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Study estimates more than 300,000 victims of human trafficking in Texas

AUSTIN, Texas — There are more than 300,000 victims of human trafficking in Texas, including almost 79,000 minors and youth victims of sex trafficking and nearly 234,000 adult victims of labor trafficking, according to a groundbreaking study by the Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (IDVSA) at The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work.

Human trafficking happens when one person is controlled through violence, deception or coercion in situations of commercial sex, forced labor, or domestic servitude. Although human trafficking is known to be prevalent in large states with big urban centers such as Texas, the scope of the crime has been difficult to measure. Existing data sets, which focus almost exclusively on identified victims, have shed light on only a fraction of the problem.

To address this gap, in 2014 researchers launched the Statewide Human Trafficking Mapping Project of Texas with the goal of quantifying the prevalence and economic impact of human trafficking across the state. This statewide research was a collaboration among IDVSA, the Bureau of Business Research at



A study conducted at the University of Texas finds that the prevalence of human trafficking in Texas is far higher than many would have thought, with up to 300,000 victims in this state alone. (Photo: Ira Gelb / Flickr)

the IC2 Institute at UT Austin, and Allies Against Slavery, with funding support from the Criminal Justice Division at the Texas Office of the Governor.

“This is our first glimpse into the scope and impact of human trafficking in Texas. Few states have this kind of insight into the number of people being exploited,” said IDVSA director Noël Busch-Armentariz, who led the study. “And more importantly, each count reflects a human being living among us in slavery-like conditions. Our

findings certainly give us all a call to action.”

In addition to mining existing databases, researchers looked at risk indicators found in documented trafficking cases and used that information to define groups of people — community segments — considered to be at higher-than-average risk of trafficking. Some examples of these community segments are homeless individuals, children and youths in the foster care system, and

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Blacks more likely to suffer family losses

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Irving approves new hotel

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Entrepreneur makes biz of black parties

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Drumline LIVE performer coming home

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COMMENTARY My open letter to 'us'

By Tip "T.I." Harris
Founder, Grand Hustle

As I write this letter, I can't help but express my frustration and concern for "US." I also can't help, but question my contribution to the status of where we are. I understand that I, too, have been guilty of doing the very things that put US here. Even still, right now, the state of our community is more alarming than ever. And, while I know that this letter may be misunderstood by many, unduly dis-

sected and misconstrued by most others, I still need to write and speak about these things that deeply concern me.

You see, all of US sometimes feel that one of the most difficult things in the world is to talk to US about US in an effort to help US. However, we cannot dismiss the fact that we can't fix what we do not address. You see, we've somehow allowed ourselves to think it's okay to neglect and

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Dr. Elizabeth Primas



Chief John Murphy



Christie M. Howard

On the GO??? But still need to be in the KNOW!!! Bookmark NorthDallasGazette.com on your phone or mobile device!!!



Dr. Elizabeth Primas

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Contributor

Dr. Elizabeth Primas has faced many difficult and diverse challenges head on.

It's that direct approach that has helped her to excel as the Director of Literacy and Acceleration at the Friendship Public Charter Schools; her record of excellence is bolstered by a history of achievement in teaching and leadership within D.C. Public Schools, area colleges and universities and national education organizations.



Whether teaching students or coaching peers, she's always found the right touch.

Now, Dr. Primas is set to take on a new challenge.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association

(NNPA), a trade group that represents 211 Black-owned media companies, has selected Primas to be the project manager for the new ESSA/NNPA Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant designed for work focused on increasing public awareness about the unique opportunities and challenges of the recently enacted Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The multi-media educational campaign is supported by a three-year, \$1.5 million investment from the Gates Foundation.

"Being named project manager is a great honor. I am looking forward to continuing my interest and com-

mitment to assisting in providing quality educational opportunities to 'my children,'" said Primas. "My children' are all of the children in schools that have been underserved, undereducated, and for all intent and purposes, forgotten about."

A native Washingtonian, Primas' list of teaching credentials spans more than two decades and includes stints at the University of the District of Columbia and George Washington University.

She founded two literacy and computer camps for children in Prince George's County Public Housing and was the DCPS Director of

Literacy: Reading and English Language Arts.

Primas said that the ESSA grant award is especially important, because the NNPA remains as relevant today as it was decades ago, long before the newspaper industry changed.

"Media has suffered recently, but the NNPA is made up of community papers — community papers that are still very relevant to the audience they serve," said Primas. "The Gates Foundation recognized that the African-American newspapers were strategically located and are uniquely qualified to educate the very stakeholders that ESSA is

aimed at helping."

And, that's where Primas' vast experience is expected to shine.

Over the years, Primas has received a plethora of honors for outstanding teaching, including Masonic Scottish Rites Elementary Educator Excellence Award; the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award; and the District of Columbia's Teach of the Year.

A graduate of the D.C. Teacher's College who holds a master's degree from Trinity College and a doctorate from George Washington University, Primas has

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Chief John Murphy

Chief John Murphy has announced he will retire from service in March 2017 after 12 years as Carrollton's Fire Chief.

Murphy began his career in Fire Service as a Certified Fire Fighter for the City of Arlington, where he served 32 years and retired as an Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal. Murphy was named Chief of Carrollton Fire Rescue in 2004 and immediately instilled a spirit of service through excellence. Under his leadership, the mission of Carrollton Fire Rescue has been to provide the citizens



and visitors of Carrollton a well-trained team of professionals to protect their life and property through emergency prevention, education, code compliance, EMS, fire suppression, rescue, and

emergency management in a safe and cost-effective manner.

During his tenure, Murphy has overseen the construction of Carrollton's Fire Station Eight, helped lead the consolidation of dispatching operations for Carrollton, Addison, Coppell, and Farmers Branch at the North Texas Emergency Communications Center (NTECC), as well as coordinated the transition of the City's radio network to a new P-25 system. Murphy also spearheaded the effort for Carrollton Fire Rescue to achieve a Class 1 Public Protection Classification (PPC) from the Insurance Services Of-

fice, Inc. (ISO) for its improved fire protection capabilities. This rating is the highest possible and drives the City to the top 1 percent of all communities classified by the ISO.

Additionally, in early December 2016, members of the department received the American Heart Association's Heart Saver award for their successful work on a recent cardiopulmonary resuscitation case. Under Chief Murphy's leadership, the department has earned the highest CPR save rate among members of the Dallas area Resuscitation Outcome Consortium (ROC) under the direction of the UT

Southwestern Medical School; it continues to strive for excellence through training and protocol improvement.

"Leaving the City and the people I love and respect, and the fire service profession, which I have been a part of for nearly 50 years, is bittersweet," Murphy said. "I want to leave thanking the members of Carrollton Fire Rescue for the dedication they show every day. Each member of our team, in their varied roles, provides an exceptional level of professional service to our citizens and visitors. I have been blessed to walk among them."

Murphy said he will leave very proud to have been a Carrollton firefighter and that it has been his honor and privilege to serve as fire chief for Carrollton Fire Rescue.

Over the years as Carrollton expanded, Murphy was able to oversee and manage the growth of the department to meet the needs of a growing City. Such efforts have included the addition of emergency management staff, two additional ambulance units, and a second ladder Truck Company to address the City's mounting call volume.

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Christie M. Howard

Jubilee Theatre has appointed Christie M. Howard as their new Managing Director. She joins the theatre's management team, having most recently served as the Director of Public Relations for Texas College, a post which she held for more than seven years.



transferred her knowledge in the business arena to the non-profit cultural arts, helping them reach new audiences. She served first as the Director of Sales for Dallas Black Dance Theatre, followed by joining The Black Academy of Arts and Letters as their Marketing and Media Relations

Manager. In both positions, she propelled each organization to new heights with audience growth through new sales templates, innovative e-marketing and social networking campaigns.

In 2012, Christie created LimeQuest Agency, which offers communication and marketing support and solutions to small/mid-sized businesses, non-profits, organizations and entrepreneurs.

"On behalf of the Jubilee Board of Directors, we are thrilled to have Christie join our dedicated staff," said Board President Ellen Benson. "She will be instrumental in focusing her talents and skills on the theatre's fund development /

fundraising programs and initiatives, including ongoing special events benefiting the overall financial success of Jubilee Theatre."

Christie assumed her post in late 2016, but will officially be introduced to Jubilee patrons at a pre-show reception before the Opening Night performance of Thurgood, on Friday, February 3, from 6:45 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. This special reception will be sponsored and hosted by Worthington National Bank and will take place in their bank lobby, located next door to Jubilee Theatre, on the corner of Main and 4th Street in downtown Fort Worth's Sundance Square.

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LatinoCLD accuses Trump of continuing to use Latino community as punching bag

Miguel Solis, President of the LatinoCLD, released the following statement in response to President Trump’s executive actions on Jan. 25 related to immigration.

“It’s not surprising that the person who began his campaign demonizing Mexican immigrants is beginning his

Presidency by attacking this community. Aside from the physical barrier, the wall sends a hostile message to a critical trading partner and to the Latino community in this country.

Law enforcement entities across the country have opposed proposals targeting

sanctuary cities because it will make it more difficult for them to do their job. Business leaders across the state have opposed similar policies because they will harm economic development. The faith-based community opposes such policies because they hurt fami-

lies.

President Trump has made it clear he will continue to use the Latino community as a punching bag to score political points. It is our duty to unite and fight policies that hurt not just our community but our entire state and nation.”

Senate budget is shameful; school kids need help now

The Texas State Teachers Association this week said Senate leaders should be ashamed of themselves for proposing a budget that continues to shortchange public school students and attempts to deceive local property taxpayers.

“The budget is about more than numbers. It is about people’s lives, and this budget would make it more difficult for Texas’ 5.3 million public school children to receive the opportunities for success they deserve,” said TSTA President

Noel Candelaria.

“This budget proposal would barely — maybe — cover enrollment growth, but only by increasing the burden on local school taxpayers, who already pay for the lion’s share of school costs. Meanwhile, the lieu-

tenant governor, who pretends to feel the pain over property taxes, continues promoting his ill-conceived idea to take tax dollars from under-funded public schools to pay for private school

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abandon our responsibility to ourselves and to our community. Everything cannot be blamed on THE SYSTEM.

We can no longer afford to be entertained beyond the point of accountability. We can’t keep selling each other out and be willing to do anything to be seen, to be famous or to be rich. Our obsession with material things and lack of self-worth is evident in our need for an abundance of momentary luxuries and must-have amenities that have no true value, for real man. And I mean, we do it just to impress people that could care less if your children or your children’s children have anything left to show for your life after you gone. You see, somewhere along the way, we’ve allowed the pursuit of fame and things to blind us to the issues that prevent us from moving upward. So, we cannot continue to get caught up in having material abundance and yet be fundamentally and spiritually broke.

Every one of us must do something to contribute to transforming our community for the better. We have been underserved, underprivileged and unfortunate for far too long. There are no more excuses. It’s not enough to have limited progress and allow our expectations and sense of purpose to evaporate. So, if that means we must sacrifice some nights at

the club and give up buying the latest designer handbags and sneakers...well then damn, so be it. I can only hope that one day soon we’ll understand our true economic buying power by investing in our own communities and putting our money into businesses that keep our dollars in our community.

It is imperative for US to parent our children and educate them outside of the school systems, as the American education system was not designed to lift US out of oppression. If we know that the pipelines to prisons are multiplying, well we must ask ourselves, “what can we do to end it?” We must keep ourselves busy with finding ways to generate wealth for generations to come and work to pass down things to our children for them to pass down to their children. You see man, who wants to fight who on Instagram should not be as important as fighting for equality...and who’s f**king who should never be as important as creating a strategy to help break the cycle of economic oppression.

You see, if we don’t acknowledge and accept where we are failing, then we’ll never do the work that it takes to make it right for US. See, we are the benefactors of too much sacrifice and blood, sweat and tears to allow petty differences and

trivial discrepancies to continue to separate and divide US, while we are being used, exploited and conquered. We should not live one more day ignoring the sh** that suffocates and strangles US keeping US imprisoned in our own communities. We cannot afford to not stick together and work together for the betterment of our community.

As we look to the future for US, there could not be a better time to assess where we go from here. And while there’s currently great turmoil, there is even greater opportunity for US to work together to transform our community.

Far too many of our children are fatherless, far too many of our mothers are standing in the prison waiting rooms and far too many of our young people feel hopeless. We must work to reshape the need for our children to want to live so fast even if it means dying so young. Now, I am not here to demonize or vilify, but to pledge my commitment to help US do what needs to be done. You see, if we continue to devalue ourselves we cannot realistically expect respect from others.

Now, how can I sit here in a place of privilege and say such things and make such suggestions, you ask? Well, I answer simply, because I know what it’s like. I know what it’s like to not know where you’re going or how

to get there. I know what it’s like to have no one around you who can teach you how to be what you hope to become. I know what it’s like to be so distracted by your surroundings and in the moment that it’s seemingly impossible to not get caught up in ‘em. I know what it’s like to feel so much smaller than the activities of your environment that you can’t see how not to succumb to ‘em. I know what it’s like to not be able to focus in class due to real life hunger pangs. I know what it’s like to be disruptive just to pass the time and take your mind off what’s lacking at home. I know what it’s like to be laughed at by your teacher when you tell them what you hope to be in life. I also know what it’s like to be told by your teacher that you’ll never amount to anything. I know what it’s like to feel hopeless and to feel like you’re not good enough just because of where you’re from. I know what it’s like to be profiled and to be abused by the police. I know what it’s like to be racially profiled, treated unjustly and abused by the police just because of how you look. But even more importantly than knowing all these things, I know what it’s like to overcome ‘em.

Now, I know it’s not easy...but all of US can do something.

Respectfully Yours,
 Tip Harris
 #USORELSE

Johnson files bills to delay felony conviction for prostitution

Representative Johnson has filed House Bill 1218 to help prostitutes break the cycle of incarceration and re-enter society by delaying a felony conviction for prostitution and encouraging participation in prostitution

diversion programs. “A criminal record, especially a felony, makes it difficult for individuals to access housing, food, and legal employment, making it more difficult to exit the lifestyle and end the cycle of

re-offense and incarceration,” said Representative Johnson.

“Last session, I sent a similar bill to the governor’s desk, which, sadly, he vetoed. I hope to work with the governor this session to

gain support for this bipartisan, common sense criminal justice reform measure,” said Representative Johnson.

Representative Johnson has also filed House Bill 1215 to address the issue of prison-based gerrymander-

ing of districts. Currently, for purposes of redistricting, inmates are counted as residing in the district in which the prison they are incarcerated in is located, rather than the place they actually call home.

“Prison-based gerrymandering distorts our democratic process and artificially inflates district populations in a way that is not truly representative of the voting population,” said Representative Johnson.

In conversation with the legendary Dr. Zan Wesley Holmes, Jr. and special guest Roland S. Martin

Zan Wesley Holmes, Jr. Community Outreach Center (ZWHJCOC) presents its 4th annual In Conversation with the legendary Dr. Zan Wesley Holmes, Jr. and special guest Roland S. Martin, host and managing editor of TV One’s daily News One Now program. This event will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with Friday, February 17, 2017, at St. Luke “Community” UMC. Tickets are only \$35 and can



be purchased online through eventbrite.com.

ZWHJCOC’s In Conversation Series shines light on the life and events of our city, state, nation, and world from the perspective of Dr.

Holmes and our distinguished speakers:

- A former Texas State Representative, University of Texas System Regent, and SMU Perkins School of Theology faculty member,

as well as a renowned activist and ZWHJCOC’s namesake, Dr. Holmes has mentored scores of public servants, educators, corporate leaders, and clergy around the world.

- Mr. Martin, a nationally-syndicated columnist, author, and commentator, has appeared on programs and networks such as CNN, MSNBC, and The Tom Joyner Morning Show. His devoted and growing fol-

lowing spans generations, and awes and challenges people and institutions all over the country.

Proceeds from this event will support programs such as ZWHJCOC’s signature Frazier House. Opening this spring, Frazier House — a unique partnership with Dallas ISD — has already begun to transform how Dallas designs shared resource spaces, revitalizes old buildings, reconnects communi-

ties, and unites public and private organizations to provide social and educational services to those who need it most. Click here to learn more about Frazier House and our other programs.

For more sponsorship information contact Michelle Newsome, ZWHJCOC Board member and Event Chair, at inconversation@zwhjcc.org or 214.878.1734; or Sherry Avery at savery@zwhjcc.org or 214.324.4443.

Collin College accepting Board of Trustees applications

Collin College will accept applications to run for Board of Trustees Places 1, 2, 3 and 5 now through Friday, Feb. 17.

The corresponding election will take place on Saturday, May 6.

The nine-member, at-large

board helps shape Collin College’s future by leading the vision, setting policy and making decisions on major issues that affect the college. Six-year terms for places 1, 2 and 3 begin May 2017 and extend through May 2023. Place 5 is a two-year term

ending in 2019.

Interested applicants must file the appropriate documents with deputy election secretary Shirley Harmon by 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 17 at the Collin Higher Education Center, 3452 Spur 399, Suite 400 in McKinney. Informa-

tion packets with necessary forms and more information are available online. Harmon can be reached by phone at 972-758-3800 or by e-mail at sharmon@collin.edu for

questions.

The candidates elected for Places 1, 2, 3 and 5 will be sworn in at the Tuesday, May 23 Board of Trustees meeting. In the event that a

runoff election is needed for any of the places, the successful candidate will be sworn in at the first meeting after certification of the runoff results.

VICTIMS, continued from Page 1

migrant workers.

Researchers conducted interviews, focus groups and web-based surveys with professionals at social service agencies who provide outreach and relief services to trafficking victims and survivors to establish benchmarks on human trafficking prevalence across Texas. Main findings include:

There are an estimated 313,000 victims of human trafficking in Texas.

Approximately 79,000 minors and youths are victims of sex trafficking in Texas.

Approximately 234,000 workers in Texas are victims of labor trafficking.

Researchers also estab-

lished benchmarks on the economic impact of human trafficking.

Traffickers exploit approximately \$600 million per year from victims of labor trafficking in Texas in the most at-risk industries and economic sectors, including migrant farm work, construction, kitchen workers in restaurants, and landscaping services.

An estimated \$6.5 billion is spent on the lifetime costs of providing care to victims and survivors of minor and youth sex trafficking in Texas, including costs related to law enforcement, prosecution and social services.

“The economic and social costs of human trafficking

in Texas emphasize the importance of preventative solutions and help inform how to prioritize resources to support those who have experienced exploitation,” explained Bruce Kellison, director of the Bureau of Business Research.

“This is a watershed study for our state,” said John Nehme, the president and CEO of Allies Against Slavery. “This research helps bring human trafficking out of the shadows: the men, women and children who are victims of trafficking in Texas are no longer invisible. The report will be a significant resource for policymakers, professionals, survivor leaders and community members as we continue to work together to end human trafficking.”

Investors Liquidation Sale: Laurel Land Cemetery Burial Plot For Sale (one space) Section # 3, Space # 15, Lot # 20



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Dallas Mayor's Intern applications are due by Jan. 31

Special opportunity for Dallas public or charter high school students currently in their sophomore or junior year at a public or charter school in Dallas. If they are looking for a summer job, then they should sign up now through Jan. 31 for the Mayor's Intern Fellows Program, an eight-week paid internship June 12-Aug. 4 at Dallas businesses and nonprofits. It is an opportunity for the students to fast track their future, rubbing elbows and learning the ropes of the



Internships provide a mutual benefit for the organization and the intern By Glenn Research Center via Wikimedia Commons

workplace, while earning a minimum of \$9 per hour working 20-40 hours per week. Celebrating 10 years, the Mayor's Intern Fellows

Program opens the door to a variety of fields – from technology, healthcare and law, to engineering, finance and accounting, to education, the nonprofit sector, advertising/marketing/public relations, manufacturing and more. Modeled after the White House Fellows Program, the Intern Fellows Program prepares students to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Participating companies from past years include AT&T; Bank of America; Dal-Tile Corporation; De-

loitte; HDR Engineering, Inc.; Omni Dallas Hotel; and UT-Southwestern. Participating nonprofits include the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Klyde Warren Park, Dallas Public Library and Dallas Theater Center, just to name a few.

The Mayor's Intern Fellow's Program is facilitated by Dallas nonprofit Education is Freedom (EIF), a comprehensive college-access and workforce-readiness program offering a dedicated team of school-based experts who offer col-

lege-access programming in numerous Dallas ISD high schools.

With rigorous internship prep training, a highly competitive job fair, work-readiness workshops and a community service day, the program offers plenty of life-skills training to help prepare students for the professional workplace. Whether they land the job or not, they'll have undergone an invaluable learning experience just by going through

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UT Dallas to host the annual African American Male Academic Bowl on Jan. 28

About 45 teams of area students in grades 4 through 8 will face off in a battle of the brains at the eighth annual African American Male Academic Bowl, a quiz-show-style competition at UT Dallas on Saturday. The elementary and middle

school teams will answer questions on a variety of subjects to advance to the championship round. Teams come from schools in districts including Dallas, Carrollton, DeSoto, Fort Worth, Frisco, Irving and others.

Last year, a team from

Scoggins Elementary in Frisco won the middle school championship and another from Townsell Elementary in Irving took the elementary championship. All the team members won laptops.

The event is Saturday, Jan.

28 starting at 9 a.m. with the Opening Session with the competition kicking off at 10 a.m. until Noon. The Championship Rounds are slotted for 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. followed by the award announcements.

The event will feature

comments from speakers including Texas Sen. Royce West, Dr. Richard C. Benson, President of The University of Texas at Dallas; and Dr. Joe May, Chancellor, Dallas County Community College District. UT Dallas hosts the event with partners

Sen. West, the Dallas County Community College district and Project Still I Rise, Inc.

The event will be held at UT Dallas, Naveen Jindal School of Management, located at 800 W. Campbell Road, in Richardson.

PRIMAS, continued from Page 2

worked with several organizations such as the National Council of Teachers in English and the International Reading Association's Urban Diversity Commission and coordinated major conferences on contemporary topics in literary and reading.

She's also a well-known consultant for city schools,

textbook companies and the international professional development of teachers.

Primas said that there are several deliverables that have already been identified in the proposal for the ESSA grant that includes providing training seminars, holding or participating in town hall meetings, producing and distributing articles and estab-

lishing a website or electronic landing page that will allow the public to access current information relating to the progress of the implementation of the ESSA grant.

"I will also be looking for accountability from all NNPA participants," Primas said. "That means to me, collecting and archiving articles that demonstrate the efforts nationally. I will be working

with the NNPA to assist all members of NNPA in organizing a gathering of the information that needs to be disseminated to the communities. My goal is simply for the NNPA to become a resource for its members, which will allow the individual publications to better serve their communities."

Primas said the ESSA is primarily focused on closing the achievement gap for mi-

norities.

While each law before it focused on improving education, ESSA allows for the state and local school districts to determine what's needed for all their students to be successful.

"We're no longer thinking one size fits all," she said. "The assessment and accountability can now be locally created. ESSA ends the federal mandate on teacher

evaluations and local districts set their own guidelines for teacher accountability."

Primas continued: "I think it's also important to note that we must keep our eyes and ears open as there are already talks of trying to dismantle parts of ESSA that specifically speak to civil rights and equality. NNPA must help communicate the opportunities and challenges that affect our community."

MURPHY, continued from Page 2

"It's going to be very hard to say goodbye to Chief Murphy, but we know that he leaves us in very good shape because of the intrinsic traits he has exemplified: high moral standards, fairness, hard work, and ethics," said Assistant Chief Mark Haseloff. "I can't thank Chief Murphy enough for his years of leadership, guidance, and contributions that he has provided for Carrollton Fire Rescue; he has been an asset to the City and touched all of us deeply."

Haseloff went on to say CFR provides excellent service to the citizens of Car-

rollton because of Murphy's guidance and vision of service. "We wish him the best for his retirement years."

"Chief Murphy's character, strong leadership, and dedication to both the members of CFR and the citizens they serve have personified the Carrollton Difference," City Manager Erin Rinehart said. "His example will continue to inspire those in the department and the organization long after his final day in office."

Murphy's retirement is effective the end of March. The City is currently in the search for his replacement.

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Irving Convention Center Hotel approved

In a 9-0 vote the Irving City Council cleared the way for its headquarter hotel to be built adjacent to the Irving Convention Center.

The \$110 million full-ser-

vice upscale hotel will provide at least 350 guest rooms and more than 16,000 square feet of ballroom, boardroom and meeting space. The site will include a number of ameni-

ties, such as retail and restaurant facilities. An 840-space parking garage also will be built.

The hotel will stand as the final piece to an up-and-coming entertainment dis-

trict located in the heart of Irving's Las Colinas. The hotel will complement the Irving Convention Center, and the 17-acre, multi-venue Irving Music Factory, now under construction.

Contest invites artists to show why you love Plano Libraries

Like to draw, sketch or color? Submit a design for the annual Plano Public Library Bookmark Contest. The winning artwork is made into actual bookmarks. The five cate-

gories are: Ages 5-7, Ages 8-10, Ages 11-13, Ages 14-18 and Adults. Along with the printed bookmark, winners receive gift cards. The deadline to enter is Wednesday, Feb.

15. Entry forms are available online and at your favorite Plano library. Only one entry per person, so show us your best stuff. Last year Ellie Ruan's bookmark (above) was

the first place winner in the 14-18-year-old category.

The bookmarks are on display during a special Bookmark Contest Art Celebration at Harrington

Library, 1501 18th St., on Thursday, April 27, 6:30-8 p.m. Come by to check out the bookmarks, take a tour of 18st AIRSpace and interact with artist-in-residence Lisa Covert.

Oak Point Rec Center Closes Jan. 31 for Renovation

If you've been working out at Oak Point Recreation Center, you'll need to move your workout or swimming to one of Plano's other recreation or aquatic centers.

Improvement renovations kickoff for Oak Point Recreation Center, which requires closing it temporarily starting Tuesday, Jan. 31. The renovation includes:

- Adding a weight room addition with new equipment and 35+ cardio machines
- Converting the existing weight room into a studio classroom
- Building a locker room addition and updating the

current locker rooms

- Installing new mechanical equipment in the pool
- Adding a new indoor water slide
- Resurfacing the pool deck
- Creating a new front desk
- Making general updates throughout the facility - paint, flooring and lighting
- Refinishing the basketball and racquetball court floors

Oak Point Recreation Center should reopen in the fall. We can't wait for you to enjoy these improvements.

Frisco Programs Coordinator returns from building a school in the Dominican Republic

Frisco – Manuel Gonzales, Federal Programs Coordinator for the Frisco Independent School District, has returned from the Lifetouch Memory Mission where he, and some 50 educators and administrators, built a school in the Dominican Republic. The school was built for the children and families in a small, mountainous farming community.

Lifetouch Photography, the leading national provider of school and family photography, organizes the trip and invites school administrators, school board members, principals, other educators and PTA members to work alongside Lifetouch volunteers and Dominican nationals to build the school.

This was the sixth Memory Mission to Constanza. Volunteers have previously built an elementary school, which now serves hundreds of children who otherwise

would not have the chance to receive an education. Additionally, volunteers have built a vocational school, providing a place for students to continue their education, offering greater opportunities for careers as adults. This January, the volunteers continued construction on an elementary school that will serve the Rio Grande community.

During the trip, volunteers worked on a variety of projects, including building structures with concrete blocks. While in the Dominican, volunteers had an opportunity to visit with community members, interact with teachers and students and participate in a day of photography for the students and families in this village – many of whom have never seen a photo of themselves. Memory Mission participants held two-way conversations with their home schools or offices using

Google Hangouts. In addition to hearing about their personal experiences, viewers saw the surroundings and construction site and chatted with Dominican children.

Since its inception in 2000, the Lifetouch Memory Mission program has rebuilt a village in war-ravaged Kosovo, repaired homes in Appalachia, established a children's center in Jamaica and has constructed a footbridge for students to use while walking to school in the land of the Navajo in Arizona.

Additionally, volunteers have built 14 schools across Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Memory Mission volunteers have also provided on-site assistance to victims of natural disasters throughout the United States, including Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, floods in the Dakotas, fires in California, and tornadoes across the Midwest.

Irving hosts Father-Daughter Dance

Fathers (or father figures) and their daughters age 4 to 13 can dance the night away at this special event This year's theme is: "An Enchanted Evening." The event is scheduled for 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Feb. 10 at the Mustang Park Recreation Center

Admission is \$25 per couple (\$10 for each additional daughter) and includes music provided by a disc jockey, dinner and refreshments, gifts, door prizes, and pictures by a professional photographer.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and are on sale now.



Irving is planning a special occasion for the city's fathers and daughters. (Photo: Kurt Magoon / Flickr)

INTERN, continued from Page 6

the robust application process and job fair.

To qualify, students must complete an online application, which includes a short essay, by Jan. 31. Additionally, applicants must be en-

rolled as sophomores or juniors (seniors are not eligible) at a Dallas public high school (or attend a Richardson ISD high school and live in the city of Dallas); have a 3.0 GPA

(minimum); be 16 years of age by June 12; be eligible to work in the United States; be recommended to the program by their high school principal or counselor; and attend a one-day Saturday mandatory training in advance of the job

fair.

Once all requirements are met, hundreds of employers will conduct interviews at the program's real-world Job Fair on Friday, April 7, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Hyatt Regency Dallas. Selected students will receive

formal job offers in mid-May. Interns who accept their job offer will then complete three days of leadership development workshops June 6-8 at Townview Magnet Center.

The summer wraps up with a celebratory luncheon

with Mayor Rawlings honoring the interns and employers on Thursday, July 27, at the Omni Dallas Hotel. It's an event full of tears, laughs and surprises!

Details and the online application are available at mayorsinterns.org.

For latest DFW news and contests LIKE the North Dallas Gazette on Facebook

Facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette

Community Briefs

ADDISON Taste of Addison returns

A celebration of food, music, and fun, the Taste of Addison event dishes out the best food and flavor with a healthy side of enjoyable jams.

A three-day menu of fun held from May 19 through 21, the festival promises to deliver Addison's favorite eateries along with great music at Addison Circle Park.

Known for 180 restaurants in less than 4.4 miles and its nationally recognized special events.

GARLAND Info for upcoming city elections

Interested Garland residents may file for a place on the May 6, 2017, General Election ballot for the offices of Mayor and City Council Districts 3, 6, 7 and 8. Anyone interested in candidacy must submit the required documents to the City Secretary's Office before the filing deadline of Friday, Feb. 17. Candidate packets are available online and may be picked up at the Office of the City Secretary, 200 N. Fifth St. Find more information on the City Secretary's page at GarlandTX.gov.

IRVING North Texas Teen Book Festival

Mark your calendars and save your appetites for the first annual North Texas Teen Book Festival YA Author Luncheon March 3 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

The event will feature four of YA fandom's most engaging authors, Jason Reynolds (Ghost), Veronica Roth (Carve the Mark and Divergent series), Nicola Yoon (The Sun is Also a Star) and Jeff Zentner (Goodbye Days) for fun conversation, a Q&A session and book signings.

Tickets are \$50 per person, and cover the cost of admission and a plated lunch.

RICHARDSON Women on the Go networking event

Interested in being part of the Women in Leadership committee? Or just want to learn about what we do and who we are?

Come by Quiggly's Clayhouse at for a night of creative fun. They 1344 E. Belt Line Rd. will have wine and light bites. Monday, Jan. 30 from 6 - 8 p.m.

\$20 fee at the door includes pottery and paint.



Lively Pointe Youth Center Hosts Teen Jam Jan. 28

Middle and high school students can join in the fun at Lively Pointe Youth Center, 909 N. O'Connor Road, from 7 to 11 p.m. Jan. 28. Admission is free with a valid IPAR

or school ID card. Teens and tweens can strike a pose in a photo booth, enjoy music, open gym, and as always, complimentary food and beverages will be served.

Critical, delicate issue of eating disorders addressed in *EAT*

The Dallas Children's Theater (DCT) Teen Scene Players will present *EAT (It's Not About Food)* by Linda Daugherty February 10 - February 19, 2017 in the intimate Studio Theater at the Rosewood Center for Family Arts. This daring, darkly humorous production had its original premiere at DCT in 2008 and with one million Texas youth showing prevalence toward eating disorders, the issue is no less prevalent today.

EAT (It's Not About Food) dramatizes and decodes the baffling world of eating disorders in boys and girls through a series of scenes ranging from realistic to satirical to humorous. Candidly exploring causes and warning signs, playwright Linda Daugherty takes a hard look at how society and the media influence self-identity. In *EAT (It's Not About Food)*, we see individual stories of

young people struggling with this epidemic, and all too often tragic problem. Follow the difficult journey of 14-year-old Amy, whose struggle to recover from an eating disorder leads to hospitalization, affecting her family and friends. Join us and experts from the Dallas community in a post-show discussion about ways to help our young people deal with these very real challenges.

EAT follows several young men and women through their lives and the specific characteristics that lead to dangerously unhealthy eating habits. The play speaks to misconceptions when one hears, "eating disorder," as the idea of a stubborn teenager who just needs to eat something or exercise some self-control comes to mind. Daugherty's play is not just about bring-

See *EAT*, Page 11



Dallas Children's Theater

BARBARA PARK

Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook

Illustrated by Denise Briskus

52835338

JAN 20 - FEB 26
AGES 5 AND UP

by Allison Gregory
based on the books *Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook* and *Junie B. Jones Loves Handsome Warren* by Barbara Park

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f t w i

Film Review: XXX: Return of Xander Cage

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

“Rock. Paper. Scissors. Grenade launcher.” Those are some of the essential power-play components in this badass action film. Vin Diesel, the lord of “The Fast and the Furious” franchise, has just upped the mojo of his spy-thriller “xXx” sagas to a high-adrenalin stratosphere that will take action-film junkies to the land of Nirvana. Fasten your seat belts.

Sinister folks have invented a device called “Pandora’s Box.” It’s about the size of a VHS tape cassette, but not nearly as benign. This deadly killing machine is capable of sabotaging satellites and forcing them to crash land on earth on a dime. Whatever they target and want blown up goes kaboom! As Jane Marke (Toni Collette), a government official who has the president on speed dial, leads a meeting of international higher ups explaining the problem, covert warriors break into the meeting room and steal the device. Then, they disappear like ghosts.

Marke needs help. She tracks down extreme athlete-turned-government operative Xander Cage (Diesel) on the island of Santo Domingo. He is reluctant to join her in her crusade until she mentions that one of the falling satellites killed his mentor Agent Augustus Eugene Gibbons (Samuel L. Jackson), the now deceased leader of the xXx spy program. Cage is psyched to go on this revenge mission. He enlists the aide of Adele (Ruby Rose, “Orange Is the New Black”), a sexy, sharpshooting lesbian, Nicks (Kris Wu), a DJ who is a fighting machine and Tennyson Torch (Rory McCann), a getaway driver with a heavy foot. Call them the underground rave version of the CIA or MI6.

Cage and his crew of xXx foot soldiers are up against Xiang (Donnie Yen, “Rogue



Vin Diesel and Deepika Padukone in *XXX: Return of Xander Cage*. (Paramount Pictures)

One: A Star Wars Story”) a martial artist warrior, Serena (Deepika Padukone), a gun-wielding killer, and their deadly crew. The first encounter between the rebel spies and the mysterious insurgents, who have their own plans for “Pandora’s Box,” takes both parties in an unfathomable direction.

If you are looking for a coherent, plausible script, look elsewhere. The task for screenwriter F. Scott Frazier

was to come up with a framework that could support high-intensity, mind-blowing action scenes, and he did just that, nothing more. He chose international settings, created fiendish characters, developed an outline for crazy action scenes and made everything crescendo into an orgy of violence. He did his job.

Director D.J. Caruso (“Disturbia”) takes the

reins, with a keen eye on pacing and a flair for staging action sequences that become pretty outlandish. Cage skiing down a rain forest slope is almost as wild as him chasing Xiang on a motorcycle that turns into a jet ski and finds him surfing through the barrel of a huge wave. At points, what he does resembles reality. Other times, he’s doing stuff that is simply infeasible. But who cares?

The music by Robert Lydecker and Brian Tyler comes with a thunderous base beat that erupts like a volcano. Imagine standing next to the speakers at a nightclub and almost going deaf. Millennials will eat the music up. Vince Filippone and Jim Page edit the footage down to a tight clip that is so fast you almost don’t notice Diesel’s stunt doubles as he glides down hills on a skateboard or some obvious CGI effects.

The Filipino base camp looks a bit like a cross between a luau and a Victoria’s Secret keg party with a color palette of tans and browns (Jon Billington, production designer; Erin Magill, Aleksandra Marinkovich and Ken Sinclair art directors). Kimberly A. Tillman gives Marke’s career woman costumes a postmodern look and the xXx gang wears a very simple array of clothes that add to their enigma.

Vin Diesel is a two-dimensional actor, which suits the action genre just fine. He is stealth, macho, self-assured, cocky and snarky. Which plays into the Cage character well. He ain’t your daddy’s Jason Bourne. Even when Frazier’s dialogue falls a bit flat, Diesel delivers it with attitude to spare. Padukone and Rose balance toughness and a sexy component well. Watching them stand back-

to-back shooting up the bad guys who are coming from all directions is like watching a violent ballet. Yen and Wu are equally fun to view.

The cheeky dialogue, hard-to-imagine action sequences and daring extreme-sport exploits will have great appeal to young, hip moviegoers who are looking for an escapist film that is a cross between “The Fast and the Furious” and the very sardonic “Deadpool.”

It is written: Those who are looking for wall-to-wall giddy action scenes will come in throngs.

Dwight Brown is a film critic and travel writer. As a film critic, he regularly attends international film festivals including Cannes, Sundance, Toronto and the American Black Film Festival. Read more movie reviews by Dwight Brown here and at DwightBrown-Ink.com.

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DrumLine Live percussionist set to play for home crowd

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

When *DRUMLine Live* strikes up the band on Jan. 31 it will include an excited Tevin Williams making his professional DFW debut. The Dallas native and Prairie View A&M student joined the production a little more than a month ago when the show debuted in California. He now looks forward to performing in front of family and friends. While they have seen him share his talents as a choir director and band member, this is a first for me as a member of a professional nationally touring



Theatergoers can enjoy the explosive music of *DRUMLive* at Bass Performance Hall. (Image: Courtesy of Performing Arts Fort Worth)

show.

Naturally, Williams is familiar with the popular movies which the play is based on. "I watched the first

one a million times," Williams shared and he also saw the second one.

Fate presented him this opportunity after a professor

enjoyed one of his performances and put him in touch with the producers of the show. Within a matter of days, Williams was a mem-

ber of the cast, learning the good news right after Christmas.

Originally his plans were to teach music and Williams is only a semester away from finishing his degree. He plans to return next fall to complete his education. However, his long-term plans were always to be doing what he now has the privilege of doing.

"Never thought I would be in something like this, well at least not this soon. That is how fate just happened," and excited Williams shared. "It has been the best time of my life. Nothing better than to travel and doing what you

love to do. These are the people that I believe God put me here to be around. It is everything I thought it would be plus more," Williams said.

When asked what audiences will experience at *DRUMLine Live* Williams said, "Expect to get educated about the HBCU life. This is very spot on, how bands and where they get their music from." According to Williams, it is educational, but plenty of fun.

DRUMLine Live is on stage at the Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth for one night only on Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at BassHall.com.

New Maya Angelou documentary will debut on Feb. 21

PASADENA – Distinctly referred to as "a redwood tree, with deep roots in American culture," Dr. Maya Angelou (April 4, 1928-May 28, 2014) led a prolific life. As a singer, dancer, activist, poet and writer, she inspired generations with lyrical modern African-American thought that pushed boundaries. Best known for her autobiography *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (Random House), she gave people the freedom to think about their history in a way they never had before. The first feature documentary about her life, *American Masters — Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise*, premieres nationwide Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 8 p.m. on PBS during Black History Month as part of the 31st season of *THIRTEEN's* *American Masters* series. PBS Distribution will release the film on DVD the same day, with additional bonus features, and on Digital HD Feb. 22.



"It was a unique privilege to be the first filmmakers to tell Dr. Angelou's full story and exciting to uncover stories that most people hadn't

heard," said co-director and co-producer Bob Hercules (American Masters – Joffrey: Mavericks of American Dance, American Masters – Bill T. Jones: A Good Man, Forgiven Dr. Mengele).

With unprecedented access, filmmakers Bob Hercules and Rita Coburn Whack trace Dr. Angelou's incredible journey, shedding light on the untold aspects of her life through never-before-seen footage, rare archival photographs and videos and her own words. From her upbringing in the Depression-era South and her early performing career (1957's *Miss Calypso* album and *Calypso*

Heat Wave film, Jean Genet's 1961 play *The Blacks*) to her work with Malcolm X in Ghana and her many writing successes, including her inaugural poem for President Bill Clinton, *American Masters — Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise* reveals hidden facets of her life during some of America's most defining moments. The film also features exclusive interviews with Dr. Angelou, her friends and family, including Clinton, Oprah Winfrey, Common, Alfre Woodard, Cicely Tyson, Quincy Jones, Hillary Clinton, Louis Gossett, Jr., John Singleton, Diahann Carroll, Valerie Simpson, Random

House editor Bob Loomis and Dr. Angelou's son, Guy Johnson.

"The film reflects on how the events of history, culture and the arts shaped Dr. An-

gelou's life, and how she, in

See **MAYA** Page 14

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Entrepreneur launches unique party supply company that caters to black and hispanic children

Silver Spring, MD (BlackNews.com) -- KIESSE LLC, founded by entrepreneur Linda Kiedi, is a company dedicated to the provision of unique party supplies to African American and Hispanic kids. The company, born out of an urgency to meet needs often overlooked by bigger companies, has recently announced its new range of products and services. Birthed in September 2015, they do much more than provide party supplies; They believe in creating an atmosphere of love, self-confidence and boosting general ethnicity acceptance irrespective of backgrounds.

Kiedi comments, "We've found an unmet need that people of color have. We are



Linda Kiedi, founder of KIESSE LLC

offering party supplies for African American, Caucasian, Hispanic and Asian children featuring black and Hispanic characters."

Kiesse, meaning "joy" in Lingala, a central African language, is what is set as

the slogan of the company: "Joyful Kids, Embracing Diversity" - which unveils their core belief. At KIESSE LLC, party supplies pave the way in ethnic diversity with the aim of grooming and teaching kids right to

proudly accept their ethnic background. Their supplies also help children familiarize themselves with other cultures.

Kiedi says that her company believes that all children deserve to enjoy a world of acceptance, a fragile and little heart that needs not to hold back due to different physical appearances. There are a lot of party supplies to choose from featuring unique characters developed with fun and traditional themes such as ballerina, superhero, princess and host of others, including characters of African American and Hispanics origins suiting party supplies any child can select from. Upcoming, they plan on adding Bi-racial, Caucasian, and

Asian, and characters. They also plan on releasing a story-book with all the characters residing in Kiesseville, a town where they live in harmony, respect and accept each other differences, and learn from each other.

KIESSE LLC is proud to introduce these lovely and fun characters:

Lemba, a vibrant and fun-loving girl from Congo, she loves dancing, enjoying nature, a voyager and likes history as well.

Andre, is full spirited, an African American from Baltimore, Maryland, who loves helping everyone.

Mateo is an alluring and result getter boy from Brazil, a country with a real melting pot of cultures.

Luciana comes from Peru, originating from the Aztecs origin people known for their gallant prowess and strong wills. Luciana can be shy and sensitive but believes the world can be made a better place for everyone to live in.

Kiedi comments, "When the next opportunity presents itself to show your children love and help boost their self-esteem and appreciation for their culture or heritage, do not hesitate to try us. We do it better by offering the best quality party supplies featuring the characters your children will finally identify with, and fall in love with."

For more information about the company, visit www.kiessekids.com

KIDS, continued from Page 3

vouchers for a handful of select kids."

"This budget is shameful. The vast majority of Texas children will continue to be educated in neighborhood public schools. They need — and deserve — more than this from state lawmakers

who purport to represent them," Candelaria added.

"The Senate leadership has ordered still another study of school funding, but that shouldn't be an excuse to delay giving Texas school children the resources they need now for success. As

legislative leaders of both parties already have suggested, lawmakers should tap the Rainy Day Fund, which is approaching a \$12 billion balance. School funding is a true emergency."

Texas spends \$2,690 less per child in average daily attendance (ADA) than the

national average, ranking Texas 38th among the states

and the District of Columbia in this important measure of

a state's commitment to its school children.

EAT, continued from Page 10

ing awareness to the issue, it's revelatory in the depth of information and the experiences our young people are facing.

The Elisa Project here in Dallas was established by the family of Elisa McCall who lost her life as the result of an eating disorder. The Elisa Project's Executive Director Kim Martinez is serving as an invaluable community partner and resource as we prepare for our production, and for our audiences. Experts in eating disorders will be available at each performance to provide information, and offer help when it is desired.

Eating disorders have the highest mortality of all other mental illnesses combined. The death rate of anorexia nervosa is 12 times higher

than the rate associated with all causes of death of females 15-24 years old. February is National Eating Disorders Awareness Month, and Martinez explains, "The Elisa Project campaign for the next few years will be to shine a light on eating disorders, helping adults recognize signs and symptoms. Our mission is always education and advocacy, and part of that is teaching friends and family how to communicate with sensitivity and knowledge."

The Elisa Project does not advocate food restrictions, as she agrees with Daugherty that "It's not about food," and this play is great way to get the conversation started for some and to keep it going for others still trying to find their way. I would encourage parents of children ages 0 on up

to become familiar with the signs early."

EAT (It's Not About Food) has a short run from February 10-19 in the intimate Studio Theater with limited seating. Please join DCT in facing the issue of eating disorders with the help of The Elisa Project and other community experts. Please be advised this show is not recommended for children under 12. For tickets or more information visit dct.org.

Dallas Children's Theater and the Elisa Project care about your health. The content in this production is educational for those without eating disorders, but may be triggering for someone with or in early recovery from an eating disorder.

This production is supported by The Hersh Foundation, Thomas and Diana Klein and The Texas Commission on the Arts.



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Job Fair Scheduled for Nick & Sam's, Coal Vines, Biergarten

Nick & Sam's has become one of the nation's most renowned steakhouses by offering exceptional food in an upscale atmosphere served by a meticulously trained staff dedicated to providing extraordinary service.

The other concepts oper-

ated by the Nick & Sam's management team – Coal Vines and Biergarten on Lamar – are modeled on the same successful formula.

Five of these leading restaurants are now recruiting talented, hard-working individuals to fill 20-30 available positions. A job

fair will be held on Jan. 31 to interview candidates for the following roles:

- Nick & Sam's Steakhouse – hosts, bartenders and servers. Bartenders and servers must have at least one year of fine-dining experience.
- Nick & Sam's Park

Cities – servers, bartenders and sous chefs

- Coal Vines Uptown – part- and full-time servers and weekend day hosts
- Coal Vines Richardson – part- and full-time servers
- Biergarten on Lamar – bartenders and servers (minimal experience re-

quired)

Interested candidates must attend the Job Fair on Tuesday, Jan. 31, from 1 to 4 p.m. Interviews will be held at Nick & Sam's Steakhouse, located at 3008 Maple Ave. in Uptown Dallas. Light snacks, coffee and tea will be provided.

Walk-ins are welcome but candidates are encouraged to RSVP to receive an application, which should be completed and brought with you to the job fair. RSVP by emailing Sarah Harvey at Sharvey@championmgt.com.

Lights, camera, action: North Lake College video technology students look forward to careers in TV and film

The newscast's director told one of the camera operators to zoom in on the anchor, then counted down as the show's opening music started to play. The "jib" (or boom camera) descended on the set and slowly moved toward the anchor's desk. Nervously, the director said, "Ready, camera 1; take 1," into his microphone. However, on this occasion, one of the cameras was not framed correctly, and the control room crew and camera operators had to start again from scratch.

It was only the second day that North Lake College video technology students had produced a newscast, and most of them were still learning how to use the equipment and make all the adjustments that go into producing a news program. As a result, they had to repeat the process several times before they completed a full show.

The students train in a realistic studio environment where they learn how to use professional-grade cameras, digital video equipment, audio boards and switchers, according to Tim Dougherty, a video technology professor at the school.

Beyond the basics

Dougherty said the program teaches the "nuts and bolts" of video technology, but it also trains students for a variety of situations in the



Northlake College

real world.

"We are preparing students for a career in video production," said Dougherty. "That includes all types of production jobs, such as script writing, camera, audio, lighting, graphics and technical directing."

Davis Trent, who graduated from North Lake in 2015 and who now works as a freelance video editor and cameraman, said the nuts-and-bolts aspect of the education he received are valuable. He added that the school also teaches students how to present themselves in the industry.

"You can spend a year getting to know an audio mixer inside and out, but as soon as you move to another job, you'll have to learn to use a different mixer from the ground up," Trent said. "What the program really prepares you for is being resourceful and being able to handle situations like that."

Dougherty said that while

some students leave school before graduation to go to work in the TV industry, he encourages them to finish their degrees. Many of those individuals who do graduate work in all areas of television.

"We have students who launched their own production companies, including one who has a production house doing reality TV for the DIY and HGTV networks. Some go into broadcast news production," Dougherty stated.

David Koss was enrolled in the program from 1999 to 2001, but he did not graduate. Eventually he went back to North Lake and earned his degree in 2008. Today, he owns a motion graphics and 3-D animation company.

Koss said he applied what he learned in the program – including editing, lighting and camera work – to what his company produces for customers that include local and national TV, corporate

clients and online companies.

"I like sitting down and doing 3-D animation," Koss said. "It's like the old saying, 'Find something you love and do that for a living.' I do 3-D just for fun on my own."

Garrett Gilcrease, a second-year video technology major, said he hopes to get into 3-D modeling and animation after he finishes school. The 21-year-old, who directed the newscast that involved several takes to complete, said he likes directing, but he prefers production.

"I enjoy every aspect of production," said Gilcrease. "I like the idea of producing something and putting it out there for people to watch and enjoy."

A bright spotlight on jobs

Students in the program can look forward to prosperous careers. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs in the broadcast and audio engineering industry will grow by 7 percent over the next 10 years, and the median pay is almost \$42,000 per year. In the Dallas-Fort Worth region, salaries are slightly higher, about \$44,600 per year.

In addition, the BLS data show that jobs for camera operators and video editors will grow by more than 11 percent in the next decade, a faster rate than average; the

median pay in those careers is almost \$27 per hour. In North Texas, those jobs pay almost \$60,000 per year.

Trent said when he started as an entry-level, freelance editor, he made \$25 per hour. But he said with one year's worth of experience and his faster speed as an editor, he will start charging \$30 an hour in 2017.

"A lot of these edit jobs are long documentaries that run 23 or 46 minutes, and that happens over three 45-hour work weeks, so I bring in a fair amount of money," Trent said.

Creativity in demand

Kayla Milliron, a 28-year-old Navy veteran, said she's studying to earn an associate degree in video technology and hopes to get a bachelor's degree after that. She said she enjoys working with cameras and working behind the scenes, particularly because her family owns an in-

dependent film company in Dallas.

"It wasn't until I was out of the Navy that I realized how much I enjoyed doing that kind of work. There's an instant-gratification element of putting something on camera and seeing it work," Milliron said. "I like the photography aspect of how you set up cameras, how you frame a shot, what's in the shot, the lighting – all of it!"

Cici Reyna said she considers herself a creative person, and her previous career choice was not what she really wanted to do with her life.

"Originally I was going to be a registered nurse. I thought about it, and I asked myself whether I really wanted to do that – if it was my passion," said Reyna. "I decided, 'No, I want to do something creative where I can put my mind to work.'"

See TV, Page 13

North Lake College awarded a \$407,230 grant

A Manufacturing and Distribution Consortium has partnered with North Lake College to provide job training using a \$407,230 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

The grant will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions for North Central and Greater Dallas areas.

This grant will be used to provide customized training to 174 new and incumbent workers for industry-related

topics with focused instruction on thermoforming, hydraulics and pneumatics, industrial electrical systems, and business logistics.

Trainees will include inventory control clerks, warehouse associates, fabri-

cation operators, tooling technicians, distribution coordinators, quality engineers and purchasing agents. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$16.69.

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Jarvis Christian College to receive \$1 million UNCF Career Pathways Initiative grant

Hawkins – Jarvis Christian College is one of 24 colleges and universities that will receive five-year grants totaling \$35.3 million for the UNCF Career Pathways Initiative.

Jarvis Christian College will receive a \$1 million grant, which will allow the College to implement programs to improve employment outcomes for its graduates.

Jarvis Christian College President Dr. Lester C. Newman said, “As Jarvis Chris-

tian College begins 105 years of service, this is a tremendous opportunity for Jarvis and for our students. It gives us an opportunity to take a look at what we are doing and how we can enhance the operation and educational opportunities for our students and prepare them for the world of work.”

Made possible through a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., the UNCF Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) is a unique pilot program for select historically black col-

leges and universities (HBCUs) and predominantly black institutions (PBIs) that is helping them enhance career readiness for their 54,000 enrolled students.

Jarvis Christian College submitted a proposal that reflects a commitment to strengthening career advising and mentoring, enhancing curricula and supporting integrated co-curricular engagement. As part of CPI, the College will develop a range of academic programs, student internships,

industry partnerships, specialty certifications and faculty development as it forges a new model for career readiness.

“These colleges and universities show promise in significantly addressing the urgent challenges facing African American college students and graduates,” said Dr. Michael Lomax, UNCF president and CEO. “CPI will help ensure our graduates are prepared for and hired into high-paying 21st-century jobs.”

TV, continued from Page 12

Nursing is a great job, but I don't think I would be happy doing that, even though I like helping people.”

Reyna said she expects to graduate in 2018 and then move to Austin to work in that city's film industry. “I love producing and directing,” she said. “I come from a family that is very artistic, and I tend to be more on the control side. I like to come up with ideas and have them come to life by directing people on how to portray themselves. That's more my cup of tea.”

Dougherty said that people with a unique blend of talents are successful in the industry.

“People who do well have a lot of energy,” he said.

“Those who excel at writing and are highly literate make good employees, too. But creativity is a huge factor. We want creative students, and most young people are creative. They're binge-watching shows, so they get it.”

In addition, Dougherty said people who like the technical side – software and computers – are going to excel. “Those who are creative and also are technically- and analytically-minded will find work right off the bat,” he stated.

Sage advice for rookie video techs

Trent said he initially struggled when he first entered the industry, but he has

learned from his mistakes.

“I learned that you have to pace yourself when you start in this business,” said Trent. “You can't be overzealous, and you can't go around giving business cards to everyone you meet. You have to be a fly on the wall, listen and learn first.”

Koss echoed the sentiment and added that people who go into the industry should

always seek to learn and improve.

“If you don't hate the stuff you produced a year ago, then you haven't improved. You should never stop evolving,” Koss stated.

For more information about the video technology program at North Lake, contact Dougherty by email at tmdougherty@dccc.edu.



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A local community newspaper 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 20 hours a week at \$8.50 per hour. Assignments will include covering local events, phone interviews, and rewriting press releases.



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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.

January 29, 9:45 a.m.

You're invited to our Sunday Morning "Prayer and Meditation" at 10 a.m. See what God is doing through and with us for the New Year; you will be blessed.

February 1, 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 6, Chapter 2." Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you. It's Time to Grow; Ephesians 4:12 & 13.

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CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

January 29, 8:45 a.m.

You're invited to our Morning Services as we worship, honor and praise God this New Year for His blessings.

February 1, 7 p.m.

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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FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"

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January 29, 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.

February 1, 7 p.m.

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
972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

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

January 27, 2017

All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 7 p.m.

January 29, 10 a.m. (Only One Service, every Sunday)

You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

January 30, 7 p.m.

Join us in Monday School as we grow in God's Word and learn what God has to say to us in 2017.

Pastor Rickie Rush

7701 S Westmoreland Road Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.Ibocchurch.org

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

January 29, 10 a.m.

Join us for Worship Service as we praise and worship God in 2017 for His Honor and His glory; and don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

February 1, 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.

February 10, 7:30 p.m.

Join us for our Pre-Valentine Celebration Love Extravaganza, "It's About Love"; attire is dressy, call the church for details, you don't want to miss this affair.

Pastor Sam Fenceroy Senior Pastor and Pastor Gloria Fenceroy
300 Chisholm Place
Plano, TX 75075
972-633-5511
www.mocop.org

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)

January 29, 8 a.m.

and 11 a.m.
Join us for Worship Services and fellowship as we give God all glory, honor and praise.

February 1, 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" in 2017.

Two Notices: Our AWANA (Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed from 2 Timothy 2:15) is held from 6:30 - 8:15 pm, now through May 2017. 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 in 2017.

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MAYA, continued from Page 10

turn, helped shape our own worldview through her autobiographical literature and activism," said co-director and co-producer Rita Coburn Whack (*Curators of Culture, Remembering 47th Street, African Roots American Soil*).

"It is bittersweet that Dr. Angelou takes her rightful place in the *American Masters* series posthumously," said executive producer Michael Kantor. "We are fortunate that Bob and Rita

captured these insightful interviews with her just prior to her death so we can all learn from her wisdom firsthand."

This week, *American Masters* launches a year-long online campaign, #InspiringWomanPBS, based on themes central to Dr. Angelou's life: artistic expression, academic success, active community engagement and acceptance of difference. People can share stories of inspirational

women in their own lives via text, images or videos on the American Masters website or via Tumblr, Twitter and Instagram using the hashtag #InspiringWomanPBS.

A video compilation series of the best submissions will be featured on PBS' Instagram Stories and Snapchat channels throughout the year.

Additionally, previously unreleased videos from Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise and In Their Own Words: The American Mas-

ters Digital Archive will be released as part of the campaign, as well as new episodes of the American Masters Podcast.

Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise premiered to critical acclaim at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival. It won the Audience Award at AFI Docs and was featured at notable film festivals worldwide, including Full Frame, Sheffield, IDFA and Seattle, winning 17 awards on three continents, and has been nominated for an NAACP Image Award.

It's practical to be peaceable



Send email to: businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com to sign up for Sister Tarpley's weekly electronic newsletter.

NOTE: As we pause to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. It's hard to find a man more peaceful than he was. Therefore, we can learn a valuable lesson when we consider that

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Matthew 5:9.

It was said that after listening to some children hollering and screaming at each other while talking on the phone, a man wondered why the guardian didn't stop them.

After all, a peaceable individual speaking in a calm voice initiates good will and actively promotes peace within a home or a place of business.

Individuals learn by

watching the actions of others; some are lead to think that to get along with people and to succeed in this world, one must be intimidating, abusive, aggressive, mean-spirited and even violent.

Hence, all the current abusive behavior and death of people in homes, in neighborhoods and on the streets are seen.

To be peaceable means having a Calmness of Heart: "A sound heart is the life of the flesh." Proverbs 14:30(a).

"Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding." Proverbs 14:33(a).

Many medical reports indicate that anger and hostility can become triggers for strokes and heart attacks. One journal, speaking of people with heart disease, compared explosive anger to poison.

It stated that, "Getting really mad can mean getting really sick." Violence, anger, and frustration can cause sleep problems, stress, stomach and nervous condi-

tions which can affect one's health.

On the other hand, those who pursue peace can develop "a calm heart" and reap many helpful benefits.

God's word and doctors can tell you that developing a peaceable spirit can improve your emotional, physical and spiritual health.

Read the following Scrip-

tures for references, Ephesians 4:22-24; Isaiah 65:17; Micah 4:1-4, and Proverbs 15:13

Happier relationships with others will benefit when you display a peaceable spirit. "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor (scream), and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

And, "Be ye kind one to

another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:31 & 32.

Those who display an aggressive, mean-spirited behavior and abusive speech often drive others away and find themselves along, without dependable friends, family, co-workers and employees.

Hope for the Future: A peaceable spirit shows honor and respect for mankind; and for the expressed Will of God. "Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and

pursue it." Psalm 34:14.

When we acknowledge God and learn to obey His life-giving teachings, this opens the door to a personal friendship with Him and with mankind.

With a strong relationship with God, we gain "the Peace of God" which is an excellent peace regardless of the challenges that life may bring.

A 'calm heart', a 'meaningful relationship' and a 'solid hope for the future'; These blessings can be yours when you do your best to "be peaceable with all men."



Mrs. Melinda Gardener, President of the Women's Ministry Group, W.O.R.T.H., at Bethel Bible Fellowship Church in Carrollton, Texas

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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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Pastor Dr. W. Stafford, Sr.

NDG Book Review: The Obama legacy is presented with Audacity

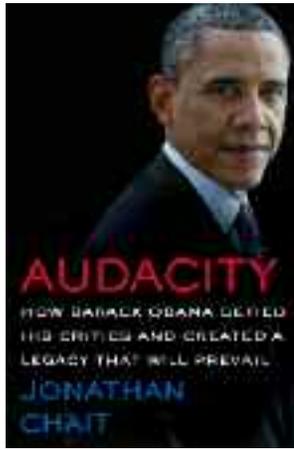
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

If you can't say something nice...

Sometimes, it's hard to say nothing at all. There are times when you need to speak out, to confront, share your opinion, rant, or vent. And then there are times, as in the new book "Audacity" by Jonathan Chait, where you must praise.

For perhaps the last few months of Barack Obama's presidency, media outlets have debated about something that definitely matters: was he one of the best presidents, or one of the worst?

It's the former, says Chait, even though he admits there



are times when it looks like the latter. Obama, he says, however, absolutely succeeded at what he set out to do, and this book follows that argument.

Though the Civil Rights

movement was forty-some years prior to the day a Black man moved into the White House, racial issues keenly split the country over the last eight years, not along lines of race, but on political lines. White America often denied it, but Obama forced a harder soul-search on racism.

He reportedly had a large agenda upon taking office in 2009, but it quickly became clear that his work would be to avoid, rather than fix, another Great Depression. He succeeded, but no President gets kudos for things like that. Instead, says Chait, there was – and still is – criticism about his actions, economically.

Health care legislation insured millions of Americans who otherwise would have no coverage, thanks to Obama and a surprising number of ideas that first came from the Republicans. As a new President, Obama boosted the economy by spending money on green energy, with an eye toward global climate concerns. He helped restore America's world-wide "standing"; and foresightfully recognized China and India as budding superpowers.

So why is anyone questioning his audacity, or the legacy he leaves behind? The answer to that lies in the recent past, and in the history

of Twentieth-Century American politics. Understanding both, and what happens from here, is enhanced by learning what's inside "Audacity."

Just know first that there's a lot to absorb.

Because author Jonathan Chait is also a political columnist, the goings-on behind-the-scenes in Washington are presented in great detail in this book. That can be both a good thing and a bad thing: good, because Chait is clear in reasoning and thorough in fact-finding, in favor of arguments for a stellar Obama legacy; bad, because this thoroughness becomes quite heavy at times.

That could turn away

readers with a lesser palate for politics, although one wouldn't have to look hard to see why persevering is important: Chait explains how Obama's tenure as President ultimately turned out as it did, and why many voters are still, perhaps wrongly, disappointed in his work. Chait then goes on to clearly illuminate what happened at the last election, and why.

Give yourself time for a careful read of this book, especially if you might disagree with its author. There's argument in here that may – or may not – change minds; either way, "Audacity" might at least give you something nice to say.

LOSS, continued from Page 4

adverse consequences for health. Premature losses are especially devastating.

"If losing a family member is a disadvantage in the present in ways that disrupt the future, racial disparities in these losses over the life course is a tangible manifestation of racial inequality that needs to be systematically documented," she said.

The study showed that blacks experienced more family member deaths overall than whites. They were twice as likely to experience the death of two or more family members by age 30

and 90 percent more likely to experience four or more deaths by age 65. In stark contrast, whites were 50 percent more likely to never experience a family member death by age 65.

The researchers found overall that blacks were at greater risk of losing a mother from early childhood through young adulthood, a father through their mid-teens, a sibling in their teens and a child by the age of 30. The race-gap diminishes only slightly at ages 70 and up when whites begin to experience more loss, the re-

searchers said.

Specific findings include:

- In a cohort born in the 1980s,
 - Blacks were three times more likely to lose a mother, more than twice as likely to lose a father and 20 percent more likely to lose a sibling by age 10.
 - Blacks were two and a half times more likely to lose a child by age 30.
- Among several older cohorts born in the 1900s to the 1960s,
 - Blacks were nearly twice as likely as whites to lose a spouse by age 60.
 - Blacks were 50 percent

more likely to lose a sibling between the ages of 50 and 70.

• Between the ages of 50 and 70 Blacks were three times more likely than whites to lose a child.

"This is the first population-based documentation of

earlier and repeated bereavement experiences for Black Americans," Umberson said. "Death of family members is highly likely to disrupt and strain other family relationships as well as the formation, duration and quality of relationships across the life

course, further contributing to a broad range of adverse life outcomes including poor health and lower life expectancy."

For more information, contact: Rachel Griess, College of Liberal Arts, 512-471-2689.

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