



# North Dallas Gazette

"Most respected Voice of the Minority Community"

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

## After serving country for 28 years, Bradford seeks to serve residents of Plano

By David Wilfong  
NDG Contributing Writer

In 1988 Byron Bradford joined the National Guard as a junior in high school. Finding the military a good fit, he enlisted and ended up serving 28 years in the Army. Now in civilian life, Bradford is looking to translate his experience and skills into a leadership role on the Plano City Council in Place 5.

"I want to continue to be a public servant," Bradford said. "I looked at what would be a good fit for serving. In the military, I went through a process of following, leading and then mentoring others. So I think that gives me good insight on how to get things done."

His duties in the military, including time spent as a paratrooper, line up with different aspects of what government administration entails. He began work in logistics, which along with his MBA he later earned, gives him the ability to work with numbers and scheduling. Later in his career he served as a DOD-certified sexual assault response coordinator, a job requiring both diligence in investigation and delicate handling of victims and their needs.

"That one is important because I



Byron Bradford (at left) visits with fellow veteran Robert Danor (at right) during a campaign meet-and-greet held in Plano on Saturday. Bradford is running for Place 5 on the Plano City Council. (Photo: Briget Murphy/NDG)

had to be assigned by a general," Bradford said.

The upcoming municipal elections will not be Bradford's first go-around in the political arena. During the 2018 election cycle, Bradford challenged Republican Duncan Webb for the Precinct 4 chair on the Collin County Commissioners Court. He fell 5 points short in that bid against an incumbent who had run unopposed twice previously, but says the experience prepared him well for future runs.

"I got 47 percent of the vote re-

ally just by knocking on doors and talking to people," Bradford said. "We didn't win, but we were able to beat every other benchmark we set in that election. For example, I needed to get 139 signatures to get on the ballot, and I was able to get more than 500 signatures."

He was also able to garner the support he feels is necessary to move on into the city council race. Running on a platform of transparency, accountability and in-

See BRADFORD, Page 7



### Ed Gray: The Gerrymandering of America

-See Page 3



### Avoiding selfie elbow and texting thumb

-See Page 4



### Sam Johnson rec center preps for reopening

-See Page 5



### Big moves being made in DISD's District 6

-See Page 6



### Convention hotel opens in Irving

-See Page 7



### Anastasia star discusses her journey

-See Page 9



### DeVon Franklin's 'The Truth About Men'

-See Page 10



### Sister Tarpley: Little known Black History

-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...



John Ross



M. Renee Johnson

**NDG Quote of the Week:** "I had to make my own living and my own opportunity. But I made it! Don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come. Get up and make them." - Madam C.J. Walker

## John Ross

John Ross is from Savannah, Georgia. He has lived in Texas since 1975, and resides in DeSoto, Texas. John served 21 years in the military, retiring in August 1979. In 1978, while stationed at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas he organized and was president of the first Military branch of the N.A.A.C.P. John Ross has been a member of the N.A.A.C.P. for more than sixty years.

Mr. Ross came to Dallas, Texas after the Dallas District Office of The Equal Employment Opportunity



Commission offered him a job as a Federal Investigator in September 1979. John served in that position for seventeen years. He was promoted to Federal Mediator and served until he retired in December 2016.

After John retired from the Federal Government, he and his wife Lanetta D. Ross opened MA'AT Mediation and Arbitration Services and MA'AT Counseling in DeSoto, Texas.

During Mr. Ross's tenure in Dallas, Texas he was elected President of the Dallas County White Rock Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. and served as President for more than twenty-five years. Mr. Ross organized and wrote the African/African History educational course for Hamilton Park United Methodist Church in 1987 and taught the thirty-two week curricu-

lum there for 23 years. The course introduced students and community leaders to historical eras covering more than fifty thousand years of Ancient Africa including the Pre-Dynastic period, and the Dynastic periods of Egypt and other countries; and continued through the destruction of Ancient Egypt in the year of 325 B.C. Mr. Ross also introduced the classes to the Atlantic Slave trade and brought the students and community leaders from that period to the present day of African and African American History. The course was also taught by

John at Newman Smith High School in Carrollton, the Farmers Branch Library and several African American owned bookstores in the Dallas area.

In September 1991 at the Dallas Museum of Art, John was Enstooled as Chief, a General of the People by King Nana Lartey Kwaku ESI II of Larteh, Ghana. At the Enstoolment ceremony John was given the name Nana Ansah Sasraku I, and title of General of the Armed Services. Mr. Ross's duties are to coordinate with the Ghanaian community in the DFW area. Mr. Ross has attended several confer-

ences in Toronto, Canada and the United States in order to continue to manifest good will with and among the Ghanaian Community.

Mr. Ross's photo was placed in the Dallas Museum of Art from April to August 2018 along with several other Ghanaian Chiefs during the world class exhibit 'The Power of Gold, Asante Royal Regalia from Ghana'. Mr. Ross is the father of two adult daughters, Jacy Collins and Joyce Lawrence, and one adult grandson, Josh Walls, all residing in the DFW area.

## M. Renee Johnson

M. Renee' Johnson, the only African-American woman who holds a directorship of a parks and recreation agency in the state of Texas. She is the first African-American Parks & Recreation Managing Director in DeSoto, Texas.

The DeSoto Parks and Recreation Department (DPARD), a national award winning department, led by Ms. Johnson, achieved CAPRA Accreditation in 2016. CAPRA signifies excellence in the parks and recreation field. DeSoto is the only majority African



American city with this designation in the state of Texas, and only 169 cities out of 10,000 have this designation in the nation. DPARD, under Johnson's leadership has leveraged

parks and recreation services to expand cultural events, educational enrichment programs, community partnerships and targeted teen recreation and volunteerism.

Ms. Johnson is currently the first African-American woman to Chair the DFW Parks & Recreation Directors for the metro area. This group consist of approximately 50 Directors in the metro area that promote the benefits of parks and recreation, develop future leaders, and work to influence legislative park advocacy efforts.

Previously, Johnson was

a District Manager of the Dallas Park Department. Johnson was instrumental in leveraging funding and constructing the first downtown dog park operated by the City of Dallas. Johnson has been employed in Parks & Recreation in four cities for nearly 30 years and has been a speaker in regional/state conferences and at the National Parks and Recreation Congress.

Ms. Johnson previously served as the first African American Chair for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Committee for the North Central Texas Council of Government. She is also

Past-President of the North Texas Chapter of National Forum for Black Public Administrators.

Ms. Johnson received her Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, where she pledged Delta Sigma Theta in spring 1985. Ms. Johnson is also a graduate of the prestigious NFBPA 2013 Executive Leadership Institute program, where she studied public administration policy at Duke, University of Kansas, and various other MPA graduate programs in the country.

The Parks & Rec's Mis-

sion Statement states the department's mission is to enrich the quality of life in DeSoto, provide World Class customer service, premier parks and dynamic recreational experiences.

Johnson as the leader of the DeSoto Parks and Recreation is responsible for leading staff in following the Vision Statement:

DeSoto Parks and Recreation is a vital component in the community that provides diverse services and opportunities. Our staff will be known for their commitment to professionalism and their ability to grow and change with the community.

## NDG Readers Sound Off...

### Texas Senate Health Committee passes mental health bill aimed at helping children

Well this seems like a starting point. Jane Nelson has always been a champion of mental health services in a state where that is a mountain to climb. I look forward to seeing what this actually means towards care.

--Sarah Kovich via FB

What if you and the "Authorities" have a difference of opinion on your child.

--Rick Edgett



### NDG Book Review: Art Matters inspires imagination

I love Neil Gaiman and am familiar with Chris Riddell's work. I should take a look at this book. Thanks for highlighting it here. This week I am hoping to

generate a discussion about award books, movies, and music in my blog. Awards books. Join me in on the conversation

-- Anne

### Dallas ISD Trustee Joyce Foreman: Learning Beyond the Books

Joyce Foreman is such an incredible trustee. The students of DISD are blessed to have her at the table looking out for their best interests!

-- Kyle Renard via Facebook

### DSM's The Phantom of the Opera production creates an incredible show

You are so talented. -- R Denise Grimes via Facebook

To share your opinion visit NorthDallasGazette.com

## \$69\* DIVORCE

### Criminal Defense

- DWI / Suspended License
- WARRANTS Removed\*
- 24 Hour Jail Release\*
- Occupational license, felonies
- Protective Order
- Misdeamnor/Felonies\*

### Family Cases

- Divorce / Annulment
- Child Support / Paternity
- Custody Modification
- Restraining Order
- Protective Order
- Name Change / Adoption
- Domestic Violence

### Easy Payment Plans

## Law Offices Of Vincent Ndukwe

# 214-638-5930

## 817-277-0196 (Metro)

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

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



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

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

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

**Publisher’s Office:**

[publisher@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:publisher@northdallasgazette.com)

**Sales Department:**

[marketing@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:marketing@northdallasgazette.com)  
972-509-9049

**Editorial Department:**

[editor@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:editor@northdallasgazette.com)

**Online:**

[www.NorthDallasGazette.com](http://www.NorthDallasGazette.com)  
[www.twitter.com/NDGEditor](https://www.twitter.com/NDGEditor)  
[www.facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette](https://www.facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette)  
[www.pinterest.com/NDallasGazette](https://www.pinterest.com/NDallasGazette)  
[www.instagram.com/NorthDallasGazette](https://www.instagram.com/NorthDallasGazette)

**STAFF**

**Chairman Emeritus**

Jim Bochum  
1933 – 2009

**Religious/ Marketing Editor**

Shirley Demus Tarpley  
("Sister Tarpley")

**Published By**

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

**NDG Senior Columnist**

Ed Gray

**Editor**

Ruth Ferguson

**Columnist**

A.D. Jenkins

**Web Master**

Todd Jones

**Contributing Writers**

Tiffany Gilbert  
Jackie Hardy  
Rachel Hawkins  
Angela Loston  
Jacqueline Murphy  
Dwain Price  
Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Nicole Scott  
David Wilfong

**Community Marketing**

Nadina Davis

**Account Executive**

LaRoyce Jones

**Production**

David Wilfong



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

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

# The Gerrymandering of America



**Straight Talk**  
**Ed Gray**  
NDG Senior Columnist

President Barack Obama once said, “We have never been just a collection of individuals or a collection of red states and blue states. We are, and always will be, the United States of America.”

A noble concept indeed, however in political reality, America has not lived up to that ideal. We remain a fragmented coalition of governing districts with narrow political self-interests.

Kelly Hancock, elected to the State Senate of Texas in 2012, representing a diverse district (Senate District 9) encompassing twenty cities and towns in two counties. I am politically active, yet I

have never seen my state senator in almost eight years in office. We might as well live in two states instead of the one senatorial district. Keep in mind, I was a thrill to see him on television, as he might have been on a milk carton.

State Senator Hancock is a decent man, and he is not responsible for drawing up the State Senate district. Politicians with self-interests of getting elected, protecting incumbency, and occasionally racial politics have drawn districts that would make Stevie Wonder proud. These districts though legal, as many received court approval, yet they are inherently unfair.

State Senator Hancock’s district extends from the northeast Tarrant County of Westlake to the southwest Dallas county of Westchester. Now that’s a problem.

If you were to take a day trip from Westlake to Westchester, meanwhile your best friend drives from Westchester to Waxahachie. Your friend is enjoying coffee in the Waxahachie town square, while you stay stuck in traffic on State Highway 114.

Senator Hancock informed me he had a traveling senate office to serve the needs of his Grand Prairie constituents. This is like going to class online instead of a physical class. It is a novel concept, but I’m old fashion and believe if candidates win elections, their constituents should see them in the community.

We, as citizens, need representation by leaders close to us, and not in gerrymandered districts. Too often these districts are difficult to represent, logistically in-

different, and sometimes racially insensitive.

We need to push for an end to malicious gerrymandering thwarting the will of the People. Whether it is the state legislature or the United States Congress, we need redistricting reform now. Otherwise, we will find ourselves stuck in another traffic jam stalling democracy.

I am Ed Gray and this is Straight Talk.

*Ed Gray is a presidential scholar at Southern Methodist University. He is the host of The Commish Radio Show airing Saturdays 3-5 p.m. on FBRN.net, can be reached at egray62@att.net. NDG was awarded NNPA’s 2018 Robert S. Abbott Best Editorial for Gray’s “Confederate Statues: The White Man’s Burden” column.*

## President Trump is wrong

By Congresswoman  
Eddie Bernice Johnson

President Trump’s declaration of a national emergency to secure funding for a wall on our nation’s Southern border is without merit, and could lead to a Constitutional crisis. Members of his own party have joined Democrats and the majority of the American people in their belief that the president’s action is not in the best interests of our country.

Even the president himself suggested that he was on the wrong track when he stated “I didn’t need to do this” during a press conference in the Rose Garden when he announced his intention. Court challenges have already been filed after the president said that his administration would use funds that Congress had appropriated for other purposes.

President Trump took this action after Congress passed a spending bill that did not include the money that he had requested to construct

the wall that he promised his supporters during the presidential campaign. Now, he simply does not want to appear weak to his base, even though a Fox News poll found that a majority of its respondents opposed his action.

The president and his advisors need to revisit our

tives whose majority is against his state of emergency declaration. It remains to be seen what the Republican controlled Senate will do even though some of its Republican members, like Senator Collins, are uncomfortable with the president’s overreach.

the country illegally. That is down from 1.6 million that were apprehended in 2000.

Even the Senate majority leader, Mitch McConnell, counseled President Trump against declaring a state of emergency, but was rebuffed by a chief executive who has created a crisis for himself that many believe will further damage his presidency.

Five years ago president Trump, responding to an executive action by President Obama, wrote “Republicans must not allow President Obama to subvert the Constitution for his own benefit because he is unable to negotiate with Congress.”

Perhaps the president should revisit the words that he wrote five years ago. They have now come back to haunt him!

*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.*

*“The president and his advisors need to revisit our Constitution and read it provisions on separation of powers.”*

Constitution and read it provisions on separation of powers. They also need to develop a greater appreciation for the congressional budget process. One Republican Senator, Susan Collins of Maine, said that the president’s action undermined the appropriations process, and the will of Congress.

In addition to facing court battles, the president will be opposed by Democrats in the House of Representa-

The president argues that problems at the border that we share with Mexico constitute a national emergency. That is simply not the case. The number of people taken into custody in recent years attempting to enter our country illegally has actually decreased.

According to the government’s own figures approximately 400,000 people were taken into custody in 2018 at the Southern border after they attempted to enter into

# Avoiding selfie elbow, texting thumb

Specialists are seeing more and more repetitive stress injuries (RSI) from overuse of smartphones and tablets – the main instigators of emerging conditions like texting thumb and selfie elbow, notes UT Southwestern rehabilitation specialist Dr. Renee Enriquez.

“With all overuse injuries, rest is the most important part of recovery. Complete rest is best, but since technology is a required part of our everyday lives, limiting the time par-

ticipating in these activities is recommended,” says Dr. Enriquez, whose expertise includes musculoskeletal treatments and interventional pain management.

The average person sends more than 40 emails daily and spends dozens of additional hours per week texting. One recent survey reported teen boys average 3,400 texts each month, while teen girls average 4,000 texts. Texting thumb is inflammation of the tendon sheath that can lead to long-term pain and disabil-

ity affecting the tendon of the long flexor muscle of the thumb.

“Consider using your nondominant hand or another digit to avoid this condition,” says Dr. Enriquez, who specializes in nonoperative treatments. “The benefit of switching things is that it will strengthen your brain and improve your dexterity.”

Selfie elbow can occur when you frequently abandon favorable ergonomic positioning in the pursuit of finding the best angle for

your next social media post. Shooting selfie after selfie can strain forearm muscles, resulting in trauma to the part of the tendon that connects to the elbow joint.

“Selfie sticks, however much the nuisance, are a great way to avoid overuse injuries in the upper extremities,” she says. “Technology will continue to advance and so will its gadgets for easier use and applicability. Rest breaks and hand shifts can help us handle the strain in the meantime.”



rawpixel / Unsplash

# RIGHT Care team responds to mental health crisis calls

It could be a call from a worried mom saying ‘my son is using drugs.’ Or it could be someone reporting their neighbor is acting strangely. We’re prepared for the unpredictable because we’re responding to crisis situations,” said Jana Creech, LCSW.

Creech is a seasoned psychiatric social worker with Parkland Health & Hospital System assigned to the RIGHT Care team, a pilot program launched in 2018 to provide rapid response to mental health emergency calls in south central Dallas, an area selected for the 3-year pilot because it has the highest level of 911 mental health calls in the city. The program is funded through a grant from The W.W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation at Communities Foundation of Texas.

The goal of RIGHT Care is to divert mental health patients from area emergency rooms and jails by stabilizing them on the scene and getting them to the appropriate preventive and intervention services that can meet their healthcare needs.

The first-of-its kind program in Texas, RIGHT Care is a partnership involving specially-trained paramedics from Dallas Fire-Rescue, Dallas Police Department officers and Parkland behavioral health social workers. Based at the South Central Dallas Police Station and working from a specially-equipped black Tahoe, they respond as a coordinated unit to safely and effectively



Claudia / Unsplash

manage patients experiencing behavioral health emergencies.

A Parkland psychiatric social worker is also assigned to the city-wide Dallas 911 call center to identify and triage emergency mental health calls, assign appropriate calls for response by the RIGHT Care field team, and provide support and resources to callers who are having behavioral health emergencies regardless of their locale in Dallas.

After 12 months collaborating in the field, the team has learned to work well together, Creech said. “We each bring the unique skills of our professional training and background to address patient needs for assistance and get them the help they need. Many of these individuals are very ill. We’re all focused on safety and doing what’s right for the patient.”

“A behavioral health crisis requires more than a police response,” said Kurtis Young, MSSW, LCSW, Social Work Director in Parkland’s Behavioral Health De-

partment, noting, “The largest provider of mental health services in Dallas is the county jail. RIGHT Care is demonstrating that more people can be treated effectively in their community.”

The RIGHT Care team responded to more than 2,500 mental health emergency 911 calls last year. While Parkland has seen an overall increase in mental health cases in 2018, there was a nearly 10 percent decline in Parkland’s Psych ED volumes from ZIP codes served by RIGHT Care. The program diverted 31 percent of the calls they responded to from jails and hospital ERs by connecting patients to the resources in their community.

“Often those with severe mental illness are confused, medically unstable or dealing with substance use issues. In some cases, they may become aggressive, but many times we can avoid detention or an ER visit by making an appropriate care decision,” Creech explained. “That’s why it’s so important to have a multidisciplinary team of

first responders specifically trained to help people with behavioral health problems. Together we determine the best action for each individual, which often is not hospital transport or emergency jail detention.”

Parkland social workers on the RIGHT Care team bring extensive behavioral health training and experience that enables them to fully assess the patient’s social and mental health needs. Helping patients find secure housing and social service resources along with clinically assessing a client is a part of the social workers’ responsibilities.

“We are trained to see the person as a whole. In addition to medical and psychiatric care, we connect them with the community resources they need, whether it’s food, shelter or access to other social services,” Creech said. The RIGHT Care team works closely with community agencies in the South Dallas area that provide social and mental health services, she said.

Proactive community outreach and intervention also includes follow-up services. The team averages four to six emergency cases per shift and performed more than 800 follow-up calls last year, checking on patients to ensure they are seeing their mental health provider, taking their medicine, have transportation to get to their doctor appointments, and removing any other barriers to care that are identified.

RIGHT Care collaborates with community partners such as Metrocare Services, North Texas Behavioral Health Authority, Integrated Psychotherapeutic Services, Child & Family Guidance Center and The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, along with area hospitals.

Although the job can be difficult and potentially dangerous at times, Creech enthusiastically endorses the RIGHT Care approach. “Yes, it’s challenging – but also very rewarding. We’re able to close the gaps in care for these patients,” she said.

Recently the family member of a mental health patient assisted by the RIGHT Care team recognized them on the

street, a moment Creech said she’ll long remember. “The woman thanked us for saving her brother’s life. We know we’re making a difference in this area.”

Nearly one in five adults in Texas experiences mental illness each year. In Dallas County in 2016 there were nearly 427,000 behavior health visits by patients with mental health or substance use disorders, according to the DFW Hospital Council Foundation. In 2018, there were more than 1,000 patients per day incarcerated in the Dallas County Jail who had some form of mental illness.

For more information about Parkland, please visit [www.parklandhospital.com](http://www.parklandhospital.com).

**CASH TODAY!!!**

Fair Price Offer For Oil and/or Gas Royalty  
Small "NET" Revenue Interest



**No Matter How Small**

Fax Information To:  
**972-509-9058**

Call:  
**972-432-5219**  
(Leave Message)

Email:  
**inquiries1909@gmail.com**

## Sam Johnson Recreation Center for Adults 50+ reopens March 18

Mark your calendars. The Plano Parks and Recreation Department has announced the date for its special grand reopening of the newly expanded and renovated Sam Johnson Recreation Center for Adults 50+.

The event will take place at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 18 at 401 West 16th Street. Attendees will have an opportunity to tour the facility immediately following the

ribbon cutting.

Voters approved funding for the project in the 2009 bond election. The city worked with architectural firm SmithGroupJJR of Dallas on the design. Byrne Construction Services served as the construction manager for the project.

Formerly the Plano Senior Recreation Center, City Council members unanimously approved the renam-

ing of the facility to honor Plano's own Rep. Sam Johnson, a decorated war hero and native Texan who ranks among the few Members of Congress to fight in combat.

The refurbished center includes a new, 2,800-square-foot cardio and weight room addition, overlooking Harrington Park. The center's famed Gazebo Café has also received an extensive facelift with more dining space and a

reconfigured kitchen, which will allow staff and volunteers to better serve patrons.

Other project amenities include:

- New fitness class space
- Additional classroom space for classes, seminars, meetings, etc.
- Additional parking and restrooms
- Expanded area for the Wellness Center for Older Adults



Plano.gov

## IMA Inc. offers largest grant to date to Boys & Girls Club in Dallas market

IMA Inc., through its IMA Foundation, donated \$15,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas – the largest IMA Foundation grant to date in the Dallas market. Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas will apply the donation to its Academic Success program, which is designed to guide students through high school and into post-secondary education

and 21st century careers.

The grant will fund Academic Success activities including tutoring, college prep, STEM, robotics, financial literacy and more. It is one of nearly 100 grants given by the IMA Foundation in the past year to nonprofit organizations in three focus areas: advancing youth, arts and culture, and education.

“As IMA grows its footprint in the Dallas market, we look to organizations like Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas as partners in our vision,” said IMA Dallas President Rob Broz. “We strive to make a difference every day by empowering our communities through volunteerism and financial grants. Academic Success is definitely making a differ-

ence in the lives of young people.”

While Boys & Girls Clubs started with sports programming, Academic Success is key to its mission of providing kids with positive role models and life-changing programs. Average attendance in Academic Success classes tops 1,700 daily. In 2017-2018, 100 percent of seniors participat-

ing in Collegiate STEPS (with regular attendance) graduated from high school and enrolled in college or the military.

“By 2020, our goal is to have a daily attendance of 2,000 youth and have every young person who enters our doors be prepared to enter college and make a great impact in the community,” said Charles R. Eng-

lish, President and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas. “IMA’s generous donation will help us achieve that goal, and we are grateful they see today’s students are tomorrow’s future.”

IMA Foundation grant application deadlines for 2019 are April 5 and Oct. 5. Nationally, the IMA Foundation serves over 100 nonprofit organizations.

## A tale of love and redemption: ‘Spiritual parents’ throw surprise party for man who broke into their church

By Dr. Sybil C. Mitchell  
Special to the  
New Tri-State Defender

(NNPA) Two weeks ago, 24-year-old DeAndre Bramlett felt hopeless and alone. He had no job, no prospects, and no money to take care of his son, Kamyron, only a year old.

Tuesday, he turned 25. And in all his 25 years, DeAndre had never had a birthday cake. That all changed when his new, spiritual parents, Pastors Henry and Lorre Lavender, threw his a surprise party. And his new “God family” was there—clapping and cheering. Considering that DeAndre had recently broken into the congregation’s new church home, the scene was pretty remarkable.

It all started two weeks ago. DeAndre didn’t wake up that day with the intent of burglarizing a church. But by nightfall, there he was. Breaking into the building only days before the Living Life in Victory congregation was scheduled to move.



Pastor Henry Lavender gives DeAndre Bramlett, who broke into Lavender’s church, something Bramlett said he’d never had – a birthday cake. (Photo: Dr. Sybil C. Mitchell)

He was with some other guys. They were there to steal the copper wiring. It sells well in the scrap metal market—no questions asked. A window was already open, and all he had to do was walk in. The other guys had busted up the walls—large holes in the drywall so they could just walk right through. The tools were right there. DeAndre saw them. His role would be simple. All he had to do was carry the copper outside.

Only, once inside, things took a different turn. The police showed up while the

robbery was still in progress. The downstairs alarm had been disabled, but the thieves had no idea about the one upstairs. A television news crew was already on the scene. DeAndre’s face was everywhere, plastered all over the late news broadcast. So many flashing blue lights and video cameras.

He and the other culprits were taken to a holding area down at 201 Poplar.

“There was so much overcrowding because of the government shutdown, there was no place to put us,” said Bramlett. “So we sat all

night in the holding area. They let me make some calls. I called my girlfriend and my mother. That’s how I found out I was all over the news. They already knew where I was.”

Pre-trial processing noted that his record was pretty clean, and he was released the next day with a court appearance set for Monday, February 18th—Presidents Day.

“I’m going to do my best to be down there with him in court,” said Pastor Henry Lavender. He understands the power he wields in standing up for Bramlett in court. The victim begging mercy for the offender.

How did they connect? I’m glad you asked.

DeAndre got out. And when he got online, he saw that the news report about the burglary was still up. This was his home—his neighborhood. He knew Pastor Lavender had seen the report by now. And so, the remorseful, unlikely thief calls the church. He leaves message after message on the an-

swering machine.

It was Sunday, and like most pastors, Rev. Lavender waits for Monday to check any messages that had been left. He’s there and the phone rings again.

“Hello, this is Pastor Henry. How may I help you?”

“My name is DeAndre Bramlett.”

“Okay. Make me know who you are.”

“I’m the guy that was caught in your church. I just want to apologize and ask your forgiveness. And I want to do everything in my power to help repair the damage that was done.”

Pastor Lavender was stunned into silence. DeAndre promised to come to church. Pastor Lavender tells him, “If I don’t hear from you in a few weeks, I am going to reach out to you.”

Jesus taught forgiveness, and “we have the ministry of reconciliation,” Rev. Lavender says. A loving response to a confused, young man is required.

“This is not an ordinary

church. We are a family church. We are the village. Mr. Bramlett promised to come, and he did just that. He brought his family, too, and here we are.”

Pastor Lavender worked in Shelby County Corrections for 10 years, and has held other law enforcement posts over the course of his career. He understands that young men need guidance.

“I appreciate DeAndre because he broke a cycle in his life,” said Pastor Lavender. “Now, he has his own son to raise. The cycle is broken. Jesus makes it possible for DeAndre to live free. His son can be free.”

Neither Bramlett nor his church family know what is going to happen in court on the 18th. But they are hoping for a miracle, that DeAndre is given a second chance, just as they have given.

(Living Life in Victory is located at 4300 Raleigh-LaGrange Road. For additional information, call the church office at: 901-207-1054.)

# Students and schools are making big moves in District 6!



**Joyce Foreman**  
Dallas ISD  
District 6  
Trustee

A concerted effort is being made districtwide to expand fine arts education and student exposure to the arts. A snapshot of this commitment was flashed earlier this month as students at T. L. Marsalis Elementary School were treated to a performance by the Dallas Black Dance Theater's dance troupe Encore!

The students watched the musical adaptation of the fairy tale "Peter and the Wolf", learned a choreographed dance and enjoyed an original performance piece by the troupe. The on-campus cultural excursion was a celebration of Black History Month, allowing many students to see themselves in a positive artistic way. I especially encourage

these types of experiences because they open the minds of our students to an array of possibilities.

And speaking of possibilities, I was inspired to see special needs students from T. W. Browne Middle School participate in the Adaptive Robotics Scrimmage. The students worked with general education students to build robots and practice leading up to the event. A part of the district's growing robotics program for students who receive special services, the scrimmage is designed to build positive self-esteem, teamwork and communication skills. Programs like this bolster the sense of humanity within our school system and reflect the commitment to equal opportunity and investment in District 6.

Students from Jimmie Tyler Brashear Elementary School are moving forward after placing second in the Medical Mystery Challenge

at the recent Destination Imagination Regional Tournament at Conrad High School. Destination Imagination is a nation-wide educational program in which student teams solve open-ended challenges and present their solutions at tournament competitions. The Brashear team is among the 26 teams to advance to the state tournament happening in Corpus Christi on March 22-23. These gifted students have all of District 6 standing behind them as they compete with excellence and skill.

It's no secret that the southwest quadrant of Dallas is home to some of the premiere athletic programs in Dallas ISD. The culmination of years of consistent character building, effective classroom instruction and stellar athletic training produces a yearly roster of college hopefuls from the ranks of District 6 schools. I'm proud to congratulate

our student athletes who publicly committed to accept college and university scholarship offers to fund their educations while playing sports at this year's College Signing Day ceremony. See their names below:

### David W. Carter High School

Dominique Bailey, football: Texas A&M-Commerce  
Sebastian Blunt, football: Missouri Southern State University

Detrevan Cooper, football: Texas College

Asia Cunningham, football: Texas College

Tommy George, football: Texas College

Derrick Hall, football: Texas College

Cedric Hayes, football: Texas A&M-Commerce

Zahad Munford, basketball: Grambling State University

Sidney Reagor, football: Texas College

William Savala, football: Grambling State University

Daitan Waiters, football: Texas College

### Justin F. Kimball High School

Mikyron Boulden, football: Missouri Valley College

Jameel Ibraheem, football: Navarro Junior College

Jameel McWilliams, football: UT-Permian Basin

Julius Monroe, football: UT-Permian Basin

Sarah Ovalle, soccer: Univ. of Arkansas at Little Rock

Xzavion Pipkins-Florence, football: Texas A&M-Commerce

Jalen Warren, football: UT-Permian Basin

Edward White, football: Lyons College

Khameron Wilkerson, football: UT-Permian Basin

Cobe Williams, basketball: Louisiana Tech

Ronald Williams, football: Missouri Valley College

### Big Moves for Mark Twain

Families looking for a unique school for their

gifted child in District 6 should consider Mark Twain School for the Talented and Gifted. Opening in August 2019, the neighborhood magnet school will cater to gifted students who need a challenging academic environment to reach their full potential. Admission is based on academic achievement, and applications are required.

The school will include instruction in language arts, mathematics, humanities, the sciences, technology, fine arts, and physical education. It will also offer exciting extracurricular activities for further enrichment.

Parents who want to learn more are invited to attend an upcoming information session:

Mark Twain School for the Talented and Gifted

Feb. 28 | 4:30 p.m. AND  
March 1 | 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

724 Green Cove Ln. |  
Dallas 75232

## New service learning classes build community connections

(UT-Dallas) In one of the newest University of Texas at Dallas classes, students are helping immigrant high schoolers with English. Another class is talking to fifth- and sixth-grade girls about social media and bullying. And still another is working with homeless teens in Dallas.

These classes are part of the University's growing community-based service learning program, which gives students the opportunity to explore new topics while serving as teachers and mentors in the community.

The University received a three-year, \$1 million grant The University of Texas System provided in 2017 for "Engagement through Collaboration, Mentorship, and Service Learning." The service learning funds were part of a broader \$10 million initiative that provided for campus-based programs in support of former Chancellor William H. McRaven's Student Success Quantum Leap.



Kate Berinhout (right), a child learning and development senior at UT Dallas, took the #GOALS class in the fall and now serves as a teaching assistant for the course. As part of an expanded, community-based service learning program, the class is designed for UT Dallas students to help immigrant students in the Richardson Independent School District. Psychology senior Ayae Kato (left) is participating in the course. (Photo: UT-Dallas)

The goal of community-based service learning is to increase students' sense of belonging, one of three pillars that the UT System has identified as critical for student success. (The other pillars are finances and advising.) Belonging also is a priority of the new UT Dallas program Orbit: Keeping New Comets on Course.

The weekly, small-group classes have been a success, with many students saying the experiences were meaningful and gave them a

greater sense of purpose, said Dr. Joanna Gentsch, director of student and community engagement in the Office of Undergraduate Education, who designed and expanded the program across campus.

"Our students are gaining a sense of belonging by connecting with each other and people in the community," said Gentsch, a senior lecturer in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences who earned her master's and doctoral degrees at UT

Dallas. "The students become so close."

The program has expanded from one class initially to 10 this spring. Separate courses focus on a range of topics and may not be offered each semester.

One of the most popular is #GOALS, in which UT Dallas students help immigrant students in the Richardson Independent School District (RISD).

Ashlea Campbell, program specialist for Student Assistance in RISD, said the classes have helped students better adjust to their new schools. As a result, the district expanded the program, now at four campuses, and asked UT Dallas to create a class to address bullying for upper-elementary girls. The class, called Richardson GIRLS (Going Into Real Life Successfully), reduced incidents and will be expanded to two more schools this spring.

"Our students are learning not just what the UT Dallas students are teaching

them in lessons every week; their behavior is really impactful," Campbell said. "Our students are learning social and emotional skills, whether they know it or not."

In addition to the classes in the Richardson schools, the University offers a variety of community-based service learning courses, including Hidden in Plain Sight, which involves working with teens at a Dallas Independent School District drop-in center for homeless students. The sociology course is offered through the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences.

Another course, Juega Conmigo (Play With Me), facilitated by the UT Dallas Center for Children and Families, offers free weekly parent-child playtimes for children through age 3 at two community sites.

Other courses address topics such as Women in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math), LGBT issues, and

pregnancy and parenting challenges.

The UT Dallas students benefit as much as the high school students, Gentsch said.

"Our students are learning as much from the high school students as the high school students are learning from them," she said of the classes offered at three Richardson campuses last fall. "They're building relationships that come out of seeing these kids every week."

Edisa Saracevic, a psychology senior who took #GOALS last semester, said it was a rewarding experience that became the highlight of her week.

"I've grown to respect these students' willingness to work hard," Saracevic said. "They put so much effort into even the most minuscule of tasks. Seeing them put this much effort into everything makes me realize how much they want to succeed and was rather inspiring."

# Irving's new convention hotel is almost ready for check-in

Construction crews are still the only "guests" at Irving's new convention hotel.

But the workers will be checking out soon.

"We are going to have guests in here at the end of next month," said Stephen Galbreath, chief development officer with developer Garfield Public Private. "We've been working on this project for more than two years and are excited it's almost done."

"It's going to be a real game



texticancourt.com

changer for the Irving convention center."

The Westin Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas Hotel, the missing link between Irving's convention center and the nearby Toyota Music Factory entertain-

ment and restaurant venue, is set to open at the end of March.

The \$113 million, 350-room hotel is a high-profile addition to the commercial neighborhood along State Highway 114. The 13-story hotel tower was designed by Dallas architect BOKA Powell with interiors by Waldrop + Nichols Studio.

Austin Commercial is the general contractor.

The new hotel — which itself has almost 20,000 square feet of

meeting space — is 78 steps from the entrance to the convention center.

The Westin plans to draw from general business travelers and Irving convention visitors who don't want the hassle of a long com-

mute, said general manager Todd Winch.

"When you are at one of these shows, you don't want to get in a car and drive to your hotel someplace else," Winch said.

See HOTEL, Page 11

## BRADFORD, continued from Page 1

tegrity; he says his goal is to make the community more a part of the decision-making process. The "hot button" issues in Plano he sees as most pressing currently are property taxes, transportation and education.

"Two of those are state issues affecting us in Plano," Bradford said. "We really can't be proactive on those, we have to be reactive."

He's looking to raise awareness among his constituents as to how the process works and how to address such issues on the local level. One of the things he sees a need for is more town hall meetings, which he says he has not seen in the two years he has been in Plano.

Finally, he said veterans issues strike close to home for him, and there are more than 55,000 veterans in Collin County.

"I still get calls today to be a mentor to other veterans," Bradford said. "I want to create a system to know these vets and their families, so they can know the support is there. Whether it is

knowing where the hospital is, or that there is a veteran out there to talk to for suicide prevention, or support in cases such as sexual assault."

Currently, Bradford is facing two opponents in his bid for Place 5 on the Plano City Council. Ron Kelley and Shelby Williams are also on the ballot for the election which will be decided on May 4. First elected in 2015, Kelley cur-

rently holds the seat, and is Plano's current Mayor Pro Tem. Williams, an advocate against Plano's rising taxes, comes to the table with some key endorsements from local GOP officials.

For more information and upcoming events, Bradford can be reached through his campaign website ([bradford4plano.com](http://bradford4plano.com)).

For more photos of the Byron Bradford meet-and-greet, visit [www.northdallasgazette.com](http://www.northdallasgazette.com).



Byron Bradford (at right) discusses local issues with Miguel G. Palacios (at left) at his campaign event. (Photo: Briget Murphy/NDG)



Supporters at the Byron Bradford campaign meet-and-greet held Saturday night include (front row, left to right) Danielle Lerner, Lisa Kolodny, Robert Danor, Carolyn Bradford, (back row) Tanner Do, Dylan Rafaty, Adam Kolodny, Byron Bradford, Dwight Briggs and Miguel G. Palacios. (Photo: Briget Murphy/NDG)

**Dallas**  
**Design Within Reach Contract Showroom Opening** is scheduled for Feb. 28 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 5646 Milton St. Suite 895. Design Within Reach, the largest retailer of authentic, modern furniture and accessories in the world, is excited to announce the opening of our dedicated Design Within Reach Contract Showroom. Guests are invited to come out for drinks and festivities at their opening party.

**In Conversation – An Evening with Dr. Zan Wesley Holmes Jr.**, activist, educator, clergy, and former Texas State Representative,

in a Lecture Series presented by Roland Parrish & Parrish McDonald's Restaurants. Distinguished Guest Speaker is Cynt Marshall, CEO of the Dallas Mavericks.

7 p.m. Friday, March 15, at St. Luke Community United Methodist Church, 5710 East R.L. Thornton Frwy., Dallas.

Tickets on Eventbrite @ \$35 each

**ART GALLERY PURE LOVE** includes artwork of emerging and professional artists exhibiting artwork for the home with ideas for the perfect Valentine's Day gift that gives back. The series of mixed-media paintings, photography and sculptures in-

cluded in the ART GALLERY PURE LOVE exhibit provide an avenue for donations to the American Heart Association. The nonprofit supports and advances groundbreaking research, provides critical programs and services, and helps improve the health of more loved ones.

Texas Artists featured by Art Gallery Pure include Dallas artists Julia Ross, Kathy Kromer, Jan Witten Sewall, Chris Henderson and Douglas Winters.

"It is an honor to provide a venue for these talented Texas artists and musicians to come together and share work to support the Ameri-

can Heart Association," said Lisa Faulconer, owner CakeMix Recording.

ART GALLERY PURE LOVE runs through Feb. 28 at Art Gallery Pure.

**Garland**

**Garland Board & Volunteer Fair:** Enjoy an evening of networking and conversation with more than 30 of Garland's nonprofit, civic and community organizations from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, at The Atrium at the Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth St.

These organizations are seeking both volunteers and/or open board vacancies, and you'll have the opportu-

nity to learn more about helping serve the Garland community.

This event is free to attend. Register here as an attendee, organization or sponsor.

**May 4 General Election Information**

- Garland voters will have many items to consider in the May 4 General Election. Voters will elect a mayor and City Council representatives for districts 3, 6, 7 and 8. Voters also will consider eight bond propositions. For more information about City elections, visit the City Secretary's web page. Details about the bond propositions are being produced and will be available on the 2019 Bond Program

web page soon.

**Plano**

To improve transfer connections for GoLink customers at **Parker Road Station, boarding locations will change**, effective Monday, February 25. Passengers are advised of the following modifications:

Passengers using GoLink North Central Plano-Chase Oaks will board at either Bay 7 or Bay 8. GoLink Far North Plano will move to Bay 9. As a result of these changes, the Rail Disruption Shuttle (Red Bus Stop) will be relocated from Bay 9 to Bay 4.

All other bus bays will remain unchanged. Thanks for riding DART.

**Residential fire claims the life of a Plano resident late Monday evening**

Just after 10:20 p.m. Monday evening Plano Public Safety Communications received several 9-1-1 calls reporting a house on fire in the 3900-block of Gettysburg Circle. Plano

Fire-Rescue crews were dispatched in less than a minute and the first crews arrived on scene within five minutes of the first 9-1-1 call being placed.

Upon arrival crews found

heavy smoke and fire conditions and were advised by neighbors of a potential need for rescue of the resident.

The first arriving crew went into rescue mode and

began to conduct an interior search.

Due to the fire conditions and crews committing to a search of the structure the Battalion Chief upgraded the response to a second

alarm. Unfortunately, during the search a deceased victim was found just outside the rear of the residence.

The fire was declared under control within 25

minutes of crews arriving on the scene. A total of 49 firefighters responded to the scene. The victim has not yet been identified and the cause of the fire is under investigation.



When it comes to the transportation of natural gas and oil, we are working toward **one goal: 100% delivery.**

That's why we are investing in building the safest, most efficient pipeline infrastructure - **ensuring fewer trucks on the roads, less traffic congestion and improved air quality.** Continued progress and growth of our energy infrastructure could support 1 million high paying jobs and up to \$1.34 trillion in investment over the next two decades.

Safely delivering America's energy needs.





# Anastasia star discusses her journey to the stage

By Rachel Hawkins  
NDG Staff Writer

Curtains rising and falling, cast members dancing in their long ball dresses, and the sound of audience clapping is everything a performer would want, and this especially holds true for Kourtney Keitt. She is appearing in the musical *Anastasia*, at Music Hall at Fair Park in Dallas until March 3.

Keitt, playing as Tatiana Romanov, one of Anastasia's sisters, Dunya a peasant girl in St. Petersburg, and other parts within the ensemble are proud to make her debut in the national tour of *Anastasia*.

*Anastasia*, a Broadway musical based upon the animated 1997 Don Bluth film, is a loose adaptation and inspiration of the story of the Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna of Russia, in which her family escapes execution. In the year of 1916, the musical follows an orphan named Anya. Al-



Kourtney Keitt, a cast member who is playing Tatiana Romanov, Dunya, and parts in the ensemble in *Anastasia*. (Photo: anastasiathemusical.com)

though she has lost most of her memories, she begins to share thoughts of the life she knew before.

Anya teams up with Dimitri and Vladimir, a duo in search of an Anastasia look-a-like. Their goal is to collect a huge award, travel to Paris and find the ones she once called family.

Keitt, in the role of one of Anastasia's sisters, discussed her experiences on stage by phone recently with the North Dallas Gazette.

"I remember when Anas-

tasia came out for Broadway originally, I wasn't quite at the level I thought I needed to be," Keitt said. "When the tour happened I got an invitation to go to the audition. I kept going and it took me at least two months of callback. I took all of the feedback I could take, and in the (audition) room the director said: 'oh you could've held the notes a little longer,' and that gave me an idea to change the song I was singing."

Keitt continued to fine-

tune her audition and eventually landed a role.

She is originally from Chester Springs, Pennsylvania and now lives in New York City. Keitt began as a Knicks City Dancer and then performed with Royal Caribbean Productions for several years.

"Up until now I did regional theater to build my way up," Keitt said. "Fun- nily enough I ended up doing *Hairspray* again, but this time it was real singing. It was definitely an experience for me, and then I ended up doing the tour, and it was shocking, exciting and a big deal for me."

Her love for Broadway

first began when she performed in Joe Iconis' Broadway *Bounty Hunter*. Later she appeared in other productions including *An American in Paris*, *Evita*, *Oklahoma*, and *Hairspray*.

"For Tatiana Romanov, I am one of Anastasia's sisters in the beginning," Keitt said. "It's really great because I get to bond with the other girls, and wear these beautiful princess gowns. It's really great that I get to be up there as a person of color. It's exciting when you see that opportunity to not stick completely to the original casting."

Keitt especially loves the diversity in the cast. Anasta-

sia is an ensemble heavy musical, with the entire ensemble being onstage 80 percent most of the time.

"We have people from all different backgrounds," Keitt said. "It's not just this cast, but I think it speaks to the company that we have different shows of *Anastasia* being done all over the world. There is not just one look for this show. From this cast especially, we all get to learn from each other's backgrounds, cultures, and customs. Everyone is so open and accepting, there is no specific look for this, and they (the directors) made that really clear from the beginning."

## NDG Entertainment Guide: Dance, concerts and golf tickets on-sale this week

This week, the *North Dallas Gazette's* Entertainment calendar is future focused with news about dance, concerts and golf events coming up this spring.

The mission of **A.I.M.**, under the artistic direction of Kyle Abraham, is to create an evocative interdisciplinary body of work. Born into hip-hop culture in the late 1970s and grounded in Abraham's artistic upbringing in classical cello, piano, and the visual arts, the goal of the movement is to delve into identity in relation to a personal history.

The work entwines a sensual and provocative vocabulary with a strong emphasis on sound, human behavior and all things visual in an effort to create an avenue for

personal investigation and exposing that on stage.

A.I.M. is a representation of dancers from various disciplines and diverse personal backgrounds.

Abraham's A.I.M. is coming to Dallas March 1-2 as part of the TITAS season. Tickets and details are available at [attpac.org](http://attpac.org).

Coming off of the sell out success of *KAABOO* Cayman in the Cayman Islands, **KAABOO TEXAS** has announced the addition of living legend Lionel Richie to its May 10-12, 2019 lineup. The multi-sensory event has also released a full rendering of the festival site plan set to take place both inside and outside areas of AT&T Stadium.

**Snoop Dogg's 25th Anniversary of Doggystyle Tour** is coming to The Pavilion at Toyota Music Factory on April 28 with special guests Warren G, The G Funk All Stars, Tha Dogg Pound and more. Tickets go on sale to the public Friday, Feb. 22 at 10 a.m.. Buy tickets at [LiveNation.com](http://LiveNation.com).

Tickets are now on sale for the **2019 AT&T Byron Nelson**, which will be held May 8-12 at Trinity Forest Golf Club in Dallas. General admission tickets are \$45 per day, Thursday through Sunday. A wide range of hospitality packages with food and beverage, VIP seating, air-conditioning, and premium viewing options are also available. More info at [atbyronnelson.org](http://atbyronnelson.org).

**March 2019**  
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.  
Concert starts at 7:00 p.m.

Radisson  
Arlington  
Frost  
The Austin Center for the Arts

Music Hall  
3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL  
ARLINGTON  
Jazz  
FESTIVAL '19  
Smooth Jazz!

HOSTED BY  
KING CHARLES  
AND A  
SPECIAL GUEST

JOE MCBRIDE  
JOSH GILES  
LARRY BRAGGS  
TOM BRANTON  
JARROD LAWSON  
YUKO MABUCHI  
KIM WATERS

**MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>** **MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**Arlington Music Hall**  
224 N. Center St. | Arlington, Texas 76011  
Purchase Tickets at: [ArlingtonMusicHall.net](http://ArlingtonMusicHall.net)  
or contact: [JimAustinOnline.com](http://JimAustinOnline.com) | (817) 923-9306  
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM

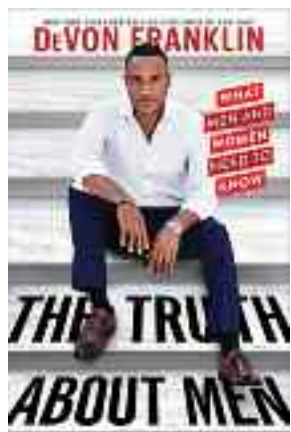
## Enter to Win! Ticket Giveaway

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

# DeVon Franklin wants to share 'The Truth About Men'

"We as men, don't know how to love and how to practice love," DeVon Franklin bluntly stated in an interview with the *North Dallas Gazette*. The award winning film and TV producer is also a best-selling author, and minister. His latest book is *The Truth About Men*.

It is all too common to hear people say, all men are dogs, which is why it was surprising to see Franklin use the metaphor training a dog as a path to discuss



their misdeeds. He believes there are certain behavior patterns which men need to

move away from because otherwise they are led to act against their vows, their integrity and even their character.

Men want pleasure for pleasure, as a result Franklin said, "We can become a nuisance to ourselves and those around us." Learning to love God, themselves and the community happens when men are about to understand and live the truth that, "The love in me is stronger than the lust

in me."

According to Franklin the same discipline which propels men to professional and personal success in other areas of their lives, must be applied to their relationships. He admits it is a struggle even for him to work on how a man must learn to "Master the Dog" within.

"Respect the community and the culture instead of only putting our self desires above all else," Franklin

shared as the goal of helping men get back on track. This will result in renewed strength for African American relationships, families and communities.

Make no mistake this is not a how-to-book for women. While Franklin hopes it helps the ladies to understand their partners better by gaining information they do not already know, he believes they are often on track.

"Women are already

doing what they need to do," Franklin stated. He does hope the book offers some ladies an opportunity to heal from damage suffered at the hands of misbehaving men.

Dallas fans can hear Franklin speak at the Voices That Matter event on Feb. 21 at Paul Quinn College. Tickets and details are available at Eventbrite.com.

Truth About Men is available at your favorite bookstore or online.

# Russell Hornsby: 'Proven Innocent,' actor is a proven talent

By Nsenga K. Burton, Ph.D. NNPA Newswire Culture and Entertainment Editor

Russell Hornsby should be a household name by now with his impressive body of work. His latest role as a crusading attorney and family man on FOX's "Proven Innocent" may be the role to do it.

The Oakland born thespian has been bringing characters to life on stage and screen for over two decades. Hornsby believes in studying the craft of acting, which is proven by his training at Boston University followed by Oxford University's British Academy of Drama.

He is probably best known to fans for his role as police

officer Eddie Sutton in the critically acclaimed show "Lincoln Heights," (ABC Family) and most recently as Maverick Carter in the hit film *The Hate U Give* and Buddy Marcelle in the knockout film *Creed II*. Hornsby has studied under theater royalty (Lloyd Richards and August Wilson) and worked opposite incred-

ible talent including Regina Hall, Nikki Micheaux, Erica Hubbard, Amandla Stenberg, Regina King, Denzel Washington, Robert DeNiro, Sylvester Stallone, Michael B. Jordan and the list goes on.

No stranger to the small screen, Hornsby has been delighting fans with powerful performances on top shows like "Gideon's Crossing"

(NBC), "In Treatment" (HBO), "The Affair" (Showtime), "Seven Seconds" (Netflix) and now "Proven Innocent" (Fox).

Hornsby plays the character of Ezekiel "Easy" Boudreau, a lawyer who is best known for freeing Madeline Scott (Rachelle LaFevre), a wrongly-convicted woman, after she

served 10 years in prison. Teaming up with Scott, Boudreau has dedicated his life to freeing the wrongly-convicted as part of the "Injustice Defense Group."

While promoting "Proven Innocent" at the 2019 SCAD aTVFest in Atlanta, Hornsby discussed his keen ability to

See **PROVEN**, Page 16

GREAT SEATS STILL AVAILABLE!

## KYLE ABRAHAM'S A.I.M

MARCH 01.02 2019

MOODY PERFORMANCE HALL

CALL 214.880.0202 OR VISIT [ATTPAC.ORG/TITAS](http://ATTPAC.ORG/TITAS)

# Auto loan delinquencies climbed to \$9 billion in 2018

By Charlene Crowell

In recent months, many economists and lawmakers have frequently touted how the nation's economy is performing really well. Often citing historically low unemployment rates, I've always felt that such pronouncements failed to consider the untold millions of Americans who are eking out a living on low or no raises, or others who work multiple jobs trying to piece together a living for their families.

But new data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, offers hard evidence that a key sector of the economy is showing signs of distress: auto loans. At the end of 2018, 7 million consumers were three months behind on their car payments, according to the Fed's Liberty Street Economics.

Addressing its finding of multi-million auto loan delinquencies, the Fed wrote, "That is more than a million more troubled borrowers than there had been at

the end of 2010 when the overall delinquency rates were at their worst since auto loans are now more prevalent."

I suspect that many consumers want to keep a car available just as much as a roof over their heads. Reliable wheels also offer a certain amount of freedom of mobility that eliminates the need to know a train or bus route or the fare.

So why are so many consumers delinquent on their car loans?

Answers can be found by examining the terms of the loans. Just as the foreclosure crisis took people's homes, the wrong car loan takes your mobility. Consumers with lower credit scores — less than 620 on a scale that reaches 850 — become easy targets for sub-prime auto finance that comes with interest rates from the mid-teens to as high as 20 percent. Auto finance companies are often used by lower credit score consumers looking to buy a car.

By comparison, con-

sumers with credit scores of 661 to 780 or higher typically have car loan interest rates of 6 percent or less. These consumers frequently finance their autos from banks, credit unions, or the financing arms of major auto manufacturers. Of the nation's \$1.27 trillion in car loan debt, 30 percent of loans were made to consumers with credit scores over 760.

As Liberty Street reports, 6.5 percent of auto finance loans are 90 days or more past due, compared with only 0.7 percent of loans originated by credit unions. So unfortunately once again it is the struggling, working poor who are bearing the brunt of car loan delinquencies, often forged by predatory high-interest rates and other practices.

Another new and independent research report entitled, *Driving Into Debt*, found that the money now owed on cars is up 75 percent since the end of 2009, an all-time record. Jointly authored by U.S. Public In-

terest Research Group (USPIRG) and the Frontier Group, this report states that subprime auto lenders inflict financial abuses that are both predatory and discriminatory from making loans to people without the ability to repay, marking up rates and prices on both Black and Latino customers, and financing expensive add-on products like extended warranties and insurance into the car loans.

"Americans shouldn't have to fight their way through a thicket of tricks and traps at the auto dealer just to get the transportation they need to get to work or school," said Ed Mierzwinski, U.S. PIRG's senior director for federal consumer programs and a report co-author.

Nor does it help that in April of last year, Congress used the Congressional Review Act to nullify the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) auto finance guidance that held auto lenders responsible for discriminatory lending practices prohibited under the

Equal Credit Protection Act. This distorted use of the Congressional Review Act, sometimes known as another CRA, was never intended to overturn long-standing agency practices.

But in 2018, the law was used to overturn 14 agency rules. At the time, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell described the auto lending CRA as part of a broader deregulation effort, stating: "Our whole economy is getting a tune-up. And now it's time for the front end of the auto industry to come along for the ride."

That kind of perspective suggests that the Majority Leader may have an unhealthy regard for fair lending laws, particularly those aimed at eliminating racial and ethnic discrimination. Further, time and actions will tell how much Kathy Kraninger, the new CFPB Director, is attuned to the predatory and discriminatory lending that continues despite federal laws.

"We need a strong Con-

sumer Financial Protection Bureau and help from state Attorneys General and local officials to enforce consumer and fair lending laws against unfair car loan tactics," added Mierzwinski. "Otherwise, consumers and the overall economy will suffer."

"Predatory and discriminatory auto lending practices notoriously prey upon the financially distressed, with loans that disregard the consumer's ability to afford them," noted Rebecca Borne, a Senior Policy Counsel with the Center for Responsible Lending. "Common-sense regulation and enforcement are needed to ensure responsible underwriting and elimination of other predatory practices that are consistently shown to result in borrowers of color paying more than white borrowers, even controlling for creditworthiness."

*Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's Communications Deputy Director. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.*

## Management study examines how abusive supervision affects workers

(UT-Dallas) Abusive supervision in the workplace produces dysfunctional consequences for subordinates, triggering intentions to quit and displaced aggression toward others at work, according to a study from the Naveen Jindal School of Management at The University of Texas at Dallas.

Abusive supervision is a problem that prevails over multiple organizations, regardless of location or industry, said O. Dorian Boncoeur, a doctoral student in international management studies and co-author of the paper. Existing literature has shown how it affects employees' performance and commitment, but how employees respond to and cope with abusive supervision is less understood.

"Researchers are fasci-



From left: Doctoral student O. Dorian Boncoeur, Dr. David L. Ford Jr. and Dr. Orlando C. Richard are co-authors of the study about the impact of abusive supervision in the workplace. (Photo: UT-Dallas)

nated by this topic because these are behaviors from supervisors in which they repeatedly berate or disrespect their employees verbally and nonverbally," he said. "It has various effects on these employees, visible and not visible."

The paper, published online in September in the

Journal of Business Ethics, is forthcoming in a print edition of the journal. Dr. Orlando C. Richard, associate professor of organizations, strategy and international management, and Dr. David L. Ford Jr., professor emeritus of organizations, strategy and international management, also are co-

authors of the study.

For the study, the researchers surveyed 324 employees and direct supervisors working at privately owned manufacturing firms in southern China and interviewed the firms' presidents. Dr. Hao Chen of Tsinghua University in Beijing, a co-author of the paper who received her PhD in international management studies from UT Dallas in 2011, was responsible for the data collection.

The authors found that when employees face abusive supervision, it triggers an intention to quit their job. When employees intend to quit but still are working at their jobs, they become emotionally disconnected from others at work and are less likely to

See STUDY, Page 12

## HOTEL, continued from Page 8

The Westin has a huge outdoor patio bar and dining space facing the convention center. Inside, the ground floor restaurant has a modern Mexican vibe with wood and metal finishes. There's also a bar and bistro on the upper level swimming pool deck with views toward downtown Dallas.

Winch said the hotel will also draw guests because it's next to the Music Factory entertainment venue.

The hotel is selling package deals with the Music Factory, he said. "You can go to a concert, dine and stay here."

The Irving hotel is gearing up for a busy opening month.

"We have \$3.2 million in business on the books,"

said director of sales and marketing Zak Kimble. "The first week in April, we have 280 rooms on the books one night."

"We're right between the two airports — the best location in town."

But first the Westin has to hire a staff, complete construction and double-check that all the rooms are ready to go. "We already have a third of our staff committed," Winch said.

A huge modern art piece must be installed on the wall and ceiling around the check-in desk, and each room will get a big package delivered with everything needed to finish out the space.

"The last thing we do is make the beds," Winch said.

# The 'Tax Cuts and Jobs Act' creates opportunity zones to spur economic development

By Christopher G. Cox  
Publisher / Managing Editor  
www.realesavvy.com

(NNPA) A relatively small component of the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, passed in December of 2017, was the creation of Opportunity Zones in every state in the U.S., as well as in the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories.

The purpose of this legislation is to encourage investment in economically distressed communities by making it possible for investors to receive preferential tax treatment for investments made in businesses operating within these Zones.

Tami Bonnell, CEO of EXIT Realty International, explains that individuals who invest in Opportunity Zones are eligible to reduce taxes on



*A relatively small component of the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, passed in December of 2017, was the creation of Opportunity Zones in every state in the U.S., as well as in the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)*

capital gains, depending on how long the investment is held. "If the investment is held for 10 years," she said, "there are zero capital gains taxes on the increase in the investment. It's a great thing when you can get a return on your investment and invest in people at the same time."

At a time when bipartisan agreements are rare and becoming rarer, Bonnell points

out that the Investing in Opportunities Act was initially supported by Republican Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina and Representative Pat Tiberi of Ohio and Democrats Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey and Representative Ron Kind of Wisconsin.

Opportunity Zones have the potential to address many of the country's most vexing

economic problems, Bonnell notes. "One in six Americans lives in an economically distressed community," said Bonnell. "There is something wrong with the way we're operating when we have that much poverty in the United States."

Bonnell cautions that the goals related to Opportunity Zones need to be closely monitored to ensure that both investors and communities benefit. "We don't want to impose gentrification where people in poverty zones end up with fewer options in smaller and smaller communities," she said.

Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League, agrees with Bonnell that this legislation has great potential to reinvigorate urban communities, but must be carefully implemented with im-

portant "guard rails to ensure that it does not become a tool for removal and gentrification."

"I think what is required," said Morial, "is for community leaders – mayors, city council members, county commissioners and other local leaders – to legislate conditions that require affordable housing to be an integral component of new projects."

Morial also wants Opportunity Zone projects to require that minority and women-owned businesses have a chance to participate in construction and that local residents have access to jobs within the Zones.

In addition, Morial adds, community leaders — who clearly want these investments — should not wait for Congress to act but should

take the initiative to make certain these protections are in place before projects get under way. "When I look at Opportunity Zones," Morial notes, "I see green lights and yellow lights. The yellow lights say caution."

Moving forward, Bonnell sees one of the biggest challenges associated with Opportunity Zones as making investors aware of them and how they work. Noting that she travels the country giving dozens of speeches every year, Bonnell often asks audience members to raise their hands if they're aware of Opportunity Zones.

"Typically, less than half the audience raise their hands – sometimes it's just a handful of individuals," she said. "This is a big opportunity that people are not embracing because they're not aware of it."

## Millions of Texas drivers to benefit from 4.3 percent auto insurance rate cut

Nearly three million Texas drivers could see a sizable reduction in auto insurance premiums again this year. The state's largest insurer, State Farm, is cutting its

Texas auto rates for the fourth consecutive time. Beginning today, Feb. 18, personal auto rates will drop by 4.3 percent for customers of the state's largest insurer. 2.9

million State Farm auto customers will realize total savings of more than \$136 million.

"State Farm is always evaluating how we can best

serve our customers. We are very pleased to be able to offer another auto rate decrease in Texas," said State Farm Senior Vice President Phillip Hawkins. "Improving

expenses and losses were important factors, among many, that supported our decision to make this rate change."

Since January 2018, State Farm has lowered auto rates

more than 12 percent.

Overall changes in premiums for individual motorists will vary. Rates depend on a customer's policy and chosen coverage.

## STUDY, continued from Page 11

value their co-workers, supervisors and the organization.

"Chances are the employee has feelings of anger, and they are disgruntled," Boncoeur said. "It takes time for one to actually quit his or her job after experiencing bad events at work, so when the employee doesn't leave immediately, he or she is more likely to become more prone to interpersonal aggressions toward other employees."

The study also examined how employees' perception of the organization's human resources climate and their power-distance orientation affected the relationship between abusive supervision and their intention to quit their jobs.

Power distance is a cul-

tural value that captures the extent to which people tolerate power differences in interpersonal relationships and their institutions.

High power-distance individuals tend to view the differences as fixed, so they have more tolerance for power inequalities between supervisors and subordinates. Low power-distance individuals tend to believe that power should be equally distributed.

According to the study, employees with low power-distance orientation may not be as likely to quit when dealing with abusive supervision. On the other hand, high power-distance employees, who tend to prefer direction from their supervisors, may develop stronger intentions to quit.

"This is in stark contrast

to what previous research has found. We found that high power-distance employees likely perceive a violation of the social exchange relationship when their supervisors are abusive, rather than supportive, thus bolstering their intentions to quit and aggression toward co-workers," Richard said.

Furthermore, when employees perceive their organizations to be less supportive through their human resources practices, those dealing with an abusive supervisor are more likely to want to leave their job. This is not the case when employees perceive their firms' human resources practices as supportive, although this situation ultimately results in displaced aggression toward co-workers.

The researchers deter-

mined that organizations might reduce the negative impacts of abusive supervision by creating a supportive human resources climate where employees can cope with abuse more effectively.

"Companies should provide certain types of training and development that encourage employee learning and have a climate where supervisors feel like the company cares about them," Ford said. "Organizations need to be mindful and do audits periodically to see how employees feel and correct anything that needs attention."

Organizations can't always predict which managerial hires will become abusive, so education is key, Boncoeur said.

"You may have a supervisor who would not define his or her actions as abu-

sive," he said. "If organizations implement supportive human resources training, it will start a conversation,

and supervisors can better understand what these behaviors are and their effects."

Crown Castle is proposing to collocate antennas on a 108.67-foot monopole and to install (2) cabinets and a generator within a proposed 12-ft x 18-ft lease area expansion at the following site: 4444 Trinity Mills Road, Dallas, Collin County, Texas 75287; N 32° 59' 21.46", W 96° 49' 54.34. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by calling Monica Gambino, 2000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317, Monica.Gambino@CrownCastle.com, 724-416-2516 within 30 days of the date of this publication.

# Upcoming DFW area job fairs

Feb. 22

## ADT Home Security Hiring Event

The ADT Home Security Hiring Event will be held on Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 2727 LBJ Freeway Fourth Floor STE 436, in Farmers Branch. Please submit your application via Indeed prior to attending and you will be contacted by Human Resources via email to schedule an interview. Bulldog/ADT Security Services is expanding operations in Richardson and surrounding areas! We are looking for talented sales & customer service professionals to join our ADT Residential Sales Team. Applicants should be goal-oriented, entrepreneurial-minded and comfortable working in a performance-driven environment. For more information visit indeed.com.



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.

Feb. 26

## Taco Cabana Hiring Event

A Hiring Event will be held for Taco Cabana on Feb. 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 4360 Dallas/Ft. Worth Turnpike, in Dallas. Team Members enjoy great pay and benefits, vacation, team member discounts, and a place where you work with friends, connect with guests and feel great. Team Members can receive up to \$9, and shift leaders: Up to \$11/hour dependent on experience. Walk-in's are welcome! When you arrive to the restaurant – please ask for the hiring event.

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

## Virtual Hiring Event

The RN Float Pool- Virtual Hiring Event will be held on Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. online. The Elite Nursing Resource Float Pool Team provides care to a variety of patients

throughout our Hospitals. Our Resource Float Pool nurses deliver professional nursing care to patients in a variety of settings, including our Emergency Rooms, Critical Care units, NICU, Labor and Delivery / An-

tepartum units, CVOR, or Acute Care floors. We are looking for a Registered Nurse that is interested in working with a diverse group of patients in a role that allows for developing additional Nursing skills.

If you are interested in a position that encourages growth, the Medical City Healthcare RN Resource Float Pool is for you! For more information visit medicalcityhealthcare.com.

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

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



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

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

Feb. 28  
RN Float Pool -

## 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](mailto:ngarcia@northdallasgazette.com) to be considered.



## Attention Suppliers of Goods, Services and Construction

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

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

972-205-2415



## DO YOU WANT AN EXCITING AND REWARDING CAREER?

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

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

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

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

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

## TISEO PAVING COMPANY

419 E. Hwy. 80, Mesquite, TX 75150

Tel: (972) 289-0723 Fax (972) 216-5637

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

Performing Concrete Street Paving in the Metroplex Area

We Accept Subcontracting Bids

For All Public Works Projects

in the Dallas Area.

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

Equal Opportunity Employer

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

1944 E. Hebron Parkway  
Carrollton, TX 75007  
972-492-4300  
www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

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.

each Friday night at 8 pm, (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

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

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.

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 24, 9:45 a.m.**  
Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship; and our day of celebrating Black History Month (wearing African attire is appreciated but not required). You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

**February 27, 7 pm**  
Join us for Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner and others as we continue to study 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.

**March 3, 10 am**  
You are invited to join Bethel Bible Fellowship's Women Ministry Group (W.O.R.T.H.) as we continue with the study of Boundaries and the Digital Age

Dr. Terrance Woodson,  
Senior Pastor

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

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

**February 24, 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 27, 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

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

**February 22, 8 p.m.**  
All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting

**February 23, 10 am**  
Join us this Saturday at 10 am for our New Member O"RAY"ENTATION

**February 24, 10 a.m.**  
Please join us for our Morning Service; and don't forget to invite family and friends to join us as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**February 25, 7 p.m.**  
You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us in His Holy Word.

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

**Cemetary Space Broker will make you offer on your cemetery plot**



Dennis Jarvis / Flickr

- Inherited plot and can't sell it?
- Bought plot years ago and your plans have changed?
- Singles space or Side by Side spaces is okay.

We will make you a "cash offer" on your cemetery plot today! If you get voice mail-leave message phone number and information on cemetery space. We will get back to you

**Call Us Today!!!!!!!**  
**972.432.5219**

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

**February 24, 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.

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**

**See CHURCH, Page 15**

**February 27, 7 pm**

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

**Opportunity You Can Measure...**

**Church Events**

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

**Non-Profit Org. Events**

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

**Special Rate \$199**

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

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

E-mail ad copy to:

Marketing@NorthDallasGazette.com

or call our Marketing Department today!

**972-432-5219**



# Little known Black History facts



Sister Tarpley

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

It is my strong belief that as we honor the accomplishments of African Americans world-wide, we honor our ancestors.

Too many of our Black children have forgotten or have never been taught that they are where they are in life because of our ancestors. Our ancestors suffered, prayed, honored God, endured many hardships and died so that future generations' lives would be better.

Many young Black children (I am sad to say, some older Black people also) have the misconception that it is not necessarily to honor the accomplishments of Black Americans that have made a huge difference world-wide.

They wrongly believe and have said so, we have gotten over that part of history in America, and we have overcome. Let us not forget to honor and thank older Black Americans, es-

pecially this time of the year. Listen to what they have to say (over the years they have learned many things that will be helpful to young Black children.

## Little Known Black History Facts

(By Tom Joyner, Renowned Radio Personality and Dr. Henry L. Gates, Writer. These facts are published by McDonald's Corporation. Copyright 2000)

Since the "Entertainment World" is all a buzzed about The Oscars, and how many nominations there are in each category, and speculating who will win what, I thought that it is good to know that Maya Angelou was the first Black woman to have a screenplay produced, "Georgia, Georgia," which she also directed. In 1970, she was the first Black woman to have a non-fiction book on The New York Times Best Seller List; it was the first volume of her autobiography, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. And she was the first Black woman to be a conductor on a San Francisco streetcar. The Harlem Renaissance was a flowering of African American creativity that exploded

in America in the 1920's. Langston Hughes (a postal stamp was made to honor Hughes) and Countee Cullen wrote poems, Nella Larsen and Jean Toomer wrote novels, and Zora Neale Hurston wrote about Black folk life. Aaron Douglas painted extraordinary pictures, and sculptor Augusta Savage turned stone into portraits. Broadway was open to Black musical theater with zestful singing, dancing, and comedy. The whole country was moving

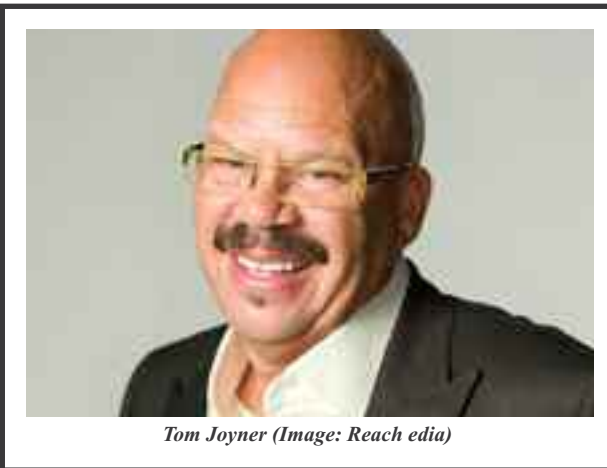
for people of color. This much energy, talent, and creativity infused the whole nation with a unique new vigor and originality.

Reading this column today, it is good to know that The Stone Churches of Lalibela in Ethiopia are one of the architectural wonders of the world. A group of eleven buildings, they are hewn from volcanic rock. But they are not carved from stone standing above ground. Astonishingly, they were cut into the earth, so

palaces or fortifications. The religious tradition is that they were built by angels in one night during the reign of King Lalibela, one of the early members of the Zagwe Dynasty. They now house Ethiopian Orthodox monks and a collection of Christian art treasures.

Samuel Cornish, he

founded the first African American newspaper, "Freedom's Journal." The first issue appeared on March 16, 1827 with a strong civil rights stand. With world-wide use of our cell phones, it is good to know that Henry T. Sampson invented the Cellular Phone on July 6, 1971.



Tom Joyner (Image: Reach edia)

**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**

**Inspiring Body of Christ** Pastor Rickie G. Rush  
7701 S. W. MacArthur Rd  
Dallas, TX 75207  
972-793-4696 (BOC)  
www.bocchurch.com  
Sunday Morning Service 10:30am  
Monday School 7pm & Afro Fellowship 7:00pm

## CHURCH, continued from Page 14

### 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 23, 9 am

The Men of Shiloh will gather for a fellowship breakfast on Saturday at 9 am. All men are welcome to join us for fellowship and breakfast.

**February 24, 8 and 11 am**  
You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

**February 27, 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  
920 E. 14th Street  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-6695  
[www.smbcplano.org](http://www.smbcplano.org)

AKA ZFB   
AWANA   
  
**SORORITY ROW**  
Boutique  
The Premier Sorority Boutique  
STP ΔΔΘ   
**SORORITY ROW BOUTIQUE**  
2912 N. MacArthur #103, Irving, TX 75062  
972-793-0582  
[www.RGApparel.com](http://www.RGApparel.com)

**Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church**  
Serving the Plano Community for 128 Years  
Founded 1884  
920 E. 14th Street, Plano, TX  
  
  
Isaiah Joshua, Jr.  
Pastor  
SMBC: A church Focused on Excellence while Teaching the Word, Preaching the Gospel, Reaching the World  
Worship Times: 8 and 11 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Mid-week: Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Youth Church: Every 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sunday at 10:45 a.m.  
AWANA: Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
Contact Information: 972-423-6695  
[www.smbcplano.org](http://www.smbcplano.org)

# NDG Book Review: *Inventing Victoria* is timely, relevant and informative

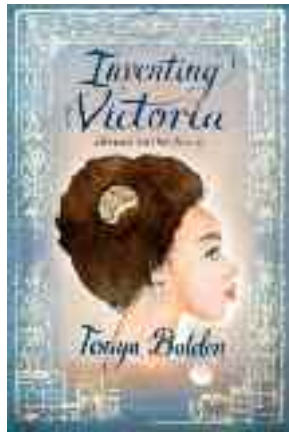
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You can be anything you want to be!

That's what you were told, growing up: you could do anything, try everything, and be anybody you wanted to be, if you tried. Set your sights on something, and it was yours – so in the new novel "Inventing Victoria" by Tonya Bolden, a young girl wants a better life.

Five-year-old Essie was embarrassed half to death.

High in her attic room, she could still hear the noises of the "uncles" that her Mamma was entertaining but the "uncles" were all white men,



which made no sense and Essie hated it. It should've come as no surprise to anybody that she wanted to go live at Ma Clara's house, where she never had to worry about food or "uncles."

At thirteen, Essie had enough.

Ma Clara had helped nourish her mind and her soul, and Essie knew the time was right for her to leave Mamma by taking a job at Abby Bowfield's boardinghouse. There, she made her first friend and she dared to dream of a happy future – as if, for a girl whose Mamma escaped from slavery, that wasn't impossible.

And then the impossible happened.

Miss Dorcas Vashon, who had Room 4 at Miss Abby's on permanent hold, took a liking to Essie and made her an offer she couldn't refuse:

She'd take Essie away from Savannah and make her into a lady, teach her, form her, correct her speech, and fix her slouch. In exchange, Essie would have to give up everything she'd ever known.

And so, a girl named Essie stepped away from Miss Abby's boardinghouse one day, and became Victoria.

At eighteen, Victoria tried not to look back at her life. Doing so was "excessively ill-bred" but she couldn't help it. With the guidance of Dorcas Vashon, she'd reinvented herself, but there were so many things she didn't know: how, for example, could a new lady keep an old

woman in her heart? How can a lady remember where she came from, without ruining where she was going?

How could Victoria keep living the lie she'd been given?

Absolutely, "Inventing Victoria" is a familiar story with a different twist: more than a century ago, it was a play. Half that, it was a movie. Now, this Pygmalion-like tale is set in the years after the Civil War, and your teen is going to love it.

Not only is it a great story, author Tonya Bolden also creates settings that invite historical figures to pass through her characters' lives.

Frederick Douglass is here. James Wormley is mentioned, as is O.S.B. Wall and John Mercer Langston, and Elizabeth Keckley makes dresses for Victoria. These people flow through the tale like it's an everyday thing to nineteenth-century folks but for modern readers, Bolden makes their presence feel like visits from royalty.

Relevant, timely, and quietly informative, for a 12-to-17-year-old who enjoys gentle adventure plus romance wrapped in a fairy tale, this book is perfect. For her, "Inventing Victoria" is a book she'll want to be near.

## PROVEN, continued from Page 10

move between the stage, film and television playing a range of characters that have been historically unavailable to black actors.

The Drama Desk award-winner says when choosing roles, quality is most important. "You've heard the saying you need to start where you finish? Well, I started at such a high-level in acting, that I have to keep it going," he says.

Hornsby explains that his first job after graduation was working for \$217 a week for the great Lloyd Richards, the first black director to direct "A Raisin in the Sun" on Broadway. Richards was also Dean of the Yale School of Drama, which is one of the reasons the show had acting greats like Courtney B. Vance, Charles S. Dutton and Angela Basset. From there, Hornsby worked under August Wilson, a two-time Pulitzer Prizewinner and 10-time Tony award-winner, on shows like "Jitney."

"I started at the top with quality, so that's my norm. Now when I assess material, I assess it from that standpoint. I'm constantly traversing between film, television and theater so I'm constantly staying at a high level and I can't go back," says the Obieaward-winner. "I'm not holier than thou or anything," Hornsby expounds. "I'm just saying I was blessed to be able to make money as an actor early on in my career. I

was smart with my money, which enabled me to be able to say no and maintain my integrity when choosing roles," he adds.

Hornsby's work often delves into complex issues and "Proven Innocent" is no exception. In a social and civic climate where the topic of mass incarceration, the prison industrial complex, unjust sentences, wrongly convicted prisoners and a justice system run amok are at peak level, "Proven Innocent" is tackling these complicated issues head on.

Hornsby, who is known for playing strong family men, purposely chose this role because of its important representation of a black man.

"I want people to recognize and see that real men exist," says Hornsby. "A dear friend of mine used to say there was a time when boats were made of wood and men were made of steel. That's what I want our people [black people] to see on this show," he says.

Hornsby, who was raised by a single mother and was surrounded by strong men, including his father, believes this is a much-needed image in media. "I'm not saying sisters don't deserve the credit. They do. My mother did the damned thing and I've got a wife who is bad as she can be — smart, talented, everything — but men exist too. Let's not exalt one at the detriment of the other. Let's say we can

co-exist, partner in the struggle together," he explains, which is another reason why this character spoke to him.

"Real men still exist. Men can stand up straight, look you in the eye, conduct themselves justly and appropriately and not be afraid. That's what I want," says the 2018 AAFCA award winner. "Men need to share and be open and more malleable. That's what you'll see with this character," Hornsby re-

veals.

"Proven Innocent" airs on FOX, Fridays at 9 p.m. EST. Check local listings for channel information.

Nsenga K. Burton, Ph.D. is entertainment and culture editor for NNPA/BlackPressUSA. A film and media scholar, Dr. Burton is founder and editor-in-chief of the award-winning news blog *The Burton Wire*, which covers news of the African diaspora.



No stranger to the small screen, Russell Hornsby has been delighting fans with powerful performances on top shows like "Gideon's Crossing" (NBC), "In Treatment" (HBO), "The Affair" (Showtime), "Seven Seconds" (Netflix) and now "Proven Innocent" (Fox).

**NORTH DALLAS BANK & TRUST CO**

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

**972.716.7100**

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