Volume XXVII, Number XLIV

By Kayla Tucker Adams

NDG Special Contributor

opment, workshops and conferences for educational entities all over the

Acy spoke to a packed cafeteria

filled with hundreds of students,

many who are currently facing some

of some the same challenges he

faced as a youth. "Growing up, I

faced a lot of struggles. It was just

me, my mom and my sister," said

Acy as he shared the struggles of

growing up in a single-parent house-

hold. "I was blessed to have an

uncle who helped my mom make

sure we had what we needed." He

went on to encourage the students to

work hard and never give up on their

goals and dreams in life. "I didn't

make the basketball team the first

time I tried out in seventh grade,"

said Acy, who's played in the NBA

for the past four seasons, most re-

world.

December 15-28, 2016

MON

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Celebrate the 12 Days of **Energy Savings**

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Task force tackles domestic violence

-See Page 5

Fitness fun for senior citizens

-See Page 4



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need to stop drinking the Fool-Aid

By James Clingman NNPA Columnist

"Negroes ... sometimes choose their own leaders but unfortunately they are too often the wrong kind. Negroes do not readily follow persons with constructive programs. Almost any sort of exciting appeal or trivial matter presented to them may receive immediate attention...and liberal support." - Carter G. Woodson The term "Drinking the

Kool-Aid" has been taken to a new level among many of our people. In many circles we have gotten so intellectually lazy that we will believe just about anything from anyone, that is, as long as we don't have to do anything except trumpet a utopian message, and if we never have to sacrifice for the collective benefit of one another.

The Kool-Aid cliché, as

See FOOL, Page 3

Professional basketball player and local hometown sports icon, Quincy Acy, recently visited with students at Evolution Academy Charter School in Richardson. Acy stopped by the school to share his character education program, "Quincy Acy Pressing for Success", presented by Educational Presenters Network (EPN), a speakers bureau and K-12 event management company that provides presenters for staff devel-

> Quincy Acy takes time to meet with and encourage students and staff at Evolution Academy Charter School. (Photo: Evolution Academy Charter School)

> > LaJune Montgomery Tabron

cently as a forward with the Dallas Mavericks. "In fact, when I did make it my freshman year, I made the B-team and was riding the end of the bench. But I didn't let that discourage me. I worked hard, trained hard and by my senior year I was starting and received numerous scholarship offers to play college basketball.'

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He went on to stress the importance of education and being a person of high character, "I know you all have the STARR test coming up and it may be tough, but I encourage you all to take school seriously and always do your best, even when you're the only one who sees your efforts," said Acy. "You'll often be

tested and faced with adversity, but character is what you do when no one is watching.'

Acy played basketball for four years at Baylor University, where he also received his bachelor's degree in communications. A graduate of Mesquite Horn High School, Quincy Acy is a local sports hero who has played in the NBA since 2012. Acy believes it's important to encourage students to stay in school and continue to work hard to achieve their goals in life. "Playing for the Dallas Mavericks was a dream come true for me and I want kids to know that their dreams really

People In The News...

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Black folks

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Robert Battle

On the GO??? But still need to be in the KNOW!!! Bookmark NorthDallasGazette.com on your phone or mobile device!!!

Ed Gordon



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LaJune Montgomery Tabron

Carlsbad, CA (Black-News.com) - With racial divisiveness rising in America's urban, rural and suburban communities, today the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), together with more than 130 organizations committed to the Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) enterprise, called for a National Day of Healing on Jan. 17, 2017.

On that day, activities by community, civic, government and corporate leaders will spur efforts to heal the wounds created by racial, ethnic and religious bias and

Ed Gordon

13 at 9 p.m.



build an equitable and just society so that all children can thrive.

"As a nation, we must come to terms with the deep divides in our communities," said WKKF President and CEO La June Montgomery Tabron. "Our nation is crying out for healing, which can only come with a shared understanding of our collective past and a sustained effort to dismantle the structures, policies, practices and systems that divide us, and perpetuate conscious and unconscious bias."

Ms. Tabron said the National Day of Healing is a response to the broad call for healing following the contentious rhetoric, hate crimes, vivid expressions of racism and stories of children crying with fear and anxiety. Calls for healing have come from both President Obama and President-elect Trump, as

well as 32 states. "We envision that govern-

ment, private sector and nonprofit entities will join this call for healing to kick off a year," said Ms. Tabron. "Let us remind ourselves that we are not a nation of demolition workers trying to destroy institutions, but rather a community of creative construction workers seeking to build bridges and commonality that will ensure a more perfect union and oneness within our country."

A National Day of Healing will kick-off a year-long effort to bring healing to different parts of this country, in follow-up to this week s TRHT Summit, where 570

they just acting like it to become famous on social media?

Gordon explores if these new black protesters are the real deal or pretenders as he gathers several new-school and old-school activists to talk about what activism means in 2016.

Gordon's guests for this interesting discussion include: Tommie Smith, 1968 Olympic Gold Medalist, Attorney Ben Crump, author and daughter of Malcolm X Ilyasah Shabazz, and Johnetta Elzie, a Ferguson protester.

'Tis The Season

A fun look at Christmas music and why we love it. representatives from committed organizations and communities gathered in Carlsbad, California, to discuss implementation of TRHT in communities, organizations and by individuals. Underscoring the widespread reach and influence of TRHT, the community, corporate and non-profit partners have a collective network of more than 289 million Americans.

TRHT will focus on transformation in America – the nation was conceived in the constitution and built on a belief in racial hierarchy, a collective national consciousness that has dominated the educational, economic, social and legal discourse for cen-

Will Downing, Kenny Lati-

more, Dave Koz and Shan-

ice perform several beloved

Iconic Ebony

Ebony has meant to Black

America over the years and

what the future may holds

for the publication. The seg-

ment takes an historic look

at the iconic magazine and

celebrities discuss its im-

portance. Many of the clas-

sic photos from Ebony that

have chronicled African-

Americans and people of

color for over 70 years are

Artist at Work

the America's most ac-

\$69

Gordon talks with one of

Criminal Defense

DWI / Suspended License

also featured.

Gordon explores what

Christmas songs.

turies. TRHT will provide a collective commitment and long-term determination to embrace a new narrative for the nation, a belief in our common humanity.

Former Mississippi Gov. William Winter, honorary cochair of TRHT, reiterated his support for TRHT and the National Day of Healing. In remarks at the summit, Gov. Winter said the healing day and TRHT efforts are □important from the standpoint of renewing in each of us the determination to see that the progress that we have made in terms of race relations and racial justice and racial heal-

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claimed fine artists, Kadir Nelson.

The award-winning artist, whose works can be found on postage stamps and New Yorker magazine covers, talks about how he sees his work as more than just art it's also the documenting of the history of people of color.

Gordon has been a contributing correspondent for 60 Minutes II, The Today Show and Dateline NBC, the host of News and Notes with Ed Gordon on NPR, anchorman for BET and is a weekly contributor to the national Steve Harvey Radio Show.

Divorce / Annulment

Family Cases

Stories featured in the upand will it suffer "Post coming Ed Gordon:

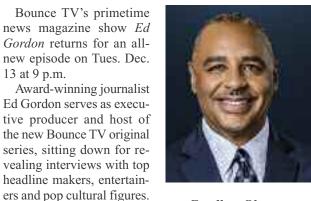
Ed Gordon also includes in-

vestigative pieces, celebrity

profiles, current event seg-

ments and human-interest

feature stories.



Goodbye Obama. **Hello Trump** With uncertainty and fear growing, how will Black America fare in the age of President Donald Trump

what the last eight years of having a black president has meant to African Americans, the impact the new president may have and what's in store for the future of blacks in politics.

Obama Blues?" A look at

Interviews include Congressional Black Caucus members Maxine Waters (D-CA), G.K Butterfield (D-NC), former RNC chairman Michael Steele and others.

Social Change... or Social Stardom? (First of Two Parts)

Are we seeing the next generation of protesters leading a contemporary form of activism, or are

Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings will showcase performances by internationally renowned dance companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the founding companies of The International Association of Blacks in Dance; PHILADANCO! (Philadelphia), Cleo Parker Robinson Dance (Denver), Dallas Black Dance Theatre (Dallas), Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, (Dayton, Ohio) and Lula Washington Dance Theatre (Los Angeles)

2016 conference, IABD will hold the 2nd Annual Ballet Audition for Women of Color who are seeking contracts and professional training opportunities with pre-



Robert Battle The 29th Annual International Conference and Festi-

val of Blacks in Dance is honoring dance industry trailblazer Robert Battle, the Artistic Director for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater when it meets in Dallas, Texas January 25-29, 2017. Robert Battle is the conference luncheon keynote speaker and will participate in a panel discussion on "Transitions and Stability of Today's Dance Companies."

Robert Battle became the artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in July 2011. He is the third person to head the dance company since its inception in 1958. Battle was



a frequent choreographer and artist-in-residence at Ailey since 1999. Mr. Battle also instituted the New Directions Choreography Lab to help develop the next generation of choreographers. Battle founded his own Battleworks Dance Company in 2002. He was honored as one of the "MasChoreography" by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2005.

pants worldwide are expected to attend the conference. The International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD) is designed to meet the needs of professional, advanced, and student dancers as well as dance administrators and instructors. The conference will provide master classes, lecture/demonstrations, panels, workshops, and performances.

There will be a multicompany audition for professionals conducted by the founding and member companies of IABD. Following a major triumph from the

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ters of African-American More than 700 partici-

mier ballet companies.

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Will white workers accept Donald Trump's billionaire cabinet picks?

By Julianne Malveaux NNPA Columnist

When Donald Trump was running for President, he specifically targeted the "White working class," telling them that he'd prevent their jobs from leaving the country, that he'd bring back manufacturing jobs, and that he'd revive the oil and steel industries. He hasn't taken office yet, but he has already celebrated the fact that Carrier, a furnace manufacturer in Indianapolis, Indiana, has agreed to keep jobs in the United States, even though they had earlier announced that they would have moved jobs to Mexico.

The Carrier deal that Trump has been crowing about is so deceptive, that some business writers de-

scribe it as a scam and a Carrier is still closing anunion leader accused Trump of lying his hind parts off. Trump says he saved over a thousand jobs, but the real number may be closer to 730. Carrier will still relocate more than 500 jobs to Mexico, and they had already planned to keep about 300 jobs in the United States. So Trump may have "saved" 400 jobs, not 800 or a thousand, and Indiana Governor Mike Pence had to give up \$7 million in tax benefits to keep the jobs here. Trump and Pence have also signaled that they are willing to play "let's make a deal" on a case by case basis to keep jobs in the United States, instead of using public policy to encourage the development of U.S. jobs and to limit the mobility of capital. And,

FOOL, continued from Page 1

far as I am concerned, has now become "Fool-Aid," and Black folks are gulping it down by the barrel.

There are so-called Black leaders who, despite their unseemly tactics, their portrayals of themselves as "honest" brokers, and their shadowy deal-making and sellout prowess, seem to be exempt from exposure by our people. While Black folks have always had to deal with these scoundrels, we have been reluctant to call them out - to expose them for what they really are.

On the other hand, we have leaders among us who are totally dedicated to the collective economic advancement of African Americans. These are the ones who are usually sacrificed by Black people — thrown out because they are a threat to the establishment or because they are "too Black." That frightens some people and, sadly, we play into that fear by participating in the demise of the very people who would help pull us out of our economic problems. We willingly drink the

Fool-Aid of those who are only interested in themselves, only to end up in the same place or even further behind than we were before we took the first sip. That must change. But it won't change simply because it ought to change; it will only change when we change our behavior and our penchant for choosing the "wrong kind" of leader.

I have seen folks stroll through our communities and be held up as paragons of Black liberation, all while filling their pockets with the 'filthy lucre' from their sellout deals with the powers that be. They have their hands in every deal, every program, every transaction, and every scenario that involves Black people, making certain that they will be the first in line to be paid. They rob the community and blame that same community for not moving forward. How can we move forward with crooks like these among 115?

Many people, Black, White, and otherwise have drunk the Fool-Aid of folks other Indiana plant, but there has been no intervention for that closure.

Now, Mr. Trump has indicated that Andrew F. Puzder is his choice for Secretary of Labor. Puzder, the CEO of CKE Restaurant Holdings, a company that franchises Hardee's and Carl's Jr. fast food outlets, has opposed minimum wage increases, worker protections, paid sick leave, and the Affordable Care Act. He has said that he welcomes automation in the restaurant industry, because machines are "always polite...never take a vacation, never show up late, there's never a slip and fall or an age, sex, or race discrimination case." While the Department of Labor has been the advocate for workers,

Mr. Puzder seems to be an advocate for worker exploitation.

Okay, y'all working-class White folks, those of you who voted for Mr. Trump, are you ready to swallow a bitter pill? Because Mr. Trump has shown you, yet again, what he thinks of you. The historian Doris Kearns Goodwin wrote about President Abraham Lincoln's "Team of Rivals." What Mr. Trump seems to have assembled is a team of war-mongering generals and bombastic billionaires. The Puzder appointment, then, is consistent with Mr. Trump's philosophy, but it is inconsistent with the notion that the Labor Department should be an advocate for workers, and should reg-

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like Jim Jones in Guyana, David Koresh in Waco, Texas, Marshall Applewhite in San Diego (Hale Bopp Comet), Warren Jeffs in Eldorado, Texas (Yearning for Zion Ranch), and many other cult figures. We have been mesmerized and captivated by individual preachers, politicians, and leaders who have absolutely no interest in anything other than their own selfish interests and advancement—usually eco-

nomic. So, while the "Drinking the Kool-Aid" cliché has become sort of comical and caricature-oriented in its connotation, "Drinking the Fool-Aid" gives a much more enlightened description of the dangers that lurk in actualizing the phrase.

I contend that Black folks are far too intelligent to be reduced to a bunch of voluntary "Fool-Aid" drinkers, lapping up every word spoken by anyone, without doing our homework and making sure that what they say is true and illustrated by their subsequent actions. In other words, don't believe everything you hear or read on the internet. Don't be a

sycophant for a shyster or a puppet for a prevaricator. Hold their feet to the fire after they speak, and use your own discernment to ascertain the wealth of their words-or the lack thereof.

As Woodson intimated, Black folks have authentic leaders who have "constructive programs," but who are seldom followed. Unfortunately, we have more folks drinking the Fool-Aid of hucksters than we have those who refuse it or at least read the label before they are willing to take a drink, but to borrow a verse from Matthew 7:13 "...For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it."

Think for yourself, and be willing to accept the consequences thereof. Fool-Aid may taste good, but it will make you very sick.

James Clingman is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. His latest book, "Black Dollars Matter! Teach Your Dollars How to Make More Sense," is available on his website, Blackonomics.com.

www.NorthDallasGazette.com

Seniors get a kick out of kicking it up

Ruth Allen just turned 91. She wakes early to get to gym class, drives herself and competes with 79 other seniors who are bent on staying in shape – literally.

Health

Although she enjoys the stretches and balances led by Richland College physical education professor Bill Neal, she likes the competitive sport of table tennis.

"I can still whack it pretty good!" said Allen.

She is part of a popular class of senior citizens who exercise twice a week at Richland's Thunderduck Hall. "We don't play by the rules. We don't really keep score. We're doing great if we can bend over and pick up the ball," she explained.

Allen recently gave up ballroom dancing because, well, her card is already full. She lives on her own, cooks her own meals and, yes, and drives her own car.

"My favorite sport used to be golf. Not sure if I'll get back to it because it's so hot here in Texas," said Allen, an Ohio native. "Exercise keeps me younger. I'm able to do more things than a lot of people my age. I've been



Ruth Allen, 91, shows off her skills during a game of table tennis (DCCCD)

exercising since I was in my 40s. My mother was all bent over because of arthritis, and I decided not to live like that."

During her youth, Allen loved to dance and ice skate. Later in life, she picked up bowling, but an injury last year forced an end to that sport.

"I couldn't hold the ball anymore," said Allen, a retired secretary. "I got to the point where I barely got 100, so I gave it up."

Age is only a number

Some moderate to vigorous exercise is popular among the senior citizens who meet with Neal. He directs Richland's senior fitness program and leads the class in stretches and aerobics twice a week in the school's gym. Allen, he said, is one of his "star students."

The class focuses less on looks and more on getting and staying in shape. These seniors look for inspiration from Neal as he leads them in stretching techniques.

"This group gave up on their waistlines a long time ago. We're just trying to keep one foot out of the grave," said Neal, 76, a physical education and health instructor for 45 vears.

The class comprises seniors who are 65 and older. The average age is 84. The

address a host of major

budget and policy considera-

tions that are sure to have

significant impact on older

Texans. AARP is a non-

profit, nonpartisan organiza-

tion with a membership of

nearly 38 million, including

2.3 million Texans age 50

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and older.

group has been meeting for various exercises for about 15 years, Neal said. "We lose some who be-

we nose some who become caretakers, but we've been going strong," Neal said. "Most people don't want to work at this fitness thing. But as we get older, we spend more time in a chair. We try to promote cardiovascular exercise, and we address endurance and muscular strength. We hold ourselves up in Pilates planks. Most of us can hold it for a minute, and that's pretty good.

"The people I have keep coming back. I always tell them 'I can't remember where we left off,' and they say they don't remember, so we just start over. We start fresh."

Seniors benefit in countless ways from exercise Fitness for seniors isn't just a New Year's resolution – it's an ongoing effort to stay healthy.

A study by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) said exercise therapy adds to the quality of life and enhances independence and improve cognition. Exercise also erases the damage inertia brings to lungs, the heart and other vital body parts, according to the study.

Cherlyn Shultz-Ruth, dean of allied health and nursing at Mountain View College, said exercise for seniors is helps prevent or delay disease, builds muscle mass and decreases muscle atrophy.

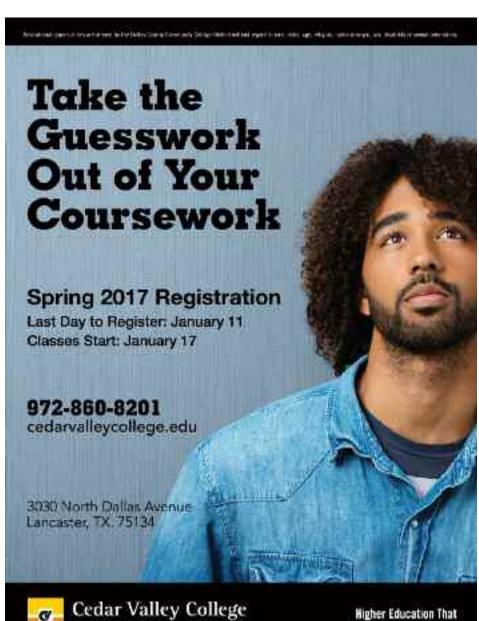
Exercise also boosts energy, improves mood and alleviates stress. And it helps to sidestep the pitfalls of isolation.

"We have a lot of couples, but there is also camaraderie among this aging population," Neal said. "They motivate one another."

Richland's class meets from 8 to 9 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

In addition to wellness and physical activities, the Dallas County Community College District offers programs for seniors who are interested in other programs including art, music and computer instruction and other activities. The courses are both credit and noncredit.

For more information about the seniors exercise class, contact Richland's fitness center at 972-238-6055 or other DCCCD colleges throughout Dallas County.



BALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

AARP Texas plans to fight for the issues that matter most to Texas seniors

AUSTIN – When state lawmakers convene next month for the 2017 legislative session, AARP Texas will pursue an agenda that includes strengthening nursing home quality, easing stress for family caregivers, helping millions of Texans save for retirement, and protecting seniors from financial exploitation. AARP's non-partisan Texas legislative priorities also include a focus on eliminating surprise medical bills, and advocating for the age 50+ community to ensure that insurance costs are reasonable, coverage is reliable, and utility services are affordable and dependable.

The 85th Texas Legislature starts Jan. 10 and will

TABRON, continued from Page 2

ing is not permitted to slip backward... that will happen unless we take the responsibility to seeing to it that it does not happen. We have a huge job to do..."

In a video presentation at the summit, former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, also an honorary TRHT cochair, said "I respect and am enthusiastic about the effort because as a nation we need a healing. I am a great believer of integration. People don't talk about it anymore or talk that way anymore. "When I talk about inte-

"When I talk about integration, it's not just the legal stuff, as important as that has been over the decades, (but) living integrated lives. I think it was King (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) who said, 'We fear each other because we don't know each other.' Knowing each other means understanding each other."

In the coming weeks, WKKF and TRHT collaborating organizations will offer recommendations on how communities might consider creating local activities and events for the National Day of Healing.

For the 411 in the community, go to www.northdallasgazette.com

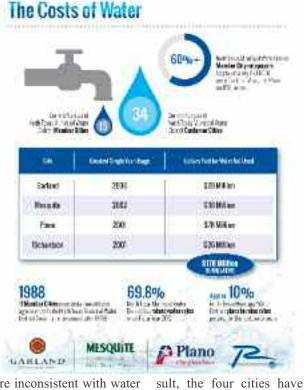
Actually Gets You Hired

Community News

Four North Texas cities unite to request water rate relief

Garland, Mesquite, Plano and Richardson have paid \$178 million for unused water under outdated rate methodology

The Mayors of Garland, Mesquite, Plano and Richardson, in an unprecedented move, today announced that their cities are asking the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to conduct a review of their water rates with the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD).The cities are taking this action because the rates set by the NTMWD under the sixdecade old water supply contract are discriminatory,



are inconsistent with water conservation and are not in the public interest. As a remillions of dollars at the expense of our taxpayers because the North Texas Municipal Water District's current rate methodology is outdated and does not incentivize water conservation," Plano City Manager Bruce D. Glasscock said. "Member cities pay according to a 'take or pay" system that is based on our greatest single year of use. This level cannot be reduced, regardless of whether or not the city uses the entire amount of water it is paying for."

For Garland, Mesquite, Plano and Richardson, the greatest use took place during a time when water conservation was not anticipated. Years of drought and the successful adoption of

"We are losing tens of water conservation strategies have changed the amount and way water is used; and it is unlikely the cities will ever again use the minimums that were set by their greatest annual usage.

"We filed this water rate review to seek a rate methodology that is equitable, encourages conservation and serves the region's long-term interest," Glasscock said.

The NTMWD is composed of 13 NTMWD member cities and includes approximately 34 NTMWD customer cities. The customer cities have individual contracts with the NTMWD and some of their effective rates are lower than some of the member cities. At the same time, the cost of water is rising as the NTMWD has raised water rates 69.8 percent since fiscal year 2012. Additionally, it plans to raise rates by approximately 10 percent per year for the next seven years.

"For many years, we have been trying to rectify the disparity in the effective rates that currently exist," Glasscock said. "We have actively participated in every possible process to seek a solution that all 13 member cities and the water district could agree upon. But it is evident that due to our lack of bargaining power with the North Texas Municipal Water District, negotiating among ourselves will not result in the much needed changes. Asking the Public Utility Commission for this review is the next step."

Institute details new domestic violence data for Dallas task force

A new report by UT Dallas' Institute for Urban Policy Research (IUPR) gives a detailed picture of domestic violence in Dallas that includes 15,000 calls to police and a shortage of shelter rooms and beds for victims.

The institute's second Annual Summary Report for the Dallas Domestic Violence Taskforce provides metrics needed to track the City of Dallas' progress in addressing domestic violence, Mayor Mike Rawlings said at a City Hall event to release the report.

"We care about this issue and that's why we're meas-

uring it," Rawlings said. "It's the longitudinal nature of data that's important. Is it going up or going down? We're starting to build that.'

It's the second year that the IUPR, a research group in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (EPPS), has collected the data and completed a report. Researchers included Dr. Denise Paquette Boots, IUPR senior research fellow and program head and associate professor of criminology; Dr. Tim Bray, director of the institute and clinical professor of criminology; and Anthony Gal-

van, associate director of IUPR for research and operations. Communities Foundation of Texas, The Dallas Women's Foundation, Mary Kay and Verizon sponsored the project.

paid a total of \$178 million

for water they did not use.

The researchers collected data from the Dallas Police Department, Dallas District Attorney's Office, the courts, domestic violence shelters and referral agencies, the Dallas City Attorney's Office and elected officials. The data includes domestic violence 911 calls, cases filed and victims turned away from packed shelters from June 2015 through May 2016. Boots

highlighted how the findings changed from those in last year's report, including: • Five intimate partner

homicides, down from 10. • 500 prosecutions that

included additional penalties when strangulation was involved in the offense, up 198 percent from the previous year. • The Dallas Police De-

partment responded to 15,124 domestic violencerelated calls, up from 14.781.

• 5,765 misdemeanor arrests, a 3 percent decrease. • 1,458 felony arrests, a

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UT Dallas researchers presented their report on domestic violence at a recent City Hall event to release the findings. From left: Dr. Tim Bray, director of UT Dallas' Institute for Urban Policy Research and clinical professor of criminology; Dallas City Council member Tiffinni Young, vice chair of the Dallas Domestic Violence Taskforce; council member Jennifer Staubach Gates, chair of the task force; Dr. Denise Paquette Boots, IUPR senior research fellow and program head and associate professor of criminology; and Anthony Galvan, IUPR associate director for research and operations. (Photo courtesy of the City of Dallas)

FORWARD, continued from Page 1

can come true just like mine did, if they're willing to work hard and don't give up," said Acy. "There were times I felt like throwing in the towel, but I knew that wouldn't get me anywhere. So I hung in there; stayed the course, worked hard and never gave up on my dreams.'

Evolution Academy was just the right place for Acy to share his message of perseverance. Founded in 2002, by

award-winning educator, Cynthia Trigg, Evolution Academy is a Texas public charter high school serving at-risk students grades 9-12, with campuses in Richardson (main campus), Houston and Beaumont. Some of the students at Evolution Academy have had challenges with the traditional school setting, but are taking advantage of the flexible scheduling, accelerated learning, job-readiness and technological advances

offered by the school.

With its mission at the forefront, Evolution Academy has an academic offering that is unmatched by other public, charter or private schools. With a low student-teacher ratio of 18:1, the progressive charter school is able to offer one-on-one attention with a mix of traditional and computer-based instruction, which is what many students need to advance to the next level. Through the use of advanced educational technology, students are able to earn up to $\frac{1}{2}$ credit hours every nine weeks, which allows them to catch up or graduate early.

The main campus in Richardson boasts more than 50,000 square feet and includes a science lab, fitness center and wellness program, piano lab, culinary arts program, full-service cafeteria and a state-of-theart music studio where students can write and produce music. The school also offers multiple career and technical education courses

that prepare students for certificates in professional fields such as medical billing and coding and video game design.

Evolution Academy has been educating Texas students for more than 14 years and has experienced a great deal of success, graduating more than 3000 students and expanding four times. The school also offers a flexible four-hour school day, where students attend Monday -Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. or 12:20 p.m. to

4:20 p.m. Evolution Academy graduates have gone on to graduate from some of the top colleges and universities in the country, enlist in military service and embark on productive careers in the workforce.

Evolution Academy has open enrollment year-round for high school students, grades 9-12, on all three campuses. Students can enroll online at www.evolutionacademy.org or visit one of the campuses to enroll in person.

Education

Holidays are a time apply to district programs, give back



The Dec. 3 Discover Dallas ISD Fair was a great opportunity for parents to engage with schools, teachers and principals to learn about all the great programs and opportunities that exist in the district and particularly within District 6.

Thank you to all the parents and families who braved the weather to take an active role in helping make an informed decision about the best-fit school and program for your student in the Dallas Independent School District. For those who were unable to attend, please be encouraged that Dallas ISD is continuing the work initiated at the Discover Dallas ISD Fair with campus open houses and information sessions.

Leslie A. Stemmons Elementary is one of the many schools featured at the recent Discover Dallas ISD fair. Stemmons offers pre-K for four-year-olds, one-way dual language for English language learners and has enrichment clubs for art, modern band and student council among others.

Stemmons, which was issued a "Met Standard" school accountability rating from the Texas Education

Agency, has teachers and administrators who are committed to increasing academic achievement for all students through purposeful team planning centered on curriculum alignment and data-driven instruction. These efforts resulted in distinctions awarded for Top 25 percent in Student Progress, Top 25% in Closing the Student Achievement Gap and Top 25 percent in Postsecondary Readiness as well as English Language Arts and Science. Part of Stemmons' formula for success has been its active approach to forging relationships with parents and community to ensure students receive the structure

and support they need. For more information about Stemmons Elementary, visit www.dallasisd.org/stemmons or call 972-794-4900 to set up an appointment to tour the campus or obtain dates and information regarding open houses and enrollment.

Be reminded that District 6 has a wide range of programs like Carter and Kimball's Collegiate Academies, Terry and Brashear's two-way dual language offerings or the D.A. Hulcy STEAM Academy, a Dallas ISD Transformation school. I encourage you to contact that particular school to learn more about their programs and offerings.

Please note that as you are exploring these opportunities, lasisd.org/page/40326.

it is important to be aware of the upcoming deadlines and submission periods for application and enrollment to many of these programs for the 2017-2018 school year.

The application period is open now through Jan. 31 to apply to attend a Dallas ISD magnet school, transformation school, Two-Way Dual Language program or collegiate academy for the next school year.

Below are more details on each type of school and program:

Magnet school

Dallas ISD is home to some of the nation's top magnet schools. Students applying to attend one of the district magnet schools must meet certain eligibility requirements.

Applications are available at www.dallasisd.org/page/182.

Transformation school

Public school choice programs offer specialized academic programming, similar to magnet schools. Transformation schools are one of the new school choice categories that taps into students' individual interests, learning styles and aspirations. These schools do not have academic entry requirements they are open enrollment for students across the district, but space is limited.

Applications are available at www.dal-

Collin College receives a mult-year grant from Capital One

Collin College is the recipient of a three-year, \$318,000 grant from the Capital One Foundation to create a Technology Career Pathways Preparation Academy. The creation of noncredit to credit and credit to noncredit career pathways will bolster employability and transferability of skills of Collin College students in high growth technology businesses and industries.

The multi-year grant is scheduled to kick off early spring 2017 with information sessions and will invite



collaboration with several Collin County communitybased organizations and technology businesses. "This grant, as well as our

participation in the Capital

One workforce cohort, will empower us to create life changing technology professional pathways in part-

See GRANT, Page 16

Two-Way Dual-Language program

The Two-Way Dual-Language program puts Spanishspeaking and English-speaking students in the same classroom, teaches them the same curriculum in both languages, and creates bilingual, bicultural and bi-literate students. Students in pre-K through first grade are eligible to enroll in the program. Learn more at www.dallasisd.org/duallanguage.

Collegiate academies

Students who attend a collegiate academy can earn up to 60 hours of college credit or an associate degree-at no cost to them-concurrently while earning a high school diploma.

Dallas ISD launched seven new collegiate academies and a P-TECH this school year, and will launch another 10 district collegiate academies for the 2017-2018 school year.

Current eighth-graders may apply at www.dallasisd.org/page/41447.

Interested in donating items to support Dallas ISD's Homeless Student population?

Dallas ISD is collecting holiday donations to give to the district's homeless students and their families.

The Dallas ISD Homeless Education Department is asking for the following items to be donated:

· Uniforms tops and bottoms (all sizes)

• Undergarments (all sizes)

• Winter outerwear (all sizes)

- School supplies
- Blankets and pillows
- Hygiene items
- Non-perishable foods and

canned goods • Laundry detergent

Donation collection sites are located at the following Dallas ISD locations:

• Administration Building, 3700 Ross

• Buckner Building, 2909 Buckner

• Service Center 2, 3701 S. Lamar

 Maria Luna Food Service Facility, 1515 Al Lipscomb Wav

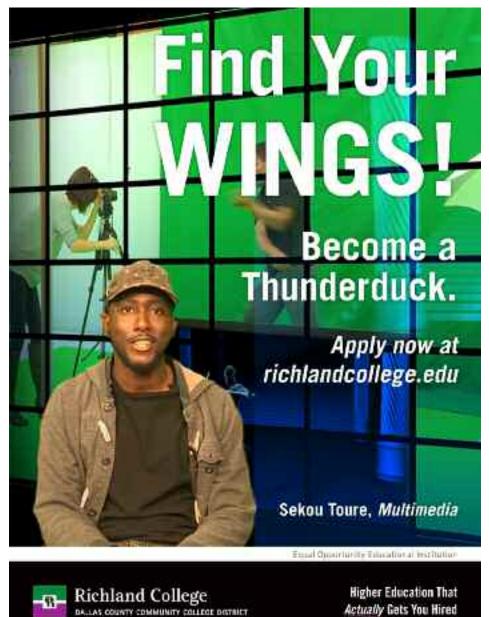
• Maintenance Services Northeast, 10121 Hermosa • Maintenance Services

Southeast, 1602 Santa Fe

• Maintenance Services Northwest, 1500 Singleton

• Maintenance Services Southwest, 310 E Overton

For more information, contact Dallas ISD's Volunteer and Partnership Services at (972) 925-5540 or partners@dallasisd.org. Those interested, can also visit dallasisd.org/partners.



Make this the year to celebrate the 12 Days of Energy Savings

The holidays can be a perfect time to consider the impact the environment takes all year long. Consider implementing one, two or all of these tips, courtesy of the City of Irving and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE):

Day 1: Get a Home **Energy Audit**

This holiday, give the gift of energy savings by purchasing a professional home energy audit for someone. A home energy audit helps homeowners pinpoint where the home is losing energy - and what they can do to save money by checking for air leaks, inspecting insulation, surveying heating and cooling equipment and more. By making upgrades to a home following a home energy audit, customers could save 5 to 30 percent on energy bills.

Day 2: Install a **Programmable Thermostat**

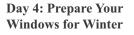
Don't pay for warm air while away from home. By installing and setting a programmable thermostat, homeowners can save money on energy bills.



Lowering a thermostat 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours can save 5 to 15 percent a year on heating bills. If traveling this holiday, be sure to program the thermostat for energy savings.

Day 3: Maintain Your Fireplace

It isn't the holidays without a crackling fire, but don't let money go up with the smoke. Proper chimney maintenance - including sealing the fireplace flue damper, caulking around the hearth, and installing tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system to blow warmed air back into the room - will help keep warm air in ther house and cold air out.



Before curling up on the couch in front of the window this holiday season, take steps to reduce heat loss. Weatherizing a home's windows can reduce drafts, and installing storm windows can cut heat loss through windows by 25 to 50 percent. Explore more tips for saving energy on your windows.

Day 5: Take Advantage of Sunlight

Use sunlight to one's advantage this winter. Open curtains during the day to allow sunlight to naturally warm a home, and close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.

Day 6: Buy ENERGY STAR Electronics

Are computers, TVs or other electronics on the wish list this holiday season? Ask for ENERGY STAR home electronics for instant energy savings. Depending on usage, an EN-ERGY STAR computer can save 30 to 65 percent more energy compared a computer without this designation.

Day 7: Purchase **Rechargeable Batteries** and an ENERGY STAR **Battery Charger**

When buying gifts that require batteries, consider purchasing rechargeable batteries - which are more cost-effective than disposable batteries - and an EN-ERGY STAR charger for them. In the U.S. alone, more energy-efficient battery chargers could save families more than \$170 million annually.

Day 8: Save Energy

in the Kitchen Between holiday baking and meal preparation, a home's oven is probably working overtime. Cooking alone accounts for 4.5 percent of a home's energy use, and when factoring in other kitchen appliances, a kitchen's energy use can be as high as 15 percent. Take simple actions in the kitchen, such as using the correct-sized pots on stove burners to save about \$36 annually for an electric range or \$18 for gas and using the oven light to check on a dish's progress to prevent heat loss instead of opening the door. Learn to entertain in style without raising the energy bill.

Day 9: Use LED Lights

This holiday, light up with LED lights. In addition to being sturdier and more resistant to breakage, LED holiday lights also last longer and consume 70 percent less energy than conventional incandescent light strands. It only costs \$0.27 to light a 6-foot tree for 12 hours a day for 40 days with LEDs compared to \$10 for incandescent lights.

Day 10: Install

a Light Timer When decking the house in holiday lights, use timer controls to lower energy

consumption and save money. Timer controls allow homeowners turn lights on and off at specific times, while staying in the holiday spirit.

Plano / Irving

Day 11: Plug **Holiday Decorations** into Power Strips

From holiday lights to listening to Christmas carols on repeat, the holidays can take a toll on a home's energy consumption. Even when lights and electronics are turned off, they still draw small amounts of energy - at an average cost of \$100 a year for American households. Plug electronics into a power strip, and turn it off to reduce energy bills.

Day 12: Drive Your Way to Fuel Savings

Whether driving across town to do errands or across the country to visit family. fuel costs can add up over the holidays. One way to reduce fuel consumption is to empty the car completely after each driving trip. An extra 100 pounds in a vehicle can increase gas costs by up to \$.08 a gallon.



Irving's Winter Break Camp begins on Dec. 19

City recreation centers will offer a winter break camp for children in grades K-5 beginning Dec. 19.

A variety of activities will be offered in a fun and safe environment, including arts and crafts, gym games, field trips and more!

Campers are asked to bring

a sack lunch each day. Morning and afternoon snacks will be provided.

Camp hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, with two oneweek sessions available during the following dates: Dec. 19-23 and Dec. 26-30. Each session costs \$95 per week. Parents may register children

for one week only, or for both sessions. Spaces are limited. Register in person at your

neighborhood recreation cen-

ter, or online through ActiveNet. Please call your neighborhood recreation center for more details.

North Dallas Gazette The most popular source for entertainment events! North Dallas Gazette is the fastest growing destination for DFW events, with more than 45,000 monthly online

readership, 10,000 weekly newspaper circulation, and 10,000 weekly aensietter readurship! Partner with North Dailas Gaterie, and let us get the word out about your upcoming event.



City Council recognized the first four neighborhoods in Plano to Plano earn the BEST Neighborhoods

Platinum level. Congratulations to the Country Place Plano, Kings Ridge, Lakeside and Whiffletree (V, VI, VII) neighborhoods. They have new signs to showcase the award at the entryways into their neighborhoods. Gold winners are Deerfield, Highlands North Plano, Highlands of Russell Park and Windhaven Farm 1. Silver winners are Forest Creek Estates and Glen Meadows. Does your neighborhood have what it takes to be recognized as a BEST Neighborhood?

Mayor Harry LaRosiliere and



For the 411 in the community, go to www.northdallasgazette.com

Community Briefs

ALLEN Senior Service Coalition meeting

The Allen Fairview Chamber of Commerce extends an invitation to all business members who offer services or benefits to the growing senior demographic within our communities. The intention of this group is to form a coalition of service providers, communities and any businesses that cater specifically to the aging population.

The event is Friday, Dec. 16 at 8:30 a.m. at The Heritage at Twin Creeks located at 920 Stockton Drive in Allen.

CARROLLTON The Carrollton Wind Symphony presents Holiday Concert – Dec. 16

The Carrollton Wind Symphony will present a Holiday Concert on Friday, December 16, at 7:30 p.m. The free concert will be held at Creekview High School (3201 Old Denton Road 75006). Come make the season merry for yourself. The Carrollton Wind Symphony



is an advanced performing group, directed by Artistic Director Jim McDaniel and Associate Director Jim Moen. The ensemble currently performs some of the most challenging music written for concert band. Additional information is available at carrolltonwindsymphony.org.

Winter Wonderland at the library

Come by the Library to meet Santa and read stories with Mrs. Claus! The whole family can also enjoy decorating gingerbread cookies. Join us on Monday, Dec. 19 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Hebron & Josey Library (4220 N. Josey Lane). For more information, visit cityofcarrollton.com/library.

GARLAND Remembering the 2015 tornado

On Saturday, Dec. 26, 2015, an EF4 tornado ripped through north Texas, including parts of Garland. The tornado struck at 6:45 p.m. near Interstate 30 and the President George Bush Turnpike. More than 1,100 structures, including homes, apartments and businesses, were damaged or destroyed. Vehicles were swept off a highway overpass, taking the lives of nine people.

The City of Garland will pause to remember those who were impacted at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 26, 2016 at John Paul Jones Park, 4099 Zion Road

Those planning to at-

tend should email EDattomo@GarlandTX.gov or call 972-205-2471.

PLANO Bowl with Santa at Main Event this Saturday

Santa is leaving the North Pole a week early to strap on his bowling shoes and hang out with kids of all ages at Main Event Entertainment, including the Plano location at 3941 Central Expressway.

This Saturday, Dec. 17, visit from 2-4 p.m. to bowl a few frames with jolly St. Nick. The Big Guy promises to be available for photos and last-minute requests!

"The holidays are for family, friends and fun, and Main Event is the perfect place for all three," said Becky Johnson, Chief Marketing Officer of Main Event Entertainment. "And this Saturday, Santa will be dropping in for a couple of hours to show off his bowling skills. It's going to be a special pre-Christmas treat just for our guests."

Main Event's unique "Eat.

Bowl. Play." experience features state-of-the-art bowling, multi-level laser tag, interactive and virtual video games, a high ropes adventure course and other fun activities, along with delicious chef-inspired food, creative cocktails, beer and wine.

Santa is only visiting on Dec. 17, so head out to your favorite Main Event and let the fun begin! No reservations necessary.

RICHARDSON "The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge" Continues Through Dec. 18 at The Core Theatre

Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. For more information, visit www.thecoretheatre.org/. The Core Theatre, a nonprofit organization funded in part by the City's Cultural Arts Commission, is located at 518 W. Arapaho Rd., Ste. 115. TASK,

continued from Page 5

12 percent decrease.

• 178 protective order violations, a 19 percent increase.

• 10,154 men, women and children turned away from shelters due to lack of capacity, up 34 percent.

• An average of 179 victims served in emergency shelters each month, up 18 percent.

The report also included results of a survey of task force members' highest public policy priorities. Top responses included more funding, shelter capacity and services for victims. Despite the prevalence of domestic violence, Boots said the good news is that Dallas is taking an innovative, team-based approach toward solutions and the sharing of resources.

McKinney Fire Dept. offers safety tips for Christmas season

McKINNEY – The McKinney Fire Department (MFD) recommends residents protect themselves as they deck the halls this holiday season. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree or starts with a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

On average, 260 home fires begin with Christmas trees each year, resulting in 12 deaths, 24 injuries and \$16.4 million in property damage according to NFPA. An additional 150 home fires per year begin with holiday lights, candles and other decorative lighting, causing another eight deaths, 16 injuries and \$8.9 million in property damage each year.

"If you choose to use a real tree, water your tree daily," said Deputy Fire Marshal Andrew Barr. "Most often, electrical shorts or open flames from candles start tree fires. Dry and neglected trees are the most vulnerable to a fire".

View this safety video and follow the recommended safety tips for your Christmas tree. www.youtu.be/NDq7acN0a Es

• Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

• Before placing the tree in the stand, cut two inches from the base of the trunk.

• Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.

• Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit. • Add water to the tree

stand. Be sure to add water daily.

· Use lights that have the label of an independent test-ing laboratory. Some lights

are only for indoor or outdoor use.

• Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.

• Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.

· Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Dispose of your tree after Christmas. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home, garage, or placed outside against the home. McKinney citizens can leave their Christmas trees by the curb on their regular scheduled trash pickup day.

By taking simple steps, your chances improves greatly. For additional information, visit www.mckinneyfire.org or www.nfpa.org.



Entertainment TeCo's Black Nativity is again holiday treat a

By Ruth Ferguson NDG Editor

TeCo Theatrical Productions is hosting their 11th annual presentation of Langston Hughes' Black Nativity on stage now through Dec. 18 at Bishop Arts Theatre Center. Once again, it is a family holiday treat celebrating a message of faith as the center point of the Christmas season. It provides an opportunity to refocus on the reason for the season.

Every year TeCo brings in different directors to add their spin on the African-American holiday classic. This year Lisa B, trained at Texas Tech who has worked across the country as an actress, acting coach, and producer is the director.

Act I offer a reverent look at the holy occasion of the birth of Jesus Christ. The songs featured include fa-

TeCo's Black Nativity celebrates the Birth of a Savior. (Image: TeCo) miliar holiday hymns as well as others less known.

The highlight of the Act I

Angela Blair with her amazing vocal talent and the singing and humor of included the appearance of Kenja Brown. For the

Chicago native, this is Brown's second appearance on the Bishop Arts stage. A Texan now, Brown has also appeared at Jubilee Theatre in Fort Worth. Aubrey Stephenson, whose duet with Blair at the end of Act I was a true standout of the show, is also a veteran of several productions at the Jubilee.

The appearance of Blair was an unexpected delight, and she truly elevates the spirit of the audience with her incredible vocal talent. A Dallas treasure who has gained national acclaim as an actress, singer and film producer, when Blair sings the audience is transported from a theatrical experience to a spiritual one.

Act II still keeps the focus on the good news of the birth of Jesus, but instead of the Biblical times, the story setting moves to a small church. Just as in Act

I, Brown and Blair continue to standout.

There are very few speaking parts, the story moves forward primarily through song and with the appearance of Praise Dancers, through dance as well. The spoken parts come in two forms: Biblical passages and exhortations from the minister in Act Two.

Michael Hubbard is serving again as the Musical Director and the talent he is presenting ranges from students with the W. E. Greiner Arts Magnet Middle School theater department to veterans of the DFW theater scene and the renown Blair. Once again another hall-

mark of TeCo is the diversity of the cast, lending itself to a feeling of an inclusive story of good news for all. The diversity extends itself to the dancers as well. In mainstream productions, dancers are typically of a certain size. However, these dancers celebrate the ability of all women to perform gracefully.

Black Nativity is on stage at the Bishop Arts Theatre Center tickets available in advance for \$18 and \$22 at the door. The tickets are available by phone at 214-948-0716 or by visiting www.bishopartstheatre.org. Discounts are available for groups of 15 or more. Free parking is available along Tyler and at the corner of 10th & Tyler behind Grace Temple Baptist Church.



G Christmas Gift Guide By Ruth Ferguson NDG Editor

The big day is getting closer, but you still have time to get the right gift for the ones you love. Here is *NDG's* annual Christmas Gift Guide, We have spotlighted tech, beverages, fashion and more gift ideas.



No more deadhead when you are ready to tune out the world and enjoy your music. PowerGear Sound does double duty as a protective charging case for your earbuds. Before you head out to the airport, just make plug your earbuds in with the integrated charging cable and drop it in your carry on bag or purse. Then you never have to listen to

the crving baby two seats over our the engine outside your window. One more bonus: take out the removable tray and you can plug in your Powerbeats! Mycharge.com



Find gifts for last-minute holiday shopping at Macy's; Anne Klein Gold Clutch, \$48 (Photo: Business Wire)

Last minute Macy's gift ideas

"Many people find themselves in need of a lastminute gift for someone on their holiday shopping list or enjoy waiting until the final moment to pick out that perfect present," said Kathy Hilt, senior vice president of My Stylist@Macy's. One of their items for the fashion diva on your gift list isthe Anne Klein Gold Clutch.



Juicy Couture 'Viva La Juicy' Fragrances - \$94

Give a toast to the women in your life with Viva La Juicy Rosé from Juicy Couture. With notes of pink blossoms, citrus, and amber in this fabulous fragrance, it's a feminine yet playful pick that's perfect for the holidays. Macvs.com

Tech21 iPhone 7 and 7 Plus cases - \$49.95

Since 2005, tech21 has been developing advanced, scientifically proven cases and screen shields for mobile, tablet and laptop devices worldwide. The company combines science, and engineering to create prod-

ucts that address three core consumer benefits: style, protection and performance. The ultra-thin and lightweight material absorbs and dissipates force and can withstand drops. The Evo Elite, for which the iPhone color-matched finish is highly durable with improved scratch resistance. It's available in Rose Gold,

See GIFTS, Page 12





Entertainment Too!



Mariah Carey and Lionel Richie are slated to perform in Dallas on May 15 (Photo: Wikipedia)

GIFTS, continued from Page 9

Gold and Silver and with a 6.6 foot drop protection. Whichever you choose your device will be stylishly secure! *Tech21.com*



Deck Of Scarlet Every other month, Deck of Scarlet members receive a new palette designed by an Artist-in-Chief (aka popular YouTube artist) every other month for \$29.95. The spotlighted artist will also provide tutorials and exclusive tips, giving members more ways than one to use the products inside. Gone are the days of purchasing 37 products to achieve the perfect beauty look. *Deckofscarlet.com*



Bomb Coffee

A must-have for the coffee lover on your list who wants quality coffee with a punch! BOMB Coffee comes with twice the amount of caffeine of a regular cup of coffee from hand picked Robusta beans to ensure that quality and flavor are not compromised. The veteran owned company carefully roasts, 100 percent Robusta beans delivering a satisfying sip and the highest caffeine jolt available in the world. *Bombcoffee.com*



Malt Shop Cookies

The most personal gifts are the ones of warmth and simplicity. Malt Shop Cookies provides both. Upon receiving the package, the recipient will open to a customized Gift Bag or

Neiman Marcus hosts holiday window show

Neiman Marcus Downtown has partnered with Lightwire Theater to present a unique and interactive window display Dec. 16 - 23. Each evening for eight days Lightwire Theater will perform an exclusive mini performance of A Very Electric Christmas in the Neiman Marcus Main Street window. Performances will be from 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m., Dec. 16, 19, 20,21, 22, and 23. Dec. 17 and 18, Lightwire will perform from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

The famous Neiman Marcus windows will be transformed into a stage that audiences of all ages will enjoy while celebrating the holiday



season. The delightful holiday presentation will leave children wide-eyed with delight and warm even the smallest of hearts while creating luminescent magic in the windows. Set to timeless holiday hits, all who watch are sure to be entertained. Featured as semi-finalists on America's Got Talent and winner of TRU TV Network's Fake Off, Lightwire Theater is internationally recognized for their signature brand of ElectroLuminescent Artistry and Poignant Storytelling. A complete fulllength performance of their holiday classic A Very Electric Christmas will be presented at the Winspear Opera House on New Year's Day at 4 p.m.

Visit www.attpac.org to purchase tickets to the full performance at 4 p.m. on Jan. 1 at the AT&T Performing Arts Center Winspear Opera House in downtown Dallas Arts District.

Lionel Richie and Mariah Carey performing at American Airlines Center on May 15

LOS ANGELES – Multiplatinum-selling artists, will multiple Grammy Awardwinners and music icons, at Re Lionel Richie and very special guest Mariah Carey announced today they will tour together for the first time ever on the All The Hits Tour. Produced by Live Na-

tion, the 35-show date tour will start on Wednesday, March 15 in Baltimore, MD at Royal Farms Arena and visit cities across North America including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Toronto, Vancouver, Seattle, Oakland, Dallas and more. Tickets go on sale

Gift Tin with a personalized photo and message. The taste of the malted milk cookie will then deliver a Saturday, Dec. 17 at www.Ticketmaster.com.

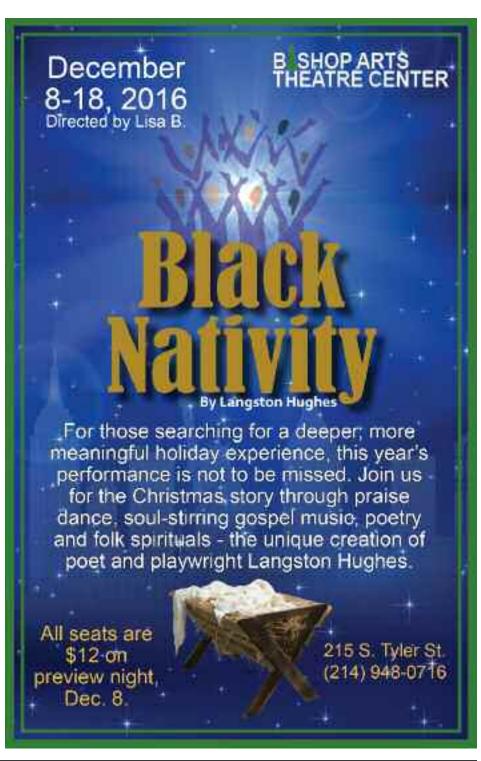
AT&T brings you to the front of the line for the All

The Hits Tour. AT&T priority presale ticket access begins Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 10 a.m. local time through AT&T Thanks program. For com-

forgotten flavor and treasured memory of Malt Shops, Soda Fountains, and Diners. plete presale details visit www.att.com/frontoftheline.

Citi is the official credit card sponsor of the All The Hits Tour. Citi cardmembers can take advantage of a special pre-sale opportunity beginning on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. local time.

Available in Chocolate Chip, Mocha Chocolate, and Double Chocolate. *Maltshopcookies.com*





NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Follow North Dallas Gazette on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to keep up on all the latest!!!

10 | December 15-28, 2016 | North Dallas Gazette

Do you have an upcoming event? Contact NDG Entertainment at marketing@northdallasgazette.com

AARP, continued from Page 4

AARP Texas Director Bob Jackson and Advocacy Manager Rob Schneider will lead a team of policy experts who know their way around the Capitol. Among them are: Amanda Fredriksen, Tim Morstad, Joe Sánchez, and Blake Hutson. In addition, any number of AARP volunteers like Charlene James, the AARP Texas president, will often be present during the 140-day session.

"Texas lawmakers will have enormous opportunities in 2017 to make meaningful and enduring improvements to the lives of older Texans," said Jackson. "AARP will be a strong voice for consumers and older Texans as we work with legislators and Governor Greg Abbott on a host of issues that matter most to Texans."

Here's an overview of some of the issues that we're discussing with legislators:

Nursing Home Quality and Safety: Texans deserve high-quality care for their loved ones. Unfortunately, the quality of care in Texas nursing homes -- where roughly 93,000 people currently reside -- is below par and the potential for harm to nursing home residents is too great.

AARP supports a number of reforms that would hold the state's 1,200+ nursing homes accountable for harming residents, enforce and escalate penalties for repeat offenses, and help Texas regain control of nursing home regulation.

Family Caregivers

• CARE Act. More than 3 million Texans are caring for a parent, spouse or other loved one as an unpaid caregiver. AARP Texas urges lawmakers to enact the Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act. The proposal would ensure that caregivers know what to do to safely look after a loved one as they transition home after a hospital stay.

• Respite Programs.

AARP Texas supports funding for programs that give caregivers a break to visit the doctor themselves, go to the store or attend a child's school program. It's an important and cost-effective way to help caregivers look after their own physical and emotional health.

• Home- and Communitybased care services. These services enable seniors and those with disabilities to get the care they need without being forced into a costly nursing home.

Funding home and community care services and paying a fair wage to the attendants who provide this care helps older Texans age in place, staying in their own homes longer.

Retirement Security: To encourage individual responsibility in saving, AARP Texas supports a legislative "work and save" proposal that would create a website to connect employers and workers with lowcost savings plans that allow voluntary payroll deduction and let workers take their savings to their next job. Action is needed because today more than 5 million Texans don't have access to a workplace savings plan.

Elder Financial Exploitation: Texas lawmakers can reduce this growing type of elder abuse in the state by creating more community coordination centers to help exploitation victims, strengthening adult protective services laws, and training and empowering financial professionals to identify and stop potential exploitation before it happens.

Surprise Medical Bills: AARP Texas seeks to protect people from surprise medical bills because the unexpected costs can drive even insured families into financial hardship. The Legislature can work to keep consumers out of medical billing disputes between insurers and doctors, and it can allow patients of neighborhood emergency clinics the right to challenge surprise medical bills.



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TRUMP, continued from Page 3

ulate labor markets and enforce labor legislation.

The minimum wage was stuck at \$5.15 an hour for ten years before it was increased in 2007. Then, Congress approved a three-step increase, raising the wage to \$5.85 an hour in July 2007, then \$6.55 an hour in 2008, finally increasing to \$7.25 an hour in 2009. It has been stuck there ever since. President Obama has recommended an increase of the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour, less than the \$15 an hour that many activists are advocating through the Fight for Fifteen. Puzder does not think the minimum wage should be more than \$9 an hour. He also opposes Obama Administration efforts to give overtime pay to more workers.

It would be crass to say that Puzder purchased his position, but it is important to note that he contributed more than \$300,000 to the

Trump campaign. His nom-

ination is consistent with that of Oklahoma attorney general Scott Pruitt, a climate change denier, to head the Environmental Protection Agency. Just as Pruitt has no intention of protecting the environment, prioritizing energy production over environmental protection, Puzder has no intention of advocating for or protecting workers.

Lots of people who voted for Mr. Trump swear they aren't racists and say they simply voted for "change." If Mr. Trump and Mr. Puzder have their way, they'll get chump change for hourly pay. Is that the change they want to believe in?

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available via www.amazon.com for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannemalveaux.com.

For the 411 in the community, go to www.northdallasgazette.com

The Joy of Giving: Five ways to give with the whole family

By Simone Mets

Each year, we are teased earlier and earlier of the impending holiday season. Then suddenly, time flies, and, as if by magic, we find ourselves right in the middle of the hustle and bustle of it all. Creating a signature family tradition of giving is not only fun, but it can be calming and deeply fulfilling.

To begin, you can choose a theme for your giving tradition. My theme this year, for example, is "prizes in different sizes." Having a theme helps to ignite imagination. Carve out some family time to brainstorm ideas, or adopt one or more of the ideas below, and find a way to make it your own. By this time next year, you will be a pro.

Write a Reverse Christmas List. Everyone knows that it's the season for list making, and for children, those lists usually include the gifts they wish to re-

CONST



This year maybe your family could adopt a volunteer who gives so much throughout the year.

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ceive. This is fun, but try encouraging your kids to make a "reverse Christmas list" after they've penned a list of things they'd like to ask for. A reverse Christmas list will consist of a list of things they'd like to GIVE to others this holiday, whether the recipients are family, friends, or gifts for those less fortunate than them. If you have a theme to your giving tradition, creating the reverse list can be a lot of fun.

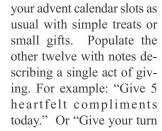
This is also an opportunity for families to reflect on

things that were on previous Christmas lists. Are those things still being used? Have they been outgrown? Were they played with a time or two before being forgotten? Make a list of those items. Ferret them out, and then pack them with care. Add a secret note about a special memory you may have had with that toy, gadget or once favorite wearable. Stow away the note with the item. These simple steps will help your family connect to giving on a deeper level be-

cause it conjures up a living, breathing recipient.

The Yard Un-Sale. Begin by choosing a date for your "un-sale." You might want to recruit your neighbors or friends to participate. Collect several empty boxes, and mark each box with the name of a room in your home that you wish to declutter. Don't forget to include the garage, attic or basement. Go through each room and pack anything you no longer wish to keep. Make sure that the item is in "givable" condition. On the day of your Yard "un-sale," organize the items by category. If you live in an area frequented by people walking their dog, add a water station to encourage dog walkers to stop by. Enjoy the day meeting people. Watch as your customers smile when they realize that everything at your yard "un-sale" is FREE!

Invent a Family Giving Advent. Populate twelve of



to someone else today." Or attach a \$5 or \$10 bill to a note asking that it be used to treat someone else. Once you have filled all twelve slots, tear an ordinary sheet

See JOY, Page 13

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December 7, 2016 Ed Bell Construction is a Dallas based heavy highway contractor doing business in the North Texas market since 1963. With clients such as TxDOT, Dallas County Public Works, and the Cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, Richardson and Mansfield (plus many others), we have a strong backlog of work in the highway market locally. We are currently hiring for the following positions: CDL Drivers* (water truck, haul truck, end dump truck) *some driver positions may require tanker endorsement Finishers (Paving) Form Setters (Paving) Laborer (Structures, must have valid DL) Loader Operator Motor Grader Operator Roller Operator Slipform Operator

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Advertise Career Opportunity 972-509-9049

Careers economist identifies concerns for state of American workforce, citing a decade's worth of challenges ahead

With a new U.S. Jobs Study revealing that "tectonic changes are reshaping U.S. workplaces as the economy moves deeper into the knowledge-focused age" amid the stark reality that lifelong skills development and training have evolved into mandatory, mission-critical facets of one's sustained career success, it's clear the 4th Industrial Revolution (i.e., the age of automation, artificial intelligence and robotics) has ushered in a brave new workplace. One reportedly prompting a "society-wide reckoning" relative to skills proliferation and other key next-gen concerns. And, rightly so, as the only thing constant in today's tumultuous job market is change. We are entering an unprecedented economic era rife with peril and opportunity, alike.

Enter jobs economy analyst, personal branding coach, visionary and futurist Larry Boyer, President of Success Rockets LLC—a firm uniquely helping people and businesses anticipate, prepare and respond to the volatile and dynamic changes caused by disruptive technologies, economic turbulence and omnipresent business failures by building "the business of vou."

He notes, "A recent White House report, Preparing For The Future of Artificial Intelligence, acknowledges that artificial intelligence will likely increase productivity and create wealth, but it may also affect particular types of jobs in

JOY, continued from Page 12

of paper into twenty-four squares and mark them from 1-24. Fold and place the numbered paper into a bowl. Take turns with your family selecting numbers until you have gone through all of the folded paper. The numbers on the papers you draw correspond to dates on the Giving Advent calendar. Now, your family can experience getting and giving! If you choose a theme, you can decorate your advent calendar in that theme, or make the items in each slot adhere to your theme.

Adopt a volunteer. Millions of people volunteer for various organizations all year. During the holiday season, many of those volunteers are a bit more visible. You may see them outside stores ringing bells. Others will spend time delivering food to the elderly. Some will devote extended hours in hospitals, and others will be caring in animal shelters. This year, why not adopt a volunteer? In nearly every hospital, a group of volunteers provide support services or directional help. Create a holiday box filled with treats, magazines and other goodies to thank them for their time. Pop in on the local animal shelter with treats for volunteers as well as the animals in their care. Offer a hot beverage to volunteers working outside in the cold. Your kindness is sure to be appreciated by people accustomed to giving!

Random Acts of Kindness. This can be practiced any time of the year, but the

Looking for energetic interns in the Dallas Area

A local community newspaper has an internship position available. The goal is to provide students and aspiring writers an opportunity to gain published clips, experience and professional feedback. The position is for 20 hours a week at



\$8.50 per hour. Assignments will include covering local events, phone interviews, and rewriting press releases.

Send resume and writing samples to: inquiries1909@gmail.com holidays are a perfect time to get started. Encourage your children to look for opportunities to give back randomly and anonymously, and model these acts for them. It could be a simple gesture such as buying a coffee or a fast food meal for the person in line behind you. Often, people who witness this type of giving follow suit.

The holidays are filled with so many gifts. The gift of giving is one gift to truly cherish. It is the only gift that gives back a hundred fold; it

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different ways, reducing demand for certain skills that can be automated while increasing demand for other skills that are complementary to AI. However, artificial intelligence is only one component of the broader economic shift that the World Economic Forum has termed 'the 4th Industrial Revolution' where, over the course of the next few years and lasting decades, we will see fundamental transformation in industries, businesses and careers.'

is always the right fit. This year, make lasting memories with your family while paying it forward and watch as the real magic of the season unfolds before you.

Simone Mets has spent her life connecting with others, whether locally or abroad, and always has her eyes peeled for opportunities to give back. Learn more about her new book Very Christmas at www.verychristmasbook.com, Facebook, and Instagram.

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The Texas Publishers Association is seeking a statewide sales representative to

TPA TEXAS PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

represent the overall sales objective for the organization. Individual must have a proven sales track record with local and regional sales strategies.

Also the individual must be:

- A self-starter
- Have excellent written and verbal communication skills
- A visionary
- Professional

• Have excellent organizational skills Previous advertising agency and direct sales experience a plus. Position is commission based.

Serious inquiries only. **Please email resume to** inquiries1909@gmail.com or leave a message for the position at 972-432-5219.

For the 411 in the community, go to www.northdallasgazette.com

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Church Happenings

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, CARROLLTON (A PLACE TO BELONG)

NOTICE: Pastor Woodson serves the community by providing "Professional Therapy and Counseling Services" but on a "Sliding Fee" scale. To schedule an appointment call the Pastoral Counseling Center at 972-526-4525 or email the church.

December 18 & 25, 9:45 a.m.

You're invited to our Sunday Morning "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Our Youth Department's Christmas Program at 10 a.m. See what God is doing through and with us; you will be blessed.

December 21 & 28, 7 p.m. Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson and Pastor Brenda Patterson teaching a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 5, Chapter 4." Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you. It's Time to Grow; Ephesians 4:12 & 13.

Dr. Terrance Woodson, Senior Pastor 1944 E. Hebron Parkway Carrollton, TX 75007 972-492-4300 www.bethelbiblefelloswhip.org

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

December 18 & 25, 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.

December 21 & 28 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, Senior Pastor 701 Centennial 972-991-0200 Richardson, TX 75081 www.Christcommunityrichardson.org

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"

Follow us on Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Vimeo).

December 18 & 25, 8 a.m. Join us on our main campus at 200 West Belmont Drive for Early Morning Worship and be blessed; followed by our Sunday Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 and bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

December 21 & 28

Join us in 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.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D. Senior Pastor 5705 Cheyenne Drive

at Bolin Élementary School

in Allen 75002 for Sunday Morning Worship and the Admin. Building Address is 200 W. Belmont Drive Allen, TX 75013 972-359-9956 www.theship3c.org

INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH, Let's Go Fishing! MATTHEW 4:19

It's a New Year and a new time. Unite, only one Sunday Morning Worship Service, mark your calendars; starting January 1, 2017 our new starting time will be 10 a.m.

December 18 & 25, 7:30 and/or 11:30 a.m.

You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

December 25, 8 a.m. Every 4th Sunday

Calling All Youth! Join our Hype Sunday Worship (first service only) on our main campus at 200 West Belmont Drive and be blessed; followed by our Christmas Sunday Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 and bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

December 19 & 28, 7 p.m. Join us in Monday School

as we grow in God's Word and learn what God has to say to us. Pastor Rickie Rush

7701 S Westmoreland Road Dallas, TX 75237 972-372-4262 www.Ibocchurch.org

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

December 18 & 25, 10 a.m. Join us for Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory; and don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

December 21 & 28, 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.

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

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> Call Today! 972.432.5219 (leave message, if no answer)

December 18 & 25, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Join us for Worship Services and fellowship as we give God all glory, honor and praise.

Also, don't forget our Annual Christmas Banquet at 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. It's always fun and inspirational. Call the church for details.

December 21 & 28, 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; it's all for His glory and His honor. We are, "Growing in Christ through the study of His Word."

Our AWANA (Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed from 2 Timothy 2:15) is held

from 6:30 - 8:15 pm, now through May. Kick-off was September 7th. There is no charge for registration for new participants! This is a Bible-based program for children and youth, ages three years old through the 12th grade. The emphasis is on memorizing the Word of God and developing a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ in a structured, safe and fun environment.

Our church ministries offer opportunities for motivation and growth; join us and see. Be blessed of the Lord.

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



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

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.

NDCtv

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.

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,

North Dallas Gazette takes a moment to

reflect on the past with

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 this makes you more significant, not less, because of what you are a part of. (1



The cracked pot

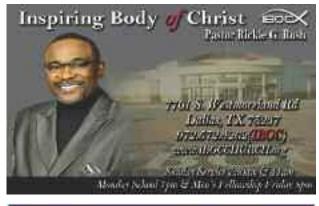
Tyanna Lott with Grandmother Tarpley. Deven, your cousin Tyanna is a senior in high school, Class of 2017. Grandmother's first grandchild to graduate from high school in 2017. I love you dearly. Grandmother Tarpley

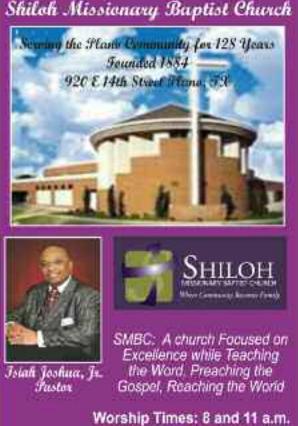


Corinthians 12:14, 19). If you aren't involved in something greater than yourself you just exist, God wants you to learn to love and serve others unselfishly. He wants you to make a difference in His world: What matter is not how long you live, but how effectively you live!If you're not involved in God's service what's your excuse?

Abraham was old. 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.





Worship Times: 8 and 11 a.m. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Mid-week: Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Youth Church: Every 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sunday at 10:45 a.m. AWANA: Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Contact Information: 972-423-6695 www.smbcplano.org



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NDG Book Review: The Mistletoe Secret is a book to plan for

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You've got big plans this holiday season.

If everything comes together, it'll be the perfect Christmas with a little travelling, a package or two arriving on time, colorful wrap, big silky bows, and food. Lots of food. And in the new book "The Mistletoe Secret" by Richard Paul Evans, you're going to work those plans – or else.

Christmas was supposed to be happy and jolly and merry, and whatever.

It had been almost a year since Alex Bartlett's wife, Jill, left him for another man



– a man who couldn't spell, no less – and Alex was still smarting from it. He knew his job-travels were causing problems in his marriage, but he hadn't known Jill was cheating on him. She left him around the holidays and

Merry stupid Christmas.

He was so lonely. If it weren't for his work pals, Nate and Dale, Alex was pretty sure he wouldn't have survived. Then again, if it wasn't for his work pals, he wouldn't be filling out a very long online form in search of love that he wasn't sure he wanted.

But there, on his computer screen in the wee small hours of several mornings, was a blog from someone who understood loneliness.

Alex was stunned at what the anonymous woman said, and how much her words resonated in his life. Suddenly, a relationship didn't sound so bad, if it could be with her. She gave few clues for her location, but he eventually figured out where she was, and booked a plane to Utah.

LBH. Those were the initials the blogger used to identify herself, which was really no identity at all. Even so, Alex found twenty possibilities in tiny Midway, Utah, where everybody knew everybody else. Was LBH an older woman or a teenager? Would Alex recognize her soul, or would he run up against a heart as cold as the snow that covered Midway? Or, better question: after meeting a beautiful waitress at a local diner – a woman who seemed to be a perfect match for him, who was gorgeous and funny – did he even want to finish his quest?

As holiday romances go, I'd have to say that "The Mistletoe Secret" is a notch above. I think it's better because there really is a secret inside this book.

Really, author Richard Paul Evans could have taken readers in any one of several different directions, but the enjoyment would be the same. Evans' Alex is your basic nice guy – one who's still a bit befuddled at his sudden singlehood, but who's willing to try something new to meet women. The characters that surround Alex, both at home in Florida and while searching in Utah, are also very likeable people; even the nasty ex is given the soft glove. What's not to love?

Be aware that there's a surprising (for this series) but mostly-chaste love scene here, though it shouldn't stop you from sharing this book with Grandma or teen. If either of them needs something merry, "The Mistletoe Secret" is a book to plan for.

GRANT, continued from Page 6

nership with communitybased organizations," said Dr. Jennifer Blalock, vice president of workforce & economic development at Collin College. "I can't think of a more meaningful investment in Collin County's economic development. We are so excited to start building a strong foundation for our community's success, centered on bridging the skills gap and equipping our workforce with the highest quality acatraining." Community service agencies serving adults in transition, as well as business and industry leaders in the technology fields, looking for

students with high skill lev-

els and competencies should

contact Dr. Jennifer Blalock

demic and technical career

at jblalock@collin.edu.

The Capital One Foundation provides funding to support programs for safe and affordable housing, financial literacy, workforce and economic development, school improvement and early childhood education. The Foundation's grantmaking serves national and local organizations that inform or implement best practices in the Foundation's focus areas or operate programs in the designated geographic.

Collin College serves nearly 53,000 credit and continuing education students annually and offers more than 100 degrees and certificates.

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