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Dallas ISD responds to concerns from Black contractors on M/WBE

By David Wilfong
NDG Special Contributor

This past week, while the city debated over the issue of removing confederate monuments, four African-American city council members remarked during a press conference that there were other issues of concern to the local Black community. Chief among those concerns expressed was the awarding of contracts to African-American business owners.

John Proctor, president of the Dallas Black Contractors Association has been expressing those very concerns for quite a while. He said there had been inroads made in the past

“We had the first Black program manager for the bond program at DISD (Dallas Independent School District),” Proctor recalled. “That’s a pretty big job, a very big job. It was one of the head contractor jobs. What happened later is that they decided to change their process and procedures and bring that type job in-house. That was the first time a Black has ever got that job in the history of DISD. We are working to try to save that program with



Construction, renovations and other major work contracts are big business, and a market Black contractors are feeling shut out of in the City of Dallas. (Photo: Dan de Luca / Flickr)

DISD.”

Proctor said he estimates Black businesses are getting approximately 1 percent of the work with DISD, maybe up to 3 percent with the city, and only about 1 percent of the work with private businesses. He said they spend more time sitting on the bench waiting for work than they do performing work in the Dallas market.

“I would rather have a Klansman in a hood than a Klansman in penny loafers,” Proctor said.

Proctor can easily rattle off the

names of three Black-owned companies which have left the Dallas market, and have been able to be successful in other cities. He says the problem is systemic in Dallas and needs to change. While the African-American experience is what triggered reforms aimed at minority communities, he points out white women are getting the lion’s share of “minority” contracts, and Blacks trail even the Hispanic businesses in the Dallas area. From the

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Dr. Irene Okoronko-Obika



Dick Gregory

READERS SOUND OFF!!!

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



Dr. Irene Okoronko-Obika

(BlackNews.com) -- Dr. Irene Okoronko-Obika is a children's advocate and mental health professional. She is well aware of what it feels like to be a child, mistreated, taunted, and threatened by a peer. She is also aware that instances of childhood bullying often go unreported and victims are sometimes left feeling powerless.

"I was that child," says Dr. Irene. My family is originally from Nigeria, and I was picked on all the time because I was different. But we are all unique. Everyone is different."



The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has found that up to 90 percent of school children, grades 4 through 8, report being victims of bullying, an astounding 3.2 million students bullied each year.

These numbers have remained consistent for decades. However, it has only been since 2014 that the CDC and Department of Education released the first federal uniform definition of bullying.

Now defining bullying as unwanted aggressive behavior; observed or perceived power imbalance; and repetition of behaviors or high likelihood of repetition, the CDC reports in their data for 2015 that bullying can negatively affect health, impact mental health and lead to suicide-related behavior.

Having experienced bullying firsthand and knowing

its effects on confidence and self-esteem, Dr. Irene Okoronko-Obika decided to create books that can give all children encouragement and problem-solving tools, help restore confidence and give them direction.

Chisom The Champ: Meets the World is a 34-page picture book, illustrated by M. Ridho Mentarie and released by the Melanin Origins imprint. Now available on Amazon.com, this story follows Chisom, a young but proud Nigerian boy, who repeatedly gets bullied for his cultural identity in a Western Society.

The story of Chisom and

its message is universal, empowering though self-love, which is key to overcoming bullying, as well as many other obstacles they may encounter in life. Dr. Irene sincerely hopes all children will benefit from this powerful message.

"I know what it feels like, and I always knew the dangerous effects bullying has on self-pride. I wanted children to know that whatever it is that makes them different also makes them special. It is their right and purpose to be proud of who they are and where they are from. It is my hope to create books and educational tools for children across the

world," says Dr. Irene. "Because childhood bullying is a world-wide problem. But even one child bullied ... is still one too many."

Born in Austin, Texas, Dr. Irene Okoronko-Obika is owner and founder of Chisom The Champ LLC. This children's edutainment network provides healthy, informative, and entertaining literature and educational tools, designed to help children embrace their cultural identity and individuality.

Her vision, for Chisom The Champ LLC is to become a world-wide brand synonymous with empowering youth with dignity and self-love.

Dick Gregory

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

Dick Gregory, died at the age of 84 after a brief undisclosed illness. Gregory made his mark initially as a comedian, but his long storied career included being a voice of civil rights when others felt we had arrived. Born in 1932, his full name was Richard Claxton "Dick" Gregory, author, social critic, entrepreneur and healthy living proponent are just a few of the titles he wore in his lifetime.

His son Christian Gregory, via Facebook on Thursday confirmed his father was in



the hospital but was believed to be on the path to recovery. Various news reports on Saturday evening have indicated he has passed away this evening.

Late Saturday evening via the same Facebook page

Christian posted the following message:

"It is with enormous sadness that the Gregory family confirms that their father, comedic legend and civil rights activist Mr. Dick Gregory departed this earth tonight in Washington, DC. The family appreciates the outpouring of support and love and respectfully asks for their privacy as they grieve during this very difficult time. More details will be released over the next few days -- Christian Gregory."

Cheryl Smith, long-time journalist and Publisher of the *Texas MetroNews*, reflected on their friendship earlier this week via email to the *North Dallas Gazette*.

"Mr. Gregory and I became friends when we were on a program sponsored by Rev. Jeremiah Cummings in the early 1990s. I invited him to the first bowlathon and he has come to town every year except for this year. He was so supportive and loyal. I've benefited significantly from his brilliant mind and beautiful heart."

At this time his family was upmost in Smith's thoughts also, "Mr. Gregory's wife, Lil, is the epitome of grace and love. His family has sacrificed so much so that Mr. Gregory could do the great work that has helped make this world a better place."

"I will cherish some wonderful memories for the rest

of my life. Dick Gregory was a great man," Smith said in closing.

His comic career started while in the Army and after years of performing in primarily black nightclubs, he was discovered by Hugh Hefner who offered him a chance to perform at the Playboy Clubs around the country. He ran and lost in the Chicago mayor's race in 1967 and was a write in candidate for president in 1968.

Gregory was no stranger to Dallas visiting several times, in recent years specifically to support, the Celebrity Bowl-A-Thon founded by long-timer journalist Cheryl Smith. The event is the major fundraiser annually for the

Don't Believe the Hype Foundation. The monies are used to fund and operate programs and promote activities for youth, with a special emphasis on scholarships, life skills education and college preparation.

"He was honest, truthful, unflinching, unapologetically Black," Roland Martin via Twitter while announcing his show on Monday would be devoted to the legacy of Dick Gregory.

Gregory married his bride Lillian in 1959 and together they had 11 children. Gregory is survived by his wife and children Ayanna, Yohance, Stephanie, Miss, Christian, Michele, Pamela, Paula, Lynne and Gregory.

NDG Readers Sound Off...



Lee Park vandalized prior to Dallas Rally

They been up all this time, Leave them up, I'm Black and they don't bother me. haha

-- Will Lane
Facebook

HOW IS IT THAT these same monuments did not cause any problems a week ago, a month ago etc ? and now the political whores grovel at the feet of a MINORITY WITHIN A MINORITY on non-issues

?has ONE OF THEM EXPLAINED what magically happens upon removal ? NO so why all this bs ?

-- Selena

If the Confederate monuments bother you. Please move North of the MD line. We like them and consider them to be part of our history and heritage.

-- Glock in Holster

I posted on Facebook yesterday for everyone to stay away from Lee Park because I had a feeling that it would be vandalized and I was correct I'm sorry to

say. This is all a damn shame.

-- Mztrshdish

Rawlings opens process for removing Dallas' Confederate monuments

The headline should read; Rawlings (stalls for time) in process for removing Dallas' Confederate monuments. Let's see; 90 days from now will be the cold winter time...the end of November will be after everybody is full of

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Embrace racial healing to change hearts and minds

By La June Montgomery Tabron

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Prior to the displays of hatred and the tragic loss of Heather Heyer, a young woman who seemingly embraced the virtues of healing, a transformation was taking place in Charlottesville, Virginia. This college town, where roughly 80 percent of the residents are white, culminated a lawful process in February when its City Council voted to remove the statue of Robert E. Lee from a city park.

Passionate acts came from opposing sides, as opponents filed suit to stop the removal and the city changed the name of Lee Park to Emancipation Park. But there was honest dialogue and truth-telling, the ingredients for healing. Neighbors learned more about one another, their culture and motivations. But the progress was derailed.

The protesters who converged in Charlottesville were largely white men often perceived as privileged in our society, and among their slogans was "We will not be replaced" by immigrants, blacks, Jews, or homosexuals. Instead of feeling empowered, they were threatened and seemed in pain. Their hearts and minds needed healing.

But racial healing doesn't begin until you intentionally, respectfully and patiently uncover shared

truths, as Charlottesville residents had begun to do before the violence and turmoil. Shared truths are not simply the removal of physical symbols, like monuments. While it may begin to change narratives, it doesn't reach the level of healing that jettisons racism from the land or creates equitable communities. Racism has persevered because remedies ranging from public accommodation laws to Supreme Court rulings are limited in scope

and together move forward to address the bias in employment, education, housing and health that causes widespread disparities, and denies opportunities to our children.

To be sure, racial healing is predicated not just on an emotional encounter, such as saying, 'you're sorry,' rather it's predicated on a truth-telling. But who's truth? We all have our own truth and we need collective conversations to help us in

and neighbors, all in the crucible of human goodness. That's where we develop "the" truth.

At the W. K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), we promote racial healing because it moves people to act from their hearts. Real change happens when people work together and build relationships. Rarely does it occur when it is forced upon communities by laws and rulings. Last January, WKKF coordinated an annual National Day of Racial Healing, which inspired civic, religious, community and philanthropic organizations to collaborate on activities to facilitate racial healing. But we can't wait until next January to embrace racial healing.

Today, with the threat of unrest billowing through communities, our country needs to heal. All sides must air their pasts, fears, and anxieties, and articulate their visions for a future where all children can thrive.

After centuries of racial hierarchy, all sides have been wounded: Whenever a policy or decision gives privileges to some and not others or perpetuates injustices, the collective community suffers, and part of our common humanity is lost. It leaves some wounded and unable to work towards our collective interest.

La June Montgomery Tabron is the president & CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

“It is developed by all of us in the courtyard, in town halls, in living rooms with family and neighbors, all in the crucible of human goodness. That's where we develop ‘the’ truth.”

and reach: They fail to change hearts and minds.

A new approach is needed that penetrates the full consciousness of our society, draws in all communities and focuses on racial healing and truth-telling.

Racial healing can facilitate trust and authentic relationships that bridge vast divides created by race, religion, ethnicity and economic status. Once the truths are shared, racism is acknowledged and hearts begin to mend, only then will communities begin to

reaching a common truth and a vision for the future, based on what we decide together.

And while sharing each of our individual truths requires sharing stories, reaching a common truth is more than a blending of stories. It's about co-creating a common set of morals, principles, wisdom and guidance that is written on our hearts, captured in our faith and in how we treat each other as human beings. It is developed by all of us in the courtyard, in town halls, in living rooms with family

COMMENTS,

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Thanksgiving turkey and about to go broke for Christmas. The holiday season will be the dominant theme all over the city. Few folk will be willing to organize and demonstrate. This is the Dallas way. I hope I am wrong.

-- Anonymous

Thurman Jones, where did the \$4 mill figure come from? Ouiga board? so far only 1 statue on public land in Dallas. .. geez, we could

get it done with a profit .. for 5 bucks, give people 3 whacks w tools of their choice.

-- Larry Brautigam via Facebook

Ed Gray, NDG Senior Columnist: Dallas, Lose Your Plantation Mentality and Remove Confederate Symbols

As this dialogue has progressed over the last week

following the terror of Charlottesville, VA, I must wonder how some folk can still talk about how important it is to honor the memories of their ancestors when placed against the fury we saw in Neo-Nazis marching with torches with blood in their eyes – ignited and ready to maim over the removal of a chunk of granite that never had life.

Clearly that has nothing to do with cherishing memories of the relatives they have never seen. It is now about growing, rekindled racial hatred and making

America White again. Sadly this fury is condoned if not stoked by the current Un-Precedent of the United States.

Blacks in America cannot survive unarmed while others can provoke physical confrontations with police with little mortal fear. Maybe I missed the fire hoses and dogs being sicced on them.

--- Ray Bass via Facebook

To share your opinion visit NorthDallasGazette.com

Parkland helps youth with diabetes transition to adult care

Rate of diabetes rising, transition poses special challenges

DALLAS — It's the start of the school year — time to say so long to summer and howdy to homework. For children with diabetes, school presents special challenges, from monitoring meals and medications to measuring blood sugar. And for teens with diabetes leaving home for college or independent living, it's time to "graduate" from pediatric to adult healthcare. That transition can be difficult and put them at risk of poor diabetes management, according to staff at the Global Diabetes Center at Parkland Health & Hospital System.

"Diabetes is a complex, chronic disease that requires the expertise of specialists including endocrinologists, dietitians, pharmacists, diabetes educators and behavioral health counselors," according to Kellie Rodriguez, MSN, MBA, CDE, Director, Diabetes Education & Community Engagement at Parkland. "Studies show the transition to adult care is a vulnerable time when patients have to find new healthcare providers, deal with issues like drugs, alcohol and sexuality, adjust to college and work, and the potential of increased de-

pression or anxiety."

Dechairra Reed, 21, of Dallas, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 5. Her transition to adulthood hit a road bump when she was 17, failed to see a doctor for several months and had to be admitted to Parkland when her blood sugar soared.

"When I was young, my mom managed my care but as a teen I had to learn to give myself insulin shots and watch my blood sugar. I wasn't handling it well for a while," she said.

Jasmine Jackson, 20, of Garland, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes two years ago as a high school senior. Finding a medical team was challenging. "If I'd gotten better instruction in the beginning, I wouldn't have had so many problems managing my diabetes," she said.

After she was referred to

Parkland's Global Diabetes Center, Jackson said she got the support and education she needed.

In high school, Jackson kept her condition private. "I didn't want to be known as that 'sick girl,'" she said. But in college, she joined a support group of other students with diabetes. "Diabetes has helped me connect with people differently. I still live at home because my family gives me a lot of support. I'm really lucky to have the doctors and nurses at school and Parkland helping me."

Rates of new diagnosed cases of type 1 and type 2 diabetes are increasing among youth, according to a recent report in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. In the U.S., 208,000 people younger than 20 years are living with diagnosed diabetes. From 2002 to 2012 the rate of new di-

agnosed cases of type 1 diabetes in youth increased by about 1.8 percent each year. The rate of new diagnosed cases of type 2 diabetes increased even faster, at 4.8 percent.

Type 1 diabetes is the most common form of the disease in young people. Patients with this condition must take insulin to stay alive and healthy. In type 2 diabetes, the body does not make or use insulin well. In the past, type 2 diabetes was extremely rare in youth but has become more common due to lifestyle factors such as obesity, poor nutrition and lack of exercise.

Parkland provides care for more than 50,000 adults with diabetes. Pediatricians generally are no longer able to treat children after age 18, so Rodriguez recommends that parents prepare their kids over a period of years to begin taking over their care management.

To assist young adults ages 16 to 24 transitioning to adult diabetes care, the Global Diabetes Center offers patients and parents shared medical appointments (SMAs) for peer support and education. Diabetes educators, social workers and clinical staff create individualized plans of care to assist with medical needs,

insurance coverage, appointment scheduling, emotional and social support, and coordination between pediatric and adult medical care teams during their transition.

Experts advise parents to teach their child at an early age to speak to their doctor and ask questions at each visit. Older children can go with you to the pharmacy, learn how to refill prescriptions, fill out medical forms and schedule appointments.

"From the moment a child is diagnosed with diabetes, they should be engaged in

their care. Even a 3-year-old can learn to make decisions, like which finger they want to prick for their blood glucose test," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez recommends that college-bound youth with diabetes visit the website www.collegediabetesnetwork.org for resources to help manage diabetes at college and at work, including a list of campus chapters that provide peer support. To learn more about diabetes, visit www.diabetes.org. To learn more about services at Parkland hospital, visit www.parklandhospital.com.



Blausen.com

DCHHS now offering flu vaccine for adults

Influenza season is fast approaching and Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is now offering the seasonal flu vaccine for adults. Residents can get the flu shot at 2377 N Stemmons Freeway in Dallas, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$20 and if the adult is covered by Medicare, the vaccine is free. DCHHS is awaiting shipment of the children's flu vaccine.

"Now is the time for everyone to get their flu shot while it is early in the season," said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director. "We want our residents

to protect themselves and their families by being vaccinated before flu season spikes."

DCHHS is following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to begin offering the flu vaccine as soon as it becomes available in the community. CDC recommends the flu vaccine as the best means of flu prevention for almost everyone except children younger than 6 months of age. The flu vaccine DCHHS provides is an all-in-one shot that protects against multiple flu strains including the H1N1 virus.

"Getting an annual flu

vaccine is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family from the flu virus," said Tammara Scroggins, asst. director public health communicable disease. "Vaccination can also protect people around you, including those who are more vulnerable to serious flu illness, like babies, young children, the elderly, and people with certain chronic health conditions."

DCHHS Medical Director/Health Authority Dr. Christopher Perkins encourages parents to get their children vaccinated as soon

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Warnings issued to delinquent taxpayers in Dallas County

Delinquent taxpayers have 10 days to pay nearly \$84 million in back taxes

Dallas County Tax Assessor/Collector John R. Ames is proud of the number 98.68%. The figure represents the percentage of Dallas County taxpayers who have already paid their 2016 annual property taxes (2017 taxes will be billed in October 2017). Even though that percentage is eye-opening in terms of compliance, the small percentage that remain unpaid still owe Dallas County taxing entities nearly \$84 million in unpaid property taxes. For this reason, Mr. Ames is stepping up the



County's collection efforts. Ames stated, "Essential services such as law enforcement, quality schools, roadways, and courts all depend on these much needed revenues. All we ask is that everyone carries their equal share."

As part of its collection

program, the County of Dallas has asked the law firm of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP to assist in the collection. Earlier last month, Linebarger mailed 30,098 letters to Dallas County property owners. The letter provides important notices to the taxpayers requesting their immediate attention. It also provides essential information, which may be beneficial to some of the taxpayers. For these reasons, Mr. Ames advises everyone, "Please open your letter and give the law firm a

call. Although the law firm cannot give you legal advice, they will assist you and guide you in the right direction so you can resolve the outstanding obligation." For those who do nothing, additional collection processes such as a lawsuit, tax foreclosure or a tax warrant (for business owners) may be in store.

Both Mr. Ames and the law firm recognize that some taxpayers face difficulty paying. The managing partner of the law firm said, "Taxpayers should contact

us immediately to advise us of their given situation. My office will make every effort to assist the taxpayers of Dallas County."

Mr. Ames further added, "Most of our taxpayers take pride in paying their taxes. They understand that the quality of services provided is dependent upon everyone in the community doing their part. It's unfortunate that we have to provide these notices; however, at the same time, we have to advise our taxpayers of what can realistically happen if

they fail to pay or resolve their delinquency." Lastly, Mr. Ames added, "Our citizens who are over the age of 65 or who are legally disabled as defined by the Social Security Administration should contact the Dallas Central Appraisal District to determine if they qualify for any other legal benefits/protection relative to their property taxes."

Mr. Ames and Linebarger both agreed that it is important that taxpayers heed the letter and the potential consequences.

Carrollton to host the 10th annual Citizens' Evening at City Hall

The City of Carrollton and the Neighborhood Advisory Commission cordially invite you to the 10th Annual Citizens' Evening at City Hall (1945 E. Jackson Road) on Thursday, September 14.

The free event will begin at 6:30 p.m. and is open to all members of the community.

This event provides the community an opportunity to mingle with City officials and meet members of the Neighborhood Advisory

Commission. Information booths will be set up so attendees can learn about City services as well as volunteer opportunities within the community.

The ceremony agenda includes the Carrollton Outstanding Citizens Award Presentation, a keynote speech from Metrocrest Services Chief Executive Officer Tracy Eubanks, and the State of the City address by Mayor Kevin Falconer.

Agenda:

6:30 p.m.- City Information Booths Open

7:30 p.m. - Welcome

7:35 p.m. - Outstanding Citizens Award Ceremony

7:45 p.m. - State of The City Address, Mayor Falconer

8:05 p.m. - Keynote, Tracy Eubanks

8:25 p.m. - Closing

For more details or to RSVP to this free, public event, visit cityofcarrollton.com/citizensevening or call 972-466-4299.

DART announces holiday schedule

Dallas Area Rapid Transit's (DART) Labor Day schedule will be modified for the holiday, Mon., Sept. 4.

DART bus, light rail and Dallas streetcar services will follow a Sunday schedule and The Trinity Railway Express commuter rail will not operate.

DART Paratransit services for customers with disabilities will operate on a

Saturday schedule.

The Paratransit Scheduling Center will be closed on Labor Day. Customers may call Thurs., Aug. 31, to book their trips through Mon., Sept. 4, and Fri., Sept. 1, to book their trips through Wed., Sept. 6. Customers may call Tues., Sept. 5, to book trips through Thurs., Sept. 7. X-Press Booking, Web Booking and voice-

mail will also be available.

Customers with questions about schedules can contact DART's Customer Information Center at 214-979-1111 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. However, DART's administrative offices, Customer Care Center and Lost and Found will be closed.

DART route and schedule information can be found at www.DART.org.

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as possible.

"It takes about two weeks for the body to develop the antibodies needed to provide protection against the flu virus," Dr. Perkins said. "That's why we are encour-

aging everyone to get the flu vaccine as soon as possible, so they're protected early in the flu season."

In addition to getting the flu shot, DCHHS encourages everyone to practice

cough and sneeze etiquette along with proper hand-washing. DCHHS has flu prevention materials on its website available for the public to download.

For more information on flu vaccines, call 214-819-2162.

Statement on voter ID case

Today a federal judge has again tossed out Texas' Voter ID law, barring Texas from enforcing both the 2011 law and the recent voter ID bill signed by Greg Abbott earlier this year. Lone Star Project Director Matt Angle released

the following statement:

"Federal Court rulings that Texas Republican leaders have engaged in discrimination against Texas citizens are as regular as clockwork. The reason is simple: Texas Republican leaders embrace

and employ a strategy to hold power by denying basic voting rights.

"Suppressing voters and dividing Texans, and all Americans, against one another are now essential tools in the Trump/Abbott Republican Party."

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
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1755	Easy Money Overall Odds are 1 in 3.42	\$5	10/25/17	4/23/18
1831	Lucky 7 Flip Multiplier Overall Odds are 1 in 3.95	\$5	10/25/17	4/23/18
1833	Lucky No. 7 Overall Odds are 1 in 4.17	\$5	10/25/17	4/23/18
1779	Super Break The Bank Overall Odds are 1 in 3.40	\$20	10/25/17	4/23/18

For detailed odds and game information, visit txlottery.org or call 800-370-8886. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education and veterans. **PLAY RESPONSIBLY.** For help with a gambling problem, visit www.problemgaming.org. © 2017 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

TEXAS LOTTERY

Donors establish endowed chair to promote research and innovation in business and engineering at UTA

Through a gift from local couple Mike and Sunny Dolabi, The University of Texas at Arlington announced today the establishment of an endowed chair to promote research, innovation, and development of best practices in the areas of business logistics, supply chain management, systems engineering, and operations management. The Mike and Sunny Dolabi Endowed Chair will be used to recruit a renowned individual who will enhance multidisciplinary research efforts.

The endowed chair was made possible by a gift from Sunny and Mike Dolabi, who studied electrical engineering at UTA and is now the president and owner of National Autobody Parts Warehouse. Since 1993, both have turned the Grand Prairie based company into the largest independent aftermarket parts supplier in Texas with several satellite locations throughout the state. Dolabi's leadership and knowledge of ISO quality management systems and NSF-ISR certification programs has helped him become a respected authority in the industry. He sits on the Board of Directors for the Automotive Body Parts



UT Arlington

Association, the leading professional organization for his industry.

"As local business owners, we are always looking for ways to enhance our business operations, and UTA's continued excellence in both business and engineering make it an ideal place to combine fields that would have a far-reaching impact," Dolabi said. "We are confident this chair holder will not only change the way we do business but will revolutionize how we look at industry."

The couple first became involved with the University by hiring interns for their growing business and helping students gain experience by applying lessons they have learned in the classroom to real-world business situations.

"The quality of students at UTA first caught our attention," Dolabi said. "Because the University attracted talented students and provided the resources they needed to succeed, we were eager to help them develop in the business world. We have been very pleased with my partnership with UTA."

UTA's Strategic Plan 2020 : Bold Solutions | Global Impact is intentionally focused on the practical applications of advanced principles in several key areas. Emphasizing a need to advance collaborative solutions in data-driven discovery, sustainable urban communities, global environmental impact, and health and the human conditions, the University has become a leader in building industry partnerships that

drive innovation and impact economic development.

"UTA has a long history of collaboration with the corporate sector," said UTA President Vistasp Karbhari. "We are grateful to Mike and Sunny for their generosity and look forward to

recruiting another internationally renowned faculty member who will build upon our reputation as one of the largest producers of intellectual capital in the state and will continue our traditions of transformational excellence."

The University is committed to leading academic research into the 21st Century. This new endowed

chair creates a foundation for improved collaboration between industry and academia.

Chandra Subramaniam, Interim Dean of UTA's College of Business, believes the Mike and Sunny Dolabi Endowed Chair will have a global benefit. "All businesses, large and small are looking for ways to engineer their processes – whether it's supply chain coordination, customer feedback, inventory management within the company, or sales forecasting. This endowed chair will provide resources to conduct leading edge research and institute real-world execution so that stu-

dents and industry partners will benefit immensely," said Subramaniam.

Dean of the College of Engineering Peter Crouch added, "Having an endowed chair focused on collaboration between business and engineering is crucial to helping complex businesses succeed, ultimately leading to improved gains and savings passed to the consumer. This chair will create even more opportunities for our students to learn from an expert in traditional areas like manufacturing and logistics and in potential new areas such as the automotive industry."

Tips to prepare for the back-to-school season

As summer break draws to a close, it is the perfect time to start preparing for the busy back-to-school season. Get ready for a successful 2017-18 in Garland ISD with the following helpful tips.

Don't be late Aug. 28. All campuses will observe new school hours the first day of 2017-18. Visit bit.ly/gisd-calendar to see the approved calendar, hours and FAQs.

Celebrate the return to classes by attending the 15th-annual Health Fair and Back-to-School Rally Saturday, Aug. 19, at the Curtis

Culwell Center. Free school items, clothes and health screenings, as well as low-cost immunizations, activities, games and more, will be available.

Bus transportation is available to students who attend a school within their designated eligibility area and live two or more miles from that campus. Transportation areas and route information is available at www.garlandisd.net/content/bus-transportation.

Stay informed and connected. Sign up for Skyward Family Access to

complete forms, see grades and attendance, receive messages from teachers, set Skylert telephone and email notification preferences, and update contact information.

Back the future, get involved and join a GISD PTA. Contact campuses to sign up or visit www.gisdpta.org.

Stock up on back-to-school gear during the Sales Tax Holiday Aug. 11-13. Most clothing, footwear, school supplies and back-

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 7

Your child's dreams are like stars:
If he chooses them as his guides,
he can reach his destiny.

BORN TO BE GREAT

By 2020, 65 percent of all jobs will require postsecondary education and training beyond high school. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that acquisition of those higher-order thinking skills be the standard for every student. To learn more about ESSA and how you can get involved, visit www.nnpa.org/essa.

Made possible by a grant from the
BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

NNPA

ESSA
Every Student Succeeds Act

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City of Carrollton creates executive director of public safety position

To further the ongoing Carrollton City Council goal of community outreach and engagement, the City of Carrollton is promoting Rex Redden, current Carrollton Police Chief, to the newly created position of Executive Director of Public Safety.

This new position will be responsible for overseeing a strategic role in public safety engagement, focusing on administrative, oper-

ational, and fiscal oversight. The primary focus will be on enhancing community engagement and outreach.

“The vision of the City Council and the citizens has established Carrollton as a premier City in the Metroplex, and a City that values public input from our residents,” said City Manager Erin Rinehart. “Our citizens will be proud of this new innovation from the City of Carrollton. Rex’s

proven ability to engage the Carrollton Community will enhance our already award-winning public safety departments and provide additional opportunities for including citizens in our governance process.”

Redden has been Police Chief for the Carrollton Police Department since 2010, and has over 30 years of law enforcement experience. His career path demonstrates extensive ex-

perience in both line and supervisory positions, and he is experienced in budget preparation, strategic planning, and operations management. He has extensive experience in Community-Oriented Policing, Problem Solving Policing and offers a progressive, ethical, and participative leadership style.

His professional education and training includes a bachelor’s degree in Busi-

ness Management and extensive professional management training. Redden is accomplished in developing and fostering both internal and community partnerships and has a record of community service including non-profit organization management of Community Lifeline Center and involvement with UNIDOS, a Spanish community outreach program.

Redden said, “I am look-

ing forward to this new opportunity and working with our public safety departments and members of our community to continue to keep Carrollton a safe place to live, work, and visit.”

Redden will begin his new role as Executive Director of Public Safety on September 2.

The City will begin the hiring process for a new Police Chief in the coming months.

Shuttle bus to sub for Las Colinas APT during upcoming construction

The Las Colinas Area’s Personal Transit System (APT) is growing in popularity, with a new station coming this Fall. And while that new station takes shape, a portion of the system will be out of service, beginning Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017.

During that period, serv-

ice to the APT destinations served from DART’s Las Colinas Urban Center Station will be provided by DART shuttle buses. Buses will serve that station and operate in a counter-clockwise loop over Lake Carolyn Parkway, Riverside, Las Colinas Boulevard and

O’Connor Boulevard. Hours of operation will be 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays (click here to see map). Frequency will be approximately 15-20 minutes.

The free service will continue until conclusion of construction, on or near Oct. 5, 2017.

SCHOOL, continued from Page 6

packs will be sales tax-exempt throughout the weekend.

Submit a free and reduced-price meal application, if needed, at bit.ly/mealapplication. Only one application is needed per household, if it lists all students attending district schools.

Check campus websites

to get the latest information, including new administration, school supply lists and meet-the-teacher nights, at www.garlandisd.schools.net.

GISD offers comprehensive special education services to children from birth through age 21. For more information, call

972-487-3300 or email A873@garlandisd.net.

Get physically, emotionally and mentally ready for the new year by returning to a school schedule. Set bed and wake times based on new school hours, establish a regular morning routine, organize an activity calendar, and create an official homework space to prepare for a smooth transition into 2017-18.

Getting geared up for class...



Over 900 backpacks were given away to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders – all filled to the brim with school supplies at de Zavala Middle School. Verizon specifically picked de Zavala Middle School because it is in its backyard – Verizon’s South Central HQ is in Irving, and has called it home over for well over 30 years. This is part of a larger Verizon initiative called “We Need More” in which we are providing nearly 9,000 backpacks in 12 states. (Photos courtesy of Verizon)



Clear the Shelters’ wraps up on a happy note

During Clear the Shelters on Saturday we found homes for 112 pets. A team of 85 volunteers steadily traded out shifts at the Plano Animal Shelter all day long.

Our last adoption of the day was a shelter favorite - Tonka (photographed here with his new owner). Shelter staff anxious to find Tonka a home brought him into the

lobby to greet guests and to give them a chance to appreciate his incredible personality. Then just before the doors closed at 5 p.m., his soon-to-be owner came running through the doors with the necessary paperwork. It was an exciting day for staff, volunteers and the new families.

Local businesses support-

ing the success of Clear the Shelters were: BB&T (Branch Banking and Trust Company), Chick-fil-A, Einstein Bros. Bagels, Coal Vines of Texas, Raising Cane’s, Sprouts Farmers Market and Starbucks Coffee.

Winners of the Pet Tails story contest are Kizmet and Finbar. Their tags will be-

come part of a new art piece to be installed near the lost and found area of the Shelter. Read their stories, along with the other finalists’ stories on the Plano Animal Shelter webpage.

Thanks to all those who adopted pets and became part of our extended Shelter family. We love you and our spectacular volunteers!



City of Plano

For latest DFW news and contests LIKE the North Dallas Gazette on Facebook
Facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette

CARROLLTON
Festival at the
Switchyard: Call for
Volunteers

Be the heart and soul of Carrollton's Festival at the Switchyard on Saturday, November 4; sign up to be a volunteer. Volunteers play an important role by helping during all phases of the Festival and creating a safe and enjoyable event for all.

Volunteers age 16 and older will help maintain the Festival site, greet patrons, provide information, assist attendees, monitor rides and games, and more. Ages 14-15 will be accepted if part of a group such as school, church, or Scouts with adult supervision. Volunteers must be able to work a minimum of two hours at the event, as well as be willing and able to work outdoors. As a volunteer, you will become a member of a unique volunteer family, and thousands of visitors will benefit from your service. You will also receive a free volunteer t-shirt, a free lunch, and plenty of appreciation for helping out.

The outdoor event will be held Saturday, November 4 in Historic Downtown Carrollton from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. with headliners The Toadies and Everclear. The location, just east of I-35 on the south side of Belt Line Road, is mid-way between George Bush Turnpike and LBJ Freeway.

In addition to the exciting concerts, there will be great food, a beer garden, arts and crafts, live entertainment, interactive games, and activities for children of all ages. The free kid zone will offer bungee trampolines, a zip line, and more.

To fill out a volunteer application form or for more details about the volunteer process and guidelines, visit carrolltonfestival.com.

DESOTO
Latino Heritage
Festival

Join us under the covered outdoor Amphitheater at the DeSoto Center as we enjoy the sounds of local and na-

tional Latin recording artists. Bring your lawn chairs and prepare for an evening full of live music, great food, a variety of vendors and fun for the entire family.

Sept. 9, 6 - 10 p.m. at the DeSoto Amphitheater located at 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

GARLAND
Miss Black America

The 2018 Miss Black America Coed Competition features contestants showcasing their intelligence, love of self, and poise on the national stage while representing their community as they compete for the coveted title of Miss Black America Coed 2018. For tickets and contributions, visit MissBlackAmerica-Coed.org. Sept. 2 at 6 p.m. Plaza Theatre and Sept. 3 at 3 p.m. at the Plaza Theatre in Downtown Garland.

Garland ISD
Volunteer
Registration

It Is Time to Register for Volunteering. At this time we are not doing it on laptops at the school. You must register online on the GUSD website under Volunteers. Then come by the school to have your driver license scanned. You must do both parts. Allow several days to a week for processing before the event.

Please call or email Karen Summers at [Sachse HS](mailto:SachseHS) if you have any questions.

972-414-7450 ext. 63114, KSummers@garlandisd.net

PLANO
Be a champion for
the environment

If you enjoy telling folks about ways they can help the environment through small actions, we need you. Sign up for the Fall 2017 Live Green in Plano (LGIP) Champion Program! This five-week in-depth course is an opportunity to learn about the environmental and healthy well-being of our community through sustainability. Classes are

held Thursdays, Sept. 21 through Oct. 19, 6-8 p.m. at the Environmental Education Center, 4116 W. Plano Pkwy. (Plano 75093).

Experience interactive presentations, tours and class discussions on interesting topics such as:

Plano's residential recycling program, including a tour of the Household Chemical Reuse Center

Water conservation gardening all year-round with Texas SmartScape tips

Energy conservation to save money in your home

After graduation, LGIP Champions "pay it forward" by sharing their new knowledge with the community extending our Live Green in Plano outreach efforts.

Celebrating the life
of Cesar Chavez

Featuring 38 photographs paired with excerpts from his dynamic speeches, interviews, and authoritative writings, this exhibit documents the full course of Chávez's remarkable career. All ages at the Haggard Library through September 15



Pictured (left to right) are Ms. Charletta Rogers Compton, chair of the DCCCD board of trustees; Rep. Helen Giddings; Sen. Royce West; and Dr. Joe May, DCCCD's chancellor.

Two Dallas-area legislators receive
DCCCD Chancellor's Award

During the Dallas County Community College District's Conference Day in Dallas, Dr. Joe May presented his annual Chancellor's Award to two Texas legislators, state Rep. Helen Giddings and state Sen. Royce West.

"This special award is

given to one or more individuals whose contributions have had a positive impact on DCCCD students, the community and North Texas as a whole," said May.

Rep. Giddings and Sen. West wrote and supported legislation, SB 2118, which

was passed this year and will enable DCCCD to offer its first bachelor's degree – a baccalaureate in early childhood education. The district's bachelor's degree in early childhood education will help solve a pre-K teacher shortage in the Dallas area.

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FREE Screening Tickets for Crown Heights

North Dallas Gazette readers can receive free passes to see Crown Heights before it opens on Sept. 1. IFC Films, Amazon Studios and North Dallas Gazette are partnering to host a free screening on Tuesday, Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. at the Angelika Film Center in Dallas. The film tells the true story of Colin Warner who was wrongfully convicted of murder, and how his best friend Carl King devoted his life to proving Colin's innocence. Visit our Facebook or Instagram pages to register to find out how to receive a free pass.

The film tells the true story of Colin Warner who was wrongfully convicted of murder, and how his best friend Carl King devoted



Beehive - The 60's Musical is coming to the Jubilee. Image courtesy of West Virginia's New Greenbriar Theatre 2015 production

his life to proving Colin's innocence. Visit our Facebook or Instagram pages to register to find out how to receive a free pass.

Crown Heights tells the story of how in the spring of 1980, a teenager is gunned down in the streets of Flat-

bush, Brooklyn. The police pressure a child witness to identify a suspect. As a result, Colin Warner, an 18-year-old kid from nearby Crown Heights, is wrongfully convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison. Colin's childhood

friend Carl 'KC' King devotes his life to fighting for Colin's freedom. He works on appeals, takes loans for lawyer fees and becomes a legal courier to learn the court system. This incredible true story is based on the acclaimed This American Life piece and adapted by writer/director Matt Ruskin, with Lakeith Stanfield playing Colin Warner and Nnamdi Asomugha as Carl King.

Watch the riveting trailer and you will soon realize, our headlines today is just a sad case of history repeating itself.

TBAAL's first annual Riverfront Jazz Festival set to draw crowds Labor Day weekend

VISIT Dallas presents The Black Academy of Arts and Letters' (TBAAL) first annual Riverfront Jazz Festival on Labor Day Weekend, Sep. 1-3, 2017 at the Texas Horse Park, 811 Pemberton Hill Road, Dallas, Texas 75217.

The weekend of activities will include 35 national/international musical acts, more than 30 promising young artists, talk-balk artists sessions with youth, midnight jazz

jam sessions and free live entertainment at six Downtown hotels. Vendors at the three-day festival include some of Dallas' top chefs and caterers.

"This is a celebration of music and we want everyone to sample a taste," said Curtis King, TBAAL Founder and President and the festival's creator and producer. "The Riverfront Jazz Festival proceeds will support our

See JAZZ, Page 10

Visit North Dallas Gazette on Facebook and Instagram to register for a free pass to the screening!

Enter to Win! Ticket Giveaway

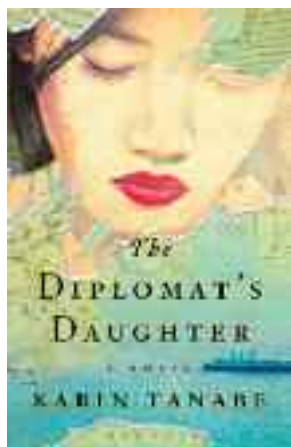
NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Follow North Dallas Gazette on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to keep up on all the latest!!!

NDG Book Review - Make room on your calendar for *The Diplomat's Daughter*

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

He almost got your nose. Or your cheek. Awkward, for sure, but on the second try, it finally happened. Then again. And again, each one sweeter than the last. As long as you live, you'll never forget your very first romantic kiss or the person who gave it to you – even if, as in the novel, “The Diplomat's Daughter” by Karin Tanabe, there's a war outside the window.

Emiko Kato had been around the world and had never really thought of settling in any one place – until she met Leo Hartmann.



They'd gone to a Viennese Catholic school together – she, the eighteen-year-old child of a Japanese diplomat; he, the son of a wealthy Jewish chocolatier – and their singularity brought them together.

Young and in love, they were making plans for a future together when the Nazis invaded Vienna.

They'd promised to write one another daily, but who knew where life was taking them? Emi's father was sent to America, for safety's sake and then, after December 7, 1941, to a series of guarded hotels. By the time she and her mother landed at an internment camp, it had been months since Emi'd heard from Leo. The loneliness she felt caused her to make what she was certain was a mistake: she fell in love with Christian Lange.

College, followed by a

life in industry: that was the plan for seventeen-year-old Christian, son of a German-born Milwaukee steel manufacturer. Raised in comfort and privilege, Christian was expected to take over his father's business – until the Germans aligned themselves with the Japanese. Days after Pearl Harbor was bombed, Christian was separated from his parents, sent to an orphanage, then to an internment camp in Texas, where the next stop was to a country he'd barely ever visited.

Leo Hartmann's parents owed their very lives to Emi Kato's father. It was he who got them out of Vienna. It

was he who got them to relative safety in Shanghai even though, as Jews, they were far from safe. Kato did it for his daughter, and Leo would never forget her – even after he knew he must...

When reading “The Diplomat's Daughter,” there are four words to remember: Im. Possible. To. Stop.

So rich is the tale, so well-told the characters that this is one of those carry-it-around, don't-need-a-bookmark kinds of novels that you'll be itching to finish. World War II fanatics will be happy to see that authenticity oozes from each facet

of the story – author Karin Tanabe really did her homework – and the tiny details she carefully included just shimmer in the midst of a horrifying tri-level story of war, loss, strength, and aloneness. It's a tale that could have had any number of endings, each one better than the last, but it culminates in the one that's righteously perfect.

But we're getting ahead of ourselves: First, start “The Diplomat's Daughter,” and clear your calendar. Start it, and forget about all your weekend plans. Start it, and your nose will be stuck in this unforgettable novel until the end.

JAZZ, continued from Page 9

Youth-Arts-in-Education Program and the sustainability of the institution.

Dallas' own Erykah Badu, Will Downing, and Najee are the festival's Honorary Chairs and among the diverse artists who will perform.

The multi-genre music on display ranges from Jazz, R&B, Pop, Soul, and Blues to Neo-Soul on two main stages – the Visit Dallas Jazz Main Stage and the Blues and Soul Main Stage.

“This is going to be a great opportunity for Dallas artists as well as for our

city,” said Jennifer Scripps, Director of Dallas' Cultural Affairs.

Stage hosts include Twin Cities Radio Network Personality Wes Smooth, CBS 11's Meteorologist Scott Padgett, Anchor Ken Molestina, and Reporter Steve Pickett; comedians Meshelle and Freddie Ricks; and Radio Personalities from Boom 94.5 and 97.9 The Beat.

Food vendors include: The Daiquiri Shoppe, Fabulous Fish, Soul Bowl, Ms. Piggy's Catering, Tilt Cocktail Events, Cake Bar,

Popcorn Market & Grill, Robert Parrish Margaritas, So Savvy Events, Our Door to Yours, Elaine's Kitchen, and more.

Each day will begin with an Opening Prayer. Participants include: Dr. Maurice Ricks, Pastor Cedrick Barber, Pastor Milton Spears, Pastor Annelda Crawford, Apostle Eldred Sawyer, and Pastor Karen Belknap.

Tickets for the festival are \$50 Pre-Sale, \$60 at Door, \$125 VIP Seating, and a 3-Day Discount Festival Weekend pass is \$135. Go to our Facebook and Instagram pages for a chance to win free tickets.



Manfred Werner / Wikimedia

Tulisoma South Dallas Book Fair and Arts Festival this weekend

Authors, poets and artists will be featured at the 12th Annual Tulisoma South Dallas Book Fair and Arts Festival. Tulisoma, Swahili for “we read”, is a free festival promoting literacy, the arts and businesses in the South Dallas/Fair Park area.

On Friday Aug. 29, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. the festival kicks off with the 2014 Heart and Soul Tour of South Dallas historical sites and landmarks, led by District 7 Dallas City Councilmember Carolyn R. Davis. Call (214) 671-9398 to register for the

tour, which will depart from the African American Museum in Fair Park.

On Saturday Aug. 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. author presentations, writing and art workshops, open mic poetry, book signings, children's activities, storytelling, panel discussions, cooking demonstrations and performances take place in the Museum. Pre-register for “Pork Chops and Politics” with Richard Williams (noon-2 p.m.). Williams is the father of tennis greats Venus and Serena.

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AirBnB offers economic opportunities for communities of color

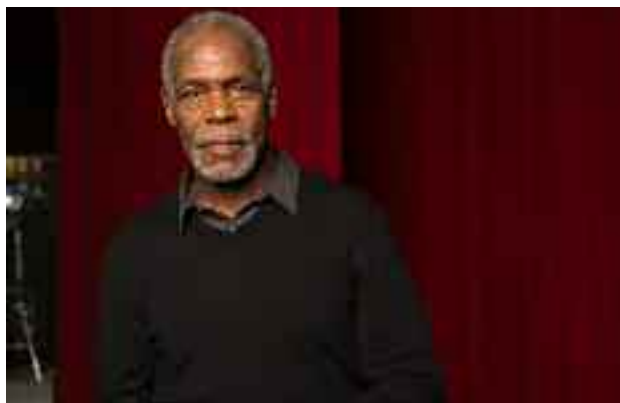
By Danny Glover
NNPA Newswire
Guest Columnist

The history of housing in America is a history of discrimination. Even as people of color have made strides in countless other areas of American life, home ownership—and the intergenerational wealth that comes along with it—remains out of reach for far too many. Even Frederick Douglass, when buying his first home in 1892, noted the importance of home ownership in building community wealth for African Americans. While being committed to economic justice we must also rethink how we cultivate strong dynamic communities of inclusion and belonging.

That is why I have started working with Airbnb and will be serving as an adviser for their efforts to engage communities of color, ensuring members of these communities are taking advantage of the economic opportunity of hosting on the Airbnb platform. I know Airbnb has had its own share of challenges in this arena—but working with them, I've seen first-hand how committed they are to getting it right. And I have been incredibly heartened to see the resources, desire, and drive they are directing towards ensuring that their service is used fairly and inclusively.

Over the past several months, I have had the opportunity of meeting numerous African American and Latinx Airbnb hosts, each of whom has impacted me deeply. There are more stories than I could share, but I do want you to know about a couple of the hosts I met.

In Brooklyn, I met Michelle—who has seen the cost of living in the rap-



Danny Glover says that Airbnb represents a host of possibilities for marginalized communities, particularly those of color. (Official Photo)

idly gentrifying Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood increase tremendously since she moved there twenty years ago. Ordinarily, Michelle would have had to move to another neighborhood. But by renting out her garden apartment on Airbnb, she could not only afford to stay in the neighborhood, but could also help pay her daughter's way through college.

Cia, a host I met in San Francisco, raised her children as a single mother—and is now raising a granddaughter as well. Today, Airbnb helps her make ends meet for her whole family, and in the years ahead, Cia says Airbnb will make it possible for her to retire.

These are just a few of the many stories I have heard—with people from all different backgrounds using Airbnb as a bridge to financial stability and even homeownership. These stories are not the exception either. In the U.S., the typical Airbnb U.S. host earns \$6,100 every year they share their home—supplemental income that can cover expenses like food, rent, caring for a sick relative, and education for their children.

In many cases, Airbnb can even be the difference between hosts having to give up their homes and earning income from them. An estimated 62 percent of

United States hosts report that home sharing has helped them afford to stay in their home, while 12 percent of North American hosts say that it actually saved them from eviction or foreclosure.

Airbnb also allows communities traditionally underserved by the tourism industry to reap the financial rewards of travel, with the share of Airbnb bookings in communities of color in some major cities exceeding the share of local hotel rooms that can be found in them.

Yet, Airbnb's potential benefits also go beyond finances as the service can bring people of diverse origins and walks of life together in a context geared toward hospitality and sharing. The bonds that can form in these interactions are indispensable to the greater project of breaking down the social barriers that make all forms of discrimination so intractable in the first place. These spontaneous interpersonal relationships are the laboratories for transforming relationships among people; the sites at which we begin to implement our highest ideals in practical yet poignant ways.

I recently met Ron, an Airbnb host in San Francisco. Ron and his wife, Renee, have hosted over 200 people in their home

over the years through Airbnb. Among their many guests were a husband and wife from Germany. When Renee recently passed away, the German couple she and Ron had hosted were able to reach out online to express their heartfelt condolences. When the husband returned to San Francisco on a business trip, he and Ron went out for a drink and remain in contact.

For hosts like Ron, hosting on Airbnb became a gateway to new passions and a sense of community that is simultaneously personal and global. By melding travel, housing, and the potential for meaningful personal exchanges, Airbnb represents a host of possibilities for marginalized communities, particularly those of color.

African American, Latinx, and other communities of color are some of Airbnb's fastest growing host communities in the U.S, which is a step in the right direction. But the underlying housing market is still fundamentally unfair—and, disappointingly, even as we have made progress in other areas, the Airbnb community can sometimes reflect the broader discriminatory realities of present-day American society.

Working with the Airbnb community first-hand—which includes its executive leaders, employees, and hosts—has allowed me to witness just how committed they are to addressing these issues proactively. They have issued a report on building inclusion and engaged with civil rights leaders across the country. I see this as a continuation of the work I have done throughout my life, fighting for fairness and equality for working people, including hotel workers and supporting union workers, which

both of my parents were.

In March, Airbnb unveiled its Economic Empowerment Agenda—which established the goal of doubling the size of its U.S. host community in urban majority-minority districts and underserved areas within the next two years. This will be achieved through partnerships with national and local organizations and on-the-ground events and trainings to help more people understand the economic opportunity that home sharing can provide. This agenda also includes: The Friendly Buildings Program, bringing landlords and their tenants to the table to jointly set home sharing and revenue sharing terms; and, the creation of a living wage pledge—which will enable hosts to designate that the people who clean their homes are paid at least \$15 per hour.

Airbnb and the NAACP have also established a partnership to increase the participation of hosts of color and increase tourism to neighborhoods of color, to diversify Airbnb's workforce, and to commit a share of Airbnb's revenue to supporting civil rights initia-

tives.

Working with partners like the NAACP, we will host information sessions and run online and offline campaigns aimed at engaging the people who can benefit from home sharing the most. As an adviser, I will be on the ground doing whatever I can to promote these efforts—participating in trainings and events, working with local organizations and faith-based leaders, and getting to know more of the hosts who empower our communities.

The fight for fairer housing won't be easy—and it won't be over anytime soon. But you can be part of making a difference right now. So I hope you'll consider investing in your future, signing up to host on Airbnb, and helping us work towards housing equality—one listing at a time.

And I'll be working closely with everyone at Airbnb to help more people of color benefit from home sharing.

Danny Glover is an actor, director, producer and humanitarian. You can follow Danny Glover on Twitter @MrDannyGlover.

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

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

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

Send resume and writing samples to: businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com



Volunteers needed to assist neighbors with their taxes

AUSTIN, Texas -- AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is looking for volunteers for the 2018 tax season. Approaching its 50th year, Tax-Aide offers free tax filing help to anyone, especially those 50 and older, who can't afford a tax preparation service.

AARP Texas Director Bob Jackson has seen firsthand the difference that Tax-Aide volunteers make in communities around Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, Austin and across the state.

"When you assist older, lower-income folks who might otherwise miss out on the benefits they've earned, you're not just donating time and energy to a good cause—you're making a difference in someone's life," said Jackson. "And there's nothing more gratifying than that."

Tax-Aide volunteers receive training and support in a welcoming environment. Specifically, volunteers are needed as tax pre-



parers, client facilitators, interpreters and those who can provide technical and management assistance. Every level of experience is welcome. Volunteer tax preparers will receive training and IRS certification.

Last year, more than 2,000 AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers helped nearly 163,000 people file their federal and state tax returns. The program is offered at approximately 260 sites across Texas, including senior centers, libraries and other convenient locations.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has grown remarkably since its inaugural team of just four volunteers in 1968. The program

now involves nearly 35,000 volunteers and serves 2.5 million taxpayers annually with free tax help at some 5,000 sites nationwide. In 2017, taxpayers who used AARP Foundation Tax-Aide received \$1.37 billion in income tax refunds and more than \$222 million in Earned Income Tax Credits. Taxpayers do not need to be a member of AARP or a retiree to use this program.

Texans are known for hospitality and big hearts. Potential volunteers can visit us at aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277). AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in coordination with the IRS.

Black entrepreneur finds success selling cars online, his website now features more than 130,000 new vehicles

(BlackNews.com) -- Carmarshal.com is offering a new convenient service that takes the hassle out of buying a car, using a new proprietary software that helps buyers find a car at a lower than advertised price.

The service is setting out to help car buyers save time and money by offering potential buyers access to more than 100,000 new and used cars, trucks and SUVs at dealerships around the country. Competing directly against cars.com, autotrader.com and truecar.com, the Dallas-based, black-owned third party advertiser of new and used cars says is offering buyers a solid alternative.

"Look, we know people looking for a car have plenty of choices," Tracey Watts, the company's African-American founder and CEO, said. "Our purpose is to get the customer a car at a lower than advertised price."

Customers can search for a car 24/7 by going to car-



marshal.com. Car buyers enter their zip code, the make and model of a new and/or used car, then immediately get a list of available cars and their prices in their zip code and within 200 miles. When buyers click on the "negotiate" button, they set up an account with an email and password, then choose two manufacturers. That's when the carmarshal.com team begins negotiating a price and receiving bids for those cars. The car buyer remains anonymous, and not until the buyer is ready to make a purchase does he or she receive a certificate from that dealer locking in that price. For \$39.97, customers can get access to carmarshal.com's

more aggressive negotiating program. If buyers are not satisfied with the choices, carmarshal.com will refund the fee.

"We know how much people hate to buy a car," Watts said. "We're doing the heavy lifting so all a person has to do is sign the paperwork and pick up their car."

Watts said he got the idea for carmarshal.com several years ago. He was shopping for a car and found himself with two dealers bidding to get his business. He ended up with a less expensive price, then realized this was an opportunity to help car buyers get the best deal possible. The owner-financed company also is working on getting customers the opportunity to purchase the Katanka - an electric SUV - in the U.S. The car is currently manufactured by Dr. Kwadwo Safo, Ghana's only auto manufacturer.

For more details and/or to search for a vehicle, visit www.Carmarshal.com

CONTRACTS, continued from Page 1

beginning, there have been numerous assertions that white business owners have simply listed their company in their wife's name in order to be able to check off the "minority" qualification, essentially moving on in a "business as usual" manner.

While complaints from Black contractors are not limited to business conducted with the school district, Annie Holmes-Partee, director of Minority / Women Business Enterprises (M/WBE) for the Dallas ISD, took time to field questions from the *North Dallas Gazette* in regards to how such contracts are awarded. She said her colleagues are aware of the growing complaints.

"Yes, Dallas ISD's administration and staff have been made aware of this sentiment," Holmes-Partee

said. "Occasionally, we receive sentiments from diverse communities. Whenever these comments are expressed, we take them very seriously.

"There has been ongoing discussions with the diverse business community, including but not limited to the following: M/WBE Advisory Committee, Regional Black Contractor Association, Dallas Black Chamber, Greater Southwest Black Chamber, D/FW Minority Supplier Development Council, National Association of Minority Contractors, Regional Hispanic Contractor Association, Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber, Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber, etc.

"The M/WBE Advisory Committee is comprised of a cross reference of com-

munity business leaders which help us address issues of concern and find solutions. Sometimes concerns go directly to the administration which are usually delegated directly to M/WBE Department for research and findings. A continuing goal of the district is to maximize the participation of all minority and women-owned companies. The district's M/WBE Department is actively engaged within the diverse business community to ensure that all companies are given fair and equitable opportunities to compete for district contracts."

Proctor said he is concerned the public at large is often misled by statistics coming out of minority business reports. Primarily, Black-owned businesses might be "awarded contracts," but then never get any actual work from those

contracts. Without the revenue, receiving contracts doesn't improve business opportunities for African-Americans in the community.

"In some cases, the district will utilize multiple vendor awards," Holmes-Partee said. "The end users are given a pool of vendors to utilize. Some companies are utilized; whereas, other companies are not utilized. The M/WBE Department has coordinated various Vendor EXPOs to assist minority and women-owned companies with marketing their products/services to the end users."

According to Proctor, the way the system is currently operating, not just with the schools, but the city and other entities, is simply not spreading the work around the way he and his African-American colleagues feel it should. He is looking for

ways to better even the playing field.

"If they want to they could (break it down by ethnicity)," Proctor said. "The whole deal is what they desire the outcome to be. The only thing I can tell you is that M/WBE, which is what they call this thing. The majority of the people getting the contracts is WBE, which is white women, and the Blacks are dead last. Not only at DISD, everywhere.

"One of the things we are doing is working with the big contractors, the white contractors that can bond, to work with Black contractors. So we can get some work and increase our funding. That's a major issue, because our bonding is not where it needs to be to be able to take on one or two jobs. We might could take on one job, and that's not growing capacity when you

do that.

"History, capacity, doing the work; it's just like a credit rating. If you are able to get a couple of bills and pay those bills on time, they'll give you some more. But you've got to get some more in able to do some more."

Whether or not African-American businesses feel they have gotten a fair shake in the past, Holmes-Partee emphasized the door to district contracts remains open and her office is determined to do their part to improve the playing field for African-American as well as other contractors in Dallas.

"We encourage all companies to bid on district contracts" Holmes-Partee concluded. "Companies may contact the district's M/WBE Department at 972-925-4140 for assistance."

Upcoming DFW area job fairs

Aug. 30 Professional Hiring Event

Wednesday 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Irving Workforce Center (2520 W. Irving Blvd - Suite 100, Irving, TX 75061)



Sept. 7 Arlington Career Fair

Thursday 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the La Quinta Inn & Suites - Arlington (825 N. Watson Rd, Arlington, TX 76011)

Sept. 11 Coast-to-Coast Career Fair

Are you still looking for that golden career opportunity that will allow you to build a solid future for yourself and your family? We have over 10 years of experience in connecting candidates just like you with hiring managers at companies ranging from small local businesses clear on up to Fortune 500 corporations.

Our career fairs offer you individual, face-to-face time with hiring managers from a variety of different companies.

Here's how it works: You arrive at the career fair at 11am sharp. You will sign in at the registration desk then you will be able to go into the ballroom and meet with hiring managers from each company. Make sure to ask each company what positions they are hiring for to see if they will be a good fit for the job you are seeking. At the same time, you will be able to network not only with various employers, but also with other professionals.

We encourage professionals of all levels of experience to attend our Career Fair. From entry-level and mid-level (3-10 years of experience) all the way up to C-level, hiring managers are looking for candidates just like you.

- We recommend that you:
- Arrive at the career fair

no later than 11am

- Wear business professional attire
- Bring at least 10-15 copies of your updated resume
- Display an engaging and motivated attitude

The fair will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Dallas-Market Center at 2015 Market Center Blvd., Dallas, TX 75207.

Sept. 11 Dallas Job Fair

Monday 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel (2015 Market Center Blvd, Dallas, TX 75207)

Sept. 13 Dallas Career Fair

Wednesday 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Wyndham Dallas Suites (7800 Alpha Road, Dallas, TX 75240)

Sept. 21
Dallas Career Fair
Thursday 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel(2015 Market Center Blvd, Dallas, TX 75207)

Sept. 28
Dallas Career Fair
Thursday 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Doubletree

Hotel – Dallas-Love Field (3300 W Mockingbird Ln, Dallas, TX 75235)

Oct 11
Dallas Career Fair
Wednesday 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM the Dallas Career Fair will be held at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel by the Galleria (4801 Lyndon B. Johnson Freeway, Dallas, TX 75251)

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mhood@reynoldsasphalt.com
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Church Happenings

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, CARROLLTON (A PLACE TO BELONG)

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

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

August 27, 9:45 a.m.
You're invited to our Sunday "Prayer and Meditation" at 9:45 am. You will be blessed and inspired. You don't want to miss this! And, join us in our one hour only Sunday's Bible Study at 12 Noon, continuing on the book of Ephesians with other supporting chapters and verses.

August 30, 7 p.m.
Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Pastor Brenda Patterson, Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner, Pastor Bernadette and others conducting a new study on the book of

Ephesians with supporting chapters and verses. Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you; it's Time to Grow in the Word of God.

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

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"

August 27, 8 a.m.
Join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall; followed by our Sunday Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

August 30
Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D. Senior Pastor
1609 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-379-3287
www.theship3c.org

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

August 27, 10 a.m.
You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name in songs and the spoken word.

August 28, 7 p.m.
Join us in Monday School as we grow in God's Word and learn what God has to say to us.

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

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

August 27, 10 a.m.
Join us for Morning Worship Service as we praise

and worship God for His Honor and His glory; and don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

August 30, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

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

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)

Come and connect to God through Shiloh; grow in Christ through the study of God's Word; and Serve God

through service to each other and to the world. John 12:26.

August 27, 8 a.m. And 11 a.m.
Join us for our annual Friends & Family Day; you will enjoy the fellowship, fun and food during the 8 a.m. and in the 11 a.m. Worship Services.

August 30, 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."

September 4
SMBC Bible Institute will start; call the church for details on class listings and online registration.

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

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr. Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
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Church Happenings is a weekly calendar of religious services produced by the North Dallas Gazette.

To make additions or corrections to the calendar, contact: religion@northdallasgazette.com

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

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Worthless idols



Sister Tarpley

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

"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs."
— Jonah 2:8

Have you ever exercised your will over the will of God? Have you ever been so willful that you were going to go your own way no matter what God said?

If so, you have been at the same place as the prophet Jonah. God called Jonah to deliver a message to God's people as a warning.

Jonah flatly refused. It was Jonah's will over God's. Guess who won? Talk about willpower; Jonah had it!

In fact, he was so rebellious toward God's will that he got on a ship to go the opposite direction.

But he couldn't go far enough. The omnipotence of God caught up with Jonah, and he was hurled overboard when the seas became rough and the ship's crew figured Jonah was the source of their problems.

Overboard he went and into the belly of that big fish. God has a way of getting us to rethink our deci-

sions, to reconsider our position.

In fact, we see the extent of Jonah's willfulness by the amount of time he was willing to hang out in the belly of that fish - three full days.

Then, Jonah decides enough is enough! Obedience is better than this fish belly and seaweed.

From inside the fish, Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said: "In my distress I called to the Lord, and He answered me.

From the depths of the grave I called for help, and You listened to my cry. You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all Your waves and breakers swept over me.

I said, 'I have been banished from Your sight; yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.'

The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head.

To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But You brought my life up from the pit, O Lord my God.

When my life was ebbing away, I remembered You, Lord, and my prayer rose to You, to Your holy temple.

Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the

grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to You.

What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the Lord." And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh (Jonah 2:2-3:3a).

In the midst of realizing his own calamity, Jonah

made a seemingly out-of-context statement:

"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs." Jonah was thinking of the sailors who threw him overboard and how they prayed to worthless idols.

In the Christian world, we rub shoulders with those who cling to worthless idols every day. How tragic.

But this story's primary message is for every believer. And I can identify with Jonah.

There's been many a man placed in the "belly of the fish" to encourage him to

fulfill the purposes of God for which He called him.

Jonah's situation changed immediately upon his obedience. Obedience is a mysterious thing. Jesus had to learn it through the things

He suffered (see Hebrews 5:8). If Jesus had to learn obedience through suffering, what does that mean for you and me? Sometimes willing obedience requires encouragement.



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(Left to Right) Rachel Lewis, Little Ms. Valeria Mora, 2 years old and Sister Tarpley at the Golden Corral in The Colony.

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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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Congratulations to our **Discover the Unexpected (DTU)** Fellows!

Discover the Unexpected, presented by the all-new 2018 Chevrolet Equinox in partnership with the National Newspaper Publishers Association, celebrates the impressive achievements of our HBCU student journalists.

Because of our DTU Fellows, summer '17 was full of important stories that inform, inspire, and shatter perceptions about African American culture as well as our community.

Don't miss their stories and videos from this road trip of a lifetime.

#discovertheunexpected

DISCOVER MORE OF THEIR STORIES AT NNPA.ORG/DTU