



North Dallas Gazette

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Irving City Council elections set for May 4

By Angela Loston
NDG Contributing Writer

Irving is gearing up for its city council elections which are slated for May 4. Five candidates will be vying for a seat on the city council for Place 2 while two candidates are running unopposed in Place 1 and 7. Here are the candidates running in this year's election:

Irving City Council, Place 1

John C. Danish - Running unopposed, Councilmember Danish will keep his seat for the third time. As the Mayor Pro Tem, Danish will devote his energy to redeveloping the city's parks especially keeping an eye on revitalizing Irving Golf Club. Danish said he would like to see the golf course opened by July 2019. Danish is hopeful work on the new convention center hotel is completed in 2019 and construction to start this year on the Cotton Belt Rail Line.

Irving City Council, Place 2

Shayan Elahi - Last year, Elahi ran for city council for Place 6. He is now putting his name in the hat to run again, this time for Place 2. A civil rights attorney, Elahi will place safety as a top priority by working to reduce crime and having local police to focus more on violent crimes. His campaign also focuses on protecting schools from gun violence, growing



Candidates running for seats on the Irving City Council include (top left) Jesse Koehler - Place 2, (top right) Dinesh Mali - Place 2, (bottom left) John C. Danish - Place 1, and Rodwawn M. Saleh (Place 2). (Photos provided by the candidates)

Irving's economy and pushing for more affordable housing. If elected, Elahi will work to bring more jobs and retail to North Irving, especially for Valley Ranch, the former Dallas Cowboys training site.

Jesse Koehler - An Irving native, Koehler is focusing his campaign on eliminating unnecessary costs within the city's budget and reducing its debt obligations. If elected, he wants to keep Irving's communities and schools safe and would work with current and future small businesses to ensure their sustainability within the city. Koehler also plans to spur the city's economic growth and pro-

mote redevelopment throughout Irving. "Irving voters deserve representation that will return them back to the driver's seat of their government and build the bridge between the wants and needs of residents to their elected officials," Koehler said.

Dinesh Mali - A former Irving Independent School District Board of Trustee, Mali said his main focus if elected will be to redevelop South Irving commercially. Mali said new businesses could be built in the green space between the MacArthur Boulevard and Hunter Ferrell Road and In-

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Jailed for 'Stealing an education'

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Mosquitos could be even worse this coming year

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New research grant comes to Dallas VA

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K.I.P. program focuses on MWBE program

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Captain Marvel deserves a better movie

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READERS SOUND OFF!!!

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People In The News...



Dr. Jennifer Wimbish



Deya Direct

NDG Quote of the Week: "If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude about it."

-- Maya Angelou

Dr. Jennifer Wimbish

Dr. Jennifer Wimbish, the first African American President of Cedar Valley College (CVC), of the Dallas County Community College District, in her recently released book "Leadership Wisdom For All Generation," takes you on a journey, including her walk with God, from her childhood in the segregated South, to her college presidency, as she shares character and leadership principles gleaned from her mentors—wise authentic leaders.

Wimbish provides in each chapter a short autobiography, followed by character



and leadership lessons learned from her mentors. Dr. Wimbish concludes the book by presenting lessons derived from her own experiences. Wimbish says that the book is linked to her commitment to transgenera-

tional learning. She believes strongly that each generation must leave a legacy that includes the learning of wise individuals, thus preparing tomorrow's world leaders.

One endorser of the book noted that, Dr Wimbish provides leadership principles that are valuable, life-changing, and that challenge all to lead with integrity. Her written accounts of leaders "Words of Wisdom" from her past serves us well today. Wimbish's personal journey and voice on leadership is one that inspires, and results in a must-read book for every current and emerging leaders. A millennial from the college graduating class of 2020 states, "Leadership

Wisdom for all Generation is both simple and insightful. Dr. Wimbish manages to express her message in a compelling fashion that is reminiscent of listening to one's own family. This book stays true to its title by offering aphorisms which will resonate with anyone—regardless of age."

Dr. Wimbish is known for her commitment to supporting and mentoring individuals in achieving their goals. As the President of Cedar Valley College, she led the college to recognition as a military friendly campus, and one nationally known as a model for sustainability. During her tenure, record increases in enrollment, com-

pletion, and graduation rates afforded many students access to a college education.

The college's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter won the title of Most Distinguished Chapter in the world, contributing to Dr. Wimbish receiving Phi Theta Kappa's prestigious Michael Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award.

Wimbish has taught on numerous leadership topics and presented at leadership conferences across the nation. Dr. Wimbish is a graduate of Michigan State University, holding a doctorate degree in higher, adult, and lifelong education. She also holds a master's degree in guidance and counseling

from Texas A & M University-Kingsville; and a bachelor's degree in history education from Hampton University (VA).

Upcoming local book signings during launch week:

- Thurs, April 4, 4-6:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Bldg S/Rm S003, 3939 Valley View Lane, Farmer, Branch.

- Sat, April 6, 2:30 – 4:00 pm. University of North Texas, Dallas, Founder's Hall Bldg, Rm 101, 7300 University Hill Blvd.

- Sun, April 7, 1-3:00 pm, Half Price Bookstore, Highway 67, Cedar Hill, Texas.

Deya Direct

Deya Direct, Life Coach, award-winning author and founder of the "Super-PowHer Podcast" is celebrating Women's History Month and the podcast's first year anniversary by hosting the "Super Self-Care Power Summit: Heal, Elevate, Ignite." This empowering day of self-awareness, health and wellness will host over 100 women on Saturday, March 30, 2019 from 11 am to 4 pm at SPACES - McKinney Avenue in Dallas. Media personality Shannon Hart will serve as the emcee for the afternoon.

"This self-care event will



celebrate femininity and humanity, encouraging us to breathe, heal, and renew, while also providing essential tools for living better and loving stronger," said Deya Direct, founder of the

Super Self-Care Power Summit and the Super-PowHer Podcast. "It's a safe place for women from all walks of life to gather to learn from one another's experiences with open and honest conversations without carrying the burden of having all the answers or having it all together."

The "Super Self-Care Power Summit: Heal, Elevate, Ignite" will provide an ultimate self-care experience that will feature an array of highlights including engaging panel conversations with mental health and wellness experts from across the country, interactive yoga workshops, life and business

coaching sessions, facials and mini massages. Attendees will also be able to enjoy selfie booths, shop with vendors, and participate in icebreakers to kick start self-care rituals and routines.

The following are among the exciting featured panels and topics taking place throughout the day:

It's An Inside Job: This session will address wellness from a holistic perspective and include OBGYN Jessica Shepherd MD, Nutritionist and Trainer Paul Ritter, Skin Expert and Facialist Tomorrow Lee as well as celebrity fashion designers and instructor part-

ners Nikki Chu and Monica L.

Saving Our Superwoman (SOS): Lead by TV and Radio Personality Claudia Jordan, this discussion will help women understand that she must prioritize herself. Women will be reminded of their worthiness and receive self-care tips that can be implemented in the midst of life challenges.

The Man Whisperer: Sure to be a hit, this session will help provide an understanding of the hearts and minds of men. Consisting of single, married and divorced men, this panel will speak from their hearts about how they cope emotionally. This

discussion will be moderated by Neuropsychologist Ryeal Simms, The Relationship Scientist and Deya Direct also known as "The Man Whisperer".

Open to women and men, of all ages and backgrounds, tickets are \$50 for general admission and \$150 for VIP and are can be purchased by visiting www.Super-PowHer.eventbrite.com. A percentage of proceeds raised will benefit Dress for Success Dallas. For sponsorship and vendor opportunities, please contact info@deyadirect.net. For event updates, stay connected on Facebook and Instagram @DeyaDirect.

NDG Readers Sound Off...

Win tickets to Black Violin

This is my daughter's first year learning to play violin at school. She wanted to be in band but I got the violin when someone moved and sold it cheap. I want her to see playing the violin can be as cool an exciting as playing a band instrument.

-- Elizabeth D Afriyie

To the editor:

MAJOR shout out to @sarah4nabj @NABJ for not allowing @CNN to get a pass! I have said REPEATEDLY just bc a network leans left & has a lot of black faces on air, the question is who is in the

EXECUTIVE office in ALL networks? @DrBen-Chavis @NDGEditor

-- @TezlynFigaro via Twitter

City Council candidates spar over backing, issues during District 5 and 8 presentations at MNP forum

Great event Monday night at the African American Museum. Please make time to attend these important forums and learn more about those who would lead our city.

-- Steven Wollard via Facebook



David Wilfong / NDG

Great recap!! Awesome job Erik Wilson

-- Denita LQ via Facebook

I watched part of the broadcast. It was interesting to watch the two. I thought Erik made some great points. Restrooms at stand alone stations I don't agree with.

-- Coffee and Politics 101 via Facebook

Does anyone debate about the youth programs that need to be

- Lyfe Blaq via Facebook

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The Black women jailed for 'stealing' an education

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Correspondent

Actress Lori Loughlin was taken into custody by the FBI Wednesday in Los Angeles after she, fellow movie star Felicity Huffman and 48 others were charged in a \$25 million college admissions scam that ABC News said has prompted repercussions from Hollywood to the boardrooms of major corporations.

A former cast member on the ABC sitcom “Full House,” Loughlin and Oscar-nominated actress Huffman, are among 33 parents charged with conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud in the nationwide scam to get their children into elite colleges, including Yale, Stanford, Georgetown and the University of Southern California.

Social media is abuzz over this case, and many are wondering whether anyone will spend time in jail for their crimes.

For some, it’s another example of the difference between when the white “elite” are charged with crimes compared to poor people of color.

“Kelley Williams-Bolar and Tanya McDowell enrolled their children into Public School Districts in which they did not reside,” one Twitter user with the handle @dlnodots wrote.

“They were both jailed for these crimes. Should Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin be held to that same standard?” the user wrote.

Others on social media concurred with @dlnodots.

In 2011, Williams-Bolar, a black woman, was sentenced to 10 days in county jail, three years of probation and \$30,000 in restitution for lying about her residency to get her daughters into a better school district in Ohio.



Tanya McDowell / leveripedia.org

For McDowell, the punishment was worse.

“[McDowell] got 12 years for sending her six-year-old son to Norwalk, Connecticut’s Brookside Elementary School while she ‘lived’ in Bridgeport, even though she was homeless,” said Bishop Talbert Swan, an activist and pastor.

“She was convicted of 1st degree larceny for ‘stealing’ an education,” Swan said.

When McDowell was sentenced in 2012, she vowed to continue to fight for a better education and life for her young son.

Authorities said that her charges were compounded by the fact that she twice sold drugs to an undercover police officer. The convoluted case left some scratching their heads, while others who had previously supported McDowell began to step away when the drug charges surfaced.

Some observers suspected that because of the “stealing” education case, the homeless woman was targeted and set up by authorities, including a relentless cold-hearted prosecutor.

“Who would have thought that wanting a good education for my son would put me in this predicament,” McDowell, 34, said at her sentencing where she received 12 years in prison with seven years suspended.

“I have no regrets seeking a better education for him, I do regret my participation

in this drug case,” she said.

Norm Pattis, a trial lawyer who said he’s fighting for freedom “one client at a time,” recently wrote a sobering blog about the McDowell case.

Pattis, who practices law in Connecticut, said the system owes McDowell.

“I hope Tanya McDowell will forgive us, someday, for our hypocrisy and cruelty. I hope her son will as well. But first she will have to serve her prison term. Her son will have to learn to get along without her,” Pattis said.

Experienced criminal defense lawyers know the charges faced by McDowell often go hand-in-hand with life circumstances: “An addict has to steal, often, to support their habit,” Pattis said.

However, McDowell was no ordinary drug user, he said. “She did not steal to support her habit. She stole an education from the City of Norwalk. Yeah, that’s right. We now send people to prison for theft of an education,” Pattis said.

McDowell was living by her wits with her kindergarten-age son, spending time where she could, most often in Bridgeport at homeless shelters.

Simply put, she wanted a better life for her son, so she enrolled him in the Norwalk public schools despite having no real ties to the city. “When the city found out that it was spending its

money educating her boy, it demanded that Ms. McDowell be charged with a crime,” Pattis said. “Norwalk prosecutors, known statewide for an unreasoning mean-streak, obliged. She was charged with first-degree larceny,” he said.

At that point, McDowell had become something of a folk heroine and public support rallied behind her.

Then the undercover cops moved in.

“Just who sent them and why they targeted her is as yet unclear. She bought some narcotics, and was then charged as a drug user. Public support for her vanished,” Pattis said.

“Why, the woman self-medicates? A homeless shelter isn’t good enough for her? She struggles being a single mom? Maybe she’s got mental health issues? And what’s this about wanting a better life for her son? Let’s warehouse her,” he said.

Pattis added that McDowell needed help, not a prison bed.

“But Norwalk prosecutors piled on. They would not negotiate a resolution of her separate and distinct cases. No, not these ministers of justice,” Pattis said.

“A woman is sent to prison for wanting a better life for her children. She is doing time for using an illegal drug. Had she drunk herself to death it would be no crime. Or had she smoked four packs of cigarettes a day to sooth her jangled nerves, no one would care. But the wrong people are profiting from the drugs McDowell used,” he said.

Pattis continued: “We imprison the sick and call it justice. Now we imprison the homeless looking for something better for their kids.

“Class war? You bet. Ms. McDowell just got sacrificed on the front lines.”

Experts predicting fierce mosquito season this year

ATLANTA – Spring is already in the air! Warm weather is moving in to stay and residents in our area will be heading outdoors to enjoy the longer days and summer months to come. There are certainly many things to look forward to this time of year, however, pesky mosquitoes are not one of those things.

“As the temperatures continue to rise, mosquito populations boom and the recent rains have created the perfect breeding ground for another banner year,” said



Ekamelev / Unsplash

Charlie Jones, Arrow Pest Expert and SVP of Operations. “Homeowners should take precautions because

these pests do more than leave behind itchy red bites, they can also spread diseases like West Nile Virus, Zika

Virus and Chikungunya Fever.”

Needing only small amounts of standing water to breed – a bottle cap full is enough – these blood-sucking pests can develop from egg to adult in just 10-14 days. Additionally, these pests are always in search of their next meal and sense a potential target from up to 75 feet away.

To help homeowners protect themselves against mosquitoes this year, Arrow Exterminators recommends the following simple, proactive

measures:

- Eliminate all sources of standing water such as children's wading pools, bird-baths and flower pots;

- Keep rain gutters cleaned out to prevent water from standing in drains;

- Cut back or get rid of unnecessary vegetation around the home where mosquitoes can breed and/or rest;

- Keep swimming pools covered in colder months to prevent mosquitoes from laying their eggs there, and drain any water that has collected on top of pool covers;

- Remove water that has collected in tree holes and hollow stumps;

- Screen windows and doors to prevent mosquitoes from getting inside homes; and

- Consider using yellow bug light bulbs in outdoor light fixtures – the bulbs reduce the number of flying insects around your home.

Consumers interested in scheduling a free whole home evaluation can contact Arrow at www.arrowexterminators.com or call 888-462-7769.

Texas Senate considers raising minimum age for tobacco

By Richard Lee
Texas Senate

(AUSTIN) Texans may have to wait until the age of 21 to purchase tobacco and nicotine products under a measure heard before the Senate State Affairs Committee. That was one of several bills on Lt. Governor Dan Patrick's list of “priority legislation” heard in committee on Monday.

SB 21, by Houston Senator Joan Huffman, would raise the minimum legal age to possess or use tobacco products from 18 to 21, including e-cigarettes and other nicotine vaporizing devices. While tobacco use is down statewide, there are parts of Texas where the habit remains hard to kick. North Texas is a particularly notable area, with a University of Texas study showing

that twenty-five percent of adults in the region still smoke cigarettes daily, compared to 15 percent in the rest of the state.

Huffman believes raising the smoking age will also discourage use among minors.

“Raising the MLA to 21 for this offense would help keep cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and tobacco products out of Texas public schools by cre-

ating more social distance between younger high school students and of-age purchasers, thereby reducing early addiction to nicotine and tobacco,” Huffman stated.

If passed into law, the bill would make Texas the eighth state to raise the smoking age to 21. It remains pending before the committee.

Closing the “revolving door” between govern-

ment and lobbyists

Another priority bill in front of State Affairs Monday would prohibit registered lobbyists from seeking public office.

“Texans expect their elected officials to represent their interests,” said bill author Senator Brandon Creighton of Conroe. SB 13 would also seek to reduce the “revolving door” between serving in government and

becoming a lobbyist by placing a two year cooling down period between a legislator leaving office and registering as a lobbyist.

Creighton said Texas is one of only nine states with no restrictions on lawmakers walking out of office and into a lobbying firm. Finally, the bill would require that state campaign financial disclosures be hosted on the Ethics Commission website.

Oliver Wendell Holmes Middle School teaming up with Parkland for a Parent and Community Health/Wellness Fair

Oliver Wendell Holmes Middle School in Oak Cliff in partnership with Education is Freedom is teaming up with Parkland Health & Hospital System for a Parent and Community Health/Wellness Fair.

Entitled “How Ya Living!,” the event will be held

on Wed. March 27 in the school courtyard, located at 2001 East Kiest Blvd. in Dallas.

“It is one of our goals to find ways to be more involved with our parents and surrounding community and provide them with as many positive resources as

possible”, says Principal Sharron Jackson. “It is very important that our parents and community take an active role in managing their physical health and the health of their children. Healthy students make strong scholars, which is our academic goal at Oliver

Wendell Holmes.”

From 8 a.m. until 11 a.m., visitors will have access to basic health screenings and wellness information including blood pressure, glucose/cholesterol, Mammography Mobile, Rapid HIV Testing, visual and hearing tests, diabetes

risk assessment, BMI, and mental health and substance abuse education.

A \$25 Sam's Club gift card will be raffled off, courtesy of Club 8282.

DCHHS reports 14th flu-related death of the season

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is reporting the 14th flu-related death in Dallas County for the 2018-2019 season. The patient was 71 years of age and a resident of Dallas. For

medical confidentiality and personal privacy reasons, DCHHS does not provide additional identifying information.

“If you still haven't gotten your flu shot it still is not too late”, said DCHHS

Director / Health Authority, Dr. Philip Huang.

“We cannot predict the intensity, severity or duration of the flu season from year to year,” said Dr. Christopher Perkins, DCHHS Medical Director.

“The best way to protect yourself and others is to get your seasonal flu shot.”

DCHHS announced free flu vaccines for children and adults at all six immunizations clinic locations while supplies last.

Is there something we should know about?

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Rep. Johnson announces research grant to Dallas VA Hospital

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, Chair of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, announced the Dallas VA Medical Center has been awarded a research grant designed to develop new methods to better serve veterans and their health care needs. The funding, totaling \$624,000 over a 4-year period, is allocated to



address the rates and determinants of decreased bone health among HIV-infected individuals.

“Throughout my time in Washington, I have devoted much of my efforts to serving our nation’s veterans and advancing our nation’s investment in research and development. I am delighted

that this funding will address both of these areas,” said Congresswoman Johnson. “As chair of the House Science Committee, which oversees most of the country’s non-military research funding, I have made it a priority to fund programs that offer considerable benefit to the country, and pro-

grams that benefit our veterans may be the most noble endeavors we can support. It is an honor to congratulate the researchers at the Dallas VA Hospital for receiving this award and for the achievements we anticipate they will make to enhance the lives of veterans everywhere.”

This grant is administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which has funded research for more than 90 years. The Dallas VA Hospital, located in District 30, received this funding through a highly competitive process that factors in ingenuity, innovation and service to veterans.

Before she was a state senator or candidate for governor, Wendy Davis was no stranger to the issues facing young women today. Now she seeks to empower and activate the voices of young women in public and political discourse. It is that

Wendy Davis to speak on activism at Brookhaven College

passion to realize change through civic engagement and activism that Davis brings to Brookhaven College March 26 at noon in the Performance Hall.

Despite the challenges of raising a daughter on her own and working two jobs,

she became the first person in her family to attend and graduate college. Davis served in the Texas Senate from 2009-2015 and gained national prominence in 2013 with her 13-hour filibuster to protect women’s reproductive freedoms in

Texas. She held a seat on the Fort Worth City Council from 1999-2007 and unsuccessfully ran for the office of governor in 2014.

Davis founded the non-profit organization, Deeds Not Words, with the mission of “galvanizing the

power of young women to disrupt the status quo through organizing, policy-making and voting.”

She attended Tarrant County College, graduated first in her class at Texas Christian University and graduated with honors from

Harvard Law School. Her autobiography “Forgetting to Be Afraid” was released in 2014.

This event is free and open to the public. Brookhaven College is located at 3939 Valley View Lane in Farmers Branch.

Four community meetings are being held along the Cotton Belt corridor:

DART hosts public meetings on the Cottonbelt Corridor rail project

Construction on the Cotton Belt Regional Rail Project is starting soon. But before work begins, we want to keep you in the loop on the latest developments to the project and give you a chance to ask any questions

you might have. That’s why we’re holding a series of Cotton Belt community meetings for all interested members of the public.

DART is determined to work with the community to make the Cotton Belt a

transit solution that helps open up North Texas for everyone. That starts with giving you the most accurate information about the project, so we’ll be bringing members of the Design-Pre-Construction Management

team to the meetings to provide a complete outline of the project, including:

- updated alignment drawings showing track configurations, grade separations and station locations;

- an overview of the Design-Builder’s early design and construction schedule; and

- details of who you can reach out to if any questions or concerns arise while construction is underway.

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IRVING, continued from Page 1

terstate 30 intersection. He also would like to see the area redeveloped by replacing the older homes in South Irving with newer homes. Mali also plans to:

- Reconstruct Irving Boulevard between Loop 12 and Belt Line Road and seek commercial development opportunities

- Revitalize and preserve the future of Irving Mall

- Remove red light cameras

“There is a lot that needs to be done for South Irving,” Mali said. “North and Central Irving have developed very well, but South Irving is lagging behind in redevelopment. I hope to change that if I am elected.”

Allan E. Meagher - Currently the city council member representing Place 2, Meagher would continue overseeing the progress of the city’s “Road to the Future” roadway improvement project. The \$100 million,

five-year program would earmark \$20 million a year towards repairing 1,400 lane miles of roadway in Irving. If re-elected, Meagher said he wants to improve the quality of life for Irving residents with plans on redeveloping local parks and enhancing the city’s existing art program. He said he wants to watch the progress of the city’s alleyway art project on Main Street and push to reconstruct Irving Boulevard near downtown Irving, making it more pedestrian friendly. First elected to the city council from 2004-2011, Meagher was re-elected to the city for Place 2 in May 2016 and appointed Mayor Pro Tem in 2017.

Rodwaan M. Saleh - If elected, Saleh promises to spur economic development, combat homelessness in Irving and provide affordable housing to the residents. Saleh’s stated his highest pri-

ority is being accessible and transparent to all Irving residents during his campaign and when elected.

“Irving voters are truly a unique set of constituents with varying belief systems. Despite our differences, we are one in our love for Irving,” Saleh said. “I want Irving voters to know that I will try to the best of my abilities to deliver integrity and respect to all.”

Irving City Council, Place 7

Kyle Taylor - First elected in May 2016, Councilman Taylor is running unopposed for Place 7. Under his new term, Taylor plans to push for an upgrade of the city’s infrastructure; improve the availability of affordable and workforce housing for all Irving residents; update neighborhood ordinances aimed at keeping communities safe and foster economic development in the city. The Plymouth Park neighborhood will receive focused efforts. Taylor wants to finish

the city’s parks master plan and improve Irving’s library system.

For more information on the Irving City Council 2019 Elections, please visit

www.cityofirving.org/162/Election-Information or www.cityofirving.org.

'Knowledge is Power' conference offers invaluable business skills

For over a decade, Dallas ISD's Minority/Women Business Enterprise Department, the City of Dallas and Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) have offered an annual business conference where entrepreneurs gain invaluable success skills to help grow their business. The conference has provided pertinent information on how to do business with many public

entities in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The Knowledge is Power conference is a half-day event comprised of world class training from subject matter experts, guest speakers, concurrent workshops as well as vendor and public entity expos. This one event offers attendees valuable knowledge, access to multiple public entities, delicious food—all at no cost

"Knowledge is Power has a proven track record of businesses learning from the best of the best in contracting, resources, financial practices, legal information and networking."

-- Darcel Webb, DCCCD

to them.

Previous conference topics have included:

- How to Create a Capability Statement

- Effective Marketing for Your Business
- How to Write a Winning Proposal
- Business Resources fea-

turing signature sponsors: Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber, Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber, Dallas Black Chamber, and D/FW Minority Supplier Development Council.

This conference will benefit business owners of all disciplines and sizes. Businesses providing the following services or commodities are highly encouraged to attend: Technology, Food, Of-

fice Supplies, Technology Consultants and Books. Over the years, many industries have attended the conference including construction, nonprofit, consulting, culinary, and many more.

This conference is a great tool for any entrepreneur. Don't miss out on this informative and empowering event.

Register online at www.dallasisd.org/mwbe

Students use the power of poetry to win grand slam scholarships

The inaugural Dallas ISD poetry slam was nothing short of a memorable night at the Edison Learning Center as infectious energy filled the auditorium with excited students, proud parents, and supportive peers.

Participating students competed for \$10,000 in scholarship awards through a generous donation from business entrepreneur, Roland Parrish. His charitable contribution provides a stepping stone for kids to achieve opportunities in higher education.



Local Dallas businessman, Roland Parrish, pictured with recipients of the \$10,000 scholarships awarded to the top three Dallas ISD participants. (Photo: Dallas ISD)

More than 100 fifth-graders from 60 schools exhibited impeccable talent and literary creativity under the

theme, "Me, My Community, My Future," which challenged students to write and perform poetry related to their

communities, using the power of voice and dramatic gestures to bring their words to life. Ultimately, three winners used this platform to showcase their communal visions and empowering messages with outstanding slam performances.

This competition was a collaborative effort of the Dallas ISD Reading Language Arts Department and the Racial Equity Office, which partnered with Flocabulary, to give students an opportunity to express them-

selves through the power of poetry.

Flocabulary artist, Ike Ramos, discussed the power behind poetry.

"Poetry is a great way to have a voice," said Ramos. "You're cultivating a skill that's relatable to so many areas and opportunities in life."

All three winners will receive their scholarship money upon high school graduation and will also have the opportunity to perform at the annual "Read for Me" event on

Saturday, March 23, at W.H. Adamson High School, which will include a giveaway of more than 10,000 books.

Below are the scholarship recipients of the Poetry Slam:

- First place (\$5,000): Otto Darnell, Eduardo Mata Elementary School

- Second place (\$3,000): Heidi Trinidad, School for the Talented and Gifted in Pleasant Grove

- Third place (\$2,000): Evan Smith, Jimmie Tyler Brashear Elementary School

Simple directions from parents can guide children's discovery

By Rachel Griess
UT - Austin

AUSTIN — Whether it's probing a child's understanding of a topic through questions or engaging in hands-on activities alongside them, parents can guide their children to learn in new ways through simple directions, according to a study by psychology researchers at The University of Texas at Austin.

Prior research shows that children use both exploration and explanation when learning, oftentimes using exploration to generate new explanations and using explanations to spark further exploration. A new study published in *Child Development* examines this interplay to show how simple cues from parents for their children to either "explain" or "explore" influences their children's learn-



The Thinkery / Courtesy

ing behavior and abilities, particularly as it relates to scientific reasoning.

"Despite the widespread recognition that children learn through collaboration, most research on children's causal reasoning is conducted on individual children in laboratory settings," said Cristine Legare, the study's senior author and a psychology associate professor at UT Austin. "Our

study examined parent-child collaboration in a real-world learning environment, a local children's museum called the Thinkery, to provide parents and educators with suggestions on how to engage children in playful and open-ended ways of learning."

In the study, researchers examined how children's understanding of causal

mechanisms, as demonstrated in the Thinkery's exhibit on gears, was influenced by minimal interventions from their parents. During a three-minute interaction in the exhibit, parents of 65 children, ages 4 to 6, were directed to give their children one of three directions — "explain," "explore" or play as they normally would (baseline condition).

Researchers found both child and parent behaviors were uniquely influenced by each cue. For example, parents who encouraged explanation asked questions for 18 seconds longer than parents in the baseline condition, resulting in their children talking about and spinning the gears 5.7 and 16.7 seconds longer, respectively.

Parents who encouraged exploration behaved similarly to those in the baseline

condition, but their children spent 26.8 seconds longer connecting gears. Overall, children encouraged to explore built larger, more complex gear machines than either of the other groups, particularly those in the explain condition who spent more time, on average, spinning gears than connecting them.

"Parents in the explain condition engaged in more behaviors that support learning, such as asking questions, and fewer behaviors that hinder learning, such as fixing problems for children, than parents who gave no directions at all," Legare said. "Similarly, parents who encouraged their children to explore helped their children engage more with the activity and build more complex machines."

After interacting with the exhibit, children partici-

pated in tasks to gauge their causal understanding. No condition had a significant impact on task performance, but some behaviors had more influence than others, researchers found.

For example, children who spent more time spinning gears, answering parents' questions or troubleshooting on their own did better on follow-up tasks than those whose parents troubleshooted for their children in the exhibit.

"Parent involvement in children's activity is most helpful when children are still in control and allowed to solve problems themselves," Legare said. "Encouraging children to explain and explore may have a positive impact on children's learning by encouraging longer, more sustained interactions over time."

Collin College receives \$20,000 from information security organization

The North Texas Chapter of the Information Security Systems Association (NTXISSA) recently donated \$20,000 to the Collin College Foundation for student scholarships. NTXISSA has held cybersecurity conferences at the college for several years, and the partnership between the college and the informa-

tion security organization continues to flourish.

According to Chris Armstrong, president of the NTXISSA, the chapter understands the value of investing in community.

“Our chapter members are constantly seeking talented local staff at all levels, and the consistent connection with Collin allows

unique career opportunities for students and a route to qualified talent for our hiring needs,” said Armstrong.

According to Lisa Vasquez, Collin College vice president of advancement, this generous gift will go a long way to support Collin College students.

“Many people believe that Collin County is so af-

fluent that there is no need for scholarships, but that is not the case,” Vasquez said. “More than 28,000 local students didn’t have enough money for college last year, so they applied for financial aid and scholarships through Collin College. We can’t thank NTXISSA enough for making a difference.”



Collin College and NTXISSA representatives celebrate their partnership with a \$20,000 scholarship donation at a recent NTXISSA meeting. (Photo: Nick Young, Collin College photographer)

City of Irving to proceed with lawsuit against Texas Attorney General

By Rachel Hawkins
NDG Staff Writer

On the evening of March 14, the Irving City Council held a special meeting to con-

sider proceeding with a lawsuit against the Texas Attorney General. The only agenda item was Resolution 1: Authorizing the city attorney’s office to file a lawsuit

against the Texas Attorney General relating to open records letter ruling OR2019-05797. The order required the City of Irving to release certain records under the Public

Information Act.

Irving Mayor Rick Stopfer called the meeting to order, but the council immediately went into an Executive Session. After meeting with the

city attorney for 25 minutes, the council passed the resolution.

The subject of the request relates to McKesson Corporation failing to buy the re-

quired land in Irving on time, thus having their incentive deal terminated with the City of Irving at the end of 2016.

See LAWSUIT, Page 16

Branding that Builds Communities: How traditional sales and marketing techniques help attract and retain people

By Greta von Unruh
Irving Chamber

Think about the last product you purchased online. Maybe you saw it during a

television commercial, and then you saw it again on Facebook. You probably visited the product website and read some reviews, then moved forward with your

purchase. If you were pleased with that purchase, you might have encouraged others to buy it with a quick Instagram or Snapchat post.

A company invested in

every single step of that purchase experience. Their product placed on a website you frequent, making sure images and testimonials conveyed its emotional ap-

peal. Perhaps coupons emailed to you, encouraging future purchases.

This same process can attract specific audiences, like a strong workforce or

wealthy retirees, to live or work in your community. Ryan Short, CEO of CivicBrand in Richardson,

See CHAMBER, Page 12

Arlington

The **Maverick Speakers Series: Anna Deavere Smith** will take place on March 26, at 7:30 p.m. at Texas Hall, in Arlington. "Engaging the World: The Role of the Artist in Society" is the topic of a talk by the actor/playwright/professor. Smith's television credits include *Black-ish*, *Nurse Jackie*, *The West Wing* and the new ABC legal drama *For the People*. For tickets visit uta.edu.

Dallas

Get ready to run the **5k Color Run** course on March 23, from 8 a.m. to 12

p.m. through Fair Park, in Dallas and get doused from head to toe in different colors at each kilometer. Tickets start at \$15. For more information visit endurance-cui.active.com.

The **Power of the Magazine Cover: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow** will be held on March 25, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, in Dallas. Join Dr. Samir Husni, known as Mr. Magazine, for an animated conversation and a fascinating journey through the history of American magazines and their power to shape

and shift public perceptions of our nation's leaders. Regarded as one of the nation's foremost experts in print journalism, Dr. Husni will reveal the hidden ways magazine covers have motivated and manipulated popular opinion throughout history. For tickets visit jfk.org.

Irving

Don't miss the **North Texas Teen Book Festival** on March 23, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas, in Irving. Best-selling authors Tahereh Mafi (*Shatter Me* series), Tomi Adeyemi

(*Children of Blood and Bone*) and Raina Telgemeier (*Smile, Drama, Sisters and Ghost*) headline this year's celebration of teen and tween literature at the North Texas Teen Book Festival. There will be an additional 70 authors at the free expo which features panel discussions, publisher events and book signings. Admission is free but wristbands are required for select book-signing lines and publisher events. Parking is \$10 per vehicle.

Richardson

Experience **Dancing Beyond Borders** on March

22, at 7:30 p.m. at Eisemann Center, in Richardson. The Dallas Black Dance Theatre and DBDT: Encore! perform as part of the dance theater's 42nd season. The performance features "Bodes as Site of Faith and Protest," a piece by choreographer Tommie-Waheed Evans inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "We Shall Overcome" speech. For tickets visit eisemanncenter.com.

An Historic Evening With Eva Schloss (Stepsister of Anne Frank) will take place on March 27, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Eis-

mann Center, in Richardson. Chabad of Plano/Collin County hosts Eva Schloss, 89-year-old Holocaust survivor, peace activist and international speaker, who will share her memories of her childhood friend and stepsister Anne Frank and her powerful story of survival, grit, loss and ultimate triumph of the human spirit. Forty years after the end of World War II, Eva began to share her story. She now travels the globe to spread a message to others to value kindness, diversity, tolerance and our common humanity. For tickets visit chabadplano.org.

ACHIEVE Tackle The Challenge event scores big with attendees

Tackle The Challenge Luncheon held today featured guest professional football player, Shaquem Griffin, a leading linebacker and the first amputee to play professional football. The luncheon, presented by Ryan and hosted by ACHIEVE, scored a touchdown with the 250 business leaders and sports enthusiasts that attended the event.

"This was an incredible

opportunity for the Dallas community to hear how Shaquem rose to meet the challenges presented by his physical disability and became a role model to so many others," stated Tim Allen, Executive Director for ACHIEVE. "He inspired us all today."

Guests had the opportunity to hear Shaquem's personal story of overcoming challenges to become the

2016 American Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year and a fifth round pick during the 2018 draft. Local sports announcer, Mike Doocy, facilitated the discussion.

"I really enjoyed meeting the guests at the event today and love the work that ACHIEVE is doing for adults with disabilities. I personally know all things are possible with encouragement," stated

Shaquem Griffin.

All proceeds from the luncheon will benefit ACHIEVE, a non-profit organization that provides vocational training and placement for adults with disabilities and barriers to employment. Guests also had the opportunity to meet former players from the Cowboys, Patriots, Broncos, Red Skins, Rams, Saints, Buffalo Bills, Ravens, Giants, and Jaguars.

ACHIEVE would like to thank the following sponsors: Presenting Sponsor - Ryan; Gold Sponsor - Carter Arnett; Silver Sponsor - Clay Cooley Auto Group; and Bronze Sponsors - ProPath, Clampitt Paper, Level-C Solutions/Signature Back Office Solutions, Re-Teck, Bell Nunnally, and The Time Group.

ACHIEVE, a non-profit

organization serves more than 900 adults annually with intellectual, physical, and/or mental health disabilities from Dallas county and surrounding areas. Our Mission is to empower individuals with disabilities and barriers to employment, to ACHIEVE their highest level of independence and employment. Learn more at www.achievedfw.org

Richardson maintains highest credit rating from Moody's and S&P for 10th consecutive year

RICHARDSON - For the 10th year in a row, both Moody's and Standard & Poor's credit rating agencies have reaffirmed Richardson's "Triple A" status, the highest possible rating available for creditworthiness. Richardson has held AAA status from Standard & Poor's for 12 years now,

and this is the 10th year in a row the City has received an Aaa rating from Moody's.

"In Richardson, one of our goals it to effectively and efficiently manage City resources while maintaining and enhancing City services," said Richardson Mayor Paul Voelker. "We are able to do this thanks to

our strong financial position and fiscal management policies, which allow us to continue to make necessary investments in infrastructure, as well as other areas that enhance the quality of life for our stakeholders. We are proud to once again be recognized by Standard & Poor's and Moody's and to

know that we have met their highest standards for fiscal responsibility."

In its rationale, Standard & Poor's said Richardson's "Triple A" rating was based on the City's, "very strong economy, very strong management with strong financial policies and practices, very strong budgetary flexi-

bility, strong budgetary performance, very strong liquidity, and a strong institutional framework."

This year the City plans to sell approximately \$49.4 million in bonds. This includes \$17.4 million for the continuation of the serial sale of bonds associated with projects that are part of

the 2015 Bond Program and \$32 million for capital needs, which include funds for water and sewer infrastructure improvements, emergency services equipment, information technology equipment, streets, park trails and public facilities including the Public Safety Campus and Fire Station 3.

Dallas Arboretum's treasured cherry blossom trees are blooming now

One of nature's most beautiful presentations of color is starting to unfold now at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. A wave of delicate pink and white cherry blossoms on the Arboretum's 150 cherry blossom trees are starting to unfold, announcing their annual arrival and ushering in springtime. The flowering Japanese cherry trees are expected to be in full bloom within the next week. Many of the cherry trees were given as gifts to the Dallas



Dallas Arboretum

Arboretum, including trees from Peggy B. Braecklein in honor of her parents, John

R. and Thelma N. Black. The blossoming takes place during Dallas Blooms festi-

val, presented by IBERIA-BANK, themed "Life's A Picnic," and features an extraordinary, larger-than-life, picnic scene topiary in Jonsson Color Garden comprised of a stunning 40'x40' picnic blanket, a vase of flowers, a picnic basket with pie and a giant picnic ant, sponsored by Dave Perry-Miller Real Estate.

Dave Forehand, Dallas Arboretum's vice president of gardens, said, "The Japanese flowering cherry trees bloom each March,

putting on a beautiful show for our guests. The cherry blossom celebration is not to be missed. This has become a North Texas tradition."

In Japan, cherry blossom time is known as Hanami, with parties held both night and day under the Sakura (cherry blossom trees), to celebrate this yearly occurrence and the delicate beauty of life. Hanami dates back to the Heian Period (794-1185) when the Imperial Court in Kyoto held

flower-viewing parties beneath the blossoming cherry trees. The flowers were praised by poets as a metaphor for life, "beautiful yet fleeting."

Today, branches on many cherry trees at the Arboretum are overflowing with thousands of lacy blooms, and each tree only blooms once a year. Throughout the world, cherry blossom time runs from late March to early May, depending on the climate and local weather conditions.

Captain Marvel is a superhero who deserves a little better

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

It's hard to launch an action hero franchise based on a comic book character when you can't deliver dazzling special effects, innovative super powers, imaginative action scenes, uncanny makeup, vibrant costumes or a consistently affecting storyline. Those essential elements are missing in this feeble origin tale



Marvel Studios

about a superhero who deserves better. Far off in another galaxy

opening scenes depict Yon-Rogg (Jude Law), commander of the Kree civiliza-

tion's militia called Starforce. He's training a soldier named Vers (Brie Larson, Oscar-winner for Room) in martial arts combat. The characters/actors don't seem particularly convincing. The Kree are at war with the Skrulls, led by Talos (Ben Mendelsohn, Bloodline); they're green shape-shifters with elf ears who can turn themselves into anyone they see. It's hard to spot the Skrulls;

they're difficult to track and can sneak up on you quicker than a heart attack. The battle between the Kree and the Skrulls shifts to the 1990s on earth, aka Planet C-53. Vers' trip to the planet triggers memories. Was she there before? Did she have a pivotal role in a crucial event? Why do people call her Carol? Her voyage of self-discovery may be more fascinating than her mission.

First views of the footage are disappointing. The costumes (Sanja Milkovic Hays) are dull and lack eye-catching colors and designs (Oscar-winner Ruth Carter's clothes in Black Panther made a statement as important as any aspect of that film). The makeup (Erica Akin) is uninspired; especially on the Skrulls who look like they're wear-

See **MARVEL**, Page 12

NDG Entertainment: Music, stage and fashion this week in DFW

By Tiffany Gilbert
NDG Entertainment

This week in DFW entertainment you have the plenty of concerts, plays, comedy shows with a little bit of fashion thrown in.

Get your laugh on at the **April Fools Comedy Jam** on March 29, starting at 7 p.m. at The Theatre at Grand Prairie. You will have the chance to see

Michael Blackson Bruce Bruce Deon Cole, Tony Roberts live. For tickets visit axs.com.

Da baby & S3nsi Molly

is on stage on March 30, from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. at The Door Clubs, in Dallas. Tickets start at \$20. For more information and tickets visit Eventbrite.com.

RAHYMA-TribalbyN will open on March 30, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Hyatt Place, in Dallas. Rahyma and Tribalbyn are both Nigerian Award-win-

ning designers with authentic and one of a kind African clothing that will leave you speechless. They will have

See **STAGE**, Page 16

Back for a fourth year at Bishop Arts Theatre Center (BATC), **Down for #The-Count** is a one-act play festival featuring six dynamic female playwrights from diverse social and ethnic backgrounds articulating the strong female voice in this #MeToo movement. This staged event breathes life into their compelling, hilarious, and heartbreaking stories. True to BATC's mission, Down for #The Count is a vital platform for the perpetuation of innovative theatrical productions where a variety of female voices may be heard. The production runs from March 21 - April 7. For tickets and times visit bishopartstheatre.org.

North Texas Performing Arts - Fairview is presenting the Broadway classic **Hello, Dolly!**, a family fun period piece, that will keep you laughing from beginning to end. The show is scheduled to run from March 22 to March 30. Tickets and more info at NTPA.org

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 GABRIELLE DENISE PINA	 KIANA RIVERA	 BLUE MCELROY

www.bishopartstheatre.org

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

Music series returns to Cityline in Richardson this spring

CityLine LIVE music series returns to CityLine this Spring. Every Friday and Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m. during April and May, the Plaza will be filled with live music from local artists. Guests can listen from a State Street restaurant patio or bring a lawn chair and enjoy the festivities and food in the Plaza.

"We can't wait to kick off the popular CityLine LIVE music series again this year. With an impressive lineup and plenty of dining options throughout CityLine, it's a great opportunity for a family gathering, date night or an evening out with friends where everyone can get what they're craving," said Jessica Robertson, marketing director for CityLine. "The local musicians are extremely talented, and we are excited to showcase them this season."

The series will take place in CityLine Plaza, next to the Aloft Hotel and Good Union



Followwell Photography

Urban BBQ.

Guests will be able to listen from any of the surrounding restaurant patios, including Fernando's Mexican Cuisine, Edoko Sushi & Robata, Aloft's WXYZ Lounge, and Good Union Urban BBQ, as well as take advantage of happy hour specials. Guests can also enjoy a to-go dinner on the Plaza from any of the surrounding restaurants, including a tackle-box special from Tricky Fish, or a \$12 picnic special with sandwich, chips and drink, from Jasper's to-

go menu. CityLine's vast selection of restaurants and the convenience of to-go options make it easy and fun to experience the food everyone loves. CityLine LIVE will be BYOB, dog-friendly and kid-friendly.

All performances for CityLine LIVE are booked through 13th Floor Music, which produces more than 300 shows per month and curates the entertainment programs for more than 40 venues statewide. The company has been named the top booking agency by the Dal-

- Friday, April 5: [Matt Barron](#)
- Saturday, April 6: [Leighton Fields](#)
- Friday, April 12: [David Michael George](#)
- Saturday, April 13: [Cody Foote](#)
- Friday, April 19: [Sweet Crooner](#)
- Saturday, April 20: [Devin Leigh](#)
- Friday, April 26: [Ian Dickson](#)
- Saturday, April 27: [Jenna Clark](#)
- Friday, May 3: [BJ Stricker](#)
- Saturday, May 4: [Alex Blair](#)
- Friday, May 10: [Aubrey Slaver](#)
- Saturday, May 11: [Maya Plata](#)
- Friday, May 17: [Brent Quarry](#)
- Saturday, May 18: [Harrison Viator-Smith](#)
- Friday, May 24: [Ole G](#)
- Saturday, May 25: [Kirk Holloway](#)
- Friday, May 31: [John Tipton](#)

las Observer and the Best Independent Promoter/Talent Buyer by Central Track.

In the event of inclement weather, performances will be moved inside one of the restaurants. Lineup is subject

to change. For more information, visit www.citylinedfw.com or follow CityLine on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

CityLine is a 204-acre transit-oriented development

in Richardson, Texas featuring a dense mix of office buildings, apartments, restaurants, and open space, with easy access to two major highways and the DART light rail system.

CityLine's current development phase includes more than 50 dining and retail options with Whole Foods Market as anchor, an Aloft hotel, seven office buildings home to State Farm and Raytheon, two parks with access to regional hike and bike trails, and a wellness office building anchored by Texas Health Resources and Children's Medical Center.

At full build-out, CityLine will contain five million square feet of office space, 3,925 multi-family residential units, more than 75 dining and service retail options, and two hotels. Approximately 30,000 people are expected to live and work at CityLine.

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Are your local utilities contracting with local minorities firms? Probably not!

By Harry C. Alford and Kay DeBow

Utility companies are licensed monopolies. They are authorized to provide services such as water, heating, phone and cable services. These services are virtually necessary, and we have no choice but to utilize some or all those licensed within our communities. You select them to provide the necessary services and then they bill you and you must pay them or get your service terminated with no recourse. "They got'cha!" as the saying goes.

Most of you don't realize that these monopolies have a responsibility to the minority businesses located in your designated areas. They must include in their contracting activities enough amounts of subcontracting to the locally based minority firms within their territories. Most of you do not know this and thus have little concern about the

issue. That is so unfortunate! Minority citizens pay billions of dollars to these firms and when it comes to how diverse is their procurement practice, they don't have a clue. Thus, in most cases, these utility firms are not being monitored in their procurement activities.

These utilities contract with the federal government via the General Services Administration. The services they provide the public are contracted. The services they pay to vendors in the performance of those contracts are subcontracts. We have a vested interest in knowing who those subcontractors are and how many of them represent the businesses located in those applicable areas, including ethnic minority owned firms.

For example, the city of Indianapolis has a population that is 40 percent minority. The utilities that service the marketplace

should be subcontracting with minority owned firms to the amount totaling 40 percent of those subcontracts. Obviously, this isn't happening and that is our fault! We aren't policing it and it will not become a reality until we do.

Here is our authority: The official publication and federal guideline is entitled, "GSA Procurement – Public Utilities' Plans for Small and Small Disadvantaged S u b c o n t r a c t o r s , G A O / G G D - 9 3 - 4 4 " : "Under the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, GSA is authorized to enter into contracts with public utility firms for a maximum term of 10 years for the purchase of utility services for federal agencies. Contracts may be either areawide – providing service for several agencies in a service territory – or single point – providing service for one facility. GSA's policy is to obtain services under a for-

mal, written contract if the estimated annual cost of the services will exceed \$25,000.

In addition, the Small Business Act, as amended, generally requires that federal contracts exceeding \$500,000 (\$1 million for construction contracts) that have subcontracting possibilities contain subcontracting plans providing for the maximum practicable opportunity for small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. Under the act, failure to comply in good faith with subcontracting plan requirements will be considered a material breach of contract. Further, legislation stipulates that when a contractor fails to make a good faith effort to comply with a subcontracting plan, the contractor must pay damages to the government. Based on leg-

islative history, overall congressional intent for the subcontracting plans was to improve opportunities for small and small disadvantaged businesses to do business with the federal government."

Wait! It gets better: "Noncompliance with subcontracting plan requirements does not necessarily mean that utilities are not subcontracting with small and small disadvantaged businesses. However, without the plans, GSA can neither confirm that utilities have plans to use small and small disadvantaged businesses nor monitor compliance with such plans."

So, when we ask a utility to submit their subcontracting plan to us, we expect to get it. This is public information. A bigger request would be: "Do you have a plan?" If they don't submit a copy of the plan and a subsequent report on their success, then you must go to

the GSA and ask for enforcement. They are in violation of federal law!

Back in the 1990's we had great success in making these utility companies do the right thing. Perhaps it is time, once again, to awake them and put them in good compliance. In the end, they will help bring millions of dollars to their local minority firms and that money will recycle many times within their community and create new jobs. This is what a Black chamber of commerce is about – bring economic empowerment to African American communities via entrepreneurship.

Mr. Alford is the Co-Founder, President/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce. Ms. DeBow is the Co-Founder and Executive Vice President of the chamber. Website: www.nationalbcc.org Emails: halford@nationalbcc.org kdebow@nationalbcc.org

Frazier House Lunch & Learn Series presents 'Identifying Your Gift to Get to Your Destiny'

Erika Estes, speaker and strategist, will help participants identify gifts that individuals have that will help them get to their destiny at the upcoming Lunch & Learn series class set for Tuesday, March 26, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Frazier House, 4600 Spring Avenue in Dallas.

The free session will help participants create their brand and create a strategic implementation plan of action to get them to their destiny.

The Lunch & Learn Series is a signature program of the Zan Wesley Holmes,

Jr. Community Outreach Center. It launched in July 2018 with Marketing Basics and continues each month with a class that provides learning opportunities for small businesses and non-profit organizations, specifically targeted to those in the South Dallas area.

Erika Estes says her mission is to help individuals reach their desired destiny by creating their own personal blueprint that caters to their gifts. "If you want to change your career or take gift to the next level, let's go," she says. Estes noted that she has always been

passionate about helping individuals reach their full potential. Her gift is preparing your blueprint designed for your gift and talent so you are able to soar into your future.

Estes said, "as a young girl, I loved being my own boss! ("Little Entrepreneur") Instructing people on how to implement their business brand and target their market, comes natural, she said. It has always been my passion to see people prosper and I am ready to help you!

To register: www.zwhj-coc.org/classes-destiny.

If you can't make it to one of the meetings, check out DART.org/cottonbelt to get all the details and shoot us an email at CottonBelt@DART.org to share your thoughts or suggestions. You can also get more information from DART Community Engagement by calling (214) 749-2543.

DART, continued from Page 5

Dallas, TX 75248)

• Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the Richardson Civic Center (411 West Arapaho Road, Richardson, TX 75080)

• Tuesday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Element by Westin – Dallas/Fort Worth Airport

North

(3550 West IH 635, Irving TX 75063, Park in North Lot by LBJ/635)

• Wednesday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the Addison Conference Center (15650 Addison Road, Addison, TX 75001)

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 community 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.



Survey shows workers frustrated because of poor communication

SAN BRUNO, CA - At a time of economic uncertainty and record-low unemployment, a shocking number of U.S. employees are stressed, unhappy and ready to quit. According to findings from Dynamic Signal's Annual State of Employee Communication and Engagement Study, 80 percent of the U.S. workforce reports feeling stressed because of ineffective company communication - a 30 percent jump from just one year ago.

The 2019 study which surveyed 1,001 U.S. employees, also found that 63 percent of them have wanted to quit because ineffective communication interfered with their ability to do their job - almost double

from the 33 percent in 2018.

Companies aren't prioritizing Employee Communication and Engagement highly enough:

- 70 percent of employees feel overwhelmed because of broken communication methods and fragmented information

- More than half of employees wouldn't confidently advise keeping their CEO because of the poor communication

- 17 percent would recommend firing their CEO based on how the company communicates to all of its employees

- 78 percent of employees surveyed said improving employee communication and engagement should be a higher priority for their cur-

rent company

- A majority of employees don't feel like their company communicates with them in a way that makes them want to be an advocate for the organization. Though a whopping 83 percent say they'd be an advocate if employee engagement was better

Dynamic Signal's survey results highlight the urgent business need for improved Employee Communication and Engagement.

On average, the cost to replace an employee is 33% of annual salary according to the Work Institute. At a Fortune 500 company with an average employee salary of \$73 thousand, each employee could cost around \$24 thousand to replace.

With the average Fortune 500 company employing more than 52,000 workers, this leaves those large companies with a rough average risk of more than \$1.2 billion in turnover-related costs.

These risks can be prevented by improving employee engagement. Organizations with higher employee engagement see 24 percent greater worker retention, 21 percent higher profitability, and 17 percent more productivity, according to Gallup's State of the American Workplace report, released in 2017.

"It's obvious that a tight labor market in recent years has highlighted the need to improve the employee experience, but poor internal

communication is leaving workers stressed and ready to look for other jobs," said Russ Fradin, CEO of Dynamic Signal.

"Companies need to get ahead of the problem of broken employee communication if they're going to have the internal alignment to meet business goals, the culture to retain talent, and the agility to respond to a possible economic downturn."

U.S. employees clearly value more effective Employee Communication and Engagement at their companies, making them hungry for improvement, even more so than compensation. In fact:

- 90 percent of employees say good company commu-

nication is key to a positive working environment

- Even with lower-than-ideal pay, 69 percent of employees would be less likely to quit if their company was more effective at communicating

- 85 percent of employees consider effective communication an "employee benefit"

- 67 percent of employees would go "above and beyond" their duties if they felt more valued and engaged

- A majority of employees (52 percent) said they had witnessed poor financial outcomes (missed sales, damaged company reputation) due to poor communication

MARVEL, continued from Page 9

ing green Halloween masks from Toys R Us. Set decoration (Lauri Gaffin), art direction (Elena Albanese), production design (Andy Nicholson) and cinematography (Ben Davis) all look rehashed from other non-descript action hero/sci-fi movies. Add in the dullness of special effects (once you've seen Larson shoot power waves out her fists, it loses its shimmer) and visually everything is humdrum.

With nothing to look at, attention gets focused on the story, direction, pacing and acting: One civilization fighting another civilization is not exactly an earth-shattering premise. When the oh-too-conventional script by writers/directors Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck (Half Nelson) and co-writer

Geneva Robertson-Dworet concentrates on fighting green plastic looking beings, it shoots blanks. A subplot that centers on Vers' personal hurdles and discovering her previous life hits its target.

Adding in funny moments about the ineptitude of '90s technology, compared with today's high tech causes several smirks (remember floppy discs and pay phone booths?). Plus, the characters on earth, like the smart-mouthed Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson), who works with an organization called S.H.I.E.L.D., fellow pilot friend Maria (Lashana Lynch) and the enigmatic Supreme Intelligence being (Annette Bening) provide needed diversions.

Hopefully, if Boden and Fleck go on to direct more Marvel films, they'll keep these standards in mind: Rivalries between warring factions have to be vicious, not polite. Fight scenes should be thrilling. Battles in space need to be spectacular. Airplane chases should be riveting. Fistfights have to be imaginatively staged and choreographed. Chase scenes where heroes run after enemies must be an adrenaline rush. If you can't hit those marks, why bother?

Editors Debbie Berman and Elliot Graham do the best they can with the footage they were given. What's on view has a rhythm. It's not like you're squirming in your seat for 2h and 4m. Boredom is not the overwhelming takeaway. Neither is excitement.

Brie Larson, an excellent

dramatic actress, injects humanity, doubt and imperfection into her Vers. It's just enough to make what could have been a cliché character somewhat intriguing. Not much more. Jackson as Fury buddy's up to the lead and adds comic relief. Jude Law is miscast and too British and reserved for his mentor role. Mendelsohn fares slightly better as the green monster Talos. Other supporting actors don't get enough screen time to show their real talent: Gemma Chan, Algenis Perez Soto and Djimon Hounsou.

The perfectly written, directed, acted and produced Wonder Woman should have been nominated for an Oscar. It paved the way for Captain Marvel to succeed as an art form, at the box office and with a female protagonist in a predominantly male genre. WW casts a

shadow so big that any similar film that follows will have to bring its A game to equal it and an A+ game to beat it. Captain Marvel rates a C.

In the least, thanks to this prequel, audiences will know how Captain Marvel

got her ultra-powerful mojo and how the S.H.I.E.L.D. got its start. Many will wish that the film aimed higher than that.

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

CHAMBER, continued from Page 7

TX, describes this marketing process as "Place Branding."

A community's "brand" is the promise of what it has to offer new residents or employees. In order to communicate that brand promise effectively, the interests and perspectives of each target audience must be understood. Customized market-

ing and communication tools can then be used to move each audience target, or 'persona', through a process similar to a traditional sales funnel. Encouraging them to choose, and ultimately champion the community.

Awareness > Consideration > Experience > Ambassador

"When developing a place branding strategy it's crucial to look at these stages through the lens of each audience 'persona,'" says Ryan. "Communities cannot just use a blanket approach and singular message for all audiences."

Ryan also explains "too often communities skip steps in the funnel and only focus on awareness."

Communities cannot sim-

ply tell their story, but must also provide their target audiences with opportunities to communicate their own experience and help shape it.

Most brands are busy promoting and building a community around their unique benefits in order to increase sales. Communities can do the same to ensure they continue to grow and enhance the quality of life for all who live and work there.

MWBE Vendor Workshop

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March 26, 2019

5:30 p.m. Registration
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RSVP to: Deborah McVean
MWBE Program Administrator
(972) 721-3753
dmcvean@cityofirving.org



Upcoming DFW area job fairs

March 22 Car Cleaners & CSR Hiring Event

The Car Cleaners & CSR Hiring Event will be held on March 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hertz Admin Building, in Dallas. They will be looking for car cleaners, flex representatives, instant return reps, and counter sales reps. Must be 20 years of age with a valid drivers license. Bring a copy of your resume. Please contact recruiter: Kristin at 210-323-3518.

March 27 Great Wolf Lodge Hiring Event

The Great Wolf Lodge Hiring Event will be held on March 27, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Great Wolf Lodge Conference Center, in Grapevine. Positions include: room attendant & house attendant, housekeeping supervisor, lifeguard, prep cooks, dishwashers, hotel engineer/maintenance tech, retail attendant, mag-iquest attendant, arcade attendant, costumed characters, snack bar attendant, banquet servers, restaurant servers, restaurant busser, and restaurant host. To apply visit indeed.com.

March 28 North Lake College Spring Career Fair

The North Lake College Spring Career Fair will be held on March 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Student Life Center, at North Lake College. Be sure to bring plenty of resumes and dress for success. More than 50 employers will attend this event. For more information contact 972-273-3140 or Nlcareers@dccc.edu.

March 30 You Bring The Power - Full Stack Developer Hiring Event

You Bring The Power - Full Stack Developer Hiring Event will be held on March 30, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Infosys Richardson



Office, in Richardson. Test your coding skills and compete for a place on Infosys' elite full stack developer coding environment. They will be running a 1-day hiring event, where you can put your coding skills to the test and find out if you have what it takes to be a Power Programmer at Infosys. Infosys welcomes all talented programmers in Texas. You choose the languages and technologies you'd like to use to solve the problem. All you need is a valid ID. We'll provide the rest, including refreshments, as well as a laptop. The deadline for applications is March 29. They have a cap of 80 programmers and will notify applicants on a first-come first-served basis.

To register visit the Plano Independent School District will be held on March 30, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in Plano.

March 30 Teacher Job Fair - Plano ISD

The Teacher Job Fair for Candidates must complete an online application to register for the event on

the Plano ISD employment website.

All 72 elementary and secondary campuses located in and served by the District will have representatives there with staff to speak to those interested in teaching and other professional opportunities. To to receive an entry ticket to the job fair. Visit www.pisd.edu/page/5495 for all the details.

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

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



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

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



Overview

The Inside Sales person will serve as the primary sales and account management representative to existing and new customers within the assigned territory. In this role, you will be responsible for increasing sales and the distribution of our products/services. Additional tasks include growing and developing relationships with customers, gathering requirements and negotiating terms to provide products to a wide variety of industry and applications. The ISR always applies resourcefulness and strong attention to detail while converting inquiries into orders, to ensure the best possible customer buying experience.

Responsibilities

- Accountable to achieve sales revenue, volume and profit objectives in assigned territory.
- Actively listens to customer needs, identifies and investigates customer requirements and provide solutions to meet their needs.
- Make accurate cost calculations to provide customers with quotations.
- Negotiate the terms of agreements and close sales.
- Develop and maintain relationships with existing customers via phone calls and emails.
- Grows existing account base and develops new customers through up-selling and cold calls.
- Partner with Outside Sales Team Member(s) to provide superior customer service.
- Update and maintain customer records, files and other relevant customer information.
- Gather market and customer information to provide feedback on future buying trends; communicates data to Sales Management and Outside Sales Team.
- Identify new markets and business opportunities.
- Other duties as directed.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or Marketing preferred.
- 3-5 years successful inside selling experience preferred. Experience in stainless steel and light gauge coil slitting a plus.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, self-directed entrepreneurial environment.
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written.
- Effective time management skills, ability to multi-task and prioritize day to day activities.
- Computer proficiency including MS Word, Excel and Outlook.

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

March 23, 9 am – 12 Noon
For only \$10 you are encouraged to join us at an Evangelical Covenant Church Crescendo Retirement Workshop. It will be worth your time to fellowship with us and learn some valuable information.

March 24, 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 27, 7 pm
Join us for Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner and others as we continue to study the book "Boundaries" when to say yes or how to say no by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend with supporting chapters and verses. Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you; it's Time to Grow in the Word of God.

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www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP" We are Saving You a Seat.

March 24, 9:45 am
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 27
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
2450 K Avenue #300
Plano, TX 75074
972-379-3287
www.theship3c.org

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

March 22, 8 p.m.
All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 8 pm, (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

March 24, 10 a.m.
Please join us for our Morning Service; and don't for-

get to invite family and friends to join us as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

March 25, 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 24, 10 a.m.
Join us for Morning Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory. Don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

March 27, 7 pm
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Dr. Sam Fenceroy, PhD
Senior Pastor and
Pastor Gloria Fenceroy
300 Chisholm Place

Plano, TX 75075
972-633-5511
www.mocop.org

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)

March 2019
You are invited and welcomed to join us during the month of March for our church-wide study and devotional series - JESUS: There's something about That Name!

During this month as we prepare for the season of

See CHURCH, Page 15

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Dennis Jarvis / Flickr

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Women's 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."

A nonprofit educational organization founded in 1980 to bring women's stories and contributions to the fore.

The project was the force behind getting Congress to designate Women's History Month officially. And, I acknowledge Black women only.

Marian R. Croak is Senior Vice President of Applications and Services Infrastructure.

Named to that role in 2012, she is responsible for a team of more than 2,000

developers, engineers and program managers who manage over 500 programs impacting AT&T's enterprise, consumer, and mobility services and create the tools developers inside and outside AT&T are using to build new apps and services. Her team is tightly integrated with the AT&T Foundry® innovation centers in Palo Alto, Calif., Plano, Texas, and Ra'anana, Israel.

Ella Baker, a civil rights activist, was a driving force in the creation of the country's premier civil rights organizations.

After graduating as valedictorian from North Carolina's Shaw University in 1927, Baker moved to New York City during the depression.

She was a founding member of the Young Negroes Cooperative League, whose members pooled funds to buy products and services at reduced cost.

In 1957 Baker and several Southern Black ministers and activists established the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a major force in organizing

the civil rights movement.

Henrietta Mahim Bradberry was born in Franklin, Kentucky in 1903. This Black innovator was a housewife and inventor who held two patents. The first, for a bed rack attachment that allowed for the airing-out of clothes. Then Henrietta converted the rack into a new way for torpedoes to be shot from submarines!

Bessie Coleman, the first Black American woman aviator, had a postage stamp issued in her honor in 1995.

Ethel L. Payne was the first Black woman to receive accreditation as a White House correspondent.

Susan Knox's fluting iron made pressing the embellishments easier. The trademark featured the inventor's picture and ap-

peared on each iron. Ruffles, fluted collars, and pleats were very popular in Victorian-era clothing.

Evelyn Ashford, winner of four Olympic gold medals in 1984, 1988, and 1992. Also won a silver medal in 1988 and was inducted into Track and Field and Women's Sports Hall of

Fame in 1997.

Two famous quotations by Ashford: "I take pride in everything I do. I don't want to be handed anything. I want to earn it."

"I can't run forever. I decided to go back to school for my degree, because I know now there's more to life than track."



Marian R. Croak, Senior Vice President, AT&T Labs. Major developments, VoIP

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

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CHURCH, continued from Page 14

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

March 27, 7 pm
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

March 30, 9:30 am
Join Shiloh's Sister 2 Sister's Ministry as the host a Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 30th from 9:30-11:30 am. Call the church for detail.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
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NDG Book Review: *Wolf Pack* is a book you'll want to hunt down

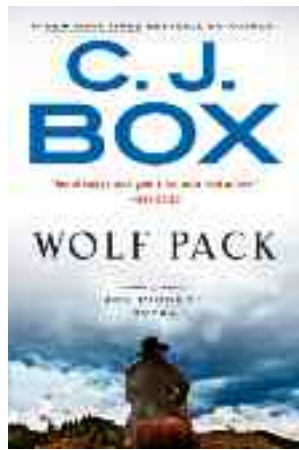
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Hunting season has opened.

And there you sit, waiting. It's quiet in the woods, where a snapped twig is as loud as a gunshot out there and as urgent. That snick, and your attention is focused, your adrenaline rushed. The question, as posed in "Wolf Pack" by C.J. Box is: which are you, the hunter, or the hunted?

According to Courtney Lockwood at the Forest Service, wolves in Yellowstone Park never strayed beyond the park's boundaries.

Wyoming Game Warden Joe Pickett knew that was



untrue, as did the ranchers in Twelve Sleep County; as if anecdotal evidence wasn't enough, a black wolf had been caught and contained in a rancher's horse trailer. It was a magnificent animal,

but it was killing the rancher's heifers.

Like most game wardens, Pickett had a soft spot in his heart for wildlife, the wolf included, just as it bothered Pickett that someone left unchecked traps in his territory. To let any creature needlessly suffer was unimaginable to him; that the trapper left his name and address on the traps was laughable.

But the guy was a "ghost," which wasn't funny at all; going by what Pickett could tell, the trapper didn't exist prior to two years ago. No records, nothing.

The bigger problem, though, was that it was late

spring, the elk and deer that survived the winter were fragile, and some idiot with a drone was harassing the animals. Pickett's colleague in the next county was as peeved about it as Pickett, but the issue was complicated by fact that the harasser appeared to be the father of Pickett's daughter's boyfriend.

This wasn't going to go well at all.

Just outside the county, Pedro Infante knew he was losing control.

Of the four people in the *Wolf Pack* – three men and Abriella Guzman – Abriella was trouble: beautiful, confident, completely merci-

less, all good reasons why she wasn't in charge. Pedro was, but finding their target and assassinating him was taking too much time. Abriella was growing impatient.

The *Wolf Pack* was getting nervous...

So. How are your fingers? In good shape, are they? Great, because you'll need them for edge-of-your-seat clinging while you're reading "Wolf Pack."

But first, readers may be surprised by an opening chapter that's kind of clunky and a bit on the prurient side. It's important to the story, so power through it – what's to come will more

than make up for it, as this tale literally winds up mountains and down through arroyos, between rocks, far above ground, and between bullets. That this book is a thriller is appealing, but the scenery in the story is just as attractive and author C.J. Box tops it off by bringing into this novel many of his best-loved characters.

Just beware that some of them may not make it out.

If you're new to this author, prepare yourself for a future search for the rest of the series. For fans of Pickett or Box, though, you know what to do about "Wolf Pack": hunt it down.

SMU presents three dance premieres at benefit concert

SMU Meadows School of the Arts will present three premieres by internationally recognized choreographers at its 26th annual benefit concert, "Meadows at the Winspear," at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 4 in the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. in Dallas. The concert will feature the critically acclaimed Meadows Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of conductor Paul Phillips, and the students of the Meadows Dance Ensemble performing three new works, each set to well-known 20th-century music.

The annual spring concert

raises funds to support talented Meadows students through the Meadows Scholars Program. It also honors a community leader, and this year, the honoree is The Meadows Foundation, which has supported SMU and Dallas for more than five decades.

The concert opens with Ueyama's Heroes, a work for 12 dancers, including guest artist and alumnus Albert Drake, that combines powerful athleticism and delicate gestures drawn from the choreographer's Japanese heritage.

The program continues

with *A Rhapsody in Blue*, set to George Gershwin's famous 1924 composition combining jazz rhythms and classical music. Award-winning choreographer Alexander Sanchez, known for his work both on and off Broadway, has created a new group work that follows the narrative of two young immigrants arriving in New York in the

1920s to pursue the American dream.

Concluding the program is *Stellar Matter* by Dwight Rhoden, co-founder and artistic director of New York City-based Complexions Contemporary Ballet, set to three of the seven movements from Gustav Holst's *The Planets* – Mars, Uranus and Jupiter (1914-16).

LAWSUIT, continued from Page 7

"The City of Irving believes that revealing economic development information during an ongoing negotiation would compromise the economic development negotiation process and should be protected until such time as an agreement is reached," the city responded in a statement.

Reportedly, McKesson

Corporation upon completion of the sale within the outlined timeframe would receive \$9.75 million from the Texas Enterprise Fund. The company also would receive more than \$2 million in tax breaks from the City of Irving. Due to the missed deadlines, they have not received any of these funds to this date.

STAGE, continued from Page 9

a variety of dresses, skirts, jumpsuits, jackets, blouses, headwraps and lots more. Be sure to RSVP for free on Eventbrite.com.

You can have the chance to experience **Bar-kays, Zapp Band, And The Gap Band** live on March 30, starting at 8 p.m. at Music Hall at Fair Park, in Dallas. Tickets start at \$39.50. For more information visit ticketmaster.com.

Don't miss **10 Summers Presents: The Debut Tour with Ella Mai** on March 26, at 7 p.m. at the House of Blues, in Dallas. She will perform live with Lucky

Daye. For tickets visit livenation.com.

MoneyBagg Yo is performing at the Word 4 Word Tour at 8 p.m. at Canton Hall, in Dallas on March 29. Tickets run from \$35 to \$100. To purchase tickets visit cantonhall.com.



MoneyBagg Yo
(Photo: Canton Hall)

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