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# Judges races take center stage at Monday Night Politics

By David Wilfong  
NDG Contributing Writer

The African American Museum at Fair Park was once again the venue for Monday Night Politics this week, as the Dallas Examiner invited the Democratic candidates for three judicial seats to make their case for election in the upcoming primary.

The first office highlighted was the 162nd District Court where Marilyn Mayse is looking to defeat incumbent Judge Maricela Moore in the Democratic primary. The winner of the primary will face Republican Jordan Lewis in the general election.

"I live in the house on my birth certificate, and it will probably be the address on my death certificate," said Mayse, who emphasized her roots in the area. "I believe if you are going to represent a community, you need to be a part of that community and I've been a part of this community all my life."

In addition to her legal work, she has served as a precinct chair and election judge and cites her dedication to the Democratic party. She said she is looking to make the court more efficient and accessible to citizens with less resources.

Moore said she grew up in the



Sandre Moncriste (at left) fields a question from the audience as fellow candidates for the 254th Family District Court Kim Brown (center) and Marty Jo Taylor (at right) look on during the Monday Night Politics forum. (Photo: David Wilfong / NDG)

Democratic party in Travis County where her parents were heavily involved in local politics. She noted her first appeal as a judge came from her next-door neighbor she had ruled against as an example of unbiased decision-making. She has held the bench since 2016.

"I bring to the court 18 years of experience presiding over civil district cases; the kind of cases that are in this court, which are complicated civil cases" Moore said. "This court only handles civil cases. I'm board-certified in employment law and I bring all that experience to the court and I've been able to ap-

ply it to the way I make decisions.

The second presentation was for the 254th Family District Court, where three candidates are vying to unseat the sitting Republican Judge Ashly Wysocki, who was appointed to her position by Texas Governor Greg Abbott. Kim Brown, Sandre Moncriste, and Marty Jo Taylor. All three are attorneys, and all three have run in previous judicial races.

"I was 12, and in junior high school when I first received my opportunity to volunteer," Brown said. "And it was at a women's

See MNP, Page 6



## Unions put America first and goal

- See Page 3



## Self-care to be your own Valentine

- See Page 4



## Dallas DA's office gets large HSI award

- See Page 5



## Plano programs for those with special needs

- See Page 7



## Dining options in Dallas for Valentine's Day

- See Page 8



## Shake Anderson brings gospel show to Allen

- See Page 9



## A look at the latest in the Bad Boys films

- See Page 10



## Sister Tarpley: A look at Black History Month

- See Page 15

### Inside...

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

### See Page 2

#### READERS SOUND OFF!!!

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

### People In The News...



Ronald K. Jones



Luther J. Battiste, III

NDG Quote of the Week: "I don't want a Black History Month. Black history is American history."

— Morgan Freeman



## Ronald K. Jones

Budding DFW fashion designer, Ronald K. Jones II (RKJ), is set to release his latest 2020 collection with a conceptual runway presentation entitled “The Fabric of Reality” an immersive fashion show at Lofty Spaces (816 Montgomery St, Dallas 75215) on February 9 starting at 6 p.m.

A fan of fashion since he was young, he credits the inspiration for the line from his family’s roots and high-end streetwear designs from brands such as Nike, Tommy Hilfiger, and Sean John. His goal is to



change the consciousness of the masses and convey stories through his designs by presenting unique looks that also have a message and story behind it. Having already executed over 10 of his own shows and with his

designs worn from celebrities including Swae Lee of hip hop duo Rae Srem-murd and B. Howard for the VMA’s, the RKJ brand is ready to establish itself as one of the major fashion houses in Dallas by elevating to new levels with this presentation.

“The Fabric of Reality” will be a showcase of Jones’ all-around talent, as the show will begin with a pre-show mixer, transition into a listening party for his upcoming EP, debuting some of Jones’ musical creations. The show serves as a launching pad to accelerate to other fashion markets and introduce Jones as a

music artist as well. Jones and his team plan to make the “Fabric of Reality” show a tour with his sights on cities like Los Angeles, New York, Paris, and Atlanta.

“This show represents the exiting of the matrix and the get-away from everyday norms and struggles,” Jones says, “This show is the foundation for my future. The blueprint is in hand and it is something that I’ve been working hard to put together.”

RKJ has also partnered with Action With Compassion Dallas Charity in which the proceeds of the show will be given to sup-

port this charitable organization. Action with Compassion Dallas Inc carries out its charitable aims by using cultural events such as fashion shows, and art exhibitions to raise funds to help its causes. It donates money from these activities to organizations and programs specifically aimed at helping victims of domestic violence. Its contributions help to find ways to reduce domestic violence, funds programs that provide education and counseling to victims, and to the public at large.

“The Fabric of Reality” will take place on Sunday, Feb. 9 at Lofty Spaces from

6-9 p.m.. Tickets are \$25 and are currently available online. For more information and tickets visit: [www.rkjclothing.com](http://www.rkjclothing.com).

Jones tends to keep people on their toes by introducing new looks and perspectives to the fashion realm. Within a few years, RJ has produced 10 fashion shows of his own [RKJ Experiences] and accepted more than fifteen invites to provide a showcase for other runway shows. RKJ’s work is expanding quickly to provide opportunities from styling shoots for music artists, actors and models to being in top runway shows and magazines.

## Luther J. Battiste, III

Charleston, SC — Luther J. Battiste, III has been installed as National President of the American Board of Trial Advocates at the organization’s National Board Meeting at the Hotel Bennett. Mr. Battiste, a founding shareholder of Johnson, Toal & Battiste, P.A., took the oath of office from retired Chief Justice Jean Hoefer Toal of the Supreme Court of South Carolina.

Mr. Battiste is the first African-American to serve as National President. He also made history in 1983 by becoming one of the first



two African-Americans elected to Columbia City Council since Reconstruction. He served 15 years as a member of the Columbia City Council, including two terms as Mayor Pro Tempore. In 1998, the City of

Columbia dedicated to Luther J. Battiste, III the Monument and Plaza in honor of his dedicated service as a public servant.

Mr. Battiste was admitted to ABOTA in on January 29, 2000, and has served as a National Board Member since 2005. He served two terms as National Treasurer and has served as a chair or member on a number of committees and task forces. In 2011, he served as the President of the Southeastern Chapters of ABOTA, a regional organization representing 11 ABOTA chapters. He is active with the ABOTA Foundation and has long recognized that

civics education has been neglected in this country and that failure has resulted in a serious diminution of the key role of an impartial judiciary and the jury system in our constitutional democracy.

Mr. Battiste and his wife, Judy, are spearheading the Foundation’s newest effort launching this year, the Civics Education Literacy Program, which provides free books related to the U.S. Constitution to elementary schools. ABOTA members are financially supporting the program and are serving as volunteers to read to the students.

Mr. Battiste recognized his mentor, the Hon. Matthew J. Perry, Jr., who served as the first African-American United States District Judge in South Carolina. “Judge Perry demonstrated under difficult circumstances that lawyers who practice with skill, civility, and integrity are respected,” Mr. Battiste said. “We should continue, as an organization, to stress that in an increasingly intemperate world civility and integrity matter. We must continue the efforts of the ABOTA Foundation to communicate the need for civility among lawyers and to educate our youth

through civics education.”

As a board member for the National Center for State Courts, Mr. Battiste said that working closely with judges nationwide provided a perspective into the challenges faced by the Third Branch.

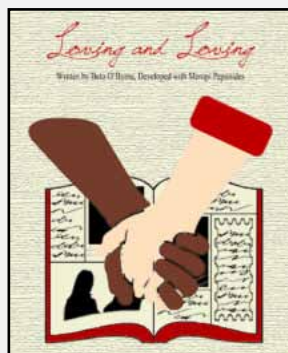
“We must continue to support making the judicial system accessible to all and responsive to the changing needs of technology. Advocating for an independent judiciary is essential,” Mr. Battiste said. “Understanding the past and preparing for the future to protect our valued legal system should be our greatest pursuit.”

## NDG Readers Sound Off...

### Win tickets to Loving and Loving Love

One of my favorite love stories is that of two Dallas Symphony musicians that coached me in high school at the Arts Magnet in the late 1970s.

“She” was the Chinese American adopted daughter of a trailblazing mixed couple: Asian mother, white father. Her Dad, who was a wonderful violinist, put an instrument in her hand at a very early age, and the gift inside of her blossomed.



“He” was a black kid whose parents insisted their children study some type of music. After picking up and putting down the piano, then taking up the trumpet, a teacher decided the 6 ft tall youngster would fit well with the

bass viol, It was a match made in heaven. His talent blossomed as well.

Long story short, the Chinese American 4’11 violinist and the 6’4” bassist met, fell in love, married, had two beautiful children, and both had a long career with the Dallas Symphony...He just passed away on Monday, January 27, 2020.

- Mysticpistol

(Editor’s Note: First, thank you for sharing such a heartwarming love story. Clearly they meant a lot to you as you have

stayed in touch with them over the years. Congratulations on winning tickets for two to see *Loving and Loving at the Bishop Arts Theatre this week!*)

### Caraway walks out of MNP forum

We’re Archie & Arthur in the audience? That woman has one helluva temper and needs to move on down the road.

- Paula Colby

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**Sales Department:**marketing@northdallasgazette.com  
972-509-9049**Editorial Department:**

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**Online:**

www.NorthDallasGazette.com  
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("Sister Tarpley")**Published by**

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

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

# Unions put America first and goal

By Ray Curry  
Secretary-Treasurer, UAW

Ladies and gentlemen, it's time for Super Bowl LIV. The big game matches the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers and marks the first time these two have met in a Super Bowl. So how will the big game turn out? I've got the answer already.

Because of the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) and the collective bargaining they have put into place, the men and women who represent both teams in jobs on the field and off, win. As does America.

Before the guys clash helmets on the field, I want to talk a little bit about how critical union representation is for anyone who gets up and goes to work every day.

And, regardless of where you report to work — whether it's on a football field, behind a desk, in a factory, at a casino, in a classroom, in a bookstore, at the post office, in a museum — having a union means that your rights are

protected.

**Giving Solidarity the ball**

Union representation assures that the terms of the collective bargaining agreement are met; that negotiating retirement and insurance benefits are bargained for; that member services and activities are provided; that health and safety standards are put in place and followed; that workers are paid a fair wage and have a voice in their workplace. And by the way, our union brothers and sisters are the backbone of their communities, providing assistance and support to charitable and community organizations across this country.

I believe that every worker, in every job, should have those rights and protections. And a lot of people agree with me. In fact, approval ratings for unions is at a 50-year high.

I think we saw clear evidence of that this past fall during the history-making strike against General Motors. All of us, standing up to this massive, powerful, multi-billion-dollar company. But all that money and all that power was no match for my union brothers and sisters who stood in Soli-

darity and ultimately drove into the end zone with a victory.

That's the power of Solidarity, of working men and women standing strong together. Support poured in from across this nation and around the world, and our NFLPA brothers and sisters were right there alongside us.

From my own seat here at the UAW, I can't thank the pro-union NFL players enough who turned up on our picket lines and stood with the nearly 50,000 of us in front of plants across this country, marching with us in the heat, the cold and the rain for fair wages and a fair contract. And just as we have in the past, the UAW will be there to support the NFLPA in 2021 as they enter into their bargaining.

**Marching America down the field**

That's what it's all about. Standing together to protect our right to collectively bargain and have representation in the workplace. And, make no mistake, when we stand together, we win. But the forces working against us and the right to collectively bargain are

fierce, formidable and with a game plan all their own. Corporations and the politicians they have working for them will stop at nothing to erode union representation and make it more and more difficult to organize. Our strength is our Solidarity.

For working men and women, the game is always the same. We take the field against management and the companies who put profits ahead of the very people who make them profitable. As in football, ours too is a game of inches, and we fight for every single one of them.

So, like I say, I already know who the winners are in the 2020 Super Bowl. (I am not claiming that to know what Kansas City might bring and what the 49ers might have planned to stop them!) I'm just saying, I know the winning job unions have done for all of us on whatever field we play on or whatever game we're playing.

(It should be a good matchup — and know that you've got Union Labor on both benches that all of America will be rooting for.)

## As predicted the president is acquitted

President Donald Trump faced two articles of impeachment, following what some considered a flawed Senate trial, the president was acquitted of both charges.

"Even without witnesses or a fair trial, the facts are clear: the president did it. He admitted it. His lawyers admitted it," Tom Perez, the president of the Democratic National Committee stated. "Republican senators admitted it. And now they're letting him off the hook. Make no mistake: By voting to acquit Trump, Republicans are undermining our national security, legitimizing foreign interference in our elections, and giving a green light to future presidents who want

to extort other countries for personal gain."

Naturally, Trump's reelection team saw things differently.

"President Trump has been totally vindicated and it's now time to get back to the business of the American people," Brad Parscale, Trump 2020 campaign manager shared in a statement. "The do-nothing Democrats know they can't beat him, so they had to impeach him. This terrible ordeal was always a campaign tactic to invalidate the 2016 votes of 63 million Americans and was a transparent effort to interfere with the 2020 election only nine months away. And since the President's campaign only got bigger and stronger as a

result of this nonsense, this impeachment hoax will go down as the worst miscalculation in American political history."

The same Republican senators who acknowledged the president's mistakes, still could not find their way to vote guilty.

"It is clear from the July 25, 2019, phone call between President Trump and Ukrainian President Zelensky that the investigation into the Bidens' activities requested by President Trump was improper and demonstrated very poor judgment," Maine Senator Susan Collins.

While the American public overwhelmingly stated they wanted witnesses to be called at Senate trial, their

wishes were ignored.

"There is no need for more evidence to conclude that the president withheld United States aid, at least in part, to pressure Ukraine to investigate the Bidens; the House managers have proved this with what they call a 'mountain of overwhelming evidence,'" according to Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander.

Perez reminds fellow democrats, there is always light at the end of the tunnel.

"This is a dark day for our democracy. But we've seen dark days before. And all of them have one thing in common: They come to an end. The era of Donald Trump is no exception."



## Make self-care your Valentine

By Dr. Sarah E. Laibstain

Love it or hate it: Valentine's Day is approaching. Whether you are in a relationship or going solo this year, it can be easy to get caught up in the frenzy and forget about what matters most – you. Taking care of yourself, both physically and mentally, is important to your overall well-being and can increase the likelihood that you stay well.

Living a healthy lifestyle is a continuous practice. It also requires taking the time to enable good habits and reflect on how you are feeling. Learning how to eat right, exercising regularly, limiting stress, and taking personal time when you need are all part of the foundations of self-



*Make yourself a priority this Valentine's. Time spent focused on self-care and relaxation is time well spent. (Image: CreateHerStock/Neosha-Gardner)*

care. Being aware of your feelings is a pivotal touchstone that can help you stay healthy and resilient. Here are a few ways to take time for yourself during this season of love.

Opt for healthier sweets: With yet another holiday focused around sugar, seek

alternatives like a fruit arrangement when gifting a "sweet for your sweet." Choices like classic strawberries are always popular, plain or dipped. If choosing dipped, consider dark chocolate. Compared to milk chocolate, dark chocolate has about half as much sug-

ar, four times the fiber, and contains iron.

Relax and unwind: Everyone deserves an opportunity to take a break in order to reset. When planning your next date night, take a simpler approach and consider unwinding at home. This can help relieve the stress and pressures of Valentine's Day, like competing for a dinner reservation. Staying in and preparing a well-balanced meal for your significant other can show you care in more ways than one. Taking the time and effort to not only cook but selecting options that are heart-healthy like Omega-3-rich fish and vegetables can showcase your best interests for your partner and their health. Should you include wine in your

meal, consider red over white. Red wine is made by fermenting grapes with their skin and stems, so it contains more tannins and resveratrol which may reduce inflammation and help lower blood pressure.

Make it your day: No matter your views on Valentine's Day, most can agree that there's nothing better than having a good friend by your side. According to a recent study by Cigna, social media was found to be a primary cause for the high rates of loneliness. Consider putting your phone down and hanging out in real-life with people who bring you joy. Whether it's one-on-one or hosting a Galentine's Day or Guy's Night, you can share in the celebration. If

you are feeling especially lonely on a regular basis, you may want to consider seeking professional help. Primary care physicians are an excellent resource for finding someone that can help you address your specific concerns.

In any case, the best Valentine you can give is taking care of yourself! For more tips on personal self-care, please consult with your family medicine provider.

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

## Donor scheduled to meet young leukemia 'match' on Valentine's Day

February 14 is not only Valentine's Day but also National Donor Day. While some are focused on finding their "perfect match" in a significant other, there's another kind of match thousands of people are looking for as well – a bone marrow donor match that could potentially save their life.

Every three minutes, someone is diagnosed with a blood cancer like leukemia or lymphoma. For many patients, finding a bone marrow donor who is a match is their only chance for a cure. Finding a match can happen anywhere in the world at any time. For



*Prasanthi Ganesa (at left) undergoes the procedure necessary to give life-saving bone marrow to Akshaj Nagilla (at right). (Courtesy photos)*

one North Texas boy fighting for his life, his match happened to be living just miles away.

In 2017, then five-year-old Frisco native Akshaj

Nagilla was diagnosed with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia after doctors at Children's Health noticed his white blood cell count was extremely high. He needed



a bone marrow transplant, but the likelihood of an Asian Indian having a matched, available donor is only 41%. After being hospitalized for five months,

Akshaj received news that he had a match!

Prasanthi Ganesa spent the first 10 years of her life in India before moving to Texas in 1992. An aspiring medical student, she joined the Be The Match registry while in college at Texas A&M because she, "felt like it was the natural thing to do." Twenty years later, now a medical oncologist living in Bedford, Dr. Ganesa received the life-changing call she never thought she'd get.

"When they told me I was a match, it was the last thing on my mind. It had been 20 years. Then, when I found out the recipient was the same age as my youngest son, fighting for his life, it really touched my heart, and I knew I would do everything I could to help save his life."

On February 14, Children's Health will host a celebration at 10 a.m. at our Dallas campus where Akshaj and Dr. Ganesa will meet for the first time.

## Is it cold or flu? Parkland physicians provide tips on when to see a doctor

Sneezes, sniffles and coughs can only mean one thing: cold and flu season is in full swing. Parkland has reported more than 2,700 patients with influenza since Oct. 1. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported widespread flu in Texas.

But trying to figure out whether you've got a common cold or the flu, how you should treat your symptoms and when you should



seek medical attention can be confusing.

Parkland physicians have some helpful tips on how to

identify your ailment and what you can do to prevent or treat colds and flu.

"The flu and the common

cold are both respiratory illnesses but they are caused by different viruses," said Donna Persaud, MD. "In general, the flu is worse than the common cold and symptoms such as fever, body aches, extreme tiredness and dry cough are more common and intense."

Meanwhile, Dr. Persaud said, colds are usually milder than the flu and symp-

**See FLU, Page 16**

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# Dallas County DA's office received nearly a half-million dollars from 2017 Homeland Security bust

Through its partnership with federal law enforcement agencies, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office was awarded close to a half-million dollars to further their pursuit of justice in Dallas County.

In 2017, the Department of Homeland Security's Financial Crimes Task Force, or FCTF, seized over \$8,000,000 in illegally-obtained revenue from Frank Cacopardo. Cacopardo had been the target of a lengthy investigation regarding active bookmaking in Dallas by the FCTF mentioned above. In fact, the funds seized from Ca-



Dept. of Homeland Security

copardo's accounts represented illegal proceeds in violation of 18 USC Sections 1084, 1955, 1956 and 1957. These funds, due to their origination in illegal activities were forfeited to

the government for equitable distribution among the agencies that worked so hard to bring Mr. Cacopardo to justice.

The Dallas County District Attorney's Office has

been a member of the federal taskforce since 2016 and has played a significant role in the investigation and subsequent 2018 prosecution of Frank Cacopardo, along with other taskforce members such as the IRS and the Collin County District Attorney's Office. Therefore, on October 8, 2019, the Treasury Executive Office of Asset Forfeiture awarded the Dallas County District Attorney's Office \$460,560.00 to use for law enforcement purposes. Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot considers this award a testament to the hard work

his staff puts in each day to keep our community safe. "I am proud to lead an office with such a dedicated staff. Public service can be a thankless job at times and unless they have had interaction with the DA's office, the average person would never know how much blood, sweat and tears our prosecutors and in this case, investigators, put into the public safety of Dallas County", Creuzot said.

By law, the money awarded must be used for law enforcement purposes only. This includes, but is not limited to funding training for staff, purchas-

ing needed equipment, promoting crime prevention, expanding diversion opportunities and providing resources to those impacted by crime.

District Attorney Creuzot says the funds are always needed when running a government organization. "In my efforts to seek justice, one of the focal points of my administration has been to wisely spend tax dollars. These awarded funds will certainly help my office have the resources we need to continue to seek justice for all through innovation and reform."

## LHS senior designs new logo for Lewisville ColorPalooza

A senior from Lewisville High School has created this year's winning logo for the ColorPalooza: A Celebration of Spring festival.

Landy Martinez's logo was unveiled Monday night at the City Council meeting. It features a Purple Martin holding a paintbrush in its beak, over a background of spring colors, with the ColorPalooza title on a green circle.

The logo incorporates the purple and green colors seen in the City of Lewisville logo. The ColorPalooza



Landy Martinez displays her original work which was selected as the winner of the ColorPalooza contest. (Courtesy photo)

za title and slogan are created in a font to appear as if they were painted on the

logo. Martinez says there's no sharp edges in the logo to convey friendliness and

peacefulness.

"I wanted the ColorPalooza logo to represent togetherness and the flow of art," Martinez said.

Martinez learned about the logo contest from her high school art teacher. She has been doing digital art for seven years and creating sculptures for the last three years. After graduation, Martinez plans to attend college with an eye on starting a graphic design career.

ColorPalooza, the annual outdoor festival, will be

held on Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., in historic Old Town Lewisville. Attendees will be entertained by various cultural music and dance groups. Admission to the festival will be free, although some activities might carry a nominal charge.

This festival features a wide variety of exhibits and interactive events with a "spring feel" for the whole family.

Visitors will get to show off their artistic abilities, watch skilled artists cre-

ate one-of-a-kind artwork, marvel at and create colorful sidewalk chalk art, and learn how to better care for the Earth and make their homes more environmentally friendly.

There also will be an emphasis on interactive events for children, including inflatable play structures and creative arts and crafts stations.

For a complete list of musical acts, and a schedule of events for this year's festival, please visit LewisvilleColorPalooza.com.

## North Texas Tollway Authority seeking budding young artists

Do you know a tween or teen motivated by money or fame? The North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) is offering a little of both, and this year, teachers can cash in too.

NTTA's 2020 Digital Media Design Contest is focusing on road safety, and we want students who are actively enrolled in grades 8-12 to submit their original designs before April 19.

The winning student will get a \$250 Visa gift card plus attention for their talent, and the teacher whose name is listed on the most

entry forms will also win a \$250 Visa gift card to help with classroom supplies.

The winning entry will incorporate a safety message/design to help us bring attention to one of these safety campaigns:

**National Work Zone Awareness Week or International My Red Thumb Day**

Eligible contest entries must be submitted electronically and can include digital illustration, photography or graphic design. Hand-drawn or painted images are also eligible if they

are converted to a digital file and submitted electronically.

All artwork must be an original work of authorship, authored by the student and not infringe on any third-party rights. Other requirements include:

- Submission, including entry form, must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. (CT), Sunday, April 19, 2020, via email to TollTagInsider@ntta.org
- JPEG or PNG files only, attached to the email

See ARTISTS, Page 6

## LEGAL NOTICE

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2148	<b>Super 10s Super Ticket®</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.72	\$10	1/22/20	9/3/20
2170	<b>HIT \$5,000</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 4.81	\$1	2/2/20	9/14/20
2152	<b>50X Fast Cash</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.25	\$5	2/2/20	9/14/20
2126	<b>Wild 10s</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.66	\$10	2/2/20	9/14/20

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**TEXAS LOTTERY**

# Citi grooms Irving ISD students for future employment

This week Irving ISD is expected to sign Citi as a premier sponsor. The sponsorship between Irving ISD and Citi gives Irving ISD students an authentic learning space to prepare for a career in business and technology - a high demand, high wage, and high skill industry. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average annual wage of someone in the business and financial operations is \$79,539.

"Citi's sponsorship of our School of Business and Entrepreneurship will al-

low students to continue to learn how their academic foundation blends seamlessly with the technical skills that are required by today's demanding workforce. Citi has a long history of commitment to excellence and providing life-changing experiences for our students in Signature Studies," says Shawn Blessing, director of Irving ISD's Signature Studies program. "Their willingness to provide students with real-world challenges has been one motivating factor that has driven the

School of Business and Entrepreneurship to new heights. We are extremely proud to recognize Citi as our Premier Sponsor for the School of Business and Entrepreneurship at MacArthur High School."

MacArthur High's business and technology students are invited to apply for Citi's Global Command Center High School Intern Program. Students accepted into the internship program work 20 hours a week at the Global Command Center and learn all facets of the business industry. This is a

win-win for both partners because students are getting real-world experience in high school and Citi is grooming the next generation to lead their company.

"As the largest employer in Irving and a longtime community partner with the Irving Independent School District, Citi is proud to partner with the District's School of Business and Entrepreneurship at MacArthur High School to prepare students for workplace readiness and to promote educational excellence," says Jason Cramer, Citi

Dallas/Irving Interim Site Head and Head of Mortgage Originations and Vendor Management. "Our latest collaboration teams Citi employees with students in the classroom with relevant and real-world connections where they will learn about finance, business management, and technology. These sessions provide a hands-on environment to learn the necessary technical skills while exposing students to opportunities in the financial and technology industries, including Citi's Global Command

Center High School Intern Program."

More than 900 Irving ISD high school students are expected to benefit from the new sponsorship, with the hopes of one day entering the lucrative and successful field of business and technology.

For more information on Irving ISD Signature Studies programs and career pathways, visit [www.irvingisd.net/signaturestudies](http://www.irvingisd.net/signaturestudies). For more information on Citi, visit the company's website at [www.citigroup.com/citi/](http://www.citigroup.com/citi/).

# DART wins grant to combat human trafficking

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) has received a grant of \$49,600 towards Human Trafficking Awareness from the Federal Transit Administration.

A total of 24 organizations, including DART and four other transit-rail agencies, will each receive funding for projects to help prevent human trafficking and other crimes found on



public transportation.

"Since 2013, when we became one of the original

transit agencies to sign the U.S. Department of Transportation's Transportation

Leaders Against Human Trafficking pledge, DART has worked to spearhead

local awareness efforts on human trafficking," said Gary Thomas, DART President/Executive Director.

"As one of the first transit agencies to provide training to spot indicators of human trafficking and how to report it to every employee, DART knows the importance of these programs," said Thomas. "This funding provides us the oppor-

tunity to expand our public awareness efforts, provide training and education, and raise awareness among the traveling public along with the other members of our regional coalition of North Texas transportation entities."

DART's anti-trafficking campaign has been very visible to riders in the form of on-board advertising.

## MNP, from Page 1

shelter. I worked with those children. I worked with their parents, their mothers. And getting the work done with those children inspired me to always work against domestic violence."

In addition to her work as an attorney and mediator, Brown said she has served as a visiting judge in the very court she is now running for, and having been trusted to handle the court gives her an advantage as a candidate.

Moncrief said no other candidate has the "nuanced" experience she brings to the table. She said she has been on both the prosecution and defense side of family law, and has represented children in CPS cases.

"I believe that we need judges with broad, deep experience in family law; and we also need folks

who are intentional about putting families first," Moncrief said. "I've been practicing family law for 20 years now. It is exclusively what I do."

Taylor said her dedication to children runs the gamut from her legal practice to administering children's programs in two churches. She has served as a mediator and a special commissioner who has presided over hearings.

"I've practiced law for over 19 years," Taylor said. "And of those years, 16 of those, I've managed my own law practice. I believe management is very important in this race because in the court; you're going to have to manage the court, you're going to have to manage individuals and manage the docket."

The final forum of the night came in the race for Criminal District Court

No. 3. This is a felony court and two candidates were present. Both Alison Grinter Allen and Audra Riley addressed questions from the audience. Teresa Jan Hawthorne was not present, and the race will be decided in the primary as no Republican has filed for the seat.

Allen said her parents were criminal justice reformers, and the judicial system was the subject of talk around her dinner table growing up. She said the most important responsibility for a judge is to listen, track the people who go through her court and not lose them in the jail system.

"I believe that we can -- with courts that care and are willing to solve problems, and are willing to enforce a culture of equity and respect -- have a place where people can come and expect to be treated well,"

Allen said. "Not be scared to come in because they don't want to get swept up into the immigration system. Not be scared to come in and tell the truth because they think that it's going to do more harm than good."

Riley said her experience includes working in the prisons themselves while she was going to law school. Responding to the disparity in sentencing, she reminded the audience she has seen the "makeup" of the inmates in prison, and as a prosecutor she has handled cases from misdemeanors all the way up to capital murder.

"I bring the most diversified experience to the bench as a former prosecutor," Riley said. "I'm in criminal defense work now and I've worked in the prison system. I am asking for your vote. I'm asking for your support. I am passionate about the law. I've

only done criminal law for the most part. My family members, they have been a part of the criminal law system as well, so that's why I'm doing it."

The audience was sparse for the down-ballot contests, but the questions echoed themes which have been a part of community discussion in recent years. The cash bail system, inequality in sentencing for black and brown defendants, and conflicts of interest arising from financial support of elected officials were high priorities for audience members in attendance.

Monday Night Politics will feature candidates for Dallas County Sheriff and County Commissioners on Feb. 10. The forum is held at the African American Museum in Fair Park, and runs from 6-8 p.m. The public is invited and admission is free.

## ARTISTS, from Page 5

- Files must be no larger than 1 MB
  - 476 x 249-pixel ratio, landscape
  - Must be 72 DPI in RGB color format
  - Do not include disturbing graphic imagery
  - Do not include NTTA or TollTag trademarks or logos
  - Entries must incorporate a safety message/design. Sample topics: Eliminating distracted driving, especially texting while driving (Earn bonus points for featuring NTTA's Red Thumb campaign); Work-zone safety awareness, Driver/road worker safety
- Review the Official Rules**

The winning Student and the Teacher will be announced on or before May 5, 2020, via NTTA's social media channels and the TollTag Insider newsletter.



## Plano offers fun and fitness programs designed for special needs residents

Did you know Plano Parks & Recreation offers an array of classes and activities for residents with special needs? Carried out by certified special education teachers, certified paraprofessionals and trained volunteers, Adapted Recreation enriches lives of those 12 months to over 60 years of age. From dancing, art and life skills classes to outings, gymnastics, aquatics and more, our programs encourage physical fitness, socialization, self-direction and community involvement. Enjoy a unique learning experience in a safe environment, while parents and caregivers get a break. Try these classes and activities:

**Coed Basketball League (NEW):** For individuals age 15 and older, this new league plays one 55-minute game per week. Week 1 is a scrimmage to assess everyone's abilities and split teams as evenly as possible for the season.

- Registration ends Feb. 17
- Liberty Recreation Center, 2601 Glencliff Dr.
- \$35/person

**Gymnastics:** Boys and girls ages 3 and older learn the basic skills associated with this Olympic sport by testing their abilities on the pommel horse, high bar, floor vault and other activities.



Improve your motor skills, hand-eye coordination, body awareness and self-esteem.

- Various classes offered year-round

• Carpenter Park Recreation Center, 6700 Coit Rd.

- \$65 (4-class session)

**Swim Lessons:** Learn to be safe in and around water. Classes help participants develop motor skills and coordination. Aquatic skill are modified to meet swimmer's needs! Available to pre-schoolers, children and teens/adults with special needs.

- March 21-22 and April 18 (Times vary, check website)

- Tom Muehlenbeck Recreation

Center, 5801 Parker Rd.

- \$52-85

**Spring Break Camp:** Designed for individuals age 15-20, this camp consists of field trips, arts and crafts projects, having fun, and making new friends.

- March 9-13, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Oak Point Recreation Center
- \$145

**Continuing Education/Lunch with Friends (ages 18 and older):** Keep your academic skills sharp as we work on math, spelling, reading and writing skills. Enhance your daily interactions on the job as well as in the community. Once a month, the class takes an outing to a Plano Public

Library location. Afterwards, enjoy lunch together and embark on some fun art projects.

- 5-week sessions begin Feb. 10, March 16 and April 20. Meets every Monday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

- Liberty Recreation Center, 2601 Glencliff Dr.

- \$140

**Summer Camps:** From field trips and swimming to video production and more, we have several camp options for those ages 5 to 25.

- Visit the online registration portal to learn more.

Question? Contact Dianne Dillon at 972-941-7272.

## McKinney launches interactive story map as Black History Month begins

As part of its recognition of Black History Month, the City of McKinney developed a website to tell the story of Black history in McKinney. This story map is an interactive website of historic locations, neighborhoods, and individuals who played a significant role in the history of McKinney's Black community. The website also links to videos, historical newspaper articles, photos, and other online resources for history in McKinney, Collin County, and the State of Texas.

"The purpose of the website is to help broaden public knowledge of the historic Black community in McKinney, and the diverse and complex history of McKinney and Collin County," said Tonya



(Right) The title page from the McKinney website welcomes viewers to learn local history from the African American perspective. (Image: Author / Black History of McKinney, TX website)

Fallis, GIS Analyst for the City of McKinney. "The story map is a living project and will be updated

and expanded over time."

The interactive map can be accessed on the city's website

### Let us hear from you!

If there are any news, events or anything else we need to know about, give us an e-mail at: [editor@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:editor@northdallasgazette.com)



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## Dallas

Dallas ISD Trustee Joyce Foreman invites the public to attend the **Dallas ISD District 6 Community Meeting** to discuss Fine Arts Programs on Thursday, Feb. 6 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Birdie Alexander Elementary School (1830 Goldwood Drive, Dallas, TX 75232).

## Farmers Branch

**Black History Month Film Series** presents "Dear



White People," on Feb. 11 at 1:30 – 3 p.m. in Room B240 at Brookhaven College.

The Black Market brings together black-owned businesses from the DFW area,

including doctors, lawyers, caterers and musicians to market their brands on Feb. 12 at 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. in Bldg. S Lobby at Brookhaven College.

## Irving

The **Irving Black Arts Council's Annual Artist Exhibition/ Reception is Saturday, Feb. 8 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.** at the Irving Arts Center. Presenting artists include Chesley Antoinette, Sharda Ferrell, Rob-

byn Miles, and more. The center is located at 3333 MacArthur Blvd.

## Lancaster

**Express Yourself Poetry Slam** D100 from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 13 at Cedar Valley College

**Health & Well-being Fair & Symposium**, open to the entire community. Buildings A, B, C and D from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Wed. Feb. 19 at Cedar Val-

ley College

## Plano

An important **citizenship workshop** will be held at the Sockwell Center in Plano at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8. Non-citizens can learn vital information on applying for citizenship, including who can apply, how to apply, when to apply and the benefits of citizenship.

Speakers will discuss an array of important top-

ics. The Immigration and Naturalization Service will describe their policies. There will be a presentation on background checks. Attendees will be given information on English as a second language providers in the area and citizenship courses offered by nonprofit organizations.

The workshop will also include a presentation on Census 2020. Plano City Council Member Maria Tu is the keynote speaker.

## Dining options available in Dallas for the perfect Valentine's Day

If you are looking to wine and dine your loved ones on Valentine's Day in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, there are plenty of options. Below are just a few choices available.

**Amberjax Fish Market Grille**, a seafood spot, is serving a Couples Menu on Valentine's Day, complete with roses for the ladies and drink specials.

This Valentine's Day, treat yourself and your date to a special feast and live music experience at **Babb Bros**.



*Fireside Pies is offering Valentine's Day special for those looking for wine and a tasty pizza pie. (Image: Courtesy photo)*

You'll get two half-pound proteins (choose from brisket, ribs, turkey, pulled pork or sausage), one baked potato split in half, two small

sides, one dessert, and two non-alcoholic beverages, all for just \$40. Add \$10 for two drinks from the bar. While you enjoy the delicious

food, Jerry Don Branch will serenade you with his soulful blues.

**Cowboy Chicken**, the fast-casual chain serving

wood-fired rotisserie chicken, will give away a free cobbler to guests on Valentine's Day. The offer is good for one serving of Jeanette's

homemade peach cobbler per person.

**Fireside Pies** is offering a

**See DINING, Page 12**

## DISTRICT 6

## COMMUNITY MEETING



Join Dallas ISD Trustee **Joyce Foreman** at a District 6 Community Meeting to discuss **Fine Arts Programs**.

**THURSDAY, FEB. 6 | 6–8 PM**

Birdie Alexander Elementary School  
1830 Goldwood Drive | Dallas, TX 75232



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localprofile



# Shake Anderson African-American Gospel Experience in Allen

By Tom Keener

Enjoy the enthusiasm and inspiration of African-American Gospel music with blues and gospel artist Shake Anderson at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, February 16, at the Allen Public Library. Music historian Donte Ford will open the concert by giving a brief history of African-American Gospel music.

Nominated for four Grammys, Shake Anderson has played with or produced for performers Curtis Mayfield, B. B. King, and Aretha Franklin.

Performing in Carnegie Hall, The Apollo Theatre and Radio City Music Hall, this multi-instrumentalist, singer, songwriter, and producer has also worked on numerous films. Anderson garnered gold and platinum albums for his work on *Blue Streak*, *Dr. Doolittle*, *Boys on the Side*, and *Austin Powers*. He also spent six years as musical director for soul music legends "The Impressions," and later formed the Grammy-winning gospel group New Breed with Israel Houghton.

Guest stars for this afternoon are Charles Walter "Chuck" Rainey III, Cat Garner and Charles Myers.

Rainey is an American bass guitarist who has performed and recorded with many well-known acts. He toured and/or recorded with King Curtis, Sam Cooke, Etta James, the original Coasters, Jackie Wilson, Harry Belafonte, the Supremes, Aretha Franklin, Roberta Flack, and Quincy Jones. Of special note—as a member of "The King Curtis All-Stars", Chuck was on the second Beatle Tour of the U.S.

Cat Garner, a singer, songwriter, and recording artist with a sultry and sophisticated performance style wrote *Compromise* in 2009 and recorded it in 2010 with music producer Connor Conrad.

Percussionist Charles Myers was the drummer for Freddie King.

The Como First Baptist Church Choir will provide backup vocals for this concert.

The library is located at 300 N. Allen Dr. Sponsored by the Allen Public Library, this concert is free. Call 214-509-4911 for more information.

Shake Anderson will perform Sunday, Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. at the Allen Public Library. (Courtesy photo)



Shake Anderson will perform Sunday, Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. at the Allen Public Library. (Courtesy photo)



Jose Vitor Leme rides D&H Cattle/Erwin Cattle's *Frequent Flyer* for 90 during the first round of the Arlington PBR Global Cup. Reportedly several members of the Brazil team live in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. (Photo: Andy Watson / BullStock Media)

## Professional Bull Riders Global Cup returns to DFW

Last February, the PBR (Professional Bull Riders) Global Cup made its debut on U.S. soil, bringing one of the most exciting bull riding events ever witnessed to Texas for what was described as two days of edge-of-your-seat action.

Akin to the "Olympics of bull riding," riders ban together in coach-led teams, shedding their individual pursuit of glory in place of competing for national pride. On the line — the very dirt they compete upon, a record \$750,000 purse and

the title of "Toughest Nation on Dirt."

Now, a year later, often decided by the final outs, is preparing to return to the Lone Star State for the 2020 WinStar World Casino and Resort PBR Global Cup USA, presented by Monster Energy, on Feb. 15-16 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

ton.

While Team Australia, Brazil, Canada, and Mexico will look to return to their home nations with the American dirt encapsulated inside the glittering U.S. horn from the Global Cup trophy, both Team USA Eagles and the all Native American Wolves will look

to defend their homeland and keep the championship on U.S. soil.

In 2019, despite a valiant effort by both the Eagles and Wolves, Team Brazil, many of whom call nearby Decatur home, made history, becoming the first-ever two-time Global Cup Champions.

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# Film Review: Bad Boys for Life

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

They first teamed up for *Bad Boys* in 1995, to great box office success. There was an encore in 2003, *Bad Boys II*, which was distinguished by incredible stunts. Now, Will Smith and Martin Lawrence go back to the same well one more time. Is there any water left?

According to the blueprint drawn by screenwriters Chris Bremner, Peter Craig (The Town) and Joe Carnahan (Narc, TV's The Blacklist), this is how the film will play out: A plot involving revenge from a former Mexican assailant Isabel Aretas (Kate del Castillo, All About Nina) and her minion (Jacob Scipio, Hunter Killer) evolves. Assassinations of lawyers and judges rain down on Miami like a summer storm.

A new police unit named AMMO takes charge of the investigation, headed by a tough captain named Rita (Paola Nuñez, TV's The



Columbia Pictures

Purge) and her elite group: tech wizard Dorn (Alexander Ludwig, The Hunger Games), weapons expert Kelly (Vanessa Hudgens, Spring Breakers) and the very sarcastic Rafe (Charles Melton, TV's Riverdale). Can they do the job? Will Mike and Marcus hurt or help them?

Subtly and brazenly, in humor and family drama, the script rips into the ages of the two protagonists like someone pouring salt on an open wound. The "boys" have lost a few steps and added gray hairs industrial strength Grecian Formula can't fix. The contrasts between the veterans and the

new justice league gets played for laughs persistently, especially between Smith and Melton.

Though the script is solid in most aspects, its dialogue, its rapid-fire banter is its strongest asset.

Equally strong is the chemistry between the two leads. Twenty-five years later, their bromance is as fresh as the day they met. Smith, as the mercurial, perpetual bachelor exhibits his best swagger in years. His Mike is like an old club goer who hasn't realized the crowd around him is young enough to be his children. Lawrence's curmudgeon and sensitive character

plays perfectly against Smith's brash attitude.

Every member of the cast shines brightly: Joe Pantoliano as the very manic Captain Howard; Kate del Castillo is so evil she would make a witch blush. As Aretas, she sneers: "A bullet is mercy for that son of a bitch." Paola Nunez makes Rita brave and sensual. A very fluid cameo performance by DJ Khaled, as a smarmy crook, should win him more roles. Jacob Scipio as the evil, cold-blooded assassin puts his stamp on this movie. Theresa Randle, Nicky Jam, Massi Furlan, José Alfredo Fernandez and John West Jr. fill out the ensemble.

So, what's the flaw? The

finale looks too artificial: The camera focuses on an empty building, the lens targets two rats. The rodents are so clean and white they look like they came from central casting with personal hairdressers and makeup artists. The building is entirely too majestic (production designer Jon Billington, set decoration Lori Mazuer and Daniela Rojas), like an opera set not an abandoned facility. The sequence seems phony—almost corny.

This final battle is saved by the quick edits (Dan Lebental and Petr McNulty), which have given the entire 2H 3M film a very modern, tight and forceful rhythm. The musical score

by Lorne Balfé, with brazen horns during action scenes and soft violins during drama, also helps to counteract this imperfection.

Crime/action/thriller fans will be in their glory with this orgy of violence, blue language, sexy flirtations and good versus evil battles. It's fun. There's a strong verve that is completely contagious and will likely help this sequel achieve record-breaking box-office success.

Bad Boys for Life is all it needs to be. And then some! Get ready for it. "What you gonna do when it comes for you?"

Visit NNPA News Wire  
Film Critic Dwight Brown  
at [DwightBrownInk.com](mailto:DwightBrownInk.com)

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# Black America's Housing Crisis: More renters than homeowners, homeless population jumps 12 percent

By Charlene Crowell

No matter who you are, or where you live, there's a central concern that links consumers all over the country: the ever-rising cost of living. For many consumers, the combined costs of housing, transportation, food, and utilities leave room for little else from take-home pay.

From Boston west to Seattle, and from Chicago to Miami and parts in between, the rising cost of living is particularly challenging in one area: housing. Both homeowners and renters alike today cope as best they can just to have a roof over their families' heads.

The nation's median sales price of a new home last September in 2019 was \$299,400, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Even for an existing home, the St. Louis Federal Reserve noted its median price in

December was \$274,500.

For renters, the cost of housing is also a serious challenge. Last June, the national average rent reached \$1,405, an all-time high. But if one lives in a high-cost market like Manhattan, Boston, Los Angeles, or San Francisco, a realistic rental price is easily north of \$3,000 each month.

Now a new report from Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies (JCHS) finds that the American Dream of homeownership is strained even among households with incomes most would think adequate to own a home. From 2010 to 2018, 3.2 million households with earnings higher than \$75,000 represented more than three-quarters of the growth in renters in its report entitled, America's Rental Housing 2020.

"[F]rom the homeownership peak in 2004 to 2018, the number of married

couples with children that owned homes fell by 2.7 million, while the number renting rose by 680,000," states the report. "These changes have meant that families with children now make up a larger share of renter households (29 percent) than owner households (26 percent)."

To phrase it another way, America's middle class is at risk. Consumer demographics that traditionally described homeowners, has shifted to that of renters. And in that process, the opportunity to build family wealth through homeownership has become more difficult for many — and financially out of reach for others.

"Rising rents are making it increasingly difficult for households to save for a down payment and become homeowners," says Whitney Airgood-Obrycki, a JCHS Research Associate and lead author of the new

report. "Young, college-educated households with high incomes are really driving current rental demand."

Included among the report's key findings:

- Rents in 2019 continued their seven-year climb, marking 21 consecutive quarters of increases above 3.0 percent;

- Despite the growth in high-income white renters, renter households overall have become more racially and ethnically diverse since 2004, with minority households accounting for 76 percent of renter household growth through 2018; and

- Income inequality among renter households has been growing. The average real income of the top fifth of renters rose more than 40 percent over the past 20 years, while that of the bottom fifth of renters fell by 6 percent;

"Despite the strong economy, the number and

share of renters burdened by housing costs rose last year after a couple of years of modest improvement," says Chris Herbert, Managing Director of the Joint

Center for Housing Studies. "And while the poorest households are most likely to face this challenge, rent-

See HOUSING, Page 12

Crown Castle is proposing to increase the height of an existing telecommunications tower to 116 feet at the following site: 3104 S. Rigsbee, Plano, Collin County, TX 75074, Lat: [33-0-50.15], Long: [-96-40-21.78]. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by calling Monica Gambino, 2000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317, [Monica.Gambino@CrownCastle.com](mailto:Monica.Gambino@CrownCastle.com), 724-416-2516 within 30 days of the date of this publication.

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Sunny Ripert / Flickr

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## Community Newspaper looking for weekly route delivery

A local community newspaper is seeking a delivery person, one day per week (Thursday's only) to complete up to 75 bulk drops of the paper.

We are seeking a dependable individual with reliable transportation, valid driver's license and proof of insurance.

- Irving
- Downtown Dallas
- University Park
- Oak Cliff
- Dallas Market Center area
- West Dallas



The compensation is:

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# Making mobile payments? Protect yourself from scams

By Lisa Lake  
Consumer Education  
Specialist, FTC

Using mobile payment apps like CashApp, Venmo, or Zelle can be a convenient way to get quick cash to your family and friends. But remember the first rule of sending money, whether you're using an app or

money wiring service: Be sure you know who's on the receiving end. Otherwise, you might lose the money you sent — and then some.

People have told the FTC they lost money to scammers using mobile payment apps. Some of these thieves pretend to be someone you know asking for money — say, for an emergency. Others

say they're with the app company or your bank. Still other scammers with access to your contacts might trick you into thinking they're someone you've given money to before.

Don't be afraid to use mobile payment apps — just empower yourself against scammers who also use them. Here are a few

tips:

- Never send money to anyone you don't recognize.

- If you get a cash request from someone you do recognize, call or contact them using a number you know to be right. Confirm they made the request before you send money — even if you've sent them money

through the app before.

- When you use an app for the first time, it will usually ask permission to access information on your device — like your contacts — to make payments easier. If you're not comfortable with that, deny access or uninstall the app.

- Read your bank statements closely and regu-

larly. Ask the app company and your bank to reverse any transactions you didn't authorize.

- Find out more about mobile payments and securing your mobile device. And, as always, if you've experienced a money transfer scam or other fraud, report it to the FTC.

## HOUSING, from Page 11

ers earning decent incomes have driven this recent deterioration in affordability."

This trend of fewer homeowners has also impacted another disturbing development: the nation's growing homeless population.

Citing that homelessness is again on the rise, the JCHS report noted that after falling for six straight years, the number of people experiencing homelessness nationwide grew from 2016–2018, to 552,830. In just one year, 2018 to 2019, the percentage of America's Black homeless grew from 40 percent to more than half — 52 percent.

That independent finding

supports the conclusion of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's report to Congress known as its Annual Homeless Assessment Report.

While some would presume that homelessness is an issue for high-cost states like California, and New York, the 2019 HUD report found significant growth in homeless residents in states like Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia, and Washington as well.

According to HUD, states with the highest rates of homelessness per 10,000 people were New York (46), Hawaii (45), California (38), Oregon (38), and Washington (29), each

significantly higher than the national average of 17 persons per 10,000. The District of Columbia had a homelessness rate of 94 people per 10,000.

And like the JCHS report, HUD also found disturbing data on the disproportionate number of Black people who are now homeless.

For example, although the numbers of homeless veterans and homeless families with children declined over the past year, Blacks were 40 percent of all people experiencing homelessness in 2019, and 52 percent of people experiencing homelessness as members of families with children.

These racial disparities are even more alarming

when overall, Blacks comprise 13 percent of the nation's population.

When four of every 10 homeless people are Black, 225,735 consumers are impacted. Further, and again according to HUD, 56,381 Blacks (27 percent) are living on the nation's streets, instead of in homeless shelters.

The bottom line on these research reports is that Black America's finances are fragile. With nagging disparities in income, family wealth, unemployment and more — the millions of people working multiple jobs, and/or living paycheck to paycheck, are often just one paycheck away from financial disaster.

Add predatory lending

on high-cost loans like payday or overdraft fees, or the weight of medical debt or student loans, when financial calamity arrives, it strikes these consumers harder and longer than others who have financial cushions.

And lest we forget, housing discrimination in home sales, rentals, insurance and more continue to disproportionately affect Black America despite the Fair Housing Act, and other federal laws intended to remove discrimination from the marketplace.

The real question in 2020 is, "What will communities and the nation do about it?"

For Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, an assistant professor of African-American

studies at Princeton University and author of the new book, "Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership", federal enforcement of its own laws addressing discrimination and acknowledging the inherent tug-of-war wrought from the tension of public service against the real estate industry's goal of profit, there's little wonder why so many public-private partnerships fail to serve both interests.

*Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's communications deputy director. She can be reached at [charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).*

## DINING, from Page 10

three-course menu including your choice of appetizer, salad, pie and a bottle of wine from select wine list for \$35. The regular menu will also

be available. February 7 – 16. Available at all locations.

**Saint Rocco's New York Italian** is a popular Trinity Groves joint and for Valentine's

Day they are hosting Love on the Rooftop. The evening will feature a glass of bubbly and a wide selection of chocolates. The good times run from 6 – 10 p.m. and cost \$40 per couple, including

gratuity.

All DFW-area **Shell Shacks** will be serving up a special date night seafood platter for two on February 14. Diners will receive one pound of snow crab,

one pound of king crab and one pound of boiled shrimp, plus sausages, potatoes, and corn. All platters are served with hand-cut fries, hushpuppies and a choice of two side sauces, so no one's go-

ing hungry this Valentine's Day. To wash it all down, Shell Shack is throwing in a complimentary bottle of champagne with each combo platter purchase. All that for \$88.99.

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 36-foot public utility lighting pole Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 6216 Gaston Avenue, Dallas, Dallas County, TX, 75214. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Michael Lore Shire, m.shire@trileaf.com, 2121 West Chandler Blvd., Suite 108, Chandler, AZ 85224, 480-850-0575.*

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 39-foot public utility lighting pole Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 3312 Oak Lawn Avenue, Dallas, Dallas County, TX, 75219. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Michael Lore Shire, m.shire@trileaf.com, 2121 West Chandler Blvd., Suite 108, Chandler, AZ 85224, 480-850-0575.*

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to remove an existing light pole and replace it with a 39-foot light pole telecommunications tower at the approx. vicinity of 4085 Lemmon Avenue, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75219 Lat: 32-48-52.75 N Long: 96-48-31.79 W. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Devin Hassler, d.hassler@trileaf.com, 10845 Olive Blvd, Suite 260, St. Louis, MO 63141, 314-997-6111.*



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### Ongoing City of Dallas

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### Ongoing House of Blues

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day, August 26th for a Job Fair in our Cambridge Room from 1-5PM. All departments are hiring. View job openings at <http://livenationentertainment.com/careers>.

### On-going First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

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### On-Going Customer Rep job fairs

Pro Staff in Arlington will be hosting an in office Customer Service Repre-

sentative Job Fair for a call center located downtown Dallas every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 700 Highlander Blvd. Suite 110. The positions pay between \$12 - \$13.50 per hour plus up to \$1.50 an hour in performance pay. The work-

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless communications equipment at a center line height of 35 feet on a new replacement 36-foot public lighting structure telecommunications tower at the approx. vicinity of 8669 Southwestern Boulevard, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75206. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Kenia Ampuero, k.ampuero@trileaf.com, 2121 West Chandler Boulevard, Suite 108, Chandler, AZ 85224, 480 -850 - 0575.*



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**February 9, 2020,  
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.

**February 12, 2020**

You are invited to join us for Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner, Pastor Bernadette and others as we study a new book, Immerse, The Bible Reading, Poets, 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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Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed. It's for God's glory and honor.

**February 12**

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

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**- Malachi 3:8-10**

**February 7, 7 pm**

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

**February 9, 10 a.m.**

Join us for our Morning Service; and don't forget to invite family and friends to join us as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**February 10, 7 p.m.**

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

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**February 9, 10 a.m.**

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

**February 12, 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  
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**February 9, 8 and 11 am**

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

**February 10, 7 to 8 pm**

**Every Monday Night**  
Sister II Sister (Women's Mission) in the Main Fellowship Hall and the Men II Men Bible Study in the Youth Church Sanctuary

(Chapel).

**February 12, 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.

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# Black History Month



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

The month of February is “our nation’s” observation of Black History. The 2020 theme is: “African Americans and the Vote”, recognizes the struggle for voting rights among both Black men AND women throughout American history.

It is disheartening to think of the controversy surrounding this very important holiday in America.

Some people joked, “We were given the shortest month of the year to celebrate our history.” This is not just Black History that we are celebrating, not just America’s history, but history of the world.

Many great and useful inventions that are being used worldwide, and that are taken for granted were invented by Black people. The cell phone (Henry T. Sampson and his “gamma-electric cell”) was invented by a Black man.

The first open heart surgery (Vivien Thomas a surgical technician who developed the procedures used to treat blue baby syndrome in the 1940s) to name essential things that are in use today.

Some people think that it’s by pure accident that some Black citizens, not the same ones that we hear about year after year, have done anything worthwhile.

There are others that easily accept that we have a few famous entertainers, sports figures and a few entrepreneurs making millions of dollars; but they are slow to recognize that there are many Blacks that have excelled, and are continuing to excel and invent devices.

They use math and science to make a difference in how we live, work, play and entertain today.

As a retired teacher, I too wish that all history of great magnitude is put in our textbooks, especially Black history, which is American’s history; in spite of what we

have been taught.

But wishing it is not going to get the information in our textbooks on the grand scale that it needs to be (School Districts in Texas and California, they are the largest buyers of textbooks, could insist and get their request granted.

The story of Carter Godwin Woodson, Father of Black History (December 1875 – April 1950, is a captivating and inspiration story in itself.

Dr. Woodson said, “Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.”

When Dr. Woodson established Negro History week in 1926, he

realized the importance of providing a theme to focus the attention of the public.

The intention has never been to dictate or limit the exploration of the Black experience, but to bring to the public’s attention important developments that merit emphasis.

He believed that Blacks should know their past in order to participate intelligently in the affairs in our

country.

Dr. Woodson strongly believed that Black history—which others (even some Black people) have tried so diligently to erase—is a firm foundation for young Black people to build on in order to become productive citizens of our society.

Prior to “Negro History WEEK,” Dr. Woodson and several of his friends established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In the 1960s it was established as Black History MONTH.

In 1912 (the year my mother, Cedella Baker Demus, was born) Dr. Woodson, received his Ph.D in history from Harvard University. He developed an important philosophy of history.

History, he insisted, was not the mere gathering of fact. The object of historical study is to arrive at a reasonable interpretation of the facts.

History is more than political and military records of peoples and nations. It must include some descrip-

tion of the social conditions of the period being studied.

Even Dr. Woodson often said that he hoped the time would come when Negro History Week would be unnecessary; when all Americans would willingly recognize the contributions

of Black Americans as a legitimate and integral part of the history of this country.

His concept has given a profound sense of dignity to all Black people; and we must not forget it! Nor should we stop Black History Month.

**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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# NDG Book Review: *Beneath the Surface* is a resource for tumultuous times

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Three hundred sixty-five days.

That's the amount of time we all had last year: 52 weeks of 24/7, but your friend had a 2019 that seemed to last forever. He is, in fact, still struggling and you want to help but how? What can you say or do to get him through? Start by reading "Beneath the Surface" by Kristi Hugstad and tackle today first.

"I was a teenager once, too!"

No doubt you've heard that from at least one adult in your lifetime and you can't argue with it. What you can say, though, is that



things are different. Being a teen today is hard: with social media, smart phones, and inescapable peer pressure around, you and your friends might encounter problems that are

too overwhelming to deal with alone and it might seem like nobody's listening, which is scary. That's when serious help might be needed – help from "the right person" – to make things better.

First, though, know this: what's happening isn't anybody's fault. A depressed person didn't ask to be like that, someone who's bulimic didn't look for it, nobody who's addicted wants to be addicted – furthermore, bad things can happen to anyone at any time. And if you believe you're depressed/addicted/bulimic because your brain doesn't work right, well, it's a fact that areas of the human brain

mature at different times.

The second thing to know is that you are not alone. If bullying or cyberbullying is an issue, say something! If you're cutting, show someone. If it seems like the pain won't ever stop, ask for help and don't stop speaking or asking until you find that "right person."

Learn to recognize stress and know that even just a little anxiety can grow until you can't deal anymore. Watch for addictive behavior, including addiction to electronics. Become educated about the mythology of teen suicide, know who's at particular risk, self-assess now and then,

and recognize the warning signs that scream for a professional.

Finally, remember: there is absolutely zero shame in accepting therapy or help.

As illustrated by the story of her husband's suicide, author Kristi Hugstad shows how easy it is to miss a crisis brewing. So how can we best arm our teens and make them equipped to handle such unimaginable things?

"Beneath the Surface" could be a good start.

Beginning with honesty and careful words about that which can seem insurmountable, and always keeping one finger on suicide as the hub, Hugstad

lists possible warning signs related to the most common, most dangerous actions. That info's backed up by short, bullet-pointed chapters that are easily browsed but packed tight with takeaways, which is a good thing for busy teens. Another value: the advice on advocating for self or friends is straightforward and unembellished.

This is one of those books you hope you never need. It's good to have around in these tumultuous times, though, and it's sure to be a conversation starter. For teens, families, teachers, and allies, "Beneath the Surface" could be just the thing this year.

## FLU, from Page 4

toms of the common cold are mainly stuffy/runny nose and sore throat. Colds generally do not result in serious health problems such as pneumonia, bacterial in-

fections or hospitalizations. In most cases, staying home and resting is the best way to recover.

According to the CDC, the flu can hit certain pop-

ulations especially hard. These include young children, the elderly, pregnant women and those with certain chronic medical conditions.

Anti-viral drugs such as Tamiflu generally are not

given to prevent the flu, but rather are used for treating flu. They shorten the duration of illness by at least 48 hours and they also reduce the severity of the infection.

In addition to getting the flu vaccine, proper hand-

washing and covering the mouth while coughing as the best actions to prevent spreading infections in general.

Here are some signs that you may need to seek medical care quickly:

- Difficulty breathing
- Persistent fever above 100 degrees
- Pain in the chest or abdomen
- Dizziness or confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting



## If I could do one thing, I'd tell the world she counts.

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