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New studies shatter myths about black cohabitation and marriage

By Jazelle Hunt
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Decades of research and the warnings of Black mothers everywhere are being challenged by an



emerging body of research that finds no link between cohabitation and chance of divorce. Further, researchers are asserting that cohabitation actually boosts the stability of resulting marriages for

women who typically have lower marital rates – such as Black women.

As one study, published in the Journal of Marriage and Families asserts,

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Discover your 'broader self' by rediscovering roots

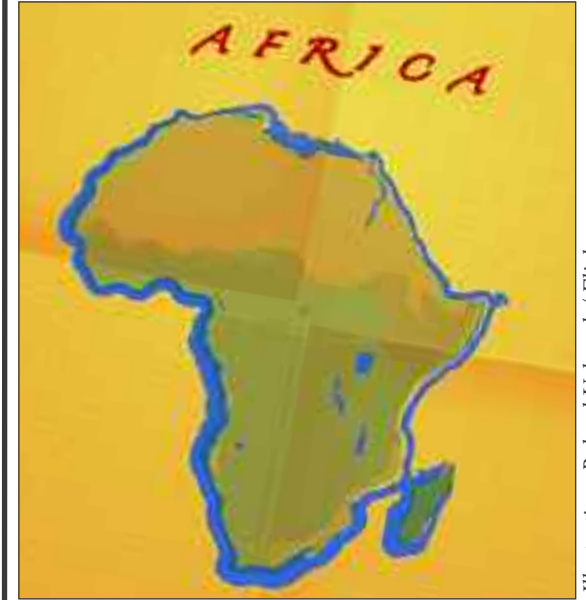


Illustration: Roland Urbanek / Flickr

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UT study: For men of color, high motivation does not bring academic success

AUSTIN — Despite higher levels of engagement in the community college experience — from rarely skipping classes to accessing tutoring services more frequently — male students of color have lower academic outcomes than White male students



who are significantly less engaged, according to a recent University of Texas at Austin report.

Aspirations to Achievement: Men of Color and Community Colleges was produced by the College of Education's Center for Community College Stu-

dent Engagement (CCCSE). It is based on responses from more than 453,000 students nationwide to the Community College Survey of Student Engagement.

"Despite Black and His-

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Introducing the Hip-Hop Choir

See The Hip-Hop, Page 10

New tools for school discipline need a chance to work

By Royce West
Texas Senate

Much wisdom has been passed and many great tales have begun with the phrase, "Well back when I was growing up, we used to...", you can fill in the



blank. While mention causes one to reflect, this phrase also rings true today when the discussion turns to school discipline.

Corporal punishment is gone, never to return to the tool box of school disci-

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It's Called Class Warfare

By William Spriggs

Everyone knows America has a hyper inequality problem. The six Walton family heirs who own Walmart have the same wealth as the bottom 42 percent of Americans. In the latest data through 2011, researchers Emmanuel Saez and Thomas Piketty show the top 1 percent of income earners in the U.S. get 20 percent of all the income. Both the Organization for Eco-

nomic Cooperation and Development (OECD-the organization of the advanced industrialized democratic countries) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recognize that high levels of inequality hurt economic growth. The question is: What do we do about the inequality?

Understanding the need to explain inequality, we now hear from Republi-

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People In The News...

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C. Joyce Farrar-Rosemon



Lupita Nyong'o



Dr. Magaly Specter

In January nearly 30,000 visited NorthDallasGazette.com - news added daily!

C. Joyce Farrar-Rosemon

C. Joyce Farrar-Rosemon, BA, SM, is a down to earth motivational speaker and the author of two life-changing and empowering books; *How to Get to The Palace From Your Prison*, *Joseph's 14-Step Program to Overcome Loneliness, Depression, Discrimination, Barrenness & Abuse* and *How to Be The Head and Not the Tail, A Christian Manifesto For Making Six Figures*.

Farrar-Rosemon speaks frequently to non-profit

groups, schools, colleges and churches. She has appeared in several newspapers, magazines, on radio, and television.

Farrar-Rosemon holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and elementary education and a master's in psychiatric social work from Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts.

Joyce shares with her audiences her analysis of the Biblical story of Joseph and walks them through a 14-Step Recovery Program on



how to overcome loneliness, depression, discrimination, barrenness and abuse. The author's spiritual and psychological analysis of Joseph's trials, tribulations, and triumphs reveal to the listener how to achieve the promises of God and arrive at that place of "shalom", the Hebrew word for peace.

Farrar-Rosemon draws on her background as a broker and psychiatric social worker and shares how her personal tragedies and those of other individuals and groups were resolved using this 14-Step Program.

Otis S. Johnson, Ph.D., Mayor of Savannah Georgia says, "Farrar-Rosemon is a successful real estate broker who started out as a psychiatric social worker.

She found her real calling as a Christian-based writer and Motivational Speaker. How To Get To The Palace From Your Prison is a wonderful addition to the self-help Christian literature and to the field of Christian social work, and counseling. Whatever the religious position of the reader, the author's interpretation of the story of Joseph is well worth the read."

Lupita Nyong'o

(NNPA) Black actress Lupita Nyong'o went from near-anonymity to tremendous celebrity after she won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar earlier this month for her role in *12 Years a Slave*. Since her win, she's been interviewed dozens of times, seen her fashion style analyzed and been praised for her grace and beauty.

With the celebrity has come an interest in her love life and now Nyong'o is the subject of media speculation and gossip about who she may be dating.

Rumors circulated after she and Jared Leto were seen

canoodling at recent appearances that they were a couple. Leto calling Nyong'o his "future ex-wife" during his acceptance speech at the Independent Spirit Awards on March 1, according to media reports, exacerbated the gossip.

Now, the rumor mill has tied her to Somalian rapper K'Naan.

On March 3, the day after Nyong'o won her Oscar, she was photographed in New York City with K'Naan. The two were seen together in Manhattan outside the studio where she appeared on the talk show "Live! With Kelly

and Michael," according to news reports.

Newsday.com said that Nyong'o and K'Naan "appeared to be affectionate in the photos." The pictures were soon uploaded to the Internet, and showed K'naan and Nyong'o embracing for the paparazzi while he held her Oscar.

Us Weekly magazine reported on March 12 that the two have been dating since September.

K'Naan, 36, whose real name is Keinan Abdi Warsame, was born in Somalia and raised in Toronto. *Us Weekly* reported that he has two sons from a previous marriage to Deqa Warsame,

a pharmacy technician. He moved to Toronto with his parents as a young child.

Reps for neither Nyong'o nor K'Naan have confirmed the relationship.

Nyong'o, 31, who was born in Mexico City and raised in Kenya, won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role as Patsey in the historical drama *12 Years a Slave*. The movie, which also won Oscars for Best Picture and Best Adapted Screenplay, was based on Solomon Northup's 1853 memoir of his experience as a free Black man from New York who was kidnapped in Washington, D.C. and enslaved.



Dr. Magaly Spector

Dr. Magaly Spector, vice president for Diversity and Community Engagement since 2008, will take on a new role as professor in practice and assistant to the president for strategic initiatives.

"I am grateful that I will continue to have the benefit of Dr. Spector's advice and guidance and that she will remain part of the team of people who work to support and inspire members of our University family," said UT Dallas President David E. Daniel. "Her new role ties her exceptional public and private sector experience with the University's programmatic needs."

Awareness of the importance of diversity and the

University's commitment to supporting diversity "has been exponentially raised under Dr. Spector's leadership," Daniel said.

Spector launched the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement, and founded the Diversity Lecture Series, the Diversity Scholarship Program, the Faculty Mentoring Program, the Diversity Awards Gala and numerous other initiatives. Last fall, she received the 2013 Materials Research Society "Woody" Award for her outstanding leadership as chair of its Diversity Committee for the creation of new programs and initiatives that significantly impacted its mission.

Spector, a physicist and

engineer by training, was also a national Cuban chess champion. She helped facilitate a 2009 international chess match between UT Dallas students and college

students in Havana. Spector, who immigrated to the U.S. from Cuba in 1980, described the match as a way to facilitate understanding between the two countries.



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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
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Editor

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Published By

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

VP of Digital & Entertainment Marketing

Brandy Jones-West

Web Master

Todd Jones

Special Projects Manager

Edward Dewayne
"Preacher Boy" Gibson, Jr.

Contributing Writer

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Ivy N. McQuain
Jacqueline Murphy
Terri Schlichenmeyer
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Carrenza Thurmond, Jr.

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Obama's Surprising Jobs Record

By George E. Curry
NNPA Columnist

Although unemployment rates are unacceptably high, especially for African Americans, President Obama has done a better job improving the jobless rate than most critics are willing to concede.

That becomes abundantly clear when reading FactCheck.org's dismantling of Senator Rand Paul's attack on the president's unemployment record. Just as he was caught plagiarizing, Paul has been caught again, this time for providing misleading information about Obama's accomplishments.

FactCheck.org, a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, is a non-partisan, nonprofit "consumer advocate" for voters that aims to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics.

"Sen. Rand Paul says 'black unem-

ployment in America is double white unemployment' and 'hasn't budged' under President Obama," the research group recounts before adding: "Actually, the black unemployment rate is lower now than when Obama took office, and the gap between the races is below the historical average. The black unemployment rate has averaged more than double the white rate for several decades."

Like most believable lies, Paul's charges are wrapped in partial truths.

"It is true that the black unemployment rate for November was double the white unemployment rate. The rate in November was 12.5 percent for blacks and 6.2 percent for whites, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Unfortunately, this is not new," FactCheck.org noted.

However, it pointed out, "The current 12.5 percent unemployment rate for blacks is unquestionably high. But by historical standards the current black unemployment rate is consistent

with the average from 1972 to 2004, and the ratio of black-to-white unemployment rates is actually below the historical average."

The deeper the researchers dug, the stronger they made Obama's case.

"We looked at the average rate of unemployment for blacks and whites in the first 58 months of the last four presidents who were reelected to a second term: Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan. (We averaged the monthly unemployment rates from the first February in office to the first November in their second term.)," FactCheck.org stated.

And what did they find?

"Obama had the lowest average ratio (1.9), followed by Bush (2.1), Clinton (2.2), and Reagan (2.3)."

Seeking to further clarify, researchers acknowledged, "Paul was talking about the November unemployment rates and ratio – not the 58-month average unemployment rate

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can House Budget chair Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) in an interview on Bill Bennett's Morning in Americaradio show, that the problem is rooted in the cultural inferiority of inner city men: "We have got this tailspin of culture, in our inner cities in particular, of men not working and just generations of men not even thinking about working or learning to value the culture of work, so there is a real culture problem here that has to be dealt with." That is, the problem of inequality comes from below. So, we can solve inequality by blaming the poor. This is class warfare.

Ryan and House Republicans have cut off unemployment insurance help to more than 2 million people still reeling from the worse labor market since the Great Depression with 2.6 unemployed workers chasing each job opening. His budget plan calls to slash food assistance to American families despite poverty rates for families with children exceeding 18 percent (before accounting for the positive effects of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP] and the Earned Income Tax Credit).

In the last three years we've seen the highest incidence of child poverty since 1962, before the Civil Rights Act and the War on Poverty. Staff economists at the IMF have released a study showing programs like these that reduce inequality both increase the rate

of economic growth and insure the growth is sustained. Even families with workers cannot escape poverty, given the refusal of House Republicans to raise the minimum wage. About one-in-four poor workers (2.9 million people) in the U.S. worked full-time year round in 2012.

What Ryan is trying to do is avoid repeating Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's famous characterization of the "47 percent of Americans who pay no income tax." Owsley County, Ky., is the poorest county in America. But, it is rural and 98.8 percent white, yet 51 percent of its population receives SNAP help to buy food. Ryan's reference to the culture of inner city men, is clearly code to let that Republican voting county know he does not mean Romney's 47 percent when he takes the side of the rich against the poor.

When interviewed by Lauren Victoria, Ryan feigned ignorance that the reference to inner city men had anything to do with race. He told her that rural poverty also caused the breakup of families. No one is buying that. Ryan is playing the oldest race card in American politics; the effort to convince working white America that the rich are on their side. But, this economy has destroyed the incomes and jobs of white workers, too. It is raising the fear of white parents that their children won't get good paying jobs,

or be able to crawl out of student debt to buy a home and start a family.

Ryan doesn't want to blame inequality on the shipping of American jobs overseas by the "job creators."

The House Republicans continue shielding Wall Street from regulations that caused the Great Recession. In the 1990's, when America was creating jobs at a pace of 226,000 a month, the labor force participation of black men soared in response-as did American productivity. So, before characterizing black men as lazy, Ryan and the house Republicans need to look at their own culture: Spending just 113 days at work last year; failing to pass a budget; and, causing the shutdown of the federal government. What is the culture of taking over 50 votes to repeal the Affordable Care Act but zero votes to fund returning 300,000 teachers lost to our children's classrooms because of the recession, or funding the investment the government needs to make in building American roads and bridges?

Ryan and the Republicans hope the 2.5 million white workers unemployed more than 27 weeks understand that cutting unemployment benefits was only aimed at lazy Black men. It is a dangerous strategy to sow hate and division, instead of providing leadership and solutions.

Follow Spriggs on Twitter: @WSpriggs. Contact: Amaya Smith-Tune Acting Director, Media Outreach AFL-CIO 202-637-5142.

Campaign launched to get more blacks in clinical trials

Special to the NNPA
from The Florida Courier

For Averii Anderson, seeing more African-Americans participate in clinical trials is personal. The 60-year-old breast cancer survivor said if it had not been for a clinical trial, she might not be alive today.

Anderson was one of the speakers at a Wednesday press conference in Washington, D.C. announcing a new initiative aimed to get more Blacks, Hispanics and Asian-Americans involved in clinical trials.

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) and the National Minority Quality Forum have collaborated to launch the 'I'm In' campaign designed to encourage greater diversity of patients who volunteer to participate in clinical trials.

PhRMA represents the country's leading biopharmaceutical research and biotechnology companies, while the D.C.-based Forum is a not-for-profit independent research and education organization.

Aggressive cancer

Anderson, a former health care worker, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009. At the time, she was a volunteer with the Buffalo/Niagara Witness Project, an initiative of Roswell Park Cancer Institute in New York that educates participants on early cancer detection through stories told by breast and cervical cancer survivors in churches and community setting.

"I didn't just have any breast cancer. I had Stage 3 triple negative breast cancer, a very aggressive form of breast cancer in African-American women," An-

derson shared.

Shortly after her diagnosis, Anderson's oncologist recommended she be enrolled in a federally funded clinical trial.

"I understand the misconceptions and also the Tuskegee experiment where people have a lot of mistrust of medical research. Even in my family, I heard my grandparents talk about those incidents, but I feel if it were not for other 55 year-old African-American women who participated in a clinical trial, I might not be standing here talking to you today."

"I thank God that today's cures

were yesterday's clinical trials and today's clinical studies are tomorrow's cures," she remarked.

Legacy of mistrust

Historically, Blacks' mistrust of clinical research dates back to the use of Black cadavers for experimentation and the infamous Tuskegee Syphilis study, in which White doctors conducted experiments on Black men in Alabama to see how syphilis spreads.

The patients weren't told they had syphilis and weren't treated for it.

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"...the positive association between cohabitation with commitment, and marital stability existed only among select subgroups of women who faced greater risks of dissolution (i.e., women who were Black, had a premarital birth, had less than a college degree, were raised in single or stepparent families, or had more than the median number of sex partners)."

According to Census data, married couples lead 28.5 percent of African American households. Many Black couples choose to share their lives before they are willing or able to make it official. This is particularly true for low-income couples that find cohabitation economically convenient, or as a solution to unexpected economic problems.

Between 2006 and 2010, the National Center for Health Statistics surveyed more than 12,000 women on their cohabitation experiences. In the survey, Black women had 51 percent chance of cohabiting by age 25. Between 1995 and 2010, the study reported a 39 percent increase in cohabitation as a first union for Black women.

By three years of cohabiting, 31 percent of Black women had transitioned to marriage, while another 41 percent continued living with their partner.

As recently as five years ago, researchers would have guessed that most of these marriages would eventually fail. But a series of white papers, released this month by the Council on Contemporary Families (CCF), finds that length of the relationship, age at cohabitation, and circumstances leading to cohabitation are better predictors of future marital misfire than cohabitation itself.

In fact, age can be such a strong predictor of marital success that it can override other relationship risks.

For example, one CCF researcher, Evelyn Lehrer, finds that women who delay marriage—past 23 years old, but ideally into the 30s and 40s—tend to enter unconventional, but stable marriages. In her work, unconventional marriages included couples with differing races (as well as different religions, education or economic levels, or previously-married men).

African Americans in general, but African American women in particular, have low rates of intermarriage. The Pew Research Center reports that in 2010, only 17 percent of all African American newlyweds had married out—9 percent of Black women wed a non-Black spouse, compared to 24 percent of Black men.

"These [unconventional,

later-in-life] marriages have two advantages," Lehrer continues. "One is that each person has greater economic resources by that time...and also, they are more mature at later ages. We found a lot of solid unions in these marriages. They are making better choices [for partners]."

Cohabitation has the best effect on marriage stability for women who are engaged first, then cohabit; according to the Journal study, their risk of separation or divorce is even lower than that of women who don't cohabit.

Furthermore, the CCF's data asserts that the link between pre-marital cohabitation and divorce rates has been overblown, if it ever existed at all.

"Studies have consistently overstated the risk of premarital cohabitation, and continue to do so even for marriages formed since the mid-1990s. This is because they have been comparing couples by their age at marriage rather than by their age when they moved in together," says Arielle Kuperberg, another researcher on the CCF project. "My study finds that when couples are compared by the age at which they move in together and start taking on the roles associated with marriage, there is no difference in divorce rates between couples that lived together before marriage and those that didn't."

Stephanie Coontz, histo-

rian and co-chair and director of Research and Public Education for the CCF, points to Australia for insight into this current cultural shift. Fifty years of research there also painted a picture of cohabitation as the harbinger of separation and divorce—up to the late 1980s, when the trend reversed so much that cohabitation actually bolstered marital stability.

"Divorce rates were much lower than they are today, partly because marriages in that era were based on predefined, rigid gender roles.

Both parties knew exactly what was expected of them. It was much easier to figure out how to make a marriage work than it is today, when there is so much more to negotiate," Coontz says in the series' conclusion state-

ment. "Now that prior cohabitation is the normative route to marriage, and especially now that marriage requires more negotiation skills and deeper friendship than the past, the United States may well follow the same pattern that researchers found in Australia. Who knows what other old rules may be shattered in the next few years?"



McKinney Housing Authority 2014 PHA PLAN MEETINGS NOTICE

The Quality Housing & Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires the McKinney Housing Authority to submit an Agency Plan each year.

The PHA Plan is a comprehensive guide to public housing agency (PHA) policies, programs, operations, and strategies for meeting local housing needs and goals. There are two parts to the PHA Plan: the 5- Year Plan, which each PHA submits to HUD once every 5th PHA fiscal year, and the Annual Plan, which is submitted to HUD every year.

Below is a list of meetings that are scheduled to review and discuss the Agency Plan documents for the 2014 fiscal year.

Residents, the public and staff are encouraged to attend the meetings.

Saturday March 15, 2014	9:30am	Resident Council Meeting	Merritt Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069
Monday March 17, 2014	1:00pm	Resident Meeting	Newsome Homes Community Center	131 Aniscott Parkway. McKinney, TX 75069
Tuesday April 15, 2014	5:30pm	Public Hearing	Merritt Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069

City of Prosper is maintaining Stage 3 water restrictions

PROSPER - Low lake levels, increased demand, lower than expected winter rainfall and the continuing loss of water from Lake Texoma have all contributed to the temporary decision to remain in Stage 3 of the water conservation plan, says Water Conservation and Education Coordinator Tristan Cisco.

"Until further notice, the Town of Prosper will not change its water conservation posture," she said. "Right now, residents would be in violation of the restrictions if they watered their lawn with automatic sprinkler systems more than twice a month. Once every two weeks, as we have been for the last several months, is where we're staying until we hear differently from our supplier."

The Town purchases water from the North Texas Municipal Water District, which has been dealing with the urgency related to low water levels for the last several years.

"This is a very real issue that will likely be with us for some time," she added. "Even with the restoration of Lake Texoma, the area's demand has grown so much, and the other feeder lakes are so low, that we will still be faced with enormous challenges to meet the demand." Water from Lake Texoma, infested with zebra mussels, must be harvested with its own dedicated water line,

which will be completed later in the year.

In an effort to address these critical issues, the Town is partnering once again with Texas A&M Agri-Life to present a five-week adult education series on water conservation. The series is designed to provide information on a variety of topics to help residents improve their home landscapes and gardens, while still conserving water.

The first of these free classes is set for Monday, March 24, at the Prosper Community Library, 700 N. Coleman Street, starting at 6:30 p.m. The topic will be, "Creating an Environmentally Friendly Home Landscape." Residents can register for this class and others at <http://www.prospertx.gov/WAVE.aspx>.

Information on other upcoming classes is also available on the website.

"And, by popular demand, we will repeat a do-it-yourself class on converting a sprinkler system to a drip irrigation system," she said. "The class will actually be presented twice, on May 8, and again on Sept. 8."

Drip irrigation systems are not bound by the same restrictions as sprinkler systems because the underground water lines do not allow water to evaporate, there are no sprinkler heads to replace or repair, and there is never a need to realign the heads to prevent watering impermeable surfaces.

DART plans minor schedule changes to take effect on March 31

The Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is announcing that its customers should plan to obtain new timetables, before Monday, March 31, when minor schedule changes designed primarily to improve transfer connections and on-time performance take place on a limited number of bus routes.

Additional details are available by calling the DART Customer Service center at 214-979-1111 or by going online to the DART.org Web site for schedule adjustments to

routes 29, 110, 164, 183, 486, 488, 500, 501, 505, 208, 221, 360, 361, 362, 508, 515, 521, 525, 534, 372, 376, 400, 401, 415, 547, 560 and 583.

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Rock 'n' Roll Dallas Health & Fitness Expo slated for this weekend

The Rock 'n' Roll Dallas Half Marathon weekend kicks off with a two-day Health & Fitness Expo at Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas on Friday, March 21 and Saturday, March 22. Nearly 14,000 participants, along with friends and family, will attend the Expo to pick up race packets and check out more than 80 exhibitors.

Free and open to the public, the Expo showcases the latest in running gear, sports apparel, health and nutritional information and much more.


Additionally, Olympic marathon bronze medalist Deena Kastor, will conduct clinics

and meet and greets with runners on Friday and Saturday at 2 p.m.

Other guest speakers include Competitor Magazine columnist and best-selling author John "The Penguin" Bingham; RunWESTIN Concierge Chris Heuisler; Medical Director P.Z. Pearce, M.D.; and Event Director and Olympian Alan Culpepper, among others.

Rock 'n' Roll Dallas Half Marathon race day is on Sunday, March 23 at 7 a.m. at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center at 650 S. Griffin St. in Dallas.

Please visit <http://runrocknroll.com-petitor.com>.



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www.OAoftheHipStudy.com

Remington College Dallas offers free salon services for HS students headed to Prom

Remington College Dallas Campus is again offering local high school students the chance to look and feel their best for Prom - all at no cost.

The event is Remington College's fifth annual Prom Night Makeover. Instructors and students in the Remington College Cosmetology Program will provide students headed to prom with free updos, manicures, pedicures, and makeup for girls; guys can get a haircut.

All Prom Night Makeover services will be done in The Salon at Remington, located at 1640 Eastgate Dr. in Garland.

It is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12; Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26

Friday & Saturday, April 25 & 26 from 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. each day. To schedule an appointment call 972-698-3890.

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pline. It was replaced in part by in-school and out-of-school suspension. Now-days, many school districts, particularly those in urban areas across Texas and in other places across the country, have created special campuses and programs for problem students; those, who due to their behaviors and disciplinary problems, have been removed from traditional classroom settings. In Texas, they are called Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs and go by the acronym DAEP. And while debate continues over whether or not these campuses provide an adequate curriculum or proper instructional support, students, through graduation or by their return to home campuses, do at some point exit these programs.

However, disciplinary measures put in place in more recent years can have implications for students long past their K-12 experiences. These sanctions, duly enforced via on-campus law enforcement presence, administered with expediency by the courts,

and aided by the pervasive use of technology, have become barriers to future success for young people who have moved past youthful indiscretions and now seek to enter the workforce or are looking in the direction of college.

To sum up the problem, student discipline policies used over the past decade have resulted in more and more students - including disproportionate numbers of minority students - receiving citations that are processed in municipal and Justice of the Peace courts, both of which are part of the adult court system. Rather than being sealed under juvenile law, these citations become part of the public record. At the time these young people have set their sights on college or employment prospects, these criminal citations, most for violations that would not be offenses if committed off school property, resurface. They result in denied employment, college applications and scholarships. Is this what parents or school officials really want?

SB393 passed the Texas Legis-

lature and was signed into law, effective September 1, 2013. The bill prohibits the issuance citations to students for Class C misdemeanor offenses such as disruption of class and disorderly conduct that have landed them in the adult court system with criminal history records. It creates a system whereby school-based violations that are not crimes under state law can be addressed at the campus or district level. It also creates a system of sanctions where fines can be waived in lieu of tutoring requirements, involvement in school-based community service or counseling, and allows local school districts or counties to hire juvenile case managers to assist at-risk youth.

SB393 also bans the practice of filing court cases for disruption of class against children younger than 12 years old. These measures put in place come from recommendations made by a Texas Judicial Council created task force spearheaded by former Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson.

The new law also institutes a system of graduated sanctions

than can be utilized by school officials rather than or prior to filing a complaint with the courts. However, school officials still have the ability to file complaints with the courts, or have students taken into custody for committing acts of violence or other serious violations of state law.

So far, the responses from school officials have been mixed. Rather than working to implement graduated sanctions, or using funding that has been made available to hire juvenile case managers, some schools have increased referrals to DAEP programs or campus police have written up violations as Class B misdemeanors which can still be filed with the courts.

This legislation was never about making things fast and easy for school administrators. If it were your child, would you think a harmless, in-class prank at age 14 should deny college admission, scholarship money or employment four years later? Although the phrase may be recited or claimed all too often, it really should be "all about the children."

Prep U All-STAAR week for parents is March 24 - 27

Dallas ISD will provide free workshops for parents to help their children with the STAAR test at various district schools.

• Monday, March 24, 6-7 p.m. - Seagoville High School, 15920 Seagoville Rd. and at Thomas A. Edison Middle Learning Cen-

ter 2940 Singleton Boulevard

• Tuesday, March 25, 6-7 p.m. - W.H. Adamson High School, 201 E. Ninth St. and at Emmett J. Conrad High School 7502 Fair Oaks Ave.

See PREP, Page 7



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Mann's 'I Can Only Imagine' produces second #1 Billboard hit single

Grammy-Award Nominated Vocalist Tamela Mann continues her chart-topping success on Billboard's gospel radio chart this week with her powerful worship ballad *I Can Only Imagine* landing at No. 1. This marks the second consecutive No. 1 single for Tamela following her mega-hit *Take Me To The King* which spent 24 weeks in the top slot.

"The overwhelming support of *Take Me To The King* was such a blessing in my life, and to have back-to-back No. 1 singles now with *I Can Only Imagine* leaves me speechless," said Tamela. "God has blessed me tremendously, and I am thankful to everyone who has supported my music. I pray the Lord continues to use me to spread His Word and make a positive impact on the lives of others."



Catch Tamela perform her No. 1 single *I Can Only Imagine* on BET's annual gospel music special, *Celebration of Gospel*, when it premieres on Sunday, April 6 at 7 p.m.

Connect with Tamela:
www.facebook.com/davidtamelamann
https://twitter.com/DAVIDANDTAMELA
http://tinyurl.com/MannsOnTV

EO Dallas hosts New York Times Best-Selling Author

EO Dallas invited Dr. Gary Chapman to speak at its latest event, *Hear Love, Speak Love, See Love*, where Chapman discussed strategies behind his award-winning novel. *The Five Love Languages* draws from his more than 45 years of marriage experience in addition to the more than thirty-five years of pastoring and marriage counseling. Since he published his first book, Chapman has also written works on a wider range of topics including conflict resolution, handling

strong emotions and appreciation in the workplace.

This event took place as part of EO Dallas' lecture series aimed toward continuing the betterment of its nearly 150 members. The Dallas chapter is part of a global community that serves as the premier, peer-to-peer network and resource for entrepreneurs. EO is the catalyst that enables entrepreneurs to learn and grow from each other, leading to greater business success and an enriched personal life.



Richard Sapio and Dave Lesh

PREP,

continued from Page 6

• Wednesday, March 26, 6-7 p.m. - Moises E. Molina High School, 2355 Duncanville Rd. and at Billy Earl Dade Middle School, 2355 Duncanville Rd.

• Thursday, March 27, 6-7 p.m. - David W. Carter High School, 1819 Wheatland Rd. and at Bryan Adams High School, 2101 Millmar Dr.

The PREP U workshops will provide information about the test and will be able to review sample STAAR questions in reading, math, and writing and learn about the passing standards for the test. The workshops will be in English, and Spanish interpretation will be available. Childcare for children ages three and up will be provided. For more information, visit www.dallasisd.org/staar, call (972) 925-3916 or email STAAR@dallasisd.org.



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'My Brother's Keeper' from a single father and business owner's perspective

By Ron Busby

I must admit, being a single father of two Black boys isn't easy, especially since my wife passed away 12 years ago. From breaking up fights, to discussing college and career choices, I've learned that being a good father means more than just "being there."

Decisions are made, things happen, but despite the inevitable bumps in the road of parenthood, I am always proud to see how my two sons have grown into bright young men. Recently, you have heard lots about President Obama's laudable effort to ensure bright futures for America's young men "of color."

We agree it makes sense to use his bully pulpit to highlight the challenges faced by Black and Latino males and to galvanize solution providers around a common work plan.

What makes a lot less sense to us is how - in the face of dwindling contract awards to Black-owned businesses - we are to remain hopeful that equitable opportunity is within the grasp of Black businesses.

For sure, there is lots of happy talk in the President's proposed budget about commitments to SBA loan guarantees, certified development companies (CDCs) and small business investment companies (SBICs)... billions to infrastructure rehab and surface transportation projects... millions to the Minority Business Development Agency for technical assistance and money for expansion of Promise Zones designed to focus federal resources in targeted areas, both urban and rural.

Against the backdrop of these huge outlays across education, healthcare/social services, infrastructure and transportation, let's suppose that the targeted young Black and Latino males successfully scale all the

hurdles facing them...that they graduate from high school, matriculate to a community college, four-year institution or trade school and set out to pursue their career aspirations. What awaits them?

Shrinking federal contract awards to Black and Hispanic-owned businesses seem to preclude any opportunity at supplying their goods/services to government agencies. Kauffman Foundation researcher Alicia Robb, said in her study of SBA lending that minority borrowers are "turning to mainstream lenders less because they have a fear of denial, which is warranted."

So, it appears that even commitments of loan guarantees won't be enough to open access to capital. Tuition costs are skyrocketing while low-income students face cuts in the availability of tuition assistance. Therefore, repayment without improved employment/entrepreneurial prospects will exacerbate the challenge.

To complicate matters, within minutes of President Obama's announcement, his political opponents cranked up their "anti-everything-Obama" screed and pronounced My Brother's Keeper not only socialist, but racist, as well. While the program is decidedly neither, it may serve to distract from more immediate, short term fixes.

Growing businesses need employees. Black (and Brown) businesses, given access to the tools that fuel expansion, are far more likely to extend job opportunities to young minority males. Hence, it makes at least as much sense to expend effort to ensure that federal, state and local contracts are awarded fairly. And, as always, we will contend that healthy, growing, vibrant Black-owned businesses are the best cure for Black unemployment.

Among the more hopeful signs of support for My Brother's Keeper is the announce-

See **KEEPER**, Page 10

UNT Opera performs *Gianni Schicchi* and *I Pagliacci*

DENTON, Texas (UNT) – UNT Opera explores tales of trickery and jealousy in two Italian operas April 4 and 6 at the Lyric Theater in the Murchison Performing Arts Center.

The performances include Puccini's one-act comic opera *Gianni Schicchi*, about a man who uses trickery to get what he wants and, ultimately, help two lovers; and Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*, a tragic story of jealousy. The two operas are celebrated favorites distinguished for their dramatic incisiveness and overwhelming vocal bravura.

Both productions are presented in workshop format, with minimal set and costumes but fully dramatized and performed in Italian with English supertitles.

Paula Homer, Margot and Bill Winspear Chair in Opera Studies, is the producer for the double bill and stage director for *I Pagliacci*. Elizabeth King stage directs *Gianni Schicchi*. UNT Opera Music Director Stephen Dubberly conducts the chamber orchestra and leads the "In The Know" pre-performance lecture 45 minutes prior to each performance, sharing the history and background of the operas.

Performances start at 8 p.m. April 4 (Friday) and at 3 p.m. April 6 (Sunday) in the Lyric Theater in the Murchison Performing Arts Center, 2100 Interstate 35 Frontage Road, Denton. Tickets are \$15 general admission and may be purchased online at <http://www.theMPAC.com>.

Storytime Begins on June 11 at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art

FORT WORTH, Texas—The Amon Carter Museum of American Art invites families with young children to participate in this summer's free Storytime series, held every Wednesday, June 11 through July 30, from 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Storytime uses cherished children's books to make connections with artworks, and this summer's series features verbs. Weekly themes include: June 11—Walk This Way; June 18—See and Be Seen; June 25—Play All Day; July 2—Sleep Tight (wear your PJs!); July 9—Sing Me a Song; July 16—Eat Up; July 23—Talk the Talk; July 30—Create a Stir.

"We are excited to see our youngest visitors swing into action during this Storytime all about verbs," says Jessica Kennedy, public programs manager. "Bring your little ones every Wednesday for stories and fun art projects." During each Storytime, participating children will be registered to win that week's featured books. A drawing will be held at the end of each program; those chosen need not be present to win.

Reservations are not necessary, but parents are encouraged to call 817.989.5030 or email visitors@cartermuseum.org for helpful information and parking tips.

The Storytime program is best for families with children ages 8 and under and their adult companions. The Amon Carter offers a customized experience for summer school and daycare groups on different days. Please call 817.989.5036 or email schooltours@cartermuseum.org for more information. The Amon Carter is not able to validate paid parking for Storytime at the Will Rogers Memorial Center. Parking information may be found online at <http://www.cartermuseum.org/visit>. Support for this program is provided in part by Galderma Laboratories.

The Amon Carter Museum of American Art offers outstanding exhibitions and public programs for adults and children and is open Tuesday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Thursday until 8 p.m. and Sunday from 12–5 p.m. Admission is always free. More information at www.cartermuseum.org.

JOBS, continued from Page 3

and ratio – but even by that measure the black-to-white unemployment ratio is lower under Obama (2) than it was under Reagan (2.6), Clinton (2.4) and Bush (2.5) at this point in their second terms."

Further dismantling Paul assertions, FactCheck.org stated, "Paul also said that the black unemployment rate 'hasn't budged' under Obama, but it has. It reached a high of 16.8 percent in March 2010 and dropped to a low of 12.5 percent in November – lower than the 12.7 percent rate when Obama took office. That wasn't the case for two of his recent predecessors, Reagan and Bush.

"Under Reagan, the black unemployment rate went up a full percentage point from 14.6 percent in January 1981 to 15.6 percent in November 1985 – even as the white unemployment rate fell from 6.7 percent to 5.9 percent. Under Bush, the rates went

up for both blacks and whites. But it went up faster for blacks, from 8.2 percent in January 2001 to 10.6 percent in November 2005 – the biggest increase in the black unemployment rate of any of the four presidents at that point in their second terms. The white unemployment rate went up more than a half percentage point, from 3.6 percent to 4.3 percent."

Paul is a likely Republican presidential candidate in 2016. Last week, one of his chief rivals for the White House, Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wisc.), created a controversy when he said on former Secretary of Education Bill Bennett's radio show: "We have got this tailspin of culture, in our inner cities in particular, of men not working and just generations of men not even thinking about working or learning the value and the culture of work, and so there is a real culture problem here that has to be dealt with."

The comment was immediately criticized by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) as "a thinly veiled racial attack and cannot be tolerated."

Ryan refused to apologize for his comments, saying in a statement later, "After reading the transcript of yesterday morning's interview, it is clear that I was inarticulate about the point I was trying to make. I was not implicating the culture of one community – but of society as a whole."

Whether a brazen affront such as Ryan's comment about "inner city" Black men or Rand Paul's more subtle attack on Obama's record dealing with unemployment, the Republican Party keeps proving it has done nothing to deserve the support of African Americans.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of *Emergence* magazine, is editor-in-chief of the *National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service* (NNPA.).

Tracing family's roots gives one a 'Broader Sense of Self'

By Jazelle Hunt
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – For African Americans, the quest to trace one's origins is fraught with mystery and dead-ends. But with time and a willingness to dig, it's totally feasible – and often rewarding.

"Now that I know or have an idea about my family and genetic past, it gives me a broader sense of self," says James Morgan III, who has been tracing his lineage for the past six years. "To be able to view myself more – not as a one-dimensional person, just American – but as a citizen of the world, of space and time, is something that I think everyone deserves."

Morgan, a New Jersey native, began researching his ancestry in college. But his interest in topic began much earlier.

"I had an experience when I was in second grade that always stuck with me. I needed some family history and didn't have any that I knew of," he explains, recalling a family tree-related assignment. "I'm doing this primarily for my unborn children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. I didn't want them to feel like they didn't come from anything."

To date, Morgan has gone as far back as 10 generations on his mother's side and nine generations on his father's, gathering and digitizing as many photos, names, places, and stories as he finds.

Diving into his bloodlines, Morgan has discovered family members who fought in the Revolutionary War, the 19th-century equivalent of an interracial marriage, a great great-uncle who worked for Al Capone, and a slave-owning Black doctor.

Through his research, he has met descendants of the family that owned his ancestors, as well as the European descendants he's related to through marriage. He's even learned that Afrocentric psychol-

ogy scholar Na'im Akbar, and Rosa Parks are his not-so-distant cousins.

But for African Americans, genealogy only goes so far. Thanks to the mainstreaming of DNA testing, more African Americans can dig to the roots of their family trees. African Ancestry, the only Black-owned genetic ancestry company in the country, garnered acclaim for tracing the African genes of Oprah Winfrey, Dick Gregory, Dorothy Height, and a host of other prominent African Americans.

"Like most African Americans, you always have the question of where we're from. And what better way to find out than genetically," says Antoine Quichocho of Colorado. He had been inspired by Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s PBS series, *Finding Your Roots*, which used the company's services. "A majority of people I talk to are hesitant because of the cost, and honestly I was too. But I'd say, save up if you have to."

Like most DNA testing companies, African Ancestry can assess how much of a DNA sample has African, Asian, Native American, and/or European origins. Unlike other DNA testing companies, African Ancestry has spent more than a decade compiling the world's largest database of indigenous African DNA samples. The company compares clients' DNA to database samples, and determines which country's samples the DNA matches most closely.

"Our mission is to transform the way people view themselves and Africa," says African Ancestry CEO, Gina Paige. "Knowing the group of people you share your history with plays a huge role in family legacy. Right now, Black Americans are the only people in the United States that can't point to their exact origin."

Quichocho believes that this is a very important aspect of genetic lineage, as some African nations offer citizenship, land, and/or rights to displaced African de-



James Morgan III has traced his lineage 10 generations back. (Photo courtesy James Morgan III.)

scendants. But more importantly, testing his DNA answered questions for him and his family.

"[I knew] absolutely nothing. I had started doing some Ancestry.com kind of services but I never completed it. Beyond that, we just [had] family stories," he says. "There's only so much you can get from oral stories because it's limited to someone else's memory and perception, and how that story was passed down to them. It's like a historical game of telephone, and you're trying to figure out what part of it is true."

On the other hand, Paige, who comes from a family of genealogists, thinks a combination of genetic and genealogical research is useful.

"Depending on your goals, continue with the paper trail. Once it ends, you can use African Ancestry to bridge the gap," Paige says. "There's value in both. I don't think you necessarily have to do one and not the other."

Oral history is a good way to find a family's paper trail – in fact, much of what is known about the African American experience is a

result of the preservation of firsthand accounts. For this reason, African American oral history projects of varying sizes have proliferated in nearly every state.

The National Visionary Leadership Project (NVLP) is one such organization. The project, founded in 2001 by Camille Cosby and Renee Poussaint, seeks to record, preserve, and share the stories of African Americans elders who have transcended barriers in their communities and/or in society at large. The resulting records are housed at the Library of Congress for posterity.

Florida native Victoria Kirby participated in the project by recording the experience of Vada Butcher, the first female dean of the Howard University School of Fine Arts. A piano prodigy, Butcher's legacy also includes pioneering the study of ethnomusicology, in general, and as a niche program at Howard. Although Kirby believes Butcher's immediate family and friends know about her accomplishments, that knowledge might have remained in that small circle if not for the record

they created.

"There isn't a whole lot of information about her available on the Internet, I think largely because she ended her career before the age of the Internet," Kirby says. "If she were doing the things that she did 50 years ago, now, she'd be up there with the Michael Eric Dysons and Cornell Wests. She's probably talked about her experiences with others, but no one ever recorded it."

For those interested in starting this process in their own lives, Kirby, Paige, and Morgan agree that talking to the eldest person or people is the first step. Paige also recommends getting children involved, as elders are often more comfortable sharing stories with the young people in their family.

Kirby adds, "I wouldn't wait too much longer. If you're interested you should just do it now. The older your family members get, the less likely they're going to remember important details about your family history, and once they pass away the opportunity is gone."

Technology has also done wonders in allowing families to dig better, and faster. Many state and local archives, some Library of Congress resources, and other historical collections can now be accessed online. And with the ubiquity of social media, it's easier to find and contact distant family members to confirm and pool existing knowledge.

Other helpful resources include local and state historical archives and collections, the 1890 Census (which was the first to count Black Americans), the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., the National Archives' African American Heritage Collection, the Library of Congress, and in limited cases, the Moorland-Springarn Research Center at Howard University.

"I'm not unique. My story, having all these relatives, is not unique," Morgan shares. "It's just, if you don't take the time out to look, you will never find it."

The Hip Hop Choir: A platform for new artists to showcase all the elements of Hip-Hop culture

Hollywood, CA — Bellringer Productions and Haskel Jackson Entertainment have come together to create a platform for new artists of all ages and ethnicities to make their presence known in the world. This innovative Hip-Hop Choir will showcase the elements of Hip-Hop culture with rappers, singers, dancers, visual artists, and various forms of musical expression with an urban foundation.

"When people from different ethnic backgrounds, genders, and ages come together in harmony through rap, a magic happens that transcends what seems impossible. The music unifies us all! Hip-Hop=Human Possibility," says Marcus Bell, founder.

The Hip Hop Choir will be a

voice not often heard from the main stream Hip Hop culture. It will represent diversity, unity, creativity and integrity.

The five elements of Hip Hop will be the foundation of what the choir represents. The intentions of the choir are to compete, educate, travel, and grow.

Haskel Jackson, co-founder, comments, "Hip Hop was born out of pain and lack of freedom. It started one way and now it seems to be going in a completely different direction from its original aim.

This movement was created to give hope and opportunity to those that have a true desire to express their love and passion for Hip Hop. Since Hip Hop is a culture, it carries a very important

role in the world. We as Hip Hop heads have a huge responsibility to not allow our voice to be diluted with messages of hate. Not

that we have all the right answers, but the Hip Hop Choir will strive to bring unity so that we can get the best answers for all of us mov-

ing forward. I AM HIP HOP."

For more details about the Hip Hop Choir, visit www.hiphop-choirla.com.



Bellringer Productions and Haskel Jackson Entertainment have collaborated to create the Hip-Hop Choir.

KEEPER, continued from Page 8

ment from The Opportunity Finance Network (OFN). OFN, which represents more than 225 community development financial institutions, will pledge \$1 billion to expand financing for organizations and initiatives working to help young minority men. While Opportunity Finance Network CEO Mark Pinsky has yet to define how his organization will allocate dollars raised from network members, we will engage his organization to encourage more business lending, rather than program development.

There absolutely is room in the national marketplace for a program such as My Brother's Keeper. The challenges faced by young, ethnic minority males are well documented. The futures of these young men - and the future well being of the nation - deserve

the kind of focused solution-searching described in the blueprint for the effort.

In the meantime, though, Black business owners - males AND females - face the daunting task of building and sustaining enterprises without the safety net implicit in My Brother's Keeper. If we, as a nation, continue to fall short of fostering the healthy economic environment that we know is essential to long-term prosperity for ALL Americans, then the work of "My Brother's Keeper" shall be in vain. Let's put our actions - and dollars - where our economic futures are, for James 1:22 (KJV) says, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

Ron Busby, Sr. is president of U.S. Black Chambers, Inc.

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Tusk Enterprises announces winners of employee awards for 2013

ARLINGTON --- Tusk Enterprises, known for serving the medical staffing needs of nearly 900 health care facilities nationwide, recently honored several employees of its company and those of its two divisions, Rhino Medical Services and Hospitalists Plus, with awards. The awards are given at the end of each year.

"The Tusk family of companies takes great pride in providing great customer service on a daily basis," said Joseph Brunson, Tusk's founder/chairman. "These awards are Tusk Enterprises' way to show the employees how much their great work is appreciated."

Brittany Bass, credentialing coordinator of Tusk Enterprises, won the Service Excellence Award. Bass, an Arlington resident, won the award because she best embodies Tusk's servitude attitude and a willingness to help others, Brunson said.

Deric Gardner, president of Hospitalists Plus, won the EAGLE Award. The award is given to the employee who per-

sonifies empowerment, agility, giving, leadership and excellence—all of which spell out eagle. With nearly 10 years of service to both Rhino Medical Services and Hospitalists Plus, Gardner, a Trophy Club resident, received the award because "he continually proves himself to be a strong and selfless leader," Brunson said.

Gardner also won Scheduler of the Year. The award honors the account manager who has excelled at driving action, getting results and improving the performance of his or her team.

"Deric's courage to make tough decisions while listening to the needs of others clearly demonstrated his ability to serve and advance Tusk," Brunson said.

Braxton Akins, marketing consultant for Rhino Medical Services, won Rookie of the Year. The award is given to the team member employed with Tusk and its divisions a year or less, and who demonstrated an ability to adjust to the new work environment and

show enthusiasm and a high level of energy.

"Braxton's ability to display initiative and self-motivation, along with his outstanding production on the phones, led to his Rookie of the Year nod," Brunson said. "Braxton also received awards for Highest Phone Dials and Highest Phone Time for incoming and outgoing calls with both health care providers and clients."

Akins is a Dallas resident.

Stephanie Zingone, senior marketing consultant of Hospitalists Plus, won Marketer of the Year. The award recognizes the team member who demonstrates commitment to Tusk's growth and business development. Zingone also received the award in 2012.

Zingone is a Lewisville resident.

J.B. Hamilton, a recruiting consultant for Hospitalists Plus, won Recruiter of the Year because he nurtured and grew relationships with health care providers in 2013.

"He demonstrated professionalism, knowledge and a strong desire to help secure the right people in the right positions," Brunson said.

Hamilton resides in Fort Worth.

Shannon Thrasher, chief operating officer of Tusk Enterprises, won Operations Teammate of the Year. The award recognizes the importance of employees who perform day-to-day tasks that help Tusk be efficient, productive and successful.

"Her leadership and innovation to the production and business operations processes have proven an integral part of Tusk," Brunson said.

Thrasher, who resides in Fort Worth, also received the Golden Rhino of the Year award. The award is given to the teammate committed to making a positive difference.

"Shannon's courtesy and kindness often created these encounters with both health care providers and clients," Brunson

said.

Ashley "Marie" Garrison, director of employee services at Tusk Enterprises, won Teammate of the Year, the only peer-nominated award. The award recognizes reliability, office production, operational excellence, outstanding representation of the company and team members, and demonstration of a servitude attitude.

Garrison resides in Keller.

Arlington-based Tusk was established in 2003 by staffing veteran Brunson, and the company has grown to 26 employees and offices in Arlington, Amarillo and Tulsa, Okla. Rhino Medical Services, launched in 2003, provides locum tenens (temporary) and permanent staff of physicians, nurse practitioners and certified registered nurse anesthetists. Hospitalists Plus, established in 2011, provides locum tenens and permanent staff physicians who specialize in treating hospitalized patients.

Hey Irving, Pick Us Up!

You can find a copy of the North Dallas Gazette at any one of these fine businesses and organizations. Be sure to pick up a copy every week to stay on top of the issues important to the Irving area in particular and the DFW African American community as a whole.

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Irving Islamic Center Valley Ranch - Valley Ranch Masjid
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Northwest Park Recreation Center
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Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
135 S. Jefferson

Irving City Hall
825 W. Irving Blvd

Irving Public Library
801 W. Irving Blvd

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3537 E. Gilbert Road

Emmanuel Baptist Missionary Church
511 Gilbert Road

Ben Washington Baptist Church
3901 Frisco Ave

Shepherd Church
615 W. Davis

West Irving C.O.G.I.C.
4011 Conflans Road

Bible Way Baptist Church
4215 N. Greenvew Dr.

Strictly Business
4159 W. Northgate

Washateria
3712 Cheyenne Street

New Life Ministries
3706 Cheyenne Street

Elisha Mane Attractions
3704 Cheyenne Street

Bear Creek Community Church
2700 Finley Rd.

Evergreen Baptist Church
3329 W. Country Club Drive

Po' Boys Restaurant
4070 N. Beltline Rd. Ste. 100

Girl Friends Africa
4070 N. Beltline Rd. Ste. 134

VW Barbershop
4070 N. Beltline Rd. Ste. 143

Northlake College
2000 College Blvd Bldg. A

Antioch Christian Church
2041 West Walnut Hill

Kasbah Grill
2851 Esters Rd

Fresh Food Store
4020 W. Northgate Drive

Lee's Catfish
1911 Esters Road

Danal's Mexican Restaurant
508 N. O'Connor Rd

Fred's Pit Barbecue
808 E. Irving Blvd

Gary's Barbershop
2117 Story Rd.

African Village Restaurant
3000 N. Beltline Rd

New Look Barbershop
3317 Finley Rd.

Irving Arts Center
3333 N. MacArthur #200

Tips for self-employed taxpayers

If you are an independent contractor or run your own business, there are a few basic things to know when it comes to your federal tax return. Here are six tips you should know about income from self-employment:

- Self-employment income can include income you received for part-time work. This is in addition to income from your regular job.
- You must file a Schedule C, Profit or Loss from Business, or Schedule C-EZ, Net Profit from Business, with your Form 1040.
- You may have to pay self-employment tax as well as income tax if you

made a profit. Self-employment tax includes Social Security and Medicare taxes. Use Schedule SE, Self-Employment Tax, to figure the tax. Make sure to file the schedule with your tax return.

- You may need to make estimated tax payments. People typically make these payments on income that is not subject to withholding. You may be charged a penalty if you do not pay enough taxes throughout the year.
- You can deduct some expenses you paid to run your trade or business. You can deduct most business expenses in full, but some must be 'cap-

italized.' This means you can deduct a portion of the expense each year over a period of years.

- You can deduct business costs only if they are both ordinary and necessary. An ordinary expense is one that is common and accepted in your industry. A necessary expense is one that is helpful and proper for your trade or business.

Visit the Small Business and Self-Employed Tax Center on IRS.gov for all your federal tax needs. You can also get IRS tax forms and publications on IRS.gov or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

Aire Serv earns 2013 Angie's List Super Service Award

FARMERS BRANCH – Aire Serv of North Dallas Metroplex has earned the service industry's coveted Angie's List Super Service Award, reflecting an exemplary year of service provided to members of the consumer review service in 2013.

"We live our Code of Values here at Aire Serv of North Dallas Metroplex with Respect, Integrity, Customer Focus & Having fun in the process," said Neal DiSanti, owner of Aire Serv of North Dallas Metroplex. "We strive to bring the best possible experience to our loyal customers. They are the ones that made this award possible and we appreciate everything they do for us. We look for continuing the great service we provide."

"Only about 5 percent of the com-

panies Aire Serv of North Dallas Metroplex competes with in DFW are able to earn our Super Service Award," said Angie's List Founder Angie Hicks. "It's a mark of consistently great customer service."

Angie's List Super Service Award 2013 winners have met strict eligibility requirements, which include an "A" rating in overall grade, recent grade, and review period grade; the company must be in good standing with Angie's List, have a fully complete profile, pass a background check and abide by Angie's List operational guidelines.

Service company ratings are updated daily on Angie's List. Companies are graded on an A through F scale in areas ranging from price to

professionalism to punctuality. Members can find the 2013 Super Service Award logo next to company names in search results on AngiesList.com.

Established in 1992, Aire Serv is a global franchise organization providing installation, maintenance and repair of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and indoor air quality systems. Recognized by Entrepreneur magazine among its "Franchise 500," Aire Serv franchisees provide these services to both residential and commercial customers at more than 175 locations in the United States and Canada. Aire Serv is a subsidiary of The Dwyer Group, Inc. For further information or to find the location nearest you, visit AireServ.com.

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STUDY, continued from Page 1

panic males reporting higher aspirations to earn a community college certificate or degree than their White peers, only 5 percent of those who attend community colleges earn certificates or degrees in three years, as opposed to 32 percent of White males,” said Kay McClenney, CCCSE director. “Realities like this prompted us to look at what contributes to the achievement gaps and suggest ways community colleges can better support Black and Hispanic males’ success.”

Research consistently shows that in undergraduate education there is a positive correlation between students’ levels of engagement — with faculty members, other students and the subject matter — and their academic success, said McClenney. An engaged student tends to do things like meet with advisers to discuss career plans, work on projects with other students outside of class, spend hours rewriting and perfecting a research paper, and ask questions in class.

Among male students, Black males are the most engaged, followed by Hispanics, and White males are the least engaged of the three groups. This pattern is consistent across benchmarks and more than 10 years of CCCSE data. When it comes to achievement, the results are reversed — White males consistently have the highest grades and college completion rates, followed by Hispanics. Black males report the lowest outcomes.

“The findings don’t mean engagement isn’t beneficial for Black and Hispanic male students,” said McClenney. “They just signify there are additional factors contributing to these groups’ academic success or failure, and we really need to understand what those are.”

Using the center’s survey data and past scientific research, the report offers two major reasons for the lower

academic outcomes: stereotype threat and college readiness.

Stereotype threat refers to what people experience when they are afraid of confirming society’s negative expectations of someone

color can’t compensate for the effects of beginning college already well behind the starting gate in terms of academic readiness,” said McClenney.

To address these achievement gaps, the report recommends that community colleges must first acknowl-

edges implement high-impact practices that will benefit all students, such as fostering personal connections, setting high expectations and offering high-quality instruction from very engaged faculty members.

Colleges also are encouraged to:

- regularly solicit student feedback.
- gather and disaggregate data that accurately describe students’ educational experiences.
- redesign developmental education.
- boost cultural awareness and competence.
- improve faculty and staff diversity.

In addition to examining student responses from the Community College Survey of Student Engagement, the report also used data from more than 30 student focus groups with Black, Hispanic and White males at community colleges and the Phi Theta Kappa Honor So-

ciety national convention, as well as six focus groups with community college faculty members and staffers.

“*Aspirations to Achievement: Men of Color and Community Colleges*” is part of a CCCSE initiative

called “*Improving Outcomes for Men of Color in Community Colleges*” and is funded by the Kresge Foundation. The full report and a companion DVD of student focus groups can be downloaded at www.cccse.org.

“Even when the stereotyping is subtle and there are no bad intentions or active prejudice intended, stereotype threat can be triggered and have negative results.”

-Kay McClenney

with their social identity (that identity could be based on race, ethnicity, gender, age or religion, for example).

“Even when the stereotyping is subtle and there are no bad intentions or active prejudice intended, stereotype threat can be triggered and have negative results,” said McClenney. “Research indicates this threat is a significant cause of minority underachievement in U.S. higher education.”

Regarding college readiness, the report states that Black and Hispanic students tend to start college needing significant help with academic skills development in multiple areas.

ACT data show, for example, that students of color are much less likely to meet ACT college readiness benchmarks. Around 16 percent of Black students meet the benchmark in reading, compared with 29 percent of Hispanic students and 54 percent of White students. About 14 percent of Black students meet the benchmark in math, compared with 30 percent of Hispanic students and 54 percent of White students.

“CCCSE data reveal that even higher levels of engagement of students of

edge the reality that “systematic disparities in opportunity and privilege characterize the lives — and educational experiences — of people of color in American society.” It suggests col-



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our Sunday Morning Serv-
ices.

March 26

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Morning Bible Class at
10:30 a.m.; and come back
for Evening Bible Classes
at 7 p.m.

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day worship Service as we
Study the Word of God,
praise and worship Him for
all of His blessings. Our
mission is to empower indi-
viduals to live like Christ.

March 26, 7 p.m.

Join us for Bible Study
Night; we are studying the

Book of Matthew at this
time.

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stay for Morning Worship
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for all of His blessings.

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mitted via email to: prayer-
line@theship3c.org

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Assistance Center serves
Collin County by respond-
ing to people in crisis for
emergency shelter, clothing,
food, and access to medi-
cine and medical services
for county residents. Call
the church or Allen's City
Hall for details.

March 23, 8 a.m.

Join us in Early Worship at
200 W. Belmont Drive loca-
tion in Allen as we praise
God and at 9:30 a.m. at
1550 Edelweiss Drive in
Allen for Sunday Morning
Worship.

What's on Your Mind?
Don't copy the behavior, at-
titude and action of the
world. Let God transform
you into a new person by
changing the way you think.
Romans 12: 2a. Join us for
one or both of our Worship
Services as we praise God
for the victories in our lives.

March 26, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our
Wednesday Night Live
Bible Study to learn more
about God's Word.

**March 30
Super Sunday**

Every 5th Sunday join us
for a day of fellowship and
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**March 23 and 30,
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Join us for one or both of
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praise and honor God. Sun-
day School starts at 9:45
a.m. After each service
ministers and deacons are
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for prayer or questions.

March 26, 7 p.m.

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people, things and situa-
tions.

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Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr.

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Allen, TX 75013
8:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship
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9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Night Live
200 W. Belmont Drive
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Women's History Month continues



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

Mary Davidson Kenner from Washington, DC invented a Carrier Attachment for Invalid Walkers on October 19, 1982. Mildred A. Smith from Ohio invented a Nursery Chair on February 9, 1960. Joan Clark from Los Angeles, CA invented a Medicine Tray on April 1, 1986. Ruane Sharon Jeter, et al, invented a Cabinet for housing a Medical Waste Container on June 15, 1999; a Container installing System on July 6, 1999; and a Medical Waste Disposal Container on September 7, 1999. Archia Ross invented a Runner for Stoops on August 4, 1896, and Trousers Support on November 28, 1899. M. Thomas on May 4, 1920 invented a Float-Operated Circuit Closer.

Lyda Newman from New York City, NY on November 15, 1898 invented a hair brush which permitted easy cleaning by having a detachable unit which carried

the brush and bristles. Edith Duvall lit up the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo by winning three track medals; the gold medal for the 200-meter, setting an Olympic record and surpassing Wilma Rudolph's finish in the event. Edith also won silver medals in both the 100-meter and the 400-meter relay competition. In 1978, Edith and her husband, Charles opened their first McDonald's restaurant. The restaurants provide employment, training and guidance for many African Americans and Latinos.

Bessie Griffin invented a Portable Receptacle on April 24, 1951. Mary Kenner on July 29, 1987 invented a Back Washer Mounted on Shower Wall & Bathtub and a Sanitary Belt with Moisture-proof Napkin Pocket on April 14, 1959. Mary Kies patented Weaving Straw with Silk on May 5, 1809. Mary Moore patented a Pain Relief Composition in 1979. Clara C. Frye patented a Surgical Appliance on March 19, 1907. Mildred A. Smith was the first African American female to obtain the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the

U. S. Armed Forces.

Josephine Baker, singer and dance goes to Paris to dance at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in La Revue nègre, becoming one of the most popular entertainers in France in 1925. Gertrude Downing patented a Corner Cleaner Attachment on April 5, 1977. Julia Terry Hammonds patented an Apparatus for Holding

Yarn Skiens on December 15, 1896. Joanna Hardin patented a Keyboard Stand on February 23, 1993. Lydia M. Holmes patented a Knockdown Wheeled Toy on November 14, 1985. Anna Mangin patented a Pastry Fork on March 1, 1892. Judy W. Reed patented an Improvement in Dough Kneader & Roller on September 20, 1884.



Edith Duvall lit up the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo by winning three track medals; the gold medal for the 200-meter, setting an Olympic record and surpassing Wilma Rudolph's finish in the event.

Mildred A. Smith patented a Family Relationship Card Game that explores genealogical family relationships on October 28, 1980.

INTERESTING FACTS!

If you put a buzzard in a pen that is six or eight feet square and entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of her ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of ten or twelve feet. Without space to run, as is her habit, she will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

The ordinary bat that flies around at night, is a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about

helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler will be there until it dies unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

In some ways, there are lots of people like the buzzard, the bat and the bee. They struggle about with all their problems and frustrations, not realizing that if they look UP, they will find the answer. God is always the answer.

-- Church bulletin at Greenville Avenue Church of Christ

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NDG Book Review: Mastering the Art of Quitting

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The project isn't going very well.

It's going terribly, actually, and you don't know what to do. You're this close to success – you can feel it – and you've invested way too much time to throw in the towel. And yet, investors have started to squawk and corporate is withdrawing support.

You can't pull the plug – but you can't not. So what next? Read *Mastering the Art of Quitting* by Peg Streep and Alan Bernstein, LCSW, and you might find out.

Throughout your life, you've heard that quitters never win. Hang in there, you've been told. Don't give up. Remember The Little Engine That Could.

But is this the right way to think? Streep and Bernstein say no. "Quitting," they say, is "the necessary first step to rebooting and redefining your goals..." The ability to quit is "necessary as a balance" to persistence and optimism.

The trick is to know when to utilize either side of the scale – and to under-

stand that quitting doesn't mean that you're "a quitter."

Most people, in fact, stick with a dying project a lot longer than they should because of the "myth of persistence," in which your brain positively responds to a near-win, making you think that you're close to your goal. "Escalation of commitment" and sunk cost fallacy only exacerbate the unwillingness to end the cycle.

Quitting starts with "goal disengagement" on "four levels simultaneously: cognitive, affective, motivational, and behavioral." In other words, you need to let go of your goals in your mind, with your emotions, and in your intentions and actions.

Know yourself and "take your own measure of not just your goals and persistence but also your innate ability to quit." Examine your early childhood and your relationship with your parents. Understand your threshold for failure and strive for emotional intelligence. Learn to end "rumination," and confront intrusive thoughts "head-on." Be willing to adjust your goals if you need to, and know how to manage regret.

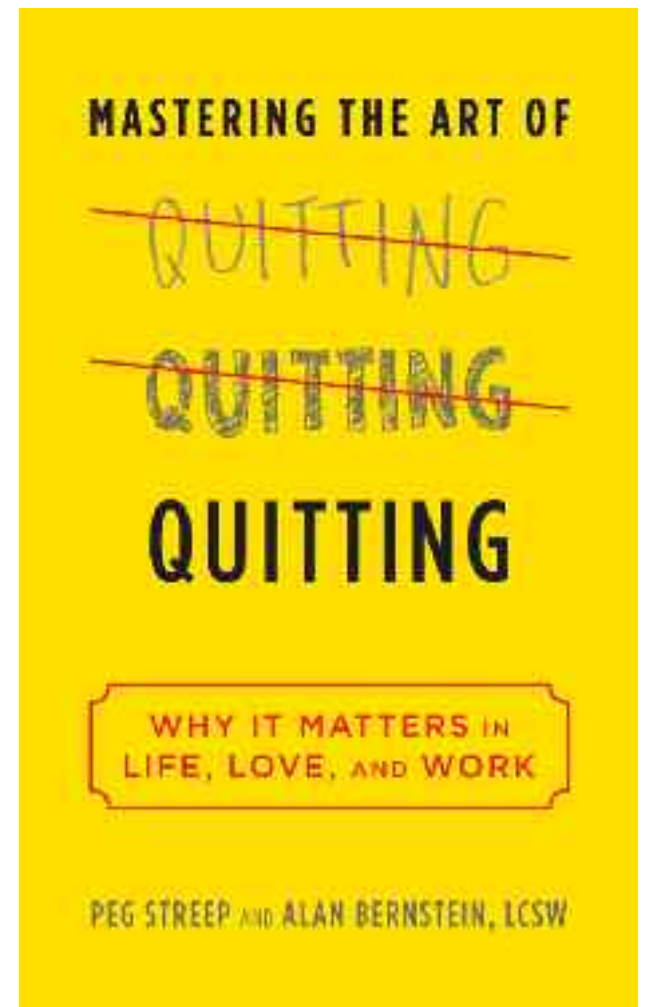
Finally, learn not only how to quit, but how to quit well. Your happiness and your physical health may depend on it.

"Mastering the Art of Quitting" isn't an easy book to read: it's heavy with research and steeped in psychology – and in both cases, much of what you'll find here has already been rehashed (and is easier to understand) in other recent volumes.

The difference, I think, is that this book is more for people who are seriously stuck.

Authors Peg Streep and Alan Bernstein embrace the kind of introspection that goes deeper than just the door-slammng kind of quit, which the authors admit that they're not writing about here. No, this is for the kind of quitting that's long overdue; that isn't quite understood yet; or that is acknowledged but not yet defined.

I think that reading and grasping what's in this book will demand a fair amount of time, but if you want to leave a situation gracefully and with forethought, it might help you do so. Find "Mastering the Art of Quitting" and you might quit fretting.



TRIALS, continued from Page 4

Minorities underrepresented

According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), African-Americans represent 12 percent of the U.S. population, but only 5 percent of clinical trial participants. Hispanics make up 16 percent of the population, but only 1 percent of clinical trial participants.

In a statement released prior to the conference, John Castellani, president and CEO of PhRMA, commented, "PhRMA and our member companies are committed to raising awareness and increasing participation in clinical trials, particularly among historically underrepresented populations. Through this collaboration of health care leaders, we are taking a major step forward to help reduce health disparities through greater inclusiveness in clinical research."

Accelerating inclusion

At the conference on Wednesday, experts noted how developing new medi-

cines is a lengthy and complex process that relies heavily on volunteer participation to evaluate potential therapies for safety and effectiveness in clinical studies.

"According to the FDA, increased diversity in clinical trials could help re-

searchers find better ways to fight diseases that disproportionately impact certain populations, and may be important for the safe and effective use of new therapies," Dr. Gary Puckrein, president and CEO of the National Minority Quality Forum, said in a statement.

Online access

Authorized users will be able to quickly identify po-

tential clinical trial participants by using zip-code level mapping of disease clusters and simultaneously identifying and connecting points of care and community resources that can assist with site selection and patient recruitment.

For more information about clinical trials and the I'm In campaign, visit www.JoinImIn.org.

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