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Building the faith on a firm family foundation

By Jacquinette D. Murphy
NDG Contributing Writer

“I have the BEST job in the world!” Apostle Herman L. Murray recently declared these words to the congregation of the Full Gospel Holy Temple Churches, Incorporated. They were celebrating 57 years of ministry. This 41-year-old has led the ministry for the last seven years and is proud of its legacy and continued global growth.

Although not the noted courtroom lawyer of his childhood dreams, he is steadily presenting the case of the gospel and winning others to Jesus Christ. Apostle Murray's leadership of a local 3,000 congregation, evangelistic travels and, weekly sermons are often heard around the world. The goal is to see the transformative impact of God's word on the lives of people.

“I love the opportunity to reach out and affect those people who may not necessarily walk into a church, doing tent revivals and having ministries that go out to disenfranchised populations and those that are hurting and mishandled by life. Everyone needs to know that they are important, especially to God.” said Apostle Murray.

Ministry for Apostle Murray is synonymous with life. He saw ministry in action through the lives of his father, Herman Murray, Sr., a teacher and an elder in the church and grandfather, the founding Apostle Lobias Murray who started the church in South Dal-



(L to R) Apostle Herman L. Murray, son Haydn and wife of 20 years Daniele. (Courtesy photo)

las in 1961 with just six borrowed chairs in a repurposed barbeque pit.

“My father was the smartest man in ministry that I knew, and my grandfather was the most influential. I loved how ministry shaped their lives and how it influenced their life situations. Being around the people that I admired the most, put me in a place where I never lost interest in the church,” Murray said.

In addition to the church, education was a huge component of his family legacy. So going to college and having a successful career was his plan.

“I wanted to be a lawyer, said Murray. “When I entered college the first time my major was political science.”

He was well on his way until the start of his sophomore year at Southern Methodist University in August 1996.

“It was the first day of classes and at about 4:30 a.m. I received a call to hurry and get to the hospital because my father was passing away and he passed away that afternoon.”

He tried to return to his college studies and instead found himself amid his grief, losing interest and focus. Meanwhile, he felt the urgent tug of God calling him to a new direction.

“I remember being in my college class and hearing the professor say, ‘I will see you Thursday.’” He then realized that he had not heard anything else he said during the entire class. “In my head, I was in a large auditorium, and I had preached a whole sermon to a large congregation. I was feeling a

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Dr. Amneris Luque



Marian Wright Edelman

READERS SOUND OFF!!!

See Page 2 to see what NDG readers are saying about the latest news!

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



Dr. Amneris Luque

Dr. Amneris Luque's efforts against HIV/AIDS and HPV have spread nearly as wide and fast as the infectious diseases she has battled for more than three decades.

From New York to Dallas, Dr. Luque has treated and advocated for the underserved fighting HIV/AIDS and conducted clinical research into HPV.

The Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce honored her leadership in education with the La Cima Latina Leadership Award.

Her research in the field has been fundamental to ad-



vancing the care and delivery of services, as well as to enhancing the prevention and treatment of HPV and HIV across the U.S. and internationally.

Today, there are 24 million HPV active cases in the U.S.

with 5.5 million new cases each year, according to the National Cancer Institute. Various strains of HPV cause the great majority of cases of cervical cancer.

"Despite this fact, public ignorance about HPV is high," she noted. Recent studies have shown that there are high levels of HPV infection among women, with the highest levels among young women, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

But Dr. Luque continues to make an impact. She has conducted clinical research in areas of cervical dysplasia (HPV) among women with

cohorts of women in Africa and the U.S. leading the way to important clinical findings that have helped us to improve outcomes for women infected with HPV, which is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the United States.

"I think creating awareness about HPV and HIV/AIDS and increasing clinical knowledge and expertise among physicians on these topics have been among the most important areas of my career and perhaps have had the greatest impact," Dr. Luque said.

She has traveled to Cali, Colombia, for 10 consecutive years to participate pro-

bono in a yearly conference on HIV/AIDS, supported in part by Fogarty International and attended by over 300 practitioners from all over Latin America. She also has been an invited speaker in Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Venezuela and has volunteered time and expertise to attend those less fortunate by bringing medical missions to remote areas in Guatemala in coordination with the local volunteer organization Vamos Adelante.

"I am passionate about leaving behind a generation of physicians who feel as committed and invested in the care of this very vulnerable population as I have felt

for over 24 years," said Dr. Luque, a native Venezuelan who earned her medical degree from the Universidad de Carabobo in Valencia, Venezuela.

"I believe I have, with my example and work, led the way for providing compassionate, proven, and comprehensive clinical care that encompasses not just the clinical aspect but that approaches the patient from a holistic and more humane standpoint. I hope to inspire clinicians, especially women, to continue on this path of advancing clinical standards and providing compassionate care to those who need it the most."

Marian Wright Edelman

WASHINGTON - PRNewswire -- Marian Wright Edelman, a lifelong advocate for children, the poor and civil rights, will transition from President of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) into the new role of President Emerita in the Office of the Founder, CDF Board of Directors Co-Chairs Angela Glover Blackwell and Lan Bentsen announced this week. In this new role, she will focus her energies towards building a lasting movement for children to end child poverty and inequality through servant leadership develop-



ment at key spiritual retreats and convenings at CDF's Haley Farm.

Over the years the North Dallas Gazette has shared Edelman's impassioned columns addressing key is-

suces impacting our children. Topics have ranged from overmedicating children in the foster care system, a look back on progress made and missed since Dr. Martin Luther King shared a dream, profits gained by criminalizing poverty, call to stop shooting and killing our children, and how can we fight the rise of hate again in America.

"Our mission to Leave No Child Behind and ensure that every child has a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage into adulthood has never been more important than it is today

during these perilous times for children and for our nation. I will shift away from the day-to-day responsibilities of running a leading, national organization, and in my new role, I will focus all my energies towards building a movement to end child poverty and inequality," said Wright Edelman.

"I am proud of CDF's groundbreaking work over the past 45 years and the significant progress we have made for children and families—but there is still so much work to be done."

Wright Edelman, a graduate of Spelman College and Yale Law School, began her mission in the mid-60s

when, as the first Black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar, she directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1968, she moved to Washington, D.C., as counsel for the Poor People's Campaign that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. began organizing before his death.

In 1968, Wright Edelman founded the Washington Research Project, a public interest law firm and the parent body of CDF. For two years she served as the Director of the Center for Law and Education at Harvard University. In 1973, she founded CDF to ad-

vance the mission to Leave No Child Behind.

Powered by Wright Edelman's vision and dedication, over the past four and a half decades CDF has conducted research and budget analysis and worked with policymakers and numerous organizations to build bipartisan support to enact and implement laws and policies that have helped millions of children escape poverty and access health care, food security, Head Start, child care, education, protections in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, protection from gun violence and family support services.

NDG Readers Sound Off...

Dallas Cowboys believe they still have hope

Hope of being home watching the playoffs.

-- Charlie Love via Facebook

A Blue Wave, trickle or drought?

Hope so

-- Amy Louise Scott Wells via Facebook

NDG's View: Stop Lying ed!

This is the 1 thing 45 didn't lie about nor is fake news. Lying Ted Cruz

-- Carol Robinson



via Facebook

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Election 2018 and a free press



Straight Talk
Ed Gray
NDG Senior Columnist

The midterm election results have been processed, and now I have had some time to evaluate the results. One take away from these elections was President Donald Trump's attack on the American free press, must end. The Trump Era remains, and uncivility is the norm. This Trump Era led by ruffians, or more precisely Trumpian is only here for a season. It is up to the press to report the truth and stand up to those who distort it.

The Biblical scriptures say, “and this too shall pass,” all across the south from Florida where Andrew Gillum is

contesting the governor’s race, Stacey Abrams in Georgia is contesting the governor’s race, and in Mississippi where Mike Espy is in the Mississippi senatorial runoff. African-American Democrats are doing what black folks have done from centuries. Resist Oppression. This no doubt made President Trump angry.

The thought of black candidates beating Trumpian acolytes of his political idiocracy must have unnerved President Trump. In his post-election remarks, he seemed to unfurl frustration on minority reporters. The mere sight of minority reporters, specifically black women, put Trump in anger mode. In rapid succession, he directed his ire over black voters on black female reporters, Yamiche Alcindor from PBS; April Ryan from American

Urban Radio; and Abby Phillips from CNN. I suppose to make it look good as if it was not only women, he also attacked Jim Acosta.

The routine shaming, degrading, humiliating and demonizing the free press comes with consequences. These consequences are as sharp as the pen. To negatively report news regarding President Trump is leaving yourself open to being verbally attacked by him or even possibly be attacked by the President’s supporters. Even writing opinion piece columns can result in harm coming to the author.

The recently attempted threats directed toward our free press by Trump supporters are emblematic and symptomatic of the violent broadsides coming out of the White House. The era of anarchy that has descended

upon America is a result of the facts being treated as if they are no longer relevant in our political discourse.

In early November, the people spoke and did what President Trump asked him to do. He was on the ballot, and he lost. It is now up to us, the People to support a free press. The press has a legitimate Constitutional reason to report and question President Trump. After all, this isn’t Trump Tower.

I am Ed Gray, and this is Straight Talk.

Ed Gray, the host of *The Commish Radio Show* airing Saturdays 3-5 p.m. on FBRN.net, can be reached at eegray62@att.net. NDG was awarded NNPA’s 2018 Robert S. Abbott Best Editorial for Gray’s “Confederate Statues: The White Man’s Burden” column.

What a Democratic House must do

By Congresswoman
Eddie Bernice Johnson

In the next Congress that convenes in January it is my intention to seek the chairmanship of the Committee on Science, Space and Technology, a panel on which I now sit as its ranking member. Known as the ‘committee of the future,’ the Science Committee is crucial to a number of issues that affect our nation, chief among them is insuring that our country remains the world’s principal scientific innovator, that we continue to promote prudent and effective STEM education solutions and that we respect and consider our country’s esteemed scientific communities.

In the last decade, if not longer, the overwhelming majority of America’s highly regarded scientists have warned the executive branch and the Congress about the dangers that we face as a nation if we do not

address the issue of a changing climate. The Republican majority in the House has ignored the opinions of these scientists while our climate has worsened, with unthinkable weather events, including raging fires, coastal erosion and deadly hurricanes.

Over the years I have read and studied the research presented by distinguished members of our science communities in North Texas and throughout the country. The Congress and the executive branch must begin to listen to these men and women who have devoted their lives to academia, and who have pleaded with us to take action before it is too late. We must begin to work with them to confront the daunting challenges that we face.

I am willing and able to work with members of the Democratic Majority in the House and our Republican colleagues to create sensible

legislation and policies that will address the issue of fossil fuels that experts say is contributing to a warming climate. It is neither a Democratic issue nor a Republican issue. It is an American issue.

We cannot afford to be silent in the face of a United Nations science report which recently concluded that placing a price on carbon dioxide emissions, a leading cause of adverse changes in the world’s climate, was crucial to curbing the impact that a warming climate has on communities, countries, agriculture and people.

The report stated that the number of poor people in the world will increase because of increased food shortages, that there will be more wildfires like those in California, additional storms like those that devastated South Texas and that we will witness the death of the world’s coral reefs within

the next twenty-five years if business leaders and governments do not move quickly to address climate change.

Even 40 years of research by a professor who was recently awarded the Nobel Prize for science has failed to get the Congress to act. “We are actually going backwards in the United States with disastrous policies,” said Professor William D. Nordhaus, an economist at Yale University who was awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize for Economic Sciences. “We are gambling with the future of our planet,” he said.

Now, with a Democratic majority in the House and with a Science Committee chaired by someone who actually believes is science, I know that we can do something about our changing climate. In the last election the American people gave the Democratic Party a mandate to act, and act we must!

NDG endorsement for the runoff election in Dallas City Council, Place 4

Dallas City Council District 4 Carolyn King Arnold



Zeta chapter puts focus on Prematurity Awareness Month

November is Prematurity Awareness Month. Unfortunately, that does not mean that NFL players will be trading their pink game apparel for purple counterparts to spotlight that one in ten babies are born prematurely.

The problem of premature birth has been with us since at least Biblical times. But during the last 30 years, the rate has increased dramatically, and no one knows why. Specifically, babies born to black women in the US are more than 1 1/2 times as likely to be born too early compared to babies born to white women. In 2011 in the US, the preterm birth rate for black infants was 16.8 percent, compared to the national average of 11.7 percent.

The overall grade for the United States is a disappointing C and the grade in Texas is a sub-par D, which



means we have a shockingly high preterm birth rate in this country and it is worst in Texas. More than 380,000 babies are born prematurely each year. Despite our cutting-edge technology and a wealth of medical resources, the U.S. preterm birth rate is higher than most developed countries.

In response to the significant rise in premature births, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority chapters across the country are planning to hold prematurity awareness events on during the month of November 2018. Zeta members in more than 850 communities across America

will conduct prematurity awareness activities in houses of worship and congregations. Worshipers will learn more about the infant health crisis that nearly half a million families cope with each year. This year marks the 16th consecutive year of Zeta's participation by leading this nationwide grassroots campaign.

The March of Dimes is leading a World Prematurity Day observance on Saturday, November 17, 2018. Prematurity affects one out of ten babies born in the U.S. today—a rate that has increased 29 percent since 1981. The numbers are even more alarming for African-American babies who have a one-in-six chance of being born too soon.

In addition to the emotional toll, there is a tangible cost to premature birth as well. Average hospital charges in the United States

for the most severe cases of prematurity were nearly 60 times higher than the charges

for newborn stays without complications. Prematurity is the leading cause of death for newborns (in the first month of life) and many of the babies who survive leave the hospital with lifelong health conditions or developmental disabilities that will place an additional financial burden on the family.

The March of Dimes (MOD) officially launched their Prematurity Campaign on January 30, 2003. During a planning meeting at MOD's national headquarters in White Plains, New York with Zeta's newly elected International President Barbara C. Moore and her appointed National MOD Leadership Team, the Prematurity Campaign was formally introduced by

MOD Foundation President Dr. Jennifer L. Howse.

After some discussion of the Campaign's mission and goals and how the Sorority could get involved with helping to raise public awareness of the problems of prematurity, the late former President Barbara Moore suggested the initial concept of Zeta chapters and auxiliaries conducting a grassroots awareness campaign in member's houses of worship—a demographic that is not typically approached or included.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. and the March of Dimes has been in partnership for over 45 years. "Since 1972, have placed great value on our partnership with March of Dimes beginning with their support of our Stork's Nest incentive-based program that offers prenatal health education to low-income preg-

nant women.

In Dallas Texas, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Kappa Zeta Chapter is a Stork's Nest host chapter that provides. Storks Nest aims to increase the number of women receiving early and regular prenatal care in an effort to prevent cases of low birth-weight, premature births, and infant deaths. The program is designed to promote prenatal care participation and encourage healthy behaviors during pregnancy through two components—incentives and education. The program encourages participating in prenatal education classes, stopping at-risk behaviors such as smoking cigarettes and consuming alcoholic beverages, reducing stress, etc.

Donations to support the Kappa Zeta's Storks Nest can be made at <http://snfcd.org>.

Ten diabetes-friendly tips for your Thanksgiving feast

Who doesn't look forward to the fall holiday devoted to feasting with family and friends? Thanksgiving is all about celebrating, with food taking center stage as we heap our plates with savory cornbread dressing, sweet potato casserole and pumpkin pie. Most of us fret about putting on an extra pound or two from overindulging on Turkey Day. But for individuals with diabetes, Thanksgiving can pose more serious health challenges.

Dietitians at Parkland Health & Hospital System say that enjoying Thanksgiving can seem overwhelming when you're concerned about spiking A1C levels. So they developed 10 simple tips to help their patients and anyone with diabetes enjoy the day, worry-free.

"It's important to come up with a plan to avoid overindulging on Thanksgiving," said Marisa Aguillon, RD, a certified diabetes educator with Parkland's Global Diabetes Program.



rawpixel / Unsplash

"If you have a plan you will make better choices. Ask yourself a few questions to help you get started."

Tip 1: Set yourself up for success. Where do you plan to have Thanksgiving? If you are hosting the party, ask family and friends to bring their favorite vegetable and a side of their choice. If you are a guest take your favorite diabetes-friendly vegetable side dish. "This can help you to fill half your plate with delicious and nutritious vegetables," Aguillon said.

Tip 2: Timing is everything. Knowing when the main meal will be served can help you avoid missing meals and medication.

Tip 3: Be prepared. Take

your medication, your glucometer and glucose tablets with you if you will be traveling. Set an alarm to help you stay on schedule. You may need to check your blood sugar more frequently than usual if your sleep, mealtimes and activity level are off-schedule

Tip 4: Choose wisely.

"What are you looking forward to eating on Thanksgiving? Whether it's turkey, stuffing or dessert, be mindful of portion size. Use the

'plate method' to fill half of your plate with vegetables, a quarter of the plate with lean

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Rep. Johnson withdraws from Speaker race; supports Bonnen

Texas State Representative Eric Johnson released a statement indicating his immediate withdrawal from the race to become Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives. According to the Texas Tribune reports, Rep. Dennis Bonnen, Republican from Arlington appears to be the frontrunner for to replace

Rep. Joe Strauss as Speaker in January. This comes on the heels of four Republicans withdrawing from the race over the last couple of days.

“I am officially withdrawing my name from consideration for Speaker of the Texas House, effective immediately, and have released those House members who

had pledged to me to support the Texas House Speaker candidate of their choice. I have decided to support Representative Dennis Bonnen in his effort to become the next Speaker of the Texas House, and I look forward to quickly transitioning from campaigning for Speaker to the business of representing

District 100 in the upcoming legislative session,” stated Rep. Johnson.

The Democrats did do well in the midterm elections last week, gaining 12 seats. They remain hopeful this will allow them to have more of a voice in the 2019 Legislation Session because while the GOP retains a clear ma-

majority, they have seen their commanding lead reduced to an 83 to 67 margin.

Locally, Terry Meza in Irving was one of the Democrats able to overcome the Republican incumbent Rodney Anderson. Also, Julie Johnson defeated Matt Rinaldi to serve the residents in District 115.



Texas Rep. Eric Johnson via Facebook

Dallas Summer Musicals Gala raised more than \$500,000 for arts, education and community programs

An Evening with the Best of Broadway illuminated the historic Music Hall at Fair Park on Nov. 3 as Dallas leaders, philanthropists, and lovers of the arts came

together to support the magic of musical theatre at the 2018 Dallas Summer Musicals (DSM) Gala.

Hosted by one of Broadway and television’s favorite

personalities, Jane Lynch, and featuring the vocal talents of four extraordinary artists, Matthew Morrison, Shoshana Bean, Joshua Henry, and Loren Allred,

An Evening with the Best of Broadway raised more than \$500,000. These monies will support the growing nonprofit’s mission to bring the very best

of Broadway to North Texas, as well as DSM’s education and community programs, such as the DSM High School Musical Theatre Awards (DSM

HSMATA), Seats for Vets, Seats for Kids, Kid’s Club, Hear Us Now and the DSM Community Performance.

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Consider Operation Kindness during holiday season

What’s better than giving a gift from the heart that also does good? This holiday season, Operation Kindness – North Texas’ original and largest no-kill animal shelter – presents its end of year

holiday campaign “Stock Our Hospital” highlighting gift giving opportunities in their 2018 Kindness Catalog. This year’s Kindness Catalog focuses on the medical services at Operation

Kindness. The goal of the “Stock Our Hospital” campaign, is to help stock Operation Kindness’ hospital and replenish the medicine and medical supplies used in caring for more than 5,000

animals each year. Sam Pack Auto Group’s Five Star Subaru of Grapevine will help in this effort by donating \$100 for every car sold from Dec. 1-31.

Operation Kindness is

one of the only shelters in Texas that willingly takes animals that are in need of costly lifesaving services or medical attention. Operation Kindness is the only shelter in Texas that routinely offers

its animals life-saving advanced surgeries such as open-heart and hip dysplasia. Operation Kindness’ annual medical budget is \$1.2

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SLAVERY AT JEFFERSON'S MONTICELLO

PARADOX OF LIBERTY

SEPTEMBER 22-DECEMBER 31, 2018

African American Museum at Fair Park

Presented for the first time west of the Mississippi River, this landmark exhibition uses objects from museum collections and archaeological excavations to examine slavery through the lens of Jefferson's plantation and the experiences of six families living at Monticello.

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Logos for Monticello, Humanities, and Dallas DART are visible at the bottom.

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Teamwork, whole-child approach boost George W. Truett

Dallas ISD's George W. Truett Elementary is one of 13 campuses to get off the Improvement Required list, which is based on ratings from the state. There are several reasons Truett is a school where great things are happening.

One factor has been retaining much of the administration and staff the past several years, which has allowed them to focus on developing sustainable systems for helping to ensure student achievement.

"Our staff has a commitment to build a collabora-



Dallas ISD

tive community that focuses on research-based strategies to ensure the success of all students," said Principal Terre Evans. "Through this collaboration, our school was able to focus on data

analysis and instructional strategies to increase our overall student achievement."

But the success isn't due solely to research and data, however. Implementing So-

cial and Emotional Learning strategies allows staff to connect and build relationships with students and families. As a result, the collaboration has built a stronger school community.

Further, there are other ways students fall in love with learning.

"We offer a variety of extracurricular activities that keep all students engaged," Evans said. "We have after-school clubs such as cheerleading, chess, basketball and soccer teams, debate team, Destination Imagination, Little Kids Rock, art club and many others."

That approach means the campus can address the whole child's needs on campus. That includes donated uniforms for students who need them; Brighter Bites, which provides nutrition and education for entire families; fresh fruit and vegetables on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and hot meals provided every day after school before club meetings and tutoring.

"Our teachers and staff are a cohesive group that collaborate to promote and support students' academics, language and engage-

ment," Evans said. "The school has dedicated professionals who have a 'can do' and 'will do' attitude that will go the extra mile to foster a positive learning environment."

Another factor is brining in parents to be a major part of the process. That includes, but is not limited to, a monthly coffee/breakfast with Evans to listen to the concerns of parents, provide clarification or explain school systems. Parents also visit the school during monthly PTA meetings, which include student performances.

Collin College hosts student open art exhibition

THE ARTS gallery will host Collin College Student Open Exhibition, featuring student artwork from classes in the Collin College Fine Arts Division, from Dec. 5, 2018 through Jan. 9, 2019.

Featured works of art will be presented in diverse media, including 2-D design, 3-D design, ceramics, communication design, digital arts, drawing, figure drawing, jewelry/art metals, painting, paper making/bookbinding, photography, printmaking, sculpture and watercolor.

A reception is planned for Thursday, Dec. 6 from 4-7 p.m. The gallery and reception are free and open to the public.

THE ARTS gallery is located on Collin College's Plano Campus, Room A175, 2800 E. Spring Creek Pkwy. Regular gallery hours are: 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Friday-Saturday. For more information about this or other exhibitions, contact Gallery Director Julie Shipp at 972.516.5070 or jshipp@collin.edu. THE ARTS gallery webpage is www.collin.edu/THEARTSgallery.

Early College Start offers Irving students a solid first step toward a college degree

By: Rachel Hawkins
NDG Staff Writer

Higher education is something most students seeking a brighter future strive for, with their parents' desire to see their child succeed. Yet as many colleges and universities continue to raise the price of tuition, too often many of these students are unable to attend the college or university of their choice. They are forced to seek other opportunities.

But luckily, Irving Independent School District (Irving ISD) is trying to change this.

Irving's Early College Start program allows students to earn up to 60 college credits to obtain their associate's degree while attending high school. The program was piloted at Irving High School and Singley Academy in the fall of 2016 and later rolled out to all four Irving high schools.

These students are en-

rolled in dual-credit classes which will apply to their college studies at no cost to the students or their families. The free tuition comes from The Dallas County Promise, a partnership between school districts, colleges, universities, and communities. It is designed to increase college completion rates in Dallas County. The program is open to high school seniors regardless of

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Steve Lomeli, a senior at Singley Academy earns his associate's degree through the College Early Start Program and The Dallas County Promise. (Image: Irving ISD)

TIPS, continued from Page 4

protein and the other quarter with starches," Aguillon recommended.

Tip 5: Don't skip meals. It is important to eat three meals a day, approximately four to five hours in between. "Eat a balanced breakfast and a nutritious lunch if the main meal is served in the late afternoon or evening," Aguillon advised.

Dietitian Sharon Cox, RD, who teaches diabetes education classes weekly at Parkland's Bluit-Flowers Health Center, reminds her patients to stick with basic healthy eating strategies they've learned during their group sessions. Among her

recommendations:

Tip 6: Make trade-offs. "Cut back on servings of carbohydrates like mashed potatoes and bread during the meal so you can indulge in a small slice of your favorite pie or dessert," Cox said.

Tip 7: Say no to no-no's. "Resist the urge to munch on high-fat, high-carbohydrate appetizers before the holiday meal. Snack on raw vegetables with hummus or low-fat dip before the meal and drink plenty of water instead of sugary drinks or sodas," she said.

Tip 8: Take a hike. Or a walk or bike ride. "Exercise is extremely important for

helping to control blood sugar, reduce stress and regulate sleep, especially for those with diabetes," Cox said. "So don't forget to plan for at least 30 minutes of activity on Thanksgiving to help you feel your best."

According to clinical dietitian Maggy Doherty, RD, who educates Parkland inpatients with diabetes, temptation may not end after the Thanksgiving table is cleared.

Tip 9: Limit the leftovers. Doherty suggests that if you're the guest, only take home low-sugar, low-fat leftovers. "That way you can avoid temptations of over-eating and breaking your healthy nutrition routine after the holiday ends.

For example, take home the turkey breast (without skin), salad (without dressing), whole grain sides and veggies while avoiding to-go boxes of the pecan pie, stuffing and creamy casseroles," she said. If you host the feast, encourage family and friends to take the tempting sweets and high-fat side dishes home with them.

Tip 10: Get back on track. "If you overeat on Thanksgiving (like most of us), start the following day with a healthy breakfast and good workout," Doherty said.

"Remember, your plan will not be perfect and that is fine," Aguillon added. "Enjoy, relax and talk to your providers to help you

improve your plan for the next holiday."

"Enjoy the food, but also make sure you enjoy the reason for the holiday — family and friends," Cox said.

The Healthy Living with Diabetes Education Program at Parkland is recognized by the American Diabetes Association. To learn more about Parkland's Global Diabetes Program, visit www.parklandhospital.com or call 214-590-7219. For more diabetes-friendly recipes and information about preventing and managing diabetes, visit Parkland's new informational website, www.ParklandDiabetes.com.

Residents invited to 'dive into' remodeled aquatic centers

The rainy, crisp days of fall are here, and there is never been a better time to visit Irving's indoor aquatic centers.

Since 2017, the City of Irving has worked to improve the indoor facilities, with the goal of delivering an inviting, visitor-friendly experience to the popular attractions. The community facilities have long provided fitness and social destinations for Irving's residents and visitors. With

the renovations now in place, the amenities will continue to serve and enrich the lives of the Irving community.

Heritage Aquatic Center

In 2018, the City of Irving renovated the Heritage Aquatic Center, 200 S. Jefferson St. Opens a New Window. The \$650,000 project included resurfacing the 120,000-gallon pool, as well as the large spa and current channel.

A new climate control unit was installed to provide cooling and dehumidification for the air, as well as heat for the pool and spa. The center also received a new lighting package with ceiling lights and underwater lighting.

For more information call (972) 721-7310.

North Lake Natatorium

In 2017, North Lake Natatorium reopened after a \$7 million remodeling project

that involved the City of Irving, Irving Independent School District and North Lake College. Among the updates were a new roof to replace the facility's pressurized air roof, a climate control unit, changing rooms, and electrical and lighting upgrades.

The North Lake Natatorium is at 5001 N. MacArthur Blvd. For more information call (972) 756-0860.



Recently remodeled indoor swimming centers offer Irving residents the ability to hit the water year-round. (Photo: City of Irving)

FAITH, continued from Page 1

call to ministry that I did not normally feel that strongly."

So at the end of the spring of 1997, he pressed the pause button on his natural career to heed God's call. He officially became a full-time minister and was commissioned to serve with the pastor. He also met and soon married his wife of now 20 years, Daniele.

Apostle Murray spent more than 15 years traveling and learning alongside the founding apostle.

"He saw something in me

and felt like I was someone that he could train. So, he took time and poured into me. He trained me in ministry, gave me opportunity and experience. He instilled in me guiding principles and showed me the way.

At the end of 2011 following the passing of the elder Apostle, he picked up the reigns of the mega-ministry at only 34 years of age with all he learned in mind.

Apostle Murray believes the key to balancing a thriving ministry with his home

life is an understanding family. He and his wife, Lady Daniele have one son, Hadyn.

"Marrying Herman has truly made me a different person," she shared. "I have grown a great deal. Ministry was most important for him, so that was the very first lesson I ever learned from him. It turns out it was the best lesson he could have ever taught me because now my relationship with God is the one thing I'm not able to live without" she said. "Now, I get to serve God's people, speak into the lives of God's people and

seek His counsel to help my husband serve in His Kingdom."

For the last five years, she has been traveling and sharing the gospel alongside her husband and is proud of his journey of perseverance, a quality she admires.

"He does everything to the best of his ability," Lady Daniele shared. "Since we've been married, he's been the kind of man of God that when he says he's going to do it, he does it with his whole heart."

Most recently, he persevered and finished the educa-

tional journey he started 20 years ago. He returned to Southern Methodist University and obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in May 2018.

For two years, as he was preaching weekly, leading the ministry, pastoring two churches, counseling members, and spending time with his family, he also was taking six classes on campus per semester.

He recalled spending many nights counseling members and then pulling out his laptop to write a paper until about 4 a.m. Then he would

go home only to change clothes and attend class

"I was determined to do it for the young people and to be an example for my son, Hayden," Apostle Murray explained. "I wanted them to know what it means to finish and to know that they have the capacity to be successful in this life."

He hopes that when others think that it can't be done, they can look at his life and commitment to finish. It will help them to see it has been proven. Therefore, it can be done.

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Arlington

Dallas Cowboys Rally Day will take place on Nov. 28 starting at 10 a.m. at AT&T Stadium, in Arlington. Celebrate Dallas Cowboys football past and present at AT&T Stadium on home game weekends. Rally Day tickets include a self-guided tour of the stadium; appearances by Cowboy alumni, Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders, and mascot Rowdy; plus on-field activities for kids and the whole family. Tickets start at \$25 at www.attstadium.com/RallyDays.

Enchant: A World of Christmas Wonder Awaits will open on Nov. 23 to Dec. 30 at various times at Globe Life Park, in Arlington. Back by popular demand, Enchant Christmas will once again illuminate North Texas skies with its World's Largest Christmas Light Maze & Market. Last year, more than 250,000

people unwrapped a new holiday tradition at the most scenic wonderland in Texas. This year, the family tradition will move inside Arlington's Globe Life Park, with a new heart-warming theme, an updated adventure in the light maze, and a larger, dazzling Artisans' Market. To book an Enchant package visit their website.

Dallas

The Boho Market will be held on Nov. 24, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Dallas Farmers Market, in Dallas. The Boho Market is a unique event where you can shop the best makers and small businesses alongside Dallas Farmers Market farmers and vendors. This is a free event where the family and pets are encouraged to join.

Holiday Tea at the Adolphus will be held on Nov. 23, from 11:30 a.m. to 2



Anete Lusina / Unsplash

p.m. at The French Room in the Adolphus Hotel, in Dallas. Sip tea and enjoy little sandwiches, scones and pastries at a holiday-themed afternoon tea party in the French Room, served Wednesday through Sunday from Nov. 23 to Dec. 30. The full three-course menu is available for \$59 per person. Call 214-651-3615 for reservations.

Frisco

Harlem Globetrotters will take to the court on Nov. 23 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Dr. Pepper Arena, in Frisco. The original Harlem Globetrotters are on the road for their action-packed

tour. A star-studded roster will have fans on the edge of their seats to witness the ball-handling wizardry, basketball artistry and one-of-a-kind family entertainment that thrills fans of all ages.

Join Globetrotter stars after the game where they will stay for an autograph, photograph and high five sessions for fans (subject to availability). For more information and tickets visit <https://www.harlemglobetrotters.com/>.

Christmas Spectacular will premier on Nov. 23 until Dec. 22, Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Tostitos Championship Plaza at The Star, in Frisco. Celebrate the season at Dallas Cowboys headquarters in Frisco with a holiday show starring the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders, Dallas Cowboys Rhythm and Blue Dancers and Drumline, appearances by

Santa and more. Presented by Albertsons and Tom Thumb admission and parking will be free. On Nov. 23, watch as the 52-foot Christmas tree on the plaza lights up to kick off holiday festivities at The Star.

Garland

Christmas On The Square will be held on Nov. 29, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at 520 W State St., in Garland. The 2018 Christmas on the Square Tree Lighting Ceremony kicks off Christmas on the Square with school carolers, hot chocolate, and the lighting of the official Christmas Tree on Thursday, Nov. 29. The ceremony starts at 5:30 p.m. So come early and carpool! The City of Garland strives to bring families together by spreading the joy of the holiday season. For more information visit [www.visitgarlandtx.com/events/2018/christmas-on-the-](http://www.visitgarlandtx.com/events/2018/christmas-on-the-square)

square.

Irving

The Nutcracker, Momentum Dance Company will open on Nov. 23 and run until Nov. 25 at various times at Carpenter Hall, in Irving Arts Center, in Irving. Momentum Dance Company presents its annual Holiday favorite, "The Nutcracker" to finish out their 14th season. Along with the "Sugar Plum Fairy" Reception, Momentum brings an exciting start to Thanksgiving Weekend and the best time of the year. Returning guests, Emily Dixon Alba, as the Sugar Plum Fairy, and Chris Edwards as Drosselmeyer, will be joined by Shea Johnson as the Cavalier. With a fresh eye given to Artistic Director Jacquelyn Ralls Forcher's choreography each season, this clas-

See BRIEFS, Page 15

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Dallas Cowboys rekindle the hope of fans

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports

FRISCO – For a change, the Dallas Cowboys did what nobody outside of their locker room thought they could do.

They went to Philadelphia and upset the defending Super Bowl champion Eagles.

Quarterback Dak Prescott threw for one touchdown and ran for another one, and running back Ezekiel Elliott rushed for a touchdown and also caught a touchdown pass as the Cowboys stunned the Eagles, 27-20, and climbed right back in the thick of the NFC race.

In winning their first road game of the season, the Cowboys improved to 4-5 and are just two games behind the Washington Redskins (6-3) in the race for supremacy in the NFC East. The Cowboys got back in the race by piling up 410 yards against the Eagles and holding them to just 71 yards rushing.

“Obviously that’s a good team we played out there, they’re the defending Super Bowl champions in their home stadium, a great atmosphere,” Prescott said.



Jaylon Smith continued to show improvement coming off a serious injury and had a strong performance against the Eagles.
(Photo: Keith Allison / Flickr)

“We scored, they responded, we scored, they responded.”

“Our defense went out there and was able to stop them when we needed to get this win.”

The Cowboys opened up the playbook against the Eagles, got very creative on offense, and even uncharacteristically went for it on fourth down. They also successfully executed a fake punt on a 4-and-2 play and got the first down when they picked up three yards.

“Our backs were against the wall,” Prescott said. “With the team we have, as

you saw, we were throwing punches and we were coming out fighting.

“We were just at them the whole time. We’re not going to stop. Regardless of the record, we’re moving forward.”

Elliott, who rushed 19 times for 151 yards in picking up his 16th career 100-yard rushing day, scored the go-ahead touchdown from a yard out with 3:19 remaining in the game. The Cowboys then had to hold off a furious rally by the Eagles, who reached as far as the Dallas 10-yard line before time expired.

“It was absolutely mandatory that we went out and got this win,” Elliott said. “We wanted to keep our hopes up for winning this division and making the playoffs.”

Rookie linebacker Leighton Vander Esch played an incredible game for the Cowboys, finishing with 13 solo tackles, and one huge tackle for a loss on a fourth down play. He also registered his first career interception and wound up being named the NFC Defensive Player of the Week.

The win over the Eagles snapped a two-game losing streak for the Cowboys, who know they still have major home games remaining against the Eagles and Redskins this season. For now, the Cowboys will try and string together a winning streak for the first time this season when they play in Atlanta on Sunday at noon.

“There’s no room for taking a step back, there’s no room for error at this point,” cornerback Byron Jones said. “The goal is to just build on top of the win last week and keep it going.”

“We’ve got to win now and we’ve got to win big.”

Of course, beating the Falcons will be a daunting task for the Cowboys, who were embarrassed in Atlanta by the Falcons last season, losing 27-7 in a game Prescott was sacked a career-high eight times.

“I don’t think we’ve won consecutive games this year, so it’s going to be big for us,” guard Zack Martin said. “They’re a talented team, we got our butts whipped there last year, so we have to come out and execute and hopefully get another road win.”

Defensive tackle Tyrone Crawford knew fans were down on the Cowboys after they lost at home to the Tennessee Titans the week prior to going on the road to defeat Philadelphia. But he also knows this team can ill-afford to be on these emotional roller coasters from week to week.

“W’s are important in this league and we can’t have losses that hurt us in the long run, so we’ve got to win out,” Crawford said. “We just got to keep getting W’s, and that’s our mindset right now.”

“Our backs are against the wall and we have to go forward.”

As the Cowboys look ahead to Sunday’s game against the Falcons, they do so knowing they have the tools to pull out a victory when their backs are against the wall. Still, they also realize the Falcons are a formidable team that are two years removed from playing in the Super Bowl.

“Obviously we didn’t play well enough last year in that ballgame (against the Falcons),” coach Jason Garrett said. “If you learn from those experiences you move forward.”

“The biggest thing we have to do is focus on this year’s team and this week’s game. . .to get ready to play our best ball on Sunday.”

And if the Cowboys play the Falcons anywhere close to the way they played the Eagles, the sky is really the limit on how far this team can go this season.

“We’ve got a great team, as I’ve always said,” Prescott said. “With the character of this team, when we were down two games, it wasn’t over for us.”

“We knew it with the people we have and the team we have. And we’re just steadily moving forward in everything that we do.”

Start holiday season with free tickets to DCT’s *Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens*

Magic Tree House, the #1 bestselling chapter book series of all time comes to life in a brand new spectacular just perfect for the season. This premiere of Magic Tree House’s Holiday Musical: A GHOST TALE FOR MR. DICKENS features a large-scale cast donned in festive attire and celebrating the joy of giving. It also marks the first time it will be produced by any professional TYA (Theater for Young Audiences) company in the country.

Dallas audiences will be the first to see brother and sister duo, Jack and Annie, whisked back in time aboard their magical tree house to the



foggy streets of Victorian England to help Charles Dickens write what will ultimately become a treasured

tale. Holiday magic is in the air at DCT this season as Magic Tree House’s Holiday Musical: A GHOST TALE

FOR MR. DICKENS runs from Nov. 16 – Dec. 23 at the Rosewood Center for Family Arts.

North Dallas Gazette readers can win tickets to see the production. Every year as the holiday season begins families love to revisit Dicken’s tale of redemption for Ebenezer Scrooge in his beloved Christmas Carol. For a chance to win tickets, visit *NDG’s* Facebook page, and tell us your favorite movie version of the story. With more than 50 to choose from, going all the way back to 1908 (although no prints remain of this version) with at least one two new twists on

the holiday classic every couple of years, you have plenty to choose from. Also, like our Facebook page so you can stay in the know about other contests and news.

Jack and Annie, the leading duo from the Magic Tree House book series, are on a mission to help the famous writer Charles Dickens overcome a terrible bout of writer’s block. With a little help from three ghost friends, Jack and Annie learn how charity and kindness can change the course of history. As they explore Victorian England, they are thrown in jail, but Mr. Dickens saves the day by bailing them out.

Along the way, Jack and Annie help Mr. Dickens process the sad memories that haunt him and ultimately inspire him to write one of the greatest holiday stories of all time – A Christmas Carol.

Also, during the first two weekends of performances, Santa Claus and his friends will peruse the lobby looking for girls, boys, and their family who are on the Nice List. A larger-than-life book photo op will commemorate both DCT’s 35th Anniversary storytelling theme and the Victorian England spirit of the show.

For tickets, time and more info visit dct.org.

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Ticket Giveaway

NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit us on Facebook to win tickets to the the hottest events in Dallas/Fort Worth!!!!

Blues, beer, artwork and more available this week in DFW

By Tiffany Gilbert
NDG Entertainment

Mark your calendar for a fun-filled day of FREE kids activities, live music, and more at **Resource One Credit Union's Fall Festival Block Party Events**. This event will be held on Nov. 17 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at their Southside Branch, in Dallas. Food trucks and local vendors will be on site for you to purchase festival food and crafts. Don't miss per-

formances and activities perfect for the entire family! For more information, visit their website.

If you like great music and lots to do then the **Legends of Blues** is just for you! Legends of Blues featuring Betty Wright, Lenny Williams, Tucka, Clarence Carter and Latimore will perform on Nov. 17, from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the music hall at Fair Park. To purchase tickets visit their website.

Samuel Lynne Galleries is hosting the opening reception of **Lea Fisher: Inside Out** on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 5 p.m. 8 p.m. A prominent Dallas Reflectionist artist and philanthropist, Lea Fisher has spent the last year looking inward – narrowing her artistic focus to create her most recent body of work, which includes inner Self-Portraits and Aura Paintings with Diamond Dust. Fisher will be in attendance at the opening recep-

tion, and the exhibition will be on view through Dec. 22.

Lea Fisher is a former psychotherapist who has evolved from a problematic and conflicted childhood to become an intuitive artist who can express herself fearlessly. As a Reflectionist, Fisher paints dramatic compositions that mirror her life experiences. She creates bold, authentic, emotionally expansive artworks that frequently possess an ethereal quality. Her art emulates adventure, raw

emotion, and an unparalleled flow of sentience.

Who said the best time to drink beer is during the summer at a beach or during a football game? Come out and enjoy **12 Days of Holiday Beer At The Dallas Arboretum**, on Nov. 17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Twelve different breweries will join the Arboretum on 12 different weekends for Holiday at the



Samuel Lynne Galleries Presents
Lea Fisher: Inside Out until Dec. 22

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GALA, continued from Page 5

"Dallas Summer Musicals could not be more appreciative of our supporters," said Kenneth T. Novice, DSM president. "We know that it's up to us to educate and uplift students, young people, veterans and seniors with the arts, and we look forward to engaging numerous organizations and individuals in a conversation about how musical theatre

can create a positive impact on our communities. Our goal is to share the gift of Broadway with as many people as we can, which would not be possible without the funds raised from An Evening with the Best of Broadway."

The event was designed with an element of surprise which built a great deal of anticipation among guests.

The audience's expectations were exceeded as were wowed with surprise performances from Hamilton alum and two-time Tony Award nominee Joshua Henry, who brought the stage to life with "Feeling Good" and "The Room Where It Happens," and Loren Allred, best known as a member of Team Adam on The Voice and for her role in The Greatest Showman, who received roaring applause for her perform-

ance of "Never Enough." Finally, students from the Dallas Independent School District and the 2018 DSM HSMTA Best Actor and Actress winners, Noah Aguilar and Sierra Roberson of Friendship High School, joined Morrison, Bean, Henry and Allred on stage for a memorable finale performance of "This Is Me" from The Greatest Showman, which received a standing ovation from the audience.



Joshua Henry performed at the 2018 DSM Gala – An Evening with the Best of Broadway (Photo By Tamytha Cameron via DSM)

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CFPB neglects duty to enforce Military Lending Act

Vet Organizations, State AGs, and Consumers Sound the Alarm

By Charlene Crowell

Although predatory lending often conjures up images of an economically blighted Urban America, seldom does the image of an enlisted man or woman come to mind. But just as check cashing stores, along payday and auto title loan shops focus on communities of color, America's military is also a frequent target.

For years and near military installations across the country, a profusion of predatory lenders plied their wares, capturing our service men and women into the same web of debt trap loans that ensnared Black and Latino civilians.

By 2006, a Department of Defense (DoD) report that delved into predatory lending practices against the nation's armed services shared how the financial stress wrought affected military readiness. The report shared how predatory lending resulted in multiple negative effects. From "undermining troop readiness" and morale, to even the revocation of security clearances essential to military operations.

In part the report stated, "Most of the predatory business models take advantage of borrower's inability to pay the loan in full when due and encourage extensions through refinancing and loan flipping. These refinances often include additional high fees and little or



Israel Palacio / Unsplash

no payment of principal."

In reaction, to the DoD report, Congress enacted with bipartisan support the Military Lending Act (MLA). Drawing from the report's recommendations, new military protections assured: a 36 percent interest cap for all costs associated with lending; included both military members and their families; and banned extensions of payday and auto title loans, or other types of predatory credit.

By 2010 the enactment of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, the newly-created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) gave the nation for the first time, a full-time consumer cop on the block, dedicated to financial fairness over a wide range of services and products. In 2012, the National Defense Authorization Act authorized the CFPB to enforce the MLA. That legislative move enabled CFPB to use its authority to protect service-

members.

Soon thereafter, veterans, military members, and their families took more than 72,000 lending complaints to the direct attention of the CFPB. Under the leadership of the Bureau's first director, CFPB returned more than \$130 million to the military community.

For several years, the CFPB conducted proactive supervision to verify that financial companies were honoring their obligations under the MLA – to not rip off our troops. Furthermore, the MLA itself was strengthened by DoD policy, which closed loopholes that lenders had been exploiting to rip off our servicemembers.

Despite this multi-year drumbeat of consumer concern at the federal level, this year the current Acting Director of the CFPB recoiled from Dodd-Frank's statutory duty to veterans. Instead of continuing its inclusion of MLA in CFPB supervisory examinations, ear-

lier this year Mick Mulvaney, CFPB's Acting Director claimed that the agency has no such legal authority.

In reaction, a bipartisan contingent of 33 state attorneys general (AGs) directly expressed their concerns regarding CFPB's abdication of duty to the armed services. Representing coast-to-coast diversity in geography as well as economies were AGs who wrote on behalf of consumers from New England's Vermont, to the mid-Atlantic's North Carolina, the Midwest heartland of Illinois and Ohio, the Deep South's Mississippi, westward to Colorado's Rocky Mountain, and the most populous state, California.

"[W]e are perplexed by reports indicating that the CFPB has determined that it needs further statutory authority in order to conduct examinations for MLA violations," wrote the AGs. "We are also disappointed to learn that CFPB did not consult the Defense Department in developing its new examination policy, even though Congress specified that the Defense Department – not the CFPB – is the primary federal agency responsible for interpreting the MLA."

"By eliminating the proactive examination of compliance to correct problems before they affect servicemembers, however, your proposal will limit the CFPB's protection of ser-

vicemembers to reactive enforcement when servicemembers submit complaints," added the AGs.

Nor were governmental officials the only ones to speak up in defense of the MLA.

The Consumer Federation of America (CFA), an association of nonprofit interests that together have used a combination of education, research and advocacy to protect consumers since 1968, released a report that challenges CFPB to "Protect Those Who Protect America". Written by Christopher L. Peterson, CFA's Director of Financial Services, it rejects Mulvaney's interpretation, and itemizes specific directives and requirements that together pose a legal argument that would be difficult to deny or disprove.

"For some inexplicable reason, the Trump Administration is directing the CFPB to overlook illegal, usurious lending to our troops within supervisory exams," said Peterson. "America's military families deserve the protection from predatory lending offered by the Military Lending Act – not to be abandoned by the CFPB."

Veterans are also expressing their own heartfelt concerns about the unexpected reversal of consumer protection.

In a recent blog, Melissa Bryant, a member of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans also spoke up.

"We know that servicemembers are four times more likely to be targeted by predatory lenders and are in desperate need of stringent oversight and protection measures from fraud," said Bryant. "If you need further proof, just look down the main drag of any street leading into a military post, full of payday lenders and car dealerships who prey upon young troops with little or no credit, but a steady paycheck to spend."

And in a recent town hall convened by CFPB in Baton Rouge, a Commander with the state's branch of the American Legion faced off with Mulvaney.

Speaking on behalf of veterans, Ricky Griffin told the Acting Director, "Both the Pentagon and the American Legion are extremely worried about your proposal to pull back on enforcing the Military Lending Act. . . With the military currently unable to make its recruitment numbers this year, I think it is wrong for your agents to back off of any enforcement of the Military Lending Act...Why single out military service members?"

Mr. Griffin and all of America's military deserves an answer.

Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's Communications Deputy Director. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

KIND, continued from Page 5

million, and they receive no government funding. In 2017, Operation Kindness completed or paid for:

- 3,140 spays and neuters;
- Treated 529 cases of heartworms;
- Treated 2,083 cases of upper respiratory infections; and,
- 363 orthopedic, ophthalmic and internal surgeries.

The mascot for this year's "Stock Our Hospital" holi-

day campaign is two-year-old chihuahua Macy, who originally came to Operation Kindness from a municipal shelter partner. When Macy was rescued, she had a rear leg fracture and needed surgery. The broken leg would have resulted in euthanasia at any other shelter. Macy required multiple rounds of X-rays, splints, medication, lab tests, care in ICU and lots of fluids. Her adoption fee

doesn't even begin to cover all her medical expenses. With the help of Operation Kindness and their medical team, Macy is now fully recovered and is available for adoption.

Operation Kindness serves as the "go-to" partner for 47 municipal shelters and rescue centers that have run out of space or don't have the proper resources to provide the right medical care to homeless animals in urgent need. In fact, in 2017 63 percent of all animals at

Operation Kindness came from shelter partners. Operation Kindness' shelter partners know that they will treat any injury or illness if there's an opportunity for the pet to have a good quality of life.

"Operation Kindness cares for thousands of animals every year," said Jim Hanophy, CEO of Operation Kindness. "Most of the animals we treat are from shelters who were going to euthanize the pet due to not having the proper medical

treatments. Operation Kindness comes in and rescues the animal, treats them back to health and then finds them their forever homes. But the demand far exceeds the supply, which is why we are asking the North Texas community to help us "Stock Our Hospital."

From life-saving surgeries to vaccinations, there are delightful gifts at all price points to show compassion while delighting a loved one, friend, client or employee.

After selecting the Kindness Catalog donation gift on the shelter's website, donors have the option to send the gift recipient an e-card or donor's may opt to download a DIY version. One hundred percent of the proceeds will directly benefit the medical needs of homeless animals at Operation Kindness.

For more information on Operation Kindness' "Stock Our Hospital Campaign," visit www.OperationKindness.org

Small Business Saturday finds customers believe they receive better customer service

SAN FRANCISCO /PRNewswire/—Americans are seeking personal, friendly connections in their retail experiences and the Saturday following Thanksgiving offers them exactly that. Sandwiched between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Small Business Saturday encourages shoppers to step back from the frenzy of massive franchises and e-commerce websites, and celebrate independent “Main Street” businesses. In 2017, 108 million shoppers spent nearly \$13 billion at indie retailers on Small Business Saturday.

According to a recent na-

tionwide survey of 1,000 adult respondents, 40 percent of Americans say that smaller, independent businesses still offer the best customer service. Support for small businesses extends beyond the walls of brick-and-mortar shops, with 35 percent of Small Business Saturday shoppers in 2017 opting to make purchases online. But even the most ethical consumers – those that “think big and shop small” – cannot avoid the hassle that may come with troubleshooting online orders during the busy holiday season.

“After a weekend of surf-

ing the web for epic deals, supporting local businesses via Etsy, and taking advantage of free shipping offers, few online shoppers manage to save enough energy for the aftermath. Contacting retailers is not something people look forward to. But advancements in technology and evolving means of communication are making it easier to receive great support from both large and small stores,” said Janelle Dieken of Genesys (www.genesys.com), an expert in customer experience solutions.

Here are four easy tricks to help you tap into the revolu-

tion and get better, faster customer service:

Embrace the communication evolution. Contacting customer service isn’t limited to a phone call. Instead, make use of other communication options like texting and web chat to interact with businesses. And, social media works too – simply log onto Instagram, Twitter or Facebook to connect with your favorite retailer.

Don’t fear the bot. Take advantage of recent strides in artificial intelligence (AI) by talking or messaging with a chatbot to access support and resolve routine issues efficiently. Today, chatbots are

smarter and more capable than ever to help you quickly check order status, find product information or process a return.

Please hold? That’s so 2016. When trying to access customer service over the telephone, ask for a return call instead of waiting on hold. More and more contact centers are offering a ‘callback’ option – so take it! As much as you may revel in Christmas carol hold music, enjoy the convenience and flexibility offered by evolving support features.

Honey, not vinegar. Embody the spirit of Small Business Saturday in your

interactions with support agents and business owners.

During the holiday season, customer service agents deal with hundreds of anxious consumers day-in and day-out. Have patience. If you can take a few deep breaths before unleashing your frustration, it will make the experience happier for both you and the agent.

Online shopping is reconceptualizing the retail world, but that doesn’t need to come at the cost of your mental health. Following these tips will help resolve your support issues more easily. Happy shopping!

DART partners with Union Gospel Mission Dallas for employment opportunities for mission men and women

Union Gospel Mission Dallas (UGM Dallas) and Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) have enjoyed a successful partnership that goes back for more than 22 years. They are once again partnering to help transform the lives of homeless individuals.

Nine UGM Dallas disciples were recently hired by Hallcon, a DART contractor, and given a chance to regain financial independence as mainline train cleaners. Their employment was achieved after they completed a discipleship program at UGM Dallas where they have progressed in the mission’s job skills program and have excelled in their faith-based life recovery classes.



“We are excited about our partnership with DART and the wonderful opportunity for our clients to earn a steady income as part of their path to rebuilding their lives. After completing their life skills and job readiness training, they are enjoying their new jobs and DART is helping to make this possible,”

stated Bruce Butler, CEO of Union Gospel Mission Dallas. “With community partners like DART, together we can end homelessness one person at a time.”

After undergoing training from DART and Hallcon, the UGM disciples were offered salaried positions with the opportunity to receive bene-

fits after the standard 90 days on the job. “We are thrilled to announce one individual has already been promoted and received a raise,” commented Mr. Butler.

“DART and UGM have built a strong relationship over the course of more than two decades based on our shared goals of being fully involved in the communities we serve and improving the quality of life for north Texas residents,” said Gary Thomas, DART President/Executive Director.

The Union Gospel Mission helps thousands of North Texans find a new life with physical and emotional support, and, in some cases, job training. Learn how two men took advantage of that

opportunity and are working with DART to give back.

Established in 1949, Union Gospel Mission Dallas (the Mission) has been restoring lives through the word of Jesus Christ. This faith-based nonprofit organization supports individuals and families experiencing homelessness with shelter, food and clothing, as well as a Discipleship and recovery program, vocational job training and development, state-licensed child care services, medical care, trans-

portation, substance abuse prevention, and transitional and permanent housing.

In 2017, the Mission assisted 4,331 individuals in Dallas County by providing more than 186,769 nights of shelter and serving 518,647 meals. These men, women and children represent the living, breathing embodiment of the grace of change, and the Mission is committed to doing everything possible to transform lives and end homelessness one person at a time.

GUIDE, continued from Page 10

Arboretum festivities. Enjoy tasting holiday and seasonal beers with local breweries in the Val Late Garden. For more information visit the Dallas Arboretum website. This event is free with garden admission.

All aboard! **Polar Pajama Parties** are your chance to enjoy wintry hands-on activities coupled with the classic holiday film, *The Polar Express*! Even Santa Claus will be at the PJ Parties. Ticket price includes admission

to *The Polar Express* in the Omni Theater in Fort Worth immediately following or preceding the Polar Pajama Party. Visit fwmuseum.org for dates and tickets.

Come to watch **Golden State Warriors at Dallas Mavericks** showdown on Nov. 17 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the American Airlines Center. More information can be found at Mavs.com.

Cory Henry & The Funk Apostles will perform live on

Nov. 18, from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. at The Kessler, in Dallas. Visit VisitDallas.com to learn more.

Food, vibes and more! Don’t miss out on **Cynthia Bailey Hosts Pre-Thanksgiving** on Nov. 21, from 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. at SANDAGA 813, in Dallas. More information and tickets can be found at Eventbrite.com.

Brown Sugar, a subscription-video-on-demand service operated by Bounce and

featuring the biggest collection of the “baddest” African-American movies of all-time, is now available over the Internet on Comcast’s Xfinity X1 for a seven-day free trial period and then for \$3.99 per month thereafter.

Brown Sugar movies include **Monster’s Ball**; popular “Blaxploitation” movies such as *Super Fly*, *Dolemite* and *Cleopatra Jones*.

Other classic films such as *Hollywood Shuffle*, *Sparkle*, and *Richard Pryor: Live on the Sunset Strip* and more.

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Upcoming DFW area job fairs

Dec. 3

6th Annual Job Fair

The 6th Annual Job Fair will be held on Dec. 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Mountain View College, in the Gymnasium, in Dallas. Held by Congressman Marc Veasey, you will be able to connect with actively hiring employers and take part in professional development workshops. Free and open to the public! For more information contact: Julian.Schlesinger@mail.house.gov or (817) 920-9086.



remote work. They will be looking to fill the following positions: Senior.net developer, senior software engineer, senior applications architect, data scientist, big data engineer, lead software engineer, lead software analyst, senior java application architect, and big data developer. Please be sure to send a copy of your resume to plazacareers@geico.com prior to the event. Spacing for this event will be limited. Address to the event will be provided 72 hours prior to the event. Last on-site interview will be held at 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 3

GEICO IT Hiring Event

The GEICO IT Hiring Event will be held on Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 2280 Greenville Avenue, in Richardson. GEICO is rapidly expanding and is looking for top IT talent to help us transform the insurance industry. We are looking to fill roles currently located in the Washington, DC area, Macon, GA and Indianapolis, IN. offer including but not limited to the following: Competitive compensation package, 401(k) and profit-sharing plans, medical, dental, vision and life insurance, paid vacation, holidays and leave programs, tuition reimbursement, associate assistance program, flexible spending accounts, business casual dress, and

Dec. 5

Dallas Job Fair

Dallas Job Fair will be held on Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Doubletree by Hilton Dallas-Market, in Dallas. Whether you are a seasoned executive-level professional, just beginning your career, or anywhere in between, our events can connect you with as many valuable employer contacts in three hours as you would make in weeks of job searching on your own. Hiring managers will be onsite and ready to offer first and

second interviews to qualified candidates. 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 PLEASE NOTE: You must actually attend the event in order to meet directly with hiring managers and to be considered for their positions.

Dec. 5

Inbound Banker Hiassing Event

The Inbound Banker Hiring Event will be held on Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, in Dallas. Position Description: Inbound operates out of a centralized phone based sales environment and is primarily responsible for providing business and financial products and services to Small Business customers. Identify and address cross-sell opportunities. Serve as a

resident expert for Small Business products, services, and strategies through the telephone channel. Through inbound calls and the handling of referrals, these associates acquire and deepen Small Business customer relationships with a focus on client delight and retention.

Position requirements: Ability to work within the operating hours and days for this position as outlined in the posted job requisition, two or more years of sales experience with cross-selling, upselling, and/or referring products, excellent oral communication skills, and ability to work effectively and efficiently and multi-task in a high call volume environment. To apply, email a copy of your resume to 21197-37-mh2006@apply.maxhire.net.

Dec. 7

Schneider - Driver Recruiting Event

The Schneider - Driver Recruiting Event will be

held on Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Comfort Inn Dallas Park Central, in Dallas. Schneider is hosting a truck driving recruiting event where you will be able to one of their knowledgeable and personable recruiters about obtaining a CDL, driving opportunities, pay and benefits, military programs, requirements, terminology clarification, and any other questions you may have. For more information, you can contact bowermanb@schneider.com or (866) 928-2116.

America, in Dallas. Start time is between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m., Monday through Friday flexible to work Saturdays as needed throughout the year and with the schedule as needed.

Qualifications: You'll need the ability to get a CDL class B license with airbrake endorsement and have a clean driving record, ability to work in all kinds of weather while working out on your own with limited supervision, ability to obtain a DOT medical card for the purpose of working for Nestle Waters, a clean driving record means in the last three years, and must be 21 years of age or older. Additional info can be found at <https://goo.gl/sIu0Rq>. To apply visit nestlewaterscareers.com.

Dec. 20

Route Delivery Driver Job Fair

The Route Delivery Driver Job Fair will be held on Dec. 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Nestle Waters North

Tillman Infrastructure, LLC proposes to build a 130-foot Monopole Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 2918 County Road 407, McKinney, Collin County, TX 75071. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, John Huter, j.huter@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704.*

Sprint proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a centerline height of 119 feet 7 inches on an existing 150-foot water tower at the approx. vicinity north of 3920 Pioneer Road, Balch Springs, Dallas County, TX 75180. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, John, j.huter@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*

Crown Castle is proposing to collocate antennas at a centerline height of 84 feet on an existing 108-foot 9-inch monopole telecommunications tower at the following site: 11701 C F Hawn Freeway, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75253; 32° 41' 10.71" N, 96° 37' 19.01" W. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by calling Monica Gambino, 2000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317, Monica.Gambino@CrownCastle.com, 724-416-2516 within 30 days of the date of this publication.

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



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Church Happenings

For non-profit advertising rates, contact NDG Marketing at 972-665-0170

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.

November 18, 9:45 a.m.
As we worship in our newly renovated Sanctuary, please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Meditation" at 9:45 am followed by Morning Worship. You will be blessed and inspired, as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

November 21, 7 p.m.
Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner, and others conducting a new book study with "Boundaries" when to

say yes or how to say no by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend, 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"

November 18, 9:30 a.m.
Join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Jocyie Turner Fellowship Hall, followed by our Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed. It's for God's glory and honor.

November 21
Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study class and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to

learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

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

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

November 16, 8 p.m.
All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 7 p.m., (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

November 18, 10 a.m.
Don't forget to invite family and friends to join us for our Morning Service as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

November 19, 7 p.m.
You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us.

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237

972-372-4262
www.lbocchurch.org

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

November 18, 10 a.m.
Join us for Morning Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory. Don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

November 21, 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.

Dr. Sam Fenceroy, PhD 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.

November 18, 10 a.m.
You are invited to join us for our Morning Worship Services in our 8 am and/or our 11 am Worship Services. Sunday School will start at 8:30 a.m. We would love to have you at all our worship services.

Our church ministries offer

opportunities for motivation and growth; join us and see. Be blessed of the Lord.

November 21, 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.

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



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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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Dennis Jarvis / Flickr

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There is power in serving others



Sister Tarpley

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

"Each Christian should use whatever gift he or she has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:9-11).

There is a Kingdom principle I find that few others really understand. The principle is this: When you focus on serving others, your need is often met through God's supernatural law of serving. I've seen this happen so many times. The law of sowing and reaping comes into play in this Kingdom principle. "Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love" (Hosea 10:12). "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and

whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:6-9).

Whenever God calls Christians to serve another person with their time and resources, God measures resources back to them from unrelated sources. Sometimes it comes through an unexpected donation or a speaking engagement or a new opportunity. It is uncanny how this happens consistently when Christians serve others. They are never to view people or organizations as competition. The Bible says that God has already assigned our portion. Christians need not

have to manipulate outcomes.

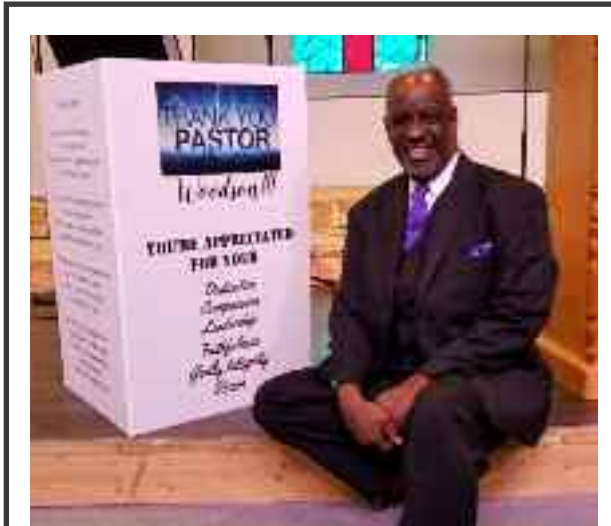
God has assigned Christians their portion and their cup; He has made your lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for you in pleasant places; surely you have a delightful inheritance" (Psalms 16:5-6). Christians don't serve others to get.

However, when they do serve others, there is a Kingdom principle that works on their behalf as fruit of their service. Is there someone you need to serve today?

It is good to thank God when you call upon His name and trust Him to provide for you, your family, to

protect your family from harm and evil; and to guide your steps each and every day. He has done so much for all of us! He is our Savior, our Sustainer, our Hope and our Comfort. Praise Him and give Him thanks for He is good! His mercy endures forever and His

peace can fill your soul. Give God all glory, honor and praise this day of Thanksgiving and every day to come. Give with love and a grateful heart in the Name of Jesus Christ. This is based in part on Psalms 105:1 and Psalms 106:1.



Dr. Terrance Woodson, Sr., Senior Pastor at Bethel Bible Fellowship's 29th Church Anniversary on November 11, 2018, the large card was presented to him for being an exceptional pastor and was signed by church members, family and friends.

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

Inspiring Body of Christ EOCX
Pastor Rickie G. Bush
7701 S. Westmoreland Rd
Dallas, TX 75227
7747444 (IBOC)
www.ibocchurch.org
Sunday Service 10:00am (7:30am)
Worship School 7pm & Afro Fellowship 7:00pm

BRIEFS,

continued from Page 8

sic ballet always holds surprises for the returning audience, and is a treat for new eyes too! To purchase tickets visit Tickets.IrvingArtsCenter.com.

Las Colinas Farmers Market will be held on Nov. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lamberti's Ristorante and Wine Bar, in Irving. Come & get your delicious fresh produce, local honey, fresh artisanal breads, pastured eggs & chicken, grass-fed beef, jam & jelly, desserts, cold drinks, prepared foods such as Tamales, Tacos, Pupusas and more. We also have a variety of non-food vendors such as pet treats, body care, crafters, jewelry, & wood-crafters. or a full list of attending vendors click the below link on Saturday morning before you head to the market. For more information visit www.fourseasonsmarkets.com.

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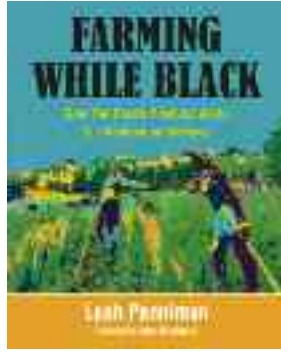
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NDG Book Review: *Farming While Black* is a can't miss read

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Your hands are filthy. Dirt lines every crease and covers much of your knuckles. It's beneath your fingernails, all the way up to your wrists, soiling the edges of your sweatshirt and down your front. Yes, your hands are filthy but once you've read "Farming While Black" by Leah Penniman, your smile will be wide. Years ago, in search of a way to make a difference in Black lives, Leah Penniman fell in love with cilantro. She met it on the first day of an urban program to teach people to grow food, and when



she smelled the herb, it was "magical." It made her want her own farm, to feed her children, to ease the dire statistics she knew about obesity and heart disease among African Americans and Native Americans, and to lessen the terrible commonness of "food deserts."

To begin, she says, "Aspiring farmers need three essential ingredients... training, land, and material resources." Training can be received through classes or intern programs, but be careful what you ask for: some programs might require you to work for free, which may be "all too reminiscent of the exploitation of [your] ancestors."

As for acquiring land, you may find what you need by "squatting" (check local laws), or by finding a farmer who's retiring. Know your options when it comes to financing, and make a business plan; in fact, never

tackle a farm without a plan. If the land you want has been ill-cared for, don't despair. There are ways of restoring land that has been neglected. Know what to "feed" it, and then know proper land management methods to maintain soil health. Think carefully about what you'll plant; food and medicine may both be welcome in your community. Know the proper (and safe) way to use tools, and how to take care of those you use. Add animals to your farm. And finally, remember that you don't have to have acres and acres to farm; a small, abandoned

corner is a perfectly valid way to dip your toes in the dirt.

Although it's a little pricey, as paperbacks go, "Farming While Black" is absolutely one of those books where you get your money's worth. Starting with the illustrative story of Soul Fire Farm's beginning, author Leah Penniman offers statistics to prove on-going need, and history to show that farming isn't anything new for Black Americans. In today's world, though, Penniman advocates community-based farms that are tended not by one set of hands but by many – and she takes their

creation step-by-step so that readers don't feel overwhelmed. Indeed, her thoroughness here (it seems as though every little detail is covered) makes this a solid reference book for farms and community gardens of all sizes.

Be aware that this book may seem somewhat new-agey at times, and it can over-reach, too; some chapters seem superfluous. Even so, for budding farmers, new green thumbs, or aspiring back-to-the-landers, it could be the exact right book to have. For you, missing "Farming While Black" would be a dirty shame.

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their GPA or financial need. To qualify, students must demonstrate college readiness by achieving the minimum passing standards for the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) placement assessment.

The Dallas County Promise started at Irving ISD, at MacArthur High School and Singley Academy during the 2018 – 2019 school year. In addition to full-tuition, students have access to mentor coaches, and an opportunity to earn college credits accepted by participating community colleges and four-year universities.

Steve Lomeli, a senior and class president at Singley Academy, is one of the students who has already earned his associate's degree in Science – Liberal Arts. After high school, he plans to major in management information systems. With the degree, Lomeli intends to manage his own IT team and work up to an IT director where he can lead the entire sector.

"The Early College Start program started off in my sophomore year where the counselors were beginning to look at students who had the potential to fit the classes in their schedules," Lomeli said. "I fitted in by simply doing pre-calculus dual-credit and dual AP classes. So you get the GPA booster, and you get the col-

lege credit. And then at the end of the year if you pass the AP exam you get even more credits."

At the end of his junior year, he met with his counselor to see where he was in the track. He discovered he was three classes away, but Lomeli knew he was not able to fit it into his senior schedule. His senior year was going to be busy with college applications and planning events. So, Lomeli decided to finish those three classes over the summer going into his senior year.

"I am in the computer maintenance specialty, and I currently intern at Citi Group, a global command center," Lomeli said. "I come from a Mexican family, and my parents were born and raised in Mexico. There is a total of eight of us in the house. All five of my siblings are younger than me, and I feel that's where my leadership skills stem from."

Lomeli was also a leadership intern at a leadership camp at Irving ISD called Camp Invention. He stated most of his leadership skills came from there as well.

"Since my parents don't have any experience with the American way of life, I help them with their finances. I help them do their taxes and my own taxes, I pay the bills for them on a monthly basis," Lomeli

said. "A lot of adult things you wouldn't see a normal student do, I do for them, and I'm so happy I'm doing that. As I do it (the taxes), I also try to show them too, because I know I'm not always going to be in the household for that. It's trying to educate them as much as they educated me as I was growing up."

He was also part of the superintendent's council

with Dr. Jose Parra last year where the faculty was always looking for ways to improve the program. They sought feedback from the students on how the dual-credit classes were working out, and the deadlines related.

Lomeli also stated joining the programs were the best decisions he made at his school.

"Now as I'm going into

college and graduating high school I already have two years of college completed," Lomeli said. "Not only is that going to save me tons of money and time, but while I'm in college, perhaps I'll be able to pick up an extra internship or get extra career experiences because of getting those basics out of the way."

The conveniences of the program were fantastic to

Lomeli. He only had to take three classes at North Lake College, and the rest of the classes were at his school.

"It was very nice, it was nothing that made me go too out of my way," Lomeli said. "Of course I had to put in the studying hours and the work for that, but that's expected. The teachers were very supportive in terms of the program."