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# The Texas Health and Human Services Campaign slashes its budget, eliminating Black Press

By Nicole James Scott  
NDG Contributing Writer

With the alarming changes in the current political landscape and how African-Americans in specific are being impacted there are growing signs that all things Black, included the Black press is on the chopping block. In a recent move to “stretch” its dollars the Texas Health and Human Services Commission has eliminated all funding for advertising its programs in African-American newspapers.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission has initiated a campaign that aims to bring awareness to a number of its programs, including CHIP/Children’s Medicaid, SNAP Ed, Speak Your Mind, Alternatives to Abortion and Healthy Texas Women. Funds upwards of \$1.75 million are allocated towards digital and social media and radio advertisement to target primarily African-American and Hispanic women and children with the aim of providing vital information. For example, the SNAP Ed program seeks to educate African-American and Hispanic communities about health and nutrition as well as provide tools and knowledge on maintaining a healthy lifestyle whereby avoiding



chronic diseases.

Information of this nature is critical to the Black community as by in large African-Americans suffer from not only chronic diseases but a host of other social issues at an alarmingly higher rate than their counterparts, including Hispanics. A recent major report generated by the Texas Department of State Health Services found African-Americans have the lowest life expectancy, highest rates of obesity, lowest percentage of women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester, double the infant mortality rate and lead to cancer, stroke, and heart-related deaths.

With such grave disparities, it

begs the question as to why any and every venue available would not be utilized to proliferate awareness among African-Americans. According to the Director of Communications of the Health and Human Services Commission Bryan Black, “Digital advertising is receiving most of the funding. Trends are showing more and more people are getting their information from digital sources. Plus, we are finding our funds can stretch further using digital media.”

The *North Dallas Gazette* asked Black if there has been a raised awareness with the elimination of

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Kevin Hart



Sonia Sanchez

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On the GO??? But still need to be in the KNOW!!! Bookmark [NorthDallasGazette.com](http://NorthDallasGazette.com) on your phone or mobile device!!!



## Kevin Hart

By Ruth Ferguson  
NDG Editor

Kevin Hart is riding his wave of success to open doors to others. On the heels of his well received *New York Times* bestseller, *I Can't Make This Up: Life Lessons* released this summer, he is launching a new streaming service. His book, which NDG reviewer Terri Schlichenmeyer described as "Hart tells his own personal story with humor, just the right touch of embellishment, and a full dose of the flip-side of



Art Streibler

funny without forcing anything. That's good comedy, as he says... and it makes for a wonderful memoir," seems like just a stepping stone in expanding his comedic brand. Now comes, *Laugh Out Loud*,

which launched on Aug. 3.

As more viewers cut the cable cord, Hart's partnership with Lionsgate will offer a destination for comedy lovers who are a bit tired of old movies and stand-up specials available on cable these days. The streaming service will feature scripted and unscripted original comedy series choices as well as live broadcasts. But bottomline, Hart is a stand-up comic at heart (pun intended) so of course, viewers can expect plenty of those as well.

And if it feels like a throwback to the comedy golden years of HBO's *Def Comedy Jam*, it is no coin-

cidence. Fans of the legendary show which launched quite a few household names will be delighted to binge watch all seven seasons of the show on LOL.

### Did social media help to make Hart a comedy kingmaker?

African Americans are trend setters for American culture, which Hollywood and music executives successfully export around the globe earning millions annually. All too often, the community bemoans the lack of options and opportunities available to anyone other than established box office golden names. In re-

cent years at the top of the comedy list, Kevin Hart has dominated the scene. Just when many felt like, "no more Hart screaming at us movies" (OK maybe it was just me) he has flipped the script and shown he had a bigger game plan all along.

NDG has interviewed Hart several times over the years as he traveled to Dallas to promote projects. Looking back at our conversation in 2012, now fans can see how his consistent use of social media to build a fan base has paid off big time. At the time Hart had more than 12 million Facebook fans and "more Twitter followers than Chris

Rock, Steve Harvey, and Louis C.K. combined." Five years later he is on the verge of doubling his Facebook fan page to 24 million and his Twitter following is a staggering 34.5 million. The streaming service's Facebook page has 4 million fans already.

Now instead of asking someone to take a chance on his next project, through the strategic partnership with Lionsgate, Lyft and Just for Laughs comedy tours, Hart is in a position to be a comedy king maker. It is no mistake that not only is Lionsgate joining Team

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## Sonia Sanchez

Literary icons Sonia Sanchez and Haki Madhubuti will receive the Sutton E. Griggs Lifetime Achievement Award in Literature on Friday, Aug. 25 at 7 p.m. at the kick-off of the 14th Tulisoma: South Dallas Book Fair.

Sonia Sanchez formed a writers' workshop in Greenwich Village, attended by poets Amiri Baraka, Haki R. Madhubuti, and Larry Neal. With Madhubuti, Nikki Giovanni, and Etheridge Knight, she formed the "Broadside Quartet" of young poets, promoted by Dudley Ran-



dall. She married and divorced Albert Sanchez, a Puerto Rican immigrant whose surname she has used when writing, and the poet Etheridge Knight, with whom she had three children. During the early 1960s

she began to focus more on her Black heritage from a separatist point of view. Sanchez was a pioneer in developing black studies courses at what is now San Francisco State University, where she was an instructor from 1968 to 1969. In 1971 she joined the Nation of Islam, but by 1976 she had left the Nation, largely because of its repression of women.

Sanchez is the author of more than a dozen books of poetry, including *Shake Loose My Skin: New and Selected Poems* (Beacon Press, 1999); *Like the Singing Coming Off the Drums:*

*Love Poems* (1998); *Does your house have lions?* (1995), which was nominated for both the NAACP Image and National Book Critics Circle Award; *Wounded in the House of a Friend* (1995); *Under a Soprano Sky* (1987); *Homegirls & Handgrenades* (1984), which won an American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation; *I've Been a Woman: New and Selected Poems* (1978); *A Blues Book for Blue Black Magical Women* (1973); *Love Poems* (1973); *Liberation Poem* (1970); *We a BaddDDD People* (1970); and *Homecoming* (1969).

Her published plays are *Black Cats Back and Uneasy Landings* (1995), *I'm Black When I'm Singing, I'm Blue When I Ain't* (1982), *Malcolm Man/Don't Live Here No Mo'* (1979), *Uh Huh: But How Do It Free Us?* (1974), *Dirty Hearts '72* (1973), *The Bronx Is Next* (1970), and *Sister Son/ji* (1969).

Sanchez has received many honors including: the Community Service Award from the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the Lucretia Mott Award, the Outstanding Arts Award from the Pennsylvania Coalition of 100 Black

Women, the Peace and Freedom Award from Women International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), the Pennsylvania Governor's Award for Excellence in the Humanities, a National Endowment for the Arts Award, and a Pew Fellowship in the Arts.

Sanchez is a recent recipient (2001) of the Robert Frost medal in poetry, one of the highest honors awarded to a nationally recognized poet. One of the most important writers of the Black Arts Movement; Sanchez is the author of sixteen books and lives in Philadelphia.

## NDG Readers Sound Off...

### Dallas ISD battles declining enrollment, funding cuts in approved \$1.4 billion budget

How can the state just cut funds to Disd knowing we are being robbed by corruption of Sce funds for at risk schools?

What can we do by God to get needed resources for our inner city southern sector schools with high at risk enrollments?

This is how gerrymandering, voter id (jim crow) masked laws are slowly diminishing the civil rights gains that helped all poor



people and not just minority's

Our body politic has been seized by crooks on every side leaving a void of fair and needed resources. God, good Lord, how much can our system bear to be held hostage to the profiteers and redneck

lobbyist that suck like vampires the bloodline of policies and programs of local and state institutions that were meant to aid the poor in our society.

What truly happens to a Dream deferred?

Mass protest, high crime, and overwhelming

poverty that will negatively affect everyone everywhere throughout American society.

-- Concerned Citizen

### Rising basketball star Tony Farmer's tragic fall

To me the judge is a racist she know and knew he was a rising basketball star and she tried to block it but what God has for you it's for you. A devil in a dress lol

-- R. Johnson

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**Don't let the oligarchs silence the Black Press**

By Akwasi Evans  
NOKOA The Observer  
NNPA Member

Have you missed us, lately? We had a lot of news we wanted to share with you, but we couldn't afford to print it. Each week it gets harder both mentally and physically. This job used to be fun. I still enjoy the service and I love being a crime fighter, but with dwindling resources and unpredictable support, my ability is waning. We can and do speak truth to power. Power can and does shut us up. The corrupt, destructive powers that prevail can squash a small, semi-weekly, pipsqueak paper like NOKOA without staining the soles of their shoes. Human exploitation is a crime and we fight it with our words. It seems like a minor miracle that we have survived a might nigh 30 years.

This newspaper has rendered a service unmatched by any other Austin weekly in this city's history. That's not bragging; that's a fact. We haven't done a better job than anyone else, but we have definitely done jobs most other newspapers wouldn't touch with a ten-foot pencil.

A woman called, recently, to ask if we would consider running a story from and about a death row inmate. That's the kind of thing we do. That's the kind of thing we've done since 1987. That's what NOKOA is all about. We fight for the un-

derdog, work to uplift the underprivileged, investigate injustices, and challenge lies with truth.

When the system abuses pigmented people, NOKOA exposes the imbalance in power and the disparity in wealth. When the elites unleash a plan like Agenda 21 for "sustainable development," NOKOA warns you to beware of genetically modified organisms, industrial waste and pharmaceutical genocide.

NOKOA's struggle for survival is tied directly to the intent of the oligarchs to silent dissent; if they silence the lamb, the sheep won't question the slaughter.

We won't go quietly into that good night and we won't let them wipe you out without warning you of what's coming and alerting you to options for survival.

I was on the front lines in the war against God's people long before I started NOKOA, but this voice gave me access to the masses I couldn't reach through poetry and public speaking.

I joined the Civil Rights Movement as a teenager and I'm on active duty in the struggle to take on the architect of global domination and human subjugation. NOKOA is one of my most powerful weapons in that struggle and to effectively use it, we need you to provide us with ammunition.

We need money to make the difference you deserve

and you need to value yourself enough to stop giving all your money to those trying to destroy you and contribute to those trying to save you. Don't you realize that people are making a profit off of making you sick? Why else would they put artificial colors and dyes in stuff they call food? Why would they mostly sell produce poisoned with pesticides that is packaged in containers treated with cancer causing chemicals?

Some communities are gradually transitioning from becoming expendable to becoming obsolete. We're being replaced by machines that are more efficient and cost less to maintain. Pharmaceuticals and the food chain are meant to kill you slowly. Warmongers and chaos profiteers don't think that armed conflicts and worldwide disasters are killing enough people fast enough. People have become the problem that the powerful have decided to solve by eliminating the undesirables en masse. We are the undesirables. Everybody who isn't a millionaire is an undesirable and even some of them are on the second tier for termination.

If the corrupt corporate community we are challenging and exposing won't respect our place in this media landscape, our readers must fill the void. NOKOA needs you to contribute to keeping our voice relevant. When you see me, give me some money. When

you read this, send us some money. I'm not kidding and I'm not begging; you need NOKOA now more than a hog needs slop.

Wake up and smell the Starbucks. What's happening is real and it's happening to you right now.

One of our objectives is to give you the honest truth; one of your objectives is keeping NOKOA and Black Press afloat. Make your contribution to our continued service. Any contributions will be appreciated. Hand me a quarter or a dollar, when you see me on the street. Mail us a check or wire us a donation. Tell the people you spend money with to show that they respect your business by advertising in NOKOA or your local Black newspaper. And don't just do it for me; do it for yourself. Our combined worth is immeasurable.

NOKOA has proven its worth over the past three decades and the next couple of months are going to show how much the masses need Black-owned media.

Support the Black Press, so that we can support you.

*Akwasi Evans is the publisher of NOKOA The Observer newspaper in Austin, Texas. You can listen and talk to him live each Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. (CST) by tuning to kazifm.org. You can reach him at akwasievans2013@gmail.com or visit his website at nokoatheobserver.biz.*

**Faith community sends a message to Austin: No Bathroom Bill**

Austin — Texas Impact, the Lone Star State's oldest and largest interfaith advocacy network, today announces the launch of a new campaign featuring four public service announcements (PSAs) opposing discriminatory legislation targeting transgender Texans.

The 30-second spots will begin appearing online and on social media this week and feature Christian leaders from across Texas explaining why they oppose the so-called "bathroom bills" being considered by the Texas Leg-

islature.

Texas Impact executive director Bee Moorhead says the PSAs are part of the interfaith non-profit's "Mainstream, Not Extreme: Texas Faith Community Against Discrimination" campaign to correct misperceptions about the faith community's position on the legislation.

"Mainstream faith communities across our state, from the people in the pews all the way up to national denominational leaders, oppose these bills," Moorhead says. "A few extremist individuals

who support this legislation have been working hard to convince legislators that they represent the unified voice of the faithful, but that's simply not the case."

Moorhead says conservative Christians, such as Baptists and the nondenominational, are particularly frustrated at being mischaracterized, and that the PSAs feature authoritative voices who can set the record straight.

Two of the PSAs feature the Rev. Dr. Jim Bankston, a well-known United Methodist pastor from Hous-

ton. In the spots, Bankston acknowledges that "it can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender," but counsels that Christians are called to love everyone.

Texas Impact is the state's oldest and largest interfaith lobby, representing the shared legislative priorities of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim denominations with a collective membership of more than 5 million Texans.

The four public service announcements can be viewed on Texas Impact's website at [texasimpact.org/mainstream](http://texasimpact.org/mainstream).

# Send kids off with healthier back to school lunch ideas

By Ruth Ferguson  
NDG Editor

The stores are filled with back to school supplies and uniforms. Now back in the day one of your biggest decisions was what lunchbox would you carry this year. Over the years, more and more kids have put away their brown paper bags and lunch boxes for the meals served at the school. Especially once restaurants like Chipotle began to serve at local high schools. However, more parents are looking for healthier options for their kids with the rise in allergies and concerns regard-



Ruth Ferguson

ing childhood obesity. Honestly, Mom and Dad should think about packing their own lunch too for the same reasons.

Let's start with the most

important meal of the day: breakfast. Chobani continues to innovate on the yogurt aisle. The Mixed Berry Morning "Flip" was great, but now I am anxious to try their Sunrisin' Raisin which features brown sugar, bran flakes, and honey praline pumpkin seeds. Just because it is good for you, doesn't mean it can't be sweet, does it? Just say yes! With 20 flavors to choose from, parents can find something to cover each of their picky eaters.

You can up the nutrition value by stirring in a spoon (ok maybe two) of KIND's Cinnamon Oat Clusters

with Flax Seeds. This healthy grain option is 100 percent whole grains and a full serving (1/3 cup) provides 28 percent of the recommended daily fiber. Sounds like you are easily killing two birds with one stone.

Sending Johnny off to school with just grapes, salad and carrots will lead to a grumpy fella. A growing boy (and girl) needs protein and highly processed lunch meat is not really a good choice. A rollup covered with ready to eat beans, with shredded cheese and a couple of crunchy veggies. The per-

fect choice – and there are several varieties available – comes from The Better Bean Company which features 8 grams of protein and 6 grams of fiber. But look Johnny does not care about the healthy factor, they want to know how does it taste. The answer is very good! My favorite was the Roasted Chipotle Red Beans but trust me it is spicy. They suggest serving it in tacos or burrito bowls. When the *North Dallas Gazette* team tried it, we simply enjoyed it with crackers. You can find it

at your local Whole Foods, Central Market or Natural Grocers or better-beanco.com.

Charlie has gotten pretty fancy in recent years. Just when I was learning to love the single serve Starkist Tuna Creation in Lemon Pepper, now the brand is spicing things up. The 12 flavors now include Thai Chili Style, Jalapeno and Hot Buffalo Style. Can you even remember the last time you had tuna with mayo? Me either.

See LUNCH, page 12

## DCHHS Opens Aug. 12 for school immunizations

With only a few weeks remaining before classes begin, parents will soon be rushing to get their children the immunizations they need.

To help parents prepare for the upcoming school year, Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is holding a special back-to-school immunization clinic Saturday, Aug. 12 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The free clinic will be held on the first floor of the main DCHHS building located at 2377 N Stemmons Freeway in Dallas. Appointments are not required for this event, however, parents and guardians

should prepare to bring immunization records for walk in immunizations.

"Mumps cases in Dallas County spiked last school year and vaccinations were essential in helping reduce the spread," said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director. "This fall, don't let your child's seat in class be left empty. Get your children the vaccinations they need for school now."

Dallas County residents from birth to age 18 in the following categories are eligible to receive free immunizations on Aug. 12 under the Texas Vaccines for Chil-

dren Program (TVFC):

- Medicaid eligible
- Uninsured: a child who has no health insurance coverage
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Enrolled in CHIP
- Underinsured (as defined by the Texas Department of State Health Services)

"Provisional enrollments are not always guaranteed and are only short term," said Tammara Scroggins, DCHHS asst. director public health communicable disease. "Acting now will help ensure that your children are ready for classes on the first

day of school."

Parents and guardians should review immunization records and consult with a primary care provider or a public health professional to determine needed vaccinations. Texas minimum state vaccine requirements for students grades K-12 can be found at [www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/default.shtm](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/default.shtm)

For more information on the DCHHS immunization clinic and upcoming immunization events, visit <http://www.dallascounty.org/departments/hhs/immunizationhours.html>.

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## Garland NAACP's 27th annual Freedom Fund Brunch and Silent Auction

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Garland serving the Garland Community will host its 27th annual Freedom Fund brunch and silent auction on Saturday, Sept. 16. The special occasion will kickoff at

9 a.m. with a silent auction followed at 10 a.m. with brunch at the Hyatt Place Garland, located at 5101 N President George Bush Hwy. This year's theme is "NAACP, Resolute and Rooted."

The keynote speaker is

Texas State Representative Victoria Neave, with Garland native and recording artist Reuben Lael Griffin serving as the Master of Ceremony. Special events on the program include presentations to:

- Youth Scholarship Re-

ipients from GISD

- Elaine Bradley Scholarship – NAACP Garland Youth Council member to be announced

- GISD African American seniors with the highest GPA will be recognized for each of the seven high schools

Also Adult Award recipients include:

- Educator of the Year – Principal Wendy Williams, George Washington Carver Elem.

- Educator of the Year – Melody McAllister, George Washington Carver Elem.

- Bridge Builder of the Year – Lilly Clarke, City of Garland

- Community Service – Pastor D. L. Wilson, Sweet Home Baptist Church

For tickets and information visit : [www.garlandtx-naacp.org](http://www.garlandtx-naacp.org).

## Tips to keep your kids safe on their way back to school

By Ruth Ferguson  
NDG Editor

Everyone is focused on school supplies and clothes but safety officials want parents to not forget to make safety a top priority on your back to school checklist.

When you are shopping for a backpack for your children this year, resist the temptation to get a personalized one featuring their name. The bedazzled bag with their favorite cartoon character may look great, but it is could prove dangerous.

"We found it is not a good thing to do, Dickey Harrison who has worked and taught criminal justice for more than 20 years after serving in the military, stated. "Personalized backpacks may be cute," but he warns parents it can potentially provide predators with too much info.

Harrison, Remington College criminal justice professor, spoke with the *North Dallas Gazette* by phone to offer several tips on how parents can keep their children safe this school year.

"Teach children to recognize and obey traffic rules and signs as they walk to school," Harrison said. He suggests an adult should walk with the children the first couple of days and use this is an opportunity to point out landmarks and places they should run to in the event of danger.

Getting to know the

crossing guard is a pivotal relationship to build when they meet the children and their parents, it is not uncommon for them to keep an eye out. It gives the child a trusted adult to reach out to if necessary.

There is always strength in numbers, so it is recommended children walk with siblings or friends whenever it is possible. Strangers are less likely to approach a group of kids. If a stranger attempts to approach them, report it to a responsible adult as soon as possible.

"People tend to think they live in safe neighborhoods, especially in the suburbs," Harrison said. But in fact, criminals have a tendency to come to the area because they know parents have their guards down. Harrison stated these incidents are often crimes of opportunity.

Harrison also suggests parents stress the importance of the kids coming straight home because parents need to be aware of where the children are expected to be and when they should arrive.

His advice was not only about what the children should do, but he has a request for parents.

"If you as a parent see something, you should say something. People have a habit of saying it is not my business. If you suspect criminal activity or see someone in danger, report that to authorities," he added.

## Former Dallas City Council candidate Eric Williams calls on the city to tear down motel

By Ruth Ferguson  
NDG Editor

Eric Williams, a former Dallas City Council candidate, is on a mission to get rid of an eyesore in South Dallas and bring in a quality hotel. The kind of place, you want to invite your family and friends to stay at when they visit the south side of the city.

After spending a lifetime traveling the world to fight for justice in communities in far away places like Africa, upon returning home to Dallas in 2005 he felt charged to do the same for his childhood neighborhood.

"It didn't feel right to have a successful career away from Dallas and not help my community," Williams told the *North Dallas Gazette* by phone after speaking at the Aug. 9 Dallas City Council meeting. His primary focus right now is getting rid of the Grand Inn Motel located at 220 W. Camp Wisdom Road. In a statement sent



Arthur Fleming, former president of the NAACP Dallas Chapter (left) and former Dallas City Council candidate Eric Williams (right) after the Aug. 8 Dallas City Council meeting. (Image: NDG/Thurman Jones)

announcing a protest this Saturday, Williams stated, "Time is up for hot sheet motels in my neighborhood."

"The motel spurred my interest in politics," Williams said about his 2017 campaign to represent District 8 on the Dallas City Council.

Arthur Fleming, the recent past president of the NAACP Dallas Chapter, and the co-chair of the state community liaison commit-

tee also attended the Dallas City Council meeting on Aug. 9.

"This is a long-standing issue in the Southern sector, we do not have a decent hotel, Fleming pointed out by phone Wednesday afternoon. Last year he led an effort to prevent the charter school, Uplift Pinnacle Preparatory from being built across the street.

"They went ahead and built it anyway. Now, we have the hotel sitting there," Fleming points out the criminal activity should not be anywhere near where school children after to pass daily.

While the property owners indicate they have fixed it up, that is not good enough. Williams believes it is just a band-aid on a crime and bug infested problem. He said he received a two-page list of criminal activity at the property. A murder suspect hid there last fall before being arrested, drugs and prostitution are items on the report, which Williams had

to file a Freedom of Information request to receive.

"If it was a person, it would be a penitentiary," Fleming said.

"I was not expecting a reaction," Williams said regarding his remarks at the City Council, "but I got a lot of reaction." He is now scheduled to meet with T.C. Broadnax, the Dallas City Manager and other officials late Friday afternoon.

The planned protest is planned for 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 12 in hopes of gaining more signatures on the petition calling for the motel to be shut down under eminent domain because of the level of criminal activity. He will also share copies of the failed health inspections showing the property is infested with rodents, bed bugs and roaches.

"I remember when it was a decent hotel, Fleming said. "The community deserves better, something first class, something we can actually tell someone to check in to," he added.

## Skinny Obamacare repeal failed, now what?

WASHINGTON, D.C., — American Heart Association CEO Nancy Brown issued the following comments following the failed passage of the Health Care Freedom Act in the U.S. Senate:

"The Senate vote on the skinny repeal bill made it apparent that many lawmakers shared our apprehensions regarding this legislation, particularly when it came to ensuring access and coverage for Americans with pre-existing health conditions.

But at the same time, too many Americans, including those with cardiovascular disease and stroke, continue to worry about how they will pay for their health care.

In the aftermath, we appeal to Congress and the administration to work together in a bipartisan fashion to find solutions that can unite our country in the shared goal of providing high quality health care for all Americans. Any next steps must first include an effort by Congress to ad-

dress the current instability in the individual insurance market and to make a commitment to support the cost-sharing reductions in addition to other short-term measures. Secondly, we encourage Congress to examine the important issue of affordability in an open and transparent manner using the legislative process to solicit input and engage all stakeholders in committee hearings and public dialogue. Obviously, the behind-closed-doors approach

to the complex problems facing the nation's health care system was not successful in the Senate. We believe a return to 'regular order' and bipartisanship is far more likely to yield the sustainable outcomes the American people want and deserve from our elected officials.

The association stands ready to bring our experience and our knowledge of patient challenges and priorities to both these efforts in the coming weeks."

# Dallas area community partners help prepare children for back to school

By Ruth Ferguson  
NDG Editor

All of us remember the excitement of the first day of school. The night before you could barely sleep as you agonized over what outfit you would wear. You dreamed of all the new friends you would make, the fun extra curricular organizations you would join and so much more.

In those days school supplies seemed a lot simpler, the biggest decision was what Trapper Keeper you would pick out, the color of your folders and if you could get one of the cool pens. Now, back to school fashion is at an entirely new level and even when dis-



Children and their parents not only received school supplies but books to read donated by Half Price Books and distributed at the Mayor's Back to School Fair by volunteers from the Dallas Chapter of Jack and Jill. (Image via Facebook Jack & Jill/Kim Cooks)

tricts mandated uniforms, it appeared to just up the game on the accessories. Back to school supplies now come with items requiring charger cords and the backpacks are far more expensive. If your

parents cannot afford these things, it can dim the excitement of returning students.

The 21st Annual Dallas Mayor's Back to School Fair on Aug. 4 provided hundreds of children and the

families an opportunity to receive back packs and much more. The event held in partnership with Walmart and Sam's club featured a partnership between the City of Dallas, state agencies, non-profit organizations and plenty of volunteers.

One of the non-profit partners included the Dallas Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., according to Kim Cooks, a member of Jack and Jill, but who this year also had the privilege of serving as Chair of the Mayor's Back to School Fair. She described Jack and Jill of America as, "a mothers organization which focuses on making sure our children have excellent so-

cial and cultural values. We believe in giving back to the community and making future leaders."

For this event, the Jack and Jill volunteers manned the booth filled with books donated by Half Price Books. The books were provided to the students to help encourage a love of reading. Parents even had an opportunity to select books so they could read at their own leisure. Children who see their parents enjoy reading are often more likely to become lifelong readers themselves.

However, with the rising poverty rate throughout DFW, the need to help children to get school uniforms, school supplies, health

checkups and backpacks are greater than can be provided in a single day. Each year, more business, faith and community organizations are beginning to donate time, money and supplies to help the children throughout the community.

Pollo Campero, the popular restaurant featuring fried and grilled chicken recipes, offered Irving elementary school students a leg up as they head back to school. On Monday, Aug. 7, Pollo Campero provided the first 100 Irving ISD elementary school students to arrive at the Irving Pollo Campero a free backpack filled with school supplies and a coupon for a free Pollito kids meal.

# DCCCD respiratory care students learn how to help patients breathe easy

Breathe easy!

Those instructions may sound simple unless you suffer from chronic bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma, emphysema or other maladies that restrict the lungs.

Respiratory therapists can help when inhaling and exhaling become difficult. They assess, monitor and assist patients who are coping with lung and breathing disorders, and they also treat patients with diseases a range of ailments like asthma, lung cancer COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder) and emphysema.

El Centro College, part of the Dallas County Community College District, offers a program which leads to an associate in applied sciences degree in respiratory care and puts students on a fast career path. After they complete their prerequisites, students take classes in the program's curriculum which they complete in 13 months. El Centro is the only DCCCD college where students can learn and earn a credential in that field.

Addison Pitts said she considered other medical fields but decided on respiratory care because of the potential for long-term employment.

"I always wanted to do



something in the medical field," said Pitts, who received her associate degree in applied science this June. "With this (credential) I get to interact with patients. I like the diversity that respiratory therapy provides. My patients can be 26 weeks old or 80."

Pitts is the rare community college student who already had earned a bachelor's degree. She is preparing to take the mandated test for respiratory care, and she likes the option of possibly working at a hospital or at a clinic. "As a single mom, I have to find something that has job security and a shift that allows me to be home with my child," said Pitts, who has a 4-year-old daughter.

Like Pitts, Renata Rampersad also has a four-year-degree; she earned her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of North

Texas, but finding a career in her field proved impossible.

"I couldn't get hired because I didn't have experience, and I couldn't get experience because they wouldn't hire me," Rampersad said. She previously worked as a records assistant for a home health care business – a field that did not involve treating and evaluating patients.

"I just started researching different program, and I was so happy to find this one," said Rampersad, adding that she like the accelerated pace of El Centro's respiratory care program.

Respiratory therapists are vital to any medical team

DCCCD students attend lectures and then hone their skills in the college's simulated nursing lab, said Jennifer De La Garza, clinical coordinator and faculty member at El Centro.

Students simulate pulmonary function testing, ventilation and airway management. They learn how to measure lung compliance and airway resistance and also how to diagnose ailments. This career field is evolving because therapists perform more complex therapies than administering oxygen and giving treatments, she said.

DCCCD's competency-based respiratory care program requires students to demonstrate that they have mastered these and other techniques, which instills confidence in the patients as well as the medical staff.

"The way our program works is that we teach our students a clinical skill, and they must show us they are competent. There's a lot of practicing and feedback in the labs. We monitor them closely to make sure they are safe and efficient in the required skills," De La Garza said.

The program stresses the importance of patient safety. Most students who are attracted to this field come with empathy, she added.

"Our program coordinator, Chandi Idicula, likes to tell students 'if you can't breathe, nothing else matters,' yet we take it for granted unless we have some

compromising illness or accident that limits our ability to achieve this most basic human function," De La Garza said. "Students who are very serious about this (field) want to help their patients breathe easy."

Respiratory health care services are required in all areas of medical care, and employers are looking for eager workers who want to expand their knowledge and expertise, De La Garza stated. DCCCD students are also trained at five area Dallas hospitals, which is helpful, too.

"Employers know our students, and they know what they can do. Dedicated, hard-working students will likely get a job in the field," said De La Garza, who began teaching at El Centro in 2008. "The demand is high and El Centro is known for how well it trains its students. Our students enter the program with their prerequisites. We give them the attention and time they need."

Although most respiratory therapists work in hospitals, they also find work at sleep disorder centers, in home care, at neonatal units and at the side emergency physicians who treat patients suffering from ailments such as heart attacks and near drownings.

"We cover patients from the cradle to the grave," De La Garza said. "The inability to breathe can be frightening for anyone."

Rampersad said she jumped at the chance to enter a field that allows direct patient contact. She knows that certain maladies and conditions can make breathing labored and hopes to bring a caring demeanor.

"I always wanted to help people," she said. "Our job is to take care of our patients and to remain positive and caring. I always watched medical shows, so I looked for a medical program that was hands-on. There are other respiratory schools, but this one suited my needs."

Most students are attracted to the long-term job potential and livable wage available to respiratory therapists. The average annual salary for respiratory therapists is \$58,670, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The job outlook is promising and projected to grow about 12 percent over the next seven years.

For more information about El Centro's respiratory therapy program, call Jennifer De La Garza at 972-860-5072 or send an email to her at [jdelaGarza@dcccd.edu](mailto:jdelaGarza@dcccd.edu).

## Astronauts, authors and exhibits land at Plano Library

Children heading back to school may slow things down at home, but at the library things are just getting started.

This fall space explorer Anousheh Ansari will share her experiences in space and her journey to becoming an engineer, entrepreneur and first astronaut of Iranian descent.

Best-selling authors Alice Hoffman (*The Rules of Magic*) and Roseanne Montillo (*Fire on the Track*) will talk about their new novels.

Two exhibits celebrating Hispanic heritage from Humanities Texas will be on display. The exhibits pro-

vide insight into the life of César Chávez and Latino



Literature in the United States

Plano Public Library is a center for emerging tech-

nology and the cultivation of ideas. Immerse yourself in emerging technology at the Plano Libraries every day and come to special events during Power Up at Your Library the first week in October. Ideas Powered – It's What We Do!

Of course, the library is also always full of great books to read covering everything under the sun, if the library doesn't have it on its shelf, we can get it through our many library partners.

Flip through the pages of *Engage* and learn about more programs and classes; all free at the library!

## Second annual Grow-a-Reader Day held Saturday in Frisco

The Frisco Public Library's second annual Grow-a-Reader Day will help participants learn how to plant the seeds of successful early literacy education. The event, on Sat., Aug. 12 from 9 am–5 pm offers participants the chance to earn up to six hours of Continuing Professional Education Credit (CPE) at no charge.

A panel of experts will lead seminars on important subjects that today's parents and educators deal with daily:

- Methods to prepare kids for kindergarten
- Tools to help children who have sensory issues

• Resources and connections for young children who have special needs

• Ways to promote conscious discipline in schools

• Approaches to link literacy to science

Parents, caregivers, and early learning professionals will gain tools and techniques to help their children and students sprout into kids who are ready to thrive and succeed.

"It's an honor to, once again, provide this resource to our community's teachers, parents, and caregivers of young children," said Bonnie Barber, early literacy librarian. "This year's speakers have a

wealth of expertise to share with those who are shaping young minds during a crucial stage of their development."

The event coordinator has assembled a team of presenters who will share techniques and resources designed to help the smallest learners blossom and achieve their biggest dreams.

Attendees are welcome to attend some or all of the seminars. The event is free and registration is not required. Find more information about presenters and topics covered at [friscolibrary.com/earlyliteracyday](http://friscolibrary.com/earlyliteracyday).

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**DALLAS  
Chocolate Festival  
Main Event**

Come spend the day enjoying the Greatest Chocolate in Dallas on Sept. 9. Five dozen exhibitors will be sampling and selling all types of chocolate treats: from single source bars to beautiful bon bons and lots of baked goods in between. There will be demos, discussion panels, a kids area, food trucks, free parking, and more. More info at [www.dallaschocolate.org](http://www.dallaschocolate.org).



available now through Friday, Aug. 25. Links to the survey are available on the Resident Surveys page of [cityoflewisville.com](http://cityoflewisville.com), the city's Facebook page, Twitter, Nextdoor, and in the Horizon e-newsletter.

Taking part in the survey will help the city see how residents feel about current and potential city services, identify areas where additional attention might be needed, and strive to continually improve services provided

**CARROLLTON  
Today's Drug Trends –  
Staying One Step Ahead  
of Your Children**

This event is for Elementary, Middle & High School Parents. This presentation is NOT for students. It is scheduled for Sept. 26 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Jill Darling is the presenter, the program will be offered in English and Spanish. Child-care for children 3 years old and younger is available. For more info email Bridget Basel ([baselb@cfbisd.edu](mailto:baselb@cfbisd.edu)).

**DESOTO  
Community Security  
Camera Program**

This is a voluntary crime prevention program. By providing the video to the DeSoto Police Department, an opportunity for the residents to help keep the community safe. The information your video captures may contain information that could help solve a crime, and apprehend a criminal. For more info call 469-658-3021.

**LEWISVILLE  
2017 Resident  
Satisfaction Survey**

Lewisville residents are encouraged to participate in an online survey that will be used to assess the effectiveness of current programs and the level of public demand for potential new or revised programs.

The online survey is

excellence, innovation and leadership.

The city is evaluated and scored on innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity and leadership attributes of the procurement function.

McKinney is one of only 50 agencies in Texas and one of only 68 cities in the United States and Canada to receive the award. The AEP is awarded annually and has the distinction of being sponsored by every major

procurement association in the nation.

"This award is a reflection of the city's commitment to excellence through the purchasing and procurement function," said Trudy Mathis, Director of Finance. "Our purchasing staff strives to continuously improve performance outcomes and procurement functions to better serve our customers, contractors, and other stakeholders."

**BACK 2  
SCHOOL**

Several more events are planned before everyone heads back to class. They include:

**MLK Back to School Fest** – The Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center at 2922 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd in Dallas is hosting their event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 25. Students will receive free school supplies, backpacks, uniforms and hair cuts.

**Back to School, Supply Carnival** – Emanuel Community Center and Emanuel Lutheran Church and Iglesia Luterana Emanuel in Dallas are partnering to distribute a school supply give away for 400 school children on Saturday, Aug. 12 at Emanuel Community Center located at 4311 San Jacinto St.

**Back to School Celebration** – The City of Dallas Multipurpose Center at 2828 FishTrap Road in Dallas will provide free school supplies, immunizations, and haircuts from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Shoe Giveaway** – Oak Gardens Church at 4008 S. Polk Street in Dallas is giving away shoes while



100 Irving school children on Aug. 7 received a free backpack filled with supplies and a coupon for a free meal from Pollo Campero. (Courtesy image)

supplies last on Saturday, Aug. 12 from 8 a.m. until Noon.

**5th Annual Backpacks 4 Brainiacs** – Hip Hop 4 Hope has partnered with Operation Community Care to present the 5th Annual Backpacks 4 Brainiacs Back to School Supply Rally and Concert at Southwest Center Mall (Redbird) at 3662 West Camp Wisdom Road on Saturday, Aug. 12 from Noon to 4 p.m.

Anyone with information regarding other back to school events planned, please email [editor@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:editor@northdallasgazette.com) and this list will be updated online.



**MetroPCS offering  
free school supplies  
throughout August**

MetroPCS will offer free school supplies at 32 of their participating locations during scheduled throughout August. DFW-area families are invited to stop by the local events to pick up free cinch sacks filled with school supplies (limit 2 per adult) while supplies last. Each school supply kit will include a backpack, pencil bag, standard ruler, pencils, pens, glue stick, eraser, folder, crayons, and a spiral notebook.

"In our continued effort to impact the DFW community, we are excited to support our youth with new school supplies for the upcoming school year," said Peter Slater, Director of field marketing, North Central Region, MetroPCS "Education is so important to our children and to our community, MetroPCS prides itself on giving back. We are grateful we have a chance to help families start the school year off prepared with new school supplies for their children."

MetroPCS is committed to helping children in the DFW area before, during and after the school bell rings. In addition to the school supply giveaway, the company is donating \$1 to the nonprofit group, After-School All-Stars of North Texas, for every ac-

tivation in one of their stores during the month of August.

After-School All-Stars North Texas is committed to providing comprehensive after-school programs that keep children safe and help them succeed in school and life. The program serves more than 450 students across five schools in Dallas County and strives to make sure participants are safe and healthy, graduate from high school and continue to college so that they may find a career they love and give back to the community.

**Friday, Aug. 11** from 5-7 p.m. at 9247 Skillman, Suite 103, Dallas, Tx 75243

**Saturday, Aug. 12** from 2-4 p.m. at 1101 N. Carrier Pkwy., Suite 111, Grand Prairie, Tx 75050

Saturday, Aug. 12 from 4-6 p.m. at 1900 14th Street, Plano, Tx 75074

**Sunday, Aug. 13** from 2-4 p.m. at 2000 E. Pioneer Pkwy., Suite 500, Arlington, Tx 76010

**Sunday, Aug. 13** from 11 a.m. to 1p.m. at 900 W. Rosedale, Suite B, Ft. Worth, Tx 76104

**Thursday, Aug. 17** from 5-7 p.m. at 601 N. Saginaw, Suite 160, Saginaw, Tx 76179

Visit [northdallasgazette.com](http://northdallasgazette.com) for a complete list of additional dates and times.



# NDG Film Review: *Detroit* looks at one hot night in 1967

By Margaret Freelon  
NDG Special Contributor

The back drop for the movie *Detroit* is a hot summer night in a northern city where many blacks family have fled to escape the discrimination and segregation of the Deep South. Meanwhile, the great northern migration of blacks from the rural south as they seek to find work and a better way of life in the thriving auto industry in the Motor City, Mo-town – Detroit. A southern exodus fueled by relatives and friends returning to the south sharing the



John Boyega is a local security guard caught in the crossfire. (Courtesy photo)

good news about how great they have in up north. Now what is not being shared with their southern relatives is the truth that job discrimination, residential segregation

and heavy-handed law enforcement is still part of their world in the north.

Back to the movie, in the summer of 1967, rioting and civil unrest start to tear apart

the city of Detroit after decades of discrimination and segregation. In the movie *Detroit* we see America under the leadership of President Lyndon B. Johnson begun to wage war on the black citizens of Detroit. Two days later, a report of gunshots prompts the Detroit Police Department, the Michigan State Police and the Michigan Army National Guard to search and seize an annex of the nearby Algiers Motel. Several policemen start to flout procedure by forcefully and viciously interrogating guests to get a confession. By the

end of the night, three unarmed men were gunned down while several others are brutally beaten. This is a story about that night and that night alone.

The movie does a great job with transporting you back to 1967 visually. It also does a great job with getting you to feel every infuriating action from how a commanding police officer let a suspected murderer back on the streets, how the Michigan Army National Guards just looked the other way when they knew something was happening that should not be happening,

how the police roped an innocent black security guard into what happened that night at the Algiers Motel and finally the acquittal of the guilty police officers.

The movie, directed by Oscar winner Kathryn Bigelow and starring John Boyega best known for his breakout role as Finn in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* does not deal with why the Detroit 1967 riots happen or offer a path to social redemption.

The sad reality of Detroit is the realization of how very little has actually changed in 50 years.

## Deferred Action tour launches at SMU with Cara Mia Theater

SMU Meadows School of the Arts' Ignite/Arts Dallas initiative and the Cara Mia Theatre Co. are co-presenting a touring version of *Deferred Action*, the acclaimed play about immigration originally produced and premiered at Dallas Theater Center in 2016. The play will launch its tour in North Texas with four performances at the Meadows School's Bob Hope Theatre, September 14-17, followed by appearances at the University of North Texas in Denton, the Latino Cultural Center in Dallas, Talento Bilingüe de Houston in Houston and the Encuentro de las Americas International Theatre Festival in Los Angeles. The touring production, the first ever undertaken by Cara Mia, was commissioned by Ignite/Arts Dallas and is sponsored by the Dallas-based Latino Center for Leadership Development.

The play's central character is Javier Mejía, one of the immigrants known as DREAMers who arrived in the U.S. as an undocumented minor. Now, after years in the States, he finds himself caught in the tangle of existing immigration laws, new presidential poli-



Karen Almond (2)

cies and the harsh reality of living in the shadows. Javier hopes that temporary administrative mechanisms like *Deferred Action* will be the answer to his dilemma. But will hope be snatched away? Can politicians who say they are the Dreamers' friends be trusted? *Deferred Action* follows the lives of those who dare to dream and the loopholes and dangers they face. The play was written by David Lozano, Cara Mia executive artistic director, and Lee Trull, Dallas Theater Center director of new play development. It will be directed by Lozano and feature Cara Mia actors and other local and national professional performers.

In addition, on Saturday, Sept. 16 at 4:30 p.m., a free Community Conversation event will be held in the

mentary meal provided by Chipotle. Admission to the Community Conversation is free and no reservations are required.

Presenting touring works is one of the goals of Ignite/Arts Dallas, which launched at SMU Meadows in 2015 to integrate artistic practice and community engagement involving SMU, Dallas and the arts field at large.

local group of artists aligns with our goals to amplify work emerging from Dallas, which is increasingly being recognized as a vibrant cultural hub in its own right."

At every step of the tour, Cara Mia Theatre will partner with the North Texas Dream Team (a nonprofit led by immigrant youth) and other local partners on community action programs to engage on issues sur-

live here?

With this touring production, we hope to simultaneously provoke audiences through live theatre and inspire greater dialogue, understanding and civic action in partnership with regional collaborators. We are grateful to Ignite/Arts Dallas for making it possible."

*Deferred Action* will be presented at the Bob Hope Theatre in the Meadows School's Owen Arts Center, 6101 Bishop Blvd. on the SMU campus. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 14-16, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$8 for SMU students, faculty and staff, and are available online at [caramiatheatre.org](http://caramiatheatre.org); tickets will also be available through the Cara Mia box office in the Hope Theatre lobby one hour before each performance.

The show contains mature themes that include the use of drugs and theatrical semi-automatic gunshots, and strong language in both English and Spanish. For tickets and more information, contact Cara Mia Theatre at 214-516-0706 or [info@caramiatheatre.org](mailto:info@caramiatheatre.org).



Bob Hope Theatre to discuss issues raised in the play. The event will feature a panel and open discussion with members of Cara Mia Theatre about the lives of DREAMers, immigration reform, and current national, state and local policies surrounding undocumented immigrants.

Attendees are invited to stay afterward for a compli-

"Under the leadership of David Lozano and Ariana Cook, Cara Mia has grown significantly as a local theater company over the last five years," said Clyde Valentín, Ignite/Arts Dallas director. "This production of *Deferred Action* offers the company a unique chance to share their work across Texas and the country. Creating this opportunity for a

rounding the DREAM Act, immigration reform and Latinos in politics.

"My original vision for Cara Mia Theatre was to work with a core ensemble and create new plays that speak to the here and now of our city," said director Lozano. "Who else could create necessary theatre for our immediate community other than the artists who

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Ticket Giveaway**

**NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Follow North Dallas Gazette on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to keep up on all the latest!!!**

# NDG Book Review: *The Fallen* will keep your book club talking

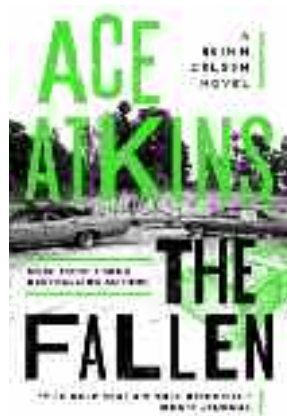
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

People talk.

Yammer, yammer, yammer, that's how it is. A shred of story starts and it doesn't go far before it's blown up to big proportions and even bigger half-truths. And yet, people talk – but in the new novel, "The Fallen" by Ace Atkins, what they're saying isn't quite enough.

Ninety seconds.

That's all the time Rick Wilcox allowed for a bank robbery. He and his soldier, Opie, donned rubber masks, entered the bank, shot a few bullets, and took whatever armored-car deposit they knew had just been made.



In ninety seconds or less, they were out the door and into whatever vehicle Sgt. Jonas Cord had stolen. Gone, until the next time, in the next town.

Tibbehah County, Mississippi, Sheriff Quinn Col-

son hadn't heard about the robberies until they hit his hometown of Jericho, but he had to hand it to the thieves: they were as clever as they were quick. Their latest heist, the one at Jericho First National Bank, wasn't going to be their last; of that, Quinn was certain. These guys reminded him of his time in the military. They sure operated like Rangers.

But although the robbery happened in Tibbehah County, it wasn't so much Quinn's problem as it was for the Feds. Quinn's issues were a little more home-grown: petty theft, drunkenness, and trying to shut

down the local strip club on orders from the new leader of local government. The owner of Vienna's Place, Fanny Hathcock, was about to tangle with the wrong official, and she likely didn't even realize it.

But Fanny Hathcock was no pushover. With flamed hair, low-cut dresses, and velvet pumps, her specialties included money-laundering, prostitution, and providing girls for other operations up and down the South.

She was well aware of where the power lay in the Mid-South: she had contacts from Florida to Memphis to New Orleans,

in and out of prison. That was all going to make Fanny Hathcock very rich and very happy.

And if she could find Jonas Cord another place to rob, well, that was even better...

After you come home from fetching "The Fallen," here's what you do: grab your planner and "X" out the next three or four days. You've got an appointment with a book, and that's all you'll have time for.

Author Ace Atkins makes it easy to get lost down a dirt road in Quinn Colson's world, but readers would be well-advised to keep their eyes open out there. There's

more than one surprise in this story, and plenty of properly cringe-worthy deaths as Atkins let loose with good folks, the expected bad guys, and one hilariously-named contact – but beware: between good and evil, the line can be blurred. That's where this novel, lightly complex and filled with loose threads, will keep those eyes open well after bedtime.

Though this is the next installment in a series, you'll catch up quick if "The Fallen" is your first foray to Tibbehah County. If you've been there before, invite your book club. This'll make them talk.

## WaterTower Theatre set to host its annual Community Cast Party

WaterTower Theatre is excited to be continuing one of the most talked about and anticipated traditions, the Community Cast Party.

CCP Co-Chairs Stan Graner, Corky Pledger, Deborah Staggs and Maureen Anderson announced details for the 4th Annual Community Cast Party.

The party will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9, at WaterTower's home, the Addison Theatre Centre from 7 pm to 10 pm.

The Community Cast Party is designed to attract a wide audience of patrons, partiers, and food lovers who are interested in supporting WaterTower Theatre while enjoying an evening of entertainment with cuisine offered from

many fine local restaurants. Attendees will have a unique opportunity to mix and mingle with artists from the DFW theatre community at the "open house" style event, where everyone is welcome.

WaterTower Theatre has a lot to celebrate this year and we hope you'll join us for the 4th Annual Community Cast Party.

The entertainment for this year's party will feature the NY Goofs, Danielle Georgiou Dance Group (DGDG), and a musical theatre ensemble including Monique Abry, Justin Duncan, Kyle Igneczi, Laura Lites, and Calvin Scott Roberts under the musical direction of Pam Holcomb-McLain.

The Community Cast Party will also feature a raffle ticket with prizes ranging from a luxury Addison staycation at the Marriott Presidential Suite, a pamper package from Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa, and a brand new Apple iPad!

With tickets sold for only \$1 each, we make it easy to win! Individual tickets will be available on the night of the event, and bulk tickets will be presold in batches of 10, 25, and 50 online.

WaterTower Theatre is proud to feature a wide variety of restaurant offerings every year at CCP. In a rich culinary area such as Addison, WTT has had the pleasure of hosting many

foodie favorites such as Mesero, Ida Claire, and BJ's Brewhouse.

Tickets are \$25 per person. Underwriting levels are available from \$100 to

\$2500.

Tickets are on sale now and are available online at the WaterTower Theatre website, over the phone by calling 972-450-6232, or in-

person at the WaterTower Theatre Box Office located at the Addison Theatre Centre: 15650 Addison Road, Addison, Texas 75001.

## HART, continued from Page 2

Hart, but Facebook and YouTube are key partners in the rollout of Laugh Out Loud. With Hart's built in social media clout, he has, and the success of his book release in June just strengthened his position as a hot commodity, someone fans will support with their wallet in whatever endeavor he embarks on.

Laugh Out Loud is a platform for comedians thriving online to take their game to the next level. Through the showcases at the comedy

festivals around the country, finding the next Chris Rock or Kevin Hart might be easier. With all of these initiatives, it appears Hart is taking a page out of Jay-Z and Sean Combs book (is that the name he is going by these days?) to build a comedy empire.

So for all of us (again was it just me?) who ridiculed Snoop Dog, D.L. Hughley, Monique, and others for what we considered the disaster known as Soul Plane in 2004, it actually was a

key stepping stone for Kevin Hart. Thirteen years later, it looks like Hart is enjoying the last laugh.

The Laugh Out Loud app is available for free for iOS and Android users, with an option to pay \$2.99 monthly for the privilege of skipping the ads.

Meanwhile, enjoy the first episode of Kevin Hart: Lyft Legend – Episode 1, which just for the record does deliver the laughs, but it is not a kid-friendly short. New episodes are released via the app every Friday.

## Thurgood Marshall College Fund deepens corporate diversity recruitment

By Johnny C. Taylor, Jr.  
President & CEO, TMCF

While “Diversity” is not a new term for the business world, it appears to be experiencing a resurgence of sorts lately. Every major corporation seems to be looking for employees from underrepresented groups — some, because they think these diverse perspectives will improve their corporate culture and make them better corporate citizens, while others believe it is simply “smart business” as they vie for future customers in an increasingly diverse country. But in all of their attempts to make progress, when it comes to recruiting future executives from America’s colleges, most employers continue to source their talent from the “usual suspects” — the same group of select colleges we all know — effectively ignoring deep pools of talented students attending other lesser-known or ranked schools.

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF), has designed a solution for employers seeking highly-talented diverse college graduates. We work with our corporate partners to identify,

develop and deploy diverse talent, tapping into pools of talent found on the campuses of our 47 publicly-supported Historically Black College and Universities (HBCUs). Through this process, TMCF builds targeted, sustainable and diverse talent pipelines from HBCUs into corporate America and other major employers.

Indeed, according to the National Science Foundation (NSF), of the top 25 undergraduate institutions whose graduates went on to complete STEM doctorates (2,280), 12 HBCUs out-produced prestigious institutions (“the usual suspects”) by 64 percent, and 30 percent of African American STEM doctoral recipients were HBCU undergraduates. For the past 30 years, TMCF has built deep relationships with our member-schools, which allows us to efficiently find and develop the right students for specific positions.

TMCF uses predictive analytics to ensure that qualified talent have both the knowledge, acculturation, and other “soft skills” for them to be successful in a given partner’s workplace

culture. Next, we develop those students through a variety of school-to-work professional and career development interventions. Finally, once our talent begins work with our partners as either full-time employees or interns, we monitor and provide additional support to ensure they transition properly. As a result, more than 80 national and global corporations and government agencies partner with TMCF to identify, develop and deploy diverse talent for specific positions and functions.

Through our solutions-focused programs, TMCF is partnering with leading technology companies to help address that industry’s diversity gap. Together with our partners TMCF has created both short- and long-tailed initiatives to build sustainable pipelines of diverse talent over time. Iconic American employers like Wells Fargo, Walmart, The Hershey Company and The Kellogg Company as well as mission-critical federal agencies like the Department of Defense (DOD) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) all partner with TMCF to identify and

develop diverse talent for their companies’ needs, and they overwhelmingly report satisfaction with the results.

As an extension of our talent development competency, we have recently joined the newly announced CEO Action for Diversity & Inclusion™, a coalition of corporate CEOs joining efforts to address the challenge of creating diverse workforces. TMCF offers both expertise and a deep pool of talent to help coalition members succeed in their targeted recruitment and development of diverse talent. With CEOs taking leadership roles to increase diversity in executive-track careers, TMCF is encouraged that executive-track workforces will become diverse over time.

As an organization that partners with businesses to create pipelines of diverse talent, we understand that addressing diversity over the long run requires sustained commitment and support,

and TMCF is uniquely positioned to work with corporations to efficiently move beyond the “usual suspects” to engage a deeper pool of talent because America’s HBCUs can be part of the solution.

Johnny C. Taylor, Jr. is the President & CEO of Thur-

good Marshall College Fund (TMCF), the largest organization exclusively representing the Black College Community. Prior to joining TMCF, he spent many years as a successful corporate executive and attorney. Follow him on Twitter at @JohnnyCTaylorJr.

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

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



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

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

## President Obama’s policies still drive economic growth

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

In May of 2017, the Black unemployment rate hit its lowest level in 17 years: 7.5 percent. Then, in June, the jobless rate for Blacks fell to 7.1 percent, before rising to 7.4 percent in July, according to the latest jobs report.

The jobs numbers over the last six months have generally been impressive. It’s fascinating to note that, suddenly, all the accusations that low jobs numbers were “fake” when President Barack Obama was in office have suddenly vanished.

The Black unemployment rate hit 16.7 percent in Sep-

tember 2011—the highest Black unemployment since Ronald Reagan was in office pushing “trickle down” economics. Overall, the Black unemployment numbers were higher, on average, under President Obama than President George W. Bush or President Bill Clinton.

The 30 year-high for Black joblessness in late 2011 prompted members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to embark on an August 2011 jobs tour. That same year, President Obama barked at members of the CBC at their annual gala to “put on your marching shoes ... and stop whining and complaining.”

The Black unemployment rate, in general, was lower under President George W. Bush than it was under President Obama. Economists agree that the high jobless numbers, under President Obama, were largely driven by the economic downturn known as the Great Recession. Now, Obama’s economic policies are continuing to bear fruit during Trump’s first six months as the Black jobless numbers improve.

Black unemployment still remains double than it is for Whites. July’s numbers showed Black unemployment at 7.4 percent, Hispan-

See HENRY, Page 11



## Ed Bell Construction Company

An Equal Opportunity Employer

August 1, 2017

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:

- Laborer
- Paving Machine Operator
- Form Setter (Paving)
- Field Mechanic
- Shop Mechanic
- CDL Driver (Water Truck) (Haul Truck)

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](http://www.edbellconstruction.com/careers) Or email your resume to: [careers@edbellconstruction.com](mailto:careers@edbellconstruction.com)**

# Macy's hiring for the holiday season at several DFW locations

Macy's has announced the company's plans to hire associates in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to provide service to its customers during the busy back-to-school and fall fashion shopping seasons and beyond. Macy's will host special hiring events in most of its stores

throughout the area on Saturday, Aug. 12.

Job candidates may visit these Macy's stores in the Dallas-Fort Worth area between 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Aug. 12:

"Macy's greatest strength is our talent, including our store associates who are vital

touchpoints for our customers and help shape and enhance their shopping experience," said Jeff Kantor, Macy's, Inc.'s chief stores and human resources officer. "We also strive to create great experiences for our associates as part of the Macy's team."

Macy's associates who work full-time or part-time provide service to customers on the selling floor, serve store operations needs, and also fulfill online orders for customers who buy online or via mobile.

They also receive the Macy's merchandise discount.

Macy's Locations	
Dallas Galleria	Dallas, TX
Fairview	Fairview, TX
Firewheel Town Center	Garland, TX
Golden Triangle	Denton, TX
Irving Mall	Irving, TX
North East Mall	Hurst, TX
NorthPark Center	Dallas, TX
Parks at Arlington	Arlington, TX
Shops at Willow Bend	Plano, TX
Stonebriar Centre	Frisco, TX
Vista Ridge Mall	Lewisville, TX

## OBAMA, continued from Page 11

ics at 5.1 percent and Whites at 3.8.

In 2013, AFL-CIO Chief economist Bill Spriggs wrote: "A big puzzle in looking at the changes in the Black unemployment rate is the fact the Black labor force is older now than during past major downturns in the mid-1970s and early 1980s. In 1975, the Black unemployment rate spiked to 15.4 percent. In 1982 and 1983, the Black unemployment rate skyrocketed to above 20 percent for a nine-month period starting in October 1982."

Several political observers

pointed out that many jobs being added to the U.S. economy are in the service sector, such as restaurants and healthcare.

"Ensuring workers have better jobs and better wages also means they should be trained with the tools they need to succeed in our economy," said Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.) the top Democrat on the Education & Workforce Committee in the House, in a statement on August 4.

The economy added 209,000 jobs in July.

Though the reasons for rising and falling Black un-



employment over the last six months are not clear, it is clear that the current numbers reflect Obama's economic policies; President Donald Trump has yet to im-

plement any economic strategy and his proposed budget won't take effect until next year, at the earliest. Additionally, Congress has passed nothing related to the

### Economic Recovery By the Numbers

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2007	4.0	4.5	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.0
2008	5.0	4.0	5.1	5.0	3.4	5.6	5.8	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.8	7.3
2009	7.8	8.3	8.7	4.0	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.6	9.8	10.0	9.9	9.9
2010	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.6	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.8	9.3
2011	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.1	9.0	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.0	8.8	8.5	8.5
2012	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.9
2013	8.0	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2	6.9	6.7
2014	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.2	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.8
2015	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
2016	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.7
2017	4.0	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.1	4.4	4.1					

The economic crisis which began in 2007/08 reached a peak of unemployment in 2009 as Obama entered office. Today it stands at 4.3 percent with Trump coming in. (Graph by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

economy regarding taxes or jobs.

Lauren Victoria Burke is the White House Correspondent for NNPA and a writer and political analyst. She ap-

pears on NewsOneNow with Roland Martin every Monday.

She can be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke.

## PRESS, continued from Page 1

print advertisements as well as a number of other questions. Unfortunately, he declined to answer. However, the Assistant Press Officer, Kelli Weldon, sent the following response:

"The Health and Human Services Commission is committed to delivering critical information to Texans across the state. The

agency uses multiple platforms to communicate these messages including newspaper, radio, TV and digital advertising. Right now, two current HHSC outreach campaigns are providing advertising dollars to the Texas Publishers Association and its member newspapers to deliver public information to the African-

American community."

Since its inception, the Black press has always held a unique space in the African-American community. The Black press has always acted as the unofficial liaison between the community and mainstream America. Even with the technological advancements and changes in media it remains a fixture in our communities.

"At a time when the cred-

ibility of media is under attack, it is important to note that for people of color, the mainstream media has always lacked credibility. The black press and the ethnic press as a whole have consistently maintained far more credibility in their communities than their mainstream counterparts," Martin Reynolds, a journalist, and co-director of the Maynard Institute for Journalism Edu-

cation.

Why does this statement matter and why is it relevant to the African-American community in Texas as it relates to the Health and Human Services Campaign? Simply put, the services, the information the HHSC is attempting to spread, the awareness it is striving to raise has a much greater chance of permeating the

Black community via a credible source. Even with the huge presence of Blacks on social media sites, the most credible source in the community is Black newspapers. And the reason for this is because those who write for Black newspapers, those who own them come from and are in the midst of the very people whom they target.

## LUNCH, continued from Page 4

Just like you ditched the mayo, skip the bread or tortilla and add a several of the tasty almond flour crackers from Simple Mills. The NDG team scarfed down the Smoky BBQ Cheddar Almond Flour Crackers with the spicy tuna and it was a perfect match. But the lemon pepper tuna with the Cracked Black Pepper Almond Flour Crackers was a great answer on a day too hot to think about cooking.

Of course, fresh fruit is a

great choice, but sometimes it can be a little messy. Natierra Nature's All Foods offers a variety of Organic Freeze Dried options. My preference was the strawberries, but the apples were good too. They are not only good for you, but several of the company's other products are a part of their Feed A Soul Project. Look for specially marked bags with the Buy One Bag Feed One Child logo, to support their Haitian program to feed a

child when bought.

### Thirsty?

Sure water is probably the best thing for your child's lunch box, but admit it that can be a bit boring. It seems the food gods which elevated kale to superfood stardom has designated the Orange Mango as the go to healthy beverage this fall. NDG received no less than three different variations:

True Lemon, a single serve drink mix you can add to your bottled water, is available in ten flavors including True Orange Mango Orange. They have a fruit

flavor to appeal to almost everyone: including True Lime Watermelon Aqua Fesca and True Lime Black Cherry Limeade;

If you prefer organic options try CVS's private label brand Gold Emblem abound Organic Orange Mango juice boxes;

Spindrift offers seven unsweetened sparkling water with real fruit juice flavors to choose from, including Orange Mango.

### Presentation matters!

Sure you go to with the brown paper bag and that would a nice green idea, but

what about what you put in the bag. Instead of buying those disposable plastic sandwich bags, for \$7 get a set of RUSSBE bags. They are environment-friendly, reusable bags in cute colors, adding to their "coolness" factor. Yes, that matters. Another idea is their Bento containers with the cute little utensils.

Another option for snack containers are the Snack Stacks from Re-play. The come in colorful stackable containers which are great for small snacks like nuts, chopped up fruit. Created

from recycled milk jugs, you are doing something good for the environment too.

These days every back to school list includes facial tissue, but Kleenex is stepping up their game and now have something suitable for the lunchbox. The new Multi-Care Tissues are large and strong enough to replace the typical flimsy cafeteria kitchen napkins. Available via Amazon Prime, CVS, Walmart, Walgreens and more. Most likely you can expect to see plenty of coupons to tempt you to try them soon.

# Upcoming DFW area job fairs

## Immediately Raising Cane's looking for enthusiastic crew members

Renowned as one of the "Best Companies To Work For" in communities across the country, Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers is always on the lookout for talented individuals to help foster its most coveted qualities: a cool culture, fast and friendly service and an all-embracing commitment to community involvement.

With two new Dallas-area restaurants rapidly nearing completion, the popular Louisiana-based brand is seeking a total of 145 candidates for several positions at the newest restaurants opening in Dallas on Sept. 5 and Garland on Sept. 7.

"DFW is our biggest market in the nation, but we still have plenty of room to grow," said Nick Titus, Area Director for Raising Cane's. "In addition to assembling two great crews to serve our customers, these new restaurants will give us two additional platforms from which we can work with the schools and other non-profit organizations in both Dallas and Garland."

Interested crewmember candidates are encouraged to apply online at raisingcanesjobs.com (search for West Mockingbird and/or Garland).

The two new Raising Cane's locations are:

- Garland: 1110 East Northwest Highway (hiring now underway)
- Dallas: 2503 W. Mockingbird Lane (hiring begins Aug. 16)

Raising Cane's is renowned for its fresh, never ever frozen chicken fingers, its craveable – some say addictive – secret-recipe Cane's sauce, crinkle-cut fries, coleslaw, Texas toast, freshly brewed sweet tea and fresh-squeezed lemonade.

Founded by Todd Graves in 1996 and named for his yellow Labrador, Raising Cane, the rapidly growing



company recently earned the distinction of being among the Top 5 quick service restaurant chains in the nation for 2016, according to the authoritative Sandelman & Associates Quick-Track study, based on food quality, customer service, cleanliness and other important factors.

When the two restaurants open, there will be 43 Raising Cane's in the DFW Metroplex, 119 in the Lone Star State and more than 335 nationwide.

## Dallas County Schools hiring crossing guards

Dallas County Schools is now hiring crossing guards for 2017-2018. The minimum age to be a crossing guard is 18. Applicants will need to complete a physical, drug screening, and a criminal history background check. Crossing guard shifts are 7 a.m. – 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. on school days. Crossing guards are currently needed for McKamy Elementary and for Sheffield Elementary. For

those interested, please visit [www.dcschools.com](http://www.dcschools.com).

## August 10 Back to Work for Ages 50 Plus

On Aug. 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Eastfield College (3737 Motely Drive S100-S101, Mesquite, TX 75150) Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas and Eastfield College are hosting the Back to Work Ages 50 plus hiring event.

If you are you 50+ and looking to return to the workforce? Or maybe considering a career change? This is the perfect opportunity for you to do either! Please follow the registration process to RSVP at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

Also, make sure to bring plenty of resumes and dress to impress!

## August 19 JOBCON 2017

Job Connect 2017 - A Job Sourcing & Networking Event will take place on Aug. 19 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Showbusiness Studios (350 E Royal Lane # 123, Irving, TX 75039).

What is JOBCON 2017? JOBCON (short for JOB-CONNECT) is a job sourcing and networking event in Dallas-FortWorth this Au-

gust 19th, 2017.

FOR JOBSEEKERS (Free Entry Tickets) Register for the event to network with top companies. If you are actively looking, get to meet your prospects. Come to make connections and grow your career. Get your free meet and greet tickets at [www.jobcon2017.eventbrite.com](http://www.jobcon2017.eventbrite.com).

## August 19 Coast to Coast Career Fair

The Coast to Coast Career Fair will take place on Sept. 11 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Dallas Market Center (2015 Market Center Boulevard, Dallas, TX 75207).

Are you still looking for that golden career opportunity that will allow you to build a solid future for yourself and your family? The Coast to Coast Career Fair might be the solution.



## Attention Suppliers of Goods, Services and Construction

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

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## Equipment Operators Needed ASA in Dallas & Celina!

Martin Marietta is now seeking professional Equipment Operators to operate their mobile equipment and unload rail cars while safely earning top pay.

Must have a valid driver's license. Prefer 1 year of experience operating heavy equipment but willing to train high performing applicants. Must pass drug screen and physical.

Apply online at [www.martinmarietta.com](http://www.martinmarietta.com).

We pay top dollar. Join the safe team at Martin Marietta today!

We are an equal opportunity employer. Women, minorities, veterans and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

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

**NOTICE:** 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](http://www.bethelbiblefellowship.org)

Discover Hope and Help for daily living; and, you don't have to be a member to come. The Connect-2-Reflect (C2R) meetings are held in comfortable and relaxed homes, one in Carrollton and one in Plano, refreshments are served. Call the church for details.

**August 13, 9:45 a.m.**

You're invited to our Sunday "Prayer and Meditation" at 9:45 am. You will be blessed and inspired. You don't want to miss this! And, join us in our one hour only Sunday's Bible Study at 12 Noon, continuing on the book of Revelation.

**August 16, 7 p.m.**

Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Pastor Brenda Patterson, Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner and others conducting a new study on the book of Revelation. Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you; it's Time to Grow in the Word of God.

Dr. Terrance Woodson, Senior Pastor  
1944 E. Hebron Parkway  
Carrollton, TX 75007  
972-492-4300  
[www.bethelbiblefellowship.org](http://www.bethelbiblefellowship.org)

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

**August 13, 8 a.m.**

Join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall; followed by our Sunday Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

**August 16**

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study 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.

**August 20**

Today is the end of our 70 Day Challenge in seven stages of development by praying daily; reading the book of the quarter, "Chase the Lion" by Mark Batterson; preparing a household budget for the summer; exercising at least three days a week; a Spiritual Workout on a Sunday, Wednesday or Saturday; Tithing the Bible Way; and learning how to forgive.  
Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D. Senior Pastor  
1609 14th Street  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-379-3287  
[www.theship3c.org](http://www.theship3c.org)

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

**August 13, 10 a.m.**

You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship,

honor and magnify God's Holy name in songs and the spoken word.

**August 14, 7 p.m.**

Join us in Monday School as we grow in God's Word; learn what God has to say to us.

**August 18, 7 p.m.**

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

Pastor Rickie Rush  
7701 S Westmoreland Road  
Dallas, TX 75237  
972-372-4262  
[www.Ibocchurch.org](http://www.Ibocchurch.org)

**MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP) (Uniting the Body of Christ Among Nations)**

**August 13, 10 a.m.**

Join us for Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory; and don't forget to

comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

**August 16, 7 p.m.**

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.

Pastor Sam Fenceroy Senior Pastor and Pastor Gloria Fenceroy  
300 Chisholm Place  
Plano, TX 75075  
972-633-5511  
[www.mocop.org](http://www.mocop.org)

**SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)**

Come and connect to God through Shiloh; grow in Christ through the study of God's Word; and Serve God through service to each other and to the world. John 12:26.

**August 13, 8 a.m.**

**And 11 a.m.**

Join us for our annual Friends & Family Day; you will enjoy the fellowship, fun and food during the 8 a.m. and in the 11 a.m. Worship Services.

**August 16, 7 p.m.**

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and growth; it's all for His glory and His honor. We are, "Growing in Christ through the study of His Word."

**August 19, 9 a.m.**

**to 12 p.m. only**

SMBC's Back-To-School Summit will be held. All school age youth and their parents are invited to attend.

**September 4**

SMBC Bible Institute will start; call the church for details on class listings and online registration.

Our church ministries offer opportunities for motivation and growth; join us and see. Be blessed of the Lord.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr. Senior Pastor  
920 E. 14th Street  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-6695  
[www.smbcplano.org](http://www.smbcplano.org)



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300 Chisholm Pl. Plano, TX 75075 972-633-5511

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- Sunday Service 10:00 am
- Wednesday Night Service 7:00 pm

Pastor Sam Fenceroy  
Pastor Gloria Fenceroy

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Mon.-Fri. 5:25pm- 5:30pm  
KQGR 1040 AM

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**Opportunity You Can Measure...**

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**Special Rate \$199**

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Ad size - 4.905"x 6"(Quarter Page, B&W)  
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Production disclaimer - NDG ad meake-ready is not included in promotion. Layout/production of "copy ready" ad will be a nominal extra cost.

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[Marketing@NorthDallasGazette.com](mailto:Marketing@NorthDallasGazette.com)  
or call our Marketing Department today!

**972-509-9049**



**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](mailto:religion@northdallasgazette.com)**

# Having eyes for one



**Sister Tarpley**

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

"Then they were willing to take Him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading." - John 6:21

The disciples were traveling across the lake to Capernaum when a strong wind arose and the waters grew rough. Suddenly they saw a figure on the water, and they were terrified until Jesus called out to them and identified Himself

Isn't that the first thing we do when unexpected calamities or even something that we have never experienced before comes into our life? We panic until we can see that God is behind these events in our lives.

In Romans, Paul tells us that, "from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen." Romans 11:36.

God has an eternal filter in which nothing can touch us unless He permits it. Even Satan must have permission to touch us. And, God may even use Satan for His own ends, as in the case

of Job.

God shows us a second principle in this story. The Scriptures say when the disciples were willing to take Jesus into the boat, they reached the shore where they were heading.

Christians can be faced with some very difficult circumstances in their lives and they cannot see an immediate remedy to the situation.

The circumstances can create fear in their heart. The anxiety can begin to grow until, one day the Lord has to say, "How long do you want to keep your eyes on the circumstances instead of Me?"

Do you think I have brought you this far to throw you into the water?" The truth can be that halfway the Christians already their eyes are looking at the "big waves" surrounding their boat.

One day stop and think about two people walking from the room. One person can represent Jesus, the other, your circumstances. Now, your eyes on both people and as one began walking across the room in opposite directions.

The Christian will find it impossible to keep looking at each of person at the same time. Therefore, the Christian has to choose which person they would

focus on.

The lesson becomes clear. The Christian could not keep their eyes on Jesus and their circumstance at the same time.

Remember God's love is everlasting and far reaching. It will touch your soul and lift your spirit.

God has give each person a gift and it is up to that person to use their gift to show God's love to His people.

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding

brass or a clanging cymbal. I Corinthians 13:1

No matter what gift I have, it could be the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

And, though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and thought I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself,

is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil, does not rejoice in iniquity.

But rejoices in the truth, bears all things believes all

things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. God is love, and we should have eyes only for Him. (Some parts of this is from part from 1 Corinthians 13.)




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(Left to Right) Karen Watkins, Elma Turner, Sister Tarpley and Rachel Lewis four friends celebrating the birthdays of Sister Turner and Sister Tarpley



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