmail.com. For more information visit [Eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

Migration, assimilation and social justice are among the topics that will be explored during **Black History Month** by the Dallas County Community College District. DCCCD colleges are highlighting history and cultural events for all students. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

A Tribute to John Berry,

a longtime professor of business management at El Centro College, begins on Feb. 21, at 11 a.m. in the Performance Hall and Student Center, at El Centro College. Berry, who taught at the college for 38 years, died in January. For more information, contact Destiney Tolbert-Jackson at 214-860-2735.

Two events will be held at Mountainview College. The first event will be **MVC’s African-American Read-In**, on Feb. 19, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. This will be held in the Treetop Lounge, at Mountainview College. The second event "Black History Month lecture “Shotguns, Sheep and Sheets: Stories Unwashed and Seldom Told” starts on Feb. 21, at 12:30 p.m., Building B, room 149, at Mountainview College.

Grand Prairie Dollar Chili Day will take place on Feb. 16, from

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Traders Village, in Grand Prairie. Have a fun day of shopping, family entertainment, rides and games. Pay only \$1 for a bowl of chili in the Big Red Patio. Admission is free, Parking is \$4.

Irving

To celebrate **Black History Month**, North Lake College will be hosting several events.

An informative session titled “The Civil Rights Movement and Religion” will be presented by Dr. Darryl Howard on Feb. 21, at 2:30 p.m. in room A206, at North Lake College.

North Lake’s African-American Read-In is scheduled on Feb. 27, from 11 a.m. to noon in room H200, hosted by the office of student life, at North Lake College.

“Equity and Social Justice Today,” will be held on Feb. 27, from 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., will be in room A206 and

moderated by Dr. Beth Nikopoulos, director of student life at North Lake College. A variety of reading materials about the Black Migration will be displayed in North Lake’s library throughout the month. For more information, contact Tremaya Reynolds at 214-273-3464.

Mesquite

In honor of **Black History Month**, EastField College will host Fun Friday: Culture through the Decades. The event will be held on Feb. 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in The Hive (Building C, first floor) at EastField College, in Mesquite.

“Dialogues on Diversity: Black-Jew Dialogues” takes place on Feb. 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Building S, room 100. at EastField College. For more information, contact the Eastfield College office of student engagement and retention at 40SER@dcccd.edu.

DEAN, continued from Page 6

background of building partnerships will be invaluable as we bring together a network of K-12 and higher education leaders, potential employers and community resources to support the launch and growth of this program, which will fill a critical need for early childhood teachers and paraprofessionals.”

“Providing high-quality educational opportunities to our early learners is more than necessary – it is absolutely imperative in order

for our city and our region to reach its full potential,” said DeHaas. “The creation of a four-year baccalaureate teacher institute at the community college level is game-changing.

“This institute will make attaining a four-year degree more accessible and equitable for DCCCD students,” he added. “It also will increase the regional momentum around two elements that make an unequivocal impact on a child’s academic trajectory: access to

high-quality early childhood education and access to high-quality teachers.”

DeHaas launched Dallas Teacher Residency in 2013. DTR, the first urban teacher residency in Texas, is a non-profit organization designed to recruit, prepare and support teachers to teach in partnership with urban public school districts across North Texas. Before he co-founded and launched DTR, DeHaas served as founding director of operations for Uplift Heights Preparatory, a K-12 charter school located in west Dal-

las.

Prior to his time with Uplift Heights, DeHaas served as project manager for LEARN Charter School Network’s CEO in Chicago. He worked with the school’s CEO on strategic growth and expansion efforts; securing grants; and leading efforts to open two new K-8 campuses on Chicago’s South and West sides as he completed a principal residency at the South Side campus. He also was a classroom teacher with LEARN.

In addition to his other

education-based experience, DeHaas served four years as chair of the West Dallas Community Collaborative’s advisory board and “The School Zone,” a local-impact project led by Southern Methodist University’s Simmons School of Education.

DeHaas also served as a member of the 2014-2015 Mayor’s Star Council cohort; was a 2015-2016 Leadership ISD Fellow; is a member of the Best in Class Dallas/Fort Worth Educator Effectiveness Taskforce; and was one of 13 educator

preparation leaders selected for the national 2018 Deans for Impact Fellowship.

The new dean earned his bachelor’s degree from Duke University; a master’s degree in education leadership and his principal’s certification from DePaul University’s College of Education; and a master’s degree in business administration from SMU’s Cox School of Business. He currently is pursuing his doctoral degree in education from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University.

Irving-based Michaels finds a new place for its arts and crafts: the High Seas

Captive audiences are hard to come by, but Irving-based arts and crafts retailer Michaels is discovering one on the high seas.

The Michaels Companies Inc. said Monday that it has become the exclusive arts and crafts provider to Carnival Cruise Line's 26-ship fleet, using private label merchandise it develops outside its own 1,200 stores.

Carnival carries more

than 5.2 million guests every year, including 800,000 kids. Michaels merchandise will be used in arts and crafts classes with themes that will change with the seasons. Classes also will feature memento-making, such as key chains, bracelets and picture frames, the company said.

Michaels, with annual revenue of about \$5.4 billion, is the largest U.S. arts

and crafts retailer and "this new partnership is another way we are solidifying our leadership position," said Steve Carlotti, Michaels executive vice president of marketing.

Michaels didn't share its estimates for the size of the new business. Michaels sales have popped significantly in the past with a single hot item like the Rainbow Loom or the slime

making craze.

It's been investing more recently in its e-commerce business, which launched in 2014 and is now a \$100 million a year business, Carlotti said. Michaels hired business software company Salesforce last year to help it generate more personalized customer messaging.

Michaels is pitching itself more these days as a place

for parents to provide children with "more mindful, screen-free fun," Carlotti said.

As part of the partnership, Michaels will also feature Carnival Cruise Line-themed in-store classes this

spring in its stores.

The family market is a big one for Carnival and it's looking for new ways to enhance onboard experiences, said Chris Nelson, vice president of entertainment for Carnival.

BATC, continued from Page 10

arrangements. As the play progresses, the twists and turns pile on, and the outcome is anything but expected.

Following the Friday performance, playwright Kathleen Anderson Culebro joined the actors onstage to discuss her work.

"I think as a country we tend to take care of our own too much; to the exclusion of everyone else," Culebro said.

The corporate expansion hearkens back to the things she saw in Mexico when NAFTA first arrived.

"I remember Taco Bell

taking out an ad in the newspaper, and I thought it was really funny," Culebro said (the fictitious chain in the play is Taco Tower).

Romero gives a standout performance as Irma, with her best acting taking place between her lines. For anyone having been a houseguest in Mexico, the subtle eccentricities of a Latina

host are authentic and spot-on. To which she later shrugged and explained off by saying, "I'm a Latina."

La Llorona contains some dark subject matter and might be a bit heavy for younger audiences. The play continues through Feb. 24 at the Bishop Arts Theatre Center (215 S. Tyler St. in Oak Cliff).

FLIGHT, continued from Page 1

nels so they can actually get the experience of seeing it," Heckel said. "They will see how it works, and when you put something in it, and how it's affected. We have all the normal tools. We have a full workshop in the back for making things."

The students will use everything from bandsaws to electronics with soldering irons during the building process.

Angie Maravi, a junior at Irving High School, is studying drone engineering. Fascinated by drones, she wants to pursue aeronautical engineering.

In her class, Maravi will usually use a computer-aided design system to make digital 3D models.

"For example, right now we are serving on UAV, an unmanned aerial vehicle," Maravi said. "We also do a lot of research about what is going on in the industry. We also do research from the past. One example is from the 1990s there were a lot of aircraft crashes happening. So Mr. Hec would talk to us about the importance of communication between captains and officers."

Heckel loves seeing the students dive deeper in top-

ics reflecting their interest. This increases their engagement and helps to maintain their excitement as the grow and learn.

Each year the students work on a Real Life Design Challenge. This is when the students receive a set of parameters and software and work together in teams to tackle real-world engineering challenges. They create their own design, present it to the state first and if they succeed, the students progress to a national competition.

In the first year of competing, the Irving students were named the best team in the state while advancing to the national competition in Washington D.C. The team earned the honor of the Best First-Year Team.

This year Irving High School won state for the second year in a row.

Since the students have different classes, they rarely are able to work together on the project during school. Instead, they make the commitment to meet after-school to work on the project.

Right now for their real-world design challenge, the team's focus is supervising

the plant health of urban areas.

"We have to build our own UAV design analysis," said. We decided to do a hybrid, which is basically a drone and a fixed-wing aircraft. I am the design analysis manager and I am the one who does the math behind it. I really love the math and science behind it."

In the program, there are several components involved. This can range from math, science, communication, and teamwork.

"I haven't really done a lot of it this year, but I like for them to look at accidents because I believe we can learn so much from it," Heckel said. "Also, safety is huge. There are two lessons I teach first, safety and ethics. They don't really get a lot of ethics, and this being a career in technology education, we're focused on running this very similar to a job."

The students learn firsthand just how a real aircraft is built in different sections throughout the world. The students will work on separate parts of their aircraft in groups, producing sections for assemble later.

The students can also earn a certification in safety

through the program which will start later in the semester. Students can obtain this certification as short as a week.



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Upcoming DFW area job fairs

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Spring cleaning, getting the home ready to go on the market for sale and getting the garden ready for growing season. Those are just a few reasons why Lowe's is headed into their busiest season of the year. This is why they have announced plans to hire more than 1,000 staff members throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

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Apply prior to the event at jobs.lowes.com or visit the store to apply in person.

Representatives will be available for on-site interviews.

Reportedly, some will receive job offers on the spot

Feb. 26 EcoLatino/LULAC job fair

EcoLatino/LULAC Council 4782 2019 Job Fair is open to the public and hosted by the Eco Latino Radio Program on Feb. 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Hilton Garden Inn Dallas/Duncanville, 800 N Main St, Duncanville, Texas 75116

Feb 27 Dallas Job Fair

The Dallas Job Fair will be held on Feb. 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Embassy Suites Dallas Market Center, in Dallas. Open the doors of opportunity when you meet and interview with hiring managers at companies ranging from small local businesses to Fortune 500 corporations. This career fair will allow you to learn about the businesses that are hiring and what their hiring needs are. Tired of sending your resume over the web and not receiving any responses back? By attending this event, you will be able to meet directly with hiring managers and get instant feedback on your resume and possibly even be hired on the spot.

March 6 HireLive Event

HireLive specializes in Sales, Retail and Manage-



ment Career Fairs, and has more than a decade of experience in connecting job seekers with industry leading companies that are currently hiring. This is your opportunity to interview face to face with 15+ Fortune 500 and Industry Leading companies seeking talented, experienced and enthusiastic sales, retail and management candidates.

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Meet With Hiring Managers on March 6 from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel located at 4099 Valley View Lane in Dallas.
Email Your Resume To: 21924-21-mh2006@apply.maxhire.net

March 30 Teacher Job Fair - Plano ISD

The Teacher Job Fair will

be held on March 30, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in Plano. Candidates must complete an online application to register for the event on the Plano ISD employment website. All 72 elementary and secondary campuses in

the District will be there with staff to speak to those interested in teaching and other professional opportunities. To receive an entry ticket to the job fair. Visit <https://www.pisd.edu/page/5495> for all the details.

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

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



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

Send resume and writing samples to: businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com

NDG seeks Intern Video Producer

The *North Dallas Gazette* is a community-driven newspaper with a digital presence seeking a new Video/Audio Producer Intern for our new video platform and to assist with the growth of our media company through quality video production.

The Producer will be responsible for recording, editing and preparing final draft of our video content in our in-house studio. The producer will record and broadcast via Facebook weekly shows. Afterwards using Final Pro Cut and other related tools, the footage will be finalized and uploaded to our YouTube channel.

The right candidate will have the following skills:

- Experience using video and audio production and post production techniques and software for live streaming and final YouTube videos.
- Experience using digital content software
- Basic graphic design experience
- Create content based upon agreed criteria
- Understand how to use various social media platforms for live video events
- Good time and project management skills
- Attention to detail as it relates to spelling and grammar
- Provide regular status updates to stakeholders and management

The work will be completed at our studio located at Regal Row & Stemmons with a schedule of up to 15 hours a week. Pay rate is \$12-15 per hour.

Resumes must be sent to ngarcia@northdallasgazette.com to be considered.



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

February 17, 9:45 a.m.
Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

February 20, 7 pm
Join us for Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner and others as we complete the book "Boundaries" when to say yes or how to say no by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend 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

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"

February 17, 9:45 a.m.
You are invited to 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.

February 20, 7 pm
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 matu-

rity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D. Senior Pastor
2450 K Avenue #300
Plano, TX 75074
972-379-3287
www.theship3c.org

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

February 15, 8 p.m.
All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 7 p.m., (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

February 17, 10 a.m.
Please join us for our Baby Christening Service. And, don't forget to invite family and friends to join us for our Morning Worship as we cel-

brate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

February 18, 7 p.m.
You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us and to ring in the New Year.

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

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP) (Uniting the Body of Christ for World Impact)

February 17, 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.

February 20, 7 pm
You're invited to our New Year Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

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

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)

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

John 12:26.
Our church ministries offer opportunities for motivation and growth; join us and see. Be blessed of the Lord.

February 17, 8 and 11 am
You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness

February 20, 7 pm
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. Isaiah Joshua, Jr. Senior Pastor
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is a weekly calendar of religious services produced by the

North Dallas Gazette.

To make additions or corrections to the calendar, contact:

religion@northdallasgazette.com

NDG Book Review: *What is Given from the Heart*

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Oh, how you love opening presents!

You love the surprise, first of all. What did you get? You won't find out until you rip off the paper and just the sound of that is exciting. Maybe there's a box next, or plastic to open, or there's simply a gift for you to enjoy. Getting presents is awesome but in the new book "What is Given from the Heart" by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by April Harrison, its doubly special when you have nothing to give in return. Mama always seemed so



sad.

James Otis did what he could, but it was "a rough few months." Nearly a year ago, Daddy fell asleep one day and didn't wake up; after that, the farm was repossessed and Mama had to move herself

and James Otis to a tumble-down shack and there never seemed to be enough money. The final blow came when James Otis's dog ran off.

Mama liked to point out that they had each other. They had God, and they had small holidays and such, but James Otis knew it had been a struggle.

Then one day near Valentine's Day, he and Mama were in church when Reverend Dennis made a special announcement. As always, the church was giving to the needy that spring but Mrs. Temple and her seven-year-old daughter, Sarah, had been

victims of a fire and they needed a special "love box."

The Temples had lost everything, and on the way home that day, Mama said she wanted to help. She wanted to find something nice to give to the Temples but James Otis had no idea what that might be. Mama reminded him of Reverend Dennis's words: "Remember, what is given from the heart touches the heart."

And so James Otis began to think. His crayons were broken. Sarah probably wouldn't appreciate an old toy truck. His whistle had spit all over it. His favorite old

puzzle was missing two pieces. What would a little girl like? Better question: how can you give anything when you have nothing yourself?

"What is Given from the Heart" is a book that seriously needs to come with its own choir, one that would softly sing, just when you get about halfway through reading it. Yes, this story is just that wonderful.

It's okay if you don't have access to tenors and sopranos, though. Your child will get the message all the same because author Patricia C. McKissack tells a tale that

shows loud and clear how giving has its own rewards and riches. Even kids who turn into Gimme Monsters will see it – in part, because of McKissack's quiet, loving text and in part, because of the collage-like illustrations by April Harrison. Rounding it off, the uplifting ending couldn't be more heartwarming.

This is a book that's perfect for soft-hearted kids ages 4-to-8, but materialistic older kids might need to hear it once or twice, too. For them, or any generous child, "What is Given from the Heart" could make a great present.

SENATE, continued from Page 8

working, and identifying where we really need the most help and sending the aid to where we need it the most to make a significant difference."

Also Monday, the Senate

Property Tax Committee approved the major property tax reform bill of the session, SB 2, sending it to the floor for consideration by the full Senate. Before taking the vote, members approved 15

amendments to the bill, which were mostly technical corrections. Still in the bill are the major provisions relating to transparency, appraisal review board requirements and automatic trigger for rollback elections.

Also unchanged is the pro-

posed 2.5 percent rollback rate, which would require voter permission to set a tax rate increase that exceeds that number. One amendment to the bill would change the name of "rollback rate" to "voter-approved rate" to help taxpayers better understand

what it means.

One substantive change made on Monday is an opt-in provision for smaller taxing entities. Under the filed version, the bill exempted entities that collect less than \$15 million in combined sales and property tax revenue.

The amendment added would require those entities to hold elections on the next uniform election date, likely May of 2020 if the bill is signed into law, and ask voters whether they want that taxing authority to fall under the provisions of SB 2.

A TIME TO REFLECT ON
THE PLACES WE'VE BEEN.
AND WHERE WE'RE GOING.



During Black History month, we remember the past in order to create a prosperous future. We salute and acknowledge the innovations, accomplishments and culture of African-Americans. From scoreboards to boardrooms and from concerts to congress, you are making differences that can be felt every day. Toyota salutes those who are driven to succeed because determination can lead to elevation.



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