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Some faith leaders victimize rape survivors again

By Jazelle Hunt
NNPA Washington Correspondent

THIRD IN A SERIES

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Simone Oliver had always been called, as they say in the religious community. She was active in the Baptist church throughout her youth, playing piano for the youth choir and even ghostwriting sermons for several pastors as a teen. She loved Scripture, loved preaching, and loved God. For her, church was heaven-on-earth.

But it was also hell. At 15 years old, Oliver's then-pastor called her into his church office, grabbed her, put his tongue in her mouth, and fondled her until she broke away. It was the third time in her life she had been sexually assaulted, already a rape survivor at 12 years old at the hands of her sister's first husband, and again at 13 by a family friend staying in her home.

Still, her faith did not waver. In fact, it grew stronger as Oliver transitioned from being a public school teacher to a minister.

In the mid-2000s, she took on an associate pastor's role at a non-denominational church in New Jersey. The founding pastor tried to court her for years until she finally acquiesced and the two began a secret relationship. However, a year later, he decided to marry someone else.



Eddy Van 3000 / Flickr

Still, the affair continued.

"I couldn't get out. It was almost like sinking into an abyss," she remembered. "I had gone to someone in the church to let them know this was going on. And they pretty much turned on me."

And no group leans on the church more than Blacks.

"While the U.S. is generally considered a highly religious nation, African-Americans are markedly more religious on a variety of measures than the U.S. population as a whole, including level of affiliation with religion, attendance at religious services, frequency of prayer and religion's importance in life," according to a report titled, "A Religious Portrait of African-Americans" by

the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.

Black Women are the Most Religious

And among the most religiously committed, no segment is more committed than African-American women. The report found that 84 percent of Black women say religion is very important to them and 59 percent say they attend religious services at least once a week.

As committed as she was, Oliver eventually left that church, broke off the affair with the pastor, began dating the man who would become her husband, and was accepted into Princeton Theological Seminary. As her life got better, her former co-

See FAITH, Page 13



March for Babies coming to White Rock
-See Page 4



Lending a hand in learning
-See Page 7



Peter Rabbit hops on to DCT stage
-See Page 9



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COMMENTARY Below the belt attacks on the Obamas

By George E. Curry
NNPA Columnist

No United States president has been more disrespected than Barack Obama – and his family.

The hatred for the nation's first African American president is so deep that all but seven Republicans in the U.S. Senate were willing to write a letter to Iran that amounted to treason on a grand

scale.

In an effort to derail talks that would limit Iran's nuclear weapons, 47 Republican senators signed an "open letter" to Iran's leaders claiming any deal they reach with the administration won't last after Obama leaves office.

In an issue that caused the Republican senators to be labeled traitors in a

See BELT, Page 3

INSIDE...

People In The News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community	5
Education	6
Community Spotlight	7-8
Entertainment	9-10
Market Place	11
Career Opportunity	12
Church Directory	14-15
NDG Book Review	16

People In The News...

See Page 2



Euphemia Vera Clement Tinner



Deborah Gray-Young



Robi Reed

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Euphemia Vera Clement Tinner



Euphemia Vera Clement Tinner was born on July 31, 1930 in Paris, Texas, County of Lamar, to Solomon and Helen Gully Clement. She graduated from Gibbons High School in Paris, Texas, and on June 8, 1948, married the love of her life, Eugene Henry Tinner. Through their union, six beautiful children were born, four girls and two boys.

Phemia (as she was called) and Eugene moved to Hamilton Park, Texas in

1955 and were one of the founding pillars of First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park, with the late pastor, Jessie Lee and late First Lady, Annie Pearl Foster. She served on the Usher Board and enjoyed garden-

ing, cooking, playing cards, playing bingo, and raising her children (along with most of the neighborhood children).

Phemia, a contemporary super woman, kept her cover girl beauty throughout her life and she prepared delectable meals from scratch; and she kept a "white glove test" home until death. After sharing just a few minutes with Phemia, it was a sure bet that you would love her forever; she always greeted you with a smile.

According to a family friend, Sis. Shirley Tarpley, Phemia's favorite hymn

was "Walk with me Lord," a song that has strengthened many of the years speaking to the faithfulness of God to be with us, no matter what.

Her favorite Bible verse is one of the most beloved verses written by the Apostle Paul Philippians 4:13 as he was sitting in a prison cell, but able to proclaim, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

She leaves to cherish her memory and continue her legacy, her husband, Eugene; four daughters, Beverly Tinner, Renee Tinner Allen (Lincoln Allen), Rebecca Tinner, Regina Tinner

Green (Lawrence Green); two sons, Reginald Tinner (Iris Tinner), Wilford "Deak" Tinner (Peggy Tinner); six grandchildren, Naarah Allen, Ebony Miller (Brandon Taylor), Joshua Tinner, Jacob Tinner, Jared Tinner, Joseph Tinner; two great grandchildren, Joshua Aaron Tinner, II, Kaylana Marie Tinner; a sister, Frankie Mae Clement McFadden (Skip McFadden); Sister-in-Law, Margaret Burton Clement, a goddaughter Sheila Tarpley Lott (William "Bill" Lott) a best friend, Shirley Demus Tarpley "Sister Tarpley", and a host of nieces,

nephews, extended family and close friends.

Euphemia was preceded in death by her parents, Solomon and Helen Gully Clement, her brother, Nathan Charles "NC" Clement, and her niece, JoAnn Solomon.

The wake for Phemia is Friday, March 20th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park, 300 E. Phillips Street, Richardson, Texas (North-east corner of Greenville Avenue and Phillips Street). The Homegoing Celebration will be on Saturday, March 21st at 10 a.m. at the same location.

Deborah Gray-Young



Chicago, IL (BlackNews.com) -- The life experiences of Deborah Gray-Young placed her into a very unique position to be able to offer women of color an in-depth insight into navigating through and around the roadblocks erected by society.

It is no secret that women have always had to fight for an equal place in the workplace, but women of color have to also surmount the stereotypes imposed by the mainstream corporate world.

This is what prompted

Deborah to write *You 3.0 - A Guide to Overcoming Roadblocks for Professional Women of Color*. She says it is time to effectively deal with being frequently ignored, seldom taken seri-

ously and often stifled by low expectations. Women of color no longer need to feel they must acquiesce to sitting on the sidelines of professional success. Her new book provides a genuine feeling of empowerment.

Women of color continue to face challenges with being taken seriously. While it is true that some are making strides in the right direction, others are feeling the frustration and disappointed of not being rewarded and advanced on merit. The result is women of color are leaving corporate America in droves

every single year. This translates into not being represented by the corporations that develop and deliver products and services into their communities. Each chapter of *YOU 3.0* concludes with questions and exercises designed to help the reader work through the roadblocks they may be facing and begin to build a strategy and a plan of action.

During a recent interview, Deborah made these comments: "*YOU 3.0* is you in your prime. The '*YOU 3.0*' approach is a set of tools that helps you recognize, acknowledge and better understand who you are and

how others see you. It was a pleasure assembling this book for you. It is my hope that you will find it inspiring, thought provoking but most of all, useful."

"My path began studying journalism and ending up in advertising. I started at the beginning - as a receptionist for a magazine- not the middle as a manager and certainly not at the top as the daughter of an influencer. I worked my way up.

"I've been sized up every way you can think of, sat in a corner and ignored, passed over and intellectually dismissed. But in the famous words of Maya Angelou 'and still I rise'," ac-

cording to Gray-Young.

Deborah Gray-Young is a Vice President, Media Director, at a Chicago-based advertising agency and a Certified Personal and Executive Coach.

Deborah is the 2013 recipient of the MAAX Advertising Executive of the Year Award, and serves as the vice-chair of the external advisory council for Nielsen, the leading global research company.

You 3.0 - A Guide to Overcoming Roadblocks for Professional Women of Color is available on Amazon.com as both an ebook and a paperback.

Robi Reed



LOS ANGELES - The 8th Annual Toast to Urban Entertainment Executives Honoring Women returns with a new round of incredible women making strides in the urban entertainment and media atmosphere. This event acknowledges the contributions made to Urban Entertainment by outstanding industry executives in television, film, news, multimedia, music, and more in honor of Women's History Month. Lynn Allen Jeter & Associates, partnered with sponsors Urban Network Digital, Amalgamation Magazine, Wilson & Associates, and Bleu Magazine, will honor six women on March

25 at H.O.M.E in Beverly Hills.

This year, the 8th Annual Toast to Urban Entertainment Executives Honoring Women will celebrate CEO of multi-media entertainment company Monami Entertainment, TV Producer of VH1's "Love & Hip Hop" Mona Scott-Young, Creator

and Owner of entertainment blog TheJasmineBrand.com Jasmine Brand, BET Vice President of Talent Casting Robi Reed, Associate Director of ASCAP Mir Harris, Founder of ICON MANN Tamara Houston, and Founder of Black Don't Crack Debra Hubbard.

News anchor and radio personality Josefa Salinas will be the MC of the Toast and there will be live performances by Independent artists. The show will feature Grammy Nominated songwriter Vincent Berry, X Factor's Ashly Williams, R&B artist Emma Rena, Poet Jasmine Williams, and more.

In the past, the Toast to Urban Entertainment Executives have honored incred-

ible women such as Casting Director Twinkie Byrd, CEO of Norwood & Norwood and Talent Manager of Brandy and Ray J Sonja Norwood, Vice President of Publicity at Interscope Gef-fen A&M Records Yvette Gayle and WNBA Champion Pamela McGee.

After 25 years of running her own company, Robi Reed Entertainment, Reed joined the executive ranks at Black Entertainment Television (BET). She now heads BET's Talent and Casting for Original Programming where she oversees all scripted and non-scripted shows, like The Game, Being Mary Jane and Real Husbands of Hollywood.

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Publisher's Office:
publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:
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Editorial Department:
editor@northdallasgazette.com

Online:
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Community Marketing

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#BlackGirlsMatter right here in America

By Walter Fields
NNPA Columnist

Every morning, when I fix my teenage daughter breakfast and drop her off to school, she reminds me that #BlackGirlsMatter. Her journey has not been easy; made all the more difficult by an experience, beginning in middle school and persisting to high school, that threatened to crush her dreams by denying her access to classes education professionals deem critical to demonstrate college readiness. Had it not been

for the advocacy of her parents, and the threat of litigation, my daughter would have been cast aside and surrendered to a curriculum that was not simply less challenging, but inadequate by the standards of competitive colleges and an increasingly analytical and technical workforce.

Today, in her junior year, she remains one of only a handful of Black girls enrolled in advanced honors and advanced placement classes in her public high school, Columbia Senior High School in suburban

Maplewood, N.J.

My daughter's story is neither unique or an aberration. It is the reality facing Black girls in America. This is what the recently released report Black Girls Matter: Pushed Out, Overpoliced and Underprotected confirms. The Center for Intersectional and Social Policy Studies at Columbia University and the African American Policy Forum, authors of the report, have provided the nation with a powerful narrative of the dilemma of Black girls in our country. The report de-

scribes the disproportionate punishment meted out to Black girls in school, with data showing that they are suspended six times the rate of white girls as 'zero tolerance' policies hit with racial precision. Black girls also receive more severe sentences than other girls when they enter the juvenile justice system and are the fastest growing population in the criminal justice system. They are also victims of bullying, sexual harassment and violence in school. Our

See MATTER Page 8

BELT, continued from Page 1

New York Daily News headline. An editorial said, “Regardless of President Obama’s fecklessness in negotiating a nuclear deal with Iran, 47 Republican U.S. senators engaged in treachery by sending a letter to the mullahs aimed at cutting the legs out from under America’s commander-in-chief. We join GOP signatories in opposing the pact as outlined, but we strenuously condemn their betrayal of the U.S. constitutional system.”

In case there is any doubt, the liberal political website PoliticusUSA stated, “According to the dictionary definition, a traitor is one who betrays a person, a principle, or especially their country. It is of no consequence why someone, or a group, chooses to work in opposition to their nation, or fellow citizens’ well-being, because if their intent and result of their actions is to deliberately damage or cause harm to their country or fellow citizens, they are by definition traitors.”

It wasn’t all that long ago that Democrats and Republicans observed the rule that while we might have our internal debates, when it comes for foreign policy, we speak with one voice – that of the president.

House Republicans ignored that long-standing custom by inviting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu to address Congress, knowing he would be critical of ongoing negotiations by the U.S. and its allies to freeze Iran’s nuclear weapons. The White House was not consulted on the invitation, a sharp departure from established protocol.

The disrespect for Obama and the presidency itself has reached such a low point that a headline in the Washington Post summed it up this way: “Republicans are beginning to act as though Barack Obama isn’t even the president.”

The story explained, “It’s safe to say that no president in modern times has had his legitimacy questioned by the opposition party as much as Barack Obama. But as his term in office enters its final phase, Republicans are embarking on an entirely new enterprise: They have decided that as long as he holds the office of the presidency, it’s no longer necessary to respect the office itself.”

And many argue that the hatred extends well beyond partisan politics.

PoliticusUSA stated, “It is likely that throughout America’s short history, except for the traitorous Confederacy, no group of individuals has exhibited the characteristic betrayal of a traitor more than conservatives in general, and Republicans in particular. What makes their actions all the

more despicable is that their traitorous actions are founded on racial animus for one man; and allegiance to foreigners and one tiny segment of the population.”

The attacks on Obama began when he first ran for president, with some conservatives openly questioning whether he was a U.S. citizen.

Marilyn Davenport, a member of the Orange County Republican Party in California, e-mailed a cartoon in 2010 with the face of President Obama superimposed on a chimpanzee. Also pictured were two older chimpanzees described as “parents.” The inscription on the cartoon read: “Now you know why – No birth certificate.”

The New York Post went well over the line of respectability by publishing a cartoon in 2009, in the wake of Connecticut police shooting a pet chimpanzee, depicting the authors of the stimulus bill as a dead chimpanzee.

And who could forget Rep. Joe Wilson [R-S.C.], interrupting a 2009 presidential address on health care to Congress in by shouting, “You, lie!”

The personal attacks have not been limited to President Obama – his entire family has been attacked.

Last week, Emmy-winning Univision host Rodner Figueroa was fired for saying, “Michelle Obama looks like she’s part of the cast of

Planet of the Apes.”

Michael O’Neal, Speaker of the Kansas House, circulated an email referring to the first lady as “Mrs. Yo’ Mama.”

Even Sasha and Malia have been targets of conservatives. They have been upbraided from everything from taking their spring break in the Bahamas to the clothes they wore when their father pardoned a Thanksgiving turkey.

As Media Matters, the watchdog group, stated, “On May 27, [2010] President Obama explained at a press conference that he was reminded daily about the consequences of the oil spill by his daughter Malia who asked him did you plug the hole yet? while he was shaving.”

Both Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh saw fit to imitate Malia on air.

No stunt is too low or too vile for conservatives who hate everything about Obama, including his race.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of *Emerge* magazine, is editor-in-chief of the *National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA)* and *BlackPressUSA.com*. He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com. You can also follow him at www.twitter.com/currygeorge and [George E. Curry Fan Page on Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/GeorgeE.Curry).

Salt may be bad for more than your blood pressure

By Robert Preidt

(HealthDay News) -- Even if you don't develop high blood pressure from eating too much salt, you may still be damaging your blood vessels, heart, kidneys and brain, a new study warns.

Researchers reviewed available evidence and found that high levels of salt consumption have harmful

effects on a number of organs and tissues, even in people who are "salt-resistant," which means their salt intake does not affect their blood pressure.

High salt consumption levels can lead to reduced function of the endothelium, which is the inner lining of blood vessels. Endothelial cells are involved in a number of processes, including blood clotting and

immune function. High salt levels can also increase artery stiffness, the researchers said.

"High dietary sodium can also lead to left ventricular hypertrophy, or enlargement of the muscle tissue that makes up the wall of the heart's main pumping chamber," said study co-author David Edwards. He is an associate professor in kinesiology and applied phys-

iology at the University of Delaware.

"As the walls of the chamber grow thicker, they become less compliant and eventually are unable to pump as forcefully as a healthy heart," he explained in a university news release.

High salt intake can also harm kidney function and may also affect the sympathetic nervous system, which triggers what is com-

monly known as the fight-or-flight response, according to the study published March 17 in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

Study co-author William Farquhar is professor and chair of the department of kinesiology and applied physiology at the university. He said, "Chronically elevated dietary sodium may 'sensitize' sympathetic neu-

rons in the brain, causing a greater response to a variety of stimuli, including skeletal muscle contraction.

"Again, even if blood pressure isn't increased, chronically increased sympathetic outflow may have harmful effects on target organs," he said in the release.

SOURCE: University of Delaware, news release, March 10, 2015

Spring is here, so the rodents are on their way

They surprise you by suddenly appearing, tiny eyes and long tails, squeaking as you scream. Just the appearance of rats and mice can scare us. The diseases they carry on their bodies and produce from their urine and droppings are just as frightening. Encounters with rodents can cause serious illness and even death. Massey Services, the na-

tion's fifth largest pest prevention company, wants to share these facts about rodents and the diseases they carry.

Rodents are known to carry at least 10 different kinds of diseases, including murine typhus, salmonella, rat-bite fever, bubonic plague and bacterial food poisoning, all of which can cause severe illness. Han-

tavirus, another disease carried by rodents can progress to Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS), which can be fatal.

Cases of HPS occur sporadically, usually in rural areas where forests, fields, and farms offer habitats for rodents. Hunters and campers have been known to contract HPS when they make camp in areas that

have been infested with mice. Deer mice, cotton rats and rice rats in the southeastern states carry the virus.

Keeping rodents at bay helps reduce the threat of illnesses they may spread. Here are some important things you need to know about rodents:

- Block access points like holes around plumbing

pipes, spaces in eaves and around doors and windows to keep rodents out of homes and sheds.

Rats can enter a building through holes half an inch wide; mice can enter through holes one quarter of an inch wide.

- Rats and mice tend to enter homes in search of food and shelter and will eat

any kind of food that people eat. Store food in airtight containers. Rodents can gnaw through cardboard boxes and plastic packages.

- Rodents can contaminate 10 times as much food as they eat, with urine, droppings and hair. Discard any food that may have come in contact with rodents.



The "March for Babies" signature fund-raising event for the March of Dimes will be held in more than 700 communities across the country. The local event will be held at White Rock Lake. (Courtesy photo)

HIV could be impacting already high cancer rates among blacks

By Roberto Alejandro
Special to the NNPA from the Afro-American Newspaper

A recent study published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute found people with HIV develop cancer at higher rates than would be expected in

the general population.

This finding has particular public health implications for African Americans, who already suffer the worst HIV infection rates of any group in the United States. Blacks accounted for 46 percent of HIV diagnoses between 2009 and

2013 despite being only 13 percent of the total population, according to the Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. Census Bureau, respectively.

According to the National Cancer Institute study, "An

See HIV, Page 16

March for Babies set for April 18

March for Babies, March of Dimes signature fundraiser, is held in 700 communities across the United States and involves more than 3 million people each year. By participating in March for Babies, you can help ensure every baby gets the healthy start in life they deserve.

Locally on April 18 at Norbuck Park at White Rock Lake, the local chapter is hosting their march. The Co-Chairs are Dr. Paul Hain, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas and Steve Idoux with Lockton Dunning Benefits.

The walk is 5 miles with registration: 8 a.m. a pro-

gram kicking off at 8:45 a.m. and the start of the walk at 9 a.m.

Anyone can sign up for March for Babies and create a team with family, friends or colleagues at marchforbabies.org. For more information contact us at 972/669-3463 (Dallas) or (817) 451-9174 (Fort Worth).

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Five tips to Get the most value from your tax return

For savings-savvy consumers, tax season means getting creative with how to use your federal tax refund check.

The IRS says the average tax refund issued so far in 2015 tops \$3,500. While it can be tempting to hit up the mall and blow through your money the second that big check arrives, smart spenders find ways to turn a refund into a "MeFund" through thrifty money-management decisions that keep cash in their pocket.

To help you become a better saver and a more prudent spender, Lynnette Khalfani-Cox, The Money Coach suggests five smart ways to stretch your refund check, making your money go further and enhancing your quality of life:

1) Invest in yourself

In today's economy, it's wise to invest in your education, your career and your health. Each will benefit you personally and professionally. Consider using some of your tax refund check to take a continuing education class or attend a business networking event. Similarly, invest in your health by signing up for a gym, taking yoga classes, or getting the aid of a personal trainer. A healthy body can boost creativity and productivity - and hopefully lower your long-term healthcare



costs too.

2) Pay off debt

A recent study from the American Psychological Association showed money is a top cause of stress for Americans. To help rid yourself of money worries, reduce debt with your tax refund. Pay off a credit card bill, wipe out a lump sum on loans, or make an extra mortgage payment to help toward becoming debt free.

3) Spend wisely by taking advantage of seasonal promotions

If you are going to spend on something you want, do it the smart way. Take advantage of seasonal promotions in order to keep much of your refund in your pocket. For instance, if you're in the market for a new phone, go to Cricket Wireless (<https://www.cricetwireless.com/>) to receive free or discounted phones, all after mail-in rebate, such as the Nokia Lumia 635. And, if you port your number to Cricket, you may also

get a free month of service after completing two months on one of the provider's Smart, Pro or Advanced plans. Check out more details at www.cricetwireless.com.

4) Budget for larger purchases

If you're thinking about spending your tax refund on a vacation or must-have electronics, be sure to first budget realistically. Remember, a vacation won't just involve travel expenses and hotel accommodations.

Be sure to factor in food, entertainment and miscellaneous costs such as tips, souvenirs and parking. Before using your refund on a big-ticket purchase, you should also use helpful budgeting tools to monitor your monthly spending. Mint.com is a good online and mobile budgeting software tool that can help you track your spending.

5) Create a "MeFund"

A final way to put your

money to good use is to boost your savings. Create a "MeFund" as a way to save more every month - whether from a tax refund check, through smart budgeting or value found by switching to a no-contract wireless carrier like Cricket on a nationwide 4G LTE network - so you can spend more on the things that matter to you in the future.

Whatever your goal, you'll reach it a lot sooner if you save exclusively for it.

From investing in yourself to paying down debt and being a smarter spender and saver, let tax refund season be your time to get ahead. After all, by using that tax refund check wisely, you'll set yourself up for financial prosperity in 2015 and beyond.

Plano kicking off Mayor's summer internship program

Calling it an invaluable "learn and earn" opportunity, Plano Mayor Harry LaRosiliere wants to make this summer unforgettable while changing the trajectory for dozens of Plano public high school students. On Monday March 23 at 10:30 a.m., he will kick off the second-annual Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program and update the progress on The Plano 100 campaign to recruit

The Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program gives outstanding Plano ISD students an opportunity to gain real-world experience through employment in a professional workplace. In its second year, the program combines Plano's vibrant

business community with a nationally recognized school district, connecting motivated high school students with exceptional local companies and organizations. The summer internship program runs eight weeks from June 15 through August 7 and concludes with a celebratory luncheon on Thursday, August 13. Capital One is the presenting sponsor for a second year.

Businesses, large and small, can participate in several ways - by sponsoring an intern at their workplace, underwriting an intern at a nonprofit or government agency, or becoming a program sponsor. Interns work 20 to 40 hours weekly at a minimum of \$9 per hour. Learn more and sign up online at planomayorsinterns.org.

'Keys to Success' for college open doors at free DCCCD program

High school juniors and seniors, as well as college freshmen, always want to borrow the keys to drive the family car. They have friends to visit, activities to attend, and places to go - but a different set of keys can get them into college.

A free program - the Las Llaves del Exito (or Keys to Success) Leadership and Career Symposium - can help those students and their

parents follow the road to college using a map that includes the tools they need to succeed. The event, presented by the Dallas County Community College District and the Dallas Independent School District, is designed specifically for college freshmen, 11th- and 12th-graders, and parents so that they can explore higher education together and learn about careers, goals

and skills that will help them plan for the future.

The program will be held on Sat., March 28, from 8 a.m. to noon at Cedar Valley College, located at 3030 N. Dallas Ave. in Lancaster. Admission and breakfast are free. Participants can pre-register at <http://llavesleadershipsymposium.eventbrite.com> and complete a Llaves Passport

See KEYS, Page 11

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DCCCD students will enjoy price cut following new bookstore contract

The Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) is taking steps to help students save money by cutting the cost of textbooks. During a recent meeting of the DCCCD board of trustees, Dr. Joe May, DCCCD's chancellor, recommended a new textbook contract which eliminated commissions on the sales of textbooks; his recommendation was approved.

DCCCD's new contract with college textbook company Follett Higher Education Group is a five-year, \$1.75 million agreement in which the cost of textbooks no longer includes a commission. All DCCCD students who purchase text-

books will benefit directly when they purchase both new and used books and, on average, will save \$600 annually.

"This new bookstore contract is one concrete way in which DCCCD can meet our board of trustees' strategic priorities that focus on promoting student success and removing barriers to college completion," said May. "The approval of this bookstore contract is a measurable confirmation that this student-centric decision is one of the first of many visible actions, both in and out of the classroom, that support student success."

Based on a review of textbook costs in 2014

across the district, a full-time student at one of DCCCD's seven colleges who took 15 credit hours per semester, over four semesters, paid approximately \$1,965 for books, according to John Robertson, the district's chief financial officer. "This contract will deliver savings to students of approximately \$536 to \$670, or a cost reduction of more than 33 percent. Figures will vary, based on whether a student buys new or used textbooks as well as how many semesters she or he is enrolled." The percentage decrease in the cost of new textbooks is almost equal to the spring 2015 tuition increase.

In typical bookstore con-

tracts, the commissions earned on textbook sales were used to fund a limited number of scholarships awarded to students who applied for them. Under the new Follett contract, all DCCCD students will see those cost savings when they buy textbooks.

"Spirit" or non-instructional items (college-branded items like T-shirts and hats or regular school supplies, food and non-textbooks, for example) will include a commission in the price. That commission will be paid to each college and used for student activities as auxiliary revenues.

DCCCD students who want to rent textbooks can continue to do that under

the new Follett contract, too. Since the textbook rental program began in the

anticipated, saving an estimated \$2.6 million.

See **CONTRACT**, Page 9

Collin College Foundation accepting applications

The Collin College Foundation is accepting applications for the 2015-16 academic year. Multiple scholarships are available, including the new "What Collin College Means to Me" video contest scholarship.

Awards typically range from \$500 to \$1,250 and may be used to pay tuition, fees and books. The application deadline is Friday, April 10.

This year, one student will also have the opportunity to win a \$1,250 schol-

arship by entering the "What Collin College Means to Me" video contest. Entrants should upload a 2-5 minute original video to YouTube or Vimeo explaining how Collin College helped make a positive change in their career, their life or the lives of others. The contest deadline is Friday, April 10 and complete rules are available at <http://www.collin.edu/foundation/students/Video%20Scholarship%20Submission%20Rules%202015.pdf>.

Students interested in the

video competition are also encouraged to complete the online application in order to be considered for other available scholarships.

Scholarships are open to students enrolled in six or more credit hours and are awarded based on a combination of academic performance, financial need and community involvement.

The scholarship application is available online at <http://www.collin.edu/foundation/students/>

index.html. All questions should be directed to the scholarship coordinator at scholarshipcoordinator@collin.edu or 972.599.3147.

Eastfield College receives honor from Tree Campus USA

NEBRASKA CITY—Eastfield College was recently honored with 2014 Tree Campus USA recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Tree Campus USA is a national program created in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation and sponsored by Toyota to honor colleges and universities for effective campus forest management and for engaging staff and students in conservation goals.

Eastfield College achieved

the title by meeting Tree Campus USA's five standards, which include maintaining a tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance and a student service-learning project.

"Students are eager to volunteer in their communities and become better stewards of the environment," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation.

"Participating in Tree

Campus USA sets a fine example for other colleges and universities, while helping to create a healthier planet for us all."

The Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota have helped campuses throughout the country plant thousands of trees, and Tree Campus USA colleges and universities invested more than \$29 million in campus forest management last year.

More information about the program is available at arborday.org/TreeCampusUSA.

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Michael Sorrell is selected as AKA's Image Award honoree

The Legacy of Service Foundation in partnership with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Omicron Mu Omega Chapter of Dallas, Texas, will host the 27th Image Award Celebration at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas on March 28. The Image Award Celebration honors outstanding citizens who have made significant contributions in the community and serves as our foundation's major fundraiser. This year's theme is "Aspirations, Knowledge, Accomplishments – Celebrating the Legacy of Historically Black Colleges and Universities." The Image Award honoree is Michael Sorrell, Esq., President of Paul Quinn College in Dallas.



Michael Sorrell, Esq. has led the transformation of Paul Quinn College and is selected by the AKA's as their Image Award Honoree for 2015.

Entertainment will be provided by the Lancaster High School Jazz Ensemble. Tickets are \$75.

Michael J. Sorrell is the 34th President of Paul Quinn College. His vision is

to permanently transform PQC into a nationally elite small college by focusing on entrepreneurship, academic rigor, and servant leadership. Mavis Lloyd, President of the Legacy of

Service Foundation states, "We are very excited to honor President Sorrell with the 27th Image Award. It is most fitting with the latest recognition of Paul Quinn becoming an Urban Work College that his leadership be recognized as he creates a Legacy for Paul Quinn."

Affectionately known to his students as "Prez," Mr. Sorrell has cultivated and galvanized a "Quinnite Nation" during his seven year tenure. Under his leadership, the school has experienced one of the greatest turnarounds in the history of higher education. Some of the school's numerous accomplishments include winning the 2011 HBCU of the Year, the 2012 HBCU

Student Government Association of the Year, and the 2013 HBCU Business Program of the Year awards; being recognized as a member of the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll; demolishing 15 abandoned campus buildings; partnering with PepsiCo to transform the unused football field into the two acre "WE over Me Farm;" achieving full-accreditation from the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS); rewriting all institutional fundraising records (including the most seven-figure gifts in school history; and restructuring the curriculum.

The theme of the luncheon coincides with one of the program targets of the international organization. Support of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) will be a priority as Alpha Kappa Alpha continues its national campaign, Think HBCU SM, to highlight HBCUs and their contribution to the sorority and society. Through education, engagement and advocacy, HBCUs will be showcased as critical venues for moving students to and through college.

For information on sponsorship opportunities, vendors, souvenir journal ads, or tickets please contact Mavis Y. Lloyd 469-853-5829 legacyofservicefoundation@yahoo.com.

South Garland students mentor, teach Heather Glen counterparts

Forty-two South Garland High School students recently had the opportunity to become teachers for one day. Introducing finance and marketing principals to their younger peers at Heather Glen Elementary, these juniors and seniors enlightened students, honed their presentation skills and became role models—all thanks to the High School Heroes program from Junior Achievement of Dallas.

"We partnered with Junior Achievement because one of the things I am looking to build and strengthen is my students' communication skills," said South Garland marketing teacher Rochelle McMillon. "I was actually taken aback by my students and their interaction with the kids. Before

coming, they were kind of afraid to present. They really got into this program, and are really acting as High School Heroes."

The SGHS student-teachers are all members of DECA, an association of marketing students. During the Feb. 13 event, five hands-on lessons covered everything from city planning to entrepreneurial skills in kindergarten through fourth grade.

"This is a pretty good experience to come here and teach the kids about money, the importance of family and how businesses work," commented senior Julyssa Macedo. "I taught first grade, so we were explaining what family is—what they do, how they live, how they are different and how

they are the same."

Students at Heather Glen were happy to see high schoolers in their classrooms, and teachers were

impressed by the lessons the Colonels led throughout the day.

"I was pleased that South Garland shared their time,

knowledge and resources with my students," said second-grade teacher Ashley Hill. "The Junior Achievement program offered my

students a fruitful opportunity to learn about the interconnectivity of community

See SGHS, Page 11



SGHS students took time out to mentor their elementary level peers as part of a special school program. (Photo courtesy GISD)

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Lexus GS 350 F Sport, a quality midsize sedan with a high price tag

By Frank S. Washington
NNPA Columnist

HOUSTON – After more than a week, it felt like we drove the Lexus GS 350 F Sport sedan through every one of the 600 square miles that comprise this city. And we only found a few irks to complain about.

Actually, we drove the Lexus GS 350 F Sport to New Orleans and back here. After 10 days and almost 1,000 miles, we came away with a healthy respect for the road worthiness of the midsize luxury sedan. Ex-



cept for going over some rather spacious expansion joints on the causeways that slice through southern Louisiana, not once did any road noise make its way into the cabin.

Although the Lexus GS F Sport has an available rear-wheel-biased all-wheel-drive system, how often are you going to get inclement weather beyond heavy rain in this region? Anyway, that

is a long-winded way of saying that we had a rear-wheel-drive model of the F Sport and it was just fine.

Still, the car had what Lexus called an adaptable variable suspension that came with its sport package. Settings were normal, sport, sport +, eco and snow. Even though regional gas prices ranged from \$2.47 to \$2.62, they were cheaper with cash, we set the car in Eco mode because of the distances involved on the trip.

That mode set throttle mapping and seat heating

and climate control systems for optimal fuel economy. In ECO mode, the instrument meter lighting changed to blue. But the sport package is more than an extra setting, sport +, in the drive mode selector. We had a full tank of fuel when we left, we filled the tank again once we arrived and we filled it once more for the return trip. The visit to New Orleans included a side trip to Hammond, just north of Lake Pontchartrain, and the place we gassed up the second time.

Our test car had an EPA

rating of 19 mpg in the city and 20 mpg on the highway. Considering the 1,000 miles we drove, it was relatively easy on fuel.

The sport package was comprised of chassis enhancements, a sport tuned suspension, 19-inch alloy wheels with summer tires, larger front brakes that were appreciated with all the sudden slowdowns from Interstate speeds because of traffic congestion and high friction brake pads. Our test car also had lane keep assist

See LEXUS, Page 11

MATTER, continued from Page 3



Photo Steven Depolo / Flickr

girls are being pushed out but there is little public alarm, policy focus or media attention to their marginalization. Unlike our understandable focus on Black boys, as seen in President Obama's 'My Brother's Keeper' initiative, our girls are being left to fend for themselves. And we are losing them.

Black girls suffer the discriminatory equivalent of hypertension. Racially based gender bias is a silent killer. It infests the spirits of girls with self-doubt and feelings of inadequacy, and early on narrows their possibilities. Black girls mostly suffer in silence, absorbing the blows, but incurring significant psychological damage along the way. Bright lights are extinguished early as Black girls encounter institutional bias in school buildings where their uniqueness, in everything from hair to dress to personality, is deemed anti-social and popular culture

bombards them with stereotypes of Black females ranging from helpless to raging anger or hyper-sexualized. The intelligent, inquisitive, creative, caring and beautiful Black girl is virtually an urban myth in America when the imagery of them on the cultural landscape is surveyed.

Making matters worse is a nation that hides the suffering of Black girls from public view. Perhaps that is why I find President Obama's recently announced 'Let the Girls Learn' initiative so disappointing. The White House looked beyond the shores of this nation to launch a global offensive for girls when if they simply Googled a zip code in Washington D.C., they would find Black girls deserving of its attention and policy focus. This might simply be the result of an African-American father who has not had to wrestle with his daughters feeling

inadequate or experienced seeing pained expressions of silent suffering given that his children have been fortunate to be shielded by much, given the President's privilege and position.

It is, however, a glaring omission by the Obama administration that defies what we know to be the experiences of Black girls in America. We need not search the world for girls in need when our children stand before us broken, rejected and yearning for recognition.

What I desire for our community of Black girls is what I wish for my daughter. I want us to embrace their individuality and celebrate their expressiveness and cultural dynamism.

We must recognize their intelligence and support their intellectual curiosity while also encouraging their socializing and affirming their right to be different from boys, yet equal in standing. It is our responsibility to root out gender bias and make certain that our institutions are not simply diverse but gender-inclusive, meaning opportunity is rooted in equity and not guided by male dominated definitions of worth and success.

And, we must hold accountable those who trade in misogynist imagery that limits Black girls' imaginations to the stripper pole, video vixen or reality TV

villains. There is a 'Black is Beautiful' canvas for Black girlhood that we must paint so our daughters can see the full expression of God's intent for their lives.

It is with this conviction that we must embrace the mantra #BlackGirlsMatter; because they do, and without the benefit of the full

expression of their humanity we suffer as a people. There is no 'better day' for Black America if we persist on wearing gender blinders and if Black men, fathers or not, do not come to terms with the reality of shared suffering and become champions for gender equity. When I look in the mir-

ror I have to see my daughter and make certain the reflection is one of strength, hope, faith and confidence that her life will have meaning and she will be given the opportunity to direct and fulfill her purpose in life.

Walter Fields is a father, husband and Executive Editor of NorthStarNews.com.

UNLEASH THE POWER IN YOU

An African proverb says a closed mouth cannot get fat. This can be especially true in your job search. If no one knows you are in the market for employment or career advancement, they have no reason to share information with you, which means you're missing out on available opportunities.

The St. Luke "Community" UMC Job & Career Development Ministry wants to help you unleash the power of networking in your search for career advancement and employment. We invite you to a Power Networking Session set for 9 a.m. Saturday, March 28, 2015. We will learn and practice this powerful technique, show you the benefits of networking, and share with you some of the great DFW networking groups. These groups are helping and empowering people just like you to achieve the next step in their career journey. Mark your calendar and join us for fellowship and networking at Warren United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 28, 2015.



"Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it." Maya Angelou

DCT welcomes spring with *Peter Rabbit*

The musical adaptation of Beatrix Potter's beloved THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT (PETER RABBIT) lavishly blends puppetry and live acting on Dallas Children's Theater's (DCT) Baker Theater stage with DFW actor Adrian Churchill as the sole in-the-flesh-actor playing Mr. McGregor. PETER RABBIT has been highly requested in multiple patron surveys following its premiere at DCT in 2009 and will run until April 5.

Rather than tricking the eye with the perspective of the black puppetry stage in the Studio Theater, PETER RABBIT is more accurately sized. The story, however, could not be more full of fantasy with singing vegetables and puppeteers who are seamlessly performing un-



seen physical and mental acrobatics backstage. This version of PETER RABBIT employs multiple puppet forms with a team of puppeteers juggling materials and characters backstage.

Master Puppeteer Trish Long explains, "Of all the Kathy Burks shows I have participated in, this is by far the biggest. The challenge

for me is that depending on what puppet stage we are on, I do a different character each time. So going from one personality to another in a fast-paced atmosphere can be challenging. Running up and down the bridge of the marionette stage is quite a workout as well. When I change from doing the black theater with

hood and gloves, and then run up to the bridge I have to always make a mental note of where I left those items, so that they are in the same place when I switch back and have to use them again."

Peter Rabbit's mother warns her children not to go into Mr. McGregor's garden, lest they get baked into a pie like their father. When she leaves the burrow, curiosity gets the best of little Peter, and he visits the garden. Mr. McGregor, played by acclaimed local actor Adrian Churchill, bursts onto the stage looming menacingly over poor little Peter for the wildest chase of his life. As Kathy Burks says, "Puppetry allows reality and fantasy to magically and effortlessly unite."

For tickets or more information, visit dct.org.

CONTRACT, continued from Page 6

well:

- Faculty members will have an opportunity to share information with students about other sources where they can purchase textbooks at potentially lower prices.

- The possibility of used textbooks buy-backs should broaden, through each college bookstore in the district, regardless of where the books were purchased.

- The contract increases DCCCD's ability to access online texts from expanded sources and supports opportunities to add other contracted authority to provide online course materials that are identified to give students optimal benefits.

- It also supports direct

third-party billing for approved government agencies, which will help students avoid out-of-pocket costs for textbook purchases at college stores.

The contract also provides \$50,000 that will support a pilot project to adopt "included," a program that bundles tuition and books in a single price; books are ordered automatically for students when they register for classes with the guarantee that those textbooks will be available before the course begins.

This program includes both hard copy and digital course materials.

The new Follett contract with DCCCD is effective March 1, 2015, through Feb. 29, 2020.

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Texas AACT Fest in Lewisville this weekend

Several acting companies from five states will visit Lewisville in March to compete in the American Association of Community Theatre Festival, with the winners earning a spot in the biennial national competition. The event will be held in the Performance Hall of the Medical Center of Lewisville Grand Theater and will featuring a mixture of evening and matinee

shows. Groups have earned their way by advancing from state competitions in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

Tickets to the shows can be purchased at the door or online. There are five show block times are include two shows. Cost per block is \$21 per person.

Friday, March 20

2 - 5:30 p.m. - Perform-

ance Block # 3

Bus Riley's Back in Town - Playhouse 2000

On the Road with Hank the Horse - Katy Visual and Performing Arts Center

7:30-10:30 p.m. - Performance Block # 4

Tigers Be Still - Ritz Community Theatre

Over the River and Through the Woods - Bay Area Harbour Playhouse

Saturday, March 21

1 - 4:30 p.m. - Performance Block # 5

Love, Loss and What I Wore - Lubbock

Other Desert Cities - Baytown Little Theater

Medical Center of Lewisville Grand Theater, located at 100 N. Charles Street, between Main and Church streets, opened in January. The 40,000-square-foot facility features

a 296-seat proscenium theater, black box theater, dance recital hall, art gallery, five art classrooms and a large courtyard. Medical Center of Lewisville reached a multi-year agreement with the city last year for naming rights at the center

To reach the MCL Grand from Interstate 35E, take exit 452 and proceed east

on Main Street to Charles Street. The MCL Grand will be on the left. Free public parking is available along Main and Church streets, or at Lewisville City Hall across Church Street from the center.

For details about upcoming events, or rental information for the facility, please visit MCLGrand.com or call 972.219.3401.

This weekend: Stevie Wonder, Dallas Black Dance Theatre and more

March 20

Dallas Black Dance Theatre and **Dallas Black Dance Theatre II** will both take the stage to deliver highly celebrated and culturally significant works at the W.E. Scott Theatre, 3505 W Lancaster Ave in Fort Worth at 7:30 p.m. The tickets are \$25. Please note, price does not include ticketing & service fees. Call 214-871-2376



Stevie Wonder will perform in Dallas on March 22

March 21

2015 AIDS Walk South Dallas will celebrate 5 years with a 5K walk/run at St. Phillips School and Community Center, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Dallas. The walk starts at

10 a.m. and registration can be done on-site at the walk beginning at 8 a.m.

South Irving Library Opening: Packed with computers, glass partitions and the state-of-the-art equipment, the city's new South Irving Library is

ready for its big reveal! Join members of the community for the South Irving Library: A Book for Everyone grand opening weekend. The celebration begins with a ribbon-cutting at 9:30 a.m. March 21 at the South Irving Library, 601 Schulze

Drive. The celebration will continue all weekend with guided tours, special author visits, a Jane Austen-inspired tea and dance, and more. For the full schedule of events, visit cityofirving.org/library.

Free Pet Registration and \$5 Rabies Vaccinations includes free City registration with proof of rabies vaccination for Carrollton residents, hot dogs, pretzels, drinks, face painting, a bounce house, and wildlife information. Two vet crews will be on site this year to help vaccinate more pets quickly. While you're there, donate \$10 or more to Animal Services and receive a stainless steel tumbler for

your favorite hot or cold beverage. Vaccinations will only be available from 10 a.m. until noon. If you are not in line by noon, you will not be able to receive the discounted veterinary services. For more information, call Animal Services at 972-466-3420 or visit cityofcarrollton.com/animalservices.

The controversial documentary film **Dark Girls** explores the prejudices directed at dark-skinned women throughout the world. Women share their personal stories, touching on deeply ingrained beliefs and attitudes held by society, while allowing generations to heal as they learn to love themselves for who

they are. Panel discussion and reception following the film at Fort Worth Public Library – Central Branch on 500 West Third Street.

March 22

Stevie Wonder is on tour celebrating with a *Songs In The Key Of Life* Tour. In 1976 it was the first album I ever owned. It would be a treat to see him perform live at the American Airline Center this Sunday at the American Airlines Center at 8 p.m. as he revisits the sounds from this album such as *Love's In Need of Love Today*, *Knocks Me Off My Feet* and of course, *Sir Duke*.

Rihanna on the Red Carpet in Plano!!!



Rihanna is starring in Dreamwork's new flick Home with Jim Parsons and wowed fans in DFW on the Red Carpet in our very own Plano, Texas as a result of Cheryl Jackson, founder of Minnie's Pantry who won the Good Morning America Hometown Hero award. The movie opens March 27 in theaters nationwide. Photo by Thomas Garza for OhSoCynthia.com

Another happy winner...



Cindy Weathers is all smiles after winning tickets to the North Texas Irish Festival. Stay tuned to the NDG website for ongoing opportunities to win tickets to all kinds of local shows and events.



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Let's Hear From You!!! What are your favorite Dallas Venues? Who would you like to see? NDG Entertainment wants to hear from you!!! Let us know at jbrewer@northdallasgazette.com.

Garland among cities ranked most efficient education spenders

With the 84th Texas Legislature session in full swing, discussion regarding public education is buzzing at the Capitol. Considering the current spotlight on public education funding, finance-driven social network WalletHub recently ranked cities with the most

and least efficient spending on instruction. Snagging spot No. 24, the city of Garland was named one of the country's most efficient spenders, producing one of the most favorable returns on educational investment.

To generate its list, WalletHub calculated the return

on investment for 90 of the most populated U.S. cities. This was done by dividing standardized test scores with education spending per capita. A city's ranking was then adjusted by four socioeconomic factors: the poverty rate, household income, percentage of single-

parent families and number of households whose home language is other than English.

Garland bested more than 60 cities across the nation to join the top 30 percent. Spending \$1,616 on educational expenses per student, Garland schools see an av-

erage score of 86.39 on the STAAR—the seventh-highest average.

Additional Texas cities to make the upper half of WalletHub's ranking include Austin, Corpus Christi,

Lubbock, Houston, El Paso, Dallas, San Antonio, Arlington and Fort Worth.

To see the complete list, methodology and expert opinions, visit WalletHub's website.

LEXUS, continued from Page 8

and a rearview camera.

Of course there were firmer springs, thicker stabilizer bars and special bushings.

Although our test car was not equipped with it, the Lexus GS 350 F Sport has available dynamic rear steer that can add up to two degrees of rear wheel turn that enhances cornering and lane changes.

No matter whether we were traveling at 80 mph or 8 mph, our 3.5-liter engine performed flawlessly. There was no herking or jerking, no searching for the correct gear and the car accelerated swiftly when needed.

We thought the side view mirrors could have been shaped differently; they didn't provide a wide enough view of what was on the side of the car. But the blind spot alert system made up

for that lack. And in an age of portable electronic gadgets, we thought the car could have used more than one USB jack.

However, these gripes were mere inconveniences that were more than offset by the driver experience of the Lexus GS 350 F Sport.

The car featured Lexus' 12.3 inch dual information screen. We spent a lot of time in navigation mode and that gets us to our third quibble. The navigation system will not mute the audio system when giving directions to the driver. A moderate decibel level when playing the radio will drown out the directions being giving by the voice of the navigation system. Yes, there is a map with a designated route but you can miss those directions as well, if your eyes are on the

road where they are supposed to be.

Still, the system had predictive traffic information that included detour preview, ETA calculation and low-fuel coordination with available fuel stations. We didn't avail ourselves of the traffic information in the navigation system and ended up getting it off the traffic app in the Enform App Suite.

Either or, this trips marks the last time will travel back to Houston from the Big Easy on the Sunday after Turkey Day. The traffic was as thick as molasses in some places.

The information system had the usual compliment of stuff: Bluetooth, satellite radio, media capability, meaning it would and did play stations off the Pandora app on our smartphone and there were voice controls.

Other equipment on the Lexus GS 350 F Sport included adaptive cruise control, land departure warning, pre-collision warning, a 17-speaker 835-watt premium audio system, a rearview camera and folding side mirrors.

Our Lexus GS 350 F Sport was a quality midsize sedan in one of the most competitive segments of the luxury market. The car had a base price of \$47,700. Add options that included the sport package and a \$910 freight charge and the final tab was \$60,784.

Frank S. Washington is editor of *AboutThatCar.com*.

SGHS, continued from Page 7

while developing a relationship with upperclassmen."

South Garland is the second campus to collaborate with Junior Achievement. In the fall, Lakeview Centennial High School students visited Sewell Elementary School. District campuses are taking advantage of Junior Achievement's High School Heroes

program due to a presentation principals saw in the summer.

"Junior Achievement has been around since 1919, and our goal is to bring economic education to students in kindergarten through 12th grade," said Senior Education Manager Barbara Heise. "This is the first time we have worked with Gar-

land ISD. We are really excited about this new partnership and getting the high school students involved."

McMillon said she is excited to see the benefits of this new relationship help her students in the future.

"Ultimately, I want this experience to teach my students to have confidence in themselves, to let them know that they can conquer anything."

KEYS, continued from Page 5

for a chance to win a \$500 DCCCD scholarship and other prizes.

The half-day event will begin with a sit-down breakfast in the Cedar Valley College Student Center, followed by a keynote speaker in the auditorium. The rest of the program includes two breakout sessions and a concurrent job,

college and career fair.

Topics for those breakout sessions will include: resume writing; dressing for success; career pathways; soft skills for success; keeping up with LinkedIn and social media; internships; summer programs; leadership development and opportunities; getting ready for DACA/DAPA; certifica-

tions; booming industries in the Dallas/Fort Worth area; starting a small business; and more. (DACA is the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and DAPA is the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents program.)

For more information in English, call (214) 378-1738; in Spanish, call (214) 378-1713; and online, visit dccc.edu/KeysToSuccess.

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Garland among cities ranked most efficient education spenders in Texas

With the 84th Texas Legislature session in full swing, discussion regarding public education is buzzing at the Capitol. Considering the current spotlight on public education funding, finance-driven social network WalletHub recently ranked cities with the most and least efficient spending on instruction. Snagging spot No. 24, the city of Garland was named one of the country's most efficient spenders, producing one of the most favorable returns on educational investment.

To generate its list, WalletHub calculated the return on investment for 90 of the most populated U.S. cities. This was done by dividing standardized test scores with education spending per capita. A city's ranking was then adjusted by four socioeconomic factors: the poverty rate, household income, percentage of single-parent families and number of households whose home language is other than Eng-

lish.

Garland bested more than 60 cities across the nation to join the top 30 percent. Spending \$1,616 on educational expenses per student, Garland schools see an average score of 86.39 on the STAAR—the seventh-highest average.

Additional Texas cities to make the upper half of WalletHub's ranking include Austin, Corpus Christi, Lubbock, Houston, El Paso, Dallas, San Antonio, Arlington and Fort Worth.

To see the complete list, methodology and expert opinions, visit WalletHub's website.

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FAITH, continued from Page 1

pastor's behavior grew worse. He sent threats to her regularly, and began stalking her and her then-fiancé.

She recalled, "He said to me – not of himself – but he said, 'A man can commit murder, do his time, put on a suit, and still be a man. But when a woman's reputation is ruined, she is ruined.' Those were his threats to me."

In 2011, five days before her wedding, the pastor's behavior moved beyond idle threats.

"It's a miracle story I'm here and alive, because this man stabbed me 30 times. I was paralyzed from the waist down," Oliver recounted. Years later, she still remembers his final threat, prior to the day of the attack: "When I'm finished with you, you will not get married, you will not have a ministry, and Princeton will never have you.' That was the last thing he said to me."

Oliver was stabbed mostly in her abdomen and back, damaging her spinal cord and liver. Her former co-pastor was arrested walking down the street covered in her blood, still holding his hunting knife.

Survivors Need More than Prayer

Sharon Ellis Davis, a former criminalist in the Chicago Police Department and retired pastor, knows a bit about crime from more than one perspective.

She said, "I was married to a police officer, and there was a domestic abuse issue and sexual abuse. It was dismissed all the time. It was a matter of, 'You all stop,' or 'Don't be so bad,' or 'It'll be okay.' But never 'I hear you, I understand you, I believe you.' Even if [the department] knew the abuser was guilty, there was that code where you don't rat on other police officers."

So Davis channeled her frustration into something useful. She successfully lobbied for an internal domestic violence advocate, a civilian who would support and speak for domestic violence victims in police offi-

cers' homes and became a full-time police chaplain.

But in Davis' own church experience – first in the Pentecostal church as a child, then in the United Church of Christ as an adult – she saw parallels to the way she was treated by the police department.

"The church was nice to me, but they didn't know what to do with me," she said. "I need more than prayer, I need more than a hug. In fact, sometimes [survivors] don't even want to be touched. I need more than a deliverance service, I need more than a Band-Aid on what forgiveness might look like."

"The two very important institutions that I was involved with – the church and the criminal justice system – both in the time that I needed them, failed me. Now they didn't know they did, because they were not conscious of it."

Davis feels that lack of consciousness grew from the problematic messages about women coming from the pulpit. For example she points out the Biblical stories that are emphasized, such as the false rape accusation of Joseph, and the ones that are largely ignored, such as the actual rapes of Dinah and Tamar as well as David's coercion of Bathsheba.

To her, they all sent the message that the burden of sexual trauma is not welcome in the sanctuary.

"The church has not become the safe place it needs to be that would give some women in church permission to disclose," Davis said. "The consequences of not having church as a safe place...you can kill the souls of the people that are there. People can lose their faith."

Sex and sexuality remain taboo in many faith communities

"How is it that the church is going to really be advocates for victims of rape in the Black church when even having normal conversations of sexuality can't happen? How can we talk about

patho-sexuality if we haven't talked about normal sexuality?" she asked. "We're still stuck in many way on the thou-shalt-nots. We spend more time judging the behavior than helping someone understand this was not their fault."

Even worse than a lack of knowledge among leadership is that perpetrators often exist within the church, their violence and damage unchecked and even covered up.

Oliver said, "I had a woman call me – I thought she was calling to check on me and see how I was – but she called to tell me her own story, about a pastor. Someone [else] told me a story. She was invited out to another church to preach, and was raped by the pastor who had invited her. When the third person, and fourth person, and the fifth time you hear these stories... I'm like okay. Something is going on here."

After more than three months of physical rehab, Oliver overcame her paralysis and learned to walk again. She testified in court against her attacker, who was sentenced to 21 years in prison.

For all their silences and inadequacies, many Black faith centers are adept at serving their communities and fostering communal solutions and cooperation. Both Davis and Oliver assert that Black faith centers have also made great strides toward addressing domestic violence, with permanent ministries and pastor trainings becoming more common.

"We're better in the Black church at caring for people," Davis explained. "But we're not as good at having a model of pastoral care for people who have been sexually abused. We're not having clergy exposed to the education that they need to understand these dynamics."

Some outside the faith community recognize this as well, including Sherelle Hessel-Gordon, executive director of the D.C. Rape Crisis Center.

"The Word says faith

without works is dead," she says. "There has to be fruit, there has to be action, there has to be community ... there has to be active justice," she said. "The rhetoric of 'It'll get better by and by' – nah. That's just spirituals to move our souls. When you leave that room, you're still carrying that cross."

Oliver, now a full-time seminary student, said, "I'm a rape survivor, but I'm also a gender-based violence survivor, and it took the violence for me to really reckon with the rape," she acknowledged. "In telling my story...I started to realize how many horror stories are in church."

NEXT WEEK: Breaking the silence.

(The project was made possible by a grant from the National Health Journalism Fellowship, a program of the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.)



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March 22

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March 25, 9:30 a.m.

You're invited to join us for Bible study as we worship and praise God for His blessings. Prepare to be encouraged by God's plan to grow.

March 29, 9:30 a.m.

Make plans to be with us for our 5th Sunday Fellowships Service; and our Meal and Activities afterwards, you will surely be blessed.

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March 22, 9:45 a.m.

You're invited to our Sunday Morning "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship Service at 10 a.m. See what God is doing through and with us; you will be blessed. We will also have some Black Women History facts to share with you.

March 25, 7 p.m.

Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Dr. Woodson and/or Associate Pastor Brenda Patterson teaching on the subject of Spiritual Warfare. These

are Hot Topics in Winter Months. We will learn what God says about critical issues and topics through the study of His word. Come and be blessed by God.

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1944 E. Hebron Parkway
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CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

March 22, 8:45 a.m. And 11 a.m.

You're invited to our Morning Services as we worship, honor and praise God for His blessings. Our March Month Series is "I am a Church Member." Discover the attitude that makes the difference.

March 22, 7 p.m.

And, if you need some of God's comfort, come back to our Grief Share, "Mourning to Joy."

March 25

Join us at 12 Noon with Rev. Viveca Potter teaching on the Word of God; come back at 6:45 p.m. for Corporate Prayer and stay for Senior Pastor Autry at 7:30 p.m. teaching the Word of God. Our youth will come for Food and Fellowship at 7 p.m. followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. and Tutoring/Homework Assistance at 8 p.m.

Dr. Terrence Autry, Senior Pastor
701 Centennial
972-991-0200
Richardson, TX 75081
www.Christcommunityrichardson.org

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March 22

Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services at 9:30 a.m. followed by Morning Services at 1550 Edelweiss Drive in Allen and bring someone with you; you will be blessed.

March 25

You're invited to our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live Prayer and Bible Study and/or our Wednesday Night Live Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word at the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 W. Belmont Drive in Allen. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all, be prepared to grow.

March 29

Every Fifth Sunday is especially reserved for Friends and Family Day; you're invited to join us. There is a blessing for you.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D. Senior Pastor
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BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

March 22, 7:35 a.m.

Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services and receive a blessing from God.

March 25, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday Bible Study to learn more about God's word and how it can lead and guide you.

Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Pastor
4215 North Greenview

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Irving, TX 75062
972-257-3766
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March 22

Join us in Sunday School at 8:30 a.m.; stay for our Sunday prayer at 9:30 a.m. and our Worship Service at 10 a.m.

March 25, 7 p.m.

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

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

NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

March 22

You're invited to join us for Early Morning Services at 7:30 a.m., followed by Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

March 25

Join us for Wednesday's Bible Study and learn what God has to say to us.

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SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

March 22, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Come and worship with us this Sunday. God will greet us and bless us with words of wisdom as He leads and guide us in all truth and righteousness.

March 25, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and growth; and, it's all for His glory.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
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March 22, 7:30 and 11:30 a.m.
You're invited this Sunday

to our praise and worship service as we honor and magnify God's Holy name; and receive a blessing from Him.

March 25, 7 p.m.
Join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

March 27, 7 p.m.
All men are invited to join us for Men's Fellowship night. What is God saying to us?

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Maya Angelou's legacy in America



Sister Tarpley

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The U.S. Postal Service previewed the Dr. Maya Angelou Forever Stamp image and announced that the First-Day-of-Issue stamp dedication ceremony will take place at 11 a.m., Tuesday, April 7, at the Warner Theater in Washington, DC. The Maya Angelou stamp image is the work of artist Ross Rossin.

As an author, poet, actress, and champion of civil rights, Angelou (1928–2014) was one of the most dynamic voices in 20th-century American literature. The book, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," an autobiographical account of her childhood, gained wide acclaim for its vivid depiction of Black life in the South.

Born Marguerite Annie Johnson on April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri, Angelou had a difficult childhood. Writer and civil rights activist Maya Angelou is known for her 1969 memoir, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.

In 1971, Angelou published the Pulitzer Prize-nominated poetry collection Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Die. She later wrote the poem "On the Pulse of Morning"—one of her most famous works—which she recited at President Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993.

Angelou received several honors throughout her career, including two NAACP Image Awards in the outstanding literary work (non-fiction) category, in 2005 and 2009. She died on May 28, 2014.

Multi-talented barely seems to cover the depth and breadth of Angelou's accomplishments. She was an author, actress, screenwriter, dancer and poet.

Her parents split up when she was very young, and she and her older brother, Bailey, were sent to live with their father's mother, Anne Henderson, in Stamps, Arkansas.

As a Black woman, Angelou experienced firsthand racial prejudices and discrimination in Arkansas. She also suffered at the hands of a family associate around the age of 7:

During a visit with her mother, Angelou was raped by her mother's boyfriend. Then, as vengeance for the



Dr. Maya Angelou

sexual assault, Angelou's uncles killed the boyfriend. So traumatized by the experience, Angelou stopped talking. She returned to Arkansas and spent years as a virtual mute.

During World War II, Angelou moved to San Francisco, California, where she won a scholarship to study dance and acting at the California Labor School. Also during this time, Angelou became the first Black female cable car conductor—a job she held only briefly, in San Francisco.

In 1944, a 16-year-old Angelou gave birth to a son, thereafter working a number of jobs to support herself and her child.

In 1952, the future literary icon wed Anastasios Angelopoulos, a Greek sailor from whom she took her professional name—a blend

of her childhood nickname, "Maya," and a shortened version of his surname.

In the mid-1950s, Angelou's career as a performer began to take off. She landed a role in a touring production of Porgy and Bess, later appearing in the off-Broadway production Calypso Heat Wave (1957) and releasing her first album, Miss Calypso (1957).

A member of the Harlem Writers Guild and a civil rights activist, Angelou organized and starred in the musical revue In 1961, Angelou appeared in an off-Broadway production of Jean Genet's The Blacks with James Earl Jones, Lou Gossett Jr. and Cicely Tyson.

While the play earned strong reviews, Angelou moved on to other pursuits,

spending much of the 1960s abroad; she first lived in Egypt and then in Ghana, working as an editor and a freelance writer. Angelou also held a position at the University of Ghana for a time.

After returning to the United States, Angelou was urged by friend and fellow writer James Baldwin to write about her life experiences. Her efforts resulted in the enormously successful 1969 memoir about her childhood and young adult years, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, which made literary history as the

first nonfiction best-seller by a Black woman. The poignant work also made Angelou an international star.

One of Angelou's most famous works is the poem "On the Pulse of Morning," which she wrote especially for and recited at President Bill Clinton's inaugural ceremony in January 1993. Angelou went on to win a Grammy Award (best spoken word album) for the audio version of the poem.

In 1995, Angelou was lauded for remaining on

See TARPLEY, Page 16

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NDG Book Review: Almost Famous Women

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You were this close.

You almost had it. Missed it by a hair, by just a smidge. You were slightly off the mark; in fact, almost too close to call. You didn't get the cigar.

Contrary to the old saying, close counts in more than just horseshoes and hand grenades. The proof lies inside "Almost Famous Women" by Megan Mayhew Bergman.

Take, for example, Daisy and Violet Hilton.

Performers back in the 1920s, the sisters were in high demand, on-stage and off. Even Houdini was a fan. Men, especially, were



attracted to them but the sisters kept no secrets from one another.

They couldn't. They were conjoined twins, literally attached at the hip.

Or take, for example, M.B. "Joe" Carstairs, who'd been an ambulance

driver in World War I. Joe was tough as nails and extravagantly wealthy, the perfect hostess on her own island off the coast of Florida. But she was fast, both on the water and in her willingness to find, love, and discard women.

Norma Millay was a first-class actress who took her "dirt-poor" childhood and used it to bring her roles to life. Even critics noticed though, admittedly, her performances weren't exactly well-attended; it also hurt that Norma's famous sister, Edna Vincent, was quick to point out on whose "coat-tails" she was riding.

High-end European art houses very desperately

wanted more from artist Romaine Brooks, but Brooks ignored them and everyone else from her past. At age ninety, she took "joy in nothing," and only thought of things that made her hateful. Her anger was taken out on staff, but they got their revenge: they took her belongings.

Butterfly McQueen wanted her life – and her afterlife – spent on her own terms; and a crate of lipstick brought quiet notoriety to a small group of Holocaust survivors.

The International Sweethearts of Rhythm would have been more famous, had it not been for the colors of their skin. Oscar

Wilde's niece, Dolly, lived a life nearly as scandalous as that of her famous uncle. And four-year-old Allegra Byron, illegitimate daughter of Lord Byron, cared for lovingly by a reluctant Capuchin nun, didn't live long enough to become famous...

Biographies. That's what I expected when I cracked open "Almost Famous Women."

I thought it was a book of mini-bios but instead, what I got was a collection of short stories – and I think I liked that better.

While researching for other projects, author Megan Mayhew Bergman says in her author's notes

that she came across these women and their stories and, after thinking about small bits of their lives, she wrote these dramatic tales, loosely based on real people and real events.

In doing so, she gives readers a better sense of who these edge-of-history, complicated women might have been and who, furthermore, might have known and loved (or hated!) them.

And I think you'll love them. The stories, that is: they're easy to fall into and the lengths are pleasantly reader-friendly. What more could you want, except to keep "Almost Famous Women" close?

Enjoy free mini-manicures at the Sally Beauty Mobile Nail Studio

Denton-based Sally Beauty is hitting the streets of Dallas from now through March 29. Visitors can get free mini-manicures at the Sally Beauty Mobile Nail Studio and catch a glimpse of the hottest nail color trends on the "Brilliant Wall of Color," which is a replica of the original that can be found in all 3,000 Sally Beauty stores across the US and in Canada.

A few of the locations include:

Friday, March 20

12pm-6pm
Shops at Legacy
5741 Legacy Dr, Ste 315
Plano, TX 75024

Saturday, March 21

1pm – 6:30pm
Klyde Warren Park
2012 Woodall Rodgers Fwy
Dallas, TX 75201



Sunday, March 22

11am – 5pm
Firewheel Mall
245 Cedar Sage Dr
Garland, TX 75040

Friday, March 27

4pm – 10pm
Shops at Legacy
5741 Legacy Dr, Ste 315

Plano, TX 75024

Sunday, March 29

1pm – 7pm
Good Records
1808 Greenville Ave
Dallas, Texas

For even more locations and details visit www.sallybeauty.com/nailstudio.

HIV, continued from Page 4

estimated 7760 cancers occurred in 2010 among HIV-infected people, of which 3920 cancers were in excess of expected. The most common excess cancers were non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, anal cancer, and lung cancer."

African Americans already suffer above average rates of cancer. Black men suffer the highest rate of

new cancer cases among all American men, and Black men and women suffer the highest death rates due to cancer of all Americans, according to the CDC.

The excess cancer burden imposed by HIV on American is "substantial," according to the new report, the authors of which suggest that "patterns across groups highlight opportunities for

cancer control initiatives targeted to HIV-infected people."

"About half of the excess cancers were cancers that are normally preventable when HIV is controlled by medications, so this highlights a need for continued improvements in access and adherence to HIV therapy," said Hilary Robbins, one of the study's authors, to Reuters Health.

TARPLEY, continued from Page 15

The New York Times' paperback nonfiction best-seller list for two years—the longest-running record in the chart's history.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a close friend of Angelou's, was assassinated on her birthday (April 4) in 1968. Angelou stopped

celebrating her birthday for years afterward, and sent flowers to King's widow, Coretta Scott King, for more than 30 years, until Coretta's death in 2006.

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