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Divers discover Tuskegee Airmen's secrets in Lake Huron

By Michael Cottman
Urban News Service

For Erik Denson, a NASA engineer at the Kennedy Space Center, descending 30 feet into the depths of Lake Huron to help preserve the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen was a cherished, unforgettable experience.

"I embarked on a mission of a lifetime," said Denson, a graduate of Howard University. "One that would touch our hearts and souls."

Early last summer, Denson and six other underwater explorers made history by conducting a five-day archeological survey of a Bell P-39Q Airacobra fighter plane piloted by 2nd Lt. Frank Moody, a 22-year-old Tuskegee Airman from Los Angeles. After crashing his plane on April 11, 1944, his body washed ashore in Port Huron, Michigan, a few months later.

The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of fighter and bomber pilots who fought in World War II and were the first African-American military aviators in the U.S. Armed Forces. Moody was flying a training mission over Lake Huron when his aircraft malfunctioned. He was one of seven documented Tuskegee Airman whose planes nose-dived into the Great Lakes as they trained to battle the Nazis in Europe.



Photo: Urban News Service

David Losinski, a helicopter pilot with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, and his son, Drew, were in a boat helping the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on an unrelated project when they spotted the submerged door of Moody's airplane.

Losinski discovered Moody's plane on April 11, 2014 — 70 years to the day after the pilot's accident — and alerted archeologists from the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Denson, who works in eastern Florida, was part of the seven-person volunteer team that documented the wreckage, which included the engine, tail, gauge panel, wings and

a radio. It marked the first time that black underwater explorers helped examine the remains of a submerged airplane once piloted by a Tuskegee Airman.

"As an alumnus of Tuskegee, I had heard of the Airmen, but at that time in my life, it didn't have much meaning," said Ernest Franklin, who was part of last summer's mission. "But as the week progressed . . . I started getting closer to 2nd Lt. Frank Moody, the pilot that died in the plane we were documenting."

"The Tuskegee Airmen formed the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the

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Refugees enjoy first Thanksgiving

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DISD schools win national recognition

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TeCo hosts Black Nativity

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COMMENTARY

Standing in the midst of social change

NDG's View

As we have recently witnessed, institutional racism is still very present in our society. Structures and strictures set in place to control, restrict or repress certain groups have revealed itself in our higher educational arenas. Our colleges and universities across our beloved county, alongside our American society, are yet crippled by the long reaching hand of white supremacy racism.

It's shameful in today's society, where freedom is the right of every American citizen, that some of us must still step into the ring to spar, and even shadow box, the known, but invisible enemy of white supremacy racism. More shameful, our children who set out to pursue their dreams, prove their ideals, and make their transition from childhood to adulthood, have to fight for their right to freedom and equality in an environment of white supremacy racism.

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Larry Jefferson-Gamble



Tom Joyner



Letroy Woods

Join thousands of readers who visit NorthDallasGazette.com daily!

Larry Jefferson-Gamble

By Sonja Washington

There is a belief we cannot run from our destiny. This concept applies to the journey Larry Jefferson-Gamble describes when asked, "How did you become Santa Claus?" To find out, we have to travel back in time to when Jefferson-Gamble was a teenager. His father had taken ill, therefore during Christmas time it was his job as the older brother to put together the toys for his brother. He enjoyed this role so much, but little did he know it would be a precursor for his future.



In 1999, that same brother had sick children who could not get out to see Santa Claus at the mall. His brother mentioned this to him in passing and Jefferson-Gamble said he would get a suit and come over to play Santa Claus for the

kids. As we get busy with our lives the brother completely forgot Santa Claus was scheduled to come by the house for a visit.

Upon Jefferson-Gamble's arrival as Santa Claus his nephews were overjoyed and it never occurred to them it was their uncle. Jefferson-Gamble knew he was on to something and loved the feeling of making his nephews so happy. This experience inspired him to further this adventure.

Since that time Jefferson-Gamble has become Black Santa every year working several events around the DFW area. Black Santa has made appearances at the Stew Pot (Homeless Shel-

ter), SM Wright Foundation's-Christmas in the Park, Wal-Mart, and Toys R Us.

If you can think of any place to find Santa, he has been there to serve the people of our community. He truly loves making the children light up with joy and recalls the time where he assisted in passing out 200 bikes to less fortunate children one holiday season. Black Santa even has his very own sleigh that he comes in on to bring joy and happiness into the hearts of the children each year.

Black Santa has been professionally trained in his craft by attending Santa school in 2014. He explains

this was an integral part of playing this role as you must have the love and Christmas spirit in your heart to truly be awesome. The children do not care that he is a 'Black' Santa, the parents seem to be the only ones that mention it. The children see Santa and that is the only thing important to them. Which supports the notion that when we grow up that is when we learn to look at people by the color instead of their character.

Jefferson-Gamble has just that, a character that drove him to serve and retire from the Armed Forces as a Champlain Core Assistant, in addition to a Captain for

the Army and the Army Reserves. A special note, Santa is looking for Mrs. Claus to join the team! So single ladies, maybe you would like to put him on your Christmas list this year!

Black Santa is available for corporate parties, church events, personal house calls and school sightings! Even if you have a different event, please feel free to book Black Santa to ride in on his sleigh!

For bookings please contact Black Santa at santa-clauslj@yahoo.com or larryj@yahoo.com. You may inquire about availability and rates by simply emailing and/or calling at (469)671-4242.

Tom Joyner

Award-winning legendary radio host Tom Joyner, host of the nationally syndicated Tom Joyner Morning Show, was announced as the 2016 Annual Dallas Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade Grand Marshal. Throughout his almost 40-year career behind the microphone as one of the country's top urban radio personalities, Joyner has been honored with countless awards and is accredited for many firsts.

Also the *North Dallas Gazette* is proud to announce a partnership with the City of Dallas for the parade. Stay



tuned for more details!

As the top personality in Dallas-Fort Worth in 1985, he made radio history by signing two contracts with two stations at the same time. He was Dallas' #1 morning drive host of K104-FM and

Chicago's #1 afternoon drive host on WGCI-FM, earning him the nicknames as "The Fly Jock" and "The Hardest Working Man in Radio". Today Joyner hosts the nation's #1 urban syndicated morning show heard by almost 8 million listeners daily.

Joyner is an entrepreneur founding Reach Media Incorporated. He is a philanthropist founding the Tom Joyner Foundation providing scholarships to thousands of students each year attending historically black colleges and universities in our country.

He is a community leader that cares about the people pushing initiatives such as

"Take A Loved One to the Doctor Day" helping to make sure families are healthy.

The Annual Dallas Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade & Celebration will continue in the spirit of Dr. William 'Bill' Blair and the legacy of the "People's Parade" beginning in 2016. The "People's Parade" was established by the late Dr. William "Bill" Blair Jr., Negro League baseball legend and founder of The Elite News, in 1986.

In a collaborative effort with the late Dr. S. M. Wright Sr., president of the Dallas Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and pas-

tor of People's Missionary Baptist Church, the first Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Parade stepped off on January 20, 1986 with approximately 11 cars, a few ministers and one drum. The parade marched down the entire length of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and ended at Fair Park. After the parade was finished, everyone headed to People's Missionary Baptist Church for a huge celebration. (1986 was also marked the first national observance of the Dr. King birthday holiday.)

The annual Dallas Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade will march down Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard

in South Dallas on Monday, January 18 at 10 a.m. to begin the Dallas commemorative celebration on the national holiday marked to observe Dr. King's birthday. Over 200,000 eager parade spectators are expected to line the parade route to see the parade with over 200 entries featuring some of North Texas' top marching bands, floats, churches, community organizations, cartoon characters, elected officials, classic cars and much, much more.

The holiday Celebration will be held at the Fair Park Automobile Building from

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Letroy Woods

(BlackNews.com) -- Fuse Billy D. Williams, Sammy Davis Jr., Gordan Parks, Marvin Gaye, Malcolm X and the countless black men who have pioneered a unique and exquisite sense of style in all arenas and you get Man Becomes Style, a trendsetting lifestyle blog on style, grooming and personal improvement for black men.

Man Becomes Style encourages African American men to develop and nurture habits of good taste, individual style and gentlemanly etiquette, that supports a rewarding personal and professional life. It is charismatic for its subtle persuasion to set aside boyish behavior and adopt manly



charm. This blog teaches men how to build their wardrobe, esteem and confidence so that they may step out in any occasion looking and feeling 'as easy as Sunday morning'.

African American men can visit the blog to get advice, tips, techniques, recommendation and reviews

on grooming, attire, fitness and personal development from experts. Their information is insightful and entertaining with a light-hearted spirit and brotherhood approach.

However, it's not all about style, Man Becomes Style also encompasses cultural elements, modern trends and traditional values to address real life personal and professional concerns such as relationships, health, parenting, careers and other topics that are intrinsic to the lifestyle of today's modern man. Their mission is to provide a motivational and supportive platform where African American men can find crucial information that is relevant and specifically relates to them.

As the experiences, perspectives and values of a culture are innate to that culture, Man Becomes Style aims to address the aforementioned topics from the perspective of a black male, whether it's hairstyles, fashion trends, history, social issues or other.

Most of all, Man Becomes Style is about creating a personal image that leads to success in business and life. It brings black men together like no other blog does, by sharing information that is essential to developing confidence within themselves.

Dedicated to men of all ages, whether young or old there is a lot to be learned from Man Becomes Style. Visit the blog now at www.manbecomesstyle.com

\$69* DIVORCE

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A sad and cautionary tale on prepaid debit cards

By Ken Goodgames

According to the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank, almost 43 million Americans are either “unbanked” or “underbanked,” meaning consumers who have little to no access to traditional lending institutions. Of these, over half – 56 percent – are minorities in our communities: African-American, Latino or American Indian.

A Prepaid Debit Nightmare

Many of the most financially vulnerable turn to quick-fix options like the RushCard, which has been in the news lately for all the wrong reasons. Touted by music and fashion mogul Russell Simmons, it's a prepaid debit card allowing its customers to draw on their paychecks two days early. For this “privilege,” users paid a \$20 activation fee, a \$10 monthly usage fee and up to \$2.50 per transaction.

Just over a month ago, RushCard users were frozen out of their accounts, due to what the company claimed was a computer glitch, leaving cardholders with no recourse to get to their hard-earned funds. They couldn't

pay rent, buy groceries, fill prescriptions or put gas in their cars.

At latest word, Simmons does seem to have stepped up, accepted responsibility for the product which bears his name and set up a multi-million dollar fund to rectify the situation. But even this solution comes too late to help RushCard customers who have now missed payments on the most common of recurring expenses.

Long-Term Behavioral Changes

The prepaid credit card industry thrives today simply because some of our most economically vulnerable don't have enough financial literacy education. We, as consumers and entire communities, need to change that. There are clear alternatives to relying on prepaid debit cards, such as enrolling as a member of a smaller community bank or credit union. Secure debit card solutions, where users place a set amount of money in a legitimate account, offer consumers reliable access to guaranteed funds. Lastly, consumers should find a way to set up even the smallest of emergency or rainy

day funds.

A Solution That “AIMs” to Help

As the CEO of Transformance, Inc., we've partnered with the nonprofit organization Resource One Credit Union to set up the Accountable-Inspirational-Motivational (A.I.M.) program, which provides consumers with Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). For every dollar you deposit in your IDA, another dollar will be matched (up to \$25/month). If you save at least \$25 per month, with your \$25 match, you will have \$600 in emergency savings after 12 months. A.I.M. is the ideal type of program to establish or give a boost to your current savings account.

You're eligible for A.I.M. if you live in Dallas, Collin or southern Denton and Rockwall counties and your household resides in a geographic area that earns 80 percent or less of the area median income as defined by section 8.

Let's Solve Our Problems Together

It is the lack of financial literacy that leads consumers to turn to underbanked solu-

tions. This lack of education typically manifests itself into cycles of poor borrowing and spending habits that can lead to a higher debt load, depletion of savings, lower credit scores and continued dependence on social services. We invite you to come talk with us at Transformance. We have tools and professional counseling designed to cover all areas of consumer credit, including debt management, budget and credit counseling, student loans, bankruptcy, housing and even retirement.

Nobody, least of all me, likes to see our most vulnerable community members scrambling to pay for goods and services most others take for granted. And sad tales like what happened to users of the RushCard prepaid debit product are unfortunately all too common. Let's work to change that by establishing financially stable individuals and communities for the purpose of transforming our lives for the better.

Ken Goodgames is the CEO of Dallas-based Transformance, Inc., formerly Consumer Credit Counseling of Greater Dallas.

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ronment incensed with chaos on such higher education campuses as these.

For this very reason, we should be proud of the students who stood together and raised their voices to make changes at the University of Missouri. Removing the president was the first step in their successful protests. However, they are still fighting for diversity, respect and equality for all students. And their commitment to stand together to form change to benefit them and future students is selfless, and we should pause to recognize this marked moment in history.

We are witnessing strength and courage in the midst of social change. Our youth are standing and stating that they will not go through another generation

of being crippled or tripped up by white privilege. They are saying our lives matter and our futures matter. And there is no truer statement than which they are standing on.

However, as a community and parents, we have a role in supporting our students. We must, unequivocally, ensure our students safety and encourage them, regardless of which university or college they may attend across this country, to continue to stand and raise their voices on issues which affect their well being and their future. When visiting our students' campuses, audit their classrooms, meet with their faculty, and be present in their environment in which we entrust our students' daily lives. Help them to transition into their

adulthood knowing that we, as a community and parents, have their backs and are willing to stand with them.

Again, it's very shameful, as a free American society, that some of us still have to fight for our birthright of equality. But, it's very encouraging to know that we are still willing to fight. Even more encouraging, knowing that there is a generation who is willing to stand up and say enough, no more!

Let's not allow them to stand alone. Our future depends on what we are willing to do now, in the midst of this social change. Let's not send our children to college and turn a blind eye to the issues they face (and many of them are standing face to face with racism for the first time). Institutionalized racism shouldn't be a

part of their curriculum. Neither, should our lack of support for them be a lesson they have to endure.

While this unrest has not come to the local colleges and universities in the Dallas/Fort Worth community we should not assume things are peaches and cream for minority students at the local students. How will we as a community get involved to learn and help our kids facing racism before it boils over?

Thank you, radical students across this country, for your willingness, desire and perseverance in standing and using your voices for the benefit of a better society for every American. We are proud that you are our future leaders, and we are honored to stand with you in the midst of social change.

Parkland offers Diabetes Awareness Day on Nov. 19

Diabetes continues to be a major health issue in the United States. It is the seventh leading cause of death in the country and each year accounts for more than \$245 billion in costs. The American Diabetes Association reports more than 29 million Americans, about one in 10 persons, has diabetes. The number of Texans with diabetes is ex-

pected to quadruple by 2040, with a disproportionately higher percentage in the Dallas County region.

With November designated as American Diabetes Awareness Month, Parkland Health & Hospital System is presenting a Diabetes Awareness Day from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 19 at the Bluitt-Flowers Health Center, 303 E.

Overton Road, Dallas, 75216. Bluitt-Flowers is one of Parkland's 12 Community Oriented Primary Care health centers located throughout Dallas County.

During the Bluitt-Flowers Diabetes Awareness Day, which is open to the public at no cost, Parkland nurses, pharmacists, dietitians and others will provide vital information about diabetes

through a series of educational stations that include discussions on how to live a healthy life with diabetes and prevention.

The prevalence of diabetes among adults in Texas is about 9.7 percent, while in Dallas County it stands at 11.4 percent, with the African-American and Hispanic communities especially hit hard. Diabetes is a

major contributor to the leading cause of deaths in Dallas County, namely cardiovascular disease.

Health officials stress that education about diabetes is crucial. Currently, there are almost 90 million Americans who have prediabetes, a condition in which sugar levels are not high enough to be classified as diabetes, but are elevated above nor-

mal levels. People with prediabetes have a 50 percent chance of developing type 2 diabetes if they don't make significant lifestyle changes, such as diet and physical activity.

For more information about the Bluitt-Flowers Diabetes Awareness Day, please contact Sharon Cox at 214.266.4257 or email sharon.cox@phhs.org.

Depressed African Americans more likely to suffer heart attack or stroke

African Americans with major depressive symptoms – perceived stress, neuroticism, life dissatisfaction – had almost twice the increased risk of stroke and coronary heart disease, according to new research in the American Heart Association's journal *Circulation: Quality and Outcomes*.

While depression is recognized as a consequence of stroke and coronary heart disease, a common term for the buildup of plaque in the heart's arteries that could lead to heart attack, most studies have been conducted in white populations.

In this study, researchers used data from the Jackson Heart Study, a community-based study of African Americans in Jackson, Mississippi, that probed risk fac-



Photo: Wikimedia

tors for heart disease. This analysis included 3,309 participants, ages 21 to 94, who completed at least 16 of 20 questions used to screen for depression. Those with a history of stroke or heart disease were excluded.

Of the 3,178 in the final analysis, over 22 percent had depressive symptoms at the start of the study. Those peo-

ple also suffered from more chronic conditions, exercised less and garnered lower wages. They were more likely to be women, to be smokers and to have a higher body mass index.

"African Americans have higher rates of severe depression yet lower rates of treatment compared with white populations," said

Emily O'Brien, Ph.D., lead researcher and medical instructor at the Clinical Research Institute at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. "We need better communication between providers and patients to support early screening and shared-decision making to reduce the rate of depression in this population."

Annual telephone interviews with patients were conducted to determine the development of strokes or coronary heart disease as well as a review of hospital records and death certificates. All stroke or coronary heart disease events that took place over a 10-year period from the start of the study were included. They found:

Increased risk of stroke

for those with depressive symptoms (3.7%) compared with those with no depressive symptoms (2.6%)

Increased risk of coronary heart disease for those with depressive symptoms (5.6%) compared with those without depressive symptoms (3.6%)

After adjusting for behavioral risk factors, antidepressant use and coping strategies, those with major depressive symptoms had twice the increased risk of stroke compared to those

with no depressive symptoms. A similar association observed for coronary heart disease was not significant after adjusting for coping strategies.

"The need for greater understanding of associations between depressive symptoms and cardiovascular outcomes in African Americans is particularly important in light of reported racial disparities in disease severity, timely diagnosis, and use of drug therapy," O'Brien said.

Texas Workforce Commission to hold public hearings on the Subsidized Child Care Program

AUSTIN – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) will hold public hearings at three locations throughout the state to give the public an opportunity to provide feedback on the administration of the state's subsidized child care program and the draft Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) 2016-2018 State Plan. TWC welcomes input on all aspects of the state's subsidized child care system including:

- the delivery of subsidized child care services
- alignment of early education programs
- quality initiatives and standards, including Texas Rising Star

• other topics central to early childhood education

View TWC's CCDF 2016 – 2018 State Plan no posted on the TWC Commission Rules Web page.

Written comments may be submitted by no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2015 and may be:

- emailed to TWCPolicyComments@twc.state.tx.us
- faxed to 512-475-3577
- mailed to TWC Policy Comments, Workforce Programs Policy, 101 E. 15th St., Rm 440T, Austin, Texas 78778

**Dec. 3, 2015
(Thursday)**

- McAllen 1 pm – 3 pm
Workforce Corporate Office
3101 W Business 83

Mesquite Room
McAllen, Texas 78501

**Dec. 8, 2015
(Tuesday)**

• Austin 10 am – 12 pm
Texas Workforce Commission Main Building
101 E. 15th St.
Room 244
Austin, Texas 78778-0001

**Dec. 16, 2015
(Wednesday)**

• Dallas 1 pm – 3 pm
Southwest Workforce Center
7330 S. Westmoreland,
Suite 200

Classroom N
Dallas, TX 75237
People with disabilities who plan to attend the hearings and may need auxiliary

aids, services or special accommodations should contact Kim Bergmann at 512-463-7903 at least two working days prior to the meeting.

The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call 512-463-8942 or visit www.texasworkforce.org. To receive notifications about TWC programs and services subscribe to our email updates.

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War and Peas: Refugees: Refugees in Dallas gather for Thanksgiving

As the world reverberates from the latest terror attacks, on Nov. 27, from nine global hot zones, refugees in Dallas will gather not in hiding, at border crossings, on boats or in camps but at a Thanksgiving meal—for many of them their very first.

“By definition, refugees have feared for their lives and escaped their home countries. The U.N. and our

State Department both vet their stories,” Samira Page, founder and head of Gateway of Grace, explains. Page, a seminary graduate, and a Muslim-background Christian, is completing her doctorate in Missional Studies. Only four years old, Gateway is the largest refugee outreach in North Texas; Page, originally from Iran, gained political asylum in the U.S. in the

early 2000s.

In 2014, of the 70,000 refugees arriving in the U.S. (Germany received 200,000), Texas received 11,000. With help and resources from churches and volunteers across the city, Gateway currently serves hundreds of refugees.

On Thanksgiving Day at St. John’s Episcopal Church, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., some 250 refugees

and Gateway volunteers will experience the American tradition since the 1600s of sharing bounty with people who lost everything to build a new life.

“Most of our Iraqi/Afghan refugees served alongside U.S. military and faced retribution after troop withdrawal,” Page said of the refugees’

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Photo: Satya Murthy / Flickr

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United States Army Air Forces. When the pilots of the 332nd Fighter Group put red paint on the tails of their P-47s and later, P-51s, the nickname Red Tails was coined.

But despite their superior military abilities, they were still subjected to the South’s racially segregationist Jim Crow laws.

According to Wayne R. Lusardi, a marine archeologist for the state of Michigan and the archeological mission’s principal investigator, the region played a pivotal role for the Tuskegee Airmen.

“During the middle years of World War II, Michigan was home to several African-American air combat units including many graduates of the Tuskegee pilot training program,” Lusardi wrote in an internal state report about the archeological mission and the rich history behind it.

“While US Navy aviators were qualifying on makeshift aircraft carriers in Lake Michigan, far from the perils of the European and Pacific theaters, Army Air Force pilots were likewise simulating aerial combat and bombing exercises over Lake Huron,” he wrote.

The African-American divers who surveyed Moody’s plane said their experience was emotionally — and historically — rewarding.

“The Tuskegee Airmen pilots were one of my inspirations for becoming an electrical engineer,” said

Jay Haigler, a scuba diver from Washington who helped examine Moody’s airplane. “These brave men battled through racism while learning technical skills such as aeronautics and aerial combat fighting.

”He said the team located the plane’s wing — which was intact — and then removed seven decades worth of debris from it.

“It was amazing to see the wing of the plane once it was cleaned,” Haigler said. “The star insignia (for the US Army Air Force Planes) could be seen on the tip of one of the wings. This was amazing to see this image. My heart was filled with emotion, my eyes filled with tears. This image was bringing Officer Frank Moody to life.”

Haigler also said members of the team found an intact cockpit window.

“The last person who probably looked through this glass,” Haigler said, “was Officer Frank Moody.”

Moody was born in Castle, Oklahoma, on Dec. 18, 1921, according to historians. He entered the United States Army and graduated from Tuskegee University on Feb. 8, 1944 with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

Moody’s fighter craft was part of a four-plane flight that had taken off from Selfridge Field, an aviation-training facility near Mount Clemens, Michigan, Lusardi said.

Military investigators



Photo: Urban News Service

concluded that Moody’s formation had been flying low, approximately 50 feet to 100 feet above the water, Lusardi said. They were lined up abreast with the flight leader slightly ahead when the accident occurred. Lt. Moody had just fired two bursts into the water when small pieces of debris were seen coming from the front right side of his plane. Lt. Moody’s fighter gave off a trail of black smoke, raised its nose slightly and then cart-wheeled into the lake.

The plane wreck is situated in 30 feet of water, where visibility during the mission ranged from two feet to 25 feet, Lusardi said. The water temperature, he said, was about 70 degrees. Currents were not a problem during the archeological excursion, Lusardi said, adding that underwater conditions were good for scientifically examining the wreck.

“This is a fascinating piece of history that few people know about,” he said.

Lusardi said since Moody was flying a military aircraft, the wreck is protected by federal and state legisla-

tion.

“We are not allowed to disturb or recover artifacts without permits,” he said. “I am making a recommendation to recover some selected artifacts, but not the entire aircraft.” Lusardi said that it would be expensive to remove the complete airplane.

The team that worked with Lusardi also included members from the Diving With a Purpose (DWP) Maritime Archaeology Pro-

gram and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The DWP program consists mainly of members from the National Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABS). The program started as a partnership with the National Park Service to help document historic shipwrecks in Florida’s Biscayne National Park and to teach divers the basic techniques of underwater archeology.

The only woman on the Tuskegee Airman mission this summer, U.S. Air Force veteran Melody Garrett, said that when she first learned about this project, her first thought was how exciting it would be to reach back and actually touch a piece of history.

“Learning about the background of the individual pilots who crashed into

the Great Lakes made me feel more proud of my heritage as an African-American,” said Garrett, an anesthesiologist and graduate of Morgan State University.

“These pilots were scholars with degrees from some of our country’s finest colleges and universities,” she said. “They were only limited, in some instances, by their color. But they were strong and courageous. I left Lake Huron with a commitment to help tell their story — who they were and what they did from our perspective. We must tell our own history.

”When the five-day mission ended, Denson brought a wreath aboard the dive boat and asked his fellow scuba divers to say a few words to commemorate the Tuskegee Airmen.

“They were heroes,” Denson said, “true American heroes.”

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Registration now available for Collin College's Wintermester

Do something fun and productive with your winter break. Register now for Collin College's Wintermester, an intensive mini-semester during the traditional winter break of December and January.

All three of the college's main campuses will host Wintermester classes, Dec. 14-18, 21 and Jan. 4-8, with a short break in the

middle - Dec. 22-Jan. 3 - so students don't miss out on any holiday fun.

Classes include U.S. history, government, intro to humanities, general psychology and many more. Check out the e-schedule (http://www.collin.edu/academics/class_schedule.aspx) for a full list of available courses and register

now before the classes you want are filled. Payment is due upon registration.

Director of Admissions/Registrar Todd Fields said the mini-semester is beneficial to current students who want to get ahead in their Collin College academic plan, as well as for students who have transferred out but

are coming home to visit with family.

Not currently enrolled at Collin College? Admission applications are available from the admissions department.

For more information, visit www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/admissions; or contact admissions@collin.edu.

Collin College serves

nearly 52,000 credit and continuing education students annually and offers more than 100 degrees and certificates in a wide range of disciplines.

The only public college in the county, Collin College is a partner to business, government and industry, providing customized training and work

force development.

In addition, the college operates the Collin Higher Education Center, which serves 3,200 additional students each year in partnership with The University of Texas at Dallas, Texas Woman's University, Texas A&M Commerce, Texas Tech and the University of North Texas.

Two Dallas ISD schools net National Blue Ribbon honors

When the slide declaring Harry Stone Montessori and IB World School as a National Blue Ribbon School appeared on the screen, the 6th-8th graders in the auditorium erupted in cheers and applause.

Meanwhile, teachers and students over at Trinidad "Trini" Garza Early College High School at Mountain View College celebrated their school's Blue Ribbon status by dancing with the school's mascot and waving pom poms in the air.

The festivities were well-deserved: by being named 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools, Harry Stone and Garza ECHS earn one of the most prestigious recognitions in education. The National Blue Ribbon program recognizes schools across the nation for their academic excellence or for making exemplary progress in closing the achievement gap.

"Dallas ISD continues to



Orchestra students at Harry Stone play during a celebration where the campus was named a 2015 National Blue Ribbon school. (Photo Courtesy: Dallas ISD).

work to raise the bar on student achievement. Garza ECHS and Harry Stone are excellent examples of the strides we are making, and we're very proud of them," said Superintendent Michael Hinojosa.

In a video statement, U.S. Secretary of Education told the 335 schools named 2015 National Blue Ribbon winners that the honor recognizes the students' accomplishments and the hard work and dedication that went into their success.

"Your journey has taught you collaboration, intentional instruction, and strong relationships in school and with your community," he said. "You represent excellence—in vision, in implementation, and in results—and we want to learn as much as we can from you."

Celebration at Stone

Avery Rose, who has attended Stone for nine years, talked about what it means to be a Blue Ribbon School — the honor, prestige and hard work to get there. He

said a blue ribbon evokes thoughts of winners and first place, but in his school's case, it also denotes a culture of excellence.

"We've always known great things were happening at Stone," Rose said. "Now the world knows it, too."

Current Principal Nichole Brooks said today's students are part of a longer history.

"What I want you to realize is that Harry Stone has such a rich legacy," she said.

Harrison Blair, from Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson's office, read a recognition from the offi-

cial. Student performances — from the orchestra, mixed choir and a trio of piano players — rounded out the special celebration. Because Stone serves grades kinder-

garten-8th, and the auditorium is too small to accommodate everyone, a second event was conducted afterward for the younger students.

WAR, continued from Page 5

stories. "One family here left their home with one hour's notice. From Africa, they have fled civil war or political terror. Most walk for months to reach a camp. From Iran, Burma, Bhutan, Cuba . . . refugees want freedom. Four families from Columbia fled as paramilitary groups tried to oust the government."

Gateway helps refugees start over, many of them survivors of severe trauma, with donated furniture,

pocket money, groceries, baby showers, job assistance, language lessons, and more. Most important, perhaps, Gateway trains volunteers and churches to adopt refugee families, the point where friendships form and assimilation begins.

"Christ said, 'I was a stranger and you took me in,'" said Page, as Gateway partners with churches large and small across the city. "Churches know the

opportunity and the value. We take care to give no extra burden to the missions minister or pastor, just broader reach in Christ's name," she said. "The work is amazing."

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Collin County celebrates over \$4.5 million in savings on prescriptions

McKINNEY — The Coast2Coast Rx Card program has saved Collin residents \$4,683,721.88 dollars since the launch of the Coast2Coast Rx Card discount prescription program. The Collin County Commissioners Court endorses the program.

The complimentary discount prescription card program provides residents and their families with a number of benefits that produce immediate discounts on prescriptions as well as dental, vision, veterinary and hearing services. The discount card also offers discounts on various lab and imaging services; diabetes supplies and equipment as well as pet prescriptions. Not only does the Coast2Coast Rx



program facilitate discounts on healthcare resources for Collin County residents and their families -- the program provides a royalty of \$1.25 per prescription for Collin County public programs. Anyone in Texas can download a card of their county or any nearby county to use the card at all chain phar-

macies and many independent pharmacies. Residents who would like to participate in the free Coast2CoastRx prescription savings program can print a card here: Collin County

"With healthcare costs on the rise, prescription drug discounts will help ease some of the financial bur-

dens individuals and families are facing at a time when they need it the most," said County Judge Keith Self. "There are no eligibility requirements, so the Rx card is expected to have a sizeable impact on uninsured residents, residents facing high insurance deductibles and allows savings for persons in need of prescriptions not covered by their current plans." Specifically, Collin County residents have seen an average of 50 percent savings on their prescriptions when they present the card. There are currently 14,663 utilizing members within the county. Collin County has saved residents \$689,489.30 on their prescriptions this year.

"We are pleased to work with Collin County, which prides itself on providing programs that enrich the lives of its residents, in assisting its families with beneficial discounts on health related needs. It is of utmost importance to the Collin County Commissioners Court and the Coast2Coast Rx program to help those in need of obtaining prescriptions and other health care related services," said Martin Dettelbach, Chief Marketing Officer of the Coast2Coast Rx program. He added, "We look forward to continuing and growing our relationship with Collin County and maintaining savings on health services for Collin families."

The Coast2Coast Rx card allows all consumers, regardless of income, age, or health status to participate in the program and save on the cost of their medications. The program has saved cardholders throughout the nation an average of 65 percent in 2015 on the cost of prescription drugs. The Rx card is distributed free of charge and may be used at all pharmacy chains and most independent pharmacies in Texas and includes over 60,000 drugs in its formulary. Anyone in Texas can download a card of their county or any nearby county to use the card at all chain pharmacies and many independent pharmacies.

Family Promise of Irving announces 2016 Night of Promise, calls for sponsors

On Saturday, February 20, 2016, Family Promise of Irving will host its fourth annual gala fundraiser. This ticketed event, attracting hundreds of Irving-area residents, offers a variety of sponsorship opportunities for area businesses to demonstrate support for the community. The 2016 event will take place at the Las Colinas Country Club in Irving, Texas, and this year's honorary chair is Gloria Campos, retired WFAA television news anchor.

Family Promise of Irving provides food and shelter for homeless families with children and helps them return to self-sufficiency as they search for new jobs, undergo job training and obtain permanent housing.

The 2016 Night of Promise Mardi Gras theme will be complemented by a delicious dinner and dancing to live, big band music. The expansive silent auction is a crowd favorite, and a raffle drawing adds to the evening's excitement.

Cash sponsorship levels range from \$250 — \$5,000, delivering exposure to a broad audience representing

the local Irving community, congregations from more than a dozen area churches and over 400 Family Promise volunteers.

Sponsorship packages may include signage and printed materials, electronic media, reserved seating tickets and other means of participation. To receive a sponsorship package or more information, visit <http://familypromiseirving.org/home/night-of-promise/nop16-sponsors/> or contact vp@familypromiseirving.org or call (972) 313-1500.

Family Promise of Irving is a faith-based, non-profit ministry that supports families with children who are experiencing homelessness as they search for new jobs, undergo job training, and obtain permanent housing. The ministry is affiliated with the nationwide Family Promise which began in New Jersey in 1986. More than 75% of the families who complete the program have secured permanent housing. Its mission is to provide a safe environment in which families can stay together and get the assistance they need to return to self-sufficiency.

Plano libraries to receive \$10,000 grant to buy computers for literacy, STEAM

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission will present a \$10,000 check to Plano Public Library System (PPLS) at 11 A.M. on Wednesday, November 18 at Haggard Library.

The grant will be used to purchase MacBooks which will support existing digital

literacy and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) initiatives at the five Plano libraries. Additional community outreach programs are planned pairing the MacBooks with LEGO WeDo and EV3 kits, MaKey-MaKeys, littleBits, PicoBoards, and digital cre-

ation software to spark interest in STEAM related learning opportunities.

This project is just one of 70 made possible this year by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission under the provisions of the Library Serv-

ices and Technology Act.

"TSLAC is proud to see funds from our federal grants put to use to demonstrate the power of local libraries to bring innovative services to communities across the state of Texas," says TSLAC Director and Librarian Mark Smith.

TeenTyme to host youth fashion show at Valley View

In an effort to enhance the lives of youth throughout the Dallas Metroplex, and just in time for the holiday season, Stacey Spencer, founder of TeenTyme and national bullying specialist, will team up with Marcella Jones-Penn, award-winning fashion designer to create a fashion show featuring teens on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at 3 p.m. The event is focused to coach teens the true meaning of self-esteem, self-image and success.

The Youth Fashion Frenzy will be held Nov. 24, 2015 at 3 p.m. at the R.A.T.S Studio (Valley View Center), 13331 Preston Rd. in Dallas.

The program, "Just Teens

TV," is a popular news, information and educational show that empowers youth by showcasing their talents and providing a forum to discuss issues and current events that are important to them. This season, "Just Teens TV" will feature an in-depth interview with Teresa Scanlan, Miss America 2011 — the youngest woman to wear the crown in more than 70 years and the first Miss Nebraska to become Miss America.

"With so much violence, negative messages and bad behavior being shown on television these days, we're thrilled to provide a positive alternative to young people who don't engage in destructive behavior and

hope by doing so, we reach teens who will reconsider their attitude and reject negative influences," said Spencer. "Our entire team is honored to serve all youth by providing positive television programs through the wonderful vehicle of broadcast media."

TeenTyme Productions, Inc. aims to reduce juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention and positive television programming. TeenTyme's successful media initiative, "Just Teens", focuses on timely issues such as bullying, alternatives to zero tolerance, disproportionate minority contacts in order to educate and empower youth about the importance of staying in school.

"Just Teens TV" is currently seen in its home market of Tampa Bay Florida, the 13th largest media market in the country. WPDS-TV is streamed live online at: wpds.tv, then it is rebroadcast in the Tampa Bay area on: Channel 14, Bright House cable channel 614, Knology cable channel 2, and Verizon cable channel 46, reaching more than 7 million homes.

In addition, our program has been featured on TCT Worldwide Christian Satellite in 36 million homes, and now in the UK via LoveWorld TV in more than 40 million homes. For more information, email teentyme@aol.com, call 502-435-4428 or visit www.teentyme.com.

City Briefs

GARLAND **Christmas on the Square**

Deck the halls and get ready, Santa is coming to town on Dec. 3, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on the Garland Downtown Square - 150 N Sixth St.

Santa and special guests will light the enormous tree that adorns the Square in Downtown Garland.

Garland will hold its annual Christmas on the Square event and tree lighting ceremony on Thursday, December 3, 2015. The festivities will include train rides, snow tubing hills, pictures with Santa, holiday shopping and a live ice carving demonstration.

Low cost pet vaccinations

Keep your pet healthy for the holidays! Garland Animal Services will host a low-cost vaccination clinic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, at the Garland Animal Shelter, 600

Tower St. The clinic will include vaccinations, deworming and microchipping from \$5-\$10, including discounted City registrations (\$5 for sterilized pets, \$15 for unsterilized pets). Please note dogs must be on a leash and cats must be in a carrier. Find pricing and available vaccines at GarlandAnimalServices.org.

IRVING **Celebrate the holiday season with the City of Irving**

Parade, tree lighting, chili cook-off and more family fun awaits as the city begins the countdown to Christmas with the Dec. 5 Holiday Extravaganza.

Expect to see drummers drumming, pipers piping, lords a-leaping, ladies dancing and much more as Irving's Parks and Recreation Department brings the theme, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," to life at the city's annual

Holiday Parade at 4 p.m. Dec. 5 in downtown Irving.

More than 60 parade entries — from floats to bands to community organizations — have signed up to showcase their holiday spirit as they travel through downtown Irving to the applause and cheers of thousands who will line the historic downtown parade route.

Recreation Centers Collecting Cans for Irving Cares this month

Irving recreation centers are doing their part to help our community by collecting canned food and pantry items throughout November. The items will be donated to Irving Cares, an Irving-based nonprofit that provides assistance to residents in need.

Collection bins are located near each recreation center's front office and will be accessible to customers during regular business hours.

For more information, go

online to IrvingCares.org or cityofirving.org.

Blue Christmas **7th annual Chili Cook-off**

The Blue Christmas Chili Cook-Off returns as part of the city's Holiday Extravaganza and will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 5 at Heritage Park, 217 Main St. The multidimensional event will feature concession stands, disc jockey, cake walk, vendors, face painting, bounce houses, pictures with Santa, raffles, silent auction and more.

In an effort to spread a little holiday cheer, toys will be collected at this event and shared with local families who are facing economic challenges. Accordingly, cook-off contestant entry fee is \$20 for chili or \$10 for beans along with an unwrapped toy. Bean entries are due at noon and chili entries are due at 1 p.m. Dec. 5. Professional (e.g., Chili Appreciation

Society International members) and amateur contestants are welcome. Attendees can sample chili flavors by purchasing a tasting cup at the event for \$5.

MESQUITE **Christmas in the Park**

Christmas in the Park will return to Westlake Park (421 Gross Road) Thursday, December 3 through Saturday, December 5.

The park is filled with a festive spirit and twinkling lights! Bring the whole family for pictures and letters to Santa, Mrs. Claus story time and cookies, hot cocoa, living manger, community yule log, bounce houses, hay rides, petting zoo, pony rides, crafts, concessionaires and more. New this year is pet pictures with Santa on Saturday, December 5 from 3-5 p.m.

Christmas in the Park hours are 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3 and Friday, Dec. 4, and 3-9 p.m. on

ROWLETT **Main Street Fest and Holiday Parade**

What better way to kick off the holiday season than with a fun filled night of live music and a wide variety of activities that include photos with none other than Santa (\$5), letter-writing to Santa, and festival style foods, and more? Come on out and join your friends, family and community for a night full of fun that will also feature a holiday parade followed by the Tree Lighting Ceremony! The Parade will take place from 3:00pm-4:00pm, live music from 4:00pm-6:00pm and the tree lighting ceremony and fireworks will take place at 6:45pm! *Christmas in the Park - 2015

The event takes place at Pecan Grove Park, 5300 Main Street in Rowlett on Dec. 12, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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Rediscover the Miracle on 34th Street at DCT

The beloved sell-out holiday spectacular is back! *Miracle on 34th Street* based on the Twentieth Century Fox motion picture with award-winning Dallas actor Janelle Lutz playing Doris and our favorite Santa, Francis Fuselier playing Kris Kringle will run Nov. 20 – Dec. 20 in the Baker Theater at DCT's Rosewood Center for Family Arts. **NDG readers can win tickets to the show on our Facebook page!**

Audiences were smitten with DCT's jolly Kris Kringle last season as he rescues a single mother, Doris, and her young daughter who have given up on Christmas. Janelle Lutz will bring her highly-renowned talent to DCT to play Doris. Lutz believes audiences love the story of *MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET* saying, "It's...it's magic. Pure and simple. This show is dazzling; the people, the set, the lights, the joy that everyone brings to the stage, it's just simply dazzling. I am just excited to be in the show. I grew up watching the movie of *Miracle on 34th Street*, and now I'm in it!! Its crazy. I feel very blessed to be part of this cast. My heart is very



Photo by Karen Almond with Janelle Lutz and Francis Fuselier

full.

Dallas actor Francis Fuselier reprises his role as Kris Kringle. Director Robyn Flatt says, "Our Santa, as performed by veteran actor Francis Fuselier, is so genuine, so charming and delivers authenticity with an unending twinkle of the eye. TheaterJones referred to Fuselier as, One of the most authentic looking and sounding Santas to grace the stage. This Kris Kringle is the real deal."

Fuselier speculates on the overwhelmingly positive response to last seasons production saying, I think people loved *MIRACLE* because a) it's a good story and

lots of fun to watch with lots of spectacle, singing and dancing, b) everyone loves Santa Claus! c) It's a show for the whole family and, d) it's the perfect feel good holiday show. The thing that amazed me most last year was the love everyone in the audience had for the character of Kris Kringle. It was very humbling. I'm looking forward to those experiences again this year.

Fuselier went on to say how *MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET* had a profound effect on his life. The show made me a better person because when you are expected to BE someone like Santa, you just can't help trying

harder to fulfill those expectations. I found myself looking at the world with more love and patience and it was an unexpected and beautiful thing that took me totally by surprise! Life is indeed, strange, random and wonderful! Theater CAN change your outlook and your life.

Even the hardest hearts will melt as the nostalgic film classic comes to colorful life with holiday music, humor and merry elves.

Enjoy festive opening activities November 21 for *Miracle on 34th Street* including pre-show lobby activities on opening night such as live holiday music, tasty treats and face-painting. For tickets or more information, visit dct.org or contact the Box Office at 214-740-0051.

Kick off holiday season at Fair Park

Fair Park is the place for free family celebrations as the Christmas season kicks off from tree lighting to Christmas music. The festivities begin on Thursday, Dec. 3 when the festival begins at 6 p.m. enjoy the holiday sights and lights of the season throughout Fair Park, followed by the tree lighting at 6:30 p.m. Then at 8 p.m. enjoy the sounds of Christmas at the Denise Lee & Friends Christmas show.

During the evening visitors can enjoy strolling Victorian carolers, carriage and train rides. Of course Jolly O' Saint Nick will be happy to take photos with your children and

they can even pet Rudolph and the crew in the reindeer petting area. Then the night ends with a laser light show.

Then from Dec. 4-6 the fun continues with many of the same events throughout the park but special features each day. Friday, Dec. 4 from 3-9 p.m. enjoy the Holiday Festival & Market where you can get take care of finding unique Christmas items. The festival will include hayrides and a zipline too! Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. the fun continues. Sunday Dec. 6 the hours are Noon to 5 p.m.

For more info, call 214-670-8400.

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NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit us on Facebook to win tickets to Dallas Children Theater's Christmas Shows!

Peter Pan 360 soars at the AT&T PAC

If you've seen Peter Pan once, then you've probably seen it a thousand times. But J.M. Barrie's production of Peter Pan 360 is an experience unlike none other.

Attendees are immersed in the story of Peter Pan as the walks of the Threesixty Theatre Tent, yes tent, are illuminated with the various wonderful backdrops to aide in telling the story. Your eyes will feast on every aspect of the Peter Pan from the round center stage to the high flying theatrics of the cast when they fly through the air.

The audience is engaged in the story during scenes with Captain Hook and his motley crew. This wonderful production leaves your mouth hanging on the floor and you on the edge of your



seat rooting for Peter Pan and the Lost Boys.

The cast cohesiveness was brilliantly displayed on the stage and you feel in love with each character, even Captain James Hook.

Tinkerbell was one of the highlights of the night as she adamantly rejected Peter's and the Lost Boys' affection

for Wendy, who they considered to be a mother figure.

Peter Pan 360 was shown in a tent, similar to what you would be in for a circus, and just as interactive. The tents are the perfect incubator for a sellout show, which happened opening night on Nov. 11, 2015.

You have to go see this

production of Peter Pan and now you have time because the show has been extended through Dec. 6.

The performances during the extension are Wed. through Fri. at 7:30 p.m., Sat. at 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sun. at 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Tickets for the additional performances of Peter Pan 360 are on sale now. Adult ticket prices range from \$25 - \$90, and are subject to change. Children 12 and under receive a discount of \$20 per ticket, applicable to all levels except \$25 and \$35 tickets. Peter Pan 360 is recommended for children 5 years old and older. You can purchase your tickets online at PeterPan360.com or www.attpac.org.

Win tickets to *Black Nativity* – a holiday family tradition

If there is any Christmas season event to not be missed TeCo Theatrical Productions, Inc.'s 10th annual holiday tradition with an abridged version of *Black Nativity* by Langston Hughes is one of them! Last year, we discovered what a delightful show it is and look forward to this year's edition. Keep your eye on our Facebook page for more details on how to win tickets to see the show! Or leave a comment here telling us why you should win.

Black Nativity is scheduled for Dec. 10 – 20 at

the Bishop Arts Theatre Center. The production will feature a community chorus made up of singers throughout the Dallas/Ft. Worth area directed by Jiles King, Chief Executive Director for the Black Academy of Arts and Letters.

Black Nativity is a celebration of the Christmas story told through the lens of the African diaspora. The production will include poetry, contemporary gospel music, choreographed dance and more—audiences are guaranteed a big theatrical experience.

Eddie Levert hosts CD release party at Brickhouse Lounge

By Nina Garcia

The Brickhouse Lounge in Desoto hosted a CD Album release party and book signing for the legendary Mr. Eddie Levert.

The Brickhouse Lounge seemed to be almost at capacity on Monday night for the Lead singer of the O'Jays and Rock n Roll Hall of fame inductee, Mr. Eddie Levert.

The soulful crooning of Mr. Levert permeated the venue and had the crowd fully engaged. His unique and raspy voice was mesmerizing. Mr. Levert, although in his 70's, performed with such tenacity that you couldn't resist but to be captivated.

Most were moving and



groovin' to familiar songs such as, 'For the Love of Money' and 'She Used to be My Girl'. A couple of songs from the O'Jays hit collection.

Also included was 'Baby Hold On To Me' a song he recorded with his son Gerald and 'Casanova' from the R&B group LeVert, formally comprised of both his sons.

He did showcase some new songs from his new CD which were reminiscent of that old school vibe from the 80's.

Immediately after the show, Mr. Levert proceeded to the VIP room where he had his book signing and had merchandise available for sale. The majority of the attendees of the show filled the room ready to purchase memorabilia and to take pictures.

Even after greeting a long line of anxious fans, Mr. Levert still seemed to possess much spirit and energy. Mr. Levert continues to remain a great entertainer and genuinely looks to please his fans.

JOYNER, continued from Page 2

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with live entertainment, health screenings and information, college and career fair, fashion show, children's activities, vendors, food, fun and more.

Proceeds from the 2016 Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade & Celebration benefit the City of Dallas' William Blair Jr. Park and league.

For more information on

the 2016 Annual Dallas Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade & Celebration, sponsorship, parade entry registration, volunteering, and participating as a vendor or performer for the Celebration, visit www.dallasmlk.com or call 214-938-4211.

Holiday Delights AT FAIR PARK

Thursday, December 3	Friday, December 4
6-10pm: Holiday Tree Lighting Festival & Market (Strolling carolers, Stage entertainment, Carriage & train rides, Children's area with games & Annabelle's Petting Zoo, etc.)	3-9pm: Holiday Festival & Market
6-8pm: Santa and the Elves perform. Reindeer Petting Corral	4-8pm: Santa Photos, Reindeer Corral, & Annabelle's Petting Zoo, etc.
6-9pm: Hayrides, "Real" snow hills, "Real" snow baseball field, Toy Factory Crafts & Market Place	Saturday, December 5
6:00pm: Traditional Tree Lighting	10am-5pm: Holiday Festival and Market
6pm: Denise Lee & Friends Christmas Show is the season's best-loved tunes performed by award-winning vocalists in a New York-style cabaret setting.	11am-4pm: Santa Photos, Hayrides & Reindeer Corral
	Sunday, December 6
	11-5pm: Holiday Festival and Market
	12-4pm: Santa photos, great entertainment, carolers, & Annabelle's Petting Zoo, etc.

*Events subject to change without notice.

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Richardson Chamber bestows Edge awards on Nov. 12

Twelve local businesses were recognized at this year's Richardson EDGE awards luncheon for their impact on the Richardson community. This annual event was held Thursday, Nov. 12 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Dallas-Richardson in a 33-year tradition.

EDGE is the economic development growth and expansion initiative of the Richardson Economic Development Partnership (REDP). Each year, REDP, the Richardson Chamber of Commerce and the Richardson Rotary Clubs recognize Richardson companies and organizations that have achieved extraordinary success and/or made a significant investment in Richardson. The awards luncheon event is held in conjunction with the three Rotary clubs of Richardson: Richardson Rotary, Richardson Central and Richardson East.

"EDGE is an acronym for Economic Development, Growth & Expansion," said



Pictured is Chamber 2016 Chairman of the Board Ken Hutchenrider, Mayor Paul Voelker, CEO Service King Chris Abraham, and Chamber 2015 Chairman of the Board Charlie Chen (Image: Richardson Chamber)

Chamber President and CEO Bill Sproull. "The Richardson Chamber of Commerce and the City of Richardson have been recognizing companies with EDGE awards for more than 30 years as a way of thanking them for their contributions to the local economy. When companies make an investment in our community, and they are successful, we all benefit.

We want these businesses to know how much we appreciate

the impact they have on our city."

Among the winners announced were;

Public/Non-Profit/Educational Award: Richland College

For more than 40 years, Richland College has focused on teaching, learning and building community. Richland helps students build their futures through courses that can be applied to the first two years of a bac-

calaureate degree. The school also offers one- and two-year certificates in a number of career fields, as well as training in the latest technology for students who want to advance in their current careers. In 2014, Richland College received a \$450,000 Texas Skills Development Fund grant to train more than 200 employees of Associa, which had established an office in Richardson at that time (now with 400+ employees). Among its achievements, Richland has been recognized by the White House and the Department of Commerce as the only community college to ever receive the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Redevelopment Award (New Award for 2015): TNT Dental

TNT Dental was the first company to focus exclusively on websites for dentists. Founded in 2000, TNT was making custom websites for dentists before it was

cool. In fact, this is the reason TNT even exists. At the time, the founders of TNT, Tim and Tim, were working at the same dental laboratory and were tasked with finding a company that could develop a website for their business. They soon realized that nobody understood dentistry and technology the way they did. TNT was launched in 2000 and remains the only company focused exclusively on helping dentists grow their practices via the Internet. In 2014, TNT renovated the Richardson Post Office building at Lockwood and Custer Roads to use as its new headquarters. The 10,000-square-foot building was converted into a highly efficient and modern office building to house its current staff of 45 employees.

Richardson Loyalty Award: Service King, Inc.

Service King is an industry-leading operator of high quality automotive collision repair services. With 260 lo-

cations in 23 states, Service King is one of the largest multi-location collision repair operators in the U.S. and has been named by the Dallas and San Antonio Business Journals as the No. 1 "Best Place to Work." Service King has been headquartered in Richardson since 2001 and recently moved to its new home at 2600 N Central Expressway.

Environmental Award: MetroPak, the Bag Source

Founded in 1980, Metropak manufactures paper, plastic and reusable bags. They are the bag manufacturer for distributors who want to buy from the easiest and most reliable bag source. Metropak is the highest rated bag manufacturer in the industry (5-star rating with ASI), with eight accolades including the Golden Achievement Award from Promotional Products Association International. Richardson is proud to be the home of this environmentally conscious company.

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Electrical Contractor Consortium partners with Brookhaven for \$973,756 job-training grant

AUSTIN – Electrical Contractor Consortium has partnered with Brookhaven College to provide customized training for new and incumbent employees using a \$973,756 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The consortium consists of Able Electric Service, Facility Solutions Group, George McKenna Electrical Contractors, Intext Electrical Contractors, JMEG and Kevco Electrical Construction. This grant will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas and North Central Texas areas.

The employers in the Electrical Contractor Consortium provide electrical testing, customer service and warehouse operation. The grant will be used to custom train 438 new and incumbent workers to provide them with technical skills for apprentice, journeyman and master electrician. Upon completion of training, the workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$19.90.



Dr. Thom Chesney (Brookhaven College President), Mark Hayes (Vice Chancellor Workforce and Economic Development) and Roy Bonds (Workforce and Economic Development) gathered for the presentation of the ECC grant.

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Collin College receives a \$444,470 Grant from TWC

Collin College will provide job training for 192 new and current workers in partnership with Jack Henry & Associates and Emerson Process Management Regulator Technologies. The training is made possible by a \$444,470 grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Skills Development Fund.

"Through the training provided by Collin College, these Texas employers will be able to address identified job-training needs while enhancing the professional skills of their workers," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs.

The grant is expected to provide information technology-related training for 160



Ruth Hughs, Texas Workforce Commissioner representing Employers signs the ceremonial check presented at Collin College on Nov. 17. (Photo by Nick Young / Collin College)

current workers and create 32 new jobs. Trainees will include software engineers, computer programmers, industrial engineers and project managers.

"We are always honored when companies choose Collin College. We want to be the provider of choice for

job skills training. Our training is top-notch and we will have the chance to show that in the next few months," said Natalie Greenwell, director of the Center for Workforce and Economic Development at Collin College.

Jack Henry & Associates

employees will be allowed time from their regular duties to partake in more than 10,000 hours of training. Emerson Process Management Regulator Technologies employees will receive training on the latest NX drafting software and WebEx communications software to improve client relations worldwide.

"On-the-job training is important, but it can't replace education," said Ann Puddister, general manager of human resources for Jack Henry & Associates. "In our business, which is technology for financial institutions, we have to stay ahead of the curve. So, it is important that we provide the education that our employees need to keep their certifications up."

Separate your 'paychecks' from your 'playchecks'

As droves of baby boomers continue to enter retirement, a startling finding was reported this year: only 27 percent of them are confident that they'll have enough money to last through their retirement, according to an Insured Retirement Institute study.

About 36 percent said they plan to retire at 70 or later, an increase from 19 percent in 2011.

"As time marches on and boomers have other financial stressors, they're realizing that they need to really focus on strategy, which for many includes postponing retirement," says Joshua Mellberg, founder of J.D. Mellberg Financial.

If you are or like one of the many baby boomers lacking confidence in your retirement plan, do not get lost right away with complicated details; first, gain an overall perspective in what you expect and want in your golden years.

Set clear objectives. What are things that you need to do during your retirement (i.e.: maintain housing, pay utilities, etc.)? What do you want to be able to do during your retirement? What expenses other than the basics do you want to know you'll be able to meet? A fun way to start formulating goals is to consider what you need in a paycheck and what you want in a

"playcheck." The paycheck is for all of the necessities: bills, food, etc. The playcheck is for what you'd hoped for in retirement: pursue hobbies, take vacations or, perhaps, give to charity.

Create your own income stream, or "personal pension." The sooner you address your potential income gaps and begin devising your personal retirement income strategy, the better off you'll be. Part of a personal pension strategy could involve anything from diversification of fixed income or investment vehicles to time-elapsing annuity laddering, blending all of those, or any number of strategies.

Better maximize your Social Security benefits. This is another strategy for creating that important personal pension. Currently, there are more than 567 different ways to claim your Social Security benefits. That means the room for maximizing what you'll receive is immense, but also that it is a deep and complex topic. While seeking help from a professional, remember that there are so many ways to maximize benefits.

Ask yourself, "What will common items cost in 15 years?" Consider inflation to be the "invisible tax" that demands accounting in your planning. For example, if

you'd budgeted \$10,000 worth of expenses in 2004, to cover those same expenses in 2014, you would need \$12,569.24. If you don't factor in this "tax" of time, the

differences in your budgeted items start to add up!

Joshua Mellberg is an Investment Advisory Representative and licensed insurance agent.



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November 22 & 29, 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. Don't forget to come back at 5 p.m. for the Word of God in Spanish at our Iglesia de Cristo Services.

November 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 cool Topics in Winter months. Learn what God says about critical issues and topics through the study of His word.

November 29, Noon Time
How do you study the Bible? Join us for a new one hour only Bible Study; Senior Pastor Woodson will teach a series on "How to Study the Bible God's way." Learn how to: Know Christ and make Him known; help know and grow in God's word; give clarity and direction; help worship and praise God; help know and use God's word to lead others to Christ; and to encourages fellowship and build unity within the church. You don't want to miss this Bible Study Group.

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**BIBLE WAY
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BAPTIST CHURCH**

November 22 & 29, 7:35 a.m.
Join us this Sunday for our Praise and Worship Services and receive a blessing from God.

November 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 Dr.
Irving, TX 75062
972-257-3766
www.biblewayirving.org

**CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH
IN RICHARDSON**

November 22 & 29, 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.

November 25, 7 p.m.
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.

Dr. Terrence Autry,
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Richardson, TX 75081
www.Christcommunityrichardson.org

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November 22 & 29, 8 a.m.
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November 22, 7 p.m.
Calling all youth! Every 4th Sunday, we host Hype Sunday Worship at our Administration Building, 200 W. Belmont Drive in Allen, TX 75013. Don't be guilty of missing out on the wonderful and exciting way we worship God and thank Him for His blessings.

November 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 West Belmont Drive in Allen. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all, be prepared to grow.

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November 22 & 29, 10 a.m.
Join us for the conclusion of our Vision Summit 2015 Sunday Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory. Call the church for details.

November 25, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

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Pastor Gloria Fenceroy
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November 23 & 30, 9 p.m.
Join us for our Intercessory Prayer Ministry and our Monday's Conference calls.

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November 22 & 29
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November 25, 7 p.m.
Join us in Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us for our growth.

Dr. Tommy L. Brown
Senior Pastor
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214-341-6459
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November 22 & 29, 8 a.m. And/or 11 a.m.
Join us as we praise and worship God in our worship services. You will be blessed.

November 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 and His honor.

December 13, 1:30 p.m.
Mark your calendar for our Annual Christmas Banquet being held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Frisco, TX. Call the church for details.

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November 22 & 29, 7:30 and/or 11:30 a.m.
You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

November 23 & 30, 7 p.m.
Join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

November 26, 10 a.m.
Join us as we give thanks to God in our Thanksgiving Services; and bring someone with you. You will be blessed.

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Happy Thanksgiving



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

This is the time of year that is set aside to be thankful for the blessings of God; a time to give generously to others so that they may enjoy some of your blessings from God.

This Holiday Season is not only a good time to share food with others, but also the Word of God as well. What better way to help a fellowman than to give him/her hope and inspiration.

The Cracked Pot -- This Holiday Season, if you think that you're not important to God, ponder this:

An elderly woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which she carried across her neck.

One pot had a crack in it while the other was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived half full. For two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water.

The perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman. "I'm ashamed of myself; this crack in my side causes water to leak all the way back to your house."

The old woman smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?"

"I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you watered them.

For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the

table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives interesting and rewarding.



Happy Birthday Tyanna Lott, November 24, 2015

You must take each person for what they are and look for the good in them. Smell the flowers on your side of the path. Live, Give, Love and Be Thankful!

Stop Making Excuses! - You will give your life for something - the question is what? Sports, a hobby, fame, wealth; these do not bring lasting satisfaction.

Service is the pathway to joy and fulfillment! It's through ministry that we find meaning; life is meant for ministry.

As we serve God's purposes, our lives take on eternal importance. Paul

writes, "all (of) this makes you more significant, not less, because of what you are a part of. 1 Corinthians 12:14, 19.

If you aren't involved in something greater than yourself you just exist, God wants you to learn to love and serve others unselfishly. He wants you to make a difference in His world: What matter is not how long you live, but how effectively you live!

If you're not involved in God's service what's your excuse? Abraham was old.

See TARPLEY, Page 16



Ramon Hodridge, Minister

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Isiah Joshua, Jr.
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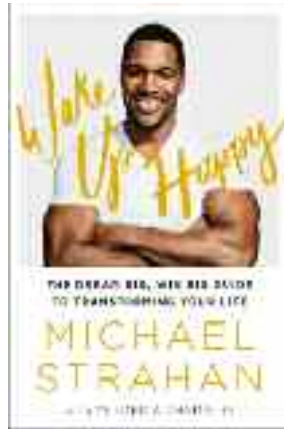
NDG Book Review: *Wake Up Happy* is a good reading choice

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Every day, you make countless little choices.

Get outta bed or go back to sleep? What's for breakfast? Blue tie or black shirt? Which project first, what's for lunch, dinner, after dinner, what to watch, read, discuss? All day long, you choose one thing over another; in fact, Michael Strahan says that "the average American will [make] thirty-five thousand decisions" before bedtime. In his book "Wake Up Happy" (with Veronica Chambers), he explains how one of them can be a life-changer.

If you've ever seen Michael Strahan on-screen, you know how easy he makes his job look. He seems comfortable with stars and strangers alike, although he calls himself "a shy guy." He says he gets nervous, but he knows how to handle himself because



that's the way he was raised.

Because Strahan's father was in the military, the family lived overseas when Strahan was still very young. "Mannheim, Germany," he says, "was an awesome place to grow up" because of its small-town feel and because children were truly raised by a village of stay-at-home mothers. Strahan's father was busy, but Strahan remembers the frequent one-on-one time he spent with his

dad, and the advice that poured forth on those events.

"In a perfect world," Strahan says, "I'd have ninety-two [motivational] rules to match my jersey number. But in real life, I've found that you need only eighteen to get and stay motivated."

Rule Number One, he says is to "Be open to everything around you." What you need, and the help to get it, can "come from the most unexpected places..." Pay attention, don't make assumptions, and never throw away a chance to see what comes.

Remember that the journey is joyful, too, so take pleasure in it. If you want something, let your determination power your actions and keep in mind that when you've given your all, there's still more to give. Know when to bow out gracefully but don't quit a

tough road; instead, know when to "hit pause." Take the word "if" from your vocabulary. Listen to music that motivates you. Remember that "bad experiences... often teach you the most." Keep your sense of humor. "Be excellent."

So you're in need of some motivation, but you don't want something that sounds like a million bees in a hive. Instead, you'd like

something fresh, and "Wake Up Happy" is what you want.

Readers who have come to love author Michael Strahan on the field or on TV will be glad to know that his writing is genuine: what you see on the small screen is what you get in this book. This personable style of motivation carries through Strahan's life story, his careers, and his love life,

which has been rocky and he's forthcoming on it all. That no-holds-barred attitude in storytelling lends trustworthiness to the lessons.

This is one friendly book and it's short enough to read twice. You'll probably want to do that anyhow because, when you need a book to boost your confidence, "Wake Up Happy" is a good choice.

TARPLEY, continued from Page 15

Jacob was insecure. Leah was unattractive. Joseph was abused. Moses stuttered. Gideon was poor. Samson was co-dependent.

Rehab was immoral. David had an affair resulting in all kinds of family problems. Elijah was suicidal. Jeremiah was depressed. Jonah was reluctant. Naomi was a widow.

John the Baptist was eccentric. Peter was impulsive. Martha worried a lot. The Samaritan woman had several failed marriages. Zacchaeus was crooked. Thomas had doubts.

Paul had poor health and Timothy was timid. That's quite a variety of misfits, yet, God used each of them — and He will use you too, if you stop making excuses. Author Unknown.

The Value of Age and Wisdom: "But he forsook the counsel which the old men gave him, and took counsel with the young men that were brought up with him, that stood before him."

2 Chronicles 10:8 (KJV)

Age and wisdom doesn't always equate with one another, but they often do. Today, young people tend to discount input from older people. However, God has placed wisdom in older people that the young can

learn a great deal from.

Do not despise input from those who may be considerably older than you. God has placed a level of wisdom in them that can help you avoid major mistakes, especially in times like these. Reference Readings, 2 Chronicles Chapters 10 through 12.

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