



North Dallas Gazette

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Candidates for Dallas Mayor address South Dallas in MNP forum at African American Museum

By David Wilfong
NDG Contributing Writer

The latest installment of Monday Night Politics featured candidates running to replace Mike Rawlings as the mayor of the City of Dallas. Despite frigid temperatures, enough residents made the trek to the African American Museum in Fair Park to fill the foyer of the museum and ask questions of their potential future mayor. *The Dallas Examiner* hosts the Monday Night Politics during each election season.

There were seven of the nine candidates vying to become the city's next mayor. Texas Rep. Eric Johnson and former Texas Rep. Jason Villalba were not present for the forum.

Mike Ablon believes his background as a builder gives him an understanding of Dallas neighborhoods which could translate into success as a mayor.

"Why do I want to be the mayor? Why do I want to be a servant leader for the city?" Ablon asked rhetorically in his opening statements. "It's because we have to focus on our neighborhoods. We have to focus on the ties that bind, and we need to make decisions. We need to execute and we need to build. We need to build communities. We need to



Moderator Demetria McCain (center) takes questions from the audience during Monday night's forum at the African American Museum in Fair Park. Seated behind her are candidates (left to right) Albert Black, Alyson Kennedy, Miguel Solis, Regina Montoya, (to the right of McCain) Lyn McBee, Scott Griggs and Mike Ablon. (Photo: David Wilfong / NDG)

build infrastructure, and we need to build jobs, and at the end of the day we need to build neighborhoods."

Albert Black told the audience he had grown up very near where the forum was being held and contrasted his early days in the area with current conditions.

"We came here to the Fair Park, once we'd gotten beyond 'Negro Day at the Fair,'" Black said. "We came just about any time we wanted to. We stayed here. We had fun. We walked around and we went home, safe; because the neighborhoods were safe then -- much different

today, those same neighborhoods. They've been neglected. Those same neighborhoods have not been kept in a manner that they should."

Scott Griggs is a current council member, representing the North Oak Cliff area in District 1. With a reputation as a watchdog, Griggs called for fundamental change in the mayor's office.

"I recognize that we need a new kind of mayor," Griggs said. "For too long, mayors in the City of Dallas have been focused on Dallas: the

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READERS SOUND OFF!!!

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People In The News...



Chineye Emeghara



Dr. Sheila Brooks

NDG Quote of the Week: "A wise man told me don't argue with fools. Cause people from a distance can't tell who is who."
- Jay-Z

Chineye Emeghara

(UT-Austin) Before she was winning awards at The University of Texas at Austin, computer science sophomore Chineye Emeghara was teaching herself to code in high school with resources she discovered online. Later, on a trip to Nigeria, where her mother lived before immigrating to the U.S., she realized that she could apply her interest in technology to improve the lives of others.

"Nigeria is a great place and I love it, but in parts of the country, there is a lack of access to certain technologies that can be really helpful," Emeghara said. "Even something simple to heat water



can change lives. I realized that I want to make a change there."

She decided to apply to UT Austin, knowing it had a top computer science program.

"Ideally, I would like to have a foundation or a company that creates technology

to increase the quality of life for people in developing countries and to narrow that socioeconomic and technological gap," Emeghara said. "That's my end goal."

Emeghara was one of ten women selected in 2018 for the inaugural Windows Insider Women in Computing Award. As part of the award, Microsoft sponsored awardees' attendance at the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing, the world's largest gathering of women technologists. And the community of ten women has stayed in touch. They have a weeklong trip to Microsoft headquarters scheduled for the summer, where many of them, including

Emeghara, will also be interning.

It has already been very rewarding, but Emeghara almost didn't apply.

"In the description it said they only chose ten people," Emeghara said. "So I thought, 'Why would I even try for that?' But the day before it was due, I figured the worst thing that could happen was that I didn't get it."

She didn't expect anything to come of her application, so she was surprised when she found herself added to a Microsoft Women in Computing group chat.

"I opened it and I was like, 'Why am I added to this group chat? It doesn't make any sense,'" Emeghara said.

"So, I checked my email. And then I started sobbing. It was shock, excitement, disbelief. I was just overall really grateful."

In just the year and a half that she's been at UT Austin, Emeghara has already participated in a Google CodeU fellowship, a Chevron internship and hackathons including HackMIT. In the Association of Black Computer Scientists, she serves as the Outreach Officer, working to inform local middle and high school students about opportunities in tech. And she's a part of the Digital Arts and Media Bridging Disciplines Program and in the Texas Interdisciplinary Plan, as a TIP Scholar.

"UT lets me do not just CS [computer science] but also to explore a more creative side," Emeghara said. "College is difficult for anyone, I think, regardless of major. But the professors here have been incredible. My CS professors are some of my favorite people."

Her "number one inspiration," though, is her mom.

"She's always been such a hard worker," Emeghara said. "She came here for us to live our best lives. To go get an education, go have our best jobs, do whatever we want. So I think getting the Microsoft award, the aspect I'm most proud of was hearing from my mom how happy she was."

Dr. Sheila Brooks

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Correspondent

It isn't an ordinary day when someone gets nominated for an NAACP Image Award.

And, it certainly isn't an ordinary day when renowned journalist Roland Martin is the one texting the nominee and alerting them of the honor.

That's why Tuesday, Feb. 19, wasn't an ordinary day – at least not for Dr. Sheila Brooks, the Emmy Award-winning journalist and entrepreneur who has dedicated a large part of her professional



life to advocating for minorities, women, diversity issues and small businesses.

Dr. Brooks, the founder, president and CEO of SRB Communications, a full service Washington, D.C.-based

advertising and marketing agency, has earned an Image Award nomination in Outstanding Literary Work as one of the authors (along with Clint C. Wilson) of the new book, "Lucile H. Bluford and the Kansas City Call: Activist Voice for Social Justice."

Dr. Brooks will walk the Red Carpet on Saturday, March 30, in Los Angeles where she'll find out if her nomination turns into a win at the 50th NAACP Image Awards.

"I've known [Martin] since he was 19 and he texted me and said, 'Congratulations on your NAACP Image Award nomination,' and I just

screamed," Dr. Brooks recalled.

Still stunned, she texted Martin back and he replied by sending her "the whole nomination and the book cover that's been announced."

"I said, 'I guess I'm going to Los Angeles and walk the red carpet,'" Dr. Brooks said.

Her new book discusses the life and pioneering work of Lucile H. Bluford, an activist, editor and publisher of the Kansas City Call during the civil rights and women's rights movements.

"It traces the beginnings of her activism as a young reporter seeking admission to the graduate program in jour-

nalism at the University of Missouri in Columbia, and it details how that battle became the catalyst for her seven-decade career as a champion of racial and gender equality," Dr. Brooks said.

Bluford had already enjoyed a successful career at The Call and historians said she didn't need further training. However, she saw an opportunity to challenge segregation in public universities.

Though the University of Missouri's journalism program accepted Miss Bluford based on mailed transcripts, when she showed up to enroll officials saw she was black and denied her entrance.

"She fought the case and it went to the state Supreme Court 11 times and she finally won, but she never did attend the school because it closed, and 50 years later she received an honorary degree," Dr. Brooks said.

The story has added significance for Dr. Brooks because she grew up in Kansas City.

"The Kansas City Call is the weekly black newspaper in my hometown and I used to play in front of the building," Dr. Brooks said. "I was very familiar with [Bluford] but not as familiar until I took a deep dive into research,"

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NDG Readers Sound Off...

The American public had an opportunity to hear Michael Cohen's public testimony before Congress today. Do you believe him?

Do you?
-- Talley Williams
via Facebook

I think he only confirmed what we already knew. To not believe what we have seen and heard during this entire "residency" is to be in utter and complete denial of the truth.

-- Tracee Bond
via Facebook

No
-- Kyle Morton
via Facebook

Updated Texas tenants law provides new protections

Does anyone know what I can do to fight illegal eviction procedures, specifically, removal of my property from the moving truck I had hired, including all exempt property. They then allowed residents to help themselves to anything they wanted and I was ordered off the property and told not to return. That's it in a nutshell and I lost

everything I owned. I know what they did was illegal and immoral but I don't know where to go to get help. And I really need it.
-- Donna O'Reilly

The history behind the Irving red doors

Central fire station was an active station way past 1956. I worked there 1967 til ?
-- Kenneth Heine

(Editor's Note: Thank you Kenneth, not able to confirm when the fire department moved out, but you are correct it looks like it was City Hall until

1956.)

The South Irving Task Force is actively working to see the preservation and utilization of this historical location. Loren Byers (not "Warren") is a member of the Task Force. There are also several Council members interested in our efforts and in the suggestion by the Association President. We invite the public to support us and this effort.

-- Sharon Barbosa-Crain

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The Republican Party and C-PAC’s continued infatuation with minstrel shows

By Raynard Jackson

Having just concluded the nation’s month-long celebration of Black History Month, the Republican Party and the conservative movement had one of the most disastrous months in my lifetime.

I have warned anyone who will listen that race will be the most dominant issue as we head into the 2020 election cycle; and the party and conservatives are totally ill-prepared and incapable of dealing with this issue of race.

The Republican Party and the conservative movement have done NOTHING, let me repeat NOTHING to show that they are serious about engaging the Black community in any meaningful way.

They continue to promote and showcase minstrel shows like Diamond & Silk; and the Black community’s version of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Candace Owens.

Political sycophants like Lynn Patton “willingly” allow themselves to be used as props and pawns all in the name of getting a condescending pat on the head by their overseers. Congressman Mark Meadows was

WRONG for the stunt he used with Patton. Let me repeat HE WAS DEAD WRONG!

I know Meadows and he is a very decent guy and I know first hand that he wants to see more Blacks involved with our party, but again, what he did was wrong and stupid; not racist!

The blame is to be placed on Patton. She should have had the “integrity” to tell Meadows that she would not allow him to use her as a prop; but instead would be willing to submit for the record her account of her personal relationship with the Trump family.

Memo to Black Republicans: STOP trying to explain Patton’s situation away. She was willingly used as a prop! End of sentence. Lynn, you are NOT a martyr, you simply got used. Admit it and move on.

In order to have credibility within the Black community, you must call out foolishness when it happens and stop trying to explain it away by giving cover to those who offend us. There is no explaining away what Meadows did nor what Patton did!

So, last week the RNC had

its perverted knock-off of my Trailblazer and, as is par for the course, they turned it into another minstrel show.

The venue was at a nightclub. Yep, you heard me right, a nightclub. They took what was supposed to be a very solemn event that was supposed to recognize Black Republicans that met three criteria:

Made significant contributions to America, the Black community, and the Republican Party. Their honorees were jokes and in no way met the criteria for the award.

Not only was it at a nightclub, the owner is a Black liberal who contributes thousands of dollars to the Democrat Party.

Kamilah Prince, the Black Republican staffer who oversaw the event, should be immediately fired for sheer incompetence. And if her incompetence wasn’t enough, they hired a white band to provide the entertainment. I am not kidding; a WHITE band for a Black history event!!!!

Can you imagine Soul Train having a country music artist on its program or the Grand Ole Opry having gangsta rapper Ice T per-

form?

Only a Black Republican would do something this stupid!

I remind you that C-PAC is the same conservative group that spewed the most racist attack on former RNC chairman, Michael Steel, last year. Steel was the first and only Black to lead our party.

C-PAC even had some no-name Black, Maj Toure, who said he was both using the conservative movement and being used by it. “If you can’t be used, you’re useless.”

Former British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, once told me, “To every man there comes a time in his life when he is figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a great and might work; unique to him and fitted to his talents; what a tragedy if that moment finds him unprepared or unqualified for the moment that could be his finest hour.”

In my hypothetical court question above, the Republican Party and the conservative movement has been found unprepared and unqualified for the moment that could be its finest hour when it comes to the Black community.

Failing an American Family

By Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson

President Trump’s recent meeting with North Korean President Kim Jong-un in Vietnam failed to produce an agreement leading to the abandonment of North Korea’s nuclear programs. There was no joint agreement and no final news conference with the two leaders exchanging smiles and pleasantries.

And while the president did not manage to achieve what he had expected he did manage to give the North Korean leader a pass by saying that he believed Kim Jong-un when the Korean leader said that he was not aware of the treatment that a young American college student, Otto Warmbier, received in a North Korean prison which doctors say ul-

timately led to his death.

The president’s comment was shocking! Among those who could not believe what they were hearing were the student’s parents, Cindy and Fred Warmbier, who were guests at the president’s first State of the Union Address during which he described President Kim as a brutal leader whose nation should not be in possession of nuclear weapons. The Warmbiers received a standing ovation when their presence was announced.

In a stark rebuke of the president, the Warmbiers said that they were disappointed when they heard Trump’s recent remark.” President Kim and his evil regime are responsible for the death of our son, Otto,” they said in a written statement.

Democrats and Republi-

cans alike have joined the Warmbiers in placing the responsibility for their son’s death on the shoulders of President Kim and his autocratic regime. “Americans know the cruelty that was placed on Otto Warmbier by the North Korean regime,” said former Trump administration ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley.

United States Senator Sherrod Brown, a Democrat from Ohio, where Otto Warmbier lived, said that President Trump was sending the wrong message to dictators and despots around the world. “North Korea murdered Otto Warmbier and the President of the United States has a responsibility to make sure they face the consequences. Anything short of that is unacceptable,” he said.

The president’s comment regarding Kim’s knowledge about the death of the young American is strikingly similar to those he made when asked about the death of an American journalist, Jamal Khashoggi, who CIA officials concluded was killed by agents of the government of Saudi Arabia in Turkey, acting on orders from Saudi government officials.

The president said that he believed senior Saudi government officials when they said that they did not have any knowledge of the killing. The responses from President Kim and from Saudi government officials were found unacceptable by people who believe in democracy and government accountability. Certainly, the president of the United States should agree!

Following death of Luke Perry, ASA reiterates stroke warning signs

The American Heart Association and its division, the American Stroke Association, joined the chorus of organizations and individuals sending heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and fans of actor Luke Perry. Media reports indicate that Perry, age 52, died Monday following what has been described as a “massive stroke” on Thursday.

A stroke can happen to anyone at any age, however,



Gage Skidmore / Wikimedia

the risk does go up with age.

“Although stroke often af-

fects older individuals, it is not only a disease of the elderly. Luke Perry's tragic death highlights the fact that stroke can affect middle aged and young adults, even children. In fact, there is evidence that stroke rates among young people are increasing in the United States and this requires additional research,” said Mitchell S.V. Elkind M.D., M.S., chair of the American Stroke Association Advi-

sory Committee and a professor of Neurology and Epidemiology at Columbia University and attending neurologist at Columbia University Medical Center of the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. “While we don't know the cause of Perry's stroke, it's important for people to know the risk factors for stroke.”

Those include smoking, high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, obe-

sity and other cardiovascular diseases such as atrial fibrillation, or AFib (a heart rhythm disorder) and family history.

Stroke is the No. 2 cause of death worldwide and a leading cause of disability. Many people may not know that often strokes are treatable. The faster you are treated, the more likely you are to recover.

Stroke can be caused either by a clot obstructing

the flow of blood to the brain (called an ischemic stroke) or by a blood vessel rupturing and preventing blood flow to the brain (called a hemorrhagic stroke). Treatment options depend on the type of stroke. It has not been reported what type of stroke Perry experienced.

To learn more about lowering your risk for stroke, visit www.strokeassociation.org.

Savor the flavor during National Nutrition Month

March symbolizes a time for growth and fresh beginnings through the start of springtime. This season of renewal is complimentary as March also marks National Nutrition Month. Created as an annual campaign by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, National Nutrition Month draws awareness to the importance of developing healthy habits. This includes maintaining a nutritious diet in addition to participating in regular physical activity. The ultimate goal of the movement is to create a

world where all are informed of the plentiful benefits of leading a nutritious and balanced lifestyle.

One of the key components of National Nutrition Month is to empower people to make informed decisions when it comes to food. This pertains not only to nutritional value but also to being mindful of portion sizes and reducing food waste. Eating a variety of foods from each food group is imperative to maintaining a well-balanced diet as it can help reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke,

and high blood pressure among other serious conditions. Not only does consciously incorporating varied food groups promote health, it also helps prevent the inevitable boredom that can come from eating the same dishes.

Another element of National Nutrition Month is promoting the reduction of food waste. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimated that roughly one third of food produced in the world is wasted each year.

Sticking to a grocery list and avoiding impulse purchases can help reduce the amount of food that goes unused and is tossed out. Additionally, researching proper food storage practices can extend the lifetime of fruits and vegetables which often ripen and rot prematurely due to improper storage. Finally, maintaining a clutter-free fridge is a great way to reduce food spoilage. Not only can you clearly see what needs to be used, but a clean fridge also prevents accidental repeat-purchases

and lends to eating a varied diet.

While it may take time to incorporate these habits into a busy schedule, there are other ways to take part in National Nutrition Month. Consider hosting a “healthy potluck” or recipe contest among friends or coworkers. Encourage the group to bring their favorite nutritious dish to spark conversation around meal ideas and preparation tips. Other ways to observe National Nutrition Month include hosting a workplace “lunch and

learn” that promotes healthy eating or organizing a group fitness session at your local exercise studio or gym. However you choose to participate, let the month of March serve as a reminder of the importance that nutrition plays in our daily lives!

Dr. Sarah E. Laibstain is a general family medicine practitioner at Family Medicine Associates of Texas in Carrollton. She thoroughly enjoys improving the health and lives of individuals ranging from young children to adulthood.

Vision screeners detect eye problems with a click of a button

In the United States, the most common disabling childhood conditions are vision disorders, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Although early detection increases the likelihood of effective treatment, the CDC also estimates that less than 15 percent of all preschool children receive an eye exam and less than 22 percent of preschool children receive some type of vision screening. During March, Parkland Health & Hospital System providers observe Save Your Vision Month and encourage parents to pay attention to their children's visual health.

“It is priceless to identify children at risk in order to prevent permanent, unnecessary and irreversible vision loss at an early age,” said Sentayehu Kassa, MD, senior lead staff physician at Parkland's Vickery Health

Center. “I believe early vision screenings significantly improve our pediatric patients' health and overall well-being.”

Thanks to a donation from The Rosewood Foundation, Parkland providers at the Hatcher Station and Oak West health centers, as well as the Dallas County Juvenile Detention Center (where Parkland provides healthcare services) can now perform exams with portable handheld vision screeners.

The devices are designed to quickly and easily detect vision problems on patients from 6 months of age through adulthood. By pointing the device toward the patient's eyes and pressing a button, the screener allows providers to identify visual impairment and eye conditions such as amblyopia (lazy eye) and refractive errors (myopia, hyper-

opia, presbyopia and astigmatism) for further evaluation and treatment.

“Using these instruments is fast and the process requires minimal cooperation from the patient,” Dr. Kassa said. “They're especially useful for screening shy, non-communicative or pre-verbal children.”

Axel Vasquez, 2, of Dallas is one of those shy and very young Parkland patients. Axel and his mother Karina Vasquez, 23, visited the Hatcher Station Health Center in January for a routine pediatric appointment.

During the visit, a nurse pointed the scanner at Axel while he nestled next to his mother on an examination table. Within a few seconds of pressing a button, the device beeped, alerting the nurse the results were in.

“Wow, that was fast,” Vasquez said, laughing. “I

wish that thing was around when I was a kid.”

Vasquez, who has worn glasses since she was a teen, said traditional vision screenings can be challenging. “Identifying letters and numbers on a wall is always hard for me,” she said. “I can only imagine what it's like for small children, especially those who are just starting school.”

According to the American Optometric Association, 80 percent of a child's learning is visual. The organization and Dr. Kassa agree – detection of vision problems is vital, especially for school-aged children.

“Whether they are reading a book, learning math problems or participating in school, children rely on visual learning more than any other educational tool,” Dr. Kassa said. “I believe vision

screeners are incredibly useful.”

Vasquez agreed with Dr. Kassa. “I'm glad Parkland patients like my son can now

take advantage of these amazing devices.”

For more information about Parkland, please visit www.parklandhospital.com.

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Rep. Eric Johnson plans to file anti-corruption bill by Friday

AUSTIN – Rep. Eric Johnson, who sits on the House Urban Affairs Committee, earlier this week announced plans to file an anti-corruption bill in the wake of another former Dallas City Council Member pleading guilty for accepting bribes. Johnson, re-elected last fall, is currently a candidate for mayor for Dallas.

“Too many elected officials have abused their role in this process and abandoned their commitment to their constituents,” said Rep. Johnson, D-Dallas. “These stories have become far too familiar, and I’m



Rep. Eric Johnson speaking at press conference on March 4 announcing anti-corruption bill as Rep. Angie Chen Button (R-12) looks on. (Courtesy photo)

tired of reacting to the crimes. We need to prevent the crimes.”

Last week, former Dallas City Council Member Carolyn Davis plead guilty for

accepting \$40,000 in bribes from a real estate developer in exchange for her support of an affordable housing project. This on the heels of last fall’s plea deal with for-

mer Dallas City Council Member Dwaine Caraway who acknowledged he accepted more than \$450,000 in bribes and kickbacks. He is awaiting a sentencing hearing in April.

“The affordable housing tax credit program has become the mother’s milk of political corruption in Dallas,” Rep. Johnson said. “We need affordable housing in Dallas, but this approval process has to change.”

When developers are seeking affordable housing tax credits, support from elected officials is part of the criteria used to evaluate

those proposals. Under Rep. Johnson’s bill, backing from elected officials would no longer factor into the evaluation and scoring process. While the bill will eliminate the use of elected official support letters in the scoring process, the bill will continue to include support from community organizations and neighborhood associations as part of the scoring process.

Friday is the last day a bill can be filed for consideration during this legislative session.

“The people of Dallas need a tougher law to address this issue,” Rep. John-

son said. “The Legislature can act immediately since we are in session for the next three months. I am going to work in a bipartisan fashion with my colleagues on the Urban Affairs Committee to pass this bill and shut down this particular form of corruption. This is the right thing to do for Dallas and for the State of Texas.”

Dallas City Manager T. C. Broadnax on Monday agreed to follow-through on Mayor Mike Rawlings’ request to review recent housing deals to ensure there was no undue influence from developers.

Texas Senate bill requires reporting of sexual assaults at colleges

By Richard Lee
Texas Senate News

AUSTIN – In committee action Monday, the Texas Senate State Affairs Committee approved a measure aimed at ensuring the proper reporting and investigation of all sexual assault allegations on college campuses.

Bill author and committee chair Senator Joan Huffman of Houston said studies show one in five female college students have expe-



Reportedly, one in five college female students has experienced sexual assault, to the (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Clayton Lenhardt/Released)

rienced some form of sexual assault. SB 212 would require any university em-

ployee that either witnesses or receives information about sexual harassment,

assault, dating violence or stalking reports the incident to the institution’s Title XI coordinator for investigation.

It also requires the coordinator to make a monthly report on the number and status of sexual assault investigations to the institution’s president and requires the president to make the same report to the institution’s governing board once a semester.

The report would be made publicly available,

though the identities of individuals within would be concealed.

The bill also has strong penalties for non-compliance.

Employees failing to report incidents of sexual assault would be terminated, and if the person intentionally tried to cover the incident up, they would face a Class A misdemeanor charge.

The university itself could also face disciplinary

action as a failure to comply with the bill’s requirements could incur as much as a \$2 million penalty.

“I am confident that this bill strengthens the reporting requirements to ensure that the days when an outcry went unheard or covered up at an institution of a higher education are over,” said Huffman. A similar version of this measure cleared the Senate 30-1 last session but failed to reach the governor’s desk.

Voelker kicks off Richardson Mayor’s Summer Internship Program

Calling it an educational initiative “to help build our future workforce,” Richardson Mayor Paul Voelker kicked off the Richardson Mayor’s Summer Internship Program, which provides eight-week, paid internships to high school students who attend Richardson ISD or live in the City of Richardson. Mayor Voelker is now recruiting area businesses through April 1 to sponsor interns at their workplace or an area nonprofit. Sign up now at rmsip.org.

Joining Mayor Voelker for the launch were Bill Sproull, president and CEO of the Richardson Chamber of Commerce and Dr. Jeannie Stone, superintendent of Richardson ISD. The program – a partnership be-



tween the City of Richardson, Richardson Chamber of Commerce and the Richardson Independent School District – provides a direct connection between employers and the future workforce. Launched in 2018, the dynamic program introduces rising seniors to careers and employment opportunities in industries and companies

where they have expressed interest.

Students are immersed in a professional environment, working 20-to-40 hours per week and earning a minimum of \$10 per hour. The teens gain exposure to exciting careers, shadow top executives, experience real-world opportunities, and benefit from networking and

meaningful, mentoring relationships that last beyond the summer.

“Our inaugural year of the Richardson Mayor’s Summer Internship Program was a success, and our first class of interns gained incredible experiences in the workplace, explored new careers and learned new skills,” said Mayor Voelker. “Best of all, they finished the summer with a boost in confidence, connection to mentors, and a more concrete, optimistic outlook as they approach college and their careers.”

The internship program runs June 10-Aug. 2, with a Job Fair on April 25, and a celebratory luncheon for interns and employers on Aug. 22 with Mayor Voelker and Richardson ISD Superin-

tendent Dr. Jeannie Stone.

“This program builds powerful relationships between our young people and our employers. Our businesses have so much to share, so we strongly encourage Richardson business leaders make a life-changing difference in our youth by sponsoring interns at their workplace or at a nonprofit,” said Sproull.

Employers are asked to provide at least one eight-week summer internship for a student for 20-40 hours weekly, pay the interns the recommended minimum rate of \$10 per hour, and pay a program fee of \$500 per intern, which covers the intern’s participation in workforce and work-readiness training, the Job Fair, Com-

munity Service Day and other expenses. Employers will interview students – that they have pre-selected from the program’s online resume portal – at the Job Fair.

Mayor Voelker also is seeking program sponsors for the job fair, student workforce trainings, community service project and luncheon.

Additionally, recruitment is underway through March 22 for high school juniors who attend Richardson ISD or live in the City of Richardson, have at least a 2.5 GPA and are eligible to work in the U.S.

Learn more and sign up at rmsip.org or contact Angela Shellene at ashellene@thereedsprc.com or 214-871-0783.

Third Annual Pi Day Math Festival celebrates importance of STEAM

Teachers, students and families from around the Dallas-Fort Worth area are invited to participate in the third annual Pi Day Math Festival where real-life applications of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) are on full display by nearly two dozen exhibitors.

The festival is organized by the nonprofit organization, talkSTEM in partnership with the AT&T Per-



WalkSTEM is a guided math walk through the Dallas Arts District for the Pi Day festival. (Image via Eventbrite)

forming Arts Center, 14 at Sammons Park, It will take place between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., March The festival will showcase the many ways in which

math impacts our world – in art, nature, science, technology, and more.

Families, teachers, and interested grown-ups are invited to attend this free event.

There will be a wide array of fun, interactive math-related activities for kids. This year, KERA's Sam Baker will moderate a special panel with representatives from Dallas Arts District organizations who will discuss

how STEM and the Arts has played key roles in all of their careers. Panelists from the Dallas Museum of Art, the Nasher Sculpture Center, the Dallas Opera, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Meyerson Symphony Center and the Perot Museum of Nature and Science are scheduled to participate.

“What we're trying to highlight is that STEM is everywhere,” said Koshi Dhingra, Ed.D, founder and

CEO of talkSTEM, a nonprofit organization that promotes conversation about the diversity of STEM and STEAM thinking in our daily lives, in our communities, and in our world. “While this activity takes place on Pi Day, we are trying to make math and science appealing and relevant to all students who increasingly are going to need these kinds of skills in any career they pursue.”

City Of Richardson partners with Eisemann Center and UT Dallas to create innovative arts and technology program

The City of Richardson and the Charles W. Eisemann Center for the Performing Arts and Corporate Presentations are teaming up with The School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication (ATEC) at the University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) to create a first-of-a-kind program called the Eisemann Edge

Endowment Fund, which will give Richardson residents, local students and the North Texas community an opportunity to explore the intersection of technology with the visual and performing arts.

“We believe this program uniquely embodies Richardson's pioneering embrace of technology, and how it can

be used not only in the business world and everyday life, but also to enrich our arts and cultural experiences,” said Richardson Mayor Paul Voelker.

The Eisemann Edge Endowment Fund was started by a \$250,000 donation from community benefactors and civic leaders Ann and Charles Eisemann. They

hope the opening of the Fund will promote future giving to stimulate further growth of tech-based arts in the region.

“We very much like the goal of continuing to progress and lead the arts toward new and innovative discoveries as technology reshapes our senses, perceptions and reality,” said Ann and Charles Eisemann. “We

think this will help grow new artistic leadership and create something new that will last into the future and help the arts innovate over time.”

Eisemann Edge Endowment Fund will be a multi-year, interactive arts experience. This initiative is part of a partnership between the Eisemann Center and UT Dallas to provide opportuni-

ties for students to learn about different artistic offerings.

The first Eisemann Edge Endowment Fund installation, expected to open to the public in March 2020, will blend visual art with technology by utilizing cutting-edge projection equipment and the combined powers of digital art, light and 3D mapping.

Perot Museum joins If/Then Initiative to promote women in Stem

The Perot Museum of Nature and Science announced this week it will partner with IF/THEN, an initiative of Lyda Hill Philanthropies supporting women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). IF/THEN, built on the mantra that “if we support a woman in STEM, then she can change the world,” seeks to advance women in STEM by empowering current innovators and inspiring the next generation of female pioneers.

This first-of-its-kind coalition emphasizes that

STEM is everywhere, essential to the success of all fields from entertainment to business, and that there is no better time to highlight positive and successful female professional role models to activate a culture shift among young girls and their potential of careers in STEM.

As an educational institution whose mission is “to inspire minds through nature and science,” the Perot Museum of Nature and Science will work with IF/THEN to achieve gender equity in the career-inspiration profiles

displayed throughout the Museum. These graphic panels and videos highlight women in diverse and exciting STEM careers who serve as role models to the next generation of female leaders.

“Our nation's future economy increasingly depends on a STEM-capable workforce,” said Dr. Linda Silver, Eugene McDermott Chief Executive Officer of the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. “The Perot Museum plays a crucial role in fueling that workforce pipeline by introducing girls

of all ages to exciting and enriching experiences that will ignite their imaginations and ambitions to pursue rewarding careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We applaud and support Lyda Hill and the IF/THEN initiative for shining a national spotlight on and elevating the importance of women in STEM.”

Though women constitute about half of the college-educated workforce in the United States, just a quarter of STEM professionals are female, and a lack of fund-

ing and visibility has caused female STEM professionals to receive significantly less credit for their work. This STEM gender gap has impacted perceptions of women in STEM, and trickles down to younger generations.

“We need more women scientists to put their stories out there so girls can see what they can be when they grow up,” said Nicole Small, president of Lyda Hill Philanthropies and co-founder of IF/THEN. “To ensure that current female STEM innovators are sup-

ported, and girls are exposed to the STEM role models they need, we must join forces toward this common goal. We believe that having diverse perspectives at the table is key to building a more innovative future, and if we work together, we can truly shift the culture to inspire the next generation of female world-changers. That is why we are partnering with the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.”

For more information about the coalition, visit www.ifthenshecan.org.

Registration now open for the 18th annual BuzzFree PROMises Dress & Suit Giveaway

The Alliance on Underage Drinking (ALoud) and Recovery Resource Council are pleased to open registration for the 18th Annual BuzzFree PROMises Dress & Suit Giveaway to be held on Saturday, March 30 at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Magnet Center,

1201 E. 8th Street in Dallas. Check-in will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the event will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pre-registration for this free event is required at www.surveymonkey.com/r/buzzfree2019.

Prom night is BIG and when alcohol and other

drugs enter the picture, the consequences can be devastating. The BuzzFree PROMises' mission is to encourage and reward healthy choices made by high school juniors and seniors in our area. We seek to prevent and reduce underage drinking, driving under

the influence and use of other drugs, especially around the critical time of prom and graduation.

BuzzFree PROMises Dress & Suit Giveaway helps local teens (girls AND boys) obtain prom attire but includes educational components not usually found

in other prom attire giveaways. In exchange for their pledge to remain drug- and alcohol-free, students participate in a variety of workshops and are rewarded with a prom dress, tux, or suit.

Many of the dresses are new with tags and have

been generously donated by Whatchamacallit Boutique.

The event will include a fashion show, keynote speaker, small group sessions, hands-on activities, and door prizes. Lunch will also be provided and is being sponsored by AAA Texas.

NAACP president awarded Irving's High Spirited Citizen Award at council meeting

By: Rachel Hawkins
NDG Staff Writer

Tony Grimes, president of the Irving – Carrollton NAACP Branch was honored with the High Spirited Citizen Award during the Feb. 28 Irving City Council meeting. Established by the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors in 1988, this award recognizes unsung heroes for their outstanding community accomplishments. "This is certainly an honor," Grimes said. "I would also like to thank the

members of the NAACP. These are the folks who truly do the work. Its been a pleasure for me to serve in this community in the capacity that I have. I look forward to serving as your next district 6 school board trustee."

Serving as the president since 2002, Grimes has formed multiple partnerships throughout both cities while increasing chapter membership and awareness. "One of those partnerships includes the Irving Police Department, where he was instrumental in im-

plementing the 'Law Enforcement and You' workshop that created a platform for police officers and the community to have a valuable dialog on how to handle encounters with police officers," Rick Stopfer, City of Irving Mayor announced during the meeting.

Grimes also serves on the Irving Police Department board, as well as the Mayor's Diversity Council and as a Deacon in training at the Antioch Christian Church in Irving.

While leading the NAACP branch, Grimes

collaborated with a bank vice president to establish the F.I.C curriculum named "Money Smart." This deals with budgeting and reiterates the basic structure of healthy personal finances.

Under Grimes leadership, the NAACP branch received the Alpha Phi Alpha Golden Legend Award, two honors from the City of Irving, a Texas Organization Project Service Award, and the Texas NAACP State Conference Torch Bearer Award.



Tony Grimes, president of the Irving – Carrollton NAACP Branch (right) was honored by the City of Irving and Mayor Rick Stopfer (left) at Feb. 28 Irving City council meeting receiving the High Spirited Citizen Award (Rachel Hawkins/ NDG)

Addison

Ever wanted to cosplay as your favorite character? **All-Con** will be held from March 14 to March 17, starting at 10 a.m. at Crowne Plaza Hotel, in Addison. Fandom convention celebrates many niche interests and passions including science fiction, cosplay, gaming, film, performance art and more. The four-day festival will have more than 400 contests, workshops, competitions, tournaments, meet & greets and more activities in total. The kickoff pajama party doesn't end before midnight the night before and every "night" of the convention wraps up at 2 a.m. or later. Thursday only will have free admis-

sion for all ages, the rest will be charged. For more information visit <https://www.all-con.com/shop.html>.

Dallas

Experience empowerment at the **Women's Self Defense Experience** on March 9, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Chamberlain Studios of Self Defense (Love Field Dojo), in Dallas. Participants will learn techniques to avoid dangerous situations, fend off potential assailants and general self-defense methods and mentalities. Within the workshop attendees can take part in "Break a Board for a Buck," in which students are taught how to break a

wooden plank with their bare hand. Each "Buck" benefits Genesis Women's Shelter. In addition, the Dallas Police Department will share safety tips and conduct a Q&A session for all. Attendees are not required but encouraged to wear comfortable/fitness attire and to bring a donation of cash or everyday household items to benefit Genesis. Those interested in participating can call 214-351-5367 or email info@dallaskenpo.com for more information.

The **Spring Break Survivor Speaker Series** will be held from March 11 to March 15 at Dallas Holocaust Museum/Center for

Education and Tolerance, in Dallas. Join us to hear the testimonies of Holocaust Survivors, Refugees, and Hidden Children, as well as Second Generation Survivors and Survivors of modern-day genocides. Included in cost of Museum admission. Seating is first-come, first-served. For more information visit <http://dallasholocaustmuseum.org/>.

Grand Prairie

Enjoy the **Dallas Blues Festival** on March 9, starting at 8 p.m. at The Theatre at Grand Prairie. The 15th annual event features Sir Charles Jones, Shirley Jones, Calvin Richardson, Pokey Bear, TK Soul,

Theodis Ealey and Tucka. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$59. For more information visit Axs.com.

Garland

The **5K Family Fun Run**, hosted by Marshall's Dream Non-Profit Organization will be held on March 9, from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Garland Texas Duck Creek Green Belt Trail, 4917 Duckcreek dr, in Garland. This 3.1 mile family fun run will help support impoverished student education. The Marshall's Dream Organization is proud to host this event and in doing so, we will be granting 2 Scholarships to two eligible student event volunteers. Be apart of a

this event by registering today at www.marshallsdream.org/run-your-dream.

**Irving**

Experience **Culture Day** on March 9, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Irving Public Library – West, in Irving. Join them as we learn about different countries and regions of the world! Enjoy food, language and traditions of other cultures. For teens in grades 6 to 12. This is a free event.

SBA Seeking North Texas entrepreneurs to apply for 2019 emerging leaders executive training program

FORT WORTH-The U.S. Small Business Administration Dallas/Fort Worth District Office is seeking 20 entrepreneurs throughout the 72-county district to participate in a free, seven-month intensive executive-level training series.

The Emerging Leaders Executive Training Program is designed for established business owners poised for growth. Over the course of about six months each participant will learn ways to improve their business and will create a three-year strategic growth plan to build a sustainable business of size and scale.

To be considered, firms



2018 SBA DFW Emerging Leaders Executive Training Graduating Class (Courtesy photo)

must be for-profit enterprises in business for at least three years with full-time employees and annual revenues between \$250,000 and \$10 million. In the past the annual

revenue requirement for small business owners was between \$400,000 and \$10 million per year. The Annual Revenue Requirement minimum has been reduced to

\$250,000 per year.

There are no restrictions on the type of businesses that can participate. Some examples of participating businesses include manufacturers, retail stores, wholesalers, contractors, professional services, food service, and many others.

"This is a great opportunity for local small business to take advantage of and learn strategies on how to increase their sales and profits. Most importantly, this training is provided at no cost to the participants" said Herbert Austin, SBA's Dallas/Fort Worth District Director. SBA will select 20 small business owners to participate in this

year's class. This is the 10th year of the SBA Emerging Leaders Program in the Dallas/Fort Worth District.

The Small Business Administration's Emerging Leaders Executive Training Program provides free entrepreneurship education and training for executives of small, poised-for-growth companies that are potential job creators. This intensive executive entrepreneurship series includes nearly 100 hours of classroom and CEO mentoring group time. It also provides opportunities for small business owners to work with experienced coaches and mentors, attend workshops, and develop con-

nections with their peers, local leaders, and the financial community.

Eligibility Requirements:

The Emerging Leaders Executive Training Program series is open to small business CEOs whose companies:

- Have annual revenues of at least \$250,000.
- Have been in business for at least 3 years.
- Have at least one employee (other than self).

The application deadline is March 10 with classes scheduled to start in April and end in early October. There is no cost for the class.

More info available at www.sba.gov/emergingleaders.

Financial assistance for vehicle repair or replacement winding down

The AirCheckTexas Drive a Clean Machine Program will be winding down soon. The last day to apply for assistance with vehicle repair or replacement is April 8.

Administered by the North Central Texas Council of Governments, AirCheckTexas has helped qualifying motorists repair or replace more than 71,000 vehicles since 2002. AirCheckTexas is one of the many programs helping improve air quality of the



Texas Car Academy

region, which is in nonattainment for ozone and working to meet federal air quality standards.

Motorists whose vehicles

failed the emissions portion of the annual State inspection within the past 30 days or are at least 10 years old are eligible for assistance if

they meet certain income requirements. A family of four with an annual household income of \$77,250 or less, for example, can qualify for assistance.

The program offers residents who meet the income and vehicle requirements vouchers of up to \$3,500 toward newer, cleaner-burning vehicles and up to \$600 toward emissions repairs. The program has led to an annual savings of 140 tons of nitrogen oxides. For more information on the

program, including the income requirements, visit www.airchecktexas.org.

Since its inception, AirCheckTexas has provided \$121 million in financial assistance to qualifying motorists in nine North Texas counties. The program is open to motorists in Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall and Tarrant counties.

There is \$18.3 million of dedicated funding remaining. Any money not spent

will be returned to the State. The program was fully funded by the 85th Texas Legislature in 2017 but funding was then vetoed by the governor.

The Regional Transportation Council is supporting an effort to reinstate a modernized version of the program focusing on air quality and transportation mobility. Counties would have the option to offer a similar repair and replacement program in the future, if passed.

Bishop Arts Theatre Center celebrates female playwrights with Down for #TheCount women's theatre festival

The Bishop Arts Theatre Center (BATC), Oak Cliff's multicultural and multidiscipline center for the arts, continues its 25th Anniversary "Silver Stories" season with the return of Down For #TheCount: Women's Theatre Festival which previews March 21 Opening Night for this festival of one-act plays is Friday, March 22, and performances will continue through Sunday, April 7.

Back for a fourth year, BATC's Down for #TheCount features six dynamic female playwrights from diverse social and ethnic backgrounds including nationally recognized playwrights Emily Mann, France-Luce Benson, Kiana Rivera, Kat Ramsburg, as



well as North Texas playwrights Gabrielle Denise Pina and Blue McElroy. #TheCount tells us that less than 29 percent of all theatre produced in America is written by women with only 6 percent of that by women of color. This festival breathes life into their com-

elling, hilarious, and heart-breaking stories.

True to BATC's mission, Down For #TheCount is a vital platform for the perpetuation of innovative theatrical productions where a variety of female voices may be heard. Directed by Camika Spencer, Teresa Coleman Wash serves as Executive Producer for Down For #TheCount.

Following every performance, Bishop Arts The-

atre Center will host a series of "Stay & Say" audience discussions on ideas and themes within the production such as racial healing, women's health, and LGBT issues. These post-show discussions will last 15 to 20 minutes and will be led by local experts, artists, and community leaders guiding the conversation.

The plays of Down for #TheCount
Under The Liberty Trees

by Emily Mann; An enslaved family, working at the President's House at Princeton, prepare themselves for separation through hard truths and tough love.

The Talk by France-Luce Benson; A recent widow awakens her daughter in the middle of the night to ask a wildly inappropriate question, beginning a con-

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NDG Entertainment: Sounds and science on sate in DFW this week

By Tiffany Gilbert
NDG Entertainment

Experience **Jen Kirkman** on March 8, from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Hyenas Comedy Nighclub, in Dallas. To enjoy this night out visit prekindle.com/events/hyenasdallas.

Come and experience the **Women's Empowerment Expo 2019** on March 9, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Lancaster Grand Hall Ballroom, at Lancaster. Attendees will have the opportunity to listen to topics on health, education, career, beauty, fashion, and wealth.

Celebrate **Spring Break at the Perot Museum** from March 9 to March 17, starting at 10 a.m. at Perot Museum of Nature and Science, in Dallas. At select times during Spring Break, visitors can enjoy daily spring- and sci-



ence-themed demonstrations, experiments and story times. Plus, little ones ages 5 and under can enjoy crafts in the Moody Family Children's Museum daily until 3 p.m. To fit in all the fun, the Museum will stay open daily until 7 p.m. March 9-16 and will close at 5 p.m. March 17 March 9-17 at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2201 N. Field St., Dallas. Check the website for detailed schedules. Activities are free to members and included with general admission for non-members. \$20 for adults 18-64, \$13 for youth 2-17, \$14 for seniors 65 and older, free for children younger than 2. For tickets visit perotmuseum.org.

The **Urban Flea** will take place on March 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Historic Downtown Garland. This monthly market features handcrafted items, vintage goods and gourmet foods amid live music and food trucks in and around a plaza filled with mom-and-pop shops on Garland's downtown square. A percentage of the proceeds go toward the Church @ the Square local mission. Admission is free! For more information visit visitgarlandtx.com/events/2018/urban-flea.

Lil Baby - The Next Generation Tour will be held on March 14, starting at 8 p.m. at South Side Ballroom, in Dallas. Come out with friends to see lil baby live! City Girls, Blueface Baby, City Girls & Jordan Hollywood will also be performing. To purchase tickets visit concerts1.livenation.com.

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

Film Review: Tyler Perry's *A Madea Family Funeral*

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

[Editors note: Warning. Spoilers ahead!]

Madea's loyal fans have two choices. They can say goodbye to their eccentric Auntie by attending her touring play or wish her adieu at a movie theater. Judging by what's on screen in this anemic family comedy, the live performance is a better bet. It's more thoughtful and a hell of a lot funnier.

Before the grande dame makes her final entrance, her folks are gathered at a posh Atlanta house to celebrate the 40th wedding anniversary of a matriarch Vianne (Jen Harper) and her husband Anthony (Derek Morgan). The home is aflutter with relatives: Vianne's daughter Sylvia (Ciera Payton) and her husband Will (David Otunga) are the hosts. Sylvia's handsome little brother Jessie (Rome Flynn),



who has just announced his engagement to his fiancée Gina (Aeriél Miranda), is there. Sylvia's other bro AJ (Courtney Burrell) is on his way, though his wife Carol (KJ Smith) is already on premises. The odd person out is a family friend named Renee (Quin Walters) who is also late.

Madea's crew (Greek chorus) is about to make the three-hour trek to the festivities. At the wheel of the car is the very academic and debonair Brian (Perry). The

backseats are filled with her frisky older brother Joe (Perry), Aunt Bam (Cassi Davis) and the very wacky Hattie (Patrice Lovely, *Boo! A Madea Halloween*). That's a whole lot of characters to keep track of, but over time differentiating them becomes easier.

Perry's script relies on infidelity, rivalries, bawdy language, lust and the usual dollop of betrayal. In other circumstances, the turmoil would be funny and engaging. Not so much here. Too

many scenes (especially in the house) are long-winded and stagnant. It's as if the script didn't know what to do with the bevy of characters and the director didn't know how to choreograph their placements or movements. This is a movie, not a play, yet Perry is relying on boring theater staging, and it doesn't work. The lack of exterior shots adds to the visual boredom.

Sometimes the sheer amount of humor enlivens the pace of Perry's movies. But, considering that this is a comedy, the dearth of physical pranks is puzzling and a huge misstep. The one interesting running joke is about a dead man and his appendage that still reaches for the sky, even though he's in a casket.

It's the editor's duty to cut scenes to the nub and move things along, even if he has to override the director to get the job done. Either editor

Larry Sexton was asleep at the wheel or someone didn't let him do his job effectively. What's on-screen never has the makings of a great comedy, but finetuning the pacing and shortening sequences would have helped.

The production design (Paul Wonsek) and costumes (Crystal Hayslett) are decent and don't get in the way, which is the kindest thing that can be said for a film that looks like a TV show. Philip White's musical score is played very delicately in all the wrong places and sounds cheap.

None of the new actors stand out. It's as if they answered a casting call for extras for a film's Atlanta crowd scene. Even though this is a feeble movie, an ambitious and talented thespian would take this opportunity to steal scenes. None do. Davis and Lovely are up to the same banter and antics that worked much better for

them in *Boo! A Madea Halloween*. Perry plays four characters (add in an amputee named Heathrow), which spreads his talent way too thin. He looks like he's having fun, but that doesn't translate into anyreal belly laughs or solid comic acting.

There are a lot of people who think Perry's characters, like Bam and Hattie, are nothing more than buffoons or minstrels. They get that reputation because they spend so much time trying to make big laughs out of little shallow scripts. Their failings are more acute and obvious on TV and movie screens. But somehow on-stage the over-the-top antics and broad humor play much better. The actors get a chance to connect with the audience and play off of them. It's a better experience.

Boo! A Madea Halloween is hands down the best film

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THEATRE,

continued from Page 9

tentious confrontation that transcends into an honest dialogue about intimacy and identity.

The First Step by Kat Ramsburg; It's Callie's first day in New York, and where she takes her first step will make or break her.

Puzzy by Kiana Rivera; Mele is just your average Samoan Jehovah's Witness on a quest for true love – except she's a lesbian.

Uncommon Revelations by Gabrielle Denise Pina; A mother's spirit, left bruised by a loveless marriage, finds redemption in reconnecting with her estranged gay son.

Cardboard Box by Blue McElroy; When the time comes to move on, young Mary learns the hard truth that sometimes there are things you can't pack away in a cardboard box.

Jubilee Theatre brings Lofton Mitchell's *Bubbling Brown Sugar* to the Fort Worth stage

FORT WORTH –Jubilee Theatre has their first musical of the year kicking off this month. Lofton Mitchell's *Bubbling Brown Sugar* will be on stage March 22 – April 28.

Journey back in time to the Harlem Renaissance (1920-1940) when audiences flocked to the area's popular nightclubs to see the greatest talents entertain. Artists like Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, and Billie Holiday created a golden age of music with their exciting sounds and glamorous shows. You'll jam, jump, and jive to this exuberant, three-time Tony-nominated musical revue.

Bubbling Brown Sugar is directed by Michael Serrechia who shares this musical celebrates, "the Golden Years of Harlem, its history, its great artists and its glorious music."

With musical direction by



Sheila Walker, the musical stars a cast of nine actors, Genine Ware (Irene Page), Ausben Jordan II (John Sage), Jason Scott Hallman (Checkers), Preston Isham (Jim), Caitlin Jones (Ella), Christian Joelle Jones (Marsha), Kevin Davis Jr. (Ray), Bennie Adkins (Tony), Rita

Kotey (Laura).

Bubbling Brown Sugar runs March 22 – April 28, 2019 at Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main Street in Fort Worth. Evening performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday and 8:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Matinee performances are at 3:00 p.m. on

Saturday and Sunday.

Ticket Prices

- Preview Performances | March 22 – March 28 - \$24
- Matinee Performances | April 2 – April 28 - \$30
- Evening Performances | April 1 – April 27 - \$34

Tickets may be purchased online at jubileetheatre.org, in person at the theater Box Office, located at 506 Main Street or by calling 817-338-4411. Box Office hours of operation are Tuesday – Friday 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and one hour before each performance.

Founded by Rudy and Marian Eastman in Fort Worth, Texas on June 19, 1981, Jubilee Theatre is the original home of African-American theater in North Texas. Jubilee Theatre was incorporated in 1982 and received its 501(c)(3) status in May 1983.

The core mission of the theater is to create and produce theatrical works that

give voice to the African-American experience.

The Jubilee Theatre's core principles include creating and presenting works that reflect the African-American experience; promoting and presenting new works, with a focus on both musicals and plays; and finding and presenting the universal message in each of the works to attract and involve a diverse and multicultural audience.

Just last September, Jubilee's Board of Directors announced a new incoming Artistic Director, D. Wambui Richardson. Richardson is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana and a proud member of the Drama League. Formerly residing in Baltimore, Mr. Richardson was a Freelance Director, Resident Teaching Artist for Baltimore Center Stage and the Executive Director of Academies for the National Academy Foundation School of Baltimore.

Newsrooms still lack women and individuals of color

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Correspondent

With observances planned throughout March to commemorate Women's History Month, a new report revealed that women are still mostly absent from newsrooms.

The Women's Media Center's 2019 report on the status of women in U.S. media shows that despite some gains, men still dominate in every part of news, entertainment and digital media.

"The media is in a state of great disruption, but despite all of the change, one thing remains the same: the role of women is significantly smaller than that of men in every part of news, entertainment and digital media," Julie Burton, president of the Women's Media Center (WMC), said in a news release.

Burton said the data in the report paints a stark picture. "It is clear that a cultural, systemic shift is necessary if all parts of the U.S. media are to achieve gender and racial parity and move toward a world where stories fully represent the voices



The report titled, "The Status of Women in the U.S. Media 2019," is comprised of 94 studies, including original research by WMC and aggregated research from academia, industry and professional groups, labor unions, media watchdogs, newsrooms and other sources. (Photo iStockphoto / NNPA)

and perspectives of diverse women," she said.

"Research spotlighted in this report shows that diversity boosts corporate profits. When boardrooms, newsrooms, studios and tech companies fully reflect the faces, genders and myriad talents of our society, we're all exceedingly better served," Burton said.

The report titled, "The Status of Women in the U.S. Media 2019," is comprised of 94 studies, including original research by WMC and aggregated research from academia, industry and professional groups, labor unions, media watchdogs, newsrooms and other

sources.

It includes several original WMC studies, including "Divided 2019: The Media Gender Gap," an assessment of where women stand as media writers, reporters, correspondents and anchors in the major news media platforms, including the prime-time broadcast news programs, print publications, wire services and online news sites.

The report noted that across all media platforms, men receive 63 percent of bylines and credits; women receive only 37 percent.

"Women have been fighting for greater parity and equality in the news media

for decades," said one of WMC's co-chairs Maya Harris.

"This report shows that more work needs to be done to level the playing field. Women and our male allies will not rest until we see wholesale change," Harris said.

Further, "when we watch the evening news, we're not seeing an America that truly reflects all voices," said Pat Mitchell, also a WMC co-chair.

"Too often, the voices we hear and the images we see are men's. Men largely are reporting and telling the story even though women represent more than half the U.S. population," Mitchell said.

The report is inclusive and also features WMC's "The Status of Women of Color in the U.S. News Media 2019," which offers a rare look at where women journalists of color are — and aren't — in legacy print, radio, TV, and digital news.

That report revealed that women of color represent just 7.95 percent of U.S. print newsroom staff, 12.6 percent of local TV news staff, and 6.2 percent of

local radio staff.

"Missing women of color in the newsrooms of this country is an injustice in itself, and an injustice to every American reader and viewer who is deprived of great stories and a full range of facts," said WMC co-founder Gloria Steinem.

"Inclusiveness in the newsroom means inclusiveness in the news. Racism and sexism put blinders on everyone," Steinem said.

In an expanded section on tech, social media, gaming and engineering, "Status 2019" also spotlighted the growing threat online to women in media and the perils of failing to protect free and safe speech.

"As part of their day-to-day work, women journalists often face a torrent of harassment, denigration, and threats ... and the point of this hostility is to silence women, most frequently women of color," said Soraya Chemaly, director of WMC's Speech Project.

"The onus continues to fall on women's shoulders as individuals. Media companies have to develop institutional responses to these threats if they are serious

about building inclusive organizations," Chemaly said.

Some of the findings in the report include:

- The American Society of News Editors' latest tally found that women comprised 41.7 percent and people of color 22.6 percent of the overall workforce in those responding newsrooms.

- Sports desks at 75 of the nation's newspapers and online news sites earned a "B+" for racial diversity, a "D+" for gender and racial diversity, combined, and a sixth consecutive "F" for lack of gender equity.

- Editors of the nation's 135 most widely distributed newspapers are overwhelmingly male and White.

- 69 percent of news wire bylines are snagged by men, 31 percent by women; 63 percent of TV prime-time news broadcasts feature male anchors and correspondents; 37 percent feature women; 60 percent of online news is written by men, 40 percent by women; 59 percent of print news is written by men, 41 percent by women. (Women's Media Center)

Seven ways entrepreneurs say they find inspiration

Entrepreneurship starts with an idea. One of the challenges once the business gets off the ground, though, is coming up with more ideas that push the company forward.

An idea often stems from inspiration and lacking that, some business owners say, can result in stagnation or a failed enterprise.

"Without innovation and forward thinking, no business can succeed," says

Peter J. Strauss (www.peterjstrauss.com), an attorney, entrepreneur and author of The Business Owner's Definitive Guide to Captive Insurance Companies.

"But being a business owner is very demanding, and at some points, you'll hit a wall where you can't seem to come up with new ideas.

"To be a successful entrepreneur, you have to stay

on the search for the next idea that will grow your business. And the truth is that most entrepreneurs are in need of some inspiration to ignite those ideas."

Strauss says there are several solid ways to cultivate inspiration:

- Fix things that bug you daily. Entrepreneurs encounter frustrations, and the more bothered they are by certain issues, the more those can become an obsta-

cle in the way of the business.

Focusing some attention on negatives of the business and solutions can move it forward. "Your desire to eliminate a daily problem or a building annoyance can inspire you to fix it," Strauss says.

- Listen to your employees. "Ask yourself, 'How could they get better at what they do?'" Strauss says. "How could they be

happier and make our business better as a result of their passion and growth?"

- Think outside the box. "The day-to-day grind shouldn't prevent the entrepreneur from daring to dream," Strauss says. "Have fun with it; see five to 10 years ahead and where you envision the business being. Further, use that inspiration to fuel sound ideas for expanding the business sooner than

you thought, and even adding new ventures."

- Meet with peers. Strauss says an entrepreneur can re-energize and be inspired by being around like-minded leaders and speakers, perhaps at an industry trade show, where participants are pumped up.

"It can get you more excited about your business and remind you of why you

See INSPIRE, Page 12

MEDEA, continued from Page 10

in the Madea filmography. It was funny, kinetic and had lots of action and exterior shots that made it feel more like a well-developed horror/comedy; something in the realm of Abbott and

Costello Meet Frankenstein. Though A Madea Family Funeral delves into the culture surrounding black funerals and the sometimes overwrought mechanics, the jesting is not biting enough to be

hilarious satire. The jokes and shtick are overly repetitive. The constant stream of infidelities and upheavals grows old fast.

Perry is a very rich and successful entrepreneur and filmmaker. If you had a wish for him, it might be to slow

down, maybe partner with a co-writer and spend more time on each project until they are well-developed entities.

Too much of this film looks like a 15-minute SNL sketch stretched into a 1hr 49min movie—warts

and all. This had the potential of being the best Madea outing ever. Instead it's just another middling entry. And in the end, she doesn't even die or retire. Was this all a hoax? Will Madea come back from the shadows one day and do another farewell

tour—like Cher?

The best way to say goodbye to Madea is to go see her and her family live—on a stage.

Visit NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com and BlackPressUSA.com.

Restaurants celebrate International Women's Day with discount for ladies

"Who run the world? Girls!"

Which is why This & That Hospitality is celebrating International Women's Day at all four of its concepts – Ferris Wheelers, High Fives, Tiny Victories, and The Whippersnapper.

Women continue to only earn 80 cents to the dollar

compared to men, so on Friday, March 8, all of This & That Hospitality's concepts will be paying for the 20 cent disparity by offering women 20% off their tab for International Women's Day.

Located at 1950 Market Center Blvd. in the Design District, Ferris Wheelers is where locals and visitors

alike can grab some unforgettable BBQ while enjoying Texas-inspired cocktails, craft brews and live music performed by local and national artists outside on the 7,000-square-foot patio.

For more information, visit ferriswheelers.com.

High Fives is located at

1804 McMillan Ave. in Dallas. The neighborhood bar and restaurant serves fast, fresh, casual food in addition to beer, wine and signature cocktails seven days a week. Its hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.

For more information, visit <http://highfivesdallas.com/>.

Tiny Victories is a laid-back neighborhood cocktail bar located at 604 N. Tyler St. in the heart of North Oak Cliff. It is open Tuesday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. For more information,

visit tinyvictoriesoc.com.

The Whip is located at 1804 McMillan Ave. in Dallas and is open Wednesday through Friday from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. and Saturday from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. For more information, call 469.567.3358 or visit <http://thewhipdallas.com/>.

Home Depot announces ramp up of hiring for spring season

The Home Depot is hiring 80,000 associates for its busy spring season with a new hiring technology built by the company's in-house engineers.

Approximately 2,000 U.S. stores and more than 100 dis-

tribution centers have seasonal, part-time and full-time positions available, and the new technology helps hiring teams move candidates through the hiring process faster.

Last spring, the company

launched Candidate Self Service, another homegrown technology that allows store and supply chain candidates to schedule their own interviews. Since its launch, nearly one million candidates have used the technology.

"Technology is at the forefront of everything we do at The Home Depot, and that includes taking care of our associates," said Tim Hourigan, executive vice president of human resources. "We continue to invest in technology

so we can help candidates control their own journey and welcome new hires into our family faster than ever."

Opportunities are available across the store and distribution centers in a variety of departments, including

overnight freight, garden, customer service and merchandising. Applicants should visit careers.homedepot.com for the 15-minute application, or text HOMEDEPOT to 52270 for a link to apply to local positions.

INSPIRE, continued from Page 11

started it," Strauss says.

• Read frequently. Strauss says leaders learn far more when they not only keep up with industry trends through reading but by reading about topics out-

side of their industry. "This can really inspire you," he says, "because when you read outside your niche, you see creativity you're not used to, and it inspires ideas."

• Unplug and take walks. In the often loud and chaotic world, we live in, especially in the business sphere, entrepreneurs need quiet time to clear their minds and then think freely. "We live with distractions," Strauss says. "They get in

the way if we let them – or if we don't get away from them on occasion. Walking in nature is a great way to do it. Quiet time opens a door to inspiration and creativity."

• Tailor an existing idea to your business. "You

don't want to exactly copy people, but it's foolish not to observe and learn from other businesses' ideas," Strauss says.

"Then find innovative ways to apply them to your business."

"Inspiration rarely just

shows up out of nowhere, uninvited," Strauss says.

"An entrepreneur needs to make time for it and go look for it, and there are a variety of ways to make that search energizing for you and your business."



Sprint proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a top height of 111 feet on a 105-foot transmission tower at the approx. vicinity of 2902 Franklin Street, Mesquite, Dallas County, Texas 75150. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Yvelande Raymond, y.raymond@trileaf.com, 1051 Winderley Place, Suite 201, Maitland, FL 32751, 407-660-7840.*

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Send stories and suggestions to editor@northdallasgazette.com



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Ed Bell Construction is a Dallas based heavy highway contractor doing business in the North Texas market since 1963. With clients such as TxDOT, Dallas County Public Works, and the Cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, Richardson and Mansfield (plus many others), we have a strong backlog of work in the highway market locally.

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Please visit our website: www.edbellconstruction.com/careers

Or email your resume to: careers@edbellconstruction.com

Upcoming DFW area job fairs

March 9

Albion Fit - Stylist Hiring Meet + Greet!

The Albion Fit - Stylist Hiring Meet + Greet! will be held on March 9, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Albion Fit, in Plano. Albion Fit is growing and we're thrilled to add more smart, motivated, kind and talented people to our team. Do you love a challenge? Are you willing to work hard to build something you're proud of with people you love? Are you passionate about making women feel beautiful and strong? And do you like to share what you love? Do you know and love Albion? You must be 18 years or older and have graduated from high school. No retail experience necessary. For more information visit Eventbrite.com.

March 11

Now Hiring- Sales /Customer Service /Retail/Internet sales /Job Fair

The Now Hiring- Sales /Customer Service /Retail/Internet sales /Job Fair will be held from March 11 and March 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Vandergriff Honda, in Arlington. They are searching for sales consultants and product specialist who are eager to learn and grow at a high volume dealer in the heart of Arlington. No experience necessary, training program provided. Exiting Military and recent college graduates are welcomed to apply. When you arrive please ask for Zac, at New Car Reception.

March 14

Stein Mart Hiring Event

The Stein Mart Hiring Event will be held from March 14 to March 16, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at various locations across DFW. They will be interviewing for Merchandise Managers, Store Leads, Visual and full-time & part-time positions. Bring your resume to share with the managers as they will be conducting onsite inter-



views during this time frame. Please also bring any friends who are interested in an opportunity with Stein Mart. Stein Mart is a national off-price retailer offering designer and name-brand fashion apparel, home décor, accessories, and shoes at everyday discount prices. Stein Mart provides real value that customers love in over 280 stores across the United States and online. Apply today and join the team!

March 14

Starbucks Hiring Event

The Starbucks Hiring Event will be held on March 14 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at various locations. Macy's will be conducting on-the-spot interviews and

extending job offers. The associates are an integral part of bringing the magic of Macy's to life, and they perform a number of functions that are critical to offering our customers the best experience when they

shop in our store. Seasonal associates perform the same tasks and functions as a regular associate in the same role but for a temporary period of time, typically through December 26th, although some positions may

work a few weeks later. Associates may be scheduled to arrive prior to store opening or to remain after store closing. Retail schedules may include early mornings, evenings, weekends, holidays, and busy events

such as the day after Thanksgiving and the day after Christmas. The number of scheduled hours may vary each week based on need or position type. To apply for positions visit glassdoor.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

NDG seeks Intern Video Producer

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

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

The right candidate will have the following skills:

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

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

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



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March 10, 9:45 am

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

March 13, 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.

Dr. Terrance Woodson, Senior Pastor
1944 E. Hebron Parkway
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972-492-4300
www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"

March 10, 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.

March 13

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study class and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.
Senior Pastor
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March 8, 8 p.m.

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

March 10, 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.

March 11, 7 p.m.

You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us in His Holy Word.

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

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

March 10, 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.

March 13, 7 pm

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

Dr. Sam Fenceroy, PhD
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BECOMES FAMILY)

March 2019

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During this month as we prepare for the season of Lent, we will focus on the person and character of Jesus. Throughout this devotional time, our members will prepare their hearts so that when we share in the celebration of Palm Sunday, sit in reflection on Good Friday, and wake up with excitement and expectancy on Easter Sunday morning. Then, we can join with the faithful who sing

from the bottom of their hearts, "Hallelujah to the King of kings and Lord of lords- He Lives!"

March 10, 8 and 11 am

You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

March 13, 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.

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Women History Month 2019



Send email to: businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com to sign up for Sister Tarpley's weekly electronic newsletter.

The 2019 Women's History Month theme is "Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence." The theme honors "women who have led efforts to end war, violence, and injustice and pioneered the use of nonviolence to change society." My emphases will be on Black women only.

Annie Easley (1933-2011) was a computer scientist, mathematician and rocket scientist. She worked on Centaur technology at NASA -- a high-energy rocket technology that uses liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen to boost rockets into space.

Cathay Williams, because of an error in correctly understanding her name, became William Cathay (a male soldier.) According to an Army doctor; William Cathay enlisted in the United States Regular Army as a

Buffalo Soldier in 1866.

The Army surgeon examined Cathay Williams, the recruit, but failed to realize that William Cathay was a female and not a male; the surgeon determined the recruit fit for duty and assigned William Cathay to the 38th U.S. Infantry; it was established in August 1866.

Cathay Williams carved a small, but symbolically important place in the history of American women, in the history of Black women and in the history of the United States Army.

To date, she is the only documented woman who served in the U.S. Army prior to the official introduction of women.

Nannie Helen Burroughs was one of the best known and well-respected women of the early twentieth century. She was called 'The Black Goddess of Liberty'. She was an educator, institution and organization-builder and a major figure in the Black church and secular feminist movement.

Burroughs became a much sought after participant, particularly by the Republican Party. When Herbert Hoover was elected

President in 1928, he chose Burroughs to head a fact-finding commission on housing. In 1909, she founded the National Training School for Women and Girls, which was renamed the Nannie Helen Burroughs School in 1964.

Annie Onieta Plummer was dubbed "The Dictionary Lady". In 1992, she noticed that many school children in Savannah, Georgia were not carrying any books.

tion and was emulated in other areas and mushroomed.

Always aware of the value of education, she went back to school at the age of 42. In each dictionary she handed out, she inscribed the motto of the United Negro College Fund, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste," supplemented by her personal message, and "I challenge you not to waste yours."

Black women scientists,

Probe, a device that painlessly removes cataracts. Prior to this invention, cataracts were surgically removed. Patricia Bath founded the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness.

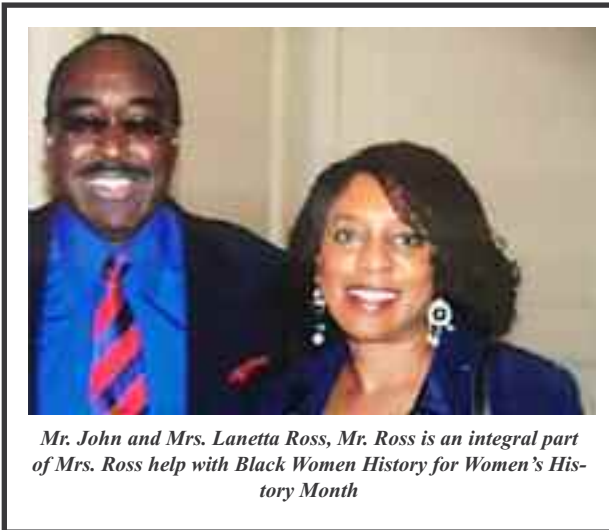
Marie Daly in 1947 became the first Black woman to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry.

In addition to her research, she developed programs to attract and aid minority students in medical and graduate school.

Mae Jemison is a retired medical doctor and American astronaut. In 1992, she became the first Black woman in space.

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



Mr. John and Mrs. Lanetta Ross, Mr. Ross is an integral part of Mrs. Ross help with Black Women History for Women's History Month

Inspiring Body of Christ Pastor Rickie G. Rush
7701 S. Westmoreland Rd
Dallas, TX 75227
972-794-1000 (IBOC)
www.IBOC.org

BROOKS, continued from Page 2

she said. The makings of the book began as Dr. Brooks took night courses at Howard University.

She said her plans were to write about a modern day media company owner and decided that most of those stories were already being told. So, she began looking at historical figures where she focused on three individuals in particular:

Mildred Brown of the Omaha Star, Charlotta Bass of the California Eagle and Bluford.

"I decided it was important to talk about Bluford," Dr. Bass said. "I took a selection of her writings that appeared in the Kansas City Call over a 15-year period and I examined those articles so I could analyze how she articulated a Black feminist viewpoint in

her commentary, looking at it from the perspective of women's rights and civil rights."

Dr. Brooks ultimately discovered that Bluford used her social authority in the formidable power base of the media she owned to shape and mobilize a broader movement in the struggle for women's and civil rights.

"She masked her black feminism with a unique angle of vision as it relates to oppression, race, gender and class," Dr. Brooks said. "Bluford used her voice to break down the barriers of inequity and injustice against both women and Blacks, especially in news coverage that the mainstream news ignored."

For more information about Bluford, visit www.lucibleblufordbook.com.

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NDG Book Review: *American Pop: A Novel* gives you fizzy feelings

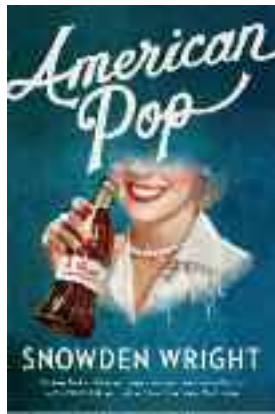
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Look out stomach, here it comes.

Oh, how you anticipate that first swallow of great-grandma's recipe, the one with the secret ingredient you know but you're not telling. True, you might share that secret someday but in the meantime, as in the new novel "American Pop" by Snowden Wright, be careful what you spill.

Fiona Forster wondered how well she really knew her husband, Tewksbury.

When she married him before they came to America, he told her he was a



doctor. She believed him then but as she lay on the wooden floor of their cabin, she had her doubts. If he was a doctor, then why didn't he ease her labor pains?

Tewksbury was a doctor—and he was enterprising.

When he realized that potions he'd had back in Scotland could cure patients in America, too, he set up a small shop in their Mississippi Delta town, and it flourished. By the time his son, Houghton, was old enough to run the place, the shop had begun to serve refreshments.

Houghton always said that he came up with the delicious drink that everyone was talking about, all because of Annabelle. He'd fallen in love with her the minute he saw her but winning her hand was no easy feat. Annabelle's family had money and her father wasn't

about to let his only child marry a soda jerk.

But Houghton was no mere soda jerk. He was the creator of Panola Cola, so-named after the Mississippi county where it started. Houghton alone carried the recipe in his head. He was patriarch to his adult children: eldest son Monty, a heartsick veteran destined for politics but mourning a devastating loss; Harold, who'd had an unfortunate accident as a boy; and twins, Ramsey and Lance, both holding a secret oozing with jealousy.

Houghton never wanted his children to want, but a

little hardship made them ready for the future. One day, one of them would take control of Panola Cola, and he'd reveal the secret of his recipe at that time. Until then, he'd keep a cap on it...

Imagine, if you will, a nighttime soap opera written in bathtub gin, narrated by Burl Ives with snark and a side dish of history. Imagine that it makes you snort just before tearing your heart out and ruthlessly crumpling it. That's "American Pop."

Taking readers to the mid-19th-century, through elegant speakeasies, Hollywood movie studios, and two wars, to the mid-1980s

and back, author Snowden Wright tells a witty tale of a prosperous and proper Southern family with fangs, claws, and tender souls. Of course, that can be humorous but Wright won't let you laugh for long: while this novel is about a handful of main characters, other Forsters move in and out of chapters with anger and well-meaning, leaving pain as sharp as busted glass.

Grab this book and be prepared to feel all fizzy inside. Grab it, but leave the bookmarks at home; you won't need 'em. You'll be too tempted to read "American Pop" in one long gulp.

Greenville Ave.'s 40th Dallas St. Patrick's Day Parade slated for March 16

40 shades of green will envelope the city of Dallas on March 16, 2019 at 11am as the Dallas Mavs St. Patrick's Parade & Festival presented by the Dallas Mavericks will celebrate and commemorate 4 decades of fanfare and revelry. The Greenville Avenue Area Business Association (GAABA) is rising up to the forty year road with the wind firmly at its collective back with its time honored Dallas tradition for thousands to

enjoy the largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in the Southwest. In tribute of festooning Greenville Ave for 40 years, this year's procession will feature the first Parade president/ founder Tom Stephenson (1979-1987), who will be joined by every parade president that has served: GAABA Founder, John Ahern (1988-1990) represented by his daughter Amanda Ahern Terilli, Valerie Barrett (1991-1997),

Jorge Levy (1998-2013) and Kevin Vela (current president).

"Since 1979 Greenville Avenue has radiated pageantry against the backdrop of food, spirits and community and in its 40th year, we are elated that Mayor Rawlings will be our Grand Marshal," said Kevin Vela, Board Chairman of the GAABA. "Mayor Rawlings has been our city's stalwart since he took office and he is

the ideal person to lead our parade down Greenville Avenue and into the next forty years."

"This is my first year participating with the Dallas Mavericks and I am thrilled to be a part of this proud, long-established event that brings our city together," said Cynthia Marshall Dallas Mavericks CEO. "As presenting sponsor, the Dallas Mavericks will have an indelible parade presence with

the Mavs Express bus, Mavs Dancers, Mascots and Maniacs. The Mavs Corner will be located at the CVS corner of Lovers Lane and Greenville and will showcase food trucks, exhibitors, and much more."

The parade route starts on Greenville Boulevard at Blackwell Street, with street closures scheduled to start at 9:00am for north and southbound lanes of Greenville Ave, and ends at SMU

Boulevard at Central Expressway. Alternative routes around the parade-impacted area include Loop 12, Mockingbird Lane and Park Lane with access to Skillman.

Parade-goers are encouraged to ride share or ride DART Rail, as parking is extremely limited. Parade route recommended DART Rail stations include Mockingbird Station, Lovers Lane Station and Park Lane Stations.

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postcard; a city with pretty bridges, a city with a beautiful convention center hotel. But we need something more. We need a mayor who's going to focus on Dallas: a place where people live. And we can do that by focusing on our shared values; transparency and accountability in government, strong safe neighborhoods, and focusing on what matters, the basics."

While the mayor's race is a non-partisan election, candidate Alyson Kennedy emphasized she is running to promote the platform of the Socialist Worker Party and said the country as a whole needs a fundamental change in values.

"We're running in this election to represent the millions of people -- small farmers, small proprietors -- that are not part of the so-

called 'economic recovery,'" Kennedy said. "You can see it in Dallas with the booming construction, the development, the mass real estate boom that is going on. But for working people, there is no recovery. A lot of workers work two or three jobs to make it. A lot of workers are faced with a high incarceration rate in this country. You've got to ask yourself what kind of society you live in when 40 percent of those incarcerated are African-American."

Lynn McBee, a research scientist, has been active in social issues like homelessness and education in Dallas and seeks to bring that background to the horse-shoe in Dallas City Hall.

"For the past 25 years, I have been working on some of Dallas' most critical and

challenging issues; from homelessness, to domestic violence, to human trafficking, to my work with the Dallas County Community College District, getting our workforce up and ready for our city, so that we can track jobs, and track growth and have economic development" McBee said. "I would be honored to be your mayor, and it's a time where we need to get on top of some very basic things."

Regina Montoya is a local attorney and has experience serving on the city's Task Force on Poverty, as well as involvement in other civic and non-profit organizations.

"My vision for this campaign, for why we need to be making the kind of changes that we do, is that we need to build upon the successes of Dallas, that we've already seen, but we need to ensure that every

single person has the opportunity to achieve his or her dream," Montoya said. "That's what we're talking about when we talk about investing in people; when we talk about people being our best resource. That's the vision of this campaign and that's the vision we need to have in Dallas going forward."

Miguel Solis, a former teacher, now serves on the Dallas ISD Board of Trustees; and recalls his family's beginnings in Texas as immigrants as an illustration of the "infrastructure of opportunity" he would like to see strengthened in Dallas.

"I am standing here in front of you as a mayoral candidate because that infrastructure of opportunity worked for my family," Solis said. "What I realized serving on the Dallas school board, having been a public

school teacher in our city and in the administration as well, is that that infrastructure of opportunity is not real enough for far too many Dallasites. So that's why I'm running for mayor. I want to rebuild the infrastructure of opportunity."

Questions from the audience ran the gamut from preventing racists from joining the Dallas Police Department to business and middle-class housing development in South Dallas. Responding to a question from a high school student, all candidates pledged to use their position to support and protect DREAMers, the children of undocumented immigrants currently working their way through the U.S. educational system. All candidates also promised to seek more women and people of color to serve on the boards and commis-

sions they appoint as mayor.

With a recent guilty plea from Carolyn Davis, another former councilmember brought up on charges of accepting bribes in conjunction with her role as a city leader, all candidates were also challenged to root out what many audience members see as a continuing litany of corruption at Dallas City Hall.

Dallas has a tough choice to make with so many candidates running in an election which historically sees low numbers actually making it to the polls. The eventual winner in this contest could hinge on which candidate can motivate enough residents to get out the vote, and then successfully repeat the process in the likely event of a runoff.

The election will be held on May 4, with early voting starting on April 22.