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NDG's Portrait of a **Community Servant**

By Jackie Hardy NDG Contributing Writer

"I volunteer in my community because I have a passion for service and a need to help others," Duncanville resident, Nettye Medlock shares in regards to what motivates

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) is a national organization consisting of six areas throughout the United States with one of their chapters being in Dallas. The mission of TLOD is to enhance and enrich the lives of youth and adults through national and community base programs and projects.

Some of the organization's national projects and programs entail promotion of literacy; Top Teens of America (TTA), a component of TLOD that mentors to teens in the areas of academics, community service, and character/leadership development; Community outreach initiatives for Senior Citizens; and Women empowerment programs to help women and teens improve their economic status and overall quality of life

Medlock shared with North Dallas Gazette her thoughts on receiving the organization's highest honor, the national Top Lady of the Year



award where she was honored at the Dallas Chapter's Founder's Day Luncheon in April of 2013.

The Top Ladies of Distinction national honor is given to a member within the TLOD organization who demonstrates extraordinary service within their respective local area as well as on a national level.

According to Medlock, the selection process involves first place winners from each of the six geographical areas competing for the national title. She also advises the nominee must receive an endorsement at the local chapter level and documentation reflecting the past five years of service presented in a scrapbook/portfolio whereas the scrapbook is judged in accordance to the national guidelines.

Harnell Williams, TLOD President, Dallas Chapter, shared her sentiments on Medlock winning the Top Lady of the Year national honor within the organization after winning the award both within her local chapter then in her specific geographic Area 1, which according to Williams encompasses four states.

"Nettye Medlock just goes above and beyond; she is everywhere she needs to be when community service is going on everywhere from dealing with senior citizens to having to beautify recreation areas to helping ladies fine tune their interviewing skills for jobs."

Medlock credits her mother Eva Bell and grandmother Lizze Johnson as positive influences who taught her the importance of giving back.

"I admired and modeled my life after my mother and grandmother. They have been great examples of nurturing and caring for others and giving back to the community. They spent years volunteering in nursing homes, working with youth groups,

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Juneteenth thoughts from Sister **Tarpley**

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HOAW slates a summer of activities

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Eastwood's Jersey Boys hits the big screen

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Perceptions of Equality

By William Spriggs

A recent interview of Morgan Freeman by CNN host Don Lemon lit a firestorm of conversation. Freeman argued that his personal success, and that of Lemon's, made it clear that racism was not a factor in closing America's growing problem of inequality. Freeman argued that inequality was a crisis because a vibrant middle class was needed for the

growth of the economy and stability of society, and the current chasm between the 1 percent and the 99 percent was unhealthy. Clearly, Freeman's views on inequality are incontrovertible, so why the storm about his statement on the role of

ness school professors Clayton Critcher, of the University of California-

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People In The News...





Dr. Jomo W. Mutegi



In May 23,000 visited NorthDallasGazette.com - news added daily!

Recent work by busi-

People in the News www.NorthDallasGazette.com

Dr. Cornel West

Dr. Cornel West, a nationally recognized writer, teacher, and activist will be in Dallas Juneteenth weekend on Friday, June 20 in support of the work of Mothers Against Police Brutality (MAPB), an emerging, Dallas-based organization seeking justice for the victims of police violence, excessive use of force, and deadly force.

"One of our main goals is to turn a national spotlight on the shooting of unarmed suspects, mostly African-American and Latino young men, by Dallas police offi-



cers," said Collette Flanagan, founder of MAPB.
"This is a national issue.
From the shooting of Oscar
Grant in Oakland by transit
police, to the murder of
Trayvon Martin in Florida

by a patrolling vigilante, to the murder of my own son, Clinton Allen, last year by a Dallas police officer, this plague of official and unpunished murders of our unarmed children must end."

"Community Matters: A Townhall Meeting" is copresented with Friendship-West Baptist Church, a well-respected local institution known for its community activism.

Dr. West will speak on national current affairs such as police use of deadly force, mass incarceration, deepening poverty and inequality, voting rights, and other issues that are negatively affecting communities of color disproportionately.

Dr. Cornel West is well known nationally as a provocative democratic intellectual. He is a Professor of Philosophy and Christian Practice at Union Theological Seminary and Professor Emeritus at Princeton University. He has also taught at Yale, Harvard, and the University of Paris. Dr. West graduated Magna Cum Laude from Harvard in three years and obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. in Philosophy at Princeton. His most recent book, co-authored with Tavis Smiley, is The Rich and the Rest of

Us: A Poverty Manifesto, a game-changing text on economic injustice. Dr. West has a passion to keep alive the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., a legacy of telling the truth and bearing witness to love and justice.

Event Details:

Community Matters: A Townhall Meeting featuring Dr. Cornel West will be held on Friday, June 20, 2014 8 p.m. at Friendship-West Baptist Church, located at 2020 W. Wheatland Rd., Dallas TX 75232.

The event is being presented by Mothers Against Police Brutality and Friendship-West Baptist Church.

Doors open at 7 p.m.

MAPB is an emerging, Dallas-based multi-generational, multi-racial, and multi-ethnic coalition uniting people nationally, from all walks of life, to hold law enforcement agencies more accountable.

Founded by Collette Flanagan in 2013 after her son, Clinton Allen, an unarmed young man in custody, was shot to death by a Dallas police officer, MAPB calls for an immediate end to substandard investigation of use of excessive force by police officers and policy and culture reform that privileges the sustaining of life rather than the taking of it.

Dr. Jomo W. Mutegi

Jomo W. Mutegi, Ph.D. is Executive Director of Sankoré Institute. Sankoré Institute is a non-profit African-centered science and education research organization, which supports a staff of African Americans who conduct research in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Dr. Mutegi's own research explores students' interest in science and science-related careers. He has written over 25 manuscripts published in peer-reviewed



journals, popular venues and presented at national and international conferences. His most recent publication is a book on parenting titled: *The Greatest Gifts a Parent Can Give*.

Dr. Mutegi's work is well received by his peers. He has been invited to present his research and ideas on education both here in the United States and abroad, including places such as Mumbai, India and Grahamstown, South Africa.

He has received awards acknowledging the quality of his work, including the Outstanding Junior Scholar Award (presented in 2003 by the Brothers of the Academy Institute), and the US Early Career Researcher Award (also presented in 2003, this honor is supported with funding from the National Science Foun-

dation and South Africa's National Research Foundation).

He maintains active membership in five international and national professional associations including: the American Educational Research Association (AERA - the world's largest educational research association), and the National Association of Research in Science Teaching (NARST - the world's largest science education research association).

While Dr. Mutegi's active involvement in research provides insight into STEM and the importance of STEM to people of African

descent, his active involvement in community work provides insight into the life conditions of African people.

For example, Dr. Mutegi is founder and primary instructor of Sankoré Vanguard, an organization of African American male adolescents designed to prepare young men for responsibility and leadership in Black communities.

He also consults and collaborates with schools, churches, and community organizations to assist leaders in making science relevant and meaningful to African American students. Dr. Mutegi earned a dual bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology from Gannon University, a doctoral degree in science education from Florida State University, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh.

He has held professorships in science education at both the University of Pittsburgh and Morgan State University; and has taught science and education courses at several other community colleges, colleges and universities.

Brett Johnson

Bethesda, MD (Black-News.com) -- Brett Johnson, CEO of the Brett Johnson Collection, LLC, (BJC) announced a donation of 100 pairs of athletic footwear from his menswear fashion line to young men participating in the Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon. Brett Johnson is committed to giving back to the community and is making the donation to encourage the youth to continue to strive for success as they enter college in the fall.

"I am personally excited to make today's footwear donation from the Brett Johnson Collection to the Boys & Girls Club of



Mount Vernon," said Johnson. "When I began BJC, I wanted a way to connect to the younger generation to impart the importance of following your dreams regardless of your circumstances."

He continues, "The signature shoe from the Collection does just that and was designed with a foot-

print that signifies legacy and having the ability to leave an imprint in whatever you do. It's a motto that I have to come to personally believe in for myself and want to share specifically with the young men participating in programs at the Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon -- to follow their dreams and never give up."

"I am really proud of my son Brett for following his passion to create a successful clothing brand and athletic wear," said Robert L. Johnson, founder of The RLJ Companies and Brett Johnson's father. "His desire to give back to the community and to encourage young men that hard work and perseverance are the building blocks to success.

As a young man, Brett realizes the importance of philanthropy and today's donation of 100 shoes is the first step to his future involvement in giving back," he concluded.

"I have known Brett Johnson and his father, Bob Johnson, for a number of years, and I am proud of him and the company he has created," said actor Denzel Washington, National Spokesperson of Boys & Girls Club of America, who spent his formative years at the Boys and Girls Club of Mt. Vernon. "Brett has unselfishly decided to give back and have a valuable impact in the lives of young men. I share a personal connection

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Letter to the Editor: If I died today

I am writing this email today because my spirit is vexed. I am tired of all the hate. I am tired of people using others and never giving anything back to others that they can easily help. I am tired of feeling separated from a loving God who seems a million miles away a lot to me. I am tired of seeing people die needlessly over greed and jealously and racism.

I am so tired of Negroes, Hispanics and other ethnicities that have no sense of belonging to each other who are experiencing the same injustices everyday and see no need to have pride in the way God made them!

I am telling God today that if I died today it will be alright with me. There is just too much false love and affection in this world. God help the children who are yet to grow up in this corrupt world. If I died today I would want somehow to be able to talk to everyone in the world right before I had my last breath and tell them that they got to live their love for each other more, every minute

and do all they individually can to show love and share love at all times.

I would tell everyone to find what God has put them here for and to do it with all their heart.I would tell everybody I love you with an Agape love from my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! If I died today I would want all my children and family to know that I lived my life to help people. I love being used by God to help peo-

Anthony Bond, Irving

Letter to the Editor: Get out and vote for Joyce Foreman

I am Robert D. Jones Sr., a Veteran of the United States Armed Forces and a Dallas ISD stakeholder. There Is No Substitute for Excellence!

I would like to voice my sentiments regarding Joyce Foreman. I am very aware and thankful for all the gifts that she brings to our families and communities.

Ms. Foreman has always fought against their future. for the future of our children.

Our school children are being discouraged in testing mill facilities, dummied down, and then routed into pipelines of failure leading to prison plantations and poverty. Most of the challenges along the way have been due to the legacy of an unaccountable system stacked negatively

Ms. Foreman understands that we the people are in warfare for the future of our children, and recognizes the fact that so many other so called advocates never really cared about our children's future, but see our children's education as a political

See LETTER, Page 13

PERCEPTIONS, continued from Page 1

Berkeley, and Jane Risen, of the University of Chicago, note that people's views about the role of racism in America's inequality is shaped by their knowledge of African Americans who succeed outside the realm of current Black success, like professional sports or music. When shown pictures of African-American business leaders, for instance, even in the context that the individual is an exception, the respondents become less sympathetic toward the racial polarization of American life and its role in holding down African-Americans

But the narrative used to explain high poverty, high unemployment and low wealth among African Americans is important, not just to race relations, but because the story line Americans buy in accepting the tenuous economic position of African Americans is integral to the story line of accepting American inequality broadly.

How does one explain how America alone as a democracy is so accepting of levels of inequality that are closer to Mexico and Turkey than to France, Canada or Denmark? How do we elect politicians that benefit the 1 percent to such extremes, and are in the process of destroying class mobility-once the key to America's core identity?

Despite moments of exceptions like for their geo-political role in sports victories when Jessie Owens won at

the 1936 Berlin Olympics and Joe Louis knocked out Max Schmelling in 1938, America held fast to denying African-Americans access to the American dream of social mobility, including Southern Democrats in Congress shaping the New Deal to limit African American access to the new safety-nets of labor standards, unemployment insurance and Social Security and the full benefits of increasing home ownership provided by the Federal Housing Administration and later the GI Bill. Melvin Oliver and Thomas Shapiro have laid out how various policies interacted with race to create the huge wealth divide between African-Americans and Whites.

But in the era since the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Medicare in 1966 (ending segregation in health care) and the Fair Housing Act of 1968, Americans have been forced to reconcile racial inequality with the American ideal of social mobility. Don't we now have equal opportunity? Isn't that enough to assure equal outcomes? One resolution is as ancient as the forces that held slavery togetherracism, an abiding belief that African-Americans are inferior in character and culture. The other is to understand the many layers of inequality and their interaction with the lack of wealth, income and employment with ongoing policies. A third is to understand that racism is still an ugly factor in American life.

I think those who disagree with Freeman think his dismissal of race was an assumption that equal opportunity exists. If African Americans are not held back in moving up the class ladder, then how can anyone in America claim to be held back? If the economic game in America is fair and not rigged against African American success, which Americans can call foul?

Just as the victories of Owens and Louis did not mean the end of segregation or discrimination, neither does the victory of President Barack Obama mean the end of Donald Sterling's sprawling Los Angeles real estate empire that discriminated against black and Latino tenants. The 1 percent benefit from a different set of rules, from lower marginal tax rates to bigger tax deductions for their homes, savings and health.

Blaming African-Americans for not seizing the day and rising to the top is an indictment of the 99 percent. Racism is not an "excuse," but a way to understand the rules are not fair, this is not a lack of will, but acknowledgement rules are rigged for multinational corporations to give away our jobs and Wall Street to steal our homes. It is an understanding that inequality is not a natural state, but is manufactured.

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

Parkland's Camp CHAMPS offers fun, healthy learning

Summer may be a great time to be outdoors, but for too many young people it turns into a time of inactivity, television watching, hanging out with a questionable crowd, and of course, snacking on all the wrong foods. It's not surprising that childhood obesity continues to be a major health concern, especially in underserved neighborhoods. And, some children fall into other unhealthy behaviors, including drug abuse.

That's where Camp CHAMPS steps in.

CHAMPS, which stands for Choosing Healthy Activities, Meals and Positive Self-Esteem, is an annual event of Parkland Health & Hospital System in partnership with the Dallas Independent School District. It is open to children ages 7 to 16 and is a great way for girls and boys to learn about positive self-esteem, nutrition, exercise and making healthy choices – all in a fun and entertaining way.

Camp CHAMPS, which began in 2010 with funding from the Children's Health Fund, brings in Parkland physicians, educators, social workers and dietitians to provide the valuable educational activities and services. During the four-day camp, each day is dedi-

element of a healthy lifestyle. The campers rotate through four classes that focus on health, nutrition, self-esteem and physical exercise. In addition to the fun and education portion of the camp, children also will be screened and evaluated by physicians and nurses to allow them to find any previously undetected conditions, such as diabetes, asthma or high Body Mass Index, as well as high blood pressure.

Each day's activities are structured to give the program a camp feel and last four hours, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The program is offered at no cost and parents are encouraged to attend with their children. Parental involvement increases the likelihood that children will incorporate the changes into their lifestyle. Classes are offered in both English and Spanish.

This year the camps will be held:

- June 16–19 at Gospel Lighthouse Church, 5525 W. Illinois Ave., Dallas
- June 30 July 3 at Santa Clara Regional Community Center, 321 Calumet Ave., Dallas
- July 7–10 at Tony Shotwell Life Center, 2750 Graham St., Grand Prairie
 - July 14–17 at Salvation

cated to teaching a different Army, Pleasant Grove, element of a healthy life- 8341 Elam Road, Dallas

• July 21–24 at Voice of Hope, 4120 Gentry Drive, Dallas

The camp seeks to match children with a Youth & Family health center, school-based clinics located throughout Dallas County to provide medical care to children and their families in their own communities. Camp CHAMPS also has long-term goals, such as tracking children at specific intervals after the camp to document how exposure to the program has made a difference.

Howard said organizers are working on increasing parental involvement in the camp, as well as making sure that children are available for their three- and 10-month follow-up monitoring.

"What we're doing is trying to plant the seed for them to make healthy choices," Howard said. "We think this camp at least gets the ball rolling.

For more information about Camp CHAMPS or to pre-register, contact Jeff Howard at 214.266.1120, or email Jeffrey.Howard@-phhs.org.



Are you dealing with the symptoms of schizophrenia?

Researchers are currently conducting a clinical research study of an investigational add-on drug for people with schizophrenia, If you or someone close to you has schizophrenia, you may wan tot talk to your doctor about participation in this study.

To be eligible to participate in this study you must be:

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If you, a friend or family member has schizophrenia and would like more information about this study, please contact the study site above.

Texas Children's Hospital rises to No. 2 on *U.S. News & World Report* for heart surgery

HOUSTON – Texas Children's Hospital has again been recognized as a national leader in cardiology and heart surgery among pediatric hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report.* Improving their national ranking, Texas Children's Heart Center placed second nationally in the Best Children's Hospitals 2014-15 survey.

"We are thrilled that the dedicated work and passionate care our team provides children with heart diseases and defects has been recognized with this high ranking," said Dr. Charles D. Fraser Jr., chief of congenital heart surgery and surgeon-in-chief at Texas Children's Hospital. "We continually strive to improve the quality of care for our cardiac patients by tracking our outcomes and remaining committed to developing innovative cardiac interventions and surgical treatment options to ensure optimum results and outcomes for our patients."

To learn more about Texas Children's Heart Center please visit texaschildrens.org/heart.



Black people can't think



Curtis Report by Barry Curtis

I don't know which has a worse view of events, the crazies on the far left or the uppity establishment Republicans on the issue of the black conservatives. Both sides have an equally condescending view of the black conservative. It is clear that the left seems to exact the greater damage, however, in clear stereotypical language and expectations of the black social character.

The far left liberal crazies insist that all black people should be liberal democrats. To the left in this country, to be born black means you have inherited all the traits necessary to qualify you as a staunch liberal puppet. They are convinced that by your birth you are an entitlement loving, big government needing, federal housing subsidizing, food stamp collecting, Tea party hating, Democrat. The liberals encourage the black populous to just do and not think.

Why would you need to think? All your needs are taken care of. It would be disrespectful in the eyes of the liberal left to think or act in any way that would offend the liberal handout

Black people, the liberals want you to hear this if nothing else: Your happiness, your well-being, including your education, food, and even your healthcare, all depend on the good graces of the liberal elite. Be thankful, black people, and show your gratitude by your vote.

The danger to the liberal left's hold over the willing black populous is a well thought out position on social and political issues by a black man says perhaps, hard work and risk-taking in business can in the long run yield better results than a government hand out of food stamps, what would that do to the lefts ideological hold over uneducated blacks?

When blacks do take a different stance than the liberal lap dogs suggest, well the results aren't pretty. You see if a black does begin to think for themselves, let's take a Herman Cain for example or a Dr. Ben Carson?

What are the results? The liberal crazy left attacks these smart men as "yes men" and "Uncle Toms." The liberal left is incapable of refuting their arguments so they are left to demonize these noble men and make every attempt to delegitimize their accomplish-

Dr. Ben Carson, a world renown neurosurgeon; and Herman Cain, the former black man or woman. If a CEO of Godfathers Pizza and board member of the Coca Cola company. These are hardly Uncle Toms. They garner far more respect than a community organizer and a man who has been subsidized by the public all their lives. They are the embodiment of thinking black conservatives.

Blacks can think and do think differently on political issues. We as black people do ourselves a disservice when we accept only the liberal line or any line without broad thought and a keen investigatory attitude. We must break through the tired old stereotypes that enslaves us politically and economically.

White men can jump, black people can think, and Asian people drive just fine. Some of my best friends are black rednecks and white liberals.

Barry Curtis can be reached at www.thecurtisre-

Dallas MLK Center hosting Juneteenth **Festival tonight**

Visitors are invited to enjoy Dallas' annual Juneteenth event, a fun-filled family festival from noon to 5 p.m., Thursday, June 19 at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, located at 2922 MLK Jr. Blvd.

This free event will feature vendors, games, food, live music from local artists, and live radio broadcasts.

"This is an important event that brings the Dallas community together to commemorate this important moment in our nation's history," said Patrick N. Jackson, MLK Jr. Community Center Manager. Juneteenth marks the anniversary of when Texas slaves learned they had been emancipated back in 1865

When: Thursday, June



19 from Noon to 5 p.m.

Where: The Martin Luther King Community Center, located at 2922 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

Who: Businesses interested in securing a booth at the event should contact LaRhonda Bacon at (214) 670-8419.

For more information or to obtain event applications, please log on to www.mlkcelebrationdallas.org.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Board and staff host this annual event.

We can make the future come faster in the South

By Benjamin Todd Jealous

We have the antidote to voter suppression: massive voter registration.

We proved it 50 years ago during Freedom Summer. We proved it again in Florida in 2012, when NAACP activists registered 115,000 people in a year when the legislature had effectively made traditional voter registration strategies illegal.

We need to prove it again this summer. As we prepare for November's midterm elections - and look forward to 2016 - our focus should be on the stretch of heavily black states and counties below the Mason-Dixon Line that make up the "Black Belt".

Our new report from the Southern Elections Foundation and the Center for American Progress shows that a massive wave of voter registration could upset the balance of power in many Black Belt states.

For instance, registering 30 percent of unregistered black voters would create enough "new black voters" -

even after accounting for turnout rates - to swing a governor's race in Virginia or North Carolina. Meanwhile, registering 60 percent of unregistered black, Hispanic, and Asian voters could upset the balance of power in Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

The conventional wisdom would say that this is impossible - that candidates who represent the views of communities of color and progressive whites simply do not have a chance of winning statewide office in these southern states. This conventional wisdom is wrong for two reasons.

First, it ignores the changing demographic and political trends in the Black Belt. Black re-migration and Latino and Asian immigration are reshaping the demographics of the region. Meanwhile, the extremism of the ruling far-right wing is pushing away white women and young voters of all

Second, it takes a pessimistic view

of progress. Many people look at the Black Belt and say that nothing has changed for years, and ask why we should invest in the region. This has it exactly backwards. If we invest, then things will change. The light of southern politics has no dimmer switch. It is either on or it is off, and we have the power to switch it on again.

The summer of 2014 can be a season of revival. In the coming months, as black political conventions convene across the country to discuss their political strategy for the coming year, we should remember the mistakes of 2010, when low turnout rates led to a wave of extreme right wing candidates winning office across the country.

We have the power to make sure that does not happen again. In some states it may ultimately be too late to marshal funds for the 2014 election, but there is no reason we cannot start focusing on 2016.

We have the power in Georgia, where the New Georgia Project is

See SOUTH, Page 12



Covance is looking for participants for clinical research study 8292-969-8 involving an investigational medication.

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Participants will receive all study-related exams at no cost and compensation up to \$8,800 for time and participation. 2 stays of 4 nights (8 total), 22 outpatient visits & 8 phone calls are required. Enrollment in this study is approximately 37 weeks, not including the screening visit.

Visit: TestWithTheBest.com Call: 866-429-3700 COVANCE

Dallas graduate wins Boys & Girls Clubs 2014 Southwest Regional "Youth of the Year" Award

At the 25th Anniversary Great Futures Chairman's Dinner 2014 at the Omni Hotel in Dallas, Texas on June 11, Cecilia Garza, a recent graduate from Uplift Williams Preparatory, was announced as the Southwest Regional Youth of the Year (YOY) winner. This program celebrates youth who have overcome enormous odds and demonstrated exceptional character and accomplishments. As a result of winning the Regional Competition, Garza received a \$10,000 scholarship sponsored by Tupperware.

Garza competed against



Cecilia Garza is shown with Jim Clark, the President of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Charles English, President of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas.

Boys & Girls Club YOY contestants from Wyoming, Colorado, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Montana, New Mexico and Kansas, while representing Texas at the re-

gional level. Previously, Garza won the Texas Youth of the Year Award Competition in Austin, Texas and received the Falk Scholarship for \$15,000 at the Boys &

Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas 6th Annual TOPPs celebration. She is now advancing in the competition to compete in September against five other regional winners in Washington, D.C. for the National Youth of the Year title, which is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Clubs member can achieve. This gives her the opportunity to win an additional \$15,000 in scholar-

Garza is a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas (BGCD) and has been an active member for three and a half years at the Uplift Williams Preparatory location. She is very involved in her school and community. Garza is also a part of a variety of programs that are offered through BGCD such as: SMART Girls, Collegiate STEPS and Career Launch. In keeping with her tenacious spirit of giving back, she established an Interact Club at her school during her senior year. The mission of an Interact Club is to teach high school students the importance of giving back, especially in time of

After high school, Garza looks forward to attending Mount Holyoke College in

Massachusetts. In hopes of becoming a neurosurgeon, she plans on majoring in biochemistry and then entering medical school. She also dreams of one day using her education to benefit others through organizations such as Doctors Without Borders.

"Garza will be a first generation college student and plans on taking the necessary steps to make her dreams a reality. She is a natural born leader destined for success, and we could not be more proud of her," said Charles English, president and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dal-

Kaplan partners with Education is Freedom to provide prep courses to DISD students taking college entrance exams

New York, NY — Kaplan K12 Learning Services has partnered with Education is Freedom to help the Dallas-based nonprofit in its mission of helping thousands of underserved high school students across the Dallas Independent School District with the college admissions process.

Through the partnership, schools can leverage Kaplan's expertise by providing the opportunity for students to access Kaplan's SAT, ACT, and PSAT preparation resources. Kaplan's resources include classroom-taught options and the company's awardwinning interactive online program that students can access 24/7.

Both programs offer per-

sonalized instruction, multiple practice tests and a host of materials to prepare students for the critical college admissions exams.

Kaplan will also administer practice test events for the students and provide other college prep print ma-

"We are pleased to support the mission of Education is Freedom by partnering with them to provide access to high-quality SAT, ACT and PSAT prep materials to students across the Dallas Independent School District," said Seppy Basili, vice president of K12 and college admissions programs, Kaplan K12 Learning Services. "Kaplan and Education is Freedom share a commitment to improving

student success, which is fundamental to Dallas' and our nation's economic and social success. We look forward to working closely with EIF and the Dallas community to produce strong, well-rounded college applicants."

"As part of our ongoing efforts to help more students get into college, Education is Freedom is excited to partner with Kaplan K12 Learning Services to provide comprehensive preparation for the ACT, PSAT, and SAT." said CEO of Education is Freedom Marcia

The schools that EIF cur- T. White High School, W. rently works with are: W. H. Adamson High School, David W. Carter High School, Thomas Jefferson High School, Justin F. Kimball High School, Moisés E. Molina High School, North Dallas High School, L. G. Pinkston High School, Irma Rangel Young Women Leadership School, Franklin D. Roosevelt High School, The School of Business Management, The School of Science and Engineering, The School of Education and Social Services. The School of Health Professions, The School of Government, Law and Law Enforcement, Seagoville High School, Skyline High School, A. Maceo Smith

"Through our shared mission of college and career readiness, we will create a brighter future for many students in the Dallas area."

W. Samuell High School

and Wilmer-Hutchins High School.





JOHNSON, continued from Page 2

with the Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon and know Brett's gift will inspire as well as ignite the passion for creativity in each of the Club's young male participants."

"By way of today's announcement, Brett Johnson is making a local impact," said Frank Sanchez, Na-

tional Vice President of the Boys & Girls Club of America. "As the designer and architect of a successful brand, Brett is a perfect example of how we should all, regardless of our occupation, inspire our kids to strive for more. Brett is an example that many designers as well as companies

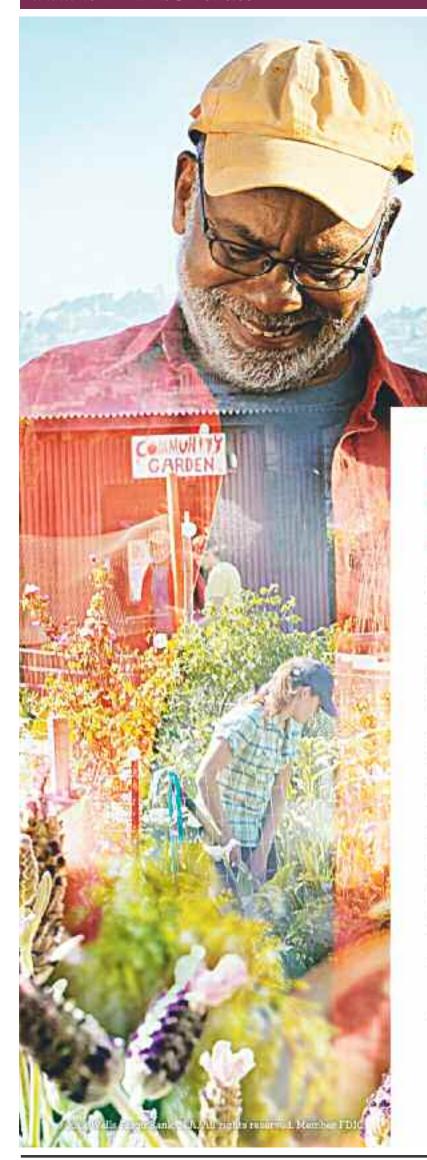
should follow."

"Recognizing the 100 young men who participate in programs at our specific club is truly significant and Brett and his Brett Johnson Collection team should be commended," added Lowes Moore, Executive Director, Mount Vernon Boys & Girls Club. "As administrators, we often seek new and creative ways that will inspire our boys and girls to

fully realize their potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. It's our mission.'

New Tech High School, W.

Founded by Johnson, the namesake collection offers a modern luxury brand for the world's most fashionable men and will appeal to well-dressed men of every generation. The Brett Johnson Collection debuted in 2013 with a line of men's shoes and apparel.



We are a collection of smalls.

Homes, main streets and communities. They're our foundation. Our building blocks. Brick by brick, they make our whole greater.

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Sometimes a single kitchen can kick-start a local economy with new businesses. A handful of seeds can sow a community garden of well-being. A single job can support thousands more. And the list goes on from there.

Last year we worked with over 18,500 non-profits and schools from the San Francisco Bay Area to Tampa Bay, donations that totaled more than \$275 million. But offering a helping hand can also mean lending your own hand to a cause. So Wells Fargo Team Members volunteered nearly 1.7 million hours in their local communities last year.

Little by little we can do a lot. Because small is huge.

Visit www.wellsfargo.com/stories to see how big small can be.

Together we'll go far



Can perennial bachelors change into husbands?

By D.H. Barkley

As one of the most famous bachelors gets ready to take his wedding vows, the question seems rather pertinent. Can perennial bachelors like George Clooney change and become longstanding husbands — able to weather the rough seas that accompany the great times?

Remember those snippets of advice our mothers offered on our love life? My mother's wisdom was that you should never marry a longstanding bachelor, as they were set in their ways, too used to getting their own way, and unaccustomed to compromise.

But leopards can change their spots, as demonstrated by Warren Beatty who, after a string of relationships with beautiful women, married in his mid-50's. More than 20 years and 4 children later, he and actress Annette Bening are still together – no small feat in Hollywood.

Apparently many a middle-aged bachelor finally decides to settle down as they realize time is running out to fit in a wife and family before the 'Grim Reaper' calls. So if my mother's advice on perennial bachelors is not universally applicable, what do they need for long-lasting love? In the end they probably just need the same as the rest of us — although it may be harder to achieve when you have been single so long.

Seven all-purpose ingredients for long-term romantic success



Similarity - Research shows that if we want our romantic relationships to last, we should search for 'homogamy' in a partner – that means someone similar to us, particularly in values. Borne out by several studies, showing that similarity between partners for various characteristics, including age, background, intelligence, socioeconomic status, and values predict greater relationship success.

Realistic expectations - Realistic expectations of our partner and the relationship is another key ingredient for long-term success. It's important we recognize that no one is perfect, it won't always be plain sailing, and it is quite normal to feel we don't like our partner from time to time. According to the so-called 'Disappointment model', if individuals start out with extreme positive beliefs, disappointment frequently ensues. And such feelings of disappointment do not bode well for the longer term.

Friendship - Hardly surprising this one ranks as important – after all we will spend plenty of time

with that 'significant other', so after the first flush of love is over, we need a true friend to weather day-to-day life. According to Franz Schubert, 'Happy is the man who finds a true friend, and far happier is he who finds that true friend in his wife'.

Equality - We need to believe we bring as many desirable qualities to the relationship as our partner. Equality means we have balanced power in the relationship, that we can act independently of our partner's control, influence their actions, and participate equally in decision-making.

Commitment - Commitment is the most powerful predictor of relationship stability. But it's not about a marriage ceremony - it's about making the relationship a priority and being willing to sacrifice for it, invest in it, link our personal goals to it, and seek the other person's welfare, not just our own. It's about having ties together, such as joint possessions and family, which help keep us glued together during rocky times.

 $\label{lem:understanding} \textbf{-} \, As \ mentioned$

in the bestselling relationship book, Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus, many of our relationship troubles start because men and women are more different than we may think. When women have problems we want care and understanding, but our partner offers solutions and resentment builds as we feel we were not listened to. To help solve his problems we try to be supportive by offer comforting, unsolicited advice, but our good intentions make him feel smothered and controlled. Then we have to contend with each other's cycles. After getting close, men need to feel independent again and become distant for a time, whilst women go up and down emotionally like a Yo-Yo. We need to talk and talk around our problems, whereas men prefer to be alone to mull over solutions in their 'cave'.

Conflict resolution - According to researchers 'The mere presence of conflict may reveal less about the quality of a relationship than does the way in which the conflict is handled'. Conflicts are normal and inevitable in any partnership, and it seems that mutually satisfactory resolution to disagreements is key to the continued harmony, satisfaction, and even survival of the relationship.

And for Mr Clooney and Ms Alamuddin?

She certainly ticks more of the boxes for similarity than many who have come and gone before. But he may need to work hard to ensure they are equal co-directors of their movie, given that he likes to be the 'guy' and his fame means that his partner's identity inevitably becomes associated with him. In the past he didn't seem to have a big appetite for commitment - it was once said of him 'In marriage you're bound by what's expected of you, he doesn't want to be expected to do anything'. But he is older and perhaps more ready for the sacrifice and constraints that are key to commitment. As a macho man, he could be quite far up the 'Martian' scale, so a good understanding of gender differences could come in handy. And maybe a bright young lawyer is just the ticket to hone one's conflict resolution skills, given that in his first marriage 'Instead of figuring out how to make it work, I looked for a way to get out of it. The truth is, you shouldn't be married if you're that kind of person'.

Only time will tell whether George Clooney can change from long-standing bachelor to longstanding husband. Let's hope so for their future happiness.

After her interest was piqued by encounters with a number of women who clearly found George Clooney fascinating but were so different to the women he has dated, D.H. Barkley settled down to write her first book, George Clooney: From Bachelor to Betrothed. She lives in Switzerland with her husband. To learn more about Barkley, visit www.clooneythebook.com.

Carrollton is one of 15 cities selected for a chance to win \$100,000 for a local dog park

KNOXVILLE, TN – PetSafe Brand, a leading innovator in pet behavior and lifestyle solutions, has announced that Carrollton, Texas is one of the 15 finalists in PetSafe's fourth annual Bark for Your Park nationwide contest through which one U.S. community will win \$100,000 to build an off-leash dog park.

If Carrollton wins this year's Bark for Your Park contest, a PetSafe dog park would be built at 2335 Sandy Lake Road, on approximately eight acres of land that sits adjacent to the Animal Adoption Center and McInnish Sports Complex.

More than 1,400 cities were nominated in this year's contest. The 15 finalist cities were broken into three categories according to city size based on population: large, medium and small. Carrollton received a total of 2,138 votes, earning it a spot as one of this year's finalists in the "large" city category.

The 2014 Bark for Your Park finalists for each category include:

Large

- Carrollton, TX
- East Hartford, CT
- Hattiesburg, MS
- Springfield, IL
- Taylor, MI

This year, instead of developing a 2-minute video explaining why the city deserves a park, finalist cities are asked to create a 30-second video spot designed to get

See PARK, Page 12



Texas Rep. Toni Rose to open satellite office in Balch Springs

Representative Toni Rose (District 110) will open a satellite office in the City of Balch Springs with an official grand opening and ribbon cutting on Wednesday, June 25 at 1 p.m.

The office will be housed at the Balch Springs Library and Learning Center at

12450 Elam Road. Hours of operation will be the 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m., or by appointment. The main district office will remain open and is located at 3730 S. Lancaster Road, Suite 160, Dallas, Texas 75216.

The Balch Springs loca-

tion will give constituents in East Dallas, Balch Springs and Mesquite better access to the Representative and her staff for assistance with legislative questions or concerns, as well as assistance with state agencies.

The City of Balch Springs is located 16 miles east of downtown Dallas, with an estimated 25,000 residents.

Since taking office in 2013, Representative Rose has seen economic development and community relations flourish in the city. "Mayor Gordon, coun-

This summer, Heart of a Warrior Char-

itable Foundation (HOAW) continues its

mission to expand and enhance the edu-

cation of 300 underrepresented Dallas

youth grades K-7th with its 7th annual

cations and concludes on August 1 with a

tour and graduation ceremony for all stu-

have all been very instrumental in making this office location a reality. I am honored to expand operations to Balch Springs and look forward to increasing accessibility to HD110 constituents."

Representative Rose repcilmembers and city staff resents District 110, which

Young Warrior program enriches and

uplifts underrepresented students

includes Dallas, Balch Springs and Mesquite.

She will not face an opponent in the general election and will be returning to the Texas House of Representatives in January 2015 for the 84th Legislative Ses-

Summer Family Magic Shows return to Mountain View College

Families are invited to bring the kids June 24-26 to Mountain View College for the "Summer Family Magic Shows," presented each evening from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Each show includes magic, old and new, performed by Dr. Geoff Grimes, cosponsor of the "Mark Wilson" Magic Club at Mountain View College, and friends from the Dallas/Fort Worth magic community.

"Almost everyone loves

magic," says Dr. Grimes." Just about everyone enjoys the surprise and wonder of good magical entertainment."

Dr. Grimes notes that many people have never seen magical entertainment performed for a live audi-

The MVC magic shows have something for just about everyone with a lot of interaction between children and other members of

Each show will be presented in the foyer of the MVC Performance Hall on the east side of the college

public at Mountain View College is located at 4849 West Illinois Ave. in Dallas.

Young Warrior Summer Learning Program (YWSL). Since 2007, YWSL has campus at the flag poles. provided students with STEM-based edu-Before the main performcational training and experiences which ance each evening, enjoy help them stay on par with their peers and preliminary close-up magic reduce the learning gap often seen in at tables around the foyer. lower-income students when they return Admission is free to the to school in the fall. The program began on June 16 at all lo-

dents at the University of Dallas with keynote speaker, former Dallas Cowboy Herschel Walker. Distinguished by the Dallas Afterschool Network as "High Quality Summer Programming," YWSL's STEM-

based curriculum places a heavy focus on math, science, engineering and technology, with a secondary objective concerning nutrition, leadership and civic engagement, and Spanish language integration. With its safe environment for learning, the program strives to help close the gap that a break from school leaves and provide students with the academic tools to become active citizens and positive forces in their communities.

'The goal of the Young Warrior Summer Learning Program is to provide students with the best education possible by utilizing projects in the classroom and field trips to Dallas' historical and instructive landmarks," said Gail Warrior, Founder and Chairwoman, HOAW. "Students of all ages enjoy visiting museums such as the Perot Museum of Nature and Science and the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum and we ensure that the curriculum is aimed at keeping students on par with their peers and academically motivated during the summer months."

Having recently hosted Fit for a Cause, a group fitness event with HOAW, on May 17, the Preston Hollow Equinox motivates YWSL students to exercise their bodies, as well as their minds. Trainers with Equinox will host the 2nd annual Fun Fit Day, a day dedicated to nutrition and healthy living for all YWSL students, on July 11. Expanding its commitment to YWSL, Equinox is hosting a Backpack Drive May 17 through July 25. Gym members and non-members are asked to bring in new backpacks to the Preston Hollow location. Donors will receive a free day pass and Kids Club pass for each backpack donated. The backpacks will be presented by Equinox trainers to the YWSL students during the August 1 graduation ceremony.

For eight weeks, students meet Monday through Thursday at the four YWSL Dallas locations: Choices Leadership Academy, Hamilton Park United Methodist Church, Juanita J. Craft Recreation Center and Saint Philip's School and Community Center.

Since its inception in 2007, the Young Warrior Summer Learning Program has served nearly 1,000 students and has graduated nearly 725 students since 2011.

Arlington Black Chamber hosting Juneteenth Business Mixer at Jamaica Gates

The Arlington Black Chamber of Commerce, along with Jamaica Gates Caribbean Cuisine Restaurant, will co-host the First Annual Juneteenth Business Mixer and Meeting on Thursday, June 19 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Jamaica Gates Caribbean Cuisine Restaurant, 1020 Arkansas Ln., in Arlington. This event is free to the



public and all are encouraged to bring business

The keynote speaker for the event will be Mr. Andre'

McEwing, Supplier Diversity Manager for Tarrant County College District. Mr. McEwing is also an Executive Board Member of the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The "T") and the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce. His topic will be: "How to Create Economic Freedom as a DFW Business Owner."

MEDLOCK, continued from Page 1

etc.," she explains.

Medlock is a graduate of Texas Southern University and University of North Texas, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with an emphasis in Psychology and Master of Education in Counseling and Guidance. She is also a Diamond Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Life Member of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW).

Prior to retiring in 2002 as a

high school counselor, Medlock spent over 33 years mentoring and working with youth within the Duncanville, Houston and Wilmer Hutchins ISD. She continues to work with youth (women) through her several affiliations.

"I am presently mentoring young women through my involvement with the programs of NCNW, TLOD, and Delta Sigma Theta and by recruiting them into these organizations so they too can have the experience of learning the importance of giving back to the community," she states.

Medlock is honored to have accomplished the national Top Lady of the Year award and affirms her commitment to serving her community is a way of life that has continued well past the pomp and circumstance of getting such an

"The National Top Lady of the Year is indeed an honor, but I feel it has not changed who I am and how I serve," she adds. "I have

and will always continue to serve others with compassion and the love for it is a privilege as well as a responsibility to serve."

"She has a propensity for dealing with the underserved and just being places where she needs to be," adds Williams. She's just a great community servant and great woman of God and that says a lot of a person because you can see their faith, their raising and their upbringing in the ways that they treat other people; she's just a good lady".

A legacy that started with her grandmother and mother continues through Medlock as she now has her own child, a daughter, Tamiko Medlock Warren and three grandsons, Kyland, Kyndal and Kameron.

"I want my life to have meaning and purpose through my service of helping others and that I made a difference in the life of those I was blessed to help," comments Medlock.

Eastwood takes Jersey Boys to the big screen

By Dwight Brown NNPA Film Critic

Four guys stand under a street lamp, singing their hearts out. That's the iconic vision of Doo-wop/pop groups like The Four Seasons. The Tony Award-winning Broadway musical Jersey Boys puts a name and face to that image. Clint Eastwood's screen adaptation, triumphantly for the most part, makes their tale cinematic.

Jersey Boys has been a mainstay on Broadway since 2005, spawning national tours and international productions. The heart of the story is the coming-of-age of four Italian teen singers from Newark who escaped mob life and eventually sold 100 million records over five decades. The Four Seasons' journey is an American success story steeped in personal drama, stormy group dynamics, setbacks and stardom. The musical told their tale, within the limits of four walls. The screen adaptation, sans those restrictions, gave Clint Eastwood carte blanche when he interpreted their lives. The director of Bird (the jazz-filled Charlie "Bird" Parker bio-drama), Unforgiven (an Oscar Award-winning classic western drama) and Changeling (a gorgeously shot period film)



displays his strong suits: music, drama and evocative cinematography.

The temptation to make a fast buck got teenager Francesco "Frankie" Castelluccio (Tony Award winner John Lloyd Young) in trouble with the cops. But his love of music pointed him in the right direction. His older friend Tommy DeVito (Vincent Piazza) was both a bad role model and the key to a musical career. Frankie had the silky smooth falsetto. Tommy sang baritone, played the guitar and fancied himself the business manager. The two hungered to make it big in the music industry. They lucked out the day their buddy Joe "Joey" Pesci (Joseph Russo) introduced them to singer/songwriter/keyboardist Gaudio (Erich Bergen). Bass player and bass-voiced Nick Massi (Michael Lomenda) completed the quartet. Now they had the voices, talent and the songs to start a career.

In some filmed Broadway musicals, like Dreamgirls, characters break into song in an instant. In this film adaptation, the guys only sing when they're rehearsing, in the studio or performing. This strategy lets Eastwood mount a real drama, which focuses on hustling for gigs, turbulent marriages, intimidating crooks, family problems and flamboyant producers. You get sucked into the musicians' rhythm of life: ambition, romance, betrayal, jealousy, comic moments...

The unsettling moments come when characters, in asides, talk to the camera lens, explaining their point of view. This device may have worked on stage, but it sticks out like a pimple on film. Also, a bothersome lengthy flashback sequence depicts Tony getting the group into debt, courtesy of ties to a mobster. These scenes halt momentum and should have been incorpo-

rated in the chronological telling of their story. Sometimes Eastwood's creative choices are questionable, though never completely detrimental. Eastwood's attention to technical elements—sound, art direction (Patrick M. Sullivan), production design (James J. Murakami) and cinematography (Tom Stern, Changeling)—is impeccable.

The teen group known as The Four Lovers becomes The Four Seasons. Francesco "Frankie" Castelluccio becomes Frankie Valli. And after every producer in New York turns them down, the group hooks up with producer/songwriter Bob Crewe (Mike Doyle), who helps them along as they finally have their first number one hit, "Sherry." That chart-topping success is followed by: "Walk Like A Man," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Dawn (Go Away)," "Big Girls Don't Cry..." As they reach for stardom, nagging problems bring them back down to earth.

Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice were nominated for Tony Awards for writing the book for Jersey Boys. Their screenplay is solid though it never seems to expand on the stage play. For example, The Four Seasons were the first white group to be signed to Veejay Records, a major R&B label

See JERSEY, Page 13

Perot Museum hosting fun event for superstitious adults only this Friday

Are you superstitious? Can you break a mirror, step in front of a black cat, and walk under a ladder with no sweat? Want to explore the Perot Museum after hours in an adult-only atmosphere? Then grab a date or a group of friends, and head to the Perot Museum of Nature and Science to test your superstitious beliefs with a mind-boggling/experimental evening of science, cocktails, bites, music and more at Social Science: Superstitions on Friday, June



20 from 7 - 11 p.m. Guests must be 21 years of age with valid ID.

Challenge your friends in a superstitious obstacle course, uncover the myths

of common folklore, have your fortune read and your handwriting analyzed, dance the night away and much more. And don't miss popular Dallas band Fox

and the Bird performing at 10 in the Lobby ... or the Wolfgang Puck signature cocktail: Electric Berry Shocktail.

Tickets to Social Science are \$18 for non-members and \$13 for Museum members.

For Social Science and The World's Largest Dinosaurs exhibit, tickets are \$24 for non-members and \$17 for Museum members.

Advance online purchase is highly recommended at perotmuseum.org.

"Disney's Aladdin Kids" in Garland

GARLAND – Actors Anonymous Theatre Company presents its 9th summer camp musical: Disney's Aladdin Kids. Performances are Friday, July 11 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, July 12 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. All of your favorite characters from the hit Disney film – Aladdin, Jasmine, Iago, Jafar, the Genie, and more – are here in Disney's Aladdin Kids, a musical adventure filled with magic, mayhem, and flying carpet rides. Appropriate for all ages. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for children & seniors. Ticket reservations can be made at www.thedramaqueens.com.





In business, customer appreciation can go a very long way

By Winston Warrior

For any businesses or brand, the customer is the most important stakeholder. From mom and pop shops to Main Street stores and even franchises, quality customer service translates to satisfied consumers, return business and business growth. So how do we show appreciation to the customers who are so imperative to our business? In order to adequately appreciate your customers, you must first know them and understand their wants, but most importantly - how your product/service best meet their needs.

Here at the new Cricket Wireless, we leverage customer feedback from their experiences to ensure that we consistently meet and exceed the customer's expectations for the brand. For instance, we know that customers are looking for incredible value and quality wireless service. We meet those needs by offering our simple and affordable plans on a reliable, nationwide 4G LTE network with no hidden fees or taxes in our plan pricing. Keeping the customer satisfied is critical to business growth.

This shouldn't be any different for your business -- no matter the size, annual revenues or employee titles... because you may not have an exclusively customer-focused employee. The following are a few considerations and best practices to follow when striving for consistently positive customer experiences:

Friends with Benefits: Are you active in social media? More importantly are you listening to what your customers are



saying about you in social media? While your social media channels can be used for offering deals and promotions, you should always make sure you offer a little something extra to your fans and followers. This could an occasional special offer just for those VIP customers.

More than Just Free **Stuff:** Does your business connect with customers on a personal level? Not just through sharing promotions and offerings, but also by sharing relevant content and asking for feedback and suggestions. This is a great way to humanize your brand and also learn more about your customers at the same time. In other words, take your service and offerings cues directly from your customers.

Reward the Faithful: Rewards Programs are a proven way to build repeat customers. Another great way to increase customer loyalty is by offering incentives for their continued support. As much as we chase new customers, we have to remember that repeat customers keep the lights on and keep us in business. For instance, we offer promotions which reward existing and migrating customers with discounted devices and mail-in rebates;

as well as rewards/retention programs that offer credit towards a new device after one year of on-time payments.

By taking heed to these practical tips, business owners and brand executives may begin to notice enhanced loyalty and customer support as a result. In all business, a little customer appreciation goes along way.

Winston Warrior is Director of Marketing, Customer Acquisition, CLM Programs & Retention at Cricket Wireless. He is based in Alpharetta, GA where he serves as a mentor for Big Brothers, Big Sisters of America.

HRC accuses ExxonMobil of lying about non-discrimination polices protecting LGBT employees

Statement issued by Human Rights claiming ExxonMobil is lying about their record of offering protection for their LGBT employees:

WASHINGTON — Following today's announcement that President Barack Obama will soon issue an executive order extending essential workplace protections to the employees of federal contractors, all eyes turned to the Exxon Mobil Corporation—a Fortune 100 corporation and one of the nation's largest federal contractors. Exxon-Mobil has long resisted instituting non-discrimination protections for LGBT employees, digging in their heels even as a vast majority of Fortune 500 companies treat these protections as a business necessity. How ExxonMobil will come to comply with this executive order was one of the big unanswered questions of this morning's news.

This afternoon we got ExxonMobil's answer: they've decided to lie about their own record.

In a brazen statement obtained by the Human Rights Campaign, Exxon-Mobil is now claiming it has "a longstanding policy that strictly prohibits any form of discrimination by or toward employees, contractors, suppliers and customers in any ExxonMobil workplace. Our global, zero-tolerance policy applies to all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sex-

ual orientation and gender identity."

To explain why this is baloney, HRC Vice President for Communications Fred Sainz issued the following statement:

"Put bluntly, this statement is a lie," Sainz said. "ExxonMobil's Equal Employment and Opportunity Policy has clearly and consistently omitted enumerated LGBT non-discrimination protections for its personnel. Though their statement sounds like it's taking a very progressive stand, it is in fact a master class in doublespeakcrafted, no doubt, by a team of well-paid lawyers. Until a nondiscrimination policy is enumerated, it

See LGBT, Page 12

Greater Irving-Las Colinas

Chamber of Commerce 5201 N. O'Connor Blvd., Ste. 100

Iglesia Santa Marie de Guadolupe 2601 S. MacArthur

The Chateau on Wildbriar Lake 1515 Hard Rock Rd

397 East Las Colinas Blvd, Ste. 180

Bombay Sizzlers

4835 N. O'Connor Blvd.

Mattito's Tex Mex
1001 MacArthur Park

Drive

Taqueria El Tacazo

1150 W. Pioneer Drive

Capistrano's Café & Catering 4650 W. Airport Frwy

Empress of China 2648 N. Beltline Rd.

The Spirit Grille 4030 N. MacArthur Blvd #112

El Rancho Restaurant 1210 E. Irving Blvd

> 504 Salon 3414 W. Rochelle Irving YMCA

220 W. Irving Blvd

Mitchell's Barbershop

4020 N. Beltline Rd

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.

Roy's Pawn Shop 635 E. Irving Blvd

Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church "The

3329 Country Club West

Irving Islamic Center Valley Ranch - Valley Ranch Masjid 9940 Valley Ranch Pkwy W.

Irving Salvation Army 1140 E. Irving Blvd

Antioch Christian Church 2043 W. Walnut Hill Ln

Lee Park Recreation Center 300 Pamela Drive

Lively Pointe Youth Center 909 N. O'Connor Rd

Mustang Park Recreation Center 2223 Kinwest Pkwy

Northwest Park Recreation Center 2800 Cheyenne St. Senter Park Recreation Center 907 S. Senter Rd

Austin Recreation Center 825 E. Union Bower Rd.

Houston Recreation Center 3033 Country Club Rd.

Cimarron Park Recreation Center 201 Red River Trail

Georgia Farrow Recreation Center 530 Davis Street

Heritage Senior Center 200 Jefferson Street iRealy Office Building

320 Decker Drive

Irving Hispanic

Chamber of Commerce
135 S. Jefferson

Irving City Hall 825 W. Irving Blvd

Irving Public Library 801 W. Irving Blvd Shady Grove CME Church 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. Greenview 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

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

VW Barbership 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

LGBT, continued from Page 11

printed on."

ExxonMobil's shareholders have voted 17 times to kill enumerated non-discrimination protections for ExxonMobil's LGBT personnel—the most recent occasion was just last month. In fact when Exxon merged with Mobil in 1999, the newly formed company rescinded domestic partner benefits that had previously been offered to Mobil's gay and lesbian employees. This unprecedented and unmatched record of corporate discrimination has earned

isn't worth the paper it's ExxonMobil the only negative score in the 12 year history of HRC's Corporate Equality Index.

> Despite their attempts to rewrite history, there is little expectation that a final executive order signed by President Obama will allow ExxonMobil to get away with this cynical ploy.

> HRC will continue to work around the clock to ensure that ExxonMobil's LGBT employees enjoy the same essential protections that a majority of their counterparts in the Fortune 500 already enjoy.

PARK, continued from Page 9

their community members to vote, and are encouraged to reach out to their local TV stations to have the video spot aired as a PSA. Finalists can earn seven extra votes and a chance to win FREE PetSafe products every Friday, June 20 - July 25 from noon to midnight when they complete Pet-Safe's "7 Vote Sniff-Out."

PetSafe is also providing the 15 finalists with a finalist kit, which includes yard signs, point of information stands and tear sheets, posters, stickers, window clings, and dog park committee t-shirts, plus lots of downloads at www.petsafe.net/barkforyourpark.

All of the materials are

designed to help communities spread the word. The finalist kits also include instructions for submitting a Public Service Announcement (PSA) video if the city would like to do so, and a standard PSA is also available for download.

The finalist city with the most votes will receive \$100,000 to build a PetSafe dog park. In addition to the grand prize, PetSafe will also be giving four other finalist cities \$25,000 each.

The runner-up city in each small, medium, and large population category will win \$25,000. The Bark from Your Heart city will have the highest percentage of votes to the city's population, and will also win \$25,000

The 2014 Bark for Your Park contest winners will be announced on August 7.

To vote for your favorite finalist, visit www.petsafe.net/barkforyourpark or check out PetSafe on Face-

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SOUTH, continued from Page 5

working methodically to register 120,000 black, Hispanic and Asian American voters in the state - the biggest voter registration drive in 20 years.

We have the power in Mississippi, where the Mississippi Freedom Summer 50th Anniversary Conference is meeting in late June to reflect on the past five decades of political organizing and put a plan into action for the next five decades.

We have the power through all of the black civic organizations, which can collectively reach hundreds of thousands of people of color below the Mason Dixon Line, and through the growing number of unions and other progressive organizations that are sprouting in the South.

During Freedom Summer and the turbulent 1960's, civil rights activists used to ask new recruits, "Are you

willing to die for Freedom?" Today we need to ask each other, "Are you willing to live for Freedom?"

Doing the work to register voters in the South will take our collective time, treasure and dedication. But it is crucial, and it can make the future come faster than many people think.

Jealous is the former President and CEO of the NAACP. He is currently a Partner at Kapor Capital and a Senior Fellow at the Center for American

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\$3.7 million in unemployment fraud recovered by TWC in 2013

Statewide effort includes prosecution of 10 Dallas County individuals

AUSTIN ¬ The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) recovered \$3.7 million in fraudulently obtained Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits in Calendar Year 2013.

TWC investigates cases in which UI benefits are obtained through fraud or deception and refers them to local district attorney offices. Examples of fraud include providing false information, and failing to report all work and earnings when filing claim certifications for benefits.

These funds will be returned to the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund from which TWC pays UI benefits to those who lose their jobs through no fault of their own.

In addition to restitution orders, individuals who commit UI fraud can be ordered to pay fines, perform hours of community service and some serve jail time. For a list of recent criminal dispositions listed by county, go to www.texasworkforce.org/ui/bnfts/pros ecutiondispo.html.

Ten Dallas County individuals were prosecuted for state UI fraud in 2013 and were ordered to pay a total of \$80,483 in restitution.

"The Texas Workforce Commission is steadfast in its efforts to prevent and prosecute UI fraud," said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. "One of our top priorities is to safeguard the UI Trust Fund for the employers and workers of Texas."

TWC's Regulatory Integrity Division is charged with detecting and preventing fraud, waste and abuse. The division enforces all regulatory statutes within the jurisdiction of the agency, including Tax, Workforce, Trade Act, Skills Development, Self-Sufficiency, Child Care and all other

programs that TWC administers. Prevention, detection and elimination of fraud, waste and abuse in the UI program are top priorities, ensuring that funds are available exclusively to those who meet the eligibility requirements.

TWC administers UI benefits to workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own and are actively seeking work. TWC regularly cross matches UI claims with employer wage reports and other databases to detect possible UI fraud. If TWC discovers that claimants have received UI benefits through fraudulent applications, the agency seeks immediate reimbursement of overpayments

To report suspected UI fraud, call the TWC Fraud and Program Abuse Hotline at 800-252-3642.



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LETTER, continued from Page 3

hustle or economic opportunity to exploit and make a profit. Many parents and even the mayor have finally lost confidence in Dallas ISD leadership. This is the primary motivation behind the rushed home rule initiative.

Electing Joyce Foreman to the board will restore confidence in Dallas ISD leadership. Ms. Foreman is committed to ensuring every student in Dallas ISD gets a quality education.

In 2012 we fought for our children's 11 elementary

and middle schools to stay open. Where was the other candidate? It is unfortunate

and pawned without shame and suffer no legal ramifications.

that others can be bought

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know our kids' are not for sale.

Joyce Foreman is a highly qualified leader with integrity who actively advocates for accountability of those responsible for the school system. In plain talk, she really cares and she will make sure everyone knows the truth about what is going on.

As a parent it is my opinion everyone should be more proactive and get out and vote for Joyce Foreman.

Respectfully, Robert D. Jones Sr. Dallas ISD Parent

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JERSEY, continued from Page 10

in the '50s and '60s whose recording artists included Jerry Butler, John Lee Hooker and Little Richard.

It would have added a dimension to the movie if the viewers could see how the Italian kids from Newark interacted with black artists and dealt with social issues like race back in the '60s. As Bobby Crew puts it, "Listening to the group you

couldn't figure out if it was three guys and a girl or four black guys singing." This was a missed opportunity.

John Lloyd Young's interpretation of Valli won him a Tony Award. He was the perfect actor for the lead

He's a strong singer with a piercing voice, but you still miss Valli's distinctive, rich, nasal, trumpet-sounding tenor. Erich Bergen, Michael Lomenda and Vincent Piazza are fine. Christopher Walken as mobster Gyp DeCarlo gives an effete performance that doesn't gel. Donnie Kehr as mobster Norman Waxman is far more intimidating. Mike Doyle plays Bob Crewe with a smirk. Katharine Narducci as Franky's brassy girlfriend-turned-wife makes a believable transition.

As this 134-minute film

comes to an end, you crave more of The Four Seasons. In fact, if you haven't seen the stage musical, the film won't spoil that experience. After witnessing the highs and lows of these street singers from Newark on screen, you will want to see their lives on stage all the more.

Visit NNPA Film Critic Dwight Brown at Dwight-BrownInk.com.

AVENUE F **CHURCH OF CHRIST IN PLANO**

Mondays - Fridays Call 972-423-8833 for AF-FECT, Inc. or email: AF-FECTxInc@aol.com for counseling services, resources and assistance for job readiness and training programs for individuals.

June 22, 9:30 a.m.

You're invited to join us in Morning Services as we worship and praise God for all of His blessings.

June 26, 8 a.m.

You're invited to our Annual Ladies Program with Dr. Kristen Guillory as our key note speaker this year. To Whom Much is Given, Much is Required, is our theme. Registration will start at 8 a.m. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served Visit our website below for more details.

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

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

June 22, 9:45 a.m.

You're invited to worship with us as we praise God for all of His blessings. Our mission is to empower individuals to live like Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

June 25, 7 p.m.

Join us for Bible Study Night as we learn what God

www.thesriplic.org

has to say in His word. Dr. Terrance Woodson. Senior Pastor 1944 E. Hebron Parkway Carrollton, TX 75007 972-492-4300 www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

June 22, 8:45 or 11 a.m. Join us in our Morning Service as we worship, honor and praise God for

His blessings to us.

Dr. Terrence Autry, Senior Pastor George Bush Fwy at Jupiter Road on the Garland/Richardson Border 972-991-0200 www.followpeace.org

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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

June 22, 9:30 a.m.

You're welcome to join us as we worship, honor and praise God for all of His blessings, at 1550 Edelweiss Drive in Allen in our Sunday Morning Worship.

June 25, 7 p.m. You're invited to our

972,359,9956

Early Morning Service

200 W. Belmont Drive Allen, TX 75013

Wednesday Night Live Bible Study to learn more about God's Word at our 200 W. Belmont Drive location

June 29, **Super Sunday**

Every 5th Sunday join us for Friends and Family Day for fellowship and fun at 9:30 a.m. at 1550 Edelweiss Drive in Allen for Sunday Morning Worship. The Men's Choir will perform and there will be a VIP style brunch lunch for all guests.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed.D. Senior Pastor 1550 Edelweiss Drive In Allen for Sunday Morning Worship. Admin. Building Address Is 200 W. Belmont Drive Allen, TX 75013 972-359-9956 www.theship3c.org

BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

June 20, 6:30 p.m.

Don't miss the boat! It's all hands on deck as we Gangway to Galilee, at Bible Way's 2014 Vacation Bible School. We are set-to-sail for a fun filled, seaside adventure, as we learn that it's not what we do and not what we sav- but it's God's Amazing Grace! There are classes for ages 3 through Adults. There is also On-Line Registration.

Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Pastor 4215 North Greenview Drive Irving, TX 75062

972-257-3766 www.biblewayirving.org

RHEMA LIFE **CHURCH** IN PLANO

June 22, 10 a.m. Join us for our Praise and Worship Service. Come and

June 23-25, 7 p.m. Each Night

bring someone with you.

Come and praise the Lord with us at our Empowerment Revival and be blessed of the Lord.

June 28, 9 a.m.

You're invited to a Brotherhood Fellowship Breakfast at the Doubletree Hotel, 1981 N. Central Expwy., Richardson, TX 75080. Guest Evangelist is Dr. Denny D. Davis, St. John Church, Grandprairie, TX and with Deacon Reginald Carter, Brentwood Church, Houston, TX. 2014 Theme is "Bridging the Gap." "One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts." Psalm 145:4.

Rev. James W. Thomas, Pastor/Founder 3801 K Avenue Plano, TX 75074 469-467-7575

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June 22, 8 a.m.

Join us in Morning Worship Services as we worship God for His blessings.

June 25, 7 p.m.

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

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

June 22. 7:30 and 11:30 a.m.

You're invited to join us as we worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

June 23-27, 7 p.m.
Join us as we, Tithe our time to God; you are welcome and encourage to come as we praise, honor and worship God with our time; and don't forget to bring someone with you.

Pastor Rickie Rush 7701 S Westmoreland Road

Dallas, TX 75237 972-372-4262 www.Ibocchurch.org

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

Mondays - Fridays Early Prayer, 5 a.m.

Join us in prayer early in the morning at 5 a.m. on Mondays – Thursdays 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.

June 22, 10 a.m.

You're invited to Sunday School with Elder/Superintendent Greg Mason; adult class teacher, Sis. Vicki Mason; and children class teacher and Director of our children's choir, Evangelist Elizabeth McAfee.

Dr. Gregory E. Voss, Senior Pastor "The Happiest Pastor In the World" 2765 Trinity Mills Road Building 300 Carrollton, TX 75006 214-514-9147

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Happy Juneteenth



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Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth Independence Day, Freedom Day, or Emancipation Day, is a holiday in the United States that commemorates the announcement of the abolition of slavery in the State of Texas in 1865.

More generally it is the emancipation (liberation or setting free) of Black citizens throughout the United States.

The celebration is on June 19, the term Juneteenth is a portmanteau (combination of two or more words or morphemes, and their definitions, into one new word) of June and nineteenth, and is recognized as a state holiday or special day of observance in most states.

The holiday is observed primarily in local celebrations. The significance is that it was the Emancipation of the last remaining slaves in the United States.

On June 19, 1865 General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and told the people there that the Civil War was over, and the slaves were now free.

He read them General Order Number 3, which begins by saying, "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free.

This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer "

Former slaves in Galveston rejoiced in the streets. Juneteenth celebrations began in Texas the following

Across many parts of Texas, freed people pooled their funds to purchase land specifically for their communities and increasingly large Juneteenth gatherings — including Houston's Emancipation Park, Mexia's Booker T. Washington Park, and Emancipation Park in

As the news spread, those who were previously en-

slaved were shocked and excited. Some took the declaration at face value, and declared that they would now work for their former masters as free men.

Others left immediately either to go north or to find family members in neighboring states - as soon as they heard the news.

Freedom meant more than the right to travel freely. It meant the right to name one's self and many freedmen gave themselves new names. County courthouses were overcrowded as Blacks applied for licenses to legalize their mar-

Each year, those who had

been enslaved celebrated Juneteenth as a day for celebration over their freedom. On that day, families would gather together, pray together, and remember the excitement of hearing the declaration for the first

Some of them even made a pilgrimage back to Galveston each year to be together for Juneteenth.

But why that date? After all, President Lincoln had made the Emancipation Proclamation over two years beforehand, on Jan. 1, 1863.

The Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery, was passed by Congress on Jan. 31, 1865. So what was so special about June 19?

In truth, the Emancipation Proclamation did theoretically free all slaves in the South (although not in the northern states), but the southern states were not yet under Union control. Therefore, the Emancipation Proclamation did not successfully abolish slavery.

In April of 1865, General Lee finally surrendered and the South was forced to accept Lincoln's proclamation, as well as the Thirteenth Amendment.

There are several theories about the extra two months (or the full two and a half years) that it took for the message to get to Texas everything from a killed messenger to deliberate stifling of the news.

So when General Granger finally announced that slavery had been abolished,

it came as quite a surprise and a reason for celebration.

During the US Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on Sept. 22, 1862, with an effective date of Jan. 1, 1863. Although it declared that slaves were to be freed in the Confederate States of America in rebellion against the federal government, it had minimal actual effect.

Even after the ending of military hostilities, as a part of the former Confederacy, Texas did not act to comply with the Emancipation Proclamation.

The freedmen were advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They were informed that they would not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they would not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.



The Ashton Villa's front balcony on the island of Galveston, Texas is where General Order #3 was read on June 19, 1865 by Union General, Gordon Granger; surrounded by 2,000 federal troops and slaves.



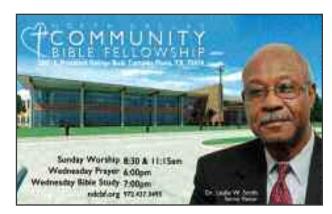




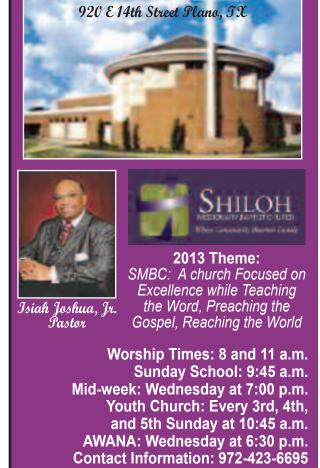


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NDG Book Review: All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Tomorrow morning, when you wake up, everything will be changed.

Oh, sure, you'll still be in the same bed with the same sheets and jammies. Your room will be the same room you went to sleep in. Your mom will still be your mom and your dad will still be your dad - but it'll be a whole new day with new possibilities. As you'll see in the new book "All Different Now" by Angela Johnson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis, one day can really mean a lot.

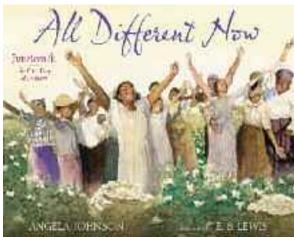
Every morning, the breeze from the gulf woke everyone up, telling them it was time to start the day in the fields beneath the hot Texas sun. Just like every other day, it was time to work and work some more - but there was one day when everything was different, though nobody knew it at first.

And then someone told someone else on the edge of the gulf. And that someone took the word to town, and told friends. The friends were so happy that they spread the message around the country. The news was like a wave in the ocean and pretty soon, everyone in the fields knew – and they were happy.

They knew that "a Union general had read from a balcony" that everyone was free – not just now, but "forever." From that minute forward, nothing would be like it was the day before. Everything would "be all different now."

People sang their happiness with faces raised. Others – those who didn't think they'd ever see it - cried tears of joy. Some could hardly believe that day had come and they "whispered things" to one another.

Since nobody was being forced to work in the fields that day, they all went to the



beach for a picnic by the water. Even the sand was changed. Dancing felt new. Food tasted different for those who were free for the first time. Even stories sounded sweeter. And at the end of the day, it was especially nice to walk next to cotton fields that didn't demand work. It was nice to go to bed, knowing that the next morning and every one after that, the sun would wake everyone up and nothing would ever be the same...

In her notes, author An-

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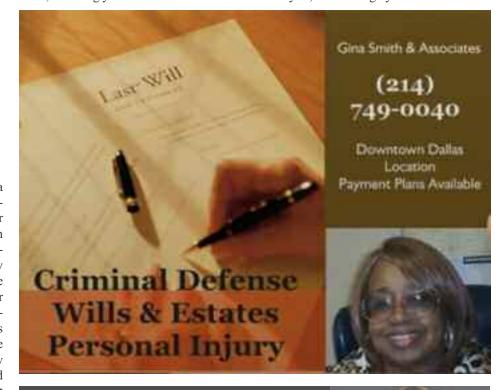
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gela Johnson says that a photo of her great-grandparents led her to wonder how they celebrated when they learned of their freedom which, because they were slaves in Texas, came more than two years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. That's a great way to introduce the pages of historical overview about Emancipation and Juneteenth that follow, but be sure to read the illustrator's note, too. E.B. Lewis writes about making this book come alive, which he

lenge."

The challenge for you, I think, is talking your 3-to-7-

calls his "biggest chal- year-old into letting go of this book now and then because they'll want to hold fast to it. As for you, if you're prone to saying no to "iust one more book," then "All Different Now" might change your mind.





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