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Local school districts share how they work to keep students and staff safe

School districts throughout DFW issued statements to assure the public they take as many precautions as possible to keep the children and staff as safe as possible daily.

Plano ISD indicated they have a visitor access control procedures requiring

parents and visitors to provide identification and wear a visitor ID badge while on campus. They also utilize 4,000 security cameras district-wide and all school offices have emergency call buttons linked to 911.

As a sign of the times, each Plano ISD campus

participates in lockdown drills and shelter-in-place drills once each semester and practice fire/evacuation drills once per month. The high schools and senior high schools each have a school liaison police officer at the campus full-time, and each of

these officers has had additional training in the event of a hostile situation involving a live weapon. These officers could be deployed quickly to other campuses in the event of extreme emergencies,

See SAFE, Page 5

COVER STORY

2012 Kwanzaa celebrations throughout Dallas



See KWANZAA, Page 9

Seven tips for beating holiday blues

(NNPA) Many people find the holidays a delightful, upbeat time of year. But for others, the holidays – that time between Thanksgiving and New Year's – can be a lonely, stressful time of year.

Feelings of sadness, low energy and wistfulness can be hard to cope with, particularly if you've lost a

family member or friend at this time of year. Or feelings of loneliness may be present if some of your family members will be away and won't make it home for the holidays this year.

If you are feeling empty or sad during the holidays while everyone around you seems to be having fun, you

can make practical changes that allow you to feel less stressed and more relaxed.

First, it is important to recognize stressors that may lead to feeling blue and overstressed. Try to work on reducing these stressors throughout the year so the holidays will be more joyful.

See HOLIDAY, Page 13



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The fame and misfortune of Will and Jada's seeds

For more information see pg. 10 www.northdallasgazette.com

COMMENTARY

Communities of color lose more wealth, carry higher student loan debt

BY CHARLENE CROWELL

In the first report of its kind, the Center for Responsible Lending has examined consumer lending markets across-the-board and found that despite recent regulatory reforms – predatory lending continues to undermine American households trying to rebuild their finances after the recession.

The State of Lending in America and its Impact on U.S. Households (State of Lending, [http://rsp-](http://rsp-nsb.li/stateoflending)

nsb.li/stateoflending) paints a picture of working families struggling to manage debt while coping with stagnant incomes and a substantial decrease in wealth. In fact, the housing crisis has produced the largest documented wealth gap ever between White households and families of color.

From 2000-2010, African-American family wealth dropped 53 percent, and Hispanic families

See COLOR, Page 3

DFW Small business owners Tell Rep. Hensarling to fight for the middle class tax cuts

(DALLAS) – Small business owners and community leaders joined together to demand Congress fight for average Americans by extending the middle class tax cuts while making the wealthiest pay their fair share.

"Inaction is putting our country too close to falling off the so-called fiscal cliff," said



Donnie Walters, an organizer with Texas Fair Share. "This could be disastrous for our economy and countless small businesses. Average Texans and small business owners alike want lawmakers to act now."

The middle class

tax cuts reduce taxes on everyone's first \$250,000 among other deductions for working class Americans. 97% of small business owners don't earn over \$250,000 per year and these tax cuts expire on December 31st of this year.

"The Middle Class is what drives the economy and shop at

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People In The News...



Evita Turquoise Robinson



Dr. Khalil Gibran Muhammad



Renee McKenney

See Page 2

Evita Turquoise Robinson

Nomadness LLC, launched in April 2012 by Evita Turquoise Robinson, has positioned itself as the new cool kid in travel business. Specifically, its social media arm, the Nomadness Travel Tribe, has pushed itself into the forefront to create a voice for an underrepresented demographic of world nomads. With stats that include seventy percent female, and ninety percent Black and Latino travelers, the Tribe has become an international family for those that prefer an urban stylistic of international vagabonding.

On the day to day, the Tribe functions as an online resource in which members have real time conversations about advice, anecdotes, photography, video, and the do's and don'ts of hopping around the globe. It's not unusual for a member who is stranded in a country to post a thread asking for help searching for lodging/transportation and being bombarded with options within minutes, from members all over the world.

In an effort to take the conversation offline, Tribe members are known for their weekly international Meet

Ups, as well as the NomadnessX trips that the business core, High Council Members, organize on behalf of the group. Within the first year of conception, there have been five group trips (Panama, Spain, Germany, Toronto, Dominican Republic). The first of which had eighteen members in Bocas Del Toro, Panama and was recounted in the July 2012 Issue of Ebony Magazine.

"Being a young, Black female who traveled to over ten countries, and lived on three continents by the time I was twenty-five, I never found a travel group that spoke to me. They were boring and didn't



relate to my style or background. The entrepreneur in me said 'Good, I'm going to create it,' says Nomadness LLC Founder and Nomadness Travel Tribe creator, Evita Turquoise Robinson. In 2011, Robinson was noted by Clutch Magazine, as one of the 'Top 11 Black Women Inspiring Us to Travel'. It was her wanderlust, and young energy

that became the catalyst to launch into the travel industry, fully occupying this sector unlike anyone before her had done.

The Nomadness Travel Tribe's 1 Year Anniversary was this past September 30th, and over one hundred fifty members traveled to New York City, from all over the world to meet face to face, at the Miss Jessie's™ Hair Care and Hotel BPM™ sponsored event. In addition, Robinson launched the Nomadness College Tour Series, with a focus on presenting to HBCU's and diversity based clubs on college campuses, to spread the idea of travel after college.

Dr. Khalil Gibran Muhammad

Dr. Khalil Gibran Muhammad is the director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Dr. Muhammad came to this position from Indiana University, Bloomington, where he was a professor of history. He earned his doctorate at Rutgers University, under noted historian David Levering Lewis.

Dr. Muhammad is the son of Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times

photographer Ozier Muhammad and he is the great grandson of Elijah Muhammad, late founder of the Nation of Islam, which gave Malcolm X his first public position.

He will discuss his book *Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America* (Harvard University Press, 2010). Dr. Muhammad wrote that a hundred years ago New York City

police were accused of engaging in "a pattern of discriminatory crime fighting," with blacks arrested for crimes that whites committed with impunity.

His book *The Condemnation of Blackness* won the American Studies Association John Hope Franklin Publication Prize. This is the annual prize awarded to the best published book in American studies.

As an academic, Muhammad is at the forefront of scholarship on the enduring link between race and crime that has shaped and limited opportunities for African Americans.

Dr. Muhammad will reflect on a question: Is New York City's Stop-and-Frisk policy a continu-



ation of these "Jim Crow" practices associated with the post-Civil War South?

Dr. Muhammad will speak on January 18, 2013 from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at UT Arlington, University Hall, Room 108 located at 601 S. Nedderman Dr. in Arlington. For more information call 817-272-2861.

Renee McKenney

Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau (Dallas CVB) announced Monday



that Bureau veteran Renee McKenney, CMP, will assume the role of vice president of strategic alliances.

McKenney will be responsible for setting the membership sales and services standards for the Dallas CVB and developing strategic alliances with businesses and organizations. She will report to Dallas CVB CFO Matt Jones and will maintain involvement in the community and industry to help foster

relationships and partnerships with members and strategic partners. McKenney replaces Cheryl Ric-

hards who was promoted to Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer for the Dallas CVB.

"We are excited and proud to appoint Renee to the new role of vice president of strategic alliances," said Phillip Jones, President and CEO of the Dallas CVB. "McKenney's leadership was instrumental in the success of ASAE and broadening the bureau's base of community and corporate support. Her expertise will be invaluable in further developing lasting relationships with businesses and organizations of all sizes."

McKenney most recently served as Dallas CVB's director of industry relations responsible for the overall planning and operations of hosting the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) 2012

Annual Meeting that was held in Dallas this August. Prior to officially joining the Dallas CVB, McKenney filled a consultant role and managed the execution of the Professional Convention Management Association's (PCMA) and Texas Society of Association Executive's (TSAE) annual conventions hosted in Dallas in 2010. She served as senior director of global accounts for Helms Briscoe where her primary client base included national associations and Dallas/Fort Worth- and Texas-based corporations.

A 23-year veteran of the hospitality industry, McKenney has also held the positions of marketing manager at Southwest Airlines, senior sales manager at Adam's Mark Hotel Dallas and hotel operations and sales manager at Adam's

Mark Hotel St. Louis. McKenney began her career

in the hospitality industry in **See McKENNEY, Page 11**

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P. O. Box 763866 • Dallas, Texas 75376-3866

Phone: 972-516-4191

Fax: 972-509-9058

**Publisher's Office:**

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:

opportunity@northdallasgazette.com

Editorial Department:

editor@northdallasgazette.com

Online:

www.twitter.com/NDGEditor

www.facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette

Website:

www.NorthDallasGazette.com

STAFF

Chairman Emeritus

Jim Bochum

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Editor

Ruth Ferguson

VP of Digital &**Entertainment Marketing**

Brandy Jones-West

Published By

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Production

Sharon Jones-Scaife

Special Projects Manager

Edward Dewayne

"Preacher Boy" Gibson, Jr.

Community Marketing**Director**

Carrenza Thurmond, Jr.

Religious/ Marketing Editor

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Contributing Writer

Jackie Hardy

Ivy N. McQuain

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Beyond the Rhetoric: *Lincoln* – A Great Piece of History!

BY HARRY C. ALFORD

My family went to the movies to see the much advertised and critically acclaimed new film by Steven Spielberg entitled *Lincoln*. The plot centered on one particular phase of the President's legacy: the abolition of slavery and how he got it done. All of us were taught the Emancipation Proclamation was the vehicle that abolished slavery in America. That just is not true and Spielberg brilliantly show-ed us the real story. That's right it was not the Emancipation Proclamation.

Wikipedia: "The Emancipation Proclamation is a military order issued to the Army and Navy of the United States by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, during the American Civil War. It was

based on the president's constitutional authority as commander in chief of the armed forces; it was not a law passed by Congress. It proclaimed all slaves in Confederate territory to be forever free; that is, it ordered the Army to treat as free men the slaves in ten states that were still in rebellion, thus applying to 3.1 million of the 4 million slaves in the U.S."

Lincoln knew that this was flimsy and would probably fall apart at the end of the war. The Confederacy certainly would use this as a condition of surrender (to keep slavery) and the American people were so weary of the war, which terribly affected every household with death and misery. This was simply an Executive Order implemented

under the War Powers Act. It didn't even apply to non-Confederate states and the Confederate states paid no attention to it at all. What he needed was an amendment to the Constitution. Thus, he had his Republican Party sponsor the bill, which would become the Thirteenth Amendment. This amendment would outlaw slavery

See LINCOLN, Page 10

COLOR, continued from Page 1

lies lost 66 percent. By comparison, average White household wealth dropped only 16 percent. The foreclosure crisis and resulting economic downturn have turned back the clock on previous wealth gains, especially in communities of color.

The report states, "There is significant evidence that African-American and Latino borrowers and their neighborhoods were disproportionately targeted by subprime lenders. Borrowers of color were about 30 percent more likely to receive higher-rate subprime loans than similarly situated white borrowers. Borrowers in non-white neighborhoods were more likely to receive higher-cost loans with risky features such as prepayment penalties."

CRL's student loan findings echoed these same lending ills.

"Low-income students and students of color are even more likely to need to rely on student loans and to become saddled with large

amounts of debt upon graduation," the report stated. "In 2008, 16 percent of African-American graduating seniors owed \$40,000 or more in student loans, compared with 10 percent of whites, eight percent of Hispanics and five percent of Asian-Americans."

Additional findings showed that:

- "Spillover" costs of foreclosures have wiped out nearly \$2 trillion in family wealth;

- Auto loan interest-rate markups cost consumers nearly \$26 billion each year; and

- Borrowers in lower credit tiers pay up to 68 percent higher monthly payments on private student loans than on safer federal loans.

The State of Lending is the first of a three-phased and in-depth view of U.S. households' income, spending, debt, and wealth. It also outlines predatory practices in mortgage lending, credit cards, student loans, and auto loans that undercut the benefits of

these products. Incorporating major

CRL findings in recent years with pertinent research from sources such as the Federal Reserve Board, the Pew Research Center and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau together provide a broad database for findings.

Despite remaining lending challenges, the report shows that consumers are better off today because of stronger protections on mortgages and credit cards. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which incorporated a number of previous state initiatives to curb abusive mortgage practices, has ended many of the worst practices of the subprime era. And, contrary to industry predictions, the cost of borrowing on credit cards has not increased since the CARD Act passed; transparency has greatly increased and the use of hidden fees has gone down.

The next two *State of Lending* reports will be released in early 2013. The

next release will cover payday loans and other financial products that trap people in long-term debt while portraying themselves as short-term solutions.

The third and final release in the series will examine abusive practices in debt collection and servicing, and conclude with a chapter documenting how lending abuses often target the same households and have a cumulative—and particularly disastrous—impact on low-income households and communities of color.

Former Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Chair Sheila Bair authored *State of Lending's* foreword, noting that predatory lending harms the entire U.S. economy. She warns, "If abusive lending practices are not reformed, we again will all pay dearly."

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at: Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.



Researchers find link between childhood physical abuse and asthma in African Americans

BY ALEXIS TAYLOR

(NNPA) Researchers have made a connection between childhood abuse suffered by African-American women and asthma which develops later in their lives.

As part of the Black Women's Health Study at the Slone Epidemiology Center at Boston University, conducted from 1995 to 2011, a total of 28,456 women gave information on physical and sexual abuse suffered before age 11, as well as between the ages of 12 and 18.

The study found that an African-American woman

who suffered abuse as a child saw her chances of developing asthma later in life increase 20 percent.

The link between physical abuse and asthma was stronger than that seen between sexual abuse and asthma, researchers said. Physical abuse includes actions intended to injure a child, while sexual abuse includes actions intended for the gratification of the abuser.

"This is the first prospective study to show an association between childhood abuse and adult-onset asthma," Patricia Coogan, the lead author of

the report, said in a statement. "The results suggest that chronic stress contributes to asthma onset, even years later."

Coogan said childhood abuse causes stress that leads to "physiological consequences." The stress of living in an abusive situation takes a toll on the body, specifically "on the immune system and on airway development."

"Given the high prevalence of asthma and of childhood abuse in the United States, the association is of significant public health importance," said Coogan, a senior epidemi-

ologist at the Slone Epidemiology Center and an associate professor of epidemiology at the Boston University School of Public Health.

The prevalence of asthma among Americans increased from 7.3 percent, or approximately 20.3 million people, in 2001 to 8.2 percent, or 24.6 million people, in 2009.

Of those living with asthma, prevalence of the disease was greatest in children from low-income families and African-American children, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

According to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, the disease is characterized by the inflammation and narrowing of the airways leading to the lungs. These incidents lead to "wheezing, a whistling sound when you breathe, chest tightness, shortness of breath, and coughing." The episodes usually take place at night or in the early hours of the morning.

According to the CDC, some 3,388 Americans die asthma-related deaths each year. Approximately 17 million asthma-related

visits to doctor's offices, hospitals, and emergency rooms take place each year, with most admitted patients having to receive care for an average of four days.

The United States Department of Health and Human Service's National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System found that approximately 695,000 children under age 18 suffered some type of abuse or neglect in 2010.

Among children who had crimes against them reported to Child Protective Services, 22 percent were African-American.

Holiday decorations and lights safety tips from Irving Fire Department

The Irving Fire Department encourages everyone to be careful when using holiday lights and decorations during the holidays. The holidays can quickly turn from joyful to tragic when a fire occurs. By taking simple precautions, people can avoid potential fire

hazards, and make this time of year a healthy and happy one.

Please keep these safety tips in mind:

Lights:

- Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety. Identify

these by the label from an independent testing laboratory.

- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Discard damaged sets.

- Fasten outdoor lights

securely to trees, house, walls or other firm support to protect from wind damage.

- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.

- Always turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. Lights

could short and start a fire.

Decorations

Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials. In homes with small children, take special care to:

- Avoid sharp or breakable decorations.

- Keep decorations with small removable parts out of the reach of children, because they could be swallowed or inhaled.

- Avoid decorations that resemble candy or food. This is confusing to children and they might attempt to eat them.

Physician launches Black health website

BY STARLA MUHAMMAD

(NNPA) – The glaring realities facing the Black community's health and well-being

geared toward a community overwrought with preventable and treatable ailments and diseases.



are in a state of emergency. Whether it is high blood pressure, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, various forms of cancer or obesity, Blacks in many cases have the unfortunate distinction as the leading sufferers of these health maladies.

Dr. Corey Hebert aims to help tackle these dilemmas via cyberspace, with the launch of *BlackHealthTV.com*, an online social media and video website

Launched in October, Dr. Hebert hopes by making health information available online in an interactive format more people will be privy to information that can save their lives or at the very least help them make more well-informed health decisions.

"I was sitting at a table in New York with a bunch of very educated African Americans and one of the guys at the

table had a Ph.D. from MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and he burned himself with a plate at the table," explained Dr. Hebert when asked what inspired him to launch BlackHealthTV.com.

"The first thing he told me was, 'Man let me get some butter so I can put it on this burn.' And I explained to him that's the worst thing that you could ever put on a burn. You should never put butter on a burn," Dr. Hebert told The Final Call in an exclusive interview. Applying butter on a burn can cause infection.

The man continued to insist butter was the answer telling Dr. Hebert, "trust me."

"I said trust you? I'm a medical doctor and I'm telling you that you're not supposed to put butter on a burn ... everybody at the table disagreed with me," said Dr. Hebert.

That encounter led him to conduct a poll of 1,000 Black people across the country of

varying socio-economic status and education levels. The results said Dr. Hebert was 85 percent thought butter was the correct first-aid remedy.

"The lack of information is appalling and we know that whatever was out there is not working because the health disparities are increasing. If they're increasing I just felt I had to do something," continued Dr. Hebert, an award-winning medical journalist and regular contributor on the Dr. OZ Show.

Indeed, the statistics are daunting. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the news regarding Black Americans and optimum health is not good.

Black men have higher rates of getting and dying from prostate cancer. Black women are 1.4 times more likely to die from breast cancer than White women. Blacks are more likely to die from asthma.

An estimated 3.7 million or 14.7 percent of all non-Hispanic Blacks age 20 and older

have diabetes, the leading cause of heart disease, stroke and kidney disease.

In 2009 a staggering 44 percent of all new HIV infec-

tions were Black, despite being only 14 percent of the total U.S. population, and 45 percent of Black adults are obese.

See **HEALTH**, Page 7

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DART received \$120 Million TIFIA Loan

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced a \$120 million direct loan to the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) to continue the third phase of its light rail Orange Line extension project. The extension project will connect Irving, Texas, with Dallas Fort Worth Airport (DFW), and is part of a long-term effort to create a 90-mile light rail network by 2014 to serve the Dallas metropolitan area. The loan will be used to fund construction of a key 5.17-mile

segment of DART's 14.5-mile light rail Orange Line.

DART President and Executive Director Gary Thomas said, "Securing this agreement is an important next step in our progress toward connecting DFW Airport to the growing DART Rail network. We appreciate Congresswoman Johnson's steadfast support of all of our programs. We are always able to count on her and the entire delegation when it comes to improving regional mobility."

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson noted, "Texas, and North Texas specifically, has been very successful in pursuing Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) funding. TIFIA awards are very competitive nationally, and this award speaks to the merit of DART's application and is indicative of the steps we are taking to improve local transit, and our ongoing commitment to investing in our infrastruc-

ture. The expansion of Dallas' Orange Line is a vital part in our efforts to bolster our economy, by creating jobs and strengthening our infrastructure. As a conferee to the recently passed transportation bill, I was pleased to be able to help expand the TIFIA program, and am glad to see the benefits come to North Texas."

"This investment will continue expanding Dallas' Orange Line, creating jobs and delivering a major transportation project that

will help the regional economy continue to grow and prosper," said Ray LaHood, secretary of U.S. transportation. "It's all part of President Obama's vision of rebuilding America, providing commuters and visitors with a variety of transportation options to fit their needs."

The Department of Transportation has committed a total of approximately \$796 million since 1996 to help DART build the Green and Orange Line portions of

an extensive light rail system. Once completed, the expanded line will improve east-west connections between DFW and the DART system by connecting to the Green Line that runs through downtown Dallas as well as to other transit services, including commuter rail.

The loan agreement is part of the program TIFIA, which provides assistance for projects of regional and national significance.

Hospital needs holiday gifts for young patients

To keep the tradition of giving each hospitalized patient a gift on Christmas, Children's Medical Center (www.childrens.com) issued a community-wide appeal Tuesday for unwrapped gifts.

Donations are down from past years, hospital officials said. A storage area which is typically full by mid-December is largely empty.

With only one week to go until Christmas, hospital officials said they are increasingly worried about their ability to provide presents. In particular, gifts are needed for infants/toddlers and for teenagers.

"I'm concerned we will not be able to provide age appropriate gifts for every child in the hospital, as well as sustain our playrooms for 2013, given the current status of donations," said Kristen Johnson, manager in the hospital's Child Life department.

Hospital staff will wrap all donated gifts before Christmas Day. Used gifts cannot be accepted. Children's will accept donated gifts until Dec. 23.

Donations of new gifts may be dropped off at the valet stand at the main entrance of Children's Medical Center at 1935 Medical District Drive, Dallas,

TX 75235. They can also be mailed to that address and should be directed to the attention of the hospital's Child Life Department.

Any gifts that are not distributed on Christmas are given to patients throughout the remainder

See PATIENTS, Page 8

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc Talent Hunt For High School Students

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Alpha Iota Iota Graduate Chapter, announces its 22nd Annual Omega Talent Hunt. The event will take place on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013 at 2 p.m. at Plaza Theatre, 521 West State Street in Garland. The purpose of this event is to showcase, in a competitive environment, the special talents possessed by

our high school students.

Categories in the Talent Hunt Contest include:

- Music: Vocal and instrumental; classical, gospel and jazz
- Interpretive Movement to Music: ballet, modern dance and tap
- Speech: Poetry, orations, monologues, etc.
- Visual Arts: painting, sculpture, etc.

Prizes to be awarded for

1st Place are a Trophy and \$300.00, 2nd Place- a Trophy and \$100.00, and 3rd Place- a Trophy and \$50.00. For more details and the registration form log on to www.northdallasques.com and contact Horace Satisfield via email ub-satisfield12@gmail.com or phone (972) 424-0930.

SAFE, continued from Page 1

supplementing the response by regular on-duty officers. Additionally, campus personnel have completed training on specific issues regarding weapons and intruders.

Late Friday afternoon, Irving ISD issued a statement outlining key elements in their security protocols. They include:

- No one should enter any school (including staff) before checking in and scanning their ID in the front office (or providing a valid staff ID).

- All of the classroom doors are to be locked and are only to be opened by the teacher after determining who the visitor is and why they are there.

- Police and district security officers monitor every campus in Irving ISD during the school day.

McKinney ISD outlined many of the same procedures. However, they also included resources parents can utilize to help parents discuss the recent tragedies with their children:

<http://www.apa.org/helppcenter/aftermath.aspx>

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/talkingwithkids/news>

<http://www.cmionline.com/get-started/parents/>

http://www.nasponline.org/resources/crisis_safety/talkingviolence.pdf

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NDG's 25 Days of Christmas: American Airlines & UNCF co-branded gift cards will support college education

American Airlines is a supporter of UNCF®, the nation's largest minority education organization. So, if your plans call for travel, or if you like to give the gift of travel, they invite you to support the UNCF® mission. With your purchase of an American Airlines UNCF® co-branded gift card, American will donate \$5 of every \$50 spent to UNCF®.

An American Airlines Gift Card is great gift for



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To purchase your gift cards and support UNCF®, simply click here or go to AA.com/gift card. When completing your payment information, be sure to enter "UNCF®" in the tracking code box. American will then donate to UNCF® \$5 for every

\$50 of travel you purchase.

Terms & Conditions:

Must be purchased online for the 10% donation to be made to UNCF® and applies to online purchases only.

"UNCF®" must be entered as the tracking code for donation to be made.

For the donation to UNCF, cards must be purchased by May 1, 2013.

For a full list of terms and conditions of the American Airlines Gift Card, please refer to AA.com/giftcard.

Social media mistakes could lead to student-athletes losing eligibility, scholarships, Baylor University study shows

With a single social-media misstep, student-athletes could lose athletic eligibility or a scholarship. But that's not stopping them from using Twitter – sometimes even during games, when they may see harsh criticism of their performances from fans, according to a study by Baylor University and Clemson University researchers.

While many college athletic teams prohibit student-athletes from using social media during games, some breach the rules to get a "real-time" commentary on how they are doing during the game, said Blair Browning, Ph.D., an assistant professor of communication in Baylor University's College of Arts & Sciences and lead author of the study.

The study, published in the International Journal of Sport Communication, was based on interviews with 20 student-athletes in an NCAA Division I university. Student-athletes said

that they used Twitter to keep in contact with family and friends, communicate with their followers and access information about the games and their athletic performances.

The study, co-authored by Jimmy Sanderson, Ph.D., an assistant professor of communication studies at Clemson University, is called "The Positives and Negatives of Twitter: Exploring How Student-Athletes Use Twitter and Respond to Critical Tweets."

Twitter is ingrained into student-athletes' daily routine, with one athlete saying that "I mean, the kickers and snappers and me are kind of in the corner of the locker room . . . so I'll get on Twitter and I'm like, 'Great first half' . . . 'Other athletes said they wait until after games to use Twitter. In any case, comments often are critical or even abusive about the student-athlete both performance-wise and personally."

"It is tweet-worthy when fans show support because the alternative is obviously the norm," the researchers wrote.

While athletes know that criticism comes with the turf, Twitter critics are especially brutal because "brazen confidence stems from the protection users have behind the phone or computer screen," researchers noted. Even when the critics' messages are blocked by an athlete, some followers "somehow find another name and get on and do it again," one athlete said.

Student-athletes' responses to attacks range from shrugging them off to deleting them to using them as challenges to improve.

Others are finding an effective way to cope is through "sub-tweeting" — referring to a detractor as "OOMF" ("one of my followers") and responding to a remark indirectly rather than using the critic's Twitter ID to spar online.

Some players see Twitter as a chance to brand themselves. But at the university level, they're also operating under the brand of the institution themselves, so "there are tensions," Browning said.

Student-athletes also are subject to stricter monitoring and penalties than professional athletes for a social-media blunder. While professionals may be fined or censured, they maintain their ability to play. But student-athletes stand to lose athletic eligibility or scholarships.

"Student-athletes are in a precarious position because they are amateurs, are managing educational pursuits while holding essentially a full-time job with their athletics demands," the researchers wrote.

While a coach may welcome the idea that "20,000 eyeballs" are following an athlete, "at the same time, they'll probably wake up in

a cold sweat" about a tweet misstep, Browning said.

Despite how student-athletes handle the messages, critical tweets "are at their core an identity hit," the authors wrote.

One athlete said he felt "low-balled, disrespected . . . It was horrible, and you know, my family was sick on top of that so there was nothing I could do."

Sanderson said that educational institutions should embrace training in social media for student-athletes, including helping them manage critical tweets.

"Ironically, schools spend a lot of time on the

surveillance of athletes (on social media) rather than spending time on the front end training," Browning said. "It comes down to ambiguous statements like, 'Don't tweet anything inappropriate.'"

"But what's inappropriate to a 50-year-old may be vastly different from what an 18- to 22-year-old thinks is inappropriate."

Note: Two videos of comments by Blair Browning may be viewed at: <http://www.baylor.edu/mediacommunications/news.php?action=story&story=125858>

When it comes to divorce everything on Facebook is fair game

Rick Robertson has a word for the wise: be careful how you use social media if legal struggles are looming. Why take his advice? Robertson was recently named as the lawyer other lawyers would hire for themselves if they needed a specialist in family law. The "Go-To Guide" was compiled by Texas

Lawyer magazine and Robertson is the number one choice for his area of practice. Rating service Super Lawyers also highlighted Robertson's skills in the courtroom and in the innovative use of technology and social media to win cases for his clients.

In one memorable case, Robertson was able to win

visitation rights for his client when his client's soon-to-be ex-wife splashed her private life all over her Facebook page. "Technology has changed family law and divorces," Robertson says. He gives his clients a list of "do's and don'ts," warning people caught up in divorce, custody fights or other situa-

tions that they need to guard their privacy. "Without your knowledge, someone else may be able to monitor all your computer conduct," he says. "You do not want to see your private life on an exhibit in the courtroom."

His peers recognize his expertise in the use of elec-

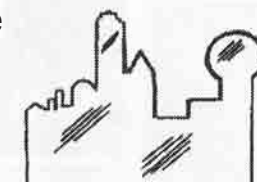
See DIVORCE, Page 15

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DISD students' kind words encourage ill children

Volunteers from JPMorgan Chase and students at Charles Rice Learning Center decorated 100 quilts and pillows with inspirational words to encourage hospitalized children through the Soaringwords program.

Soaringwords is an organization that coordinates the volunteer efforts to decorate the SoaringQuilts and SoaringPillows and the distribution of them to ill children. The pillows feature pockets



that will contain handwritten notes created by the students. The items created at Rice will be delivered to

children at Children's Medical Center Dallas and the Ronald McDonald House.

DISD joins with U.S. Marine Corps for holiday toy drive



Members of the U.S. Marine Corps joined with Dallas ISD high school students to pick up hundreds of new, unwrapped toys donated by district staff and students for the Toys for Tots program.

HEALTH, continued from Page 4

What makes BlackHealthTV.com unique is that it is not text heavy, but features video presentations with health tips, health news, recipes, and information on children's health.

Visitors to the site can also sign up to receive "health tips of the day" via email.

Using modern technology is an opportunity for more access to information, and though Blacks still lag somewhat behind when it comes to the "digital divide," the gap is closing.

The Pew Research Center notes that 44 percent of Blacks are smart phone users and are more likely than Whites to use their cell phones for accessing Internet and multimedia content. The percentage of Blacks that use the Internet increased from 35 percent in 2000 to 71 percent in 2011, according to Pew.

It is this reason; BlackHealthTV.com is formatted different than other health websites explained Dr. Hebert.

"African Americans search for "health" more than any other group on the Internet and have downloaded more health apps for iPhones than any other group," said Dr. Hebert, co-founder and CEO of the site.

Other health sites are mostly written word, which can be intimidating to many, he explained.

"I have friends that are Master's degree people that really can't decipher some of the



stuff on WEB M.D., so the only way that an African American or any minority group or any majority group for that matter can get information and really understand it is if it's delivered in a way that makes them feel very comfortable," said Dr. Hebert.

The online video concept grew from there he explained.

"When I start off my videos about diabetes and they start off by saying, 'You got sugar. Let me tell you what sugar is.' It puts African Americans at rest about the anxiety about his or her diabetes because I'm speaking to them in a way that they understand and they can appreciate," said the Baton Rouge, La. native who was raised by a single mother and went on to graduate Morehouse College and Meharry Medical College.

Dr. Hebert said the most important thing to him is that for the first time, a Black person who may not be able to read can now access health information on demand.

Through BlackHealthTV.com, Dr. Hebert plans to link up with other Black organizations.

"That's my goal. To partner with every Black organization in America and have our content be available to them on

their website and any other way that they'd like to get it. We also envision in the long term to be able to have an actual television network called Black Health TV where we have all health content for African Americans, twenty-four seven," said Dr. Hebert who specializes in pediatrics and emergency medicine.

Making sure the Black community has easy to access information to guide them toward making wiser choices when it comes to their health is what drives Dr. Hebert, who has been featured also on the Discovery Channel, The Oprah Winfrey Show and other major networks.

"I had never been to a classroom with Black people until I got to Morehouse College and that really changed my life and I knew at that point that I was going to have to take care of my people, at all cost. I don't care what I have to do, I'm going to make sure that at the very least that an African American man or woman can make a poor choice but that poor choice that they make is based on the education that they have and that's a choice that they've really made," he explained.

The poor health and dietary choices Black people

continue to make, said Dr. Hebert are not based on education or fact, something he hopes will eventually change.

"Before I die, you're going to have all the facts in your mind and if you want to

choose to do the wrong thing, that's your choice. That's what White people have; that's what Hispanic people are being able to get right now; that's what we need to have too and that's the goal for me. To make sure

that I empower every African American, or African for that matter, to have the health information that they need to make the right decisions for their health," said Dr. Hebert.

Love & LAUGHTER Holiday Jam
FRIDAY, DEC. 28, 2012
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 Rickey Smiley
 Avery Sunshine
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NDG's 25 Days of Christmas: Retailers like Home Depot join the social gifting trend

BY RUTH FERGUSON,
EDITOR

OK I confess, once upon a time I self-righteously hated gift cards at holiday time. I felt like it was cheating, because I felt like the giver should take the time to go to the store and agonize over choosing the perfect gift for me! I would smile politely and think, "does this person even know me?"

Then I discovered the joys of after Christmas shopping with someone else's money — i.e., gift cards! Once I loosened up a little bit I found that by giving even a small gift card to an 8 year-old would make their day and even teach them a little bit about the value of money and making choices. More importantly, I was released from the burden as a nonparent from having to face the toy department while trying to figure out what does the little



Seans and Shas want this year.

It is clear that I am not the only one that has moved toward choosing gift cards for gift giving. Gift Card Partners issued a 2012 industry trend report showing the growth in spending on gift cards has exceeded growth rate of general retail spending. This year the industry anticipates selling \$100 billion worth of gift cards.

Just like any industry changes are afoot for the gift card industry and this year the new kid on the

block is what they refer to as social gifting. Young and old folk are living so much of their lives online these days via social networking. We all stay connected to our family and friends through our smartphones and tablets sharing on Facebook, Twitter and other popular networks. As a result, progressive companies such as Home Depot are working with strategic partners to meet the customers where they are --- online --- through branded eGift Cards and other social gifting efforts.

The Home Depot has partnered with Someecards, the popular satirical e-card site, to deliver two exclusive eGift Card options for the shopper with a silly side. The partnership marks the first time that someecards has extended their humor content into social commerce, offering a humorous take on holiday social gifting. You can find these someecard eGift Cards on homedepot.com/giftcard and through The Home Depot's Facebook page. Both of the cards are quite cute, but as someone living with a cat in the house for the first time, I truly can relate to the "cat toy" reference.

So, if you are shopping for your favorite DIYer, and your eyes glaze over when you look at all the wrenches and light fixtures — now you can give them an egiftcard in the comfort of your PJs like a good coach potato.

PATIENTS, continued from Page 5

of the year on birthdays and other milestones, such as when a child completes a difficult course of treatment. The donations are also used to stock the shelves of playrooms that patients use when they are hospitalized.

Needed items for infants and toddlers include outfits and bibs; baby rattles and toys that light up or make noise. Also, bouncy seats and mobiles made of all plastic parts.

For teens, needed items include PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360 games, all of which must be rated E for

everyone; compact discs and DVD movies for children; compact discs and DVD movies for teens; professional sports and college sports T-shirts; arts and crafts kits for teens; retail store gift cards for businesses such as Wal-Mart, Target, Old Navy and other stores; and hobby store gift cards for shopping outlets such as Hobby Lobby, Party City, Michael's and other businesses.

Donations of AA, C and D batteries also are requested.

NDG's 25 Days of Christmas

Visit www.NorthDallasGazette.com to read about gift ideas for the special child, lady or guy on your Christmas list. Will also feature special events, local nonprofits and Dallas dining. Check in each day until Dec. 20 and share your ideas with us too!

KEM and Rickey Smiley headliners for Love and Laughter Holiday Jam

Radio show host and stand up comedian Rick Smiley is partnering with R&B artist KEM to bring an evening of laughter and song at the Verizon Theatre on Dec. 28. The two are the headliners for the Love and Laughter Holiday Jam kicking off at 8 p.m. Other performers include Avery Sunshine, and comedians Melanie Camacho and Jay Lamont.

A self-taught musician, KEM was born in Nashville and raised in Detroit, the birthplace of Motown Records. "I wanted to make music all of my life. I started playing piano when I was five," he has shared.

While waiting tables, singing at weddings and at any gig in town, he continued to write and record his music. In March of 2002, KEM independently released his first CD, KEMISTRY (Album I) and sold more than 10,000 CD's before piquing the interest of Universal Motown.

"I want to be a vehicle to let people know that they can have anything they want," he says. KEM's faith is a testament that you can achieve your dreams. The label signed KEM to a five-record deal and debuted KEMISTRY, which grabbed the

attention of a multi-generational/multi-ethnic/cross gender audience - to the tune of over 500,000 CD's sold and counting.

The first single on KEMISTRY, "Love Calls," garnered over 50,000 spins on Urban Adult Radio stations (UAC) which positioned it as the 2nd most played record in 2003 and the most played record of 2004.

Tickets are on sale now at axs.com or call 888-929-7849 and range in price from \$53.75 - \$89.75. After spending a lot of time with your family during Christmas week, relax and enjoy.

OWNERS, continued from Page 1

my bakery. By extending middle class tax cuts Middle Class families will spend and buying local stimulates the economy," said Mary Rai owner of Astons Bakery.

"Representative Hensarling, don't be a Grinch this year, extend the tax cuts for the middle class now and make sure the top 3% pay

their fair share," Walters added.

According to the National Economic Council, a typical family of four will see their taxes increase by \$2,200 if the tax cuts expire. A Congressional Budget Office report has detailed further the serious impacts on the American economy if these cuts are not extended.

This includes 1.6 million jobs that could be lost and a \$200 billion cut to consumer spending.

Art Nova owner of Sal Y Pimienta Café stressed the importance of acting now, "Make it fair for everyone. Consumers are the job creators. When people don't have money the economy comes to a halt."

North Dallas Gazette The Money Saver CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS PROMOTION Restaurant Special 2c x 5

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2012 Kwanzaa celebrations throughout Dallas

Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African holiday which celebrates family, community and culture. Celebrated from 26 December thru 1 January, its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa from which it takes its name. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase “matunda ya kwanza” which means “first fruits” in Swahili, a Pan-African language which is the most widely spoken African language.

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor of Africana Studies at California State University, Long Beach, author and scholar-activist who stresses the indispensable need to preserve, continually revitalize and promote African American culture.

Annual Citywide Kwanzaa Celebrations – Dec. 18, 2012-Jan. 1, 2013

Pre-Kwanzaa

4 p.m. Dec. 18 Griot Storyteller, Afi Bell, will share Kwanzaa stories, songs, drumming, dance, arts and crafts. Join the celebration at Nash Davis Recreation Center, 3710 N. Hampton Road. Call 214-374-1192.

3 p.m. Sun. Dec. 23 – Theme “We Love Mama Africa” - Storytelling, Arts and Crafts, Children’s Kwanzaa presentation, Poetry, Kwanzaa songs, Food and Guest Speakers -Pan African Connection 828 Fourth St. 214-943-8262

Wed. Dec. 26 – Umoja (oo-MO E-jah) Unity

To strive for a principled and harmonious togetherness in the family, community, nation and race-UNITY.

10:30 a.m. Griot Storyteller, Afi Bell, will share Kwanzaa stories, songs, drumming, dance, arts and crafts. Join the celebration at Bookmarks Library at North Park Mall 8687 N. Central Expressway #1314 Dallas TX Call 214-374-1192

1 p.m. We Love Mama Africa” Kwanzaa Umoja Rally featuring Kwanzaa Choir, live bands, speakers, and vendors. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 828 Fourth Street. Call 214-943-8262

3 p.m. The Griot Storyteller, Afi Bell, will share Kwanzaa celebration activities at The Highland Hills Library, 3624 Simpson Stuart. Dallas, TX Call 214-374-1192

6 p.m. The Forever Forward Youth Movement celebrates with “A Salute to Greatness: A Conversation with Our Elders”. Park Manor Senior Housing, 3333 Edgewood Dallas. African ritual, drumming, and the elders will share their life experiences. Contact 214-942-0117.

7 p.m. “Africans Get Organized”- Inviting all progressive organizations to come together to discuss how we can collective work together for the Unity, Liberation, Africa and working class people around the world. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 828 Fourth Street. Call 214-943-8262.

Thursday, Dec. 27 -Kujichagulia (koo-jee-chah-goo-LEE-ah)

Self Determination

To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves

7 p.m. Concerned Citizens of DeSoto celebrates with a program of dancing, cultural presentations and the Kwanzaa ceremony. Please bring canned goods for their food pantry. A communal dinner will be served. DeSoto Civic Center-Hampton & Pleasant Run, DeSoto. Call 972-298-6001. theclardy@aol.com

3 p.m. “Kirikou and the Sorceress” a children’s traditional animated feature film drawn from West African folk tales, depicts how a newborn boy, Kirikou, saves his village. Pan African Connection

Bookstore, 828 Fourth Street. Call 214-943-8262.

Friday, Dec. 28 - Ujima (oo-JEE-mah) Collective Work & Responsibility

To build and maintain our community together and to make our Brother’s and Sister’s problems, our problems and to solve them together.

12 noon The Griot Storyteller will host a Ujima workshop on how to practice the principle daily by recognizing and respecting that without collective work and struggle, progress is impossible and liberation unthinkable at White Rock Library, 9150 Ferguson Road. Call 214-374-1174.

7 p.m. “A Tribute to Freedom Fighter Paul Robeson” A discussion and viewing of the documentary ‘The Tallest Tree in Our Forrest’. Paul Robeson was a genius who gave his heart and soul to the people. Community activists, labor organizers and human rights workers will share their insight and wisdom Pan African Connection Bookstore, 828 Fourth Street. Call 214-943-8262.

Saturday, Dec. 29 – Ujamaa (oo-JAH-mah) Cooperative Economics

To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them.

5-7 p.m. “Ujamaa Networking Session” Inviting all small non-profits and for profit businesses to come together to share how we can collectively build and sustain businesses in our community in these harsh economic times. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 828 Fourth Street. South Dallas, Call 214-943-8262.

7 p.m. NCOBRA presents a discussion on “Why are African Descendants Entitled to Reparations? The



Dr. Maulana Karenga

Trans-Atlantic Slave “Trade” and chattel slavery, more appropriately called the African Holocaust, was a crime against humanity. Millions of Africans throughout the Diaspora were brutalized, murdered and kidnapped from their communities in Africa. Chattel slavery lasted officially from 1619 to 1865. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 828 Fourth Street. Call 214-943-8262.

Sunday, Dec. 30 – Nia (nee-AH) Purpose

To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

2 p.m. St Luke’s “Community” United Methodist Church, 5710 East R L Thornton, celebrates creativity with a program of drumming, dancing, and the Kwanzaa ceremony. Contact Paula Watkins 214-926-0173

7 p.m. “Culture as a Weapon In our Struggle: Music and Revolution” Come share with us how music can be used as a tool for our liberation. Special guest artists and young adults in the Hip/Hop business and various arts genres will discuss how to transform and organize our society through the cultural arts. Guests TBA. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 828 Fourth Street. Call 214-943-8262.

Monday, Dec. 31 – Kuumba (koo-OOM-bah) Creativity

To do always as much as we can in the way that we can in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than when we inherited it.

3 p.m. “Salute to African Women”. A short film on Amy Ashwood Garvey and presentation on Amy Jacques Gar-

vey – two Pan-African women who were organizers in the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League — both were the wives of the ‘Back to Africa Movement Leader’, Marcus Mosiah Garvey. The program will salute the women in our personal families and histories. Please bring pictures and stories of strong women (big mama’s, play mamas, aunties, Sunday school teachers, educators, and neighbors, etc.) to honor their example and sacrifice they made for family and community. Pan African Connection 828 Fourth Street 214-943-8262

5 p.m. “Creating Our Future” The South Dallas Cultural Center will celebrate with the Pan African Connection Bookstore at the store – 828 Fourth Street. Our youth will share their musical, literary and dance talents. Bring a dish for the Karamu Feast that will follow. Call Akwete, at 214-943-8262 or Vicki Meek, at 214-670-0315.

7 p.m. “Kwanzaa Ancestral Masquerade Ball” Please come dressed as your favorite African/African American historical person or personality. African Market will be open. Please bring a dish to share. (No pork). The Act of Change Located at 3200 South Lancaster, Ste. 623. Call Esudele 214-500-7747. Afi, 214-374-

1192, 214-434-8009, or ISIS – 214-329-3820. for more information about the celebration.

Tuesday, Jan. 1 – Imani (ee-MAH-nee) Faith

To believe, with all our heart, in our Creator, our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

No public programs scheduled. Celebrate at home with the “Day of Assessment and Meditation”

Historically Jan. 1 has been for African people a time of sober assessment of things done and things to do, of self-reflection and reflection on the life and future of our people and recommitment to their highest cultural values in a special way. Kwanzaa is based upon the premise of Kawaia: “that social revolutionary change for Black America can be achieved by the act of revealing and disclosing individuals to their African cultural heritage.” Each year, on Jan. 1 Dr. Karenga suggests that we ask ourselves the three (3) Kawaia questions, originally posed by Frantz Fanon, author of Wretched of the Earth.

1. Who am I? “To answer the question correctly is to know and live one’s history and to practice one’s culture.”

2. Am I really all I say I am? To answer we must employ cultural criteria of authenticity, i.e., criteria of what is real and unreal, what is appearance and essence, what is culturally-rooted and foreign.

3. Am I all I ought to be? “To answer the question is to self-consciously possess and use ethical and cultural standards which measure men, women and children in terms of the quality of their thought and practice in the context of who they are and must become – as African people, creators of Civilization.”

Trinity Music Festival to feature Sunday's Best winner Le'Andria Johnson

The Trinity Music Festival is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013 at the Majestic Theatre's. The event is the newest concert production for Ascential Events and will feature Grammy Award winner Le'Andria Johnson, *Sunday Best* BET Season 5 Winner Joshua Rogers and finalist Alexis Spight.

Monies will be raised at the event to assist the Genesis Women's Shelter and the North Texas Food Bank. Both organizations will receive a portion of the proceeds from the event.

Ascential Events has stated their goal for this



Le'Andria Johnson

event is to bring more Christian/Gospel music to the Dallas/Fort Worth area with prolific artists in the genre. They believe this will be a unique opportunity

to showcase the best in the country.

For more information on the event, or to purchase tickets, visit www.trinity-musicfestival.com

NDG Gossip: The fame and misfortune of Will and Jada's seeds

BY KENDRIA BROWN,
NDG INTERN

Will and Jada are once again fed up with Willow and Jaden's behavior. The harder Will and Jada try at their parenting, the more ineffective it appears to work on their two troubled seeds- Willow and Jaden. Willow, who is 12, and Jaden, who is 14, have been doing their own thing that consists of not following their parents' rules. Willow and Jaden have been playing foul and Will and Jada intend on correcting this.

"Will and Jada have done everything in their power to bring up strong, independent children, but now they feel that maybe they gave Willow and Jaden too much freedom."

Will and Jada are now calling attention to their children's destructive behavior and focusing on making it right with family "boot camp." The parents



Will & Jada Pinkett Smith & Family

have thought of creative ways to discipline their children, who seem to get into more trouble by the minute. Growing up have been hard for Willow and Jaden, and parenting is even harder for Will and Jada.

Willow and Jaden have recently gone on social media sites to tell others how they feel. Jaden has used more than excessive profanity on Twitter after

cursing out someone who did not like one of his fans with words too profane to use here but basically telling that person to go you know where. Willow has gotten on Tumblr and inappropriately expressed, "Being normal is ugly." She went on talking about mental illness, suicide, and drug use. "I live in my own hell." "I think my thoughts are trying to murder me."

See FAME, Page 13

LINCOLN, continued from Page 3

ery within the United States forever.

Even though the abolition of slavery was part of the main platform of the new Republican Party it wasn't going to be easy at all. An amendment to the Constitution must have two-thirds of the House votes to pass and go onto the President's desk. The Republicans had a majority but were not even close to a two-thirds majority. In addition, the Democratic Party was very much against the thought of slavery abolition. They certainly were going to dig in and try to defeat the amendment. The GOP needed 22 Democratic votes to pass the bill and so the plot thickens. Time was "ticking" as the amendment needed to be passed before the end of the war. Congress would be in no mood to stir up things again with a new initiative against slavery.

Lincoln and various GOP House leaders had to come up with a political scheme to rid America of slavery. Spielberg did more than clearly show how ugly politics can be. Lincoln, the Congressmen, Cabinet officials, General Grant, lobbyists, press, etc. were all involved in this ebb and

flow struggle. Patronage jobs, earmarks, bribery, etc. were some of the "ammunition" that was used in the persuasion of certain Democrats. "Honest Abe" was not totally honest in this struggle to make his dream a reality – the abolition of slavery. But he got the job done.

Most interesting was the role of a Black female that appeared with First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln just about all the time. When I returned home I researched this. This sister was not a slave or a domestic employee. She was actually a very good friend of the First Lady and an entrepreneur and fashion designer. In fact, Elizabeth Keckley bought her own and her son's freedom in St. Louis and moved to Washington, DC. Her dresses were in high demand among the ladies of the Washington elite. Being a confidant of the First Lady made her well respected. Later, she would own boarding houses in Philadelphia and DC. She actually owned one across the street from the Willard Hotel and two blocks from the White House. She was also a philanthropist for Wilberforce University.

Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee was Thaddeus Stevens. He was a pure abolitionist and played his part in the victory. It was apparent that he had a relationship with a sister. I researched her and found Lydia Hamilton Smith, a widow and supposedly the housekeeper for the Congressman. Actually, it was well known that she was his common law wife for over 20 years. She ran his business affairs when he was in session. When Stevens died he left her \$5,000, which was a handsome sum back then. She bought his home and office and invested the rest in other things and became a prosperous entrepreneur in her own right.

Spielberg also noted that Blacks were on the battlefield in great numbers (unlike his denial in *Band of Brothers* movie). In fact, over 200,000 Blacks served admirably. Go see this movie! You are going to love it.

Alford is the co-founder, President/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce®. Website: www.nationalbcc.org. Email: halford@nationalbcc.org.

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NAACP urges Congress to prevent the nation from falling over the "Fiscal Cliff"

Unless action is taken to avert it before then, on January 2, 2013, the United States will be faced with what has become known as the "fiscal cliff." Under this scenario, automatic, across-the-board spending cuts of about \$109 billion per year are scheduled to take place: this means that almost every federal discretionary program will be facing a reduction in its budget of approximately 8.6%. Also, a number of tax cuts which were first enacted under President George W. Bush, and which affect all Americans from the wealthiest

among us to those with little or no income, are set to expire as of December 31, 2012. Finally, the federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation program, which currently helps more than 5 million long-term unemployed Americans, will end as of December 31, 2012, unless it is reauthorized.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has determined that if Congress and the President do not act, and America is allowed to fall off the "fiscal cliff," our nation will be slammed back into a recession with national unem-

ployment levels reaching over 9% by the end of the year (unemployment rates for African Americans tend to be roughly double that of the national average at any given time).

The funding cuts will affect both defense and non-defense programs; it is estimated that as many as 2 million Americans, including police officers, teachers, air traffic controllers, and civilian defense workers may lose their jobs as a result. Other groups estimate that if none of the tax breaks are reauthorized, the average, middle class family making between

\$40,000 and \$64,000 annually will be facing a \$2,000 increase in their annual tax bill. And if the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program is allowed to expire, more than 2 million Americans will lose their jobless benefits as of January 1, 2013, and another 1 million will lose them as of April, 2013. It is fair to say that between the cuts in services, the tax increases, and the loss of unemployment benefits no person, family, community, or business will not feel the effects if we fall off the "fiscal cliff."

It is clear that Congress and the Administration must work together over the next six weeks to develop a federal budget and to avoid the potential devastation of the "fiscal cliff." This will most likely involve all aspects of the federal budget, including entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare and Veterans' benefits.

Due to the disproportionate impact the fiscal cliff would have on the most vulnerable among us, the NAACP has consistently called on Congress and the Administration to

put aside their partisan bickering and develop a balanced budget which makes the tax code more fair and does not do additional harm to the programs which serve us all, especially the most vulnerable among us.

The NAACP further urges Congress to use this opportunity to focus on job creation and avoid any actions that would cost jobs; oppose benefit cuts for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid; protect the nation's safety net; and oppose any extension of the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent of Americans.

Our children deserve better

BY BENJAMIN
TODD JEALOUS

(NNPA) Every generation believes their children deserve to be better off than they were. This belief inspired the first slave rebellion in 1663, when a new law dictated that children of African slaves would not be able to rise above the status of their parents. This belief led Linda Brown's parents and the NAACP to defeat segregated schooling. And it is this belief that keeps education at the center of the modern-day movement for social justice.

Brown v. Board of Education built a launching pad for education in the 21st century by removing barriers

to equality and opening doors to opportunity. African Americans gained the confidence that their children, and generations of children to come, would indeed have access to a better future. But somewhere along the way, America sputtered and lost its way.

Nearly 50 years after the end of desegregation, we are still only sending about one out of four students to college. In a knowledge-based economy, excluding three-fourths of our students from higher education is no longer acceptable. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United States ranked 14th

out of 34 OECD countries for reading skills, 17th for science and a below-average 25th for mathematics. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan called this "an absolute wake-up call for America."

The time for tinkering and small-scale experimentation is over. In order to lead the world's global economy, we must create the world's brightest workforce. This starts by fixing our education so that all students can graduate college- and career-ready.

The NAACP recently released a report titled "Finding Our Way Back to First: Reclaiming World Leadership by Educating

All America's Children." Our proactive agenda builds off the foundation laid by *Brown v. Board of Education*, and it is just as focused on quality as it is on access to education.

"Finding Our Way Back to First" offers research-informed prescriptions for tapping the potential of our students. The NAACP is asking its more than 1,200 active units to advocate for the following reforms:

First, all students should have a strong educational foundation before kindergarten. This means high quality, universal prekindergarten that supports strong literacy and language skills.

Second, we need effective teachers and leaders. Every school, regardless of location and resources, should have a strongly prepared, well-supported teacher in every classroom.

Third, students need more time for more learning. This means longer school days, longer school years and more years of education. Schools also need to offer broad-based programs that extend beyond the regular school day, year and curriculum.

Finally, we need to target our resources at those schools that need them most. We should direct additional state funds to school districts with high concentrations of

low-income students. And we should target funds from all levels to help those schools and students who are struggling hardest to achieve.

The NAACP earned its reputation in education by removing obstacles that blocked children from learning. But now is the time for proactive reform. To make the promise of a better life for our children real, we must support student learning and achievement. We must be determined to help every child reach his or her full potential and thereby ensure that we, as a nation, lead and serve globally.

Benjamin Todd Jealous is President and CEO of the national NAACP.

MCKENNEY,

continued from Page 2

1988 with Clipper Cruise Lines as part of the Cornell University Hotel Management School program in alliance with the Culinary Institute of America.

McKenney received her bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Texas at Austin and is a graduate of Highland Park High School in Dallas. She is an active member of ASAE and PCMA and currently serves as the PCMA Gulf States Chapter President. McKenney makes her home in Dallas with her husband and two sons.

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Daily
Activity Time Highland Hills at Highland Hills Branch Library, 3624 Simpson Stuart Rd.; 214-670-9087

Personal Views: Texas Black Folk Artists at African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave.; 214-565-9026

Every Tuesday
Dallas Comedy House Open Mic at 2645 Commerce St; 214-741-4448

Through December 22
The Forgotten Carols at the Belaire Plaza at 420 East Pipeline Rd. Performances are at 7:30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday with 3 p.m. matinees on

Saturdays Nov. 24 and Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2012. Reserved seating tickets on Friday and Saturday are \$18 for adults, \$16 for students and seniors, and \$9 for children 12 and under. 817-284-1200 or <http://www.ArtisanCT.com>

Through December 28
Jazz Happy Hour Fridays at Champagne's Luxe, 5201 W Lovers Lane at 4 p.m.; Info: 214-352-7777

Through January 13
American Childhood: Celebrating Classic Toys at the Old Red Museum of Dallas County History & Culture, 100 S Houston

Dead Sea Scrolls & the Bible at MacGorman Performing Arts Center, 4616 Stanley Ave. in Fort Worth; 877-789-0876

December 19
West Irving Library After-School is Cool Club at 4 p.m. a new weekly after-school program for grades K-8. The club is free and no registration is required. 972-721-2691

December 22
Breakfast with Santa at Rainforest Cafe, 3000 Grapevine Mills Parkway in Grapevine at 8 a.m.; 972-539-5001

December 22
Valley Ranch Library in Irving Family Movie Matinee at 2 p.m. Enjoy a family movie and light snacks every Saturday.

December 23
Dallas Cowboys vs. New Orleans Saints at Cowboys Stadium, 1 Legends Way in Arlington; 817-892-4000

House of Blues Gospel Brunch at 11:30 a.m.; 214-978-2583

December 24
Feast of the Seven Fishes at Spoon Bar & Kitchen at 5pm at Spoon Bar & Kitchen, 8220- B Westchester Drive; 214-368-8220

Christmas Eve Dinner at 5 p.m. at St. Martin's Wise Bistro; \$49.00 er guest

December 25
Christmas Brunch at the Pyramid Restaurant & Bar, 1717 N. Akard St at 10:30 a.m.; 214-720-5249

December 28
Christmas Lights, Chocolate and Wine Tour at 6 p.m. at Donna's Pie House, 5600 W. Lovers Lane; 972-814-5997

Denver Nuggets vs. Dallas Mavericks at American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Avenue; 214-222-3687

December 27-30
"Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas" at Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre; 972-205-2790

December 27, 2012 - January 1, 2013

Lone Star Circus Illuminates the Imagination with Cirque Banquiste Dec 27-Jan 1. International circus stars from around the globe bring their talents and a pre-show in the theatre lobby allows children from the Lone Star Circus School's classes to show their skills, too. Tickets \$20-\$46, 214-740-0051 or www.lonestarcircus.org.

For group sales information, contact Mark Doyle at 214-237-2515.

December 30
Trey Songz Chapter V World Tour at Verizon Theatre at Grand Prairie, 1001 Performance Place at 8 p.m.; \$40-\$90; 972-854-5050

January 6, 2013
First Sundays talent showcase and buffet at 1:30 p.m. at Center City Grille, 3316 Merrilee Drive in Dallas. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$25 at the door. Enjoy live entertainment, clean comedy, inspirational poetry, an all-you-can eat buffet, and the sounds of DJ Diamond K. INFO: 972-834-5936, roundtheclock.cm@gmail.com or firstsunday.eventbrite.com.

January 12, 2013
Ascential Events' 2013 Trinity Music Festival Gospel Concert to feature Grammy Award winner Le'Andria Johnson at the Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm Street Suite 500; 214-808-2951

B. B. King at House of Blues, White Swan Building; \$65- \$125; 323-769-4940

January 17-February 9, 2013
"Under the Yum-Yum Tree" by GCT at Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre; 972-205-2790

January 18, 2013
Garland Symphony Orchestra, Concert IV at Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium; 972-926-0611

January 25-March 3, 2013

Goodnight Moon at the Dallas Children's Theater brings a favorite book to life. Savor the whimsical and rich world of a child's imagination with stars, air and noises everywhere! This fanciful poem of goodnight wishes comes to life as an extravaganza of enchantment, singing, dancing and puppetry. Rosewood Center for Family Arts at 5938 Skillman Street in Dallas.

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Medical Center of McKinney welcomes New Chief Nursing Officer

McKinney, Texas –Kim Hatchel, RN, has been named the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) for Medical Center of McKinney.

“We are excited that Kim has joined the Medical Center of McKinney Team. Her vast hospital and corporate healthcare experience will help guide our nursing teams forward in providing quality care to our patients,” said Ernest C. Lynch, III, Medical Center of McKinney CEO.

Prior to joining Medical Center of McKinney on De-



Kim Hatchel, RN

cember 10th, Hatchel was the assistant CNO and as-

sistant vice president of emergency services for Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), the parent company of Medical Center of McKinney, located in Nashville, Tenn.

She also served as the director of the hospitalist program for HCA's 688-bed “flagship” hospital Centennial Medical Center in Nashville, and as the nurse manager for the intensive care unit

(ICU) and cardiovascular ICU for Maury Regional Hospital in Columbia, Tenn.

Hatchel is currently working on her doctorate in nursing practice at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, and has a master's of healthcare administration and a master's of science in nursing from the University of Phoenix. She received her bachelor's of science degree in nursing from Austin Peay State University.

FAME, continued from Page 10

Although in the past Will and Jada have disagreed on effective parenting skills for their children, they are now sticking to their guns with the tough love boot camp regime they have come up with. They realize their children need more effective ways to express themselves, and they are seriously considering limiting access of their children's internet and TV time by putting them in

stricter schools and checking up with their social circles and activities.

Will and Jada know all about the pressures that comes along with fame. They have not given up on their children and are ready to provide them with the “extra love” the children require. This “tough” love will get Willow and Jaden through these rough times and need.

HOLIDAY, continued from Page 1

Next, recognize that you can choose a new way of thinking that reduces holiday stress and sadness.

Keep in mind that unrealistic perceptions and expectations are part of every holiday season. Some people feel so stressed and anxious at this time of year they want to be left alone. But you can work on having a new attitude of looking forward to joining in the festivities of the season.

Managing daily stress

If you have battled anxiety, stress and low energy during the holidays, you are probably looking for a respite from a variety of stressors that can make life miserable.

Think of stress this way. Stress is crucial if you are in a crisis. Stress is a natural and important biological “fight or flight” response. The body is designed for short bursts of activity, but the ongoing nature of daily stress often means that the system is left ‘on’ to respond.

Seven tips to make your holidays more meaningful

Use these tips to make this holiday season the best it can be – a season of less stress and more meaning for you and your family.

1. Take care of yourself by eating right. People tend to skip meals, eat on the run, and eat more sugar during the holidays. Manage stress by managing your health.

2. Give yourself permission to feel a mix of emotions during the holidays. Most people feel an ebb and flow of emotions throughout the year but often more so during holidays because it is a season that evokes memories of the past.

3. It is okay to spend time taking care of yourself. When you do, you'll be more apt to relax and enjoy the season. People have different levels of needs so pay attention to your own unique circumstances.

4. Give yourself permission to have more control in your life. You don't have to say ‘yes’ to every holiday invitation or request.

5. Time management is very important for reducing stress. For example, let some of your children or grandchildren prepare holiday meals, bake cookies or help decorate the house.

6. Share responsibilities. Ask for help. Delegate holiday tasks so you're not overstressed with deadlines.

7. Don't have unrealistic expectations about what you can and can't do during the holidays. Give yourself credit for what you can do and recognize you're not super human. When you do, you'll have a more enjoyable holiday season.



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Call 972-423-8833 for AFFECT, Inc. or email: AFFECTxInc@aol.com for counseling services, resources and assistance for job readiness and training programs for individuals. For couples we offer services for marital relationships and for ex-offenders we offer programs for getting back into the work force.

December 23, 8 a.m.

You're invited to our Early Morning Worship Service; stay for Bible Classes at 9:30 a.m. and for Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.

December 26, 10 a.m.

Join us for Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. and come back at 7 p.m. for Prayer, Praise and Songs as we worship and praise God.

Brother Ramon Hodridge,
Minister of Education
1026 Avenue F
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

**BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY
BAPTIST CHURCH**

December 23, 9:35 a.m.

You're invited to our Sunday School at 9 a.m. and to stay for Morning Worship at 11 a.m. as we worship and praise God.

December 26, 7 p.m.

Come to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word and help us to praise and worship His holy name.

Also bring your children to our Wednesday Night Children Program, three things are incorporated when they come, children learn and they play and have fun.

December 28, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Women's Fellowship as we praise God; worship Him and Study His Word.

December 29, 9 a.m.

Join us for Men's Fellowship as we worship and praise God; and we study His Word.

Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Sr.
Senior Pastor
4215 N. Greenview Drive
Irving, TX 75062
972-257-3766
www.biblewayirving.org

**CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH IN RICHARDSON**

December 23

Join us in our Christmas Service (one service only.) Come and be blessed by the Word of God.

December 26, 7:30 p.m.

Come to Bible Study as we go further in and deeper down into God's Word and we give Him all of the glory, honor and praise.

December 31, 10 p.m. to 12 a.m.
You're invited to our New Years Eve Service as we praise and worship God into the New Year.

Dr. Terrence Autry,
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TheShip3C's Prayer Lines for those that are in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567 or they may be submitted via email to: prayerline@theship3c.org

This Weekend,

December 22, 4 p.m.

F3C Theatre and Arts Ministry presents "Jesus Season" at Story Elementary School, 1550 Edelweiss Drive, Allen, TX. Found in James 1:17 & 18.

December 26, 7 p.m.

Join us for our Church Wide Fasting each Wednesday (100% juice & water only); the fast begins at 12:01 am with our 1st prayer at 3:30 am; 2nd prayer at 12 Noon, and the closing prayer at 6 pm. Then join us for Wednesday Night Live in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall on Belmont Drive, with old school prayer and testimony. Also, come to our Corporate Prayer and our Kidz Zone (an environment to equip children to grow and to show God's love.)

December 30, 9:30 a.m.

Don't miss our 5th Sunday Super Service as we celebrate Friends and Family Day. Come and experience the joy of praising and worshipping God to the fullest at Story Elementary School, 1550 Edelweiss Drive, Allen, TX. We praise and honor God for His blessings.

December 31, 10:30 p.m.

You invited to celebrate the ending of 2012 and the coming of the New Year, 2013, with us in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall on Belmont Drive. Come and be blessed of God.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed.D.
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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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"First Church"**

December 31, 9:30 p.m.

Join us, First Church and New Mount Zion Baptist Church, for Watch Night Service in memory of Dr. Robert E. Price, Sr. with special guests, celebrities and Psalmists Tamela and David Mann from Meet the Browns' TV show. Doors will open at 9 p.m.

Dr. Gregory Foster,
Senior Pastor and
Rev. Anthony Foster
Pastor
300 Phillips Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-235-4235
www.fbchp.org

**SAINT MARK MBC
IN MCKINNEY**

December 23, 9:30 a.m.

Join us in our Morning Worship Service and stay to enjoy our Education Ministries at 10:45 a.m.

Dr. Charles Wattley
Senior Pastor
1308 Wilcox Street
McKinney TX 75069
972-542-6178
www.saintmarkbc.org

**SHILOH MBC
IN PLANO**

December 23, 10 a.m.

There will be only one worship service on December 23 & 30; so join us in our Sunday Morning Worship Service.

December 26, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Midweek Service as we worship and praise God.

December 31, 10:30 p.m.

Don't miss our New Year's Eve Watch Night Service as we close the old year out and celebrate the New Year praising and worshipping God to the highest.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

**THE INSPIRING BODY
OF CHRIST CHURCH**

December 23 & 30, at 7:30 a.m.

There will be only one service for these two Sundays at the end of the year; so join us as we worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

December 24, 7 p.m.

Come to Monday School as we celebrate Christmas Eve and study the

Word of God. We will worship Him and praise His Holy name and thank God for Jesus' birth.

December 31, 10 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate New Years Eve praising and worshipping God for His blessings in 2012 and His continued blessing into the New Year.

Pastor Rickie Rush
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www.ibocjoy.org

**WORD OF LIFE CHURCH OF
GOD IN CHRIST**

Early Prayer, 5 a.m.

Join us in prayer early in the morning at 5 a.m. on Monday – Thursday at 1-661-673-8600, Code # 142219 and please put your phone on mute. God will meet you and prayer does change people, things and situations.

December 23, 9:30 a.m.

Join us for Sunday School with Elder/Superintendent Greg Mason; Sis. Vicki Mason, adult class teacher and Evangelist Elizabeth McAfee, children class teacher and Director of our children's choir. Then stay for Morning Service at 11 a.m. as we worship, honor and praise God for His goodness.

December 31, 9 p.m.

Mark your calendar for an exciting, blessed and Spirit-filled Watch Night Worship Service with Prophet James and other prophets and pastors around the Metroplex area.

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**Sister
Tarpley**

December 25th is the official birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior in the United States. Do you really know HIM?

HE is the: Salt of the Earth, Matthew 5:13; Light of the World, Matthew 5:14; Son of GOD, John 1:12; True Vine, John 15:1, 5; Righteous and Holy, Ephesians 4:24; He was tempted by the devil, just as we are, Hebrews 5:15.

HE is King of the Jews and Israel; King of the Heavens; King of Kings; King of Glory; King of all Ages; King of Righteousness; and Sovereign King. Jesus is a friend to all; HE is the Beginning and the End. He heals the sick; He is the key to knowledge; HE is strong and powerful; HE defends the feeble.

HIS yoke is easy and HIS burdens are light. There is no fault in HIM. HE is the doorway to deliverance; the Highway to Heaven. HIS mercy is everlasting. He is the Sav-

ior of all mankind; HE is the centerpiece of civilization and HE cares for you!

A Christmas Poem: Jesus is the Reason for the Season and HE brought joy to the world. However, it seems that at this time of the year that many people become stressed with the hustle and bustle of giving and receiving the right gift that the true meaning of Christmas "Celebrating Jesus' birth" is lost in the midst of other stuff.

The poem below and some stress-release things at the end of this column should help put things in order of importance.

T'was the weeks before Christmas and all through the town; not many signs of Jesus were anywhere to be found. The people were all busy with Christmas-time chores; like decorating, baking, and shopping in stores.

Not many sang, "Away in a manger, no crib for a bed . . ." Instead they sang of Santa dressed-up in bright red. Plenty watched T.V. and drank eggnog from

a tap; as hour upon hour the presents they did wrap. When what from the T.V. did they suddenly hear? A loud commercial, which told of a BIG SALE that's near.

So away to the mall they all flew like a flash; buying things on credit and others with cash! And as they came home from their trip to the mall, did they think about Jesus? Oh, no, not at all! Their lives were so busy with Christmas-time things, no time to remember Christ Jesus, the King.

There were more presents to wrap and cookies to bake, how could they stop and remember who died for their sake? To pray to the Savior, they had no time to stop, they needed more time to, "Shop till they dropped." From the big stores downtown to the stores at the mall, they would dash away, dash away and visit them all!

And up on the rooftop there arose such a clatter, as grandpa hung lights up on his brand new ladder, he



Sister Tarpley, Sis. Jeanie Driver Avery and Sis. Rose Demus Fielding enjoying a wonderful Christmas visit.

hung lights that would flash; he hung lights that would twirl; yet, he never once prayed to Jesus—the Light of the World.

Christ's eyes—how they twinkle! Christ's Spirit, how merry. Christ's love, how enormous. All our burdens -- He'll gladly carry.

So instead of being busy, overworked and uptight, let's put "Christ back

in Christmas" and enjoy some good nights. -- Author Unknown

Natural Highs for Stressful Times: Falling in love, especially with Jesus. A good shower or bath. Laughing a lot, mainly at yourself. Listening to a good song. Praying continually. Enjoying a wonderful conversation. Making new friends and spending quality time with long-time

friends and a friendly smile for everyone you see.

Angels exist, but they don't all have wings; many times we call them Christians. The love of God is like the ocean, you can see its beginning but not its end. Thanking God when you wake up in the morning. Also, knowing that you're doing things right in God's eyes.

DART's "Friendly Food Fight" results in nearly 70 tons of food for homeless

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) employees and agency consultants hosted a "friendly food fight" from Dec. 3 to 18 that gathered nearly 68 tons of food in support of Union Gospel Mission and their efforts to feed the hungry in North Texas.

The result was a sizeable increase over previous years thanks to a large donation from Dallas based Schepps Dairy, a subsidiary of Dean



David Perry, Union Gospel Mission of Dallas Board Member and Bill Thompson, Executive Director, are presented with 68 tons of food and \$5,250 collected during DART's annual "Friendly Food Fight" by the agency's President/Executive Director Gary Thomas.

Foods Corp. Also collected was \$5,250 in cash donations.

The total amount assembled during DART's 16-year effort equals \$49,670 in cash and more than 304,000 pounds or 152 tons of food;

the equivalent weight of 10 DART buses.

The Union Gospel Mission is a non-profit agency that has provided food, beds, clothing and shelter to homeless men, women and children in the Dallas area since 1949.

On Saturday, Dec. 22, DART Police will also provide holiday meals and toys to more than 270 families through their Santa Cops

program. Many of the items to be handed out were collected through DART's "stuff-a-bus" campaigns in early December at Bachman and Mockingbird Stations.

Donations also supported another DART employee initiative, "Comforting of the Souls," which for five years has provided blankets and warm clothes to residents of six area nursing homes.

DIVORCE, continued from Page 6

tronic evidence and the role of social media in the divorce process. In 2007, he won the award for the best paper written for presentation to legal groups by the State Bar of Texas, for his effective paper on the use of electronic evidence. Local and national media turn to Robertson for expert opinions on international child custody law, crowded family courts in his home state of Texas, and even the Tiger Woods case. Robert-

son has written articles and made presentations on family law issues to local, state and national bar associations.

Robertson also speaks to church and civic groups on staying married and the many challenges that face those who decide to divorce. "The lesson is that people continue to be connected. My job is to minimize the conflict.

"We always offer clients the possibility of

saving their marriages," he says. "We don't need to drum up business, and we would much rather see people get their lives in order. But if a divorce is inevitable, we are zealous advocates for them."

Robertson was raised in Austin and attended the University of Texas (B.B. A., 1976) and the University of Texas School of Law (J.D., 1978). A Fellow in the Texas Bar Foundation and the American Bar

Foundation, he is a member of the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists and the College of the State Bar of Texas, a former Director of the Texas Young Lawyers Association and a member of the Collin County, Texas and American Bar Associations. He's been listed in Best Lawyers for 15 consecutive years.

He and his wife live in McKinney, Texas. They have two grown children.

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NDG Bookshelf



BY TERRI
SCHLICHENMEYER

There's one thing you want this coming year, and it can't be found in a store.

This thing you want can't be boxed, bottled, or canned. Designers can't fashion it and factories can't create it. What you want can't be fitted, but it'll be exactly the right size when you find it.

What you want is love this year, and so does Rachel Winslow. She's a professional when it comes to Happily Ever After but in

the new novel *What He's Been Missing* by Grace Octavia, she's not sure where to find it.

A sofa was not the place Rachel Winslow thought she'd be spending New Year's Eve.

Nope, she figured she'd be dancing close and drinking cheap champagne with the love of her life, except there was no such love and there was nobody on the horizon. That night, it was just Rachel, an old movie, and a pizza delivery.

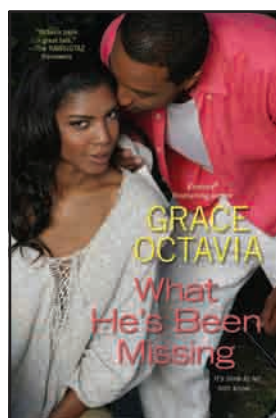
She was Atlanta's hottest wedding planner, which didn't help her mood. She saw love every day and that was okay; she loved love. She just wished it could be hers in the New

What He's Been Missing review

Year. Everybody except Rachel, it seemed, was paired up with somebody. Even her best friend Ian had a girlfriend.

Sometimes, if she was honest with herself, she'd admit that Ian was really the guy for her. Hanging with him was easy, they had the same interests, they enjoyed the same restaurants, and they sometimes completed each others' sentences.

But then Ian asked his girl, Scarlet to marry him



and Scarlet asked Rachel to plan the wedding, which Rachel didn't want to do. How could she help Ian marry someone else when he should be marrying her?

She needed to tell Ian about her feelings, before mistakes were made. But the mistake was Rachel's: on the eve of his New Orleans wedding, she told Ian that she loved him, he got mad, and their friendship was badly broken.

But did it matter? Ian had Scarlet and it didn't take long for Rachel to connect with someone from her past. Finally, she found love.

She found her man.

But did she truly find her future?

So your Bucket List has Get Married on it this year? Then read *What He's Been Missing*, and be careful what you wish for.

With wit, smarts, and subtly clever humor, author Grace Octavia brings her readers a warm tale of love, mistakes, and fixing them both, which should make it a story familiar with legions of women around the world. Octavia's Rachel is a savvy sistah who's long

on strong but wrong in her choice of men until Mr. Right steps right in her path, even though she doesn't initially notice. Because of all that, and despite a German-Shepherd-size oops that eagle-eyed dog lovers will quickly spot, this was a very enjoyable book and definitely worth your time.

In this story, Rachel didn't settle and neither should you, so don't accept any other book than this one. For novel lovers and romance-a-holics, *What He's Been Missing* can't be missed.

What He's Been Missing by Grace Octavia, (Da-fina Books \$15.00, 272 pages).

Author book signing in Cedar Hill Dec. 28

New Orleans native Lynette Norris Wilkinson will sign copies of her award-winning book, *UNTOLD: The New Orleans 9th Ward You Never Knew* at Barnes and

Noble—Uptown Village Cedar Hill, Friday, Dec. 28, from 6 to 8 p.m.

UNTOLD features the true stories of 16 Hurricane Katrina survivors young and

old from the New Orleans Lower 9th Ward. The book provides insight for those who want to know the real story behind the faces and images shown during Katrina. Readers can learn from the touch-

ing stories of survival, faith, history and community. *UNTOLD* was named Book of the Year by the Sankofa Literary Society, nominated for the Christian Literary Award, and received film credit in the Na-

tional Geographic film *Forecast Disaster: Deadly Floods*.

Proceeds from sales will be donated to an organization helping residents recover. For more information, call 972-283-0586 or visit www.HurricaneKatrinaStories.com.

Barnes and Noble—Uptown Village Cedar Hill is located at 305 West FM 1382 Suite 520, Cedar Hill and their phone number is 972-291-1169.

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