



North Dallas

Gazette

"Most respected Voice of the Minority Community"

Visit us online at www.northdallasgazette.com

Irving voters to make final call on city council in Dec. 8 runoff vote

In a year when a contentious presidential election is still not completely settled, Irving residents are headed to the polls once again to make a final decision on their own city council. On Dec. 8, a runoff will be held to determine whether Abdul Khabeer or Mark Zeske will occupy Place 3 on the council.

The race pits a teacher against a local businessman for the seat being vacated by Dennis Webb, who has termed out after first being elected in 2011. He ran unopposed in 2017 and has served as the Mayor Pro Tem. Originally a three-way race, Mohammed Akbar was eliminated as the lowest vote-getting candidate in the first round.

Zeske led in the first ballot with 4,825 votes, garnering 46.5%, not enough to claim a majority. He is an English teacher at Singley Academy and has been a journalist for a variety of outlets in past years. Zeske has also been active as a youth sports coach and has taught Sunday school at his Catholic church for three decades.

Zeske points to his experience on the City of Irving Planning and Zoning Commission as key to his qualifications for the Place 3 posi-



Mark Zeske (left) and Abdul Khabeer (right) are vying for the District 3 council seat in Irving. The race has gone to a runoff and will be decided on Dec. 8. (Photos: Facebook and the City of Irving website)

tion. He has been in that role for five years where there have been more than \$1 billion in new permits each year. He also served three terms on the Irving Public Library Board, when the city built the West and South branches and started the North Texas Teen Book Festival, an event Zeske describes as "the largest event of its kind in the world."

He is also a member of the Irving Arts Grant Review Panel, works with homeless outreach and was a member of the inaugural class of

Irving 360.

Abdul Khabeer, an Irving resident for 15 years, is a businessman originally from Chicago. He has worked with several non-profit organizations, and was recently appointed to the city's Zoning Board of Adjustments.

Khabeer also stands out as the favored choice of the outgoing councilmember. Webb said both candidates could do a good job on the council, but Khabeer's background

See IRVING, Page 6



All eyes on Georgia

- See Page 3



Black leaders target high drug costs

- See Page 4



Biden selects all-women comm team

- See Page 5



Education is key to Texas recovery

- See Page 6



Carrollton avoids utility cost increase

- See Page 8



Dallas Cowboys get plucked on Thanksgiving

- See Page 9



AMEX invests big in Black women

- See Page 12



Sister Tarpley: Trusting in Chariots

- See Page 15

Inside...

People In The News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community	5
Education	6
Irving / Carrollton / Plano	8
Entertainment	9
NDG Bookshelf	11
Marketplace	12
Career / Notices	13
Church Directory	13-15
Cadillac	16

See Page 2



Terri Thrush

People In The News ...



Gaby Natale



Nathalie Nicole Smith

NDG Quote of the Week: "I really don't think life is about the I-could-have-beens. Life is only about the I-tried-to-do. I don't mind the failure but I can't imagine that I'd forgive myself if I didn't try." – Nikki Giovanni

Terri Thrush

Terri Thrush, a seasoned producer and director is the owner of Terri Thrush Productions, a film and TV creative company with locations in the United States and Panama.

For the last ten month, as the coronavirus pandemic spread, things changed for the film industry. Most productions were totally stopped or delayed, Premieres were suspended and thousands of industry people saw their source of income dwindle.

For Terri Thrush Productions, a 25 year old Panamanian/American production



company, the pandemic has meant a turning point. The curtain drop on the stage, film and entertainment industry and the return to work will require following strict guidelines. Thrush who has participated in

dozens of productions and is currently writing some scripts for films and documentaries, recognize that nothing will ever be the same.

Actors, makeup artists, cameramen and anyone who works in the entertainment industry or on the Hollywood recording sets, must undergo at least three swabs a week to prevent contagion. The number of people working on the productions has fallen by almost a 50% to ensure the safety of those present and in each set medical care spaces are installed.

Everyone related to the projects is being required

to take biosafety courses, are examined and receive a certificate that allows them to continue practicing without problem. It is estimated that the losses in the film industry has already reach \$10 billion, when at all 2019 they won \$11 billion box office sales in the United States and \$43 billion globally. The situation not only affect actors, producers and directors, around what we know as cinema, as there are thousands of people who are dedicated to making costumes, to provide supplies and transport, among others. Despite the ravages of the pandemic, there are lights of hope, the

new modalities that resurfaced cause great expectation, like drive-ins or open-air theaters that are already causing a sensation in various parts of the world.

Definitely, the pandemic marked a new era in the film industry, that despite the circumstances, challenges and new protocols, has returned and in a short time will fill us with emotions again.

"Great challenges await film production with the current pandemic panorama", explains Terri Thrush, a Panamanian film producer who has dedicated 25 years of her life to the seventh art. "We must be creative and resilient to find the positive

and the new twist that cinema will have to continue developing in 2021," says Terri Thrush.

Terri Thrush is a Panamanian film producer who has dedicated 25 years of her life to the seventh art. For her, the current pandemic scenario imposes great challenges on us in film productions. She is a graduate of Universidad del Sagrado Corazón with a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications and Media Studies and a Masters in Fine Arts degree from the American Film Institute, Producing Program. Terri holds dual citizenship in both the United States and Panama.

Gaby Natale

Three-time Emmy winner journalist, speaker, and entrepreneur Gaby Natale is breaking barriers by becoming the first Latina to be published by HarperCollins Leadership when her book *The Virtuous Circle* hits the stands on January 5th, 2021.

"I believe that every time we pioneer, we move the world forward. This door I am about to open is not just for me. It is a door that I hope will be there for many others, especially those who feel that their voices are misrepresented, or underrepresented", explains Natale.

By partnering with Harp-



erCollins Leadership, Natale is the first Hispanic author to join an impressive roster of bestselling names including John C. Maxwell and Rachel Hollis, among others.

"Gaby Natale has been a trailblazer throughout her

career and she is the kind of leader and motivator that we love to showcase at HarperCollins Leadership," said Jeff James, vice president and publisher. "Readers from all walks of life will benefit from her wisdom and example on how to define and achieve their purpose."

Why is it that some people who seem to have it all never reach their full potential while others born into adversity achieve every goal they set? That is the question that originates *The Virtuous Circle*.

The book not only gleams the road-to-success stories of newsmakers across

the globe but also Natale's improbable path from unemployment in her native Argentina to becoming a 3-time Emmy award winning media personality and entrepreneur in the United States.

"We have a responsibility to push boundaries. That is why I have been so intentional in being the narrator of my own audiobook. I want every little girl out there to know that leaders can come in every color, size, age, nationality... and accent. Diversity is beautiful!", explains Natale who will pioneer by becoming one of the few foreign-born authors to narrate their book

in English.

Based on a decade of interviews with pioneers and leaders from different disciplines, such as wellbeing guru Deepak Chopra, bestselling author Isabel Allende, and rock legend Carlos Santana, Gaby breaks down their stories to discover how they channeled their inner strengths to best work for them. And she uncovers the secrets of an overlooked but powerful ability that can be learned: the capacity to see ourselves not only as who we are, in our particular circumstances, but also as who we can become.

One of the most prestigious media personalities

in Spanish-language television, Natale is among a few women in the entertainment industry who owns not only the rights to her TV show but also a television studio. This unique situation has allowed her to combine her passion for media and her entrepreneurial spirit.

People magazine named Natale one of 2018's "25 Most Powerful Latinas", highlighting the inspirational story of how she went from a local TV show that started out of a carpet warehouse to becoming the only Latina in US history to win triple back-to-back Daytime Emmys.

Nathalie Nicole Smith

Author, philanthropist and Multi-Millionaire Millennial business mogul, Nathalie Nicole Smith, is a serial entrepreneur and Howard University graduate, Nathalie Nicole is no stranger to developing and growing new talent.

As one of the top earners in her Network Marketing Company, Total Life Changes, Nathalie Nicole has been able to coach hundreds of women into 6 figure earnings throughout her career.



Her ability to create dynamic and lasting brands has allowed her to successfully launch initiatives which

capture high energy engagement from her following.

Nathalie learned to strive for greatness on her own. As she went through grade school and moved on to college, she began to foster her own ambitions and dreams. A native of Silver Spring, Maryland, she decided to stay close and attend the prestigious Howard University in nearby Washington, DC. she double-majored in Communications and Business and in 2010, successfully graduated with a Bachelor's.

Nathalie and her companies have been recognized for outstanding national achievement.

In 2013, Nathalie Nicole was recognized as "Top 30 Under 30" for her work in development of her Plush brand.

Due to her business savvy and her tenacity for success, Nathalie has reached the highest designation within her Network Marketing Company, Total Life Changes, and she is now a multi-millionaire at the age of 33.

Nathalie is also an author

of an Amazon Best Selling book "Becoming A Brand" and she is the founder of "Women Who Boss" which is a 501c3 organization to help women walk into their real purpose amidst their pain.

Nathalie Nicole has been featured in: Huffington Post, Thrive Global, & Business For Home. Nathalie has spoken on international stages, most recently she was selected to speak at an Essence Women's Empowerment Summit.

Nathalie Nicole is currently working on her second book, she has recently launched her celebrated international podcast "Women Who Boss", a million-dollar earning coaching program, women empowerment platforms, and a new apparel line.

Nathalie is also acquiring multiple real estate projects which will also allow her brand to continue to help up and coming moguls. Nathalie is also slated to launch two Plush Rx boutiques by the end of 2020.



Winnifred "Wini" Cannon

"THY WILL BE DONE"
ESTATE PLANNING DOCUMENTS

214-706-3058

wc@cannonlg.com

Visit our website at

www.cannonlg.com



P.O. Box 763866 - Dallas, Texas 75736-3866

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

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

Publisher's Office:

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

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

editor@northdallasgazette.com

Online:

www.NorthDallasGazette.com
www.twitter.com/NDGEditor
www.facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette
www.pinterest.com/NDallasGazette
www.instagram.com/NorthDallasGazette

STAFF**Chairman Emeritus**Jim Bochum
1933-2009**Religious / Marketing Editor**Shirley Demus Tarpley
("Sister Tarpley")**Chief Editor Emeritus**Ruth Ferguson
1965-2020**NDG Columnist**

Allen R. Gray

Published by

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Interim Editor

David Wilfong

Community Marketing

Nadina Davis

Senior Account Executive

Nina Garcia

Production

David Wilfong

NDG Obituary Dept.Vicky Richardson-Stewart
VP of Operations**Contributing Writers**

Fatema Biviji
Jackie Hardy
Jacqueline Murphy
Dwain Price
Terri Schlichenmeyer
David Wilfong

**Visit North Dallas Gazette Archives**

Go to northdallasgazette.com and click on the navigation tab at the top of the page that says "ARCHIVE"

"Dallas' most respected publication in the minority community"
North Dallas Gazette assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate revisions.

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

All eyes on Georgia

By Ray Curry
Secretary-Treasurer, UAW

These days, like the old Ray Charles song says, I've got Georgia on My Mind. We should all be thinking of Georgia because come January 5, the state is positioned to make a tremendous change for the better — a change that will give President-Elect Joe Biden the opportunity for real legislation and real reform; for lasting and potent legislative buy-in to make laws once again (and it has been a while now!) in service to the people. Laws that address issues important to the working men and women of this nation: health-care, the economy, health and safety, equal justice for all, the environment, and the right to organize. And a real plan to take COVID-19 head on with a coordinated nationwide policy to address the ill effects, including relief for both businesses and the millions of sidelined workers who are just trying to hang on.

Come January 20, 2021, we will have a new President of the United States in Joseph Biden and the first female African American Vice President Kamala Harris. This election was a hard-fought, intense race full of division and emotion. But in the end, as a record number of voters turned out (in person and via mail), it was a fair and legal vote that now gives us a leader who has been a long-time friend of labor, and an individual who represents much needed progress for this country. I want to thank all my brothers and sisters from coast to coast for making sure our voices were heard in this election.

Now however, we must collectively stand and fight with him. Simply put, there is still much to do to ensure that the President-Elect has

the ability to accomplish his restorative plan. Biden's plan includes working together during this pandemic to find solutions, battling the current devastating economic and health care challenges, and continuing our fight for workplace rights and safety.

Accomplishing this critical work must include control of the Senate — which has been held by Republicans since 2015, and has in that time, often served as a barrier to progress rather than a forward-thinking channel for progress. And it is down in Blue Georgia (never thought I would be saying that, but Sister Stacey Abrams knew) that we have the opportunity to remove that roadblock.

What's a runoff?

On election day, neither of Georgia's Republican senators drew a majority vote. This moves both of their races to special rematches taking place in January. The outcome will determine control of the Senate and if we have a legislature that works together for working people — and with our President. Or it will determine that the political stalemate we have now continues; that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell will keep things in the same go nowhere circle we have had for years.

A runoff election is required, under Georgia law, if candidates do not receive a majority (50% or more) of the vote. The Georgia runoff will occur on January 5, 2021. The results — depending on who wins — will swing the Senate majority to Democrats or leave McConnell and the Republicans in charge.

It's the difference between do something or do nothing.

What's at stake?

Georgia Senate Demo-

cratic candidates, Reverend Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, will go head-to-head with Republican incumbents Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue in two separate runoffs. Warnock and Ossoff have been endorsed by the UAW because they are the best choice for UAW members, retirees, and their families. They are the best choice for America, and the best choice for labor.

Both candidates understand that two essential things that must happen, and must happen quickly to address the economic and health care crisis in this country:

From the very beginning, Ossoff and Warnock have taken the pandemic very seriously. Together — working with the new president and fellow Congressional members — they will work to get the COVID-19 pandemic under control to save lives and get people fully back to work.

Warnock and Ossoff also understand that the economy isn't working for working people. They will work to repeal tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations. They will encourage bringing back our jobs from overseas. Additionally, they will protect the Social Security and Medicare benefits we earned, defend our pensions and 401(k)s, and make it easier for workers to organize and form a union.

On the flipside, their opponents — Loeffler and Perdue — both support more than \$24 billion cuts to Social Security and \$500 billion cuts to Medicare. More importantly, they have both used the dire circumstances of a global pandemic to their benefit as both were caught red-handed making insider stock deals based on infor-

mation about the severity of the pandemic that they kept from the public. Not exactly a move that gives you faith in their ability to serve on the behalf of the citizens they represent.

So, the good trouble that we must make this time around is going back home to the place where good fighting got it its name. This is a historic moment in our history and Georgia holds the key. If Democrats gain both Georgia seats, the 50-50 tie in the Senate will mean that Vice President-Elect Harris will cast tie-breaking votes, carrying out a pro-labor agenda.

Given the rise in COVID-19 cases, President-Elect Biden must be able to make immediate decisions and pass legislation that address the challenges we all face and make tough decisions to protect all working Americans.

Georgians, please vote!

So please, if you live in Georgia, participate in this election. If you do not live in Georgia, consider finding a way to make your own good trouble: assist through phone banking or offer assistance to organizations supporting the Warnock and Ossoff campaigns.

On January 5, the entire country is looking to Georgia to make an essential difference in the future of our nation. We are looking to voters to elect candidates that will protect retirement security, rebuild our economy and implement a national plan to respond to the pandemic. The outcome of this election will affect every single person in this nation for decades to come.

Let us send our hearts and minds south this January. Let us get back to work for working men and women. Let us take an old sweet song and make it America's. *Georgia On My Mind.*

"A Fitting Memorial"
NDG Obituaries

North Dallas Gazette now offers Obituaries and Death Notices specific to our community. Contact ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com for more info.

Escalating the fight against high drug costs

Sharpton Calls for 2021 to be 'The Year of Black health equity'

By Hazel Trice Edney

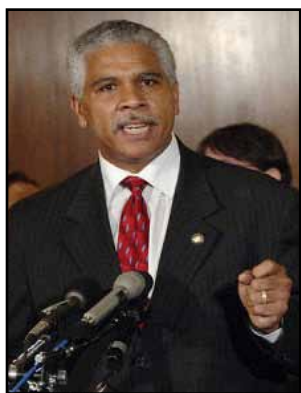
(TriceEdneyWire.com) — D. B. Wright, former head of a non-profit religious organization in Washington, D.C., was well taken care of by his leadership board. He enjoyed an employment package that included full health care among other benefits.

"Being gainfully employed and having one of the best health insurances, I never thought about what medicines cost," he said in a recent interview. But then crisis hit. Following a divorce he moved back to his hometown of Albany, Ga., where he took a job with no benefits, which he eventually lost due to severe illnesses over the past five years. That's when reality set in.

"I had to borrow money from my family and friends in order to get the medication that I needed to treat various issues." Those issues included surgery to remove a baseball size tumor on his liver, a gall bladder removal and ultimately chronic pancreatitis.

In excruciating pain, Wright was prescribed a medicine called Creon to help with his digestion and relieve the pain. It worked wonders in the hospital. But upon discharge, he learned that Creon would cost him \$850 a month, well beyond his income of zero except what he could borrow from friends and family. Even with a coupon or pharmacy discount, he said, the price "was still beyond my financial ability."

Also dealing with high blood pressure and suffering through a spinal disorder that rendered him temporarily unable to walk, Wright has resolved what he believed to be the bottom line in America when it comes to prescription drugs. The doctors and pharmacists may be sympathetic, but the medication simply "costs what



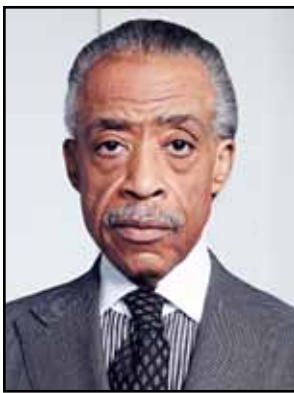
Hilary Shelton, NAACP: "The bottom line is that we believe that health care is a civil right."

it costs," he said. "It was a horrendous experience. And it's so interesting that you need these medications to survive. It was horrible to go through. You kind of feel like if you don't have the money, you don't matter."

The experience of D.B. Wright, who asked to only use his initials to protect his privacy, is among the reasons that civil rights leaders and lawmakers across the nation are now pressing increasingly hard to establish public policies to monitor and help make prescription drug prices affordable. Best known for their efforts to address police misconduct, voting rights protections, racial inequality, and economic injustices, civil right organizations are now escalating their focus on issues in the area of health care — particularly the high cost of prescription drugs.

"While there has been much partisan back and forth on these issues in Washington, there has not been enough conversation about reining in the profits and excesses of health insurance companies, which refuse to cover critical procedures, medicines and services in order to preserve their billions of dollars in profits," said the Rev. Al Sharpton in an Oct. 30, 2020 letter to Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Karen Bass (D-Calif.) "Let us make 2021 the year of Black health equity."

Sharpton's letter is part



Rev. Al Sharpton, NAN: "Let us make 2021 the year of Black health equity."

of a growing focus on racial disparities and inequities in health care, partially ignited by findings that people living in predominately Black counties are nearly "three times more likely to die of the COVID-19 than predominately white counties," he said in his letter. The letter culminates more than a year of efforts by his National Action Network (NAN) and other civil rights and health organizations to deal with the suffering of people who must sometimes risk their lives by choosing to take care of other crucial bills instead of paying for prescription drugs.

Similarly focused, the NAACP national board of directors last year passed a resolution calling for Prescription Drug Affordability Boards (PDAB) in every state, which would "act as a watchdog for the public. It will carefully review drug costs and establish fair and affordable costs for state and local government."

The resolution continues, the "NAACP supports the creation of a Prescription Drug Affordability Board in each state to determine how best to make prescription drugs more affordable for their residents, including by examining the entire drug supply chain, including the role of drug manufacturers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs), and establishing maximum affordability payment rates for expensive drugs that create significant afford-

ability problems for residents, building upon the tradition of health care cost scrutiny."

The state of Maryland last year became the first state in the nation to successfully create a PDAB with the national and state NAACP chapters "playing a critical role," as well as dozens of Black faith groups, labor, business and other non-profits, said Vincent DeMarco. DeMarco is president of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative (MCHI), which led the PDAB initiative in the state. The Maryland board has won accolades from DeMarco.

"They are doing a very good job right now of examining what drugs are really high cost and what would make prescription drugs more affordable for people," he says. "So, it's really an exciting new way at the state level to address this problem."

Meanwhile, the national NAACP has continued to press for national solutions. Following up with another resolution in September 2020, the organization continued to press for equity and affordability in prescription drug access. The resolution outlined the harsh realities that people like D.B. Wright have faced.

Quoting the 2019 AARP Prescription Drug Survey of likely voters aged 50 and older, the resolution said that of the 463 African-American respondents, "40% believed they might have to limit necessities such as food, electricity and fuel in the future to afford their prescription medication," the resolution states.

Even with state assistance through programs like PDABs, advocates recognize that prescription drug prices are so out of control that some are still far too expensive.

"Maryland has made considerable gains in en-

suring that quality health-care is more affordable and accessible for residents of our state," said a statement on the MCHI website.

"However, expensive life-saving drugs— some of which are close to six figures for treatment— threaten to derail the progress made in expanding health coverage. To contain rising healthcare costs, we must contain skyrocketing prescription drug costs."

The struggle to rein in high prescription drug prices has reached the U. S. Congress, but to no avail. U. S. Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) last year introduced the Prescription Drug Affordability and Access Act, which would have created "an independent agency—the Bureau of Prescription Drug Affordability and Access—tasked with conducting reviews of drug prices and determining an appropriate list price."

However, the bill, S.3166, was sent to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on Jan. 8, 2020, but went no further during the 116th Congress. Technically, with only a few weeks before Congress goes to Christmas break, this means the bill will

likely die in committee, but can be reintroduced in the 117th Congress when it reconvenes Jan. 3.

"In a country as wealthy as ours, it's downright shameful that people have to choose between taking their medicine or paying for other basic necessities," Booker lamented in a statement. "Every day, millions of Americans struggle to afford their lifesaving medication while the manufacturers of these drugs profit hand over fist with limited to no oversight. On top of that, many of these drugs were developed through research funding from the federal government. We need systemic change that will meaningfully address the exorbitant, rising cost of prescription drugs and put the focus back on patients, not profits."

Health advocates such as Sen. Bernie Sanders and former senator, now Vice-President Elect Kamala Harris—who co-sponsored the bill with Booker — will likely not give up the fight. And given the incoming new Congress and White House administration the NAACP has said it will support the efforts

See COSTS, Page 5

CASH TODAY!!!

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



No Matter How Small

Fax Information To:
972-509-9058

Call:
972-665-0170
(Leave Message)

Email:
inquiries1909@gmail.com

President-Elect Biden names all-women senior communications staff

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

It isn't often a politician running for office keeps his campaign promise.

Since defeating Donald Trump, Joe Biden has so far lived up to his promise of a diverse senior staff and cabinet.

The Democrat, who openly has recognized the critical role African Americans and women played in helping him to garner a record of more than 80 million votes, on Monday, November 30, 2020, named an-all women senior communications staff – including three Black women.

On Monday, Darrell Blocker appeared on his way to being nominated by Biden as the nation's first African American CIA director.

"I am proud to announce today the first senior White House communications team comprised entirely of women. These qualified, experienced communicators bring diverse perspectives to their work and a shared commitment to building this country back better," Biden said in a statement.

Symone Sanders, an African American and a senior Biden campaign adviser



The Democrat, who openly has recognized the critical role African Americans and women played in helping him to garner a record of more than 80 million votes, on Monday, November 30, 2020, named an-all women senior communications staff – including three Black women. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

will serve as a senior adviser and chief spokesperson for the vice president.

Ashley Etienne, an African American and senior adviser on the Biden campaign, will serve as communications director for Vice-President-Elect Kamala Harris.

Karine Jean-Pierre, a senior adviser on the Biden campaign who later served as chief of staff to Harris and who is also Black, will serve as principal deputy press secretary.

Former Barack Obama White House communications director Jen Psaki will serve as press secretary, while Kate Bedingfield, who served as deputy campaign manager and communications director for the campaign, will be White House communications director.

Pili Tobar, who served

as the communications director for coalitions on the campaign, will serve as deputy White House communications director.

Additionally, Biden was said to learn toward a nomination of Adewale "Wally" Adeyemo to serve as Deputy Treasury Secretary.

If confirmed, Adeyemo, the current president of the Obama Foundation in Chicago, would be the first Black person to hold that powerful position.

The Biden/Harris team has also selected Cecilia Rouse to lead the Council of Economic Advisers.

This appointment would make Rouse the first woman of color to chair the council.

In what could be another historic nomination, many believe that Biden is set to name Darrell Blocker the first African American CIA

director.

Blocker has spent about 30 years at the CIA, so experience isn't a question. He started as an analyst with the Air Force before joining the CIA, taking on various undercover assignments.

"My clandestine activities were enhanced by being viewed as a singer, because who would ever think that one could be both?" Blocker told ABC News in a 2019 interview.

"That is a leap too far for most, and I honestly feel that it kept me safer by being in plain sight."

Biden and Harris also announced they are forming a Presidential Inaugural Committee (PIC) to organize activities surrounding their swearing-in on January 20, 2021, announcing the initial senior leadership team who will lead PIC and unveiling its online presence.

The selections, which include two African Americans, and all individuals of color include:

Tony Allen, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer

The President of Delaware State University (DSU), one of the nation's

See BIDEN, Page 11

In Memorium Hector Casarez



(From the City of Wilmer) It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of former Mayor Hector Casarez. He passed away on Friday, November 27, 2020 surrounded by family. He was appointed Mayor on September 26, 2011 and served as Mayor until May 20, 2014. He was the first Hispanic Mayor and served the City with unmatched love for his community.

The city asks that everyone keep Hector Casarez's mother, Maria Adelfa Casarez, Family and Friends in your prayers during this difficult time.

The City will be flying our flag at half-mast in honor of former Mayor Hector Casarez. Service information may be found at <https://www.byrumfuneralhome.com/>

COSTS, from Page 4

that Sharpton and Booker, a CBC member, have expended.

"Sen. Booker's bill was an excellent first step," said Hilary Shelton, director of the NAACP Washington Bureau and vice president for advocacy and policy. "The bottom line is that we believe that health care is a civil right. And that means that the full gamut of what is quality health care is very important. This is one of many issues that still needs to be addressed and improved upon. It's not the only issue and it's not stand alone. It's crucially

important in the categories of health care and economics. It's an important component of a comprehensive health care system that provides high quality health care for all Americans."

The issue is no doubt headed for increased debate in Washington as the civil rights community applies the pressure. But outside of the growing political battle, there are real people waiting and fighting alone, says Wright, who recently received a court ruling allowing him 100 percent disability benefits; plus, Medicaid which now covers the cost

of his medicines.

"It took four years to get disability insurance or Medicaid," he said. "I would hope that the government grows a heart and recognize that the least that they can do is care for those who cannot care for themselves. I'm not talking about people who are trying to milk the system. I'm talking about real people who are having real challenges in life."

This article is part of a series on the impact of high prescription drug costs on consumers made possible through the 2020 West Health and Families USA Media Fellowship.

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
2218	Super 7s Overall Odds are 1 in 3.45	\$10	12/19/20	6/17/21
2056	\$200 Million Cash Explosion® Overall Odds are 1 in 3.91	\$10	12/20/20	6/18/21
2230	Find the 9s Overall Odds are 1 in 4.64	\$2	12/24/20	6/22/21
2228	Prize Piggy Overall Odds are 1 in 4.87	\$1	1/20/21	7/19/21
2161	Bingo Extra Overall Odds are 1 in 4.37	\$2	1/20/21	7/19/21
2162	Break The Bank Overall Odds are 1 in 4.80	\$2	1/20/21	7/19/21
2223	Break The Bank Super Ticket® Overall Odds are 1 in 3.80	\$10	1/20/21	7/19/21
2197	Monopoly™ 200X Overall Odds are 1 in 3.45	\$20	1/20/21	7/19/21

Tlottery.org is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2020 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

TEXAS LOTTERY®

Commissioner Keller: Higher education is key to Texas' economic recovery

In his second annual State of Texas Higher Education address, Commissioner Harrison Keller today stated the COVID-19 pandemic has been the most significant disruption to higher education institutions since the end of the Second World War. Despite the challenges, he emphasized higher education as an essential part of the solution for how Texas will overcome and emerge even stronger from the pandemic.

"Texans have a long track record of innovating through adversity, and this year has been no exception. So, while 2020 has brought unprecedented challenges, it has also presented extraordinary opportunities to accelerate the pace of innovation in teaching and learning and exemplify the entrepreneurial spirit



Sam Baye / Unsplash

of Texas colleges and universities," Dr. Keller said. "Work is already underway, though it will have to accelerate over the next several months and into the coming years. Our priority needs to be laying foundations for economic recovery and a better, more just future."

In response to the impacts of COVID-19, Gov. Greg Abbott and legislative leadership committed \$175 million for higher educa-

tion from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER). Distributed earlier this year, the funds have helped institutions adapt to COVID-19 and continue to serve their students. Most of the GEER funds were dedicated to student financial aid, including \$57 million to protect need-based financial aid programs from coronavirus-related budget cuts, and another \$46.5 million

for emergency financial aid for students who were adversely impacted by the pandemic. An additional \$46.5 million was allocated to help Texans who have some college credit but no credential and to help displaced Texas workers who need to reskill and upskill with short-term credentials so they can rejoin the workforce, get back on their feet, and help drive the recovery of the state economy. The remaining funds support high-quality digital learning and the modernization of state educational and workforce data infrastructure, enabling the agency to focus resources effectively and efficiently and support continuous improvement.

"This financial support represents a powerful statement from our Texas state leadership — leadership you're not seeing in every

other state. They recognize the critical role higher education needs to play in driving the state's recovery and are investing in the future of Texas," Dr. Keller said in his address. "As we look forward to 2021 and the 87th Legislative Session, we must come together for the advancement of higher education in Texas. Together, I believe we can overcome any additional challenges that come our way, especially by expanding opportunities for Texans to achieve new credentials and skills, accelerating educational innovation by leveraging the potential of technology, and working at the frontiers of knowledge to develop the insights and discoveries that will enable a better Texas future."

A video and transcript of Commissioner Keller's address are available on the

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board website.

Today's address was the capstone of the 2020 Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference. This year's event was a virtual conference, bringing together regents, trustees and other higher education leaders. The leadership sessions satisfy the training requirement for newly appointed regents and elected trustees (Texas Education Code, Section 61.084).

The mission of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is to provide leadership and coordination for Texas higher education and to promote access, affordability, quality, success, and cost efficiency through 60x30TX, resulting in a globally competitive workforce that positions Texas as an international leader.

Dallas College School of Education secures \$300K in grant funding for new teacher instruction

The Meadows Foundation has awarded Dallas College's School of Education \$300,000 to support training the next generation of teachers. The funds will build an educational pathway and develop the instructional support required for a new bachelor's degree in education. The degree will be offered by the Dallas College School of Education, one of seven schools established earlier this year, when the seven colleges that constituted the Dallas County Community College District were merged into a single institution.

Over 3,000 students have engaged in associate degree-level education courses at Dallas College. By Fall 2024, at the current rate of growth and through the continuing support of community partners like The Meadows Foundation,

the College has the opportunity to prepare more than 500 teachers a year for Dallas County, according to Dr. Rob DeHaas, Vice Provost of the School of Education. Dr. DeHaas was informed of the award last month.

"We're incredibly grateful to The Meadows Foundation for recognizing the importance of educator preparation to the future of Texas, and specifically for the Foundation's early recognition of the vital role Dallas College will play in preparing the region's teachers of tomorrow," he said. "The Meadows funding helps support the North Texas pipeline of qualified education professionals who will be the instructional and classroom leaders our students deserve."

With the Meadows Foundation support of the School's instructional

needs, Dallas College will eventually have the opportunity to serve more than 5,000 students in the School of Education.

"The biggest driver of student achievement in school is the classroom instructor," said Peter M. Miller, President, and CEO of The Meadows Foundation. "The new Dallas College School of Education is unprecedented in its scale and quality, as well as its potential to provide a diverse, well-qualified teacher pipeline for our highest-need schools."

"We commend Dallas College leadership for their bold, innovative, and transformational approach," Miller added. "The Meadows Foundation is honored to support these efforts, and we look forward to the impact they will have on schools, classrooms, and,

ultimately, students in Dallas."

As part of the grant, the Dallas College School of Education agreed to partner with two school districts to establish 32 paid residencies for teacher candidates by Fall 2021 and place 125 teacher candidates in paid residency positions by Fall 2022.

"I am proud of the leadership that Dr. DeHaas is providing for our School of Education, and it means a great deal to have the support and partnership of The Meadows Foundation,"

Dr. Joe May, Chancellor of Dallas College, said of the award. "This early and substantial gift from The Meadows Foundation will have a multiplier effect down the road in terms of increasing the number of well-trained educators entering the pipeline and attracting further investment from the philanthropic community."

Since its establishment, The Meadows Foundation has given more than \$1.25 billion to 3,600 charitable organizations. Grants have been awarded in large ur-

ban areas, small rural communities, and every Texas county. The Foundation looks for programs and services that use imaginative, innovative ways to solve community problems, and promotes projects and capital plans that lead to organizational self-sufficiency and sustainable growth. Over the last 42 years, the Foundation has funded in the areas of arts and culture, civic and public affairs, education, health, and human services. For additional information, visit www.mfi.org.

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



Remember your loved one in NDG Obituaries

It is important where the obituary of a loved one appears. We have been catering to the DFW African American community for more than three decades now. We not only cover the issues, but celebrate the lives and legacies of our local community. Contact ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com



Carrollton announces no utility rate increase needed this year

The City of Carrollton has determined that no water or sewer rate increase is necessary this fiscal year.

Despite rising charges from Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) and the Trinity River Authority (TRA), the two regional suppliers from which Carrollton receives treated water and sewer treatment services, the City will be able to maintain the current rate this year.

Bob Scott, Chief Financial Officer, said charges



Jacek Dylag / Unsplash

from both suppliers are increasing and becoming fixed over time, but the

City tries to absorb those costs.

"The City only passes

those increases on if we need to in order to maintain adequate fund balance reserves and to pay projected expenses, and we do not need to do so this year," Scott said.

Carrollton operates utility services with a break-even goal and budgets accordingly.

Judicious planning, along with a warm, dry fall and a strong fourth quarter allowed for the City to have balances in excess of its fi-

nancial targets, including a 90-day financial reserve as a primary measure.

Since the financial targets have been met, the City of Carrollton will not raise water or sewer rates at this point.

The City has traditionally been one of the least expensive water and wastewater providers in the Metroplex and will continue that ranking.

Carrollton's combined water and sewer cost is

the second least expensive of 20 surrounding cities benchmarked for cost of services.

"That comparison is very important to us because we want to continue to provide citizens with the best value and maintain our AAA Bond rating," Scott said. "We are mindful of the hardship on customers who are facing economic uncertainty and are pleased to not pass along an extra utility cost."

IRVING, from Page 1

makes him particularly well-suited for Irving at this point in time.

"One of the things Abdul (Khabeer) does is, he's a consultant to small businesses," Webb said. "And I don't have to tell you how small businesses are hurting right now because of the pandemic. So I think when it comes to being able to help educate the staff and the council in having a

connection with small businesses he would be the better choice in that particular area."

Webb also said electing Khabeer would be a positive move for diversity in city leadership. Khabeer is a member of the Muslim community in Irving, a group which supported Webb through three terms in office.

"Irving is a very diverse

city; very culturally diverse," Webb said. "Basically 40-something-percent Hispanic, 18% Caucasian, 22% Asian and about 13% African American, but when we look at the make-up of the council, it doesn't reflect our city. So from a diversity perspective Abdul helps to keep that diversity."

Webb also points out that the Black vote could be pivotal in the upcoming runoff between the two can-

didates.

"I would hope that the people in District 3 would go out and vote, especially the African American community," Webb said. "You know, the African American community really has an opportunity to decide this election, because District 3 is the most predominant African American district in Irving. If they come out and vote, and especially if they vote Abdul like I've endorsed and asked them

to, then they will decide this election."

Khabeer is receiving a wide range of support with Texas Representative Terry Meza weighing in on the race as well.

"I've endorsed Abdul Kabeer in the upcoming runoff election," Meza said. "As many point out, there is a need for diversity on the Irving City Council, especially from our most diverse district. But even more important than that, I

believe he's the most qualified choice because of his business background, his experience in serving on a city board, along with his community service."

The runoff election will be held on Dec. 8, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., in conjunction with other Dallas County entities. There will be a total of 23 polling places in the City of Irving. More information is available at the Dallas County Elections website.

The Most Important Factor in Your Family's Education is YOU

Give your family the best chance for success by supporting their education at home and at school.



Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, sticking to a schedule, partnering with teachers and administrators, utilizing culturally sensitive best practices, and tapping into local resources are just a few of the ways that you can support distance learning at home and keep your family on track for educational success.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.NNPA.ORG/EDUCATION

© 2020 NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION



LL Cool J, Chuck D, Founders Talk Universal Hip Hop Museum in Black Press Livestream

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

In December, groundbreaking occurs on the historic Universal Hip Hop Museum.

Officials promise that patrons will receive thorough analysis and an untainted view of the culture's past by using leading-edge virtual and augmented reality technologies for an immersive online and offline experience not found anywhere else.

Two of hip hop's legends – and two legendary rap executives – joined Black Press USA on a livestream to discuss the forthcoming museum that celebrates and preserves the history of local and global hip hop music and culture.

The interview featured icons LL Cool J, Chuck



D, former Def Jam President and Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees for the museum, Nana Carmen Ashhurst, entertainment manager Rocky Bucano, and Hip Hop Summit Chair and National Newspaper Publishers Association CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.

Each discussed the fledg-

ling 50,000-square-foot structure that will grace the Bronx, New York.

"I'm just happy to be supportive of this museum, and it's definitely needed. Our culture needs it," stated LL Cool J, arguably the greatest hip hop artist of all time who also stars in the hit television show NCIS and runs the Rock the Bells

Radio Station on SiriusXM.

"The reality is, this is something we need desperately need 200, 300, even 400 years from now," continued LL Cool J, whose real name is James Todd Smith.

"We have to control our own narrative. This is not a popularity contest. It's about people like Rocky

and Carmen, who put in the work.

"They need to be recognized and need to get that respect. Rock the Bells Radio serves the purpose that the Universal Hip Hop Museum serves. It serves our culture.

"I recently saw a cover of Rolling Stone that featured Paul McCartney and Taylor Swift together. I want to see Chuck D on the cover with Meg Thee Stallion."

For Chuck D, who has traveled the world with Public Enemy and other artists and runs Enemy Radio, being a part of the Universal Hip Hop Museum is all about being attentive to the culture.

"I pay attention to and learn from people who lay the groundwork," proclaimed Public Enemy's front man, whose real name is Carlton Douglas Riden-

hour.

"With Nana Carmen being president of Def Jam, and following her lead, that's the way of the future," Chuck further explained.

"I trusted Kamala Harris with my vote, not an 80-year-old president. I'm a floor general. You have to have that final narrative of what you do. When you understand art forms, having that conversation and the final word is what it's all about."

Chuck added that the Black Press, with Dr. Chavis taking the lead, counts as essential a role as any in telling the story of hip hop.

"I had a stack of things to do today," Chuck remarked. "But they told me it was Stacy Brown and Dr. Chavis – I've got to get on

See HIP HOP, Page 12



Help fight COVID. Join the study today.

- **FREE** COVID-19 test
- Get a **\$20 gift card** when you sign up
- **Register** at utswmed.org/covidstudy, 833-947-2577 or scan this code:



Sign up now and get tested today!

#DFWAnswerTheCall




Cowboys drop 41-16 in Thanksgiving contest to Washington

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports

Last week the Dallas Cowboys were asked to do the unthinkable. They were asked to play a very crucial divisional game against the Washington Football Team one day after their strength and conditioning coordinator, Markus Paul, suddenly died at the age of 54.

Paul had a medical emergency while at the Cowboys' practice facilities on the morning of Nov. 24 and was subsequently rushed to the hospital. He died the next day.

And with that tragic loss on their minds, the Cowboys went out with heavy hearts and dropped a 41-16 decision to Washington on Thanksgiving Day at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

"I want to thank the Paul family for sharing Markus



All Pro Reels / Flickr

with us," running back Ezekiel Elliott said. "He meant so much to this team and he had such a big part of everyone's every day life, and we're just grateful that you guys shared him with us."

"It was definitely an emotional week for everyone. Every day (Paul) is the one leading the stretch (exercises). So we're lining up for practice and getting ready to stretch and you get that reminder that he's not here with us anymore."

Paul joined the Cowboys

in 2018 and worked as the team's assistant strength coach until Mike McCarthy promoted him when he became the Cowboys' head coach in January.

"I can't tell you the impact that he made on our football team -- really, on the whole organization," McCarthy said. "Obviously, I've only been working with Markus since January, but it was clearly evident what he means to everybody."

"If you really look at the mark of a man, it's more

about significance over success."

As far as on the field activity is concerned, it's clear that the Cowboys aren't enjoying much success this season. They currently are in last place in the NFC East with an awful 3-8 record after knowing a win over Washington would have put them in first place in their division.

"I think everybody understands the state of our division," McCarthy said. "So we're going to re-boot, we're going to re-group."

The Cowboys only have five games remaining, starting with a 7:05 p.m. road game on Dec. 8 against the Baltimore Ravens. That contest was originally scheduled for Dec. 3, but was first moved to Dec. 7 and then to Dec. 8 due to coronavirus issues involving the Ravens.

Baltimore was originally slated to play the Pittsburgh Steelers on Thanksgiving, but the game was moved to this past Sunday, then moved to Dec. 1, and then moved to Dec. 2 because 23 members of the Ravens, including highly-regarded quarterback Lamar Jackson, tested positive for COVID-19.

In the meantime, since the Cowboys keep spinning their wheels for a variety of reasons, some of their fans want them to tank the rest of the season in order to get a higher pick in next year's NFL Draft. But owner Jerry Jones told 105.3 The Fan that tanking is not an option.

"There's really not a decision here on our team of tanking, let me be real clear," Jones said. "And I'm not offended by the conversation at all, and I understand what you're talking

about. That's just not going to be the case."

"We've got players that we're having to play not because necessarily we have a choice. We have these players -- they're our best players -- to win the ballgame. It turns out, they're the players that ought to be playing. They're the young players, and players that also potentially have for the most part, good futures."

To put a bow on the loss to Washington, the Cowboys had a pair of interesting calls that helped open the flood gates for the visitors. Facing a fourth-and-inches on their own 34 with the game tied at 10-10 in the second quarter, Dallas went for it on fourth down.

However, Andy Dalton's pass to CeeDee Lamb fell incomplete and Washington

See COWBOYS, Page 11



Family Caregiving

Get the Family Caregiving Support You Need, When You Need it.

Your caregiving journey can be challenging in all kinds of ways.

At AARP Family Caregiving, we're here to help you get answers, connect with other family caregivers and find local resources close to home. So you can take care of what matters most. To learn more, visit aarp.org/caregiving.

/(facebook) @(twitter)





Dallas, let's take care of this together!

If you, or someone close to you, have been impacted by COVID-19, as a City of Dallas resident, you have access to

HEALTH AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

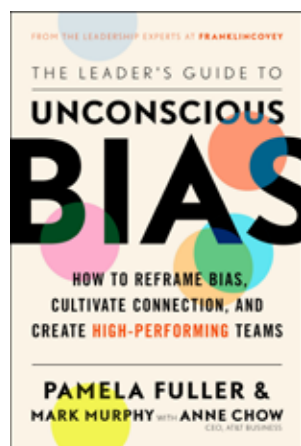
- Testing sites
- 24-hour information line
- Food and grocery assistance
- Mortgage, rent or housing aid
- Family caregiving support
- Unemployment resources



VISIT dallascityhall.com/covid19 OR CALL 214-670-INFO

NDG Bookshelf: 'The Leader's Guide to Unconscious Bias'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer



Whom should you hire? That's a question you ask yourself often, and you strive to be fair with it by hiring the best person for the job, no matter what. But what if the person doesn't "fit" with your team? Can you truly keep gender, race, sexuality, and different beliefs out of your hiring process and your workplace? Or, as in "The Leader's Guide to Unconscious Bias" by Pamela Fuller & Mark Murphy with Anne Chow, do you need to do better?

Ad schedules, HR concerns, budgets, board meetings, is there any wonder

why your head is full? Not really: according to Fuller, Murphy, and Chow, our brains absorb millions of bits of information each second we're awake, but we're unable to process all but about "forty of those bits" at any one time.

To help deal with the overload, the brain creates "shortcuts" which lead to unconscious bias, defined as a subliminal "preference for or against a thing, person, or group, compared with another." That can include sexuality, personality, gender identity, nationality, attractiveness, or race, among other things you may (overtly or not) notice about an individual.

As employees of FranklinCovey, Fuller and Murphy use the "Performance Model" to explain what might be done about unconscious bias, which is as detrimental to a business as is open bias. The first step is to identify where your un-

conscious bias lies through a process of self-awareness, knowing how you got your biases, and recognizing the "Bias Traps."

Secondly, focus on bringing others together through a culture of belonging. Be authentic, cultivate a curiosity about people, mind your words, and work to ensure that employees and customers are represented in your business.

Thirdly, use "careful courage" to stand up for yourself, and to pay attention to what's being done or said. Check yourself for any assumptions you may have on promotions, assignments, or hiring. Have the courage to know when you

need more self-work.

Finally, learn how the "Talent Lifecycle" can put this knowledge in action for good and for the good of all. Your team will thank you for it.

The very first thing you'll want to know about "The Leader's Guide to Unconscious Bias" is that it's well-considered and thorough. The second thing you'll want to know is that what's here will require considerable work.

That's something authors Pamela Fuller, Mark Murphy, and Anne Chow freely admit. It's also going to take serious introspection, the possible discomfort of which isn't so much

discussed here, though it's hard to complain when the authors themselves are as forthcoming and honest as these are in their self-anecdotes. Fuller is a Black woman, Murphy is a gay man, and Chow is Asian American, and their shared experiences very strongly illustrate the points they make, despite that this book is Grand-Canyon-deep and Atlantic-Ocean-wide.

Still, in this day and age, you can't ignore homogeneity at the workplace any longer. You need the advantages that will come with "The Leader's Guide to Unconscious Bias." Read it, absorb it, and take your team higher.

BIDEN, from Page 5

premiere public Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Before being appointed President, Dr. Allen served as Executive Vice President and Provost at DSU and previously led Bank of America's corporate reputation group.

He is also the Founding President of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League and co-Founder of Public Allies Delaware. In the 90's, Allen worked in then-Senator Biden's office as a Special Assistant and Speechwriter.

Maju Varghese, Execu-

tive Director

Chief Operating Officer and Senior Advisor on the Biden-Harris campaign from the primaries through the general, overseeing the campaign's day-to-day operations and leading the entire campaign through an unprecedented shift to remote working.

Varghese previously

served in the Obama White House in various roles, including Assistant to the President for Management and Administration and Deputy Director of Advance.

He has also worked as the Chief Operating Officer at The Hub Project and a Senior Advisor at the law firm Dentons.

Erin Wilson, Deputy Executive Director

Wilson served as the Biden-Harris campaign's National Political Director throughout the primary and general elections, the senior staff member responsible for relationships with hundreds of elected officials and leaders across

the country.

Previously, Wilson was a senior aide in Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey's office, most recently serving as his State Director and Senior Advisor to his 2018 reelection. She is also a Hillary for America and Democratic National Committee alumna.

COWBOYS, from Page 9

went on a short touchdown journey to take a 17-10 lead.

The other play that really unnerved Cowboys' fans occurred with a little over 12 minutes remaining in the game and Dallas on its own 24-yard line and behind, 20-16. The Cowboys lined up to punt on fourth-and-10, then inexplicably faked the punt, and wide receiver Cedric Wilson found himself with the ball on a double-reverse play.

The play was called for Wilson to pass the ball to punter Hunter Niswander. But Washington snuffed the play out, Wilson was tackled for a one-yard loss, and that play sort of summarized what 2020 has been like for the Cowboys.

Washington scored on the next play to go up, 27-16, and the rout was on. Linebacker Jaylon Smith, though, came to the defense of McCarthy.

"Coach McCarthy is a

remarkable person," Smith said. "He's a guy that loves and cares, and he knows what he's doing. We got to figure it out."

"It's not all on him. It's

a team effort. We play a team sport, and winning is the name of the game. All is well, but nothing matters when you lose. You have to win, especially playing for America's Team."

Now it's on to play the

Ravens, who are one of the better teams in the NFL. With that, the Cowboys were commended for playing a game while also celebrating the life of Paul.

"We suffered just a tragic loss in Markus Paul," Smith

sad. "He touched so many lives -- all our lives and families and things of that nature. We really wanted to come out and do it for God and for Markus, and we didn't accomplish the mission."

"(He's) a five-time Super Bowl champion, a successful player and coach, and strength coach. Just a great mentor and a servant leader. I learned a lot from him in his time here. Just may he rest in peace."

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to construct a 36-foot small cell monopole communications tower in the approx. vicinity of 5846 Greenville Ave, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75206, Lat: [32° 51' 22.8312" N], Long: [96° 46' 7.6476" 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, Thomas Johnston, t.johnston@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*

We Buy Houses ... Fast!



- Pretty Houses
- Ugly Houses
- Divorce
- Inheritance
- Problem Tenants
- Need Repairs
- Vacant House
- Fire Damage
- Estate Sale
- Behind on payments

CALL 972-665-0170

Together We Can Find A Solution

AMEX invests big in Black-women entrepreneurs

American Express (NYSE: AXP) revealed the 100 Black women entrepreneurs selected for its “100 for 100” program, which will provide each with grants of \$25,000 and 100 days of business resources, including business education, mentorship, marketing, virtual networking, WorkSpaces by Hilton hotel reservation credits and more. American Express created this program in partnership with IFundWomen of Color, the leading platform for women of color to raise capital, to support Black women entrepreneurs as they work to jump start and grow their business ventures. The initiative is part of American Express’ recently announced \$1 billion action plan to enhance diverse representation and promote equal opportunities for its colleagues, customers and communities.

Prior to the pandemic, Black-women-owned businesses were growing at unprecedented rates yet still making less revenue than their counterparts. In fact, according to last year’s State of Women-Owned Business report, commissioned by American Express, Black women entrepreneurs were founding 763 new businesses every day – making them the fastest growing entrepreneur group in America. Yet, they still do not have equal access to the resources they need to grow and be successful.

“American Express is proud to support the highly talented and innovative en-

trepreneurs selected for our 100 for 100 program, as they kick start their ventures and keep the momentum going so their businesses can continue to evolve,” said Clayton Ruebensaal, EVP Global B2B Marketing, American Express. “The Black women entrepreneurs selected for the program have created many types of innovative, early-stage businesses across the country, inspiring and carving new paths for others to follow. Their business plans demonstrate that great ideas often come out in times of hardship, and American Express is committed to continuing to back small businesses and advance equal opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs, particularly during these challenging times.”

“Through our years of experience with businesses in need of funding, we have found \$25,000 can truly change the trajectory of an emerging business. It could be the difference between one month of rent or five months, between being able to develop a decent prototype or a prototype that’s really not-so-great, and between doing real consumer testing or no testing at all. It means a business can do marketing to promote their product or service to drive more revenue and they can afford more payroll. We are thrilled to work with American Express to provide a meaningful difference for these inspiring 100 Black women-owned businesses, so they can grow and succeed,” said Karen Cahn,

Founder and CEO, IFundWomen.

100 DAYS OF RESOURCES

The “100 for 100” program is part of American Express’ broader commitment to provide access to capital and financial education to at least 250,000 Black-owned small and medium-sized businesses in the U.S. by the end of 2024, to help them navigate today’s environment and thrive into the future.

The 100 days of business education for the entrepreneurs will kick off virtually in January 2021, with a tailored curriculum focused on topics for early-stage companies such as managing cashflow and growth, securing and maintaining customer relationships and finding balance, all taught by industry experts and seasoned entrepreneurs. Many of the experts teaching the curriculum will also serve as mentors to the 100 women throughout the program, sharing insights during coaching sessions to help these entrepreneurs navigate business challenges and find the path towards growth.

Other resources for the women include marketing support from American Express to drive awareness of the entrepreneurs and their businesses across a variety of channels, complimentary access to a one-year premium subscription with the sleep and meditation app Calm and a \$1,000 credit to use towards WorkSpaces by Hilton, a new work-from-hotel solution that

provides guests with a private, distraction-free work space to increase efficiency, all backed by the elevated cleanliness standards of Hilton CleanStay with Lysol Protection. Hilton, a long-standing American Express partner, is also offering Hilton Honors Diamond status to the 100 women, to help plus-up their work-from-hotel experience and provide valuable, elite benefits. The 100 days of resources will culminate with an online event hosted on the Amex Virtual Campus, bringing the women together for networking, informative panels and more.

Resources also include Business Class from American Express – a modern business education platform offering world-class know-how and essential insights to help entrepreneurs navigate the current environment – available to anyone, all at no cost.

100 BLACK WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

American Express

worked closely with IFundWomen of Color to select and surprise 100 unique and passionate innovators across a number of different industries including fashion and beauty, food and beverage, finance, fitness and

wellness, home goods and apparel, technology, social good and more. Many of the women are also creating content and fostering communities to empower the next class of Black women leaders.

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 118-foot monopole communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 3815 Spring Valley Road, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75001; 32° 56' 32.1372" N, 96° 51' 2.6836" 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, Tyler Sadutto, t.sadutto@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*

HIP HOP, from Page 8

the line with my people.”

Perhaps best remembered as the first and only women president in the history of Def Jam Records, Ashhurst helped grow the Russell Simmons-founded label from nine to more than 141 employees.

She also helped expand Def Jam to include offices in London, Los Angeles, and New York.

“It is important that the history and culture of hip-

hop be told by those who created it, lived it, and continue to change the course of popular culture throughout the world,” Ashhurst remarked.

“At the Universal Hip Hop Museum, we are curating artifacts and stories to tell the full truth of hip-hop, ensuring that we, the hip-hop community tell the history.”

Bucano chimed in that he’s delighted to have Ash-

hurst as chairwoman.

“She is the best and most qualified to serve in this capacity. Her strong leadership skills and philanthropic experience are just what the museum needs as we prepare to break ground,” Bucano said, adding that he’s also grateful to hip hop legend Kurtis Blow, who serves as chair emeritus for the museum.

For more information about the Universal Hip Hop Museum, visit www.UHHM.org.



Ed Bell Construction Company

An Equal Opportunity Employer

December 1, 2020

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

We are currently hiring for the following positions:

- **Finishers (Paving)**
- **Pipelayer (Underground)**
- **CDL Drivers (Haul Truck)**
- **Loader Operator (Earthwork)**
- **Form Setters (Structures, Paving)**
- **Laborers (Structures, Underground)**
- **Motor Grader Operator (Earthwork)**
- **Paving Machine Operator (Earthwork)**

Available: multiple openings

Rate: Negotiable

Must have own transportation

Years of Experience required will vary, from 6 months to 2 years (depending on position)

Physical and Drug Screen Required

Must have a Clear Background

Must be at least 18 years old (CDL Driver, 21 yrs)

**Must apply in PERSON, Monday – Friday from 8am to 11am
@ 10605 Harry Hines Blvd.**

**Please visit our website: www.edbellconstruction.com/careers
Or email your resume to: careers@edbellconstruction.com**

JOB FAIRS

On-going U.S. Army Opportunity

The United States Army is hiring for over 150 different career fields.

PART TIME OPPORTUNITIES - 1 weekend a month, 2 weeks in the early summer. Stay local, Money for school, healthcare, paid drills and skill training, and up to \$20,000 enlistment bonus.

FULL TIME OPPORTUNITIES - Full time hours with off time and weekends just like regular jobs. 30 days paid vacation per year. Money for school, free healthcare, paid skill training, and up to \$40,000 enlistment bonus.

Jobs in science, intelligence, combat, aviation, engineering, law and more. Contact 214-406 - 3737

Prerequisites:

- GED/High School Diploma
- Between the ages of 17-34
- No felonies
- No major medical issues
- U.S. Citizen or permanent resident

Ongoing Census Bureau

The Census Bureau conducts continuous surveys to supply the nation with important statistics on people, places and our economy. Local field workers know their communities best, and are instrumental in conducting surveys with residents on a variety of topics. Visit census.gov to apply.

Ongoing City of Dallas

The City of Dallas' HR Dept is currently accepting apps for the Budget and Contract Administrator position. Bachelor's degree in a business/public administration, human resources or healthcare administration field, plus 7 yrs exp.

For more info and to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/2NcFVP>.

Ongoing



House of Blues

Want a cool job in live music? House of Blues Dallas is hiring! Spruce up your resume and join us on Monday, 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

Every month computer professionals can participate in the monthly job fair in the comfort of your PJs. Job Seekers must complete profile on https://tao.ai/p/fff/_/dfw

#FirstFridayFair (#FFF) is estimated to be largest attended career fair with around 8,000 professionals and 500 recruiting companies. The data science and software development focussed career fair is delivered right at your desktop. No need to travel anywhere, just signup and wait for TAO.ai to organize your interactions.

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

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

Note: Until further notice, all services at Bethel church will be via Video-Conferencing and perhaps other churches as well; log on individual churches websites for details. See Bethel's website www.bethelbiblefellowship.org for their details because of the Coronavirus.

December 6, 9:45 am

Please join us in our quiet Check "The Ship's" web-

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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.

December 9, 7 pm

You are invited to join us via video-conferencing for Prayer and Bible Study from 7 to 8:45 pm as we pray for the world's Coronavirus.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,
Senior Pastor
1944 E. Hebron Parkway
Carrollton, TX 75007
972-492-4300
www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

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

Maid Needed

\$20.00 per hour
3-6 hours a week
LBJ & Preston
area



Please call 808.888.9941
Ask for Mr. Katz

Have Land You Need To Sell?

We Buy Land
No Commissions. No Fees.

Get Your Fair Cash Offer!

- Vacant House
- Estate Sale
- Fire Damage
- Behind on payments

CALL NOW
972-665-0170

site for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

December 6

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.

December 9, 7 pm

See CHURCH, Page 14



GARLAND
TEXAS MADE HERE

**Attention Suppliers of Goods,
Services and Construction**

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

www.garlandpurchasing.com

972-205-2415



IRVING
TEXAS

**DO YOU WANT AN EXCITING AND
REWARDING CAREER?**

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

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

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

www.cityofirving.org

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

TISEO PAVING COMPANY

419 E. Hwy. 80, Mesquite, TX 75150

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

www.tiseopaving.com

**Performing Concrete Street Paving
in the Metroplex Area**

**We Accept Subcontracting Bids
For All Public Works Projects
in the Dallas Area.**

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

Equal Opportunity Employer

CHURCH, from Page 13

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

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.
Senior Pastor
2450 K Avenue #300
Plano, TX 75074
972-379-3287
www.theship3c.org
www.visitF3c.org

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

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there will not be room to receive."

- Malachi 3:8-10

Check "IBOC's" website for details of their services until further notice because

of the Coronavirus.

December 4, 7 pm

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

December 6, 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.

December 7, 7 pm

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 8 75237
972-372-4262
www.Ibocchurch.org

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)

Connect to God through Shiloh, Grow in Christ through the study of the Word of God, Serve God through service to each

other and the world.

Check "SMBC's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the coronavirus.

December 6, 8 and 11 am

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

**December 7, 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).

December 9, 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.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH, Let's Go Fishing!

MATTHEW 4:19

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there will not be room to receive."

- Malachi 3:8-10

Check "IBOC's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

November 27, 7 pm
All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 8 pm, (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

November 29, 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.

November 30, 7 pm

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

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)

Connect to God through Shiloh, Grow in Christ through the study of the Word of God, Serve God through service to each other and the world.

Check "SMBC's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the coronavirus.

November 29,

8 and 11 am

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

November 30, 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).

December 2, 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.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

Church Happenings

is a weekly calendar of religious services produced by the *North Dallas Gazette*. To make additions or corrections to the calendar, contact: religion@northdallasgazette.com

Cemetery Space Broker will make you offer on your cemetery plot



Dennis Jarvis / Flickr

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

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

Call Us Today!!!!!!
972.665.0170

"We All Must Go Home To Glory"

Question: *Why saddle family members with the cost of your burial / cremation?*

Homegoings should reflect on your life and legacy.

It Is Smart To Call ... **COMBINED BENEFIT SOLUTIONS**



- Pre-Need Insurance (Burial / Cremation)
- No Physical Examination Required
- Pre-Need Funeral Policies Start At \$9.95 Per Month
- Peace Of Mind Knowing Your Loved Ones Are Not Burdened With This Obligation

Vickie Richardson-Steward

President / Licensed Agent



CombinedBenefitSolutions
changing the way we look at life

Call Today For a No-Obligation Quote

214-238-6855

Website: www.cbsolutionsplus.com

Trusting in Chariots



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

"Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses, who trust in the multitude of their chariots and in the great strength of their horsemen, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or seek help from the LORD."

(Isaiah 31:1)

It is human nature to want to use whatever means available to us to succeed. However, a conflict arises when we place our total trust in ourselves instead of God.

The idea of maintaining a proper balance between trust and obedience to God

versus placing an over dependence upon our natural skill and resources has created problems since Genesis.

We are prone to build strong defenses through our natural gifts to avoid failure and use all of our might to be successful in our endeavors. However, this can often be done at the expense of the supernatural in our lives.

When it comes to receiving from God, it is important we don't make the same mistake Moses made when God told him to speak to the rock in order to receive water for the people. Instead, He struck the rock and failed to enter the Promised Land.

The people of Israel often fell back to trusting in their own abilities, and God had to send a reproof into their



Left to Right: Tre Williams, Jr., Tameka Williams, Texas Tre Williams and Tavion Williams after getting Carrollton's award on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at Carrollton City Hall

lives.

How do we avoid the trap and maintain a proper balance between the natural and the spiritual? The rule of thumb is to submit every activity to God and use your skill as God directs you.

Be sensitive to God's leading in all your activi-

ties. Avoid trying to build resources for the sake of insulating yourself against calamity which is rooted in fear.

Finally, follow Solomon's advice: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all

your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Talk to God and thank Him for having a purpose for your life and for telling you what His expectations are through the Bible. You don't want God to be disappointed with you when you fell to meet His expectations of you.

Perhaps you can identify with that from a human standpoint. When you expect a family member to be responsible and to do something that they do not do, or when they make wrong choices in life, surely

ly you must feel very disappointed.

Sometimes you feel frustrated or angry and other times perhaps even broken. Ask God to help you to be kind-hearted and long-suffering with them, like He is with you.

Ask for His guidance to handle those disappointments with integrity; to remain quiet when you should and to speak up when you should.

Ask for thoughts, words and actions that He wants you to have. And, ask God to forgive you for disappointing Him; in Jesus' name.

It's all over but the lying

Dr. James L. Snyder

The one thing I don't like is when somebody deliberately lies to me. Trust me; this has happened quite a few times in my life.

I've had to learn how NOT to lie. It's been challenging, but I have been persistent in this goal of mine. There have been stumbling, but I have gotten up every time and started over again. I don't lie as much as I used to.

Like when I'm talking to the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I remember once she interrupted me and said, "You're not lying, are you?"

I try not to lie; that's why I try not to talk too much. When I'm talking, I'm mixing up facts from different situations, which ends in confusion. I'm not lying; I'm just confused.

Coming home the other day, I walked into the living room, and the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "Where have you been?"

That is the question. It's not where have I been, but where in the world am I going? If I tell her where I

was, she would get the hint because it's Christmas time and I'm getting her a present. Is it wrong to conceal something like this? Do you think Santa would forgive me?

Last year, she asked me where I was, and I fumbled around, trying to cover my tracks. I don't think I was that good at doing it. When we were opening our Christmas presents on Christmas day, she opened hers and said, "Oh, that's where you were when I ask you where you were." Then she laughed. I was relieved.

This year I'm wrestling with a certain situation. I've had some physical problems, nothing serious. But my wife is the kind of person who sees something and is obsessed with trying to fix it. That's a really good quality for her. And I appreciate it. Nobody can get things done quite like the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Often she'll ask me, "How are you doing?"

I take it as a trick question and reply, "I'm fine; thanks for asking."

Then she sees me go to the basket where we have

our medicines. I have a pain so I pick up the Tylenol and take several out and turn around and guess who I see?

"What do you need that for?"

Now, I'm in a pickle. I can't lie, and yet I don't want to tell the whole truth. What in the world do I do?

"What? This Tylenol? Oh, I'm taking it in precaution of a pain in my knee I might get later this afternoon."

Then she said, "Which knee do you have the pain?"

Now I'm in a dill pickle. So, I tell her it's my right knee. I just hope I remember that the next time she asks.

The next morning walking through the kitchen, my wife said, "Do you need some more Tylenol for your knee?"

Then she asked "the" question, "Which knee did you say it was?"

I can't remember hardly anything, she can remember everything, and so I had a 50-50 chance of getting it right.

Later that day, I thought of what David said, "Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue." (Psalm 120:2).

No good comes from lying. My great challenge is to acknowledge that I'm lying and then do something to correct that.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala, FL 34472. Call him at 352-216-3025 or e-mail james-snyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

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

Inspiring Body of Christ

Pastor Rickie G. Rush

7701 S. Westmoreland Rd
Dallas, TX 75237
972.672.4262 (BOC)
www.IBOCHURCH.org
Sunday Service 7:30am & 11am
Monday School 7pm & Men's Fellowship Friday 8pm

Dream Catcher's Realty
Frieda Porter
Realtor

"If the American Dream is your goal, then I'm your Dream Catcher"

friedabuysnsellshomes@gmail.com
214-208-1243
Ask Me About Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance



MAKE A STATEMENT WITHOUT SAYING A WORD

THE 2021 CADILLAC ESCALADE. NEVER STOP ARRIVING.



©2020 General Motors. All rights reserved. The marks appearing in this ad are the trademarks or service marks of GM, its subsidiaries, affiliates or licensors.