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Black Santa hits national stage

-See Page 8



Irving Political Coalition

-See Page 5



Clean-up in plans for cemetery

-See Page 4



Gladys Knight set to hit Dallas stage

-See Page 9

International fashion design success did not come easy for Tracy Reese

By Patrice Gaines
Urban News Service



Business was not always easy for Tracy Reese, but her success has brought her accomplishments including clients such as First Lady Michelle Obama.

No one knew what First Lady Michelle Obama would choose to wear on stage at the 2012 Democratic National Convention. That decision is generally a secret kept from the public -- and designers -- until she appears under the spotlights. And when she stepped out onto the stage that historic night, the First Lady wore a custom design shimmering pink and gold brocade Tracy Reese dress.

"It's probably my proudest moment," said Reese, speaking from the Bahamas, where she was vacationing.

That night, Reese tweeted: "Thanks everyone for sharing this amazing moment! We are all so grateful and honored to have dressed Mrs. Obama for such a momentous speech!!!"

The First Lady had worn Reese's designs before, but with millions watching and the media critics gushing, Reese has said that night her clothes were introduced to a new audience.

Today, she is arguably the best known black designer. She has come a long way from the little girl

in Detroit who made clothes for her doll out of socks and later, as a teen, made her own outfits.

"We wrote a budget for each school year. Being able to sew a few things, I could control my destiny and get extra pieces," Reese said.

She calls it "fortunate" that she went to a summer program for high school students at Parsons School of Design in New York City.

"It was great exposure and I made up my mind to become a designer," said Reese. "I learned it wasn't just a hobby, but a big industry. It made (design) seem like a viable career."

She graduated from Parsons in 1984, one of two blacks in her class.

Her father, a Chrysler plant manager, saved \$100,000 and gave it to Reese to start her first clothing line. She was 23.

"It was a huge vote of confidence and I worked my fanny off trying to make sure it paid off," Reese said.

Nevertheless, the business had failed.

"I was a little too young and inexperienced," said Reese, now 52.

"There is value in experience, grow-

See FASHION, Page 7

COMMENTARY

If Trump is serious about terrorism, he should be registering White Nationalists

By Bill Fletcher, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

I have been trying to figure out how there can be any discussion of registering Muslims due to alleged national security concerns, when it is documented that the major source of terrorism in the United States since 9/11 has been White supremacist groups. The Southern Poverty Law Center has been a major source of information documenting

myriad right-wing terrorist attacks, though little mainstream attention has gone to this phenomenon. Just recently several right-wingers in Oregon were acquitted of an ARMED occupation of federal property. This was not civil disobedience or standard protest, but an armed action.

In the late 1960s/early 1970s, there were many Black activists who wor-

See TRUMP, Page 3

INSIDE...

People In The News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community	5
Education	6
Plano / Irving	7
Community Briefs	8
Entertainment	9-10
Market Place	11-13
Church Directory	14-15
NDG Book Review	16

People In The News...

See Page 2



Jason Shelton



Brooke Lopez



Jack Radics

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Jason Shelton

The University of Texas at Arlington has named Jason Shelton, an associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and expert on the sociology of religion, race and class, as director of the University's Center for African American Studies. His appointment takes effect Jan. 1, 2017.



Shelton joined UTA in 2008 as an assistant professor and has served as a faculty affiliate of the Center since its founding in 2012. He is a heavily sought-after speaker and media com-

mentator on black middle class culture and ideology, racial and ethnic attitudes, the sociology of religion, and the debate over race versus class.

Previously, he served on the faculty of Miami-Dade College, the College of Wooster and Rice University. Shelton earned his undergraduate degree in sociology from Kent State University. He holds master's and doctoral degrees in sociology from the University of Miami.

"Dr. Shelton distinguished himself early on as a very strong candidate to lead UTA's Center for African American Studies," said Ron Elsenbaumer, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. "He has visionary leadership as demonstrated by his teaching, research activity, mentoring and engagement

with students, faculty, staff and others within and outside of the African-American community."

Elsenbaumer noted that Shelton also shares a vision for helping to improve the health and human condition of all people, as well as developing strategies for building more sustainable urban communities, two core themes of the University's Strategic Plan 2020: Bold Solutions | Global Impact.

Shelton was selected after a national search that attracted distinguished candidates from across the country. He succeeds W. Marvin Dulaney, interim CAAS di-

rector, former History Department chair, and associate professor emeritus.

"I am honored to accept this role for a number of reasons," Shelton said. "First, it provides a major opportunity to impact people's lives in a way that takes the classroom beyond the traditional boundaries and into the community. Second, it serves as a platform for conducting and sharing research that furthers our understanding of the contemporary African American experience, as well as our nation's past, present and future."

Shelton is the author of several published articles and the book, "Blacks and

Whites in Christian America: How Racial Discrimination Shapes Religious Convictions (2012)," which was honored by the Southern Conference on African American Studies with the prestigious C. Calvin Smith Award. The book also earned honorable mention from the American Sociological Association's Sociology of Religion Section.

The Center for African American Studies was established in August 2012 and is the only center of its kind in North Texas, and one of only three in the state. The Center builds on

See SHELTON, Page 6

Brooke Lopez

UT Dallas junior Brooke Lopez figured out early on that she wanted a career in politics and sought her first political office at age 18, running for city council in her hometown of Wylie, Texas.



Though she lost her bid, the public affairs and geography major — then a freshman — showed an enthusiasm for politics that proved to be a key factor in her selection to the Student Advisory Council of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), an organization that seeks eq-

uity and education for women and girls.

Lopez is the first UT Dallas student selected to the council. She is one of 10 emerging leaders across the country who will help ad-

verse AAUW on the needs of college students, organize campus projects and assist with planning the organization's annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

"I was shocked," Lopez recalled thinking when she was selected. "There are so many other amazing women on the board. I'm honored to serve with them."

Abigail Sara Lewis, vice president for the AAUW's Campus Leadership Programs, said the applicant pool was highly competitive.

"Brooke, and her leadership on the UT Dallas cam-

pus, stood out among undergraduate and graduate students from campuses across the country. UT Dallas should be commended for its role in providing an environment for such a strong leader to thrive," Lewis said.

Though UT Dallas does not have an AAUW chapter yet, Lopez will work on a project with fellow student Kaylie Hartman to highlight affirmative consent. Together they will co-host the "Consent Country Concert" on April 14. Hartman is the University's liaison for the It's On Us campaign, a national initiative that empow-

ers students to help end sexual assault on campuses.

Lopez will tap her experience as a DJ as she helps plan the concert. She is a co-host for Radio UTD's "Red Dirt Radio Show," the only college-based radio program to feature a regional genre of country music that blends aspects of rock, blues and folk.

Lopez first learned about AAUW when she applied for a scholarship from the organization while still in high school. She had already been active with IG-NITE and Running Start, organizations that seek to build political ambition in

young women.

Her interests in juvenile law and gun legislation were spurred at age 15, when one of her friends was murdered. Lopez researched and proposed Nahum's Law, a bill passed in Texas that states "a person charged as a minor with capital murder may not have their record sealed."

Though her bid for city council failed, the city of Wylie appointed Lopez as vice chair for the city's Public Arts Advisory Board.

At UT Dallas, Lopez is

See LOPEZ, Page 6

Jack Radics

(Black PR Wire) Atlanta, GA- Nov. 7, - Platinum selling Jamaican recording artist Jack Radics has been hailed as one of Jamaica's finest cultural ambassadors and a National Treasure by Mrs Jewel Scott, Honorary Consul of the Jamaican Atlanta Consulate in Georgia.



Mrs Scott made the remarks as she issued they keynote address at the launch of Radics' new album, The Watershed, at the Bassmint Production Studios in Atlanta this past Friday evening, Nov.4.

Before a standing room only crowd filled with

celebrities, industry professionals and well wishers, Mrs Scott called the launch of The Watershed album "Another milestone in the artistic journey of one of Jamaica's finest sons and one of our most distinguished cultural ambassadors."

She noted that in a ca-

reer spanning nearly thirty years, Radics had held the flag of his nation high on stages across the world, and had refused to bow to commercial pressure to create anything but "Music he can be proud of."

"We are all the richer for the music he has given us as a producer, songwriter, bandleader and a singer," she stated.

The event was hosted by award winning hip hop artist and radio DJ Chubb Rock, of Majik 107.5 FM's popular afternoon show The Ride, and featured performances by Radics along with The Blak Diamond Band, Rica Newell, and John 'Jubu'

Smith of Maze featuring Frankie Beverly fame.

The launch also featured the World Premiere screening of the music video for Love Is, the first single from the album. The video was directed by acclaimed film director James Thayer.

Three versions of The Watershed album — main, acoustic and instrumental renditions — were all released simultaneously on Friday, a rarity in the music industry.

It was also announced that Radics will shortly be embarking on a major tour to promote the album throughout the United States.

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Hillary Clinton gets 2 million more votes than Donald Trump and everyone pretends they don't notice

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Contributor

Imagine if Donald Trump got two million more votes than Hillary Clinton, but by some fluke of Electoral College math, Clinton won. What would Trump be saying? The answer is easy: He'd be saying what he said weeks before Election Day: That the election was rigged against him. Why the same isn't true the other way around is anyone's guess.

On November 23, we learned that Clinton received two million more popular votes than Trump. Yeah, I know: Trump will be the next President. At some point someone has to ask: Does it make sense that the person who received the most votes isn't the winner? Does it make sense that Clinton has a wider vote margin over Trump than seven people who eventually became President?

The talk after the election was that the Democratic Party needs an overhaul and all is lost for the party. But the Democrats should be careful not to over-correct. If receiving two million more votes signals a crisis, that's quite something. Just imagine that Democrats received 2 million more votes with an



One could certainly question the validity of the election if Hillary Clinton got more than 2 million more votes than Donald Trump and somehow lost the election. This is the second time in recent years when Democrats took the popular vote but ended up losing the election. The last time was when Al Gore lost to President George W. Bush in 2000. (Photo: NNPA)

imperfect candidate of the past carrying loads of baggage.

The bigger problem for the Democrats is running establishment candidates at the top of the ticket in an age of anti-establishment politics doesn't work. The 2008 run of Barack Obama should have taught them the value of change politics to the American voters. But what did the Democratic Party —

more specifically President Obama — do instead? As the leader of the party, the President handpicked Hillary Clinton as his successor, put her in the position of Secretary of State, selected a Democratic National Committee Chair who wouldn't get in the way and fought against Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Bernie Sanders' efforts during the primaries. And we all

know what happened next.

It's unlikely all of that would happen again, but after President Obama made the DNC an afterthought in favor of his Obama for America (OFA) affinity project, who knows what the future holds.

“Mr. Trump is unfit to serve. His scapegoating of so many Americans, and his impulsivity, bullying, lying, admitted history of sexual assault, and utter lack of experience make him a danger,” wrote Elijah Berg, who has launched the petition urging electors to vote for Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump. The petition now has over 4.6 million people signed on.

Former Green Party candidate for President Jill Stein has raised \$5 million dollars for a recount efforts in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Michigan. You can bet that the two states with Republican governor, Wisconsin and Michigan, will reject a recount for fear of what they might find.

Lauren Victoria Burke is a political analyst who speaks on politics and African American leadership. She can be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at [@LVBurke](https://twitter.com/LVBurke).

TRUMP, continued from Page 1

ried that, in the face of some alleged crisis proclaimed by the U.S. government, African Americans would be placed into concentration camps. The mainstream political establishment declared that we were paranoid. While it was true, they would say, that Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans had been imprisoned in 1942 as an alleged security threat during World War II, we were subjected to repeated arguments that this would never happen again; what happened to the

Japanese had been an aberration. The fact that Native Americans had been locked up on reservations was conveniently ignored.

Fast forward to the 2016 Presidential elections. Republican candidates, including, but not limited to, now President-elect Donald Trump, began making suggestions regarding the registering and possible internment of Muslims in the U.S. The rationale: alleged national security concerns.

This threat of registration, if not detention, has not dis-

appeared. Despite the fact that White supremacists are the main source of terrorism in the U.S., there has been no call to register White nationalists, let alone any other White people. Using the Trump rationale, there should be a massive registering of White nationalists since history demonstrates their propensity for violence. Yet any time the issue of right-wing/White supremacist terrorism is raised, it is brushed under the rug and the act(s) of violence is pinned on an allegedly disturbed White person, who committed the

horrible act, solely due to some sort of inexplicable compulsion.

If there is a registry of Muslims, then all people of conscience should sign up as an act of protest. We should ensure that the registry is debunked and that any discussion of terrorism in the U.S. begins with a current and historical examination of the main danger of terrorism we face, terrorism perpetrated by the homegrown right-wing.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a talk show host, writer and activist. Follow him on Twitter @Bill-FletcherJr; Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.

Nearly 2 million Texans may not realize they are eligible for help with 2017 health coverage

Already, about 8.8 million Americans, and 913,177 Texans, who buy health insurance through HealthCare.gov receive tax credits that help make coverage more affordable. But about 12 million more Americans, including 1,919,600 Texans, may also be eligible for help during this Open Enrollment, but not know it. This group includes:

- **Current HealthCare.gov consumers:** 38,600 Texas consumers who didn't get tax credits last year could be eligible for tax credits in 2017, even if their income remains the same, because financial assistance moves along with rates. That's 20 percent of currently unsubsidized Texas

Marketplace consumers.

- **Off-Marketplace individual consumers:** About 252,000 Texans who currently pay full price for individual coverage off-Marketplace could be eligible for tax credits if they purchase a 2017 plan through HealthCare.gov instead.

- **The remaining uninsured:** About 1,629,000 uninsured Texans earn incomes indicating they, too, could be eligible for financial assistance. Nationwide, 84 percent of Marketplace-eligible uninsured Americans have incomes suggesting they are tax credit eligible.

In Texas, 220,379 people have already signed up for

coverage in the first month of Open Enrollment. But many more Texans might benefit from visiting HealthCare.gov before the December 15th deadline for January 1 coverage and checking out their options for affordable, quality health insurance.

Affordable by design. The Marketplace's tax credits are designed to keep pace with premium increases. This means that for many consumers already receiving tax credits, the value of that financial assistance will increase this year to keep pace with the cost of coverage in their area. It also means that more individuals may qualify

for tax credits as premiums rise. For people eligible for financial assistance, the ACA specifies the share of income the consumer is expected to contribute toward health coverage. The tax credits make up the difference between that amount and the actual cost of a consumer's benchmark (second-lowest-cost silver) plan.

For example, in 2017, a 27-year old in Texas making \$25,000 per year will pay \$142 per month to purchase the benchmark plan, almost

exactly the same as in 2016. That's because the 27-year old will, on average, get a \$119 tax credit – 53 percent higher than in 2016.

Check out your options.

The Marketplace is open for business, and HHS is encouraging anyone who might need coverage next year to visit HealthCare.gov and check out their options before the Dec. 15 deadline for coverage that starts Jan. 1.

Millions of Americans could be surprised to find out

they're eligible for financial assistance this year, even if they weren't last year, giving them affordable, quality options to choose from.

Visit HealthCare.gov to browse and shop for quality, affordable health plans. More than 73 percent of current Texas Marketplace consumers will find plans for less than \$75 per month, and the vast majority can save by coming back to actively shop instead of waiting to be re-enrolled in their current plan.

HBCU and Black tech company develop a tool to manage diabetes

(BlackNews.com) — In an age of so many disruptive technologies, there are few that stand out as true potential game-changers. George McKinney and his company, Better Life Technologies Group, have developed a technology that may just be one of the best kept secrets in medical science. Better Life Technologies' Glucose Diagnostic Sensor has a plethora of applications that make it a unicorn in the area of non-invasive Glucose detection, which very well may be applied to the detection of other diseases.

In August of 2016, the company developed a partnership with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. The University will work hand-in hand with Fallbrook Engineering of Leucadia CA a medical device development company that has been a leader in medical equipment for diabetes and has gain notoriety for their work on stent technology with Dr. Paul Teirstien head of Cardiology of Scripps Hospital of La Jolla.

Better Life Technologies Group has recently secured a patent-pending on a de-



Better Life Technologies Team (Courtesy photo)

vice that detects blood content and glucose in a non-invasive fashion from emissions that come from the skin. This will be a welcomed development for individuals who fear needles at doctor's appointments, and the Elderly who have trouble finding veins. The glucose diagnostic system will be able to be worn like a watch, and help detect early stages of cancer, and symptoms of diabetes, electrolytes, and much more. This technology promises to be truly disruptive and revolutionary to medical science industry. Importantly, once their newest invention receives funding, the University will dedicate staff and faculty to solve the technological problem of diabetes and other medical issues plaguing our society.

"A lot of times, the VC's and Angel Investors look the direction that everyone

is going. However, in many cases the answer to the question lies in a solution that is counter to the conventional wisdom in a particular area" says McKinney. "When a tech company gets together with a university to solve problems in the scientific community, there sometimes is this fear of being embarrassed which considering ideas that are too far outside the conventional box, which tends to direct great minds towards variations of the same solutions. This puts our greatest minds in a scientific echo-chamber, I think the real trail blazing comes from those who are able to take on conventional wisdom to focus on improving life and health for everyone. A different story needs to be told which involves the tremendous amount of discoveries

See HBCU, Page 6

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The Irving Political Coalition poised to relaunch for 2017

After the 2016 presidential election, many who were disappointed with the results believe the battlefield now turns local. For concerned citizens in Irving, this includes the Reconstitution of the Irving Political Coalition. Over the years they have sought to get progres-

sives elected to the city council and school board. They were also very vocal during the raging debate regarding the building of the Irving Entertainment Center.

One hallmark for organization is the Coalition is inclusive. The partners have included not only White,

African-American and Hispanic members, but also Jewish, Muslim, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Sudanese, and Korean. This diversity has been vital in helping different communities understand each other better when issues arise, like the arrest of the then

14-year-old student at MacArthur High School over his homemade clock for a science project.

The Reconstitution of The Irving Political Coalition kicks off Thursday, Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the iRealty Office located at 101 S. Main Street, Suite B, in Ir-

ing (entrance on Irving Blvd). Due to the limited seating available, interested residents are asked to RSVP by contacting Lisette Caraballo at 817-703-9060 or Anthony Bond at 214-830-6719.

An agenda will be sent to all confirmed attendees.

North Texas Book Festival adds Spanish-language categories to its awards program

North Texas Book Festival (NTBF) recently added Spanish-language categories to its annual Book Awards. They include children's books; adult fiction books, including fantasy

and science fiction; and adult nonfiction, including biographies. Books of short stories and anthologies in the categories also will be accepted.

Depending on the num-

ber of submissions, NTBF may present additional awards in some categories or consolidate some. The minimum number of entries must be at least four entries per category.

The deadline for the Spanish-language entries is Jan. 15. Finalists will be announced March 1, and the winners will be announced at the Chuckwagon Breakfast just before the festival

April 15 at Patterson-Appleton Center for the Visual Arts in Denton.

Three finalists will be chosen in each category of the competition. NTBF will not accept any books con-

taining erotica or other graphic material deemed unacceptable to the literary standards of this competition.

For more information, go to www.facebook.com/PremiosLiterariosNorteTexas.

The Caregiver Holiday Healthy Living Expo will offer resources on Dec. 10

Dr. Sherry Blake, a nationally acclaimed psychologist, will be a featured speaker at the inaugural Caregiver Holiday Healthy Living Expo hosted by She Ages Well, a low-cost, day-long event, taking place between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., December 10 at The Summit, 2975 Esplanade, Grand Prairie, Texas.



The Caregiver Holiday Healthy Living Expo, costs \$10, the cost of a movie ticket and popcorn. You can reserve your spot

today at the website, SheAgesWell.com Founder Patricia Bailey

said, She Ages Well, a Dallas community outreach online resource for caregivers,

will feature seminars on healthy lifestyle tips for caregivers, Alzheimer's Facts, finding a home for Mom/Dad, understanding hospice and palliative care, healthy hair and cancer plus special caregiver product demonstrations. Visitors to the expo also will get a chance to meet vendors who will offer products and services. The day wraps up with a Caregiver Party with A Plan, featuring a Sock Hop & Caregiver Slide.

As part of the event, Blake will speak on 'Managing Caregiver Stress'. Blake has appeared on such hit Reality TV Shows such as the "Braxton Family Values", "Real Housewives of Atlanta", and the "Preachers of Atlanta". She is a licensed clinical psychologist with more than 30 years of experience. She also has written a book The Single Married Woman and writes a weekly column "Ask Dr. Sherry" for Essence.com.

"I'm excited to be a part of such an important event," said Blake, founder of Edge Empowerment Foundation (EEF), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to reduce mental health stigma, increase mental health awareness, and promote mental wellness in underserved populations. "Taking care of a loved one is stressful and we need to support caregivers every step a long the way.

Making the wrong choice with Medicare can prove costly

It's decision time for the 55 million Americans covered by Medicare.

Open enrollment, when people can enroll in Medicare or make changes to their plans, runs every year from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7. But anyone who thinks that signing up for the medical plan for seniors is simple could be in for a rude awakening – and a costly one.

"People need to realize that enrolling in Medicare can be complicated," says Chris Orestis, a senior-care advocate and author of the books "Help on the Way" and "A Survival Guide to Aging."

"If you don't pay attention you can end up missing needed coverage or paying more out-of-pocket expenses in premiums, co-pays and deductibles than you realize –

or can afford."

This year open enrollment comes during a presidential election and a time when there are concerns about Medicare's long-term future and whether it can remain solvent. At the final presidential debate, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton were asked what they might do to make sure the program, first implemented in 1965, will be there for seniors for decades to come.

Trump said he would grow the economy, which in turn would help Medicare. Clinton said her plan is to reduce the cost of health care and to emphasize wellness.

But any future political decisions about Medicare can seem far off to anyone whose main concern is figuring out how they fit into what's of-

fered right now, says Orestis, CEO of Life Care Funding (www.lifecarefunding.com).

He says some important things to keep in mind or understand during Medicare enrollment include:

- Medicare coverage comes in two primary forms that participants can choose from. They are original Medicare, the traditional program administered through the federal government which anyone 65 and older qualifies for automatically, and Medicare Advantage plans, which are sold by private insurance companies. The Advantage plans sometimes offer additional services, such as routine vision, hearing and dental care.
- Most people probably

See CHOICE, Page 6

Dallas ISD application period for 2017-18 school year is open

The application period is open December 5 through Jan. 31 to apply to attend a Dallas Independent School District (Dallas ISD) magnet school, transformation school, Two-Way Dual Language program or collegiate academy for the 2017-2018 school year.

Below are more details on each type of school and program:

Magnet school

Dallas ISD is home to some of the nation's top magnet schools. Students



The application window to attend a Dallas ISD special program or school is open through Jan. 31. (Image: DISD)

applying to attend one of the district magnet schools must meet certain eligibility requirements.

Applications are available at dallasisd.org/page/182.

Transformation school
Public school choice pro-

grams offer specialized academic programming, similar to magnet schools.

Transformation schools are one of the new school choice categories that taps into students' individual interests, learning styles and aspirations. These schools do not have academic entry requirements — they are open enrollment for students across the district, but space is limited.

Applications are available at dallasisd.org/page/40326.

Two-Way

Dual-Language program

The Two-Way Dual-Language program puts Spanish-speaking and English-speaking students in the same classroom, teaches them the same curriculum in both languages, and creates bilingual, bicultural and biliterate students. Students in pre-K through first grade are eligible to enroll in the program.

Learn more at dallasisd.org/duallanguage.

Collegiate academies

Students who attend a col-

legiate academy can earn up to 60 hours of college credit or an associate degree — at no cost to them — concurrently while earning a high school diploma.

Dallas ISD launched seven new collegiate academies and a P-TECH this school year, and will launch another 10 district collegiate academies for the 2017-2018 school year.

Current eighth-graders may apply to attend a collegiate academy. Applications are available at dallasisd.org/page/41447.

HBCU,

continued from Page 4

that lie outside the echo-chamber of conventional thought. I'm hoping this becomes a model for the future, however to get there, it is of utmost importance that we receive your support financially, and with your help we can make it happen."

As it happens with many inventions, it was while working on the prototype for McKinney's patent, that his team of engineers and scientists stumbled upon the technology that they are currently using to create their glucose diagnostic system.

"The challenge is to get people excited about it. We feel like we have the Holy Grail and as one of the partners of one of this nation's top 10 IP Legal firms once stated, "George if you are successful, you and your firm are going to change the face of medicine." McKinney asks, for your support for Better Life Technologies Group by visiting and donating to the site below.



The final round of the Gardere MLK Jr. Oratory competition will be held on Friday, January 13, 2017 at the Majestic Theatre in downtown Dallas. Finalists are (From L to R): Lola West, K.B. Polk Center for Academically Talented and Gifted; Jace Roberson, J.P. Starks Math, Science and Technology Vanguard; Ashley Patterson, Harry C. Withers Elementary School; Jordan Mays, T.L. Marsalis Elementary School; Asad King, William Brown Miller Elementary School; Sierra Jones, Charles Rice Learning Center; Taneka Ervin, Clara Oliver Elementary School; Andrea Botho, Frederick Douglass Elementary School. (Photo: DISD)

Annual MLK Oratory contest goes to finals

Twenty-five fourth and fifth-grade students from Dallas ISD schools competed for a spot as one of eight finalists in the 25th annual Gardere MLK Jr. Oratory Competition. The students delivered original three-to-five-minute speeches, answering the question: "If Dr. King were alive today, what would he

say about Muhammad Ali's contribution to society?"

The final round of the competition will be held on Friday, January 13, 2017 at the Majestic Theatre in downtown Dallas.

The annual competition is presented, hosted and sponsored by Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP.

SHELTON, continued from Page 2

UTA's status as one of the most diverse universities in the nation. The Center's mission is to enlighten, inspire and empower students, faculty and community stakeholders to create progressive, collaborative solutions that drive social change within the African-American community, specifically, and the broader

society generally.

Among its signature events and initiatives are its CAAS Opening Lecture, Evening of Arts and Letters, and annual CAAS Conference. Guest speakers have included noted and respected leaders, such as state Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, New York Daily News justice writer Shaun King, and

Bernice King, minister, attorney and daughter of late civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

"The work of the Center for African American Studies is vitally important in terms of helping the community, state and nation better understand social and cultural perspectives in our quickly changing world," said Sen. West, a UTA alumna. "I commend my alma

mater for the work that it is doing and offer my sincerest congratulations to Dr. Shelton."

Shelton's vision for advancing the Center for African American Studies includes three major goals:

Increasing the number of students in the African American Studies minors program;

Ensuring that the Center has a meaningful impact on

campus, and;

Establishing a Department of Diversity Studies.

The AAST minor is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary program that prepares students for critical thinking and discourse on race and contextual factors, social consciousness and awareness and civic engagement. Visit uta.edu/caas/ for more information.

CHOICE, continued from Page 5

have heard references to Medicare Part A or Medicare Part C. Here's how that alphabet breaks down: Medicare Part A pays for hospital and skilled nursing facility care. Medicare Part B pays 80 percent of costs for doctors, outpatient services

and medical equipment. Medicare Part C is a private Advantage Plan. Medicare Part D pays for prescriptions.

• Anyone who visits a doctor or has been hospitalized knows that deductibles and co-pays can add up quickly. That's where Medicare Sup-

plemental Insurance (Medigap) comes in. It's a private insurance that pays the gaps in the varieties of Medicare coverage.

• Want to learn more? Orestis says a good place to check is the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services website (www.cms.gov), which pro-

vides a wealth of information and resources to review and assist enrollment.

Orestis says it's important to act as soon as possible and not wait until the last minute.

"When it comes to Medicare enrollment," Orestis says, "not being informed and missing deadlines can cause delays and

penalties that could have a negative impact on your coverage — and your wallet."

Chris Orestis is CEO of Life Care Funding (www.life-carefunding.com) and a 20-year veteran of both the insurance and long-term care industries. A former Washington, D.C.

LOPEZ, continued from Page 2

actively involved in Delta Zeta, the John Marshall Pre-Law Society and the public affairs student committee. She also has served on the University's Diversity Com-

mittee and the Student Government legislative affairs committee.

She hopes to attend law school and eventually run for office again, with her

eyes on the U.S. Senate.

"Running for office is one of the most exhausting things there is, so I would like to serve for at least six years," Lopez said. "My mom told me she admires that I'm so driven, but she's

also afraid, knowing politics can be brutal. She hopes it doesn't drag down my spirits."

For now, her involvement with AAUW is another way to gain national advocacy experience. The organiza-

tion has more than 170,000 members and supporters across the U.S. and is active on more than 800 college and university campuses. Its members work to empower women and girls through advocacy, education, philan-

thropy and research.

"I'm really excited to represent UT Dallas. Every time we have an accomplishment like this, we get closer to being a school of renown. I'm happy to be part of that," Lopez said.



Roaring fireplaces and candles are delightful during the holiday season but important to keep safety in mind. (Image: Irving)

Irving Fire Department shares holiday fire safety tips

The Irving Fire Department would prefer not to meet you during this holiday trip, except in a waiting line at the local retail store. To help everyone to enjoy this holiday season safe and sound with family and friends they are sharing a few general holiday safety

tips to keep in mind:

- Keep matches, lighters and candles out of the reach of children.
- Make an emergency plan to use if a fire breaks out anywhere in the home. See that each family member knows what to do. PRACTICE THE PLAN!

- Check smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Make sure they are working properly.
- Avoid wearing loose flowing clothes (particularly long, open sleeves) near open flames, such as those of a fireplace, stove or

candlelit table.

- Never burn candles near evergreens. Burning evergreens in the fireplace can also be hazardous.
- Plan for safety. Look for and eliminate potential danger spots near candles, fireplaces, trees and/or electrical connections.

Another clean-up planned for Shelton's Bear Creek

Community members are coming together again to continue the efforts to clean-up Shelton's Bear Creek Cemetery this weekend. The event is planned for 8 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10. The primary focus will be to paint the inside and outside of the fence surrounding the cemetery.

The North Dallas Gazette recently covered the Call to Action to clean-up last

month, which was a tremendous success as we spotlighted in our follow-up report about the great turnout at the event.

Shelton Bear Creek Cemetery is a burial place that predates the end of the Civil War according to deeds researched by Bond. It was awarded a historical marker by the Texas Historical Commission, a state agency for historic preser-

vation. According to the marker designated by the Texas Historical Commission, Minnie Sheldon (Shelton), purchased 80 acres of land in 1879 for \$130, then the Shelton family donated the property for a cemetery. During the mid-1800's, African Americans were brought to the area as slaves, after the end of the Civil War many remained to

begin their lives as Freedmen.

Anyone is invited to join them, please bring a paint brush or a roller if you can. They will have supplies on hand, but do not know how many are expected to attend and want to ensure everyone is able to work.

For more information, please contact Anthony Bond at 214-830-6719.



Father Bob Corley (red shirt) at St. Mark's Episcopal Church and his son Anderson with other volunteers get right to work cleaning out the debris and overgrown grass, weeds and trees covering the historic gravesites at Shelton's Bear Creek.

Light up the holidays at Irving's Centennial until Dec. 26

Each year, a crew of about 25 Parks and Recreation employees descend on Irving's Centennial Park, 444 W. Second St., to give it a holiday facelift. In December, during the week prior to the annual Holiday Extravaganza.



This special group of dedicated workers carefully wrap the trees and set up decorative lighted displays of trains, wreaths and other seasonal scenes to create a

winter wonderland that delights the young and the young-at-heart.

This year's display will be open to the public from dusk to 10 p.m. until Dec.

26, weather permitting. The light display is free and affords a leisurely stroll through one of the jewels of Irving's Heritage District, Centennial Park.

Perhaps the most interesting fact about this holiday tradition is that it is staffed 24/7 from the start of the decorating until it closes down shortly after Christmas. Parks staff patrols the area during the day using a cart.

On-duty employees wear uniforms day and night, clearly identifying them as city staff, and visitors can ask any questions they have about the decorations.

Launched in 2002, this holiday tradition brings people from all over the Dallas-Fort Worth area to Irving to enjoy a stroll and the sense of community that returns year after year.

So, remember to stop by this holiday season and enjoy the peace, tranquility and beauty of Irving's Holiday Lights with friends and family. Be prepared to walk. Bike riding is not permitted

in the walkways because of the large numbers of visitors, especially at night. Riders can lock their bikes in the park's bike rack, or they can walk their bikes on the paths.

If the weather turns stormy, the show might not go on that night.

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (972) 721-2501.

FASHION, continued from Page 1

ing a base of contacts."

She went to work for her friend Marc Jacobs at Perry Ellis. Some 10 years later, in 1999, she reopened her business. With perseverance, she attracted some of the larger stores such as Neiman Marcus, Macy's and Nordstrom.

She has created five labels thus far, including her namesake Tracy Reese, a line of clothing worn today by Hollywood celebrities and First Lady Michelle Obama.

Reese said her brand's aim is to "make women feel beautiful in everything we

do."

Robin Givhan, *Washington Post* fashion editor, said Reese's designs appeal to contemporary customers without being so trendy that they are quickly outdated.

"Looking at her work critically over the years, there is a consistent point of view, which is important because it says she has a distinctive voice," said Givhan. "There is a lot of noise in fashion. Those who rise above have a distinctive voice. Her sensibility has a subtext of vintage and retro in it. It has an almost southern lady-like aspect but it is

fully wholly, rooted in contemporary styles. It makes it a very interesting sensibility because it has something that very much speaks to contemporary customers but makes you feel it is rooted in something more lasting."

Reese is excited about what she sees as her opportunity to grow creatively in the future. For one, she plans to begin offering her clothes in larger sizes.

"I think you could run dry because it's a demanding industry. You could dial it in or keep digging deep and finding something within yourself," Reese said.

She is well aware that few black designers reach

her level of global success. Articles about the disparity of blacks in the fashion industry have pointed to many reasons it exists--from black parents not seeing the fashion industry as a viable career to cuts in public school arts programs and just the sheer difficulty of raising the finances needed to launch a collection.

"We have to keep pushing the issue (of racial disparity) so people will be conscious about making changes," said Reese. "We have to direct people to proper education paths, whether it be in production, design or marketing research. We have to keep the conversation going."

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ADDISON
OPH DFW makes \$1,000 donation to

The Original Pancake House (OPH) DFW donated \$1000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) in Dallas. In the spirit of giving this holiday season, OPH-DFW in Addison donated a portion of their Thanksgiving Day sales to the local organization that provides positive mentoring relationships to children facing adversity.

“The Original Pancake House and our Guests are proud to support BBBS,” said Kevin Payne, OPH-DFW President. “This remarkable organization works to develop positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people.”

CARROLLTON
Game on! For adults on Dec. 10

Board games are so much more than the Chutes and Ladders or Monopoly of our childhood. Come to the



Pictured left to right Kevin Payne, OPH-DFW President, and Bill Chinn – Big Brothers Big Sisters Dallas President

Library and check out new and trendy games. Whether you’re looking for a game to test your strategy or social deduction skills or if you’re just looking for a social trivia game, we’ve got you covered. You are also free to bring your own games to share with others.

Game on! Ages 18+ are invited to this free game event at Hebron & Josey Library (4220 N. Josey Lane) from 3:30-5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10.

Available games include Wits & Wagers, Telestrations, Utter Nonsense, Dixit,

Ultimate Werewolf, Tsuro, Bang! The Dice Game, The Resistance, and more!

For more information, visit cityofcarrollton.com/library.

GARLAND
Firemen host holiday toy drive

Make this holiday special for a child in need. The Garland Firefighters Association and Garland Fire Department are collecting new, unwrapped toys for their annual toy drive. Toys will be collected at all 11 Garland fire stations and at Fire

Administration, 1500 Highway 66. Garland firefighters will deliver the toys to local children. Toy collection boxes are available at each fire station, and toys will be collected through Christmas. All toy donations should be new and unwrapped.

Find your nearest fire station at GarlandFire.com. For more information, contact Jerry Click at 903-513-4393 or JClick@GarlandTX.gov.

McKINNEY
Packets available for interested City Council candidates

The Mayor and three McKinney City Council seats will be up for voter consideration during the general election in May. Individuals interested in learning more about running can pick up candidate packets from the City Secretary at City Hall, 222 N. Tennessee St. starting Dec. 6. The deadline to file for a

place on the ballot is 5 p.m. on Feb. 17.

Voters will elect representatives for Mayor, one At Large seat, plus the District 1 and the District 3 seats. The general election is scheduled for May 6. Early voting takes place from April 24—May 2.

For more information about City Council candidate packets or elections, call City Secretary Sandy Hart at 972-547-7505 or email shart@mckinney-texas.org.

PLANO
Lights, Sights and Love of the holiday season

Old Saint Nicholas makes several stops in Plano this weekend. Here are a two special events to see Jolly Old St. Nick around town.

Saturday, Dec. 10, 9-11 a.m. - Load the family in the car and head to Carpenter Park Recreation Center for Breakfast with Santa. Ad-

mission is \$5 per family. You'll enjoy breakfast treats, create your Santa wish list and crafts. Little ones can even have one-on-one time with Santa and receive a souvenir photo.

Saturday, Dec. 10, 9-11 a.m. - The Plano Lions Club Annual Christmas Parade presents "Plano Wishes You a Merry Christmas." The parade route is from the Plano ISD Administration Center, 2700 W. 15th St., west on 15th Street, then north on Independence Parkway and east on Parkhaven Drive (Plano Senior High). Viewing is best along the east side of Independence Parkway. Come early, 6:30-10:30 a.m., for the 44th Annual Breakfast with Santa at Vines High School, hosted by the First Church United Methodist Men. Get warm on the inside with all-you-can-eat pancakes for \$5 per adult and \$4 per child. Proceeds benefit local food pantries.

Local Black Santa is a national trailblazer

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

The rest of the nation was abuzz about Irving’s Larry Jefferson; he garnered national headlines when Santa Experience of Mall of America in Minnesota hired him as their first Black Santa last week. However, North Dallas Gazette profiled Jefferson’s journey as Santa last year. He learned about the opportunity through networking at a Santa convention held in Branson, Missouri earlier this year.

“It was an incredible experience,” Jefferson shared during a telephone interview on Dec. 6. Landon Luther, the owner of Santa Experience, provided him with a first-rate experience during the four days Jefferson served as Jolly St. Nick. “I want to give a shout out to the people of Minnesota who showed me nothing but love and respect,” Jefferson said.

In today’s political cli-



Black Santa (Larry Jefferson-Gamble) has been well known around the Dallas area for a while, now he is getting national attention for a gig at the Mall of the Americas.

mate, they were realistic and knew there was a possibility of a negative reaction. However, Jefferson shared that although pre-

pared, there was no dust-up. In general, most of the haters hid behind their key-

See SANTA, Page 9

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The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Inc. 3015-3017 40th Street programs are supported in part by the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, Boarding Philanthropies, The Dallas Weekly, The Question, Business News, TheStarNews.com, The Dallas Herald, Texas Metro News, DFWInfo.com, Dallas State Business Directory, Dallas Gospel Directory, Texas Supporting CBS/11/5th-21, Radio One/DMA, The Design Factory, My Pocket App, Southern Dallas Business & Living Magazine and an Anonymous Fund of the Dallas Foundation.

Gladys Knight performing in Dallas next spring

The nonprofit AT&T Performing Arts Center announced this week that tickets for the “Empress of Soul,” Gladys Knight, will go on sale Thursday, Dec. 8 at 10 a.m. The seven-time Grammy Award-winner, Gladys Knight, will perform at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 2, 2017 at the Winspear Opera House in the downtown Dallas Arts District.

Center Members get access to the best available seats. Call Membership Services at 214-978-2888 or go to www.attpac.org/support to join. Center Membership presale began Monday, December 5 at 10 a.m.

Ticket prices for Gladys Knight range from \$150.00 to \$37.50 and can be purchased, beginning on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 10 a.m., online at www.attpac.org, by phone at 214-880-0202 or in person at the AT&T Performing Arts Center Winspear Opera House Box Office at 2403 Flora Street. The Box Office will be open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. seven days a week and before performances.

The great ones endure, and Gladys Knight has long been one of the greatest. Very few singers over the last fifty years have matched her unsailable artistry. This seven-time Grammy winner has enjoyed #1 hits in Pop, Gospel, R&B and Adult Contemporary, and has triumphed in film, television and live performance.

In her first effort since 2013’s “Another Journey” – Knight’s 8th solo effort – this summer marked the release of “Where My Heart Belongs”, a new inspiration gospel album. Knight is a two-time Grammy winner in the gospel category, and “Where My Heart Belongs” dropped on September 9th from Desert Book, and recently won an NAACP Image Award for “Outstanding Gospel Album.”

“Another Journey” enjoyed success from the hit “I Who Have Nothing” as well as the uptempo track “Settle,” produced by Randy



Jackson, with whom she previously collaborated with on her Grammy-winning album, “At Last.” Knight also enjoyed the success of her song “You and I Ain’t Nothin’ No More” which appeared over the end credits of the critically-acclaimed Lee Daniels film THE BUTLER.

Last month, Knight returned to the small screen in the Lifetime original movie “Seasons of Love”. In the story about two lovers as they journey through life,

love and family, Knight stars alongside Oscar-nominee Taraji P. Henson and fellow Grammy winner Cliff “Method Man” Smith. In the New Year she will guest on Lee Daniels and FOX TV’s new series “Empire” opposite Terrence Howard and Taraji P. Henson.

Also on the small screen, Knight recently shared her musical expertise on the second season of Centric’s original series “Apollo Live.” Joining judges Doug E.

Fresh and Michael Bivins, the legendary songstress gave guidance to contestants as they took the stage with the hope to jumpstart their career in the entertainment industry.

No stranger to performing and light choreography over the course of her career, Knight raised the stakes when she put on her dancing shoes in the spring of 2012. She joined the cast of ABC’s hit reality competition “Dancing with the Stars” for season 14, partnering with Tristan MacManus.

The year of 2011 was a year of much recognition as Knight was both honoring

and being honored, first at a Michael Jackson tribute concert, and then at the 2011 Soul Train Awards. At the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, Wales, Knight joined such performers as Jennifer Hudson, Beyonce, and Smokey Robinson in a tribute to the legendary King of Pop in a concert event called “Michael Forever.” Following that, Knight was honored with a “Legend Award” alongside fellow recipients Earth, Wind & Fire on the BET broadcast of the 3rd annual Soul Train Awards, hosted by Cedric the Entertainer.

Knight, known as the

“Empress of Soul,” a longtime Las Vegas resident, returned to the Strip in the late-2000s to the famed Tropicana Hotel for a special engagement that ran in the newly named Gladys Knight Theater, making her the first African-American performer to have a venue named after her in Las Vegas. This followed a successful four-year show run at The Flamingo, which the Las Vegas Review-Journal praised as “the number-one show on the Strip.” A tireless humanitarian, Knight is an iconic supporter of the Boys & Girls

See GLADYS, Page 10

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All seats are \$12 on preview night, Dec. 8.

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New partnership with IHOP will help refuel BMW Dallas Marathon runners post-race

Organizers for the BMW Dallas Marathon announced a new partnership with IHOP® Restaurants where the iconic breakfast brand will bring its delicious, world-famous buttermilk pancakes to the finish line of the 2016 BMW Dallas Marathon, Half Marathon and Behringer Relay.

Tens of thousands of run-

ners are expected at the 46th running of the BMW Dallas Marathon on December 11. Every race participant will be able to enjoy a short stack of IHOP Restaurant's Original Buttermilk Pancakes for free at the post-race party.

"We're excited to welcome IHOP as a partner for the 2016 BMW Dallas

Marathon. The promise of IHOP Restaurant's famous pancakes at the end of a run should provide a bit of extra motivation for this year's participants to cross the finish line," said Paul Lambert, president of the Dallas Marathon.

The post-race party will begin at 10 a.m. on Sunday, December 11 and will take

place at the corner of Market and Wood Streets. After crossing the finish line at Young Street, participants and spectators are encouraged to join the celebration, which will feature live music from A Hard Night's Day, Dallas' award-winning Beatles tribute band, food trucks, The Coors Light party trailer and more.

"IHOP Restaurants and our Dallas-Fort Worth metro area franchisees are honored to help refuel BMW Dallas Marathon runners post-race by serving them our world-famous Buttermilk Pancakes at the celebration festivities," said Bill Brasher, IHOP Restaurants, Southwest Regional

Marketing Manager. "We look forward to cheering on the dedicated athletes participating in this year's race and being there as they cross the finish line."

For more information on the BMW Dallas Marathon, Half Marathon and Behringer Relay, visit bmwdallasmarathon.com.

Steve Harvey returns to the Apollo for *Showtime*

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Contributor

Steve Harvey has a lot on his plate these days.

The comedian, who is beloved by millions, has been busy preparing for the reboot of the classic "Showtime at the Apollo" talent contest that will air on Fox. The first episode of the reboot aired on Monday, December 5 at 8 p.m.

Harvey's schedule also includes the his popular syndicated morning radio show, hosting the "Family Feud" and "Little Big Shots," and recently cutting a new deal to produce a new daily and yet to be titled television show to be distributed by NBC Universal.

Working non-stop is just what the legendary King of Comedy prefers.

"Steve just keeps it real all of the time," his longtime friend and former Steve Harvey Show co-host Cedric the Entertainer said. "We've been friends a long



Steve Harvey is set to host a reboot of "Showtime at the Apollo." (The Steve Harvey Morning Show)

time. We have a good time, all of the time."

Earlier this year, Harvey revealed in a candid interview with "People" magazine that, while he's amassed a fortune north of \$100 million, he was once homeless and living out of his Ford Tempo.

"It kills me when I hear very successful people say, 'I always knew I would get here,'" Harvey said. "I didn't. I always hoped I would get somewhere, but this is above and beyond. My imagination didn't even go

this big."

Last month, a "Los Angeles Times" feature on Harvey explored how the star has become the new "hardest working man in show business."

The newspaper noted what happened when the taping for "Steve Harvey's Funderdome," an upcoming "Shark Tank"-style ABC TV competition series in which two entrepreneurs vie for the approval of a live audience, had just completed.

As the crowd started to

leave the Television City studio in Hollywood, Harvey, the host who has unofficially inherited the late James Brown's title of "the hardest working man in show business," made it clear he was not done with them yet.

The entertainer, who has become a one-man force of nature in the last 15 years with a seemingly endless cavalcade of successes in the pop culture arena ranging from radio and TV shows to books to film, wanted to follow the fun with his message of faith.

"If you think you can make it without God, your ass is trippin'," the sharply dressed entertainer with the thick mustache and shaved head declared. "I imagined, when I was 10 years old, that I would be on TV one day, and I believed in God and got successful. You've got to believe. Don't ever give up!"

Born in Welch, West Virginia on January 17, 1957,

Harvey grew up in Cleveland and graduated from Glenville High School in 1974. A proud member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity, the entertainer attended Kent State University and West Virginia University.

In his earlier life, Harvey worked as an auto mechanic, a carpet cleaner and for the United States Postal Service as a mail carrier.

Harvey began doing standup comedy in Cleveland in the late 1980s and, after becoming a finalist in the famed Johnnie Walker National Comedy Search in 1990, he was picked to host "It's Showtime at the Apollo."

He scored his first television role on the short-lived ABC show, "Me and the Boys," before hitting pay dirt with the successful and popular "The Steve Harvey Show," which ran for seven seasons.

Joining Cedric the Entertainer, D.L. Hughley and

Bernie Mac, Harvey launched a comedy tour in 1997 called "The Original Kings of Comedy," which led to a feature film directed by Spike Lee.

Harvey went on to appear in several movies and, in 2009, penned the bestseller, "Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man," which was optioned into a big screen hit.

The "Showtime at the Apollo" reboot is expected to feature performances from established stars and the legendary "Amateur Night" segment.

"I'm excited to be going back home to the Apollo to celebrate the history of this great theater," Harvey said in a statement. "I have great memories from my time there, and this is going to be a homecoming party that you won't want to miss."

A second "Showtime at the Apollo" special is already scheduled for early next year with aspirations of the talent showcase returning regularly.

Another happy winner...



Ms. Jordan Bagsby was the North Dallas Gazette winner for tickets to see Mary J. Blige and Maxwell live in concert. Stay tuned to the North Dallas Gazette on Facebook and Instagram for chances to win tickets to the best shows in DFW.

GLADYS, continued from Page 9

Club of America, to which she donated a Randy Jackson-produced song, "The Dream." As the celebrated singer of the timeless song "Midnight Train to Georgia," Knight was a natural fit as national spokesperson and host of Amtrak's National Train Day, the celebration of which took place in Washington, DC's famed

Union Station.

In February 2011, Knight reunited with Elton John, Dionne Warwick, and Stevie Wonder for the first time in 25 years to perform their Grammy-winning song, "That's What Friends Are For" at an AIDS research benefit at the downtown Cipriani in New York. Adored the

world over, Knight then toured across the UK, performing at packed arenas that included a sold-out performance at Wembley Stadium.

Today, Knight and husband William, along with various other members of the family, oversee her busy career from the Las Vegas headquarters of Shakeji, Inc., her personal entertainment corporation.

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

Black unemployment rate falls to 8.1 percent in November

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Managing Editor

The Black unemployment rate improved from 8.6 percent in October to 8.1 percent in November, according to the latest jobs report from the Labor Department.

The White unemployment rate ticked down from 4.2 percent in October to 4.1 percent in November, likely because White workers dropped out of the labor market. The labor force participation rate for White workers, which is the share of workers either employed or looking for jobs, continued a three-month slide and was 62.7 percent in November.



Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.) said that the numbers from the latest jobs report show that our economy continues to move forward from the worst economic crisis in a generation. This photo was taken during a forum on criminal justice reform in Northwest Washington, D.C. in July 2015. (Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA)

Meanwhile, the labor force participation rate for Black workers edged up slightly from 61.8 percent in October to 61.9 percent in November and the employment-population ratio, or the share of Blacks that have jobs compared to the total population, also took steps in the right direction, increasing from 56.5 percent in Oc-

tober to 56.9 percent in November.

Black men over 20 years old showed the most gains among the adult worker groups in November, but they were also in the biggest hole. The unemployment rate for Black men improved from 8.7 percent in October to 7.7 percent in November. The share of Black men who held jobs also increased from 61.7 percent to 62.3 percent. The unemployment rate for Black men was still higher than the jobless rate for White men, White women, and Black women.

Last month, the jobless rate for White men fell below 4 percent to 3.9 percent, but the labor force par-

ticipation rate also ticked down from 71.9 percent in October to 71.7 percent in November.

Employment prospects for Black women over 20 years old showed small gains in

November. The labor force participation rate for Black women increased from 62.3 percent to 62.6 percent and the employment-population

See JOBS Page 13

Local business launched provides holiday card services and monthly subscriptions

Katherine Morris + Co. has launched two new services: a monthly subscription program called Parker's Postbox and holiday card services to help busy individuals and organizations mail their New Year's greetings. Founded by donor relations specialist Katherine Morris, the company specializes in gratitude-focused services to help nonprofit organizations and for-profit businesses recognize donors and clients.

Morris, a self-described gratitude champion, expanded her service offerings with the desire to emphasize expressions of gratitude in all types of relationships.

Named in honor of her niece, the Parker's Postbox subscription program offers a choice of two package options to be delivered directly to the subscriber each month.

Packages will include a curated selection of three or five gratitude and occasion or seasonal cards with U.S. postage, as well as one or two hand-selected gift items, such as pens, stationery items, gift tags or art prints. Many featured pieces are subscription-only and custom designed especially for

Katherine Morris + Co., while other items are sourced from designer stationery artists around the world. Subscriptions are available for purchase at parkerspostbox.com.

In addition, Katherine Morris + Co. is offering a choice of two special packages to help busy individuals and businesses send out New Year's wishes. The Extra Hands package includes the Katherine Morris + Co. team addressing, stuffing and mailing clients' existing greeting cards. The Plan It All option includes the bonus of selecting cards and stamps from the Katherine Morris + Co. collection.

Morris has focused most of her professional career on supporting the work of nonprofit organizations through donor relations. During her tenure at Lena Pope, Morris increased donor retention by an impressive 22 percent, which ultimately led to the creation of Katherine Morris + Co. earlier this year. She now serves as a gratitude consultant to clients such as Lena Pope, Clay Pigeon Food & Drink and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth.

In addition to a variety of

services ranging from gratitude calls and cards to calligraphy, Katherine Morris + Co. offers individual cards

and boxed sets at katherinemorrisco.com/shop. For more information, please visit katherinemorrisco.com.



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Tips to protect your money from identity theft during the holidays

Christmas is the time for shopping, family and, unfortunately, scammers – clever thieves who specialize in exploiting others by stealing their personal banking information and walking away with new identities and someone else's

money.

"The holidays are so busy. You're not thinking much. You've got a dozen presents, and you have kids with you. There's just too much going on," said Jason Alvarado, lead faculty for the digital forensics pro-

gram at Richland College.

Thieves are setting traps with the use of skimmers or card readers at all places where consumers swipe their credit and debit cards. Most consumers assume they are safe at bank ATMS but they aren't, Alvarado

said.

"Sometimes thieves will hide a camera that looks like a security camera, so you think you're secure – and you're not," he said. "If something looks out of place, it probably is. Go to another bank or retailer."



Identity theft is a problem year round – including the holidays and tax season. (Image: Blue Diamond Gallery)

Protect your holiday gifts from the porch pirates and hackers

Americans' love affair with online shopping continues to grow, and retailers predict a 7 to 10 percent increase in online sales this holiday season, according to the National Retail Federation.

While that news might make retailers giddy, security experts are reiterating their annual warnings that the convenience of online shopping comes with hazards. You could become the target of hackers out to steal your credit card or bank information, or "porch pirates" who prey on those packages left on your doorstep.

"Consumers need to take proper precautions if they don't want their holiday merriment turning into holiday gloom," says Gary Miliefsky, CEO of SnoopWall, a company that specializes in cyber security.

Changing all your passwords frequently is one way to protect what's yours. Deleting smartphone or tablet apps you don't use is another smart move, Miliefsky says, because many of those apps may be malware that spies on you.

Even porch pirates – generally seen as low-tech thieves who simply cruise neighborhoods looking for packages – can go high tech by infiltrating your smartphone where they can eavesdrop on your orders and deliveries.

"Both porch pirates and hackers count on people being lax with their defenses," Miliefsky says. "But with a little prepara-

tion you can thwart their plans."

He offers a few tips for doing just that:

- Shop online only from websites you trust. If you don't know where the merchant is located, don't shop online there. If they don't have a corporate address or are located in another country, it could be iffy whether you ever see the goods you think you purchased. Also, if their shopping-cart experience is not an HTTPS browser session, then everything you type in – your name, address and credit-card information – is going over the Internet unencrypted, in plain view.

- Pay with credit cards rather than debit cards. If you experience identity theft, credit card laws allow you to keep all of your credit immediately, with no

responsibility during an identity theft or fraud investigation. With a debit card, your bank's policy can be to tie up your money in the amount of the fraudulent transactions for up to 30 days. Some have been known to take up to 60 days to resolve the issue.

- Get permission to ship all your packages to work. That way they aren't left unguarded at your doorstep for hours where anyone walking by could snatch them. If this arrangement works out, be sure to tell all your friends and family also to ship packages to your work address.

- Ask a friend or neighbor to receive your packages for you. You might not be home on work days, but plenty of people are. Trusted friends who are retired or who work at home might be

happy to let you have packages delivered to them for safe keeping.

"It's wonderful that you can go online and track down those hard-to-find gifts that aren't available in local shops," Miliefsky says. "Just make sure you're taking measures to help keep you and your personal information safe. The holidays will be a whole lot brighter if you do."

Gary S. Miliefsky is founder of SnoopWall Inc. (www.snoopwall.com), a

cutting edge counter-intelligence technology company offering free consumer-based software to secure personal data on cell-

phones and tablets, while generating revenues helping banks and government agencies secure their networks.



Eco-Site, Inc. proposes to build a 110-foot monopole Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 6151 Duck Creek Drive, Garland, Dallas County, TX 75043. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Andrew, a.bray@trileaf.com, 2550 S. IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.

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JOBS, continued from Page 11

ratio also increased from 57.9 percent to 58.2 percent. The jobless rate for Black women was 7.1 percent in November, unchanged since October.

The unemployment rate for White women over 20 years old decreased from 3.8 percent in October to 3.7 percent in November and the share of White women that held jobs slipped from 55.3 percent in October to 55.2 percent in November.

The Labor Department reported that the national unemployment rate fell to 4.6 percent in November, and the economy added 178,000 jobs in November.

"In November, 1.9 million persons were marginally attached to the labor force, up by 215,000 from a year earlier," the Labor Department report said. "These individuals were not in the labor force, wanted and were available for work, and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months. They were not counted as unemployed, because they had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey."

In a post on EPI.org, the website for the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), Elise Gould, senior economist for EPI, wrote that the national unemployment rate declined, "largely because of a drop in

labor force participation."

Gould also noted that even though wage growth is now faster than it was in the first five-plus years of the recovery, when it averaged two percent, "It doesn't reflect full employment wage growth, or even the wage growth we experienced before the Great Recession hit — by no means a full employment economy."

In 2016, the economy has added about 180,000 jobs per month. Last year, the monthly average was 229,000 jobs.

In a statement about the report, the Republican National Committee (RNC) noted that the manufacturing sector lost 4,000 jobs in November.

"The 4,000 manufacturing jobs that disappeared last month come on top of the over 300,000 that have been lost under President Obama, more proof that President-elect Donald Trump's efforts to stand up for the American worker is the commitment our country needs right now," said RNC Co-Chair Sharon Day, in the statement. "This election showed that millions of Americans don't trust Democrats to create good jobs and opportunity, and President-elect Trump's determination to save 1,000 jobs in Indiana is just a preview of his agenda

of prosperity for all.

Day continued: "Even before taking office, President-elect Trump has proven that protecting and creating jobs will be among his highest priorities as president, and Americans who have spent years struggling under President Obama can look forward to a brighter future for themselves and their families."

The Carrier jobs that President-elect Trump took credit for saving come with strings attached. Reuters reported that, "Indiana state officials have agreed to give United Technologies Corp \$7 million worth of tax breaks to encourage the company to keep at least 1,069 jobs at its Carrier unit in Indianapolis."

Carrier still plans to send about 1,300 jobs to Mexico.

Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.) also offered his take on the Labor Department's report. Scott said that the numbers show that our economy continues to move forward from the worst economic crisis in a generation.

"There is no doubt we

have made great strides the last eight years, but our commitment to creating a more balanced and fair economy remains a priority," said Scott.

Scott lamented the federal court's decision to block an updated overtime rule that would have helped more than four million workers.

"Prior to the court's decision and even before the overtime update was finalized, my Republican colleagues launched a campaign to stop and dismantle this meaningful rule that would serve working people," said Scott. "With a new Congress and new Administration fast approaching, I urge my colleagues to stand behind their promises of building an economy where working families can succeed."

Scott continued: "One of the very first bipartisan steps we can take is to ensure working people aren't robbed of the hard-earned pay that they deserve. That means standing behind the updated overtime rule."



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You're invited to our Sunday Morning "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship Service at 10 a.m. See what God is doing through and with us; you will be blessed.

December 14, 7 p.m.
Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson and Pastor Brenda Patterson teaching a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 5, Chapter 4." Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you. It's Time to Grow; Ephesians 4:12 & 13.

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Carrollton, TX 75007
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www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

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December 11, 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.
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December 14
Join us at 12 Noon with Rev. Viveca Potter teaching on the Word of God; come back at 6:45 p.m. for Corporate Prayer and stay for Senior Pastor Autry at 7:30 p.m. teaching the Word of God. Our youth will come for Food and Fellowship at 7 p.m. followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Terrence Autry, Senior Pastor
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972-991-0200
Richardson, TX 75081
www.Christcommunityrichardson.org

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December 11, 8 a.m.
Join us on our main campus at 200 West Belmont Drive for Early Morning Worship and be blessed; followed by our Sunday Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 and bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

December 14
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 at the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 West Belmont Drive in Allen. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all, be prepared to grow. Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D. Senior Pastor
5705 Cheyenne Drive at Bolin Elementary School in Allen 75002 for Sunday Morning Worship and the Admin. Building Address is 200 W. Belmont Drive Allen, TX 75013
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December 11, 7:30 and/or 11:30 a.m.
You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

December 12, 7 p.m.
Join us in Monday School as we grow in God's Word and learn what God has to say to us.

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www.Ibocchurch.org

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)
December 11, 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.

December 14
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

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December 11, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Join us for Worship Services and fellowship as we give God all glory, honor and praise.
Also, don't forget our Annual Christmas Banquet at 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. It's always fun and inspirational. Call the church for details.

December 14, 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."

Our AWANA (Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed from 2 Timothy 2:15) is held from 6:30 - 8:15 pm, now through May. Kick-off was September 7th. There is no charge for registration for new participants! This is a Bible-based program for children and youth, ages three years old through the 12th grade. The emphasis is on memorizing the Word of God and developing a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ in a structured, safe and fun environment.
Our church ministries offer opportunities for motivation and growth; join us and see. Be blessed of the Lord.

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Senior Pastor

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A 'Spirit of God' Christian



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"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the Spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father.

The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." **Romans 8:14-16.**

Joshua and Caleb are described in Bible Scripture as men who had a different spirit. They were two of the 12 spies sent into the Promised Land to determine if it could be taken as God had promised it to them.

The other ten gave a bad report that instilled fear in the people, which ultimately caused a rebellion. This resulted in an entire generation dying in the

desert.

Joshua and Caleb were the only two who were led by the Spirit of God, versus the spirit of fear. They were the only ones to enter the Promised Land from their generation.

Are you an individual led by the Spirit of God? The verse above tells us that those who are led by the Spirit are sons of God.

"But My servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed Me fully, him will I bring into the land where-into he went; and his seed shall possess it." **Numbers 14:24.**

Caleb was a Spirit of God man. The Spirit led him. He was not led by fear.

Many believers have failed to enter into their own Promised Land because they have failed to be led by the Spirit of God rather than by fear of the unknown.

Fear prevents Christians from entering into what God has promised for them. God has reserved an inheritance for Christians that is

exceedingly good.

"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us," **Ephesians 3:20.**

God described the Promised Land as a land of milk and honey. Christian's own Promised Land is the same,

a land of milk and honey.

But, they must be led by the Spirit of God to enter in. Christians cannot be led by fear, reason and analysis, or even skill. The Spirit must lead them.

God's plans are bigger than Christians could ever imagine. He will always honor His promises. His

love shows no bounds and He always look at the heart.

However, it is good for Christians to remember that God will discipline Christians when they stray and the Holy Spirit will convict the heart and speak to the mind to keep Christians in line with God's purpose.

Something to Ponder: Get B.A.D. Not MAD -- I saw a man with an acronym on his shirt that had "I'm B.A.D."; being curious I asked the man, "What does B.A.D. stand for? He said:

B . A . D . stands for "Blessed And Delivered." A little advice for the Chris-

tian for this Holiday Season and for the rest of your life.

1) When the enemy tries to attack you, be B.A.D. Pray for the enemy

2) When things don't see to be going right on your job, be B.A.D. Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3) When things are not looking good in your life, be B.A.D. Talk to people and take it to the Lord in prayer.

4) When folks scandalize your name, be B.A.D; and take it to the Lord in prayer. Get with somebody that you can just be B.A.D. with and praise the Lord.



Senior Pastor Terrance & Sister Ve Woodson, as they are bidding farewell to Bro. Robert (Bob) Miranda; he is moving back home to Miami, Florida as they are wishing Bro. Bob and everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Prosper New Year

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NDGtv North Dallas Gazette takes a moment to reflect on the past with **Historical Perspectives from Sister Tarpley**

Hear what it was like growing up in a very different Dallas when Booker T. Washington was a black school. Sister Tarpley graduated from there and went on to college and later became a city councilmember in Carrollton.

Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com

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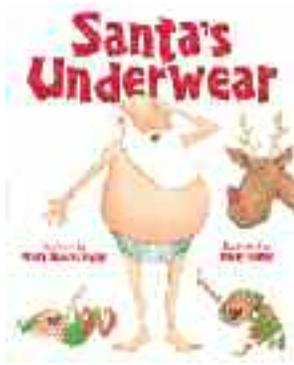
NDG Book Review: Let *Santa's Underwear* make them dance

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Your new Christmas outfit is absolutely perfect.

It's just the right mix of red and green for the holidays, with a little thread of gold for sparkle. The top part fits, the bottom part fits, you even got new shoes. Santa's got a special outfit for the holidays, too, but in the book "Santa's Underwear" by Marty Rhodes Figley, illustrated by Marty Kelley, what's under there is missing.

Christmas Eve had arrived and there was no time to waste. Santa had to get ready, and he needed to do it quick, if he was going to



be on time to deliver toys to all the boys and girls of the world.

He'd shined his boots and his favorite belt buckle. Mrs. Claus gave him a nutritious dinner and, while that gave him energy, Santa

was dreaming of the cookies and milk the children would leave for him. He brushed his teeth, took a bubble bath, and polished his beard with special gloss until it shined like a hillside of snow.

The elves brought him a mirror and Santa looked awesome! He was ready! And it was time to put on his "special Christmas clothes."

Now, you know what you need to start with, when you get dressed? Well, Santa slid open the drawer that held his warmest, most favorite, magical undies but (uh-oh!) Santa's "long... wooly" underwear was

missing!

Once upon a time, they were red, but now they were faded. They used to fit like a glove, but these days, they sagged. They'd been patched and sewn a dozen times, but Santa loved those undies. He couldn't imagine flying through the air in an open sleigh without them. His underwear sure kept him warm.

Oh, but he looked for them! He searched every drawer in his bedroom. He looked in the dirty laundry, just in case. They weren't beneath the bed or between the sofa cushions. The elves tried to tell him that his pink boxers from Valen-

tine's Day would work, but that was "too... cutesy." The shamrock jammies weren't "Christmassy," and his Easter briefs were too brief. Santa needed his red wooly undies!

What if he lost them forever?

You might have your lucky socks. Your child may have a stuffed animal he needs to keep close. And in "Santa's Underwear," the Big Guy can't find the one thing nobody should be without.

Let's face it – underwear is funny, especially if you're a little kid and especially when it's underwear belonging to a guy like

Santa. Children, therefore, will get a kick out of the preposterousness of author Marty Rhodes Figley's story but the fun doesn't stop with the tale: illustrator Marty Kelley's artwork is hilarious. When you're reading this story, be sure to pay close attention to the elves. Their goofiness can't be missed.

And it won't keep just for Christmas, either. Your 4-to-8-year-old will want to see this book in March and July and September, as well as the holiday season. They'll see London, they'll see France, "Santa's Underwear" will make them dance.

SANTA, continued from Page 8

boards. Of course with the children, there was no problem.

"Kids don't see color, they just see Santa," Jefferson said. He shared that the

turnout was incredible. "People came from Arizona, Dallas, and Chicago just to get their picture with me," according to Jefferson. This is not Jefferson's

first year to serve as the leader of Rudolph and the North Pole. A retired U.S. Army veteran, Jefferson has been the man in the red suit since 1999. It may seem like fun and games, but Jefferson, an actor by trade, takes the task seriously. He

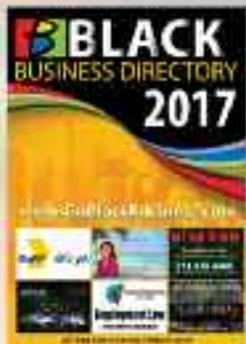
discussed how much the team must do to calm a young child perhaps frightened by the man with the big beard.

Jefferson's holiday season kicked off in September when he was hired for holiday shows held at the Con-

vention Center as retailers and other holiday professionals prepare for their busy time of year. His schedule is pretty much booked for the 2016 holiday season and included serving once again as Santa for the Uber holiday party.

He also is being flown to New York City for a private family affair.

If you want to stay in the know about Jefferson's upcoming appearances and possibly book him early for 2017, send an email to santaclauslj@yahoo.com.



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- (1) Ad on (1) IDB for 1 yr.
- *total value of \$4,200 for only \$1,000

Special Offer #2- \$500

- (1) Half page color ad in 2017 Directory
- (1) Side Banner ad for 6 mo.
- (4) Eblast to over 38k members
- (1) Ad on (1) IDB for 6 mo.
- *total value of \$2,300 for only \$500

****ONLY (10) OF EACH OFFER AVAILABLE, SO CALL TODAY!****

**Advertising Deadline is Dec. 18th, 2016
Distribution date is Feb. 1st, 2017**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK YOUR AD TODAY
CALL 868-834-3932 or EMAIL info@GoBlackBusiness.com