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New federal legislation allows states to innovate education policy

By Courtney Borchert
NDG Special Contributor

Texas will implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in school districts this academic year. The federal law grants more flexibility to states in exchange for comprehensive state-developed plans that help close achievement gaps and provide accountability with action for low-performing schools.

ESSA is a bipartisan law that was enacted under the Obama Administration in 2015, which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act through the 2020 fiscal year. This combination of legislation offers grants to districts serving low-income students, and allows states to redirect some resources into what helps their schools improve when students fall behind.

Key differences between this federal law and its predecessor, the No Child Left Behind Act, includes reducing standardized testing and shifting from science-based intervention methods to the use of evidence-based strategies to improve student outcomes. ESSA also expands the range of accountability measures used to distinguish student success by adding factors like



The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) will go into effect with the new academic school year in Texas. (Photo: COD Newsroom / Flickr)

high school graduation rates. School quality factors such as school climate and safety, chronic absenteeism and access and completion of advanced coursework can be acknowledged in the overall district assessment, but are weighted at a lower value than academic factors.

Each local education agency (LEA) that receives Title I, Part A funding is responsible for disseminating the state, LEA and campus-level report cards. The implementation of ESSA will change the approach and some of the requirements for report cards during the

2017-2018 school year. For example, former legislation required states report how they would hold LEAs accountable for meeting annual measurable achievement objectives. Report cards will now require a description of how states will assist LEAs in meeting long-term goals, and specify measurements of interim progress toward those goals. Additional items reported on include but are not limited to listing professional qualifications of teachers, comparative achievement data and per-pupil expenditure

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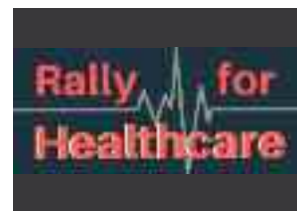
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Lamman Rucker



Meca Cole

READERS SOUND OFF!!!

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Lamman Rucker

NEW YORK -- Black Enterprise will host its inaugural Black Men XCEL Summit Wednesday, Aug. 30 through Sunday, Sept. 3, at the PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

This bold, festive, and exciting event was developed to celebrate the many contributions and achievements of today's black men.

The crown jewel of our BMX Summit, The XCEL Awards: An Extraordinary Celebration of Excellence and Leadership, will recog-



nize iconic black men in every field of endeavor—from corporate America, to the entertainment industry, science and technology, athletics and sports, the education sector, and beyond.

"The Black Men XCEL Summit is an unprecedented, multiday gathering of black men and the women, who are our most steadfast champions and partners. It was designed to be energizing, uplifting, and loads of fun," says Black Enterprise President and CEO Earl "Butch" Graves Jr. "Black Men XCEL is both a declaration and a quantum leap forward in the recognition of the achievements, leadership, and excellence of black men. It is the perfect opportunity for black men—and the women who love them—to indulge, celebrate, and enjoy them-

selves."

Confirmed speakers for the Summit include iconic filmmaker, actor, and comedian Robert Townsend; the former CEO of REVOLT and founder and CEO of The Shadow League Keith Clinkscales; actor, writer, and producer Chris Spencer; Emmy Award-winning broadcaster Ed Gordon; actor Lamman Rucker; life coach, author, and TV lifestyle personality Dee Marshall; executive chef Ron Duprat; comedian Jonathan Slocumb, and many more.

With a slew of nationally recognized leaders, BMX

will also provide attendees with live comedy and top-notch musical performances; a star-powered awards dinner; and—of course—luxury spa and world-class golf services. Attendees can make the most of their ultimate weekend getaway by enjoying a relaxing paint and sip class, participating in the cutting-edge fitness classes, or indulging in a taste of the good life at PGA's world-class spa.

In addition, BMX attendees can engage in the many health, finance, and business workshops, and enjoy thought-provoking,

insightful panels, such as:

- How to Be a Mogul: Building Your Empire
- The Fatherhood Factor: Excelling as Teachers, Role Models, and Leaders
- Women Uncensored: Why We Love Black Men
- Leading and Succeeding in Corporate America
- The Black Men XCEL Special Luncheon: Black Men in Hollywood
- Replicating Success: How to Scale Models for Mentorship
- Young Men and Sports: Golden Opportunity or Fool's Gold?
- The BMXCEL Barber-shop Debates

Meca Cole

ATLANTA – Meca Cole, founder of That Millennium Mom, has successfully launched a new campaign aimed at showing stressed mothers that perfection is not possible, and how to focus on achieving a joyful life balance. The wife and mother of 4 is sharing her multiple experiences with postpartum depression (PPD) by engaging with families through her blog and social media platforms.

"PPD was the most challenging condition I have ever faced. I experienced PPD with each of my four



children and only recently overcame it six months ago," Cole recently told Rolling Out magazine. "This is why my next step and goal is to create a movement for mothers and especially millennium mothers

by encouraging them, showing them how to build a strong support system and showing them how to finally love themselves again. It's crucial for mothers to be in a positive state of mind, after all, we are the heart of our families."

Cole said it is important for mothers to establish a support system and to relate to each other. One of the goals of her effort is to connect Millennium Moms across the world.

"A woman with PPD needs a supportive husband by her side," Cole added. "PPD can be extremely overwhelming for the

spouse especially if their spouse never experienced depression. But the most important thing the spouse can do is research the condition and completely understand it. Also, being empathetic to their spouse, taking them to the doctor and developing a tap out method when they see their spouse getting overwhelmed."

Cole's purpose and passion also lies in growing her two business That Millennium Mom and Mink Kiss Brow & Beauty Lounge. Together, she hopes to create a movement impacting moms to make themselves a priority by taking time to

pamper themselves on a regular basis.

"Helping moms understand that it's OK to not be perfect and I want them to understand they are not alone," Cole said.

Cole became a single mother at age 21, married by the age 25 and a mother of 4 with a set of Irish Twins by the age 30. She suffered from Post Partum Depression (PPD) 9 years out the 13 years of being a mother and due to her struggle with PPD and anxiety she dedicates her time motivating and mentoring other mothers who struggle with PPD, anxiety or simply struggle

with #mommylife.

Cole's goal as The Millennium Mom is to reach as many Moms raising children in this millennium as possible and assure them that perfection is impossible. She is also very passionate about The Millennium Mom movements mommy group, seminars, mommys night out, pamper mom events and being a hands on Mentor for Moms in need.

For more details and to learn more about That Millennium Mom, please visit:

Blog: <https://thatmillenniummom.wordpress.com/>

NDG Readers Sound Off...

Rising basketball star Tony Farmer's tragic fall

Really? He beat a girl and the judge is racist. Idiot. -- *Bill McCormick*

To me the judge is a racist she know and knew he was a rising basketball star and she tried to block it but what God has for you it's for you. A devil in a dress lol

-- *Ricky Johnson*

Dallas ISD Battles Declining Enrollment, Funding Cuts in Approved \$1.4 Billion

Budget

How can the state just cut funds to Disd knowing we are being robbed by corruption of Sce funds for at risk schools?

What can we do by God to get needed resources for our inner city southern sector schools with high at risk enrollments?

This is how gerrymandering, voter id (jim crow) masked laws are slowly diminishing the civil rights gains that helped all poor people and not just minority's

Our body politic has been seized by crooks on

every side leaving a void of fair and needed resources. God, good Lord, how much can our system bear to be held hostage to the profiteers and redneck lobbyist that suck like vampires the bloodline of policies and programs of local and state institutions that were meant to aid the poor in our society.

What truly happens to a Dream deferred?

Mass protest, high crime, and overwhelming poverty that will negatively affect everyone everywhere throughout American society.

-- *Concerned Citizen*

Jabari Jumps

My granddaughter is taking swimming lessons, perfect timing.

-- *David Warren Petersen*

Dallas Poverty Reaches Tipping Point

They allowed all that so called affordable housing to be built, but unless you're on assistance, you are priced out.

-- *Doretha Reeves*

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Who, What, When, Where and Why?



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Is the NAACP still relevant?



Ed Gray
NDG
Senior Columnist

Is the NAACP still relevant? That’s the question asked of me after I attended a recent NAACP meeting. The question was posed not by an interested bystander, but a fellow NAACP member. If you have to ask that question then there are issues of relevancy.

I have been a long-time member of the NAACP, I have been active for over thirty years. These questions have plagued the NAACP since I was a young man. I have been traditionally supportive of the NAACP in a historical context, of what they have done in the past.

In its glorious past here in Dallas, the NAACP has led the fight to desegregate the Dallas Independent School District and the fight for equal pay for Dallas school teachers. Though these battles were won in the courtroom, the drama played out in the court of public opinion. The strength of the

NAACP collective victories in the past was won by organization and lawsuits. This along with activism made the Dallas NAACP respected as a protector of social and civil rights.

Today’s Dallas NAACP is a much-heralded new brand of NAACP leadership has internal as well as external challenges to overcome. The internal question regarding leadership is to how to coordinate an effective response in this age of social media which is geared toward a fast-paced activist social movement. There must be increased visibility through a visible and effective online presence.

The NAACP’s response to a growing litany of social problems has been to participate in other organizational marches. Whether it is responding to police brutality in the Dallas-Fort Worth area such as the Jacqui Craig arrest, or the Jordan Edwards murder in Balch Springs, the NAACP has acted as if it was a junior partner in the junior league of social justice. I applaud cosigning to other social justice movements however, leadership is leading

the fight, not being in a fight.

The Dallas NAACP has not lead a march, proposed any legislative changes, redressed any legal concerns, nor promoted any agenda that has moved social justice forward. The Dallas NAACP has behaved more in a corporate manner than a traditional civil rights organization. The NAACP has devoted more time planning for banquets and attending conventions than being a power in the streets or being a power in the suites. I stand ready to assist in any meaningful manner to move the NAACP mission forward.

Social justice is more than the laudatory commendations awarded to companies that buy the most tables at Freedom Fund Banquets. It means devoting more time to further the concerns of the NAACP. It means organizing for social justice, political organization, environmental rights, economic rights, and judicial reform.

Dallas is one of the leading centers of mass incarceration in the nation. It has traditionally had more DNA exonerees than any other

city in the United States. In our black communities of the metroplex, more children go to bed hungry than anywhere else, which leads to a poor learning environment. Therefore, our public schools operate as centers for food, rather than centers of education.

Is the NAACP still relevant? Yes, it is. It is only as relevant as the leadership and those that are its members. We must all work together to keep the NAACP relevant.

We don’t have to answer with our lives, we only have to answer with our time. I encourage all to increase the relevancy of the NAACP by joining if you are not a member. I encourage you to be an active committee member. We all can answer the question of NAACP relevancy by moving leadership forward to keep us all viable. We have come too far, and sacrificed too much, to not remain relevant.

I am Ed Gray and this is straight talk.

Ed Gray, the host of *The Commish Radio Show* airing Saturdays 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. on FBRN.net, can be reached at eegray62@att.net.

Throw the doors of opportunity wide open for our youth

By Rep. Robin Kelly (D-Ill.)

(NNPA) These are dark times in Washington. It’s no secret that President Trump and his team are working overtime to turn back the clock on our rights and divest from our communities.

If you want to know where the President stands on the welfare of the African American community, look no further than his immoral budget. It eliminates programs that feed hungry kids, support veterans and help families buy their own home.

We must resist. We must reverse their damage and prevent them from doing it again. Let’s push forward and throw wide the doors of opportunity for all.

President Barack Obama led our recovery from the worst economic recession

since the Great Depression. Together, we saved our economy and created more than 14 million jobs, more than ten times the number created under the previous President George W. Bush.

But today, we are seeing that jobs are being lost; wages aren’t keeping up and bills are piling up. Tragically, my Republican colleagues’ solution is more tax credits for the super-rich.

My solution is different. It’s called the “Today’s American Dream Act” and will empower families with the security of a good job, a good education, home ownership and access to healthcare.

I introduced this comprehensive, 25-section bill so our young people can live the American Dream by training them for good jobs,

creating more good jobs and innovating the future.

Business leaders, especially in the technology and advanced manufacturing sectors, regularly tell me that they have thousands of open jobs, but don’t have the qualified candidates.

My bill would help people get the training they need for good-paying jobs by investing in apprenticeships, training and re-training programs and expanded student aid for career and technical education.

Additionally, my “Community College to Career Fund Act” would partner businesses with our remarkable community colleges to develop curriculums that turn students into career-ready graduates.

If we used these programs to fill just 10 percent of

Chicagoland’s open manufacturing jobs, we’d add \$105 million in wages to our communities each and every year.

We also need to invest in tomorrow, by investing in the science-technology-engineering-mathematic (STEM) fields.

Taken together, the “Today’s American Dream Act” will train our young people for the opportunities of today and prepare them for the possibilities of tomorrow. It’s time to pass the “Today’s American Dream Act” and throw wide the doors of opportunity.

Congresswoman Robin Kelly represents Illinois’ 2nd Congressional District. She is the former chief of staff to the Illinois State Treasurer. Follow Rep. Kelly on Twitter @RepRobinKelly.

Beat the back-to-school rush, get immunizations now

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is reminding all parents that now is the best time to get required school vaccinations. DCHHS is urging parents to bring their children in early before the back-to-school rush. There are six clinics open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to help parents kick off the school year.

“Planning for the next school year may not be on the minds of parents or students as we are in the middle of summer, however



U.S. Navy / Flickr

waiting lines for immunizations are expected to spike in the coming weeks.” said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director. “We

know from previous years the lines are much longer as we get closer to school starting.”

Appointments aren’t nec-

essary. The cost for Texas Vaccine for Children (TVFC) eligible immunizations is \$10 for the child’s first visit and \$5 for returning patients. Waivers are given to families in need. Clinic locations are:

- DCHHS Stemmons Immunization Clinic, 2377 N. Stemmons Freeway, Rm. 159 (first floor) in Dallas. Extended hours 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Wednesday

- Oak Cliff Branch Immunization Clinic, 1113 E. Jefferson Blvd. Suite 200 in Dallas

- John West Branch Immunization Clinic, 3312 N. Buckner Blvd. Suite 200 in Dallas

- Irving Branch Immunization Clinic, 440 S. Nursery Rd. in Irving

- North Dallas Branch Immunization Clinic, 8202 Spring Valley Rd. #200

- Carrollton Farmers Branch Immunization Clinic, 2774 Valwood Pkwy. in Farmers Branch

College students are also able to get the state required meningitis vaccine at DCHHS clinics. Without

the vaccine, they cannot enter college.

Those students include anyone who is a first-time student of a public, private or independent institution of higher education, transfer student or a student who previously attended an institution of higher education before January 1, 2012 who is now enrolling again following a break in enrollment.

For more information, visit the DCHHS website: www.dallascounty.org/departments/hhs.

Blacks suffer higher rates of fatal first-time heart attacks than whites

Black men may have similar risk of coronary heart disease as white men, but their first cardiac event is twice as likely to be fatal. That means preventing a first heart attack is even more crucial for blacks, according to research findings reported in the American Heart Association’s journal *Circulation*.

In an analysis that examined cardiac events in three major heart studies, researchers found that in two of these studies, black adults aged 45-64 have about twice the risk of fatal events compared with whites. The same

is true for older individuals, with less pronounced differences. The study found that this high risk may be due to cardiovascular risk factors and the conditions in which people are born, grow, work and live – known as social determinants of health.

However, the findings differed for nonfatal events. Accounting for these same factors resulted in lower risk of nonfatal events in black men compared to white men, with similar patterns among women that were not statistically significant. According to the researchers, blacks

have a higher burden of unfavorable social determinants of health and cardiovascular risk factors, so the lower risk of nonfatal cardiac events among blacks, especially black men, after accounting for these factors was surprising. These findings suggest that some other factor that the researchers could not measure may be driving the findings.

“Our concern is that blacks may not be seeking medical attention for important symptoms that could signal heart problems,” said Monika Safford, M.D., senior author and

John J. Kuiper Professor of Medicine and Chief of General Internal Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York. “Greater public awareness of heart attack symptoms would benefit everyone. Many people think that heart attacks are only present if they have severe chest pain. In fact, many heart attacks cause only mild symptoms and people may mistakenly think they are having a bout of indigestion.” If the heart condition is not recognized, medications that save lives after a heart attack cannot be offered.

Odds for receiving a kidney transplant now equal for African-American candidates

(Black PR Wire) RICHMOND, Va. - Improvements in national kidney transplant policy have evened the rates at which African-American transplant candidates receive kidneys from deceased donors, according to data from United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). They serve as the national Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) under federal contract.

National kidney allocation policy has been refined a number of times over the past 25 years to improve equity in transplant access. A recent analysis of the most recent policy, implemented

in December 2014, shows progress on many key goals in its first two years of operation.

As of November 30, 2016, African-Americans represented 33.3 percent of candidates listed for a kidney transplant, while 34.5 percent of deceased donor kidney recipients from December 2015 through November 2016 were African-American. The analysis also shows parity in listing and transplant rates among Hispanic and Caucasian candidates.

“The transplant community has striven for many years to close ethnic gaps between people who are listed for a kidney and those re-

ceiving them,” said Jerry McCauley, M.D., M.P.H., FACP, immediate past chair of the OPTN/UNOS Minority Affairs Committee. “African-Americans are at higher risk for developing end-stage kidney disease than other ethnicities, and thus they’re listed for kidney transplantation at a rate higher than they represent in the U.S. population.

“Minority candidates still face challenges, as they often are not referred for transplant as quickly as others and can take longer to complete their evaluations. Once they are listed, however, the new allocation system provides equal access to transplantation.”

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Healthcare Rally planned for Saturday at Klyde Warren Park

Women's March DFW, Preston Hollow Democrats, Texas Organizing Project, Four Seasons Decorations and Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas will be hosting faith leaders, healthcare professionals, community advocates and the general public for a Rally for Health



Care. The event is scheduled for Saturday, July 15th from 6 -8 p.m. at Klyde

Warren Park.

The rally will feature speakers, from a variety of backgrounds, discussing the impact that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has had on their lives and what repealing or replacing it would mean for the lives of all Texans. The rally will be of-

ficiated by Joanna Catanach.

Joanna is an educator, a Latina activist, a former television reporter, a former foster child in Texas and now a Democratic candidate for Texas state representative in House District 108.

"The focus of the rally is

to educate, motivate and encourage people to continue contacting their elected officials to demand the ACA's essential health insurance coverage not be eliminated," said Katherine McGovern, lead organizer with Women's March DFW.

Scheduled speakers in-

clude (not a complete list):

- Zachary Thompson – Director, Dallas Co. Health & Human Services
- Kelly Hart – Sr. Director of Public Affairs, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas
- Local citizens, activists and faith leaders

Senior living marketing agency aids communities with CARF accreditation process

Love & Company, a nationally recognized senior living marketing firm, is now offering a service to provide customized crisis communication plans for senior living communities with rehabilitation services that are looking to acquire or renew CARF accreditation.

As part of the accreditation process, CARF (Com-

mission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) now calls for written procedures regarding external communications, including media relations and social media as part of their risk management requirement. Understanding the importance of risk management, Love & Company's public relations and integrated

media services offers customized crisis communication plans that outline steps for external communications, including media relations and social media strategy.

"Communities must be ready to respond to a crisis quickly using a variety of both traditional and digital tools," explains Kayla Caw,

public relations and integrated media manager at Love & Company. "With social media today, a community's reputation can be on the line in the blink of an eye, and it's up to the community to take control of the conversation."

With this service, Love & Company aims to make the rigorous CARF require-

ments easier for communities to attain and maintain. Not only will customized crisis communication plans aid communities in establishing themselves as an accredited care provider, but also provide an integral piece to any community's risk management strategy, regardless of accreditation.

CARF is an independent,

nonprofit accreditor of health and human services. According to their website, accreditation from CARF provides a "visible symbol that assures the public of a provider's commitment to continually enhance the quality of services and programs with a focus on the satisfaction of the persons served."

Commercial music students hit the right notes at Cedar Valley College

Michael Robertson and some of his friends – Zantana Zuniga and Johnathan Melendez included – have recurring weekly appointments as part of their work.

But those appointments aren't in an office, and they don't involve talking about sales, hiring employees or conducting other business. Their get-togethers take place in a large music studio at Cedar Valley College. And they don't just talk. They "jam" to jazz, rock, rhythm and blues, and other genres.

The trio are students in the college's commercial music program, which teaches them about different aspects of the music industry.

"This is not a classical music program," said Dr. Kathryn Brown, commercial music program coordinator at Cedar Valley. "Commercial music is anything from pop to jazz to hip hop, and everything in between. It's most of the music you hear on the radio."

Brown said students can choose from four different tracks in the program, but every track offers facets of each one: recording technology; digital music production and composition; music business and entrepreneurship; and performing musician.



Cedar Valley student Tiffany Briscoe wants to work in music theater, and is working toward that end with the college's commercial music program. (Photo: Cedar Valley College)

"We get a mix of students, but they all have something in common," said Dr. Mike Bogle, professor of music production and composition at the college. "Every student wants to be in the music industry, performing, recording, producing and composing."

Pursuing a passion

Patti Ruth, a registered nurse by profession, said she has been attending classes in the program since 2000 because she's "addicted to music." The 62-year-old said she already has all the credits she needs for a degree in commercial music, but she has kept taking classes so that she can sing jazz and blues after she retires at the end of this year.

Ruth said, "My passion is music and my profession is

nursing, but I will soon retire. Then my passion and profession will be music."

Tiffany Briscoe, who graduated in 2016 but is taking music theory classes now, said she always knew she had talent, but her parents didn't know how to get her involved in her passion.

"I used to walk around the house singing, and my parents heard me," said Briscoe. "My love for singing and performing grew over time."

Briscoe, who sang and danced in Cedar Valley's Family Music Theater production of the classic musical "Hairspray" this summer, said she plans to work in musical theater and go into voice acting.

Briscoe said she already has performed as a singer at Dallas clubs in Deep Ellum.

She recalled, "It was nerve-racking to sing on stage at those clubs. I was nervous, but I still wanted to get up there and sing. It went better than I thought!"

Zantana Zuniga, who graduated from Cedar Valley in 2015 and now tutors other students at the college, said he always wanted to pursue music and recording technology, but his parents told him that he wouldn't be able to get a job in that field. He started studying nursing instead.

Zuniga said his father used to play the guitar, and he eventually asked his parents if he could pursue his passion for music; they consented. "I always imagined myself being a musician and playing the guitar. I was in a band, and it was all I wanted to do, but people said I was going to go hungry!" he exclaimed.

Growing a talent for music

Bogle, who is a multiple Grammy Award nominee, said many of the students who enter the program start from scratch. "It's amazing to see when people discover they have musical talent," he added.

Johnathan Melendez, who is majoring in commercial music in all four of the program's tracks, started his

college career as a business major. He said he spent two years in that program before he decided he wanted to go into music – against his parents' wishes.

"I came in for a business degree, but I felt something for music," Melendez said. "I discovered and trained my talent. I had raw energy, and I found out I could sing."

Melendez, who expects to graduate in December, added that eventually he picked up the piano and took lessons. "The professors took my talent and shaped it. I worked hard and trained to develop it."

Robertson, who graduated in May, said he first became interested in music after his grandmother gave him piano lessons for Christmas when he was nine years old.

Robertson stated, "I love playing music. I grew up with R&B, jazz and classical, but I've learned Brazilian, Cuban and African rhythms here. My colleagues here really inspired me, and I'm looking forward to forming a group some day."

Bogle insisted that it takes hard work to succeed in the music industry. Paraphrasing American inventor Thomas Edison, he said, "Music is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration. It's hard

to create a hit song, and there has to be some creative sauce in there."

Do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do... jobs!

Brown said the idea that music performers don't do very well financially is somewhat of a myth, but being successful requires a lot of hard work.

"There is a perception that music performers are swimming through life as artists," Brown said. "There are very clear things they have to learn and do. It's a process. It's not just a magical thing that someone will discover them on YouTube."

Brown said the business side of the program helps prospective performers promote their talents to succeed.

Brown added, "What we're trying to do with all tracks is produce well-balanced musicians who know how the music business works, as well as graduating students who know how to breathe in order to support a good tone."

Brown said the Dallas area offers many employment opportunities because there's an abundance of event locations and music industry-related businesses in the region.

"We have music venues,

See MUSIC, Page 10

Jarvis Christian College Enactus team wins national title

Hawkins, TX – Jarvis Christian College's Enactus Team surpassed 39 competing universities from around the country to win the first-place national title in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's "Students for Health" Project Competition.

The grand prize was recently awarded at the Enactus USA National Expo in Kansas City, Missouri, before an audience of more than 3,000 corporate executives, educators and students. Jarvis students participating include Brian Alexander, Wendon Blair and Carlos Villareal. Ches Talley is



Quiana J. Lewis, with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, presents Jarvis Enactus Team President Brian Alexander with the first-place national award in the 'Students for Health' Project competition.

Jarvis Enactus Team adviser.

The "Students for Health" Project Competition pro-

vided an opportunity for Enactus teams, through a grant from the Robert Wood John-

son Foundation, to implement initiatives to improve the health and wellness of the communities surrounding their respective universities.

The Jarvis Enactus health initiative targeted the high childhood obesity rate in East Texas by introducing achievable actions that food insecure families can take to make healthier nutritional choices. The team's innovative project included "Pop-Up Gardens in Burlap Sacks" combined with the USDA's "Grow It, Try It, Like It!" Nutrition kits.

Jarvis Christian College partnered with the Tyler

Head Start Program with 10 sites taking part in the health initiative. Dawn Parnell, with Tyler Head Start, stated, "We were honored to be invited to participate in this program. Teaching the parents and children about nutrition and healthy lifestyles can put children on a trajectory of intellectual development and academic success."

The award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will enable Jarvis Christian College to further expand the initiative across East Texas.

Quiana J. Lewis, with the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation, stated, "The

Foundation is committed to fostering a climate of nutritional health and wellness. Working with Enactus, we are able to engage the brightest minds on university campuses from around the country to help solve the issues facing society. We were extremely impressed by the project that Jarvis Christian College presented and are pleased to support their effort."

This is the third consecutive year Jarvis Christian College has placed in the National Enactus USA Expo and the first time winning a national title.

Remington College Dallas, Fort Worth campuses offer new HVAC degree program

Remington College Dallas and Fort Worth Campuses are now enrolling students for its new Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Degree Program.

The new program is an extension of the existing HVAC diploma program. Students will have the option of taking some additional classes to receive their Associate of Occupational Studies Degree in heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

The new HVAC degree program is designed to pro-



vide in-depth training to prepare students for entry-level positions in the fields

of residential and commercial heating and cooling, industrial refrigeration and

freezers, as well as introducing them to the basic concepts of operating a small business.¹

The program, which can be completed in as few as 24 months², is a combination of classroom and hands-on education in operating, troubleshooting, and maintenance and installation of HVAC systems. The curriculum is in accordance with the National Skills Standards for HVAC technicians.

The curriculum covers:

- Residential and light commercial heating and cooling fundamental

- Residential and light commercial refrigeration and freezers

- Domestic air conditioning and refrigeration appliances

- Indoor air quality standards

- Evaporators, compressors, condensers and expansion components

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the need for HVAC and re-

frigeration mechanics and installers is expected to grow by 14% during the ten-year period from 2014–2024; that's more than 290,000 jobs.³ Even in tough economic times, there will likely be a continuing need for trained HVAC specialists.

Remington College Dallas Campus is located at 1800 Eastgate Dr. in Garland. Remington College Fort Worth Campus is located at 300 E. Loop 820 in Fort Worth.

Black families believe racial inequality growing in U.S. schools

By Bria Nicole Stone
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Black families overwhelmingly believe that their schools are underfunded, and that racial inequality is growing, according to a poll conducted by The Leadership Conference Education Fund and the Anzalone Liszt Grove Research firm.

The Leadership Conference Education Fund, which is the education and research arm of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, developed the poll to "explore how Black and Latino parents and families view the American education system's success in educating their children," according to a press release about the survey.

The poll revealed that 90

percent of Black parents and families believe schools in Black communities are underfunded compared to White communities.

The poll also showed that almost 75 percent of Black parents and families believe that the education Black students receive is worse than what White students.

A report about the poll said that, "Among Black parents and family members whose child's teachers are mostly White, only 42 percent believe that schools are trying their best to educate Black students, 16 points below the share of those whose children have mostly Black teachers."

Liz King, the senior policy analyst and the director of education policy for The Leadership Conference Education Fund, said that there has been a lot of research

that's come out lately that suggests an implicit bias that educators, who are mostly White, have towards Black and Latino children.

The press release about the poll said that the findings come at a critically important time for public education in the United States as states are currently developing education plans as part of their obligations under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

"These plans are states' opportunities to make a clear declaration about their belief in the education of all children and a commitment to ensuring children get the education they deserve," the press release said.

Republicans in the United States Congress continue to chip away at ESSA, making it harder for states to clearly define those commitments.

In March, Republicans voted to rollback accountability measures established by the Obama Administration, Education Week reported.

"The Obama-era accountability rules, finalized late last year, set ground rules for how schools must be rated for school-improvement purposes, specified the requirements of (and flexibility for) states dealing with high testing opt-out rates in individual schools, and outlined how states would have to handle the 'school quality' indicator in accountability systems," according to the Education Week blog post.

Opponents of the Republican-led rules change said, "that the move was unnecessary, would create confusion in states about whether

and to what extent their ESSA accountability plans comply with the law, and could endanger crucial protections for disadvantaged students."

In the report, researchers with the Leadership Conference Education Fund said that the findings of the "New Education Majority" poll, should be a clarion call for advocates and policymakers who must come to terms with the fact that a successful education policy must be responsive to the needs of Black, Latino and Asian children, who make up a majority of public school students in America.

Researchers recommended opening the decision-making processes around educational policies to Black and Latino families, especially decisions re-

garding priorities and funding; integrating implicit bias and cultural responsiveness training into teacher preparation and professional development; preparing, hiring, supporting and retaining strong Black and Latino teachers; designing accountability systems that focus on high academic achievement, especially for Black and Latino children; and supporting and improving any school where Black or Latino children are not being effectively educated.

Given the context of ESSA implementation, King said that the federal government, states, school districts and schools have a great opportunity to put policies into place that are responsive to the needs and values of the new majority of public school children.

The Irving Music Factory at Las Colinas have almost weekly events planned from Labor Day through Christmas

Starting Labor Day weekend, colorful sights, delectable smells and rhythmic sounds will permeate The Irving Music Factory at Las Colinas as the highly anticipated, 250,000-square-foot entertainment center begins opening in phases in the Las Colinas business district. Starting with a dynamic lineup of performances at The Pavilion over Labor Day weekend and ramping up through the end of 2017, new restaurants and entertainment venues will open nearly every week. This activity will culminate with a grand opening celebration December 8-10 produced by



the project developer, North Carolina-based ARK Group.

“The Irving Music Factory at Las Colinas has long been anticipated by Irving residents and surrounding communities and we are ex-

cited to be entering the final stages of construction and fulfilling their dream,” said ARK Group President Noah Lazes. “The first restaurants and entertainment venues will begin opening in the

weeks following the Labor Day weekend performances at The Pavilion and most of the 25 venues will be open by the end of this year. As music fills the air and venues begin welcoming guests to this unique and fun-filled environment, The Irving Music Factory at Las Colinas will spring to life. We look forward to celebrating all the hard work poured into this project by so many, including the City of Irving, Gensler, Live Nation, Skanska, SunTrust Bank, our fantastic tenants, and most importantly, the residents of Irving.”

The first venue to open

will be The Pavilion, a groundbreaking convertible indoor/outdoor, state-of-the-art concert venue that can host 2,500 guests in an intimate theater setting, 4,000 guests for an indoor upscale arena experience or expand into a boutique, indoor/outdoor open-air pavilion for 8,000 guests. Inaugural performances will kick-off August 31 and September 1 with sold-out shows featuring comedian Dave Chapelle. Opening weekend continues with Brad Paisley’s Weekend Warrior World Tour 2017 on September 2. Jeff Foxworthy and Larry the Cable Guy

will be joined by The Marshall Tucker Band and Eddie Money for Jeff and Larry’s Backyard BBQ on September 3, and the weekend closes out with Lifehouse & Switchfoot: Looking for Summer Tour on September 4. The Pavilion is booked, managed and operated by Live Nation, the world’s largest concert promoter.

Throughout the year, guests of the indoor reserved seat section of the Pavilion will remain cool and comfortable with full air conditioning active even

See MUSIC, Page 10

Planning a Zero Waste Event Webinar to give the landfill some relief

Next time you plan your party or event, think about making it a Zero Waste event. A zero waste event is defined as an event that diverts 90% or more waste from the landfill. This is accomplished by putting the principles of the 3R’s – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle – into place.

Even if you can’t reach zero waste – you can follow these great tips to help you plan an earth-friendly gathering.



City of Plano

Reduce

- Send out electronic invitations instead of paper.

- Buy your foods in bulk, which means less packaging.
- Request that guests make

donations to local charities in lieu of bringing gifts.

Reuse

- Borrow decorations from friends or families for theme specific parties.
- Use reusable linens, silverware and dishware, whenever possible.

Recycle

- If paper invitations are necessary, purchase invitations with recycled paper or that can be recycled.
- Remind your caterers that you are working toward

zero waste and to be mindful of their packaging – NO Styrofoam.

Waste Containers

The more you can recycle and/or compost at your event, the closer you can get to zero waste. Having the correct waste containers on hand can make a big difference. You may choose to use your own containers for smaller events and place your recycled items in your curbside bin. For larger events, consider reserving re-

cycling, waste and compost containers from us.

These containers can be rented and serviced at your event for a small fee. By including an organic collection container as part of your waste stream – you can achieve even better diversion rates.

Register for the City of Plano’s upcoming webinar: Planning a Zero Waste Event August 2, 11 a.m. - noon. Visit the city’s website for more info.

Carrollton Library seeks feedback on expanded digital services

As part of the City of Carrollton Public Library’s ongoing initiative to provide the best connections possible to the community, the Library has improved and expanded its digital services, increasing the number of features offered to patrons.

Library members can now access more than 50 of the top digital magazines, including *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Ebony*, *PCWorld*, *HOLA! Fashion*, *ESPN*

Magazine, and many more through the new e-magazine provider, Flipster.

“We believe this product will offer a better user experience,” said Library Director Shawna Eikenberry. “Through Flipster, users will have access to a more diverse collection of e-magazines that better represent our community.”

To access Flipster outside of the Library or through the app, users must have a current Carrollton Library card

number. There are no limits to how many magazines a user can download to the app and the service is available 24 hours a day by visiting cityofcarrollton.com/flipster.

Additionally, the Library has partnered with a group of Texas libraries to loan e-books and e-audiobooks to each other’s library cardholders through the cloudLibrary app. Members can view and read titles that belong to a partner library, but

only if a user from the owning library doesn’t have the material already checked out. Through this partnership, readers will have access to a wider selection of books that are currently not part of the Carrollton Public Library’s collection. To begin searching for their next gripping page-turner, patrons can visit cityofcarrollton.com/ebooks.

The Library has also added 13 new Launchpad tablets to its collection.

These tablets target “brain training” for adults by using puzzles and games intended to help maintain or improve visual sharpness, fine motor reflexes, memory, and problem-solving skills. The Launchpads can only be checked out by adult patrons for a seven-day period, though the tablets are renewable up to three times if the item has no holds.

In order for the Library to continue providing the best services possible, the City of

Carrollton is asking for the community’s feedback and suggestions.

The public is invited to visit cityofcarrollton.com/librarysurvey, fill out the short survey, and offer ideas or suggestions on how the Library can better serve Carrollton.

For more information on the many services, events, and classes provided by the Carrollton Public Library, visit cityofcarrollton.com/library.



For latest DFW news and contests LIKE the North Dallas Gazette on Facebook

Facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette

DALLAS

Reunion Lawn Party

Reunion Lawn Party will take place on the lawn of Reunion Tower two times this summer! The event is free to the public and features live music, food trucks and lawn games from 6:30 p.m. -10 p.m. (Saturday, July 29 and Saturday, August 26). They averaged 5,000 folks in attendance for each of these events last year and are excited to continue to see this event grow this year.

The event will include lawn games, food trucks, music and more.

Roll Into Bowl & Barrel This Summer Break

Bowl & Barrel in Dallas knows that families have time to spare this summer now that the kids are out of school, which is why the boutique bowling alley is offering kids under 12 can enjoy one hour of bowling, plus shoes, a delicious hot



Wikimedia

dog and drink, all for \$10.

“We wanted to give families a fun and affordable entertainment option while the kids are on summer break,” said Kyle Noonan, co-owner of FreeRange Concepts, creator of Bowl & Barrel. “This is a perfect way for parents to keep their kids active while staying cool and enjoying a little friendly competition this summer.”

This offer is available Monday through Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Aug. 31. Bowl & Barrel is located at the Shops at Park Lake, in the heart of midtown Dallas, to take advantage of this limited-time special info at bowlandbarrel.com.

Work of HeART: A Night of Art, Beauty, & Fashion - Benefitting Texas Lawyers for Children

Art lovers are invited to a night of art, beauty, and fashion - benefitting Texas Lawyers for Children - on July 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m at Samuel Lynne Galleries 1105 Dragon Street in Dallas.

Elle Marie Beauty and Skin Snob are partnering together to present Work of HeART. This evening will include celebrity models and silent / live auctions. Hors d'oeuvres, drinks, entertainment and valet included.

DENTON Thursday Night Jazz

Thursday nights in downtown Denton will be filled with jazz and classical music as the summer version of Thursday Night Music begins July 13.

UNT on the Square and the University of North Texas' College of Music

will present the series of concerts, which run from 8 to 9 p.m.

The schedule is:

July 13 - Steve Harlos, jazz flavored piano solos from the professor of piano

July 20 - Whittle Me This, gypsy jazz-folk from UNT music students

July 27 - Dan Haerle, piano, and Fred Hamilton, guitar, former UNT professors

Aug. 3 - Molly Fillmore, an evening of arias from the professor of voice

Aug. 10 - Paper Cups, jazz quintet of UNT Jazz students

FRISCO Family event Saturday

Kiddie Academy of Frisco is hosting a carnival-themed Grand Opening Event, open to the public, on Saturday, July 15 where attendees will enjoy activities with games and prizes, a photo booth, inflatable obstacle course, balloon artist, carnival games and age appropriate arts and crafts

throughout the academy classrooms. Local radio station 97.5 KLAK will also be on site broadcasting live and listeners who attend the event can enter to win a one-year lease on a Jeep Wrangler through KLAK's summer promotion.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Kiddie Academy of Frisco, 3188 Legacy Drive, Frisco, Texas 75034 and will be free for attendees. The Academy will also host an official ribbon cutting to open the Academy to the public with the Frisco Chamber of Commerce at 9:30 a.m. on July 15 preceding the grand opening festivities.

GARLAND Fair Housing Assessment

The Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) is a legal requirement the City must complete in order to continue receiving federal housing and community development funding from the

Department of Housing & Urban Development. The community is encouraged to provide input on Garland's AFH by attending a public meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 11 or July 18. Learn more by calling 972-205-3300.

IRVING 2017 Back to School Luncheon

Join the Irving Chamber at the Irving ISD's educators and administrators at the Back-To-School Luncheon Wednesday, August 2 at 11:30 a.m. Through your vital support, the educators will enjoy a complimentary lunch, school supply bags and door prizes.

Donate a door prize and receive company name on program. Please e-mail item description by July 24 to the Chamber at chamber@irvingchamber.com. All Door Prize items must be delivered before Monday, July 27 to the Irving Chamber main office between 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Ed Gordon discusses his upcoming special on Bounce TV

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

Speaking by phone with the *North Dallas Gazette*, longtime award-winning journalist Ed Gordon, spotlighted what viewers can look forward to on his upcoming special scheduled to appear on Bounce TV on July 17 at 9 p.m. (CST). For the summer special he is focusing on celebrity newsmakers featuring: the ladies from the upcoming movie *Girls Trip*, athlete turned TV host Michael Strahan, Steve Harvey, Cedric the Entertainer and D.L. Hughley and from Starz's *Power* Omari Hardwick.

Don't get it twisted just because it is a celebrity focused



Bounce TV

show Gordon takes the conversation beyond the usual fluff pieces.

"Throughout the years I have been known for celebrity interviews. I try to put my stamp on it," Gordon shared. Instead of simply discussing their latest projects he tries to give the viewers a look into the lives of the guests.

The role of comedy in the

age of Trump calls for comics to walk a fine line according to Hughley and Cedric. The duo also discusses their friend the late Charlie Murphy who was on tour with them shortly before he passed away. Also, the tears of a clown are real, "We talk about whether some of the comedy comes from a place of pain," Gordon stated.

Hardwick is very popular with fans of *Power*, but some fans lashed out over the fact he is married to a white woman. This has been an ongoing social media topic over the last year and he discusses with Gordon the fact it can be a hurtful experience for a couple to endure.

Sitting down with the lovely Jada Pinkett Smith,

Queen Latifah, Tiffany Haddish and Regina Hall is not a bad day at the office, but Gordon delved into the state of power of women in Hollywood right now. Also, Smith candidly discussed the decision she and husband Will Smith made to boycott the 2016 Oscars in protest of a lack of diversity in the nominees and films spotlighted.

Strahan is ready for prime time

When Gordon chatted with Strahan they discussed how he prepared for the sudden boost in fame. This is the second chapter in an already stellar career, from NFL Hall of Fame to *Good Morning America* and now producing.

See GORDON, Page 10



Chris Hakkens / Wikimedia

WIN Tickets to see Earth, Wind & Fire in Dallas

NDG readers have a chance to win two free tickets to Getaway for a night of music while they Sing A Song with legendary R&B group Earth, Wind & Fire in Dallas on Sunday, July 23 at the American Airlines Center. Visit our Facebook page or our Instagram profile and tell us your favorite Earth, Wind & Fire song for a chance to win tickets. Fans will also have a chance to enjoy CHIC featuring Nile Rodgers.

"Nile Rodgers and CHIC are legendary for their iconic style, song, sound, and groove," said

Philip Bailey, co-founder of Earth, Wind & Fire. "Get ready for a non-stop 2054 party!"

With multiple #1 hit singles between Earth, Wind & Fire and CHIC ft. Nile Rodgers, 2054 The Tour will feature non-stop entertainment from two of America's most legendary musical groups. Most recently, Nile Rodgers was honored with an Award for Musical Excellence from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Earth, Wind & Fire was inducted in 2000.

Tickets are on sale at ticketmaster.com.

THE BLACK ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS
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COMEDY NIGHT at the MUSE
Featuring **Freddie Ricks**
Friday, July 14 & Saturday, July 15, 2017 @ 9pm
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Physical Address: 1309 Canton Street | Dallas, TX 75201
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The Black Academy of Arts and Letters Inc. 2016-2017 40th Season programs are supported in part by the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Design Factory, CBS-11/TXK-21, TACA, Radio One-Dallas, Evans Engraving, My Pocket App and an Anonymous Fund of the Dallas Foundation. Our media partners include The Dallas Weekly, The Downtown Business News, I-Messenger@News.com, The Garland Journal, Texas Metro News, DFWB.com, Dallas Black Business Directory, Dallas Gospel Connection, The North Dallas Gazette, Southern Dallas Business & Living Magazine and Tarrant County Commercial.

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

WIN tickets to see *The Bodyguard* in Dallas!

Dallas Summer Musicals and Performing Arts Fort Worth are thrilled to announce a co-presentation of the first U.S. national tour hit musical THE BODYGUARD, to play at the Music Hall at Fair Park July 18-30.

This sensational production will then head over to Fort Worth, where it will play at Bass Performance Hall August 1-6. North Dallas Gazette readers have a chance to win tickets to see



the show in Dallas. Visit our Facebook page or our Instagram profile and tell us your favorite song from The

Bodyguard for a chance to win tickets for two.

Grammy Award-nominated and multi-platinum

R&B/pop recording artist and film/TV actress Deborah Cox stars as Rachel Marron. In the role of bodyguard Frank Farmer is television star Judson Mills.

Based on Lawrence Kasdan's 1992 Oscar-nominated Warner Bros. film, and adapted by Academy Award-winner (Birdman) Alexander Dinelaris, THE BODYGUARD had its world premiere on December 5, 2012 at London's Adelphi Theatre. THE

BODYGUARD was nominated for four Laurence Olivier Awards including Best New Musical and Best Set Design and won Best New Musical at the Whatsonstage Awards. The UK production of the musical recently completed a triumphant return run in London's West End after a sell-out 16-month UK and Ireland tour.

Former Secret Service agent-turned-bodyguard Frank Farmer is hired to

protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker. Each expects to be in charge; what they don't expect is to fall in love.

A romantic thriller, THE BODYGUARD features a host of irresistible classics including So Emotional, One Moment in Time, Saving All My Love, Run to You, I Have Nothing, I Wanna Dance with Somebody and one of the biggest selling songs of all time – I Will Always Love You.

MUSIC, continued from Page 7

when open to the outside amphitheater. A diverse selection of dining options and refreshing beverages will be abundant throughout the venue to enhance the entertainment experience. Full VIP treatment is available with the purchase of premium seating packages that include the best seats in the house, a private entrance, close and convenient parking, VIP Club access, personalized services from an account manager and much more. More information about the diverse line-up of entertainers scheduled to perform at The Pavilion is available here.

Following the opening of the Pavilion, a steady parade of 25 restaurant and entertainment concepts will debut almost every week, culminating in the full entertainment center grand opening festivities scheduled for the weekend of De-

ember 8. Some of the many restaurant and entertainment options scheduled to open include the following with more announced soon:

- Alamo Drafthouse 8 Screen Movie Theater
- Bar Louie
- Bar Manzanilla
- Boi Na Braza Brazilian Steakhouse
- Burgerim
- C-Bar
- Freshii
- Gloria's Latin Cuisine
- Grimaldi's Coal Brick Oven Pizza
- Highway 61 South
- Kabuki Japanese Restaurant
- Martini Ranch
- MaxFruit, Texas' First Frozen Whole-Fruit Bar
- Nosh & Bottle
- Sambuca
- TCBY
- Texas Jam House & Marketplace
- Thirsty Lion Gastropub & Grill

- Top Round Roast Beef
- Uncle Gino's Cucina Italiana
- Yard House

Every venue will feature custom designed interiors and generous outdoor patios for guests to enjoy their meal under the vast Texas sky. Many of the restaurants will also offer private rooms with A/V equipment for business meetings and private parties, and live music throughout the week.

Live music and entertainment offerings will be as varied as the wide array of culinary options at The Irving Music Factory. In addition to the diverse roster of entertainers scheduled to appear at The Pavilion, frequent performances by local and regional bands of all kinds will take place on "The Plaza" stage and in many of the restaurants.

A focal point of the development is a central town plaza that is reminiscent an upscale town square as

guests freely wander the space with cold drinks and delicious food before pausing a moment to take in the music or admire the offerings of a local vendor. The plaza is designed with abundant greenery and open spaces that will serve as a community gathering place for city events, live music, fashion shows and farmers markets.



MUSIC, continued from Page 5

clubs, hotels, convention centers, recording studios," Brown said. "Any place that uses microphones employs audio technicians."

Many of those jobs pay well. Audio engineering jobs in the Dallas area, for example, earn a mean wage of almost \$56,000 per year, according to data from the Texas Workforce Commission.

Zuniga, who is still taking some classes at the college, said he makes \$150 per event

working as a sound engineer at clubs and other venues in the Dallas area. In addition, he has earned enough to buy his own equipment so that he can record and produce music for other artists – and he charges \$70 per hour to do that work.

Steve Browne, professor of recording technology at Cedar Valley, said he has been cultivating relationships and pushing for internships for his students with people in the music industry, and his

efforts have yielded good results.

"There is a vibrant need out there to pull in our graduates," Browne said. "We work hard to ensure we have cutting-edge equipment so our students can train with modern gear that has real world applications. That's important."

For more information about the commercial music program at Cedar Valley College, email Dr. Kathryn Brown at KD-Brown@dccd.edu.

The beautiful Zimbabwe-based Cinderella tale returns!

JUNE 23 –
JULY 9

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Music and Lyrics by S-Arakh Raza

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Dallas volunteer attorney program hosts free small business clinic

The Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP), a joint initiative of the Dallas Bar Association and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, will hold a free Small Business Clinic for Dallas County residents who

meet certain financial guidelines. The Small Business Clinic will be held on Thursday, July 20, 5 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church (4105 Junius, Dallas, TX).

Services are free and the

clinic can assist with the following matters:

- Legal counsel on starting and organizing a new business
- Drafting or reviewing formation documents, contracts, or leases)

• Legal advice regarding business permits and licenses, and other applicable laws and regulations

• Referrals to lenders and other assistance programs

Small Business Clinics are

held bi-monthly, on the third Thursday at 5 p.m., in conjunction with the East Dallas Legal Clinic. If residents need assistance before or after the Small Business Clinic, they can attend one of the Dallas

Volunteer Attorney Program's other legal clinics held in the Dallas area several times each month. For a full listing of the clinics, log on to <http://dallasvolunteerattorneyprogram.org/get-help>.

Texas ranked fourth among America's Top States for Business

ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS, N.J.—The skills gap across the U.S. labor market is big and getting bigger. States are fighting each other like never before to attract businesses and jobs — a battle that CNBC has been chronicling year after year in its annual America's Top States for Business ranking. Texas falls two slots to fourth.

This week CNBC First in Business Worldwide, is counting down the Top 5 States for Business during CNBC's Business Day programming and on CNBC.com. Reporting live from this year's top-ranked state, CNBC Special Correspondent Scott Cohn, revealed on "Squawk on the Street" that Texas ranked #4 among America's Top States for Business with a score of 1,602 out of a possible 2,500 points in an exclusive study, announced.

According to the survey, Texas ranked in the top 10 for workforce, infrastructure, access to capital and cost of living.

Last year, the Lone Star state placed second, but fell two spots, finishing in fourth place for 2017. Texas' best category is a tie between Workforce and Infrastructure, both first in the nation, but the state finished 37th for Quality of Life.

Texas is still adding jobs at among the fastest rates in the country, but unemployment has ticked above the national average. The state has no individual income tax and no corporate tax — just a state business franchise tax that tops out at 0.75% and the top state and local sales tax is 8.25%. Texas' largest employer is the H-E-B supermarket chain and its biggest industry is mining, including oil

The survey ranked states according to 10 broad categories (see press release below for more detailed info) and following are Texas's results:

Rank	Category	Score
4	OVERALL	1602
15	Cost of Doing Business	219
1	Workforce	376
37	Quality of Life	127
25	Economy	170
1	Infrastructure	251
11	Technology & Innovation	157
34	Education	82
24	Business Friendliness	82
3	Access to Capital	96
9	Cost of Living	42

and gas drilling.

To determine the rankings for America's Top States for Business, each state was scored on 66 different measures of competitiveness. CNBC developed a methodology with input from a broad and diverse array of business and policy experts, official government sources, the CNBC Global CFO Council and the states themselves.

A full list of sources that were used for this year's data can be found here. States received points based on their rankings in each metric, which were then separated into ten broad categories. The categories are weighted based on how frequently they are used as selling points in state economic development marketing materials. That way, we grade the states on the criteria they use to sell themselves.

So what makes a state great for business? These are the ten broad categories and the maximum possible points for each in 2017:

Workforce (425 points)

Most states point with great pride to the quality and availability of their workers, as well as government-sponsored programs to train them. We rate states

based on the education level of their workforce, the numbers of available employees, and the states' demonstrated abilities to retain college-educated workers. We consider each state's concentration of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) workers, increasingly in demand by business.

We measure workforce productivity based on each state's economic output per job. We look at the relative success of each state's worker training programs in placing their participants in jobs. We also consider union membership and the states' right-to-work laws. While organized labor contends that a union workforce is a quality workforce, that argument, more often than not, does not resonate with business.

Infrastructure (400 points)

Access to transportation in all its modes is a key to getting your products to market and your people on the move. We measure the vitality of each state's transportation system by the value of goods shipped by air, waterways, roads and rail. We look at the availability of air travel in each state, the quality of the

roads and bridges, and the time it takes to commute to work. We also consider the condition of each state's drinking water and wastewater systems.

Cost of Doing Business (350 points)

Cost is a major consideration when a company chooses where to do business. We look at the competitiveness of each state's tax climate, as well as state-sponsored incentives that can lower the cost of doing business. Utility costs can add up to a huge expense for business, and they vary widely by state. We also consider the cost of wages, as well as rental costs for office and industrial space.

Economy (300 points)

A solid economy is good for business. So is a diverse economy, with access to the biggest players in a variety of industries. We look at economic growth, job creation, consumer spending, and the health of the residential real estate market. We measure each state's fiscal health by looking at its credit ratings and outlook, as well as its overall budget picture. Because of their own economic impact as well as the ripple effect, we consider the number of major corporations headquartered in each state.

Quality of Life (300 points)

One way to attract qualified workers is to offer them a great place to live. We score the states on livability including several factors, such as the crime rate, inclusiveness including anti-discrimination protections, the quality of health care, the level of health insurance coverage and the overall health of the population. We evaluate local attractions, parks and recreation, as

well as environmental quality.

Technology & Innovation (225 points)

Succeeding in the new economy — or any economy — takes innovation. Truly competitive states prize innovation, nurture new ideas, and have the infrastructure to support them. We evaluate the states on their support for innovation, and the number of patents issued to their residents. We also consider federal health, science and agricultural research grants to the states.

Education (200 points)

Education and business go hand in hand. Not only

do companies want to draw from an educated pool of workers, they also want to offer their employees a great place to raise a family.

Higher education institutions offer companies a source to recruit new talent, as well as a partner in research and development.

We consider the number of higher education institutions in each state as well as long-term funding trends for higher education.

We look at several measures of K-12 education including test scores, class size and spending, and we look at technology infra-

See STATES, Page 12

RAC

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EEO

JPMorgan Chase expands economic opportunity initiative for young men of color in Dallas

(New York, NY) – JPMorgan Chase & Co. recently announced The Fellowship Initiative (TFI) will expand to Dallas in 2017 and will recruit new classes of Fellows.

TFI helps create economic opportunity for young men of color by engaging them in a comprehensive, hands-on enrichment program that includes academic support, college access and persistence services, leadership development and mentoring at a critical juncture in their lives.

This initiative is part of the firm's broader, ongoing efforts to provide adults and young people with the education, skills and resources

that contribute to greater economic mobility.

"It's a national emergency that high school graduation rates for young men of color are dangerously low and so many who do graduate lack the skills they need to be successful in college or their careers," said Jamie Dimon, Chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase & Co.

"The path to a successful future begins at a young age, and The Fellowship Initiative has proven that the right combination of intensive academic, mentoring and leadership training, can help them get ahead – and that success can help drive entire communities forward, too."

JPMorgan Chase launched the TFI pilot in New York in 2010 to explore whether a combination of intensive academic and leadership training could improve high school graduation and college access rates for young men of color. The pilot demonstrated that an intensive, three year program with a holistic approach could contribute to promising outcomes for young men of color.

The Fellows who completed the programs reported elevated academic goals, career aspirations and life-changing personal growth. They also graduated from high school on-time, gained admission to a

college program and, collectively, received scholarships and grants totaling \$8.4 million. More than half were the first in their family to attend college.

The Fellowship Initiative will include:

- Academic training and project-based learning throughout the school year and summer;
- Leadership and entrepreneurship training;
- One-on-one mentorship with JPMorgan Chase employees;
- College tours and college preparation workshops;
- SAT/ACT prep coursework; and
- Team-building events.



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GORDON, continued from Page 9

As a single father, he also had to prepare his family for a different type of spotlight. Now, who he dates is headline news. And of course, the tabloids were filled with speculation about his departure from co-hosting with Kelly Ripa. He shares on the

special how he dealt with the gossip.

"He learned hard work and determination from his parents," Gordon stated this helped prepare him for a career in sports. He described Strahan as one of the guys everyone knows but don't

know much about him. After the interview, "You walk away finding out a lot more and really liking who he is," according to Gordon.

Viewers who do not have Bounce TV through their local cable provider have two ways to enjoy the Ed Gordon special. Visit an electronics retailer and purchase a digital antenna for about \$25. Then

local and several basic cable channels will be available at no cost. Or download the Bounce TV app and watch the show, a day or two later.

STATES, continued from Page 11

structure in the schools. We also look at life-long learning opportunities in each state.

drive the cost of doing business. From housing to food and energy, wages go fur-

ther when the cost of living is low.

We measure the states based on an index of costs for basic items.

Business Friendliness (150 points)

Regulation and litigation are the bane of business. Sure, some of each is inevitable.

But we grade the states on the freedom their legal and regulatory frameworks provide for business.

Access to Capital (100 points)

Companies go where the money is, and capital flows to some states more than others. We look at venture capital investments by state, as well as traditional bank financing for small and mid-sized businesses.

Cost of Living (50 points)

The cost of living helps

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

Discover Hope and Help for daily living; and, you don't have to be a member to come. The Connect-2-Reflect (C2R) meetings are held in comfortable and relaxed homes, one in Carrollton and one in Plano, refreshments are served. Call the church for details.

July 16, 9:45 a.m.

You're invited to our Sunday "Prayer and Meditation" at 9:45 am. You will be blessed and inspired. You don't want to miss this!

July 17, 7 p.m.

During the month of July only join us in Wednesday's Prayer with a Pastor of the church via a Phone Conformance call. Either with Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner, Pastor Patterson or Pastor Bernadette leading pray hour. It's Time to have intercessory prayer for others. Call number 641-715-3200, access code 161883#

July 22, 5-7 p.m.

You don't want to miss our YAMS' Unashamed Explosion of praising and worshipping God through songs and the spoken word at the church. Set your calendars.

Dr. Terrance Woodson, Senior Pastor
1944 E. Hebron Parkway
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FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"

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

July 16, 8 a.m.

Join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall; followed by our Sunday Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

July 19, 7 p.m.

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. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

July 29

You're invited to help us with "Community Give Back" time. Sixty (60) volunteers are needed to help with Children's Hospital, Hope's Door, Soul Church Barn, Equest, The Samaritans Inn and Dominique Cares. Call the church for the time and other details.

July until August 20

This is a 70 Day Challenge in seven stages of development by praying daily; reading the book of the quarter, "Chase the Lion" by Mark Batterson; preparing a household budget for the summer; exercising at least three days a week; a Spiritual Workout on a Sunday, Wednesday or Saturday; Tithing the Bible Way; and learning how to forgive. Call the church for details.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D. Senior Pastor

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www.theship3c.org

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

July 16, 10 a.m.

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

July 17, 7 p.m.

Join us in Monday School as we grow in God's Word; learn what God has to say to us.

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.lbocchurch.org

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP) (Uniting the Body of Christ Among Nations)

July 16, 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.

July 19, 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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July 16, 8 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Join us for our annual Friends & Family Day; you will enjoy the fellowship, fun and food during the 8 a.m. and in the 11 a.m. Worship Services.

July 19, 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 church ministries offer opportunities for motivation and growth; join us and see. Be blessed of the Lord.

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"I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony." - John 3:11

When is the last time God did something in your life that can only be explained as God? Was it yesterday? Was it just last week? Perhaps it was a month ago? Maybe it was a year ago?

The answer to this question may mean several things. If it has been some time since you saw God's activity in such a way that you know it was His hand, you may not be trusting to a level that requires faith.

You may not be risking

enough for God to show Himself. You must have faith in God.

The converts in the early Church changed the world they lived in because of what they saw, heard and did.

It was the power of the gospel that changed lives, not what they learned from mere teaching. This power drew people to Christ it was the only way to draw them.

Things happened that could not be explained as anything other than the activity of God. Is that the kind of faith you are experiencing in your life? If not, why not?

Many of us live a wholesome, moral life, but those we associate with do not see this activity as anything that cannot also be achieved by themselves.

That is why many are not drawn to our lives. God's power is not evident. The Lord has been challenging me to trust Him at levels I have never trusted before, will you let Him challenge

you?

This level of trust has placed me in a vulnerable position. However, the blessing of this relationship is that I see the activity of God as never before, and those close to me see it as well.

It builds their faith and draws others to investigate. Sometimes the activity of God comes in unusual ways.

God often sets up scenes that appear to be negative on the front end, but God has orchestrated these events for His glory.

-Without Pharaoh's pursuit of Israel at the Red Sea, there is no miraculous deliverance for Christians to read about now..

-Without Lazarus's death, there is no rising to life. -

Without Goliath, there is no underdog story. Praise God.

-Without Peter stepping out of the boat, there is no miracle on the water.

-Without Judas' betrayal, there is no resurrection. All glory and praise to God. God

wants to show Himself in ways you and I cannot imagine.

Let God demonstrate His power in your community and workplace today. Then, you will see "all men drawn unto Me."



*Timothy Alexander Traylor (Texas State University)
Major: Mass Communications: Advertising and Business Marketing
Timothy's Parents are Carl E. Traylor and the late Shelia Traylor.
Tim's future plans are working at Best Buy in San Marcos as he prepares to pursue Graduate School and full time employment in his field. He says that he is thankful to God and his parents for giving him this opportunity and he wants to continue following God's plans for his life.*

NDGtv North Dallas Gazette takes a moment to reflect on the past with **Historical Perspectives from Sister Tarpley**. Hear what it was like growing up in a very different Dallas when Booker T. Washington was a black school. Sister Tarpley graduated from there and went on to college and later became a city councilmember in Carrollton.

Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com

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Church Happenings is a weekly calendar of religious services produced by the North Dallas Gazette. To make additions or corrections to the calendar, contact: religion@northdallasgazette.com

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Sunday Morning Worship: Story Elementary, 1590 Fishbrow Drive, Allen, TX 75002, 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Night Live: 200 W. Belmont Drive, Allen, TX 75013, 7:00 p.m.
Pastor: Dr. W.L. Carter, Sr.

NDG Book Review - Jabari Jumps, go ahead and do it

By Terri Schichenmeyer

You can do it.

Yes, you can. You just need to take a deep breath and then blow it out. Find the courage inside yourself. Think of something else and do it. Don't be scared. As you'll see in "Jabari Jumps" by Gaia Cornwall, good things come to those who get brave and take the leap.

Jabari loved to swim.

He was really good at it, too. He'd gone to all his swimming lessons and he passed every test. He was so good at swimming that he was ready to jump off the



diving board. He even told his dad about it.

The diving board was "high and maybe a little scary..." There were a lot of rungs to climb to get to the top - Jabari could tell that from the side of the pool.

Other kids on top of the diving board looked tiny from below as they sprang up and splashed down into the water. It was a long, long way to dive, but Jabari thought it looked like fun - and besides, he was a "great jumper."

As he stood by the ladder, he looked up. Way up.

Then he turned around and looked at the other kids in line. They'd been standing there awhile; maybe they should go first. In fact, maybe a "tiny rest" was a good idea before tackling such a huge thing. And oh, Jabari forgot to do his

stretches before swimming - that's very important. Maybe tomorrow would be better for diving off the board.

But then Daddy said something that Jabari never thought about. Daddy knew exactly what Jabari was thinking, and he had some helpful advice. There were many ways to dive off a board and into a pool. You can jump feet-first or with your arms above your head, backwards or forwards, straight or flipping head over feet, but there was only one way to get to the top to do it.

And so Jabari did...

More than three out of five Americans don't know how to swim. In the African American community, that number is considerably higher. "Jabari Jumps" may help fix that.

It's okay to love swimming, according to author Gaia Cornwall's energetic little main character. It's okay to get all wet and take swim lessons. It's actually fun, and Cornwall's illustrations make it seem so.

But, as your child will see, it's also okay to be scared of doing something you've never done before. In this, Cornwall makes it

clear to even the smallest youngster that Jabari's faux-bravery is wavering even as he brags about his big plans in the pool. There's plenty of reassurance here, though; Jabari's father is a great supporting character, understanding and calm with no belittling.

In the end, well, I'm sure you know where this book goes. Kids might, too, and it's a joyous finale that will leave young readers with a smile and maybe an urge to learn to swim. If that's what you want to foster in your child, then give him "Jabari Jumps." Do it.

NDG Dining: Plano's Farmbyrd & Garland's Intrinsic Brewing

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

If you are looking for a different place to eat this weekend this week we have two suggestions: in Garland the very popular Intrinsic Brewing and in Plano Farmbyrd Rotisserie & Fried Chicken Restaurant.

Both offer their own twist on Texas favorites: fried chicken and BBQ.

The BBQ was fine, a little dry, but OK. The real highlight of the meal was the collard greens and the mac and cheese which was a cheesy gooey delight. The greens had a bit of a spicy kick to it, filled with plenty

of meat.

After seeing photos of Farmyard's fried chicken on Instagram, two days later I found myself making the trek to 3308 Preston Road in Plano, and it was worth the trip. My fried chicken was moist and featured a spicy, not hot, but flavorful crust. Their Mac n' Cheese

is an addictive three white cheese blend and the Cauliflower Gratin was tasty. For dessert, the cookie sandwich is great summer day treat.

Read the full review on this restaurant and many more by visiting our website at www.northdallasgazette.com,



Intrinsic Brewing is a popular beer and BBQ spot in Garland.

African-Americans lead in Bible engagement, beliefs

PHILADELPHIA — The results of the latest State of the Bible survey by American Bible Society showed African-Americans are more engaged with the Bible than any other group, overwhelmingly citing positive beliefs and hope found in the Scriptures. Among African-Americans, 71 percent are considered Bible engaged or Bible friendly (compared to just 58 percent of all Americans). A small segment of African-Americans, just six percent, has hostile feelings toward the Bible; only four percent are skeptical; and 19 percent are

neutral.

When asked if the Bible contains everything a person needs to know to live a meaningful life, 77 percent agreed that it does. And while all Americans believe morality is on the decline (81 percent), 35 percent of African-Americans blame the decline on lack of Bible reading.

When African-Americans sit down to read the Bible, 29 percent read it for an hour or more—the leading timeframe for this category. Many cited feeling encouraged (51 percent) and hopeful (53 percent) as a result of

reading the Bible.

African-Americans ranked higher than all Americans in:

- Owning at least one Bible in their homes (95 percent)
- Wishing they read the Bible more (74 percent)
- Downloading or using a

Bible app on a smart phone (46 percent)

- Increasing Bible reading in the last year (33 percent)
- Listening to audio versions of the Bible (40 percent)
- Reading or listening to the Bible or praying every day (27 percent)

"African-Americans are much more inclined to recognize the value of reading the Bible," said Roy Peterson, president and CEO of American Bible Society. "Anyone who devotes time to the Word of God can discover its unique ability to help make sense of life."

State of the Bible is an annual report commissioned by American Bible Society and conducted by Barna Group on behaviors and beliefs about the Bible among U.S. adults. For more information about the latest State of the Bible research, visit StateoftheBible.org.



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