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DISD approves name changes for Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and Cabell elementary schools

By Joe Farkus NDG Contributing Writer

The Dallas ISD Trustee Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed name changes of the three Dallas ISD elementary schools named after Confederate figures during its board meeting Thursday, Dec. 14.

"I want to add my thanks to the administration and to all three of the communities who worked together and came up with consensus names," said Board President Dan Micciche. "I think it reflects well on the district and on the school communities."

Robert E. Lee Elementary, named after the Confederate General whose statue was removed from Oak Lawn Park (then known as Lee Park), is to become Geneva Heights Elementary – named after the land on which the school sits.

Trustee Dustin Marshall, who represents the district Lee sits in, thanked the school's principal for the leadership displayed in the process and the ability to work with the group of "activists" on campus who pressured the campus administration and trustee board to change the school's name.

Stonewall Jackson Elementary, which also sits in Marshall's district and is named after another widelyknown Confederate military officer, will become Mockingbird Elemen-



(Left to right) Dallas ISD Trustees Jaime Resendez and Dustin Marshall engage in discussion during a school district meeting in which the names of three schools were changed to remove Confederate figures. (Photo Credit: Dallas ISD)

tary – named after the street it sits on, East Mockingbird Lane.

William L. Cabell Elementary, named after the Dallas Mayor who also served in the Confederate Army as a brigadier general, will change to Chapel Hill Preparatory: A Personalized Learning School.

Commenting on the "broad-based input" that went into the Cabell name change, Trustee Edwin Flores, who represents Cabell's district, said "We had a community meeting; we had outreach through every single conceivable electronic method that we could pursue."

"We're very excited about (the) change," Flores added.

"All three of these changes says

something about DISD, and who we are as an institution," said Trustee Miguel Solis. "This is bold leadership."

"It's going to lay the path for, not just acknowledgment of the history, but also a path for remediation and for real conversations about equity and equality," he added.

The cost estimated to change the four schools' names is \$150,000 and largely covers the changing of signage and designated markings on each campus. Albert Sidney Johnston Elementary, named after a high-ranking Confederate leader who was killed during the Civil War, will choose a new name for itself by February 2018.



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People in the News www.NorthDallasGazette.com

Alberto Marzan

Founder and CEO of Press Media Group and AfroLife, Alberto Marzan is an innovator set to transform the global streaming and OTT marketplace. Recognized throughout his career as an agent for change and strategic growth, in 2015 Marzan's passion for impact led him to create a destination where consumers of color can call home. Marzan had a vision: to revolutionize the way content aimed at people of color is licensed, distributed and shared on a global scale. Marzan leads with forwardthinking strategy but is pro-



pelled by his passion for culture and connectivity—a fire that was ignited in him as a child

AfroLife will offer a media destination for consumers of color blending classic, popular, emerging and independent content in early 2018. With the recent success of television shows and movies featuring people color like Hidden Figures, market research showing the strong surge in multicultural consumption of streaming content and the lack of content options specific to this population, the AfroLife platform will include a premium multicultural experience projected to attract strong consumer adoption.

"If you take a holistic view on the OTT space you can see the fragmentation and lack of structure that linear and other verticals in the media space enjoy, we see

this and the lack of representation of our community as an opportunity to gain quick traction and create something sustainable. I'm laser focused on building a global corporation not playing entrepreneur; it's been an interesting journey which I am built for and the company has learned how to be more and more resilient throughout this journey which in hindsight I am forever grateful for. We've managed to not only attract strategic relationships with the likes of Google and studios of all sizes but we're also in the conversation as innovators in the ever changing OTT space," says Marzan.

"Entrepreneurship at any

level poses a number of challenges and it has a way of weeding out those who are not equipped and prepared. In my experience with Alberto, I have seen him navigate this journey while avoiding crippling landmines. I cannot be more enthusiastic about his launch of AfroLife. The industry, our community and the world needs what AfroLife has to offer," says Dr. David Porter, **Executive Director of Walter** Kaitz Foundation, Advisory Board Member at Press Media Group and AfroLife.

Founder and CEO of Press Media Group and AfroLife, Alberto Marzan is an innovator set to transform the landscape of global streaming and OTT marketplace. Recognized throughout his career as an agent for change and strategic growth, in 2015 Marzan's passion for impact led him to create a destination where consumers of color can call home. Marzan had a vision: to revolutionize the way content aimed at people of color is licensed, distributed and shared on a global scale. Marzan leads with forward-thinking strategy but is propelled by his passion for culture and connectivity—a fire that was ignited in him as a child. For more information on Alberto Marzan, visit www.albertomarzan.com

Colson Whitehead

SAN MARCOS – Colson Whitehead's novel, *The Underground Railroad*, has won the 2017 L.D. and LaVerne Harrell Clark Fiction Prize. The prize of \$25,000 is one of the largest literary awards in the United States.

The prize is designed to recognize an exceptional, recently-published book-length work of fiction in celebration of the Clarks' lifelong contributions to, and love for, literature and the arts. Whitehead will be honored April 4, 2018, at the Wittliff Collections in Texas State's Alkek Library.



The Underground Railroad, which has also won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction and the National Book Award, chronicles a young slave's harrowing adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South. In Whitehead's conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor — engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil.

The protagonist, Cora, encounters different worlds at each stage of her journey—hers is an odyssey through time as well as space.

As Whitehead re-creates the unique terrors for black people in the pre-Civil War era, his narrative seamlessly weaves the saga of America, from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day.

Whitehead is the author of

six novels, including Sag Harbor, which was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award; John Henry Days, which was a finalist for the National Book Award; and The Intuitionist, which was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award; as well as two critically-acclaimed works of nonfiction, The Colossus of New York and The Noble Hustle. A recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a MacArthur "Genius Grant," and the Whiting Award, Whitehead lives in New York.

The 2017 Clark Prize short list included The Last Painting of Sara deVos by Dominic Smith, My Name Is Lucy Barton by Elizabeth Strout, and Miss Jane by Brad Watson. Nominations of works published in 2016 were solicited from 12 prominent writers on the condition of anonymity.

The permanent fiction faculty at Texas State narrowed those nominations down to the short list, and author Karen Russell, Texas State's University Endowed Chair in Creative Writing 2017-2019, made the final selection.

L.D. and Laverne Harrell Clark donated their home and other property to Texas State in 2009 to create an endowment to support writersin-residence. The Clark Literary Endowment funds the annual L.D. and Laverne Harrell Clark Fiction Prize, which is among the most generous fiction prizes in the country.

It also funds a writers-inresidence program that offers one-year residencies to graduates of the Texas State MFA program at the Clarks' historic home on Main Street in Smithville, 55 miles east of the Texas State campus. The writers-in-residence program is sponsored by the Department of English and MFA Program in Creative Writing within the College of Liberal

For more information, visit www.english.txstate.edu/clar kfictionprize.html

NDG Readers Sound Off...

NDG ASKS: Do you think the tax cut bill will benefit the average American?

No . The economy doesn't work that way . We have said it time and time again "trickle down economics, doesn't work "rich folks are not going to buy goods and services to keep folks employed and corporations are not going to maintain workers as their businesses start to dwindle. These idiots have tried it for years and it does not work. Remember "read my lips? No new

taxes !" But what did he have to do that made him a one term ? Bush for away with it but still couldn't pay for a lot of things Obama tried to raise but because of obstruction from those so called tea party patriots who were just a front for the koch brothers and Trump we couldn't do what needed to be done.

-- Kenneth Singleton via Facebook

No. There are several hidden tax deductions that have been reduced or eliminated. There are even

some new taxes that will not benefit the average person. State and local taxes deductions have been reduced. The amount home owners can deduct has been reduced. You will now be taxed on tuition "gifts" for undergraduate education. Not a benefit at all!

-- Eddie Smith via Facebook

Not really. As I understand it, many of the tax cuts for those in the middle and lower income ranges are only temporary. There is also the issue of addi-

tional national debt. If we are going to take on such debt, I would rather have it go toward funding infrastructure, which would immediately create jobs, enhance safety and reliability, and boost commerce.

-- Richardsbuse via Instagram

When you get a \$1,000 bonus for nothing, you know "The Man" is stealing from you.

-- David Norsworthy via Facebook

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In defense of Black women



Straight
Talk
Ed Gray
NDG Senior
Columnist

This has been a year in which women have asserted their rights. This is long overdue. The battle for the rights of women and specifically black women has gone on for centuries. America puts the spotlight on white women while black women are left languishing in silence.

Time magazine placed the silence breakers on their magazine cover, stating their courage and tenacity. The magazine noted women's voices could be heard over the walls of systematic oppression. The systematic societal oppression of black women extends from the bedroom to the boardroom, from the streets to the corporate suites.

Whether its violence as directed towards Dajera Beckton by the McKinney Police Department in McKinney pool party incident or the unlawful arrest of Sandra Bland in Prairie View. Those disrespected women

were products of open aggression. The silent aggression still exists from the fast food worker harassed by her manager. Many black women suffer in quiet silence as their complaints of sexual harassment are ignored and discounted, regardless of their social status.

American culture labels black women as Jezebels or angry black women. We in our black culture through our overly sexualized view of black women disrespect them as well. This starts from childhood, as we laugh at "mannish boys' and condemn young girls for being 'fast girls.'

Meanwhile, our daughters, grow up with a target as they are often portrayed as loose women deserving no respect. This lack of disrespect is not only from Euro-Americans but also from African-Americans. There is a quiet form of silence in the black community that accepts the degradation of our black women.

With apologies to Tupac, "who asked wonder why they call you", the answer is because black men want to. We do not want to raise our women above our-

selves because society puts us low. We call them Queens but treat them like court jesters. Video vixens grow older and have children of their own, who should not answer the same questions of their mothers regarding sexual oppression and say #metoo.

The #metoo movement has transitioned to ignoring the millions of oppressed black women. The #metoo movement, which the mainstream media largely reports as the oppression of privileged white women. The weakness of this movement and its coverage is it overlooks black women.

The mainstream media comes up lame, however, they have had some help in silencing black women. The help comes from black men who do not support black women. We continue as black men to band together as brothers and not listen to the anguished cries of our sisters. We must stop, look and listen.

Their lack of support comes from black women who enable black men and women to be silent. We step in unison in the name of love, but we don't step up for justice. We, as black folk, ignore popular celebrities such as Robert Kelly, also known as R Kelly. It is hypocritical for black people to ignore the pedophilic behavior of R Kelly, and attack Alabama senatorial candidate Roy Moore.

This respect must be internal. We must clean our own house. We must elevate our women from hashtags like #metoo. In the end, perhaps we can answer Tupac:

"since we all came from a woman, got our name from a woman, and our game from a woman. I wonder why we take from women, why we rape our women, do we hate our women? I think it's time we killed for our women, be real to our women, try to heal our women, cause if we don't we'll have a race of babies that will hate the ladies, who make the babies."

Our respect for black women is long overdue, and we as men are paying the price today.

This is Ed Gray, and this is straight talk.

Ed Gray, the host of The Commish Radio Show airing Saturdays 1-3 p.m. on FBRN.net, can be reached at eegray62@att.net.

Congressional Black Caucus members call Trump presence at museum opening an insult

By Lauren Victoria Burke NNPA Newswire Contributor

When two members of the Congressional Black Caucus, longtime Mississippi Congressman Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) and civil rights legend Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), heard that President Donald Trump planned to attend the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum dedication ceremony, they both announced that they would forego the event.

The White House was critical.

On December 7, White House spokesperson Sarah Huckabee Sanders said, "We think it's unfortunate that these members of Congress wouldn't join the president in honoring the incredible sacrifice civil rights leaders made to right the injustices in our history. The president hopes others will join him in recognizing that the movement was about removing barriers and unifying Americans of all backgrounds."

From that statement, you might never have guessed that the White House spokesperson was referring to a civil rights leader: Congressman John Lewis.

"It's laughable that the

White House is criticizing John Lewis and Bennie Thompson for not attending the opening of a civil rights museum that honors the sacrifices of ...wait...John Lewis, Bennie Thompson, and many others," said CBC Chairman Cedric Richmond (D-La.). "This White House is not serious about civil rights. From dismantling the

civil rights division in [the Department of Justice] to equating peaceful people who protested racism to neo-Nazi's and White supremacists, they just don't get it."

In a joint statement on December 7, Thompson and Lewis wrote: "After careful consideration and conversations with church leaders, elected officials, civil rights activists, and many citizens of our congressional districts, we have decided not to attend or participate in the opening of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum."

The statement continued: "President Trump's attendance and his hurtful policies are an insult to the people portrayed in this civil rights museum. The struggles represented in this museum exemplify the truth of what re-

ally happened in Mississippi. President Trump's disparaging comments about women, the disabled, immigrants, and National Football League players disrespect the efforts of Fannie Lou Hamer, Aaron Henry, Medgar Evers, Robert Clark, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, and countless others who have given their all for Mississippi to be a better place. After President Trump departs, we encourage all Mississippians and Americans to visit this historic civil rights museum."

Lauren Victoria Burke is the White House Correspondent for NNPA Newswire and a writer and political analyst. Connect with Lauren by email at LBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LVBurke



New CDC data shows a slight drop in deaths from heart disease and strokes

American Heart Association CEO Nancy Brown issued the following statement today on the recent mortality report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Mortality in the United States, 2016).

The report shows heart disease remains the leading cause of death in the U.S., and stroke still ranks fifth. The diseases also are the

leading causes of death in the world.

Heart disease deaths per 100,000 people declined from 168.5 to 165.5, while stroke deaths went from 37.6 to 37.3. Other top causes of deaths also declined.

However, the report found life expectancy dropped slightly for the second year in a row.

Preliminary mortality statistics for 2017 show heart disease and stroke deaths continue to decrease.

"Any improvement means lives saved, and so we are encouraged to see these numbers," said American Heart Association CEO Nancy Brown. "Yet, at the same time, this report shows we have much more work to do to save people from these

devastating diseases.'

The decline is much less dramatic than the trend over several decades, when heart disease and stroke death rates both dropped more dramatically.

The increase in death rates among younger Americans may be explained in part by the earlier onset of high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity and other conditions.

Soup for the Soul: Avoiding injuries from holiday mishaps

As the temperatures begin to fall and Jack Frost is taking an ever so slight nip at your nose, a quick way to warm the chill is with a piping hot cup of soup. And while the aroma of the freshly-made comfort food may be enticing, officials with Parkland Health & Hospital System's regional burn center offer a word of caution before indulging.

Nearly 500,000 people seek medical treatment for burns each year in the United States, and an estimated 72 percent of burns occur at home, according to the American Burn Association (ABA). And not all burns are the result of fire or flames. Hot liquids, such as soup, coffee, tea or tap water, can cause serious burn injuries.

In the last two years, more than 75 people have been admitted to Parkland's burn unit for injuries caused by hot soup. Of those, 87 percent were children.

"Although we know intu-

itively that soup can be hot, many times we don't realize just how hot it can get, especially since it's not boiling like water used for tea," said Stephanie Campbell, RN, Parkland's Burn Program Manager. "In reality it's a very hot liquid that can cause serious injuries, especially in young children since they have thinner skin."

To that end, Campbell urges parents and other adults to create a "kid-free zone" around stoves and cooktops with strict instructions that children must not go past a real or imaginary line by the stove. Knowing that they are not permitted near the stove may reduce the risk that a toddler will reach for a pan, pull it toward them and spill the hot liquid onto themselves. Older children must exercise caution when warming up a can of soup on the stove or removing a bowl from the microwave.

"Adults have to be care-

Miller Lite offering free rides on DART

ful, too," Campbell said.
"As we're rushing to grab a quick bite or put a meal on the table, burn accidents can happen. Those injuries occur when parents or caregivers are in a hurry, angry or simply under a lot of pressure. The key is to slow down."

During holidays, the ABA offers tips to help prevent scalds and other burn injuries that can occur in the kitchen:

- Do not use a towel to handle hot pots and pans. Use oven mitts or heat resistant pot holders instead
- Use caution when cooking with grease. Heat the burner at a low to medium setting, and keep a pan lid within reach
- Place pots and pans on back burners to keep them out of reach of children, turning handles inward to avoid knocking them over or children grabbing them
- Set your water heater temperature to no higher than 120 degrees Fahren-

heit, just below the medium setting, to prevent scalds from faucets

- Test all heated liquid/food before giving it to a child or placing it within his/her reach
- Remove tablecloths when toddlers are present in the home. They tug and pull on everything within their reach. Hot liquids can easily be pulled down on them
- Avoid using area rugs in the kitchen, especially near the stove. They can cause falls and scalds
- Be sure to inform babysitters about kitchen and appliance safety and teach them to prevent burn injuries when preparing meals

"There's nothing better than sitting down with a hot cup of soup on a crisp fall day," Campbell said. "Just slow down, watch out for curious toddlers and be mindful that although accidents can and do happen, a little prevention goes a long way."



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The Original Light Beer is once again teaming up with Dallas Area Rapid Transit enjoy New Year's Eve re (DART) and Andrews Disserved the Andrews Disserved Parts of the 30th year, MillerCoors is helping consumers enjoy Miller enjoy Miller said Gene.

once again teaming up with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) and Andrews Distributing to help Dallas residents and visitors celebrate New Year's Eve safely. Miller Lite Free Rides will be available on all DART buses and trains and Trinity Railway Express (TRE) trips between Union Station to CentrePort/DFW Airport Station on Sunday, Dec. 31, beginning at 6 p.m. with extended service until 1:30

For the 30th year, Miller-Coors is helping consumers enjoy New Year's Eve responsibly by offering Miller Lite Free Rides nationwide. Since its inception, the Free Rides program has provided more than 5.5 million people with a safe ride home and has been an important part of MillerCoors' commitment to prevent drunk driving

"MillerCoors believes drunk driving is preventable. For the past 30 years, we've remained committed to making sure consumers can enjoy Miller Lite and New Year's Eve responsibly," said Gene Giron, Responsibility Initiatives Manager for MillerCoors. "Through continued partnerships with DART and Andrews Distributing, the Free Rides program helps North Texans and their visitors enjoy the holiday season while providing a safe and free transportation alternative."

The program began lo-**See RIDES. Page 7**

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Moody Fund accepting applications for Arts Grant

The nonprofit AT&T Performing Arts Center today announced that applications for the first year of grants awarded by the Moody Fund for the Arts (MFA) will be accepted online beginning February 20, 2018 until March 15, 2018. Two public informational meetings are scheduled for Jan.

MFA was created to provide grants to small and emerging Dallas arts groups that are supported by the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs and have annual budgets of \$1 million or less. In 2018, MFA will award \$100,000 in grants. The maximum grant request in the first year cannot exceed \$7,500.

Grants may be awarded for:

• Commissions of original works and artistic collaborations



- Support for new works, innovative programs and offsetting rent and production costs at Moody Performance Hall.
- Programs, projects and exhibitions that address important issues of cultural equity and community access to the arts.
- Programs that create and deliver cultural experiences to all parts of Dallas.
- Operating, staff and marketing support for new initiatives.
- Support of production costs and capacity building.
- Hosting artist-in-residency programs.
- Other projects deemed important to the vibrancy of the arts in the city.

Grants may not be used for:

• Fundraising programs or

events.

- Political campaigns or lobbying efforts.
- Nonpublic performances.
- Direct support, including travel funds, for individuals or families.
- Religious or faith-based organizations, unless the program does not promote a specific religion or faith and is not restricted to populations of specific religions or faiths.
- Athletic teams and fraternal, veteran, social, alumni or labor organizations (university alumni groups, sororities/fraternities, labor unions, exclusive membership clubs, etc.)

Submissions will be reviewed through a two-tiered panel selection process which will include arts educators, managers, advocates, philanthropists, a Cultural

Affairs Commissioner and the director of the Office of Cultural Affairs. Grants will be awarded in June 2018. A new website, which will include the online application process, is under construction and will be announced shortly.

Two public meetings will be held to discuss eligibility, timeline, and the application and review process. The meetings will include a presentation, Q&A, handouts, and light refreshments. Please RSVP by visiting TicketDFW.com.

Informational meetings:

Monday, Jan. 8, 2018 - Moody Performance Hall, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., 2520 Flora St., Dallas, TX 75201

Doors open at 5 p.m. Complimentary parking will be provided in Lexus Silver Parking, accessed from Ross Ave. Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018
- South Dallas Cultural Center, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m., 3400
S. Fitzhugh Ave., Dallas, TX 75210

Doors open at 9 a.m. Complimentary parking is available on site.

The Moody Fund for the Arts is a \$10 million endowment that is part of a \$22 million gift from the Moody Foundation to the arts in Dallas, including a \$12 million gift to the AT&T Performing Arts Center's capital campaign. When fully vested, the endowment is expected to award about \$400,000 annually. In recognition of the generosity of the Galvestonbased Moody Foundation, the City of Dallas changed the name of Dallas City Performance Hall to Moody Performance Hall in May

Frisco makes plans to shut down the Superdome

The City of Frisco and Collin College will discontinue a management agreement with the Superdrome Management Group when it expires December 31, 2017.

The decision will open the door for Collin College to repurpose the 5.5-acre site to accommodate growth occurring at its Preston Ridge Campus, where the Superdrome is located.

"Since 1998, enrollment

at our Frisco campus has grown by almost 400 percent, from 2,255 to about 8,700 students," said Dr. Neil Matkin, Collin College district president. "Space is at a premium, and availability of the land where the track currently exists will accommodate our expansion plans."

The Frisco Superdrome opened in 1998 as a public-private partnership between

the City of Frisco, Collin College and Electronic Data Systems (EDS). Collin College provided the land; the college, the city and EDS shared the costs of the \$2.5 million structure.

The 'Superdrome' was recognized as the city's first sporting venue to host both professional and amateur athletes. The Frisco Superdrome hosted everything from local clinics to national and international competitions, including the 2000 U.S. Olympic team trials for track cycling.

However, as an outdoor facility exposed to weather elements, significant annual maintenance is required – especially given the track's age, just shy of twenty years old. Attendance and track

use has also declined for more than a decade.

"We recognize our city and the college have evolved over the past two decades," said Henry Hill, Deputy City Manager. "Our community is shifting emphasis to recreational and road biking. While we're proud and appreciate the contributions of the 'Su-

perdrome' to our community, the viable life cycle of the facility has reached the end of its life in Frisco. We agree it's not efficient for us (the city and the college) to continue to invest and maintain the facility."

City staff has fielded inquiries about the possibility of relocating the track outside Frisco.

Dallas volunteer attorney program hosts monthly legal clinics

In the month of Jan., the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP), a joint initiative of the Dallas Bar Association and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, will hold 11 free Legal Clinics for Dallas County residents who meet certain financial guidelines. All clinics begin at 5 p.m., with the exception of the Veteran's Clinic, which begins at 1:30 p.m.

Schedules and locations are as follows:

East Dallas (Grace United Methodist Church—4105 Junius at Haskell) Thursdays, Jan. 4; and Jan. 18- South Dallas (Martin Luther King, Jr. Center—2922 MLK Blvd.)

Tuesdays, Jan. 2; Jan. 9; and Jan. 23 - West Dallas (2828 Fish Trap Rd., Dallas, TX 75212)

Thursdays, Jan. 11; and Jan. 25 - Garland (Salvation Army—451 W. Avenue D, Garland, TX 75040)

Thursday, Jan. 18 -Friendship West Baptist Church (2020 West Wheatland Rd., Dallas, TX 75232)

Wednesday, Jan. 17 - St. Phillip's Community Center

(1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Dallas, TX 75215)

Tuesday, Jan. 16 - Veterans Resource Center (for veterans and their families only)—1:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 5 - The clinics offer free legal advice and consultation in civil matters for those who qualify under Legal Aid's income eligibility guidelines. Applicants are asked to bring proof of income, identification, legal papers, etc. with them to the clinic. For more information, log on to http://dallasvolunteerattorneyprogram.org/.



Take time out of the hustle and bustle; apply now for a school that fits your child



Jovce Foreman Dallas ISD District 6

December is special for many obvious reasons—it's the season of giving, holiday celebrations, and of course, more time to spend with family and friends. And, it's also application time in Dallas ISD—time to apply to one of the district's many innovative schools of choice for the 2018-2019 school

That's right, the applica-

tion window for some of the top programs in the city is open now through January 31, and there's a large variety of options available to students.

Whether your student is interested in a magnet program where they are prepared to compete on a global level; a collegiate academy where they can get a jump on college and earn up to 60 credit hours or an associate degree, at no cost to parents; a transformation school that provides cutting edge technology and curriculum to challenge students to think outside the box and beyond;

or single-gender options that provide a laser-like focus on academics and encourages students to achieve at their highest level; Dallas ISD has something for every student.

If you missed the opportunity to attend one of the Discover Dallas ISD citywide school fairs earlier this month, that's okay. You can visit the Dallas ISD website at www.dallasisd.org/yourchoices to learn more about the options available and discover a school that's just right for your student.

Programs in District 6 to consider

There are a number of

programs available right here in District 6. For in-

- David W. Carter, Justin F. Kimball and Kathlyn Joy Gilliam each offer collegiate academies that partner with Dallas County Community Colleges to offer students a head start in pursuing a postsecondary education in a variety of disciplines.
- William H. Atwell Law Academy offers students with an interest in legal careers the opportunity to learn about the field through introductory courses, live court proceeding observations and extracurricular activities like

the debate team.

- D.A. Hulcy STEAM Middle School offers elective courses not usually offered at the middle school level, including robotics, technology, and Project Lead the Way, a curriculum focused on preparing students for future success in STEM-related careers.
- T. G. Terry and Clinton P. Russell elementary schools each offer the much talked about two-way dual language program.

Of course, programs are available across the district. You just need to find the one that fits your child and apply.

Need help with the application process?

If you'd like help with the application process, please plan to attend one of the four citywide application workshops:

- Tuesday, Jan. 16, Emmett J. Conrad High School and Thomas Jefferson High School, 6-8 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 25, W.W. Samuell High School and W.H. Adamson High School, 6-8 p.m.

Dallas ISD is closed starting Dec. 22. Staff return on Jan. 8 and students return Jan. 9. Have a happy holiday

El Centro's first graduate returns to campus to mark 50 years

Barbara Sherrill Jones paused and let out a sigh as she entered her old school, El Centro College.

"I haven't been inside this building since I left 50 years ago," said Sherrill Jones, who returned to the downtown Dallas County Community College District campus last month. "It's changed so much. I was part of history in Dallas. I was a pioneer.'

When El Centro College first opened its doors more than five decades ago, Sherrill Jones was among the wide-eyed students who were ushered in. Community or junior colleges were a new concept in Dallas

"It is so nice to come home. This place is just wonderful," said Sherrill Jones, a Dallas native who now lives in Bradenton, Fla.

Sherrill Jones is indeed a "pioneer." She was the first person to complete her courses and became El Centro's first graduate after amassing enough credits in 1967 to receive her associate degree. She recently sent a copy of a letter to DCCCD from Dr. Donald T. Rippey, El Centro's first president, which confirmed her status as the school's first graduate.

"Only freshman courses were offered that year, but that was what I needed to



first graduate Barabara Sherrill Jones, as Dr. Pyeper Wilkins watches, (Photo: El Centro College)

complete an associate degree," said Sherrill Jones, who already had earned college credits from East Texas State University. "I completed all courses necessary for a degree before El Centro held graduation ceremonies."

During her return visit at Thanksgiving, Sherrill Jones was showered with gifts and acknowledgements from the DCCCD Foundation, the marketing office at El Centro as well as the college's administration. Greg Morris, ECC's vice president of academic affairs, presented her with a replica diploma for her associate degree in fine

In the letter Sherrill Jones received so many years ago,

President Rippey wrote, "You have completed our graduation requirements. I would like to personally congratulate you on this achievement and let you know that we are counting on your participation in our first graduation ceremony." Of course, she did.

The Dallas County Junior College District, approved by voters in 1965, opened in 1966. Located in downtown Dallas, the school attracted students from all backgrounds who were looking for accessible and affordable public higher education. At 74, Sherrill Jones cherishes her memories of the downtown Dallas school as well as an era that ushered in El Centro and other junior col-

leges.
"It was such a thrilling experience. I was in my 20s and wearing go-go boots. thought ourselves lucky," she said. "Junior col-

leges were new here, and we needed them. This was a few years after (President John F.) Kennedy was killed.

"El Centro was anything but traditional. Student lounges were on the first floor, decorated in the latest space-age designs. Integration was new. I am proud to

See GRAD, Page 112

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

| Game # | Game Name / Odds | s | Official Close of Game | End Validations Date |
|--------|--|------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1873 | Triple 777 Overall Odds are 1 in 4.12 | \$2 | 1/25/18 | 7/24/18 |
| 2008 | Season's Greetings Overall Odds are 1 in 3.45 | \$10 | 1/28/18 | 7/27/18 |
| 1808 | Bonus Break the Bank Overall Odds are 1 in 4.29 | \$5 | 2/1/18 | 7/31/18 |
| 1843 | Instant Winnings Overall Odds are 1 in 4.82 | \$1 | 2/21/18 | 8/20/18 |
| 1854 | Lucky Symbols Overall Odds are 1 in 4.84 | \$1 | 2/21/18 | 8/20/18 |
| 1839 | Back to School Crossword Overall Odds are 1 in 3.64 | \$3 | 2/21/18 | 8/20/18 |
| 1867 | Mega Loteria Overall Odds are 1 in 3,54 | \$10 | 2/21/18 | 8/20/18 |
| 1822 | Winners Galore Overall Odds are 1 in 1.00 | \$20 | 2/21/18 | 8/20/18 |

For definited point, and game infrarregion, with belathery step of 1919 000-175-6000. Many by 16 or other to produce a blood. The Team Latery outputs Team extensions and versions. PLAN RESINIABELLY for hids within general produce, expenses linguistics of IRTY Team Latery Constrainer. All rights managers.

Recycle your Christmas tree, lights and boxes

Don't miss the best holiday recycling opportunity of the year.

Live Christmas trees, garland and wreaths can be recycled into Texas Pure Products mulch and compost. Holiday lights also can be recycled through our electronics recycling program.

Before you take trees and greenery to the drop-off locations, remove all ornaments, lights, decorations, tinsel and the tree stand (no plastics or metals). Visit one of these Plano locations to drop off between Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017 and Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018:

- Jack Carter Park, 2601 Pleasant Valley, 75023 (south parking lot off Pleasant Valley)
- Old Shepard Place Park, 1301 Winding Hollow Lane, 75093 (northeast corner of

the Shepton High School parking lot/baseball field off Plano Parkway)

- Russell Creek Park, 3500 McDermott Road, 75025 (northeastern parking lot directly off McDermott)
- Schell Park, 2100 Laurel Lane, 75074 (southeastern parking lot directly off Laurel)

In the gift-giving process, you may receive rather large boxes filled with expensive electronics or appliances. When these boxes are placed at your regular collection point, criminals are tipped off to the contents of your home. Rather than tempt a would-be thief, bring your large boxes to one of our Recycling Dropoff locations (click for map).

Got more questions? Contact Environmental Waste Services Customer Service at (972) 769-4150.



Registration opens for City of Carrollton firefighter entrance exam

Become a part of the award-winning Carrollton Fire Rescue (CFR) team. Registration for the City of Carrollton firefighter entrance exam opens Tuesday, Jan. 2 and will remain open through Friday, Feb. 2.

The exam will be administered Saturday, Feb. 3 at 9 a.m. in the Newman Smith High School cafeteria (2335 North Josey Lane).

After registering for the exam online, candidates will



be emailed a link to complete an employment application.

To be eligible for certification, applicants must be at least 18 years of age, but no more than 35 years old by the date of exam, according to Chapter 143 of the Texas Local Government Code.

"If you are a hard working individual who is motivated, compassionate, and strives to make a positive difference in other people's lives, you are the candidate we are looking for," Fire Chief Gregg Salmi said.

The department focuses heavily on the health and wellness of its members, training, and equipment. CFR is one of four area fire departments to share a joint training facility that opened in August. The state-of-the-art training structure is six stories high, with more than 7,000 sq. ft. of space to run multiple drills, burns, and rappelling exercises

The City of Carrollton has a Class 1 Public Protection Classification (PPC) from the Insurance Services Office Inc. (ISO) for its improved fire protection capabilities. The rating is the highest possible and drives the City to the top 1 percent of all communities classified by the ISO. Additionally, in June, CFR Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and paramedic teams received the 2017 Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold Level Recognition Award from the American Heart Association (AHA) for superior response efforts in the area of cardiac care. The department has also

earned the highest CPR save rate among members of the Dallas area Resuscitation Outcome Consortium (ROC) under the direction of the UT Southwestern Medical School. CFR celebrated 90 years of service in March of 2017.

"I firmly believe there is no better fire department than Carrollton Fire Rescue, which is a testament to the exceptional individuals that make up our team," Salmi said.

Irving nonprofits receive funding from sharers at Share Tanks celebration

The Irving Share Tank Steering committee, a partnership of seven businesses and organizations, celebrated the conclusion of the Irving Share Tank Program. The celebration was held Wednesday, December 13, at the Irving Arts Center. During the celebration, 16 non-profits were awarded over \$30,000.

"Share Tank provides a unique opportunity for nonprofits to polish their business model while gaining boardroom experience. This program serves as a bridge for engagement between our corporate residents and the local organizations helping our community's needs," said Mayor Rick Stopfer.

Nonprofits were required to attend four half-day sessions that taught skills to promote and grow their organizations and to better assist those in need. Upon completion, 19 nonprofits took part in Share Tank Pitch Day. Each organization had seven minutes to deliver their pitch for a chance to receive funding from businesses or "sharers", to support their efforts. The City of Irving, Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce, Irving Convention & Visitors Bureau, Irving Arts Center, Irving Healthcare Foundation, The Study, Philanthropology

LLC and University of Dallas partnered on the program

During the celebration, Pitch Day results were announced and all nonprofit organizations that completed the Share Tank program were recognized. These nonprofit organizations represent a variety of causes including homelessness, education, veteran's assistance, healthcare, protective services and animal

rescue. The non profits who received awards are:

- All Things Made New
- Brighter Tomorrows, Inc.
- Carter's House
- DCET/Believe in Yourself. Inc.
- Emma's House
- Family Promise of Irving
- Friends of the Irving Public Library
- iSee A Better You
- Irving Heritage Society
- La Buena Vida Youth Leadership Foundation

- Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra
- Many Helping Hands Ministry
- StoneGate Christian Academy
- The Holy Family of Nazareth Conference of The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
 - The Main Place

To learn more about Irving Share Tank, visit http://irvingsharetank.com/.

Irving urges residents to take precaution against winter slips and falls

Be careful when stepping outside your home and consider the following tips to eliminate or minimize the hazards of SLIPS and/or FALLS when there is ice or now:

• Wear shoes or boots that provide traction on snow and ice. Avoid high heels and shoes without treads.

• Use walkways that have

been shoveled and sanded or salted, if possible.

• Keep both hands free for balance, rather than in your pockets.

• Use handrails where

available.

• Avoid carrying loads on stairs; or carry loads that you can see over.

• Look ahead when you walk.

• Test potentially slick areas by tapping your foot on them.

• Use special care when entering and exiting vehicles; use the vehicle for supnort

• When entering buildings use mats to remove moisture from footwear to prevent creating wet, slippery conditions indoors.

RIDES, continued from Page 4

cally in 2015. Now in its third year, Miller Lite Free Rides has provided more than 70,000 people in North Texas with safe, alternative transportation on New

Year's Eve. Last year, more than 30,000 people took advantage of a Miller Lite Free Ride.

"Taking Miller Lite Free Rides is a great way for Dallas residents and visitors to enjoy New Year's Eve," said Gary Thomas, President/Executive Director for Dallas Area Rapid Transit. "We encourage celebrators to plan ahead and stay safe by letting us be their designated driver, courtesy of Miller Lite."

As part of the 2025 Global Goals MillerCoors developed in partnership with Molson Coors, MillerCoors aims to implement impactful programs to prevent drunk driving in every market where beer is sold. Designated driver and safe ride programs like Miller Lite Free Rides are critical components of meeting that goal.

"We're pleased to continue our partnership with

Miller Lite and DART to offer people safe and convenient transportation alternatives to driving on New Year's Eve," said David Holt, Andrews Distributing Vice President of Brand Building.

Carrollton

The City of Carrollton and Carrollton Public Library are hosting the Harry Potter Yule Ball Friday, Dec. 29 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Carrollton Public Library located at 1700 Keller Springs Road, Carrollton. This fun event, inspired by J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter and the Goblet Fire, is open to kids, teens, and adults of all ages. The Ball will feature dancing, music, Harry Potter-themed crafts, games, and a photo-booth. Dressing up is encouraged. Admission to this event is free.

Dallas

Strokers Ice House is hosting its 9th Annual Chili Cook Off Monday, Jan. 1 from 12 p.m. to 3 pm. at Strokers Dallas located at 9304 Harry Hines Boulevard, Dallas. This Dallas New Year's Day tradition returns, bringing the top chili chefs around DFW to compete for the top spot in this



Strokers Ice House is bringing together DFW's best chili chefs for its 9th annual Chili Cook Off Jan. 1 (Photo Credit: Kristen Wong / U.S. Marine Corps)

delicious chili cook-off. Trophies will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers. To sign up for the competition portion of this event, email lena@strokersdallas.com or call 214-357-0707. Set up begins at noon and sampling will begin at 1 p.m. Anyone in attendance can cast their vote for their favorite chili for \$5.

Garland

Life Time Athletic – Dallas and Life Time Fitness –

Garland are hosting Commitment Day 5k Monday, Jan. 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. starting at Life Time Fitness - Garland located at 5602 Naaman Forest Boulevard, Garland. Members and non-members are invited to participate in celebrating the New Year by walking, jogging, strolling, or running in this Commitment Day 5k fun run. By purchasing a ticket to the event, participants gain access to the fun run, a t-shirt, a race-bib, and

brunch social after the run. Registration is free for kids under 12 attending with a paid adult.

McKinney

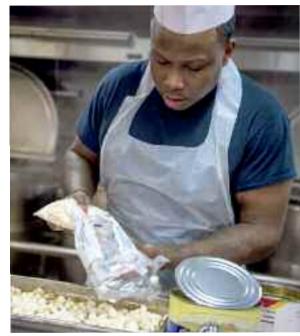
Lone Star Wine Cellars is hosting a New Year's Eve Party! Sunday, Dec. 31 from 7:00 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Lone Star Wine Cellars located at 103 East Virginia Street, Suite 104, McKinney. Admission to this event is free. Attendees are encouraged to come ring in the New Year with this fun party featuring love music, a free sparkling wine toast, and more.

Richardson

Free Play Richardson is hosting Party Like It's 1987! New Years at Free Play Richardson! Sunday, Dec.

See BRIEFS Page 15

Serving up Christmas cheer...



YOKOSUKA, Japan (Dec. 25, 2017) Culinary Specialist Seaman Korey Anderson, from Dallas, prepares sweet potatoes in the aft galley aboard the Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), during a holiday meal. Ronald Reagan, the flagship of Carrier Strike Group 5, provides a combat-ready force that protects and defends the collective maritime interests of its allies and partners in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kenneth Abbate/Released)

South Dallas Club partners with Carter High School for SAFE Encounters program

The historic South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club held their annual SAFE Encounters Program on the campus of David W. Carter High School on December 8, 2017. Its thematic purpose initiated by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. is to provide young people valuable information to aid them in successfully interacting with law enforcement, when such encounters become necessary.

An "Open Mic – Talk Back" dialogue was held between Carter High students and special panelists from the Southwest Division of the Dallas Police Department. A combined 353 seniors and juniors assembled in the school auditorium to witness the event. Mr. Jonathan C. Smith, Carter's campus principal, gave a hearty welcome to the South Dallas Club and to officers from the Dallas



Carter students had a chance to ask questions of Dallas Police representatives during the SAFE Encounters program. (Courtesy photos)

Police Department. Dallas ISD Trustee Joyce Foreman brought greetings from the school district.

Other program participants included Frances Langston, South Dallas SAFE Encounters Committee Chair and Committee members Candy Bradshaw, Kay Hunter and Brenda King Murphy. Carter High School's band and JROTC opened the program with "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the posting of colors. The occasion was given by Gwendolyn H. Daniels,

president of the club.

SAFE Encounters was created by Dr. Lavern J. Holyfield who serves as the Association's National First Vice President and is responsible for the organization's programming efforts across the nation.

For more information on the South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc., visit their website: southdallasbpwc.org, their Facebook page: @southdallas1954; or their Instagram site: southdallas1954.



Should Jason Garrett continue coaching the Dallas Cowboys?

By Dwain Price NDG Sports Special Contributor

FRISCO – Anyone waiting on the Dallas Cowboys to fire head coach Jason Garrett, don't hold your breath.

On his weekly radio show Tuesday on 105.3 The Fan, Cowboys owner Jerry Jones basically said Garrett's job is as safe as the team's general manager's – who just happens to be Jones. While admitting there are some problems with his team's inability to win games that are there to be won, Jones declared Garrett is not one of those problems.

"I certainly know a lot about Jason Garrett, and because of that I can very quickly and candidly say his job is not an issue here at all," Jones said. "Let's not get into all the reasons why, and I won't get into all the



After the Cowboys' dismal performance against Seattle, there are many scrutinizing the coaching of Dallas' Jason Garrett. (Keith Allison / Flickr)

reasons why not.

"Let's just say that it's not in the best interest of the Cowboys right now to be considering a head coaching change."

In seven full seasons as the Cowboys' head coach, Garrett has made two playoff appearances and won one playoff game. And the Cowboys won't be returning to the playoff this season, either, after Sunday's disappointing 21-12 home loss to the Seattle Seahawks.

Seattle scored all 21 of its points off Cowboys turnovers. And when the Cowboys reached the Seattle 2-yard line in the fourth quarter, instead of lining up

arguably the best offensive line in the NFL and allowing arguably the game's best running back (Ezekiel Elliott) to ram the ball down the Seahawks' throats, Garrett made a decision that had the stomachs of Cowboys Nation churning over and over again.

The Cowboys had a firstand-goal from the 3 and quarterback Dak Prescott kept the ball for a one-yard run-pass option play. A holding penalty on tight end Jason Witten cost the Cowboys 10 yards on a seconddown pass play.

Prescott was sacked for an 11-yard loss when the Cowboys had to repeat second down. And his third down pass fell incomplete. Then, to add insult to injury, the usually reliable Dan Bailey missed a short 34-yard field goal.

But why didn't Elliott

touch the ball at all on that sequence – with the Cowboys down nine and approximately seven minutes remaining in the game?

"Again, I think we are one of the better end zone teams in the league," Garrett said. "Running the ball has been a part of it and run-pass options have been a part of it and then throwing the ball.

"In that particular case it didn't work out well for us. Obviously Zeke is a very good player, we like him and we give him plenty opportunities. In that particular case, it didn't work out for us and that was a big part of the game."

Elliott was playing his first game after being suspended for six games by the NFL for violating the league's domestic abuse policy. And he certainly wasn't about to dive head-first into a hot debate over

whether he should have gotten the ball inside the Seattle 5-yard line with the season on the line.

"My job is to play football, it's not to coach, it's not to call plays," Elliott said. "I go out there and do what the coaches tell me.

"(Offensive coordinator Scott) Linehan has been (calling plays) for a long time, and I trust him. I know I trust his judgment."

Sunday's loss officially eliminated the Cowboys from the playoffs. But Garrett didn't think it affected his future with the Cowboys, although they entered this season as a heavy Super Bowl contender following last year's 13-3 performance.

"My job is to do the best job for this football team," Garrett said. "It was a tough

See COWBOYS, Page 10

Eat, drink and be merry on New Year's Eve in Dallas

Ruth Ferguson NDG Editor

Santa and Rudolph have done their job and likely are enjoying a well-earned vacation on a beach. Now we all turn our attention to the New Year's Eve celebration plans. Here are a few suggestions on where you can party, eat, and what to drink in Dallas.

Thirsty?

The Irish do not have fun just on St. Patrick's Day, let's be honest they enjoy their whiskey year round. Knappogue Castle Irish Whiskey offers an aged 12year old whiskey for your favorite Old Fashion cocktail or just on the rocks. San Antonio-based Seersucker Gin is light and sounds fine by itself with hints of citrus, clove honey and mint complementing it's light juniper undertones or mix it with lemon juice, simple syrup and ice. Then strain it into a chilled glass and top it off



Gaylord Texan Lone Star Atrium. (Courtesy photo)

with champagne to toast in the New Year. Your favorite Moscato drinkers will perhaps enjoy Castello del Poggio which was named one of Top 10 Most Popular Moscato Wine Brands earlier this year by Vine-Pair.com, you can find it at the local Total Wine or order via Amazon.

Hungry?

At the top of the list of places to visit for New Year's Eve for a delicious meal and drinks, I recommend Fogo de Chao as my review earlier this month

would suggest. You could enjoy a wonderful meal just off the Market Table with the varieties of cheese, fruit, soup and cold meats. But let's be real, you really want the flavorful wide-range of meats they offer. Visit their website to make your reservation online. Taverna is only open until 10 p.m. but this means you can enjoy the wild mushroom and black truffle bisque, spaghetti with lobster in a brandy cream sauce, a duetto featuring a 16 oz.

See EAT. Page 16

Frieda Porter for the Office of Justice of the Peace

(Tarrant County, Precinct 7) - Number 1 on the Ballot.

The Justice of the Peace Office governs over Landlord and Tenant Disputes, Evictions, Small Claims, Truancy, and some minor traffic tickets.

As a State Licensed Realtor of over 17 years and a Landlord, I've worked diligently to help build Homeownership. I've also worked hands on with the eviction process in the Justice of the Peace Courts to successfully resolve various Landlord and Tenant issues.



I've volunteered my services for the Arlington NAACP Using my experience and education of Fair Housing, Real Estate Law and Multi-Family Management to bring positive resolution to citizens with Landlord complaints.

Precinct 7 is my home. My children grew up here. As JP, I will use my office as a support to homeowners, renters and help our truants move into a positive direction. Remember, I'm Number #1 on the Ballot. Cast your vote for Frieda Porter for Justice of the Peace, Pct. 7 on March 6, 2018.

Note:

Precinct 7 includes Tarrant Grand Prairie, South Arlington, Mansfield, Kennedale, Dalworthington Gardens and Rendon Pol. Adv. paid for by Frieda Porter for JP campaign

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!!!

The King and I is truly 'something wonderful'

By Joe Farkus NDG Contributing Writer

Putting on a show that lives up to the legacy of a classic Rodgers and Hammerstein production is a tough task. The expectations of an audience are generally going to be too high and too rooted in childhood nostalgia to be met, let alone exceeded. And yet, The Lincoln Center Theater Production's The King and I, directed by Bartlett Sher, tackles this task with what appears to the untrained eye to be ease. Set in 1860's Bangkok, this iconic tale of widowed mother and school teacher Anna Leonowens (Laura Michelle Kelly) and the culture clash that occurs when she meets the King of Siam (Jose Llana) in order to teach his many children is delivered with class and humor by a top-rate cast of performers.

Adorned with elaborate sets and punctuated by musical numbers that range from childlike sing-song tunes like "Getting to Know You" performed by Kelly's Anna and the talented Royal Children to the operatic "Something Wonderful" performed by Lady Thiang (Joan Almedilla), this Broadway Series addi-



The King and I will be performed at the Winspear Opera House on select dates through Sunday, Dec. 31 (Courtesy Photo)

tion to the AT&T Performing Arts Center's year of hosting elite productions is a winner. With The King and I, Director Bartlett Sher is able to effectively reframe the musical, which originally debuted on Broadway 66 years ago, in a way that tackles very modern questions regarding culture, feminism, and the West's persistent tendency to make unjust value judgments of societal systems foreign to its own.

Laura Michelle Kelly shines in the role of Anna. displaying the sort of independence, compassion, and patience sure to endear her to audiences of all ages. Jose Llana's King delivers laughs throughout the production, particularly in the Llana brings to his performance is intentional is unclear; however, his ability to play the King as sly and quick-witted matches Kelly's Anna quip-for-quip.

For anyone concerned that this incarnation of the Rogers and Hammerstein classic might fail to honor the six-decade long tradition of its namesake, may your concerns be eased. Sher's King more than meets the high standard set for this musical. For those looking for a bit of old school theater filled with music, humor, and heart, this show wins the season – hands down.

The King and I will be performed at the Winspear Opera House on select dates through Sunday, Dec. 31. It is recommended for ages seven and up.

first act. Whether every element of levity and humor **COWBOYS**, continued from Page 9 loss for us (Sunday) and we year in many areas," Jones said. "You've got to under-

are going to get back to work and try to finish strong."

The Cowboys (8-7) will end the season Sunday in Philadelphia in what effectively is a meaningless game. But the game will certainly have some meaning for Garrett, who will be trying to avoid his fourth 8-8 finish since he became the Cowboys' full time head coach in time for the 2011 season.

Jones, for one, certainly has his head coach's back.

"We did some really good things in the first half this stand that when you make a (coaching) change you've got to look up and see where else you go."

The Cowboys have only two playoff victories over the last 21 years and are 66-53 under Garrett. The other playoff win came in 2009 under Wade Phillips, who was fired in the middle of the 2010 season and replaced by Garrett.

The NFL Coach of the Year last season, Garrett is posed to have his team prepared to end the season against the Eagles, who are

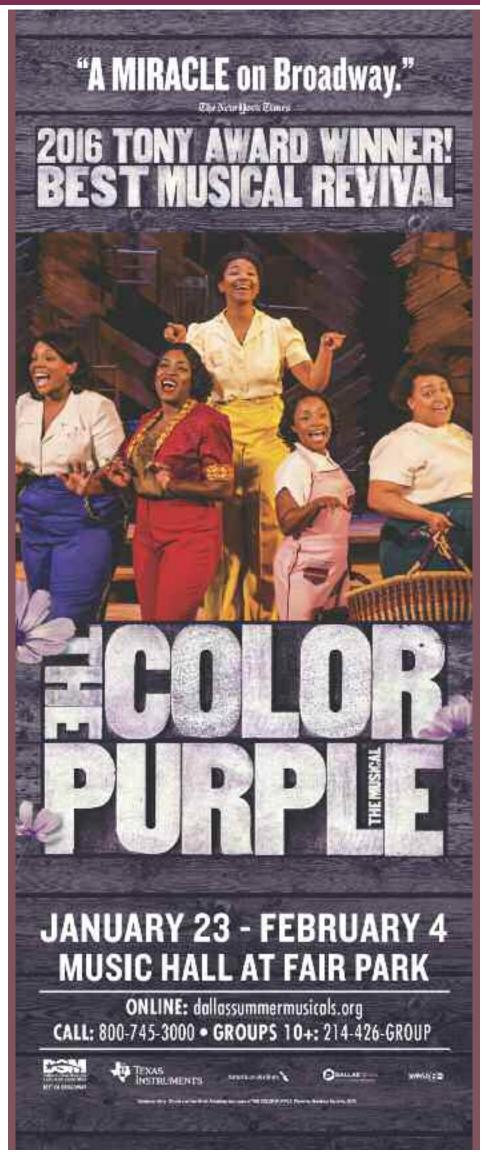
13-2 and have already clinched home field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs.

And Garrett will do so knowing that any doubt on whether or not he'll return next season as the Cowboys' head coach has been lifted emphatically by Jones.

"We just got to get back to work and we've got to finish strong," Garrett said. "Finish is a really important word for us -- each play, each day, each game.

"And we certainly have to finish the season the right way, and we have the right kind of guys to do that."

And apparently, the right kind of head coach, too.



What could net neutrality's end mean for you?

On December 14, 2017, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to repeal its net neutrality rules, which critics say could make the internet more expensive and less accessible for Americans.

Here, net neutrality experts Ryan Singel from the Stanford University Law School and Didi Kuo from the university's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies discuss what this means for Americans and for internet freedom.

Q - What is net neutrality?

A - Singel: Net neutrality is a simple principle that Americans or people around the world are the ones who choose what websites they get to go to, what apps they get to use, what services they get to use, and neither internet service providers (ISPs)—the companies they pay to get online like Comcast, Verizon, and AT&T—nor the government gets to affect those decisions.

Q - *What does the repeal* do

A - Singel: The order eliminates all net neutrality protections. That means that ISPs can now charge sites and services to load for an ISP's subscribers, create fast lanes that only deep-pocketed companies and speakers can afford, and block sites based on their content. This is a radical step by the

"I like to think of it as the internet is going to get more boring."

Since its inception, the US internet has operated under net neutrality principles. Users have always had the expectation that they could use whatever sites and apps they've wanted. And for decades, the FCC has taken action to make sure that is possible. This repeal of net neutrality not only gets rid of the existing rules, it prevents the FCC from putting rules into effect, even if the ISPs start acting poorly.

Q - *How does the repeal*

prevent the FCC from put- consumers. ting rules into effect?

A - Singel: In 2015, the courts ruled that the only way the FCC can adopt meaningful net neutrality protections is if it decides that broadband providers are common carriers. So the FCC declared ISPs to be common carriers and the 2015 rules withstood challenges from ISPs in court.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai undid that classification, broadband categorizing providers as information services. With this classification, there is no legal foundation for the FCC to do anything as simple as saying ISPs must let Americans go to any legal website they want.

Q - For the average American, what will the real-world effects of this ruling be?

A - Singel: The effects we're likely to see will affect users secondarily. Verizon, for instance, can now go to a Yelp or a Netflix and say, "You need to pay us X amount of money per month, so your content loads for Verizon subscribers." And there's no other way for Netflix to get to Verizon subscribers except through Verizon, so they'll be forced to pay. That cost will then get pushed onto people that subscribe to Netflix.

So what users do online will become more expensive, we'll see fewer free things, and thus the internet will become more consolidated. Websites, blogs, and startups that don't have the money to pay won't survive. I like to think of it as the internet is going to get more boring.

Kuo: The worst-case scenario would be if ISPs blocked access to websites based on their content, but that scenario seems unlikely outside of a few limited applications, such as file-sharing. The ISPs have an interest in being apolitical and letting the internet remain "open," at least in the ways that will be most apparent to

More likely, the rollback of net neutrality will have consequences for start-ups and companies with a web presence. It will allow ISPs to charge companies more to reach consumers. While large technology platforms can afford to pay for fast access, start-ups and competitors will have a far more difficult time.

Q - Is this ruling likely to make the internet less democratic?

A - Kuo: It is unlikely that the repeal of net neutrality will lead to outright censorship of certain websites or content. Americans will still enjoy much more internet freedom than citizens in other countries that actively control access to specific websites or control speech online.

Citizens might have differential access to the internet: some websites will load slowly and be harder to access. Americans already pay more for broadband access-and at slower speeds-than citizens in other advanced industrial democracies because of our noncompetitive broadband market. The repeal of net neutrality is therefore a problem for democracy because of issues with monopoly and regulatory capture.

Q - How will the ruling affect monopoly and regulatory capture?

A - Kuo: Rolling back net neutrality allows ISPs freer reign to engage in rent-seeking and anti-competitive behavior, which hurts consumers. There is very little competition in the broadband market, particularly for truly high-speed internet access. Recent reports from the FCC indicate that at least half of consumers have no high-speed access, and households with access may only have one provider.

"The battle is far from over, and if it's something you feel strongly about, call your Congressperson."

ISPs are some of the most despised corporations in America in surveys of cus-

tomer service and consumer satisfaction. The lack of broadband competition makes it impossible for consumers to switch providers, and the rollback of net neutrality makes it even harder for new companies to enter the broadband market.

The problem of monopoly is closely tied to poor regulation, since the FCC has historically needed to intervene in markets such as radio and television in order to create more competition. The ISPs are already part of large media conglomerates that own broadband access and content. Comcast, for example, owns NBCUniversal; Verizon owns AOL and Yahoo; AT&T is attempting to buy Time Warner. The rollback of net neutrality allows ISPs to direct consumers to content that they own, accelerating trends of agglomeration in the media industry.

Q - Some opponents have said that they will take the decision to court or propose legislation to restore net neutrality rules. Do vou think either is likely to make a difference?

A - Singel: These kinds of decisions are always met with lawsuits. I think there's ample grounds for opponents to have these rules overturned. From a process standpoint, getting to these rules ignored a lot of public input. On the content side, there is a question of whether or not the FCC has the ability to reclassify ISPs from common carriers to information services

So far there is a growing movement by net neutrality supporters to use a special legislative tactic known as the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to undo the FCC vote. This would immediately restore the 2015 protections. By contrast, all of the legislative proposals that have been floated so far are very weak proposals that aren't actually net neutrality. These efforts are supported by ISPs to permanently eliminate net neutrality protections.

Q - What can people do if they want to change net neutrality rules?

A - Singel: Even though the FCC made clear that they didn't care what the public thought about this issue, elected representatives do. Calls to Congress as well as talking about this with friends and on social networks are really power-

The battle is far from over, and if it's something you feel strongly about, call your Congressperson. The calls matter, and this issue is not finished.

Faculty views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies or Stanford University, both of which are nonpartisan institutions.

Source: Nicole Feldman for Stanford University



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InsideMaps poised to change real estate marketing

Keller Williams Realty's largest group of Market Centers by transactions has joined forces with InsideMaps to provide 3D Tours, HDR Videos and Floor Plans to all agents.

The 14 Keller Williams Realty Market Centers owned by the GO Management Company is the largest real estate group to provide 3D Tours and HDR videos to their agents as an included benefit for their listings. InsideMaps and the GO Management Company have worked together to break down price barriers that have prevented mass market adoption of premium real estate content. Keller Williams Realty's leading operating partner, by transactions, is committed to position their agents' listings above the rest with attention-grabbing content that was previously only affordable for high end listings.

"Staying at the forefront of technology is a key to our

success," said Smokey Garrett, the Operating Partner of Keller Williams Realty - GO Management Company. "Empowering our agents with InsideMaps will give our listings a huge advantage. As everyone now starts their search for a home online, we have long sought to put every property online in a more intuitive, immersive way. The availability of InsideMaps' affordable iPhone-based approach now makes this possible. InsideMaps also nailed it with a clever way to extend agent engagement with new homeowners post-close through the agent-branded virtual home. We see InsideMaps as a revenue generator, not a cost; so the decision to provide InsideMaps to our agents was easy."

"InsideMaps' innovative iPhone-based capture solution is bringing radical affordability to 3D Tours and HDR Videos, enabling Keller Williams Realty Agents to better market their listings and grow their brands," said Gabe Knox, Vice-President, InsideMaps. "We are proud to partner with Keller Williams Realty's largest group of Market Centers by transactions to put their agents and their customers ahead in this competitive market."

"The quality of InsideMaps 3D Tours and Video Walkthroughs is amazing," said Cameron

Butler (Chair of the Keller Williams Realty Tech Committee-Arlington, TX). "My team is very impressed with the sharpness, speed, and stability of these videos. The picture quality is so much better than what we have been able to achieve with standard videos to showcase the best features of the home. We love posting Facebook 360 Photos to our Feed with just one click from the InsideMaps 3D Tour"

Five tips to stress-free homeownership from the experts

By Christopher G. Cox Publisher/Managing Editor realesavvy.com

For most people, the decision to purchase a home is the single biggest financial commitment they will make in a lifetime of decision-making. The decision to buy a home, especially a first home, involves so many competing factors,

that it can cause high levels of stress and anxiety.

As stress-inducing as a home purchase can be, there are things that a prospective homeowner can do to minimize potential headaches.

Ruth Hudspeth, branch manager for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, says the number one thing homebuyers need to do is be prepared. Know your finances first.

"A homeowner should be able to enjoy their new home without being overburdened by the financial commitment. Like any other big decision, however, that takes some planning." Hudspeth said. "You have to take the time to understand your credit score, your capacity to qualify for a mortgage loan and what

your budget will be."

Hudspeth, who has degrees in economics and business administration, recommended that individuals moving from a rental property into a home set aside the difference between the mortgage payment and the rent payment and put that money into a separate account.

"If, for example," she

noted, "your mortgage payment is going to be \$1,000 a month and your rent has been \$500, pay yourself the \$500 difference for a while and see how well you handle it."

A lender might be able to tell you the amount of the mortgage loan you can qualify for, but he can't tell you how much paying that mortgage will affect your lifestyle

Learn as much as you can about the process of buying a home.

"Buying a home is a big decision," said Hudspeth. "It doesn't make sense to wait until you are too close to making that decision to educate yourself."

Dr. Kimya N. Dennis, a

See HOME, Page 14

GRAD, continued from Page 6

say that I was impressed with how smoothly the races came to learn together," added Sherrill Jones.

El Centro College opened in the former Sanger Harris Department Store building, located in downtown Dallas, and experienced its own growing pains. "The elevators did not always function properly and would jam before reaching the floor. Students would jump in or wait for an attendant to work with the elevator. Sometimes the building flooded, too," she said.

Sherrill Jones' favorite memory was watching Dr. Bill J. Priest, the district's first chancellor, work the coat check stand if an employee was absent.

"Yes, our college had a coat check. If someone didn't show up, Bill Priest checked our hats and coats. He was the head of the college (district), and he would do whatever needed to be done," she recalled.

In spite of all of the challenges, students were patient and willing to give community college a chance. "When I think of El Centro, I don't just think of the college. I think of the period and the times that were changing so rapidly," said Sherrill Jones, who went on to teach English, journalism and photography. "That first year, everyone was so happy to be there. The concept of the school was to be modern

and innovative."
Residents of Dallas County, like many counties nationwide, had voted to create and fund two-year institutions in response to a declining labor force that yearned for more skilled workers. The country's rapidly-growing public high schools also were seeking new ways to serve their communities, according to the American Association of Community Colleges.

All of those elements factored into Sherrill Jones' decision to enroll at El Centro, a college that has earned national prominence. El Centro has placed thousands of students on career paths in fields as diverse as nursing, fashion merchandising, culinary arts and business com-

puter technology.

Sherrill Jones is a cherished part of the school's legacy, said Dr. Jose Adames, El Centro's current president.

"We have nearly 12,000 students. We celebrate our proud history and - more importantly - we celebrate our first graduate, Barbara Sue Sherrill Jones, a student who earned her degree during the time when Dr. Donald Rippey was our first president," Adames said. "Barbara is one of the 'pioneers' and 'trailblazers' who have paved the way for the thousands of students whose lives were affected in so many positive ways by El Centro College.'

Since her early college days, Sherrill Jones has moved around the country, picked up three more advanced degrees and spent many years teaching. But her alma mater remains centered in her mind and in her heart

Rippey's letter, she said, is as cherished as any other heirloom because it is a milestone that marks a lifetime of learning. "I just made him proud," she said.



California, so learning about the history and culture of Pallag is really cool to me."

Sagha

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Upcoming DFW area job fairs

Jan. 10 Sales Job Fair

This fair is being conducted by HireLive, a company with more than a decade of experience connecting job seekers with industry leading companies that are currently hiring and is the perfect opportunity for job seekers to interview face-to-face with 15+ Fortune 500 companies currently seeking talented, experience and enthusiastic sales, retail and management candidates. Many of the companies that will be at this fair offer: flexible work schedules, full benefits, 401k, stock options, company car of gas allowances, base pay and uncapped commission pay structure, \$70k+ first year salaries, and more. Job seekers are encouraged to dress for success and come prepared to get the job of their dreams. This fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel by the Galleria located at 4801 Lyndon B. Johnson Freeway, Dallas.

Jan. 16 Entel Marketing Career Fair

Entel Marketing, Inc. is hosting an open house job fair for job seekers looking for exciting employment opportunities. Participants are encouraged to come for on the spot interviews and or to



simply drop off their resume. Entel offers its employees: weekly pay, bonus opportunities, vacation incentives, rapid advancement, career development programs, and more. All the company asks for in its employees is a positive attitude, a team player mentality, a strong work ethic, good communication skills, and a clear display of professionalism. For more information. call 972-891-9975. This open house job fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 5787 South Hampton Road, Suite 125, Dallas.

Jan. 18

Dallas Career Fair You'll meet face-to-face

with hiring decision-makers

from some of the area's top employers. Dress professionally and bring plenty of resumes, because they're here to hire. Walk in and start interviewing, it's that simple. Save time, money and effort interviewing with multiple companies in one day at one location. Many of these companies have several openings and are eager to meet with you. You're no

longer just a piece of paper.

Attend the career fair and get in front of decision makers. Admission to this event is free. This fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hilton Arlington at 2401 E. Lamar Blvd., Arlington, Texas 76006.

Addison Career Fair

This event is designed to get you in front of hiring managers looking to fill sales positions in varying capacities. This is not a cattle call career fair with hundreds of other candidates and lines out the door. We will have multiple companies in attendance ranging from fortune 500 businesses to local organizations. You will save a lot of time by interviewing with multiple businesses in just a few hours, so stop relying on the "apply" button and make it a priority to pre-register and attend. Once you pre-register, your resume' is uploaded to a database that only the organizations participating in this specific event have access to. Please plan on arriving a few minutes early with 15 printed copies of your resume, come dressed for a professional interview, and feel free to bring a friend. This fair will be at 6 p.m. at the Intercontinental Hotel at 15201 Dallas Parkway, Addison, Texas 75001.

Jan. 25 Dallas Job Fair

The Dallas Career Fair will be your opportunity to meet with some of the city's top hiring companies. Attending the Dallas Job Fair will give you the chance to interview and find out about hundreds of jobs available in your local area. Dress for success and bring plenty of resumes to the Dallas job fair.

Walk in the event and start meeting and interviewing with dozens of employers, it's that easy. Stop sending resumes to online job ads that go nowhere. The companies at the Dallas Career Fair will be interviewing for multiple job opportunities and are excited to meet with qualified candidates. Attend the Dallas Career Fair and land your dream job. If you have been looking for an opportunity to market yourself to companies as the best candidate for the job this is it. The fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel -Dallas Market Center at 2015 Market Center Blvd., Dallas, Texas 75207.

Jan. 30 Richardson Recruiting Event and Career Fair

This fair allows job seekers and potential employees to meet face-to-face with hiring managers looking to

fill more than one hundred job openings. Free resume reviews will also be available by DFW Resume's Sara Timm. All jobs require U.S. citizenship and a minimum two years of industry experience on top of a degree. There will be a cocktail reception after the Career Fair from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The fair will be held from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Richardson Civic Center located at 411 West Arapaho Raod, Suite 102, Richardson.

Jan. 31 Plano Career Fair

Participants are invited to this free career fair to meet face-to-face with hiring decision-makers from some of the area's top employers. Dress professionally and bring plenty of resumes, because they will be there to hire. Walk in and start interviewing, it's that simple. Save time, money and effort interviewing with multiple companies in one day at one location. Many of these companies have several

openings and are eager to meet with job seekers. Attend the career fair and get in front of decision makers. This fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Plano Event Centre located at 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano.

Feb. 8 Dallas Career Fair

Ready for a new career? National Career Fairs is an industry leader in helping job seekers find stable employment. This fair is open to all participants who register online at NCFJobs.com, provide all information including a valid cell number and email, and upload their resume online. Participants are encouraged to attend and dress for success – business attire is preferential. All are encouraged to bring plenty of resumes and to be prepared to be hired at the event. This fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Crowne Plaza Dallas Market Center located at 7050 N. Stemmons Freeway, Dallas.



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Paid Internship opportunity for writers, college students in the Dallas Area

The North Dallas Gazette has an internship

position available. The goal is to provide students and aspiring writers an opportunity to gain published clips, experience and professional feedback.

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BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, **CARROLLTON** (A PLACE TO BELONG)

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 www.bethelbiblefelloswhip.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.

December 31, 9:45 a.m.

You're invited to our "Prayer and Meditation" at 9:45 am. You will be blessed and inspired. You don't want to miss this as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

January 3, 2018, 7 p.m.

Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Pastor Brenda Patterson, Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner, Pastor Bernadette and others conducting a new study on the book of

Ephesians with supporting chapters and verses. Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you; it's Time to Grow in the Word of God.

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

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"

December 31, 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.

January 3, 2018

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

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D. Senior Pastor 1609 14th Street Plano, TX 75074

Future Building location is 2450 K Avenue #300 Plano, TX 75074 972-379-3287 www.theship3c.org

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

December 29, 7 p.m.

All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 7 p.m., (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

December 31, 10 a.m.

You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name in songs and the spoken word.

January 1, 2018, 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)** (Uniting the Body of **Christ Among Nations)**

December 31, 10 a.m. Join us for Morning 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.

January 3, 2018, 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

NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH (Abiding in Christ)

December 31, 7 a.m.

Join us for our Early Service or our Morning Worship Service as we praise and worship God, you will be blessed.

January 3, 2018, 7 pm

Join us at our Wednesday's Intercessory as we pray to God for others.

Call the church for details for details.

Dr. Tommy L. Brown, Ed. D. Senior Pastor 9550 Shepherd Road Dallas, TX 75243 214-341-6459 nmzbcofdallas@aol.com

have to take a few minutes to pause and breathe."

sounds, sometimes you just

Remember to breathe.

She explained that a common reaction to anxiety is holding one's breath, especially just before making a big decision.

Dennis concluded: "You might be surprised to find out how much it helps to iust stop and take a few deep breaths when decisions threaten to become overwhelming."

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY **BECOMES FAMILY)**

Come and connect to God through Shiloh; grow in Christ through the study of God's Word; and Serve God through service to each other and to the world. John 12:26.

Worship Services December 31st

There will be only one worship service on December 31st at 10 a.m. Sunday School will begin at 8:30 a.m. We would love to have you at our services.

January 3, 2018, 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.

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

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HOME, continued from Page 12

criminologist, who does work in demographic and cultural variance in mental health, agreed that careful preparation is the key to reducing the stress associated with getting into the housing market.

"I encourage people to take time to communicate with everyone involved in the process of purchasing a home," Dennis said. "There needs to be open and honest

discussion that weighs all the pros and cons."

Take a hard look at your quality of life.

Dennis added that longand short-term economic goals, location and commuting time, quality of the construction and access to public transportation should also be discussed.

Dennis emphasized the importance of carefully reviewing and understanding

all the documents required to purchase a home. As part of that process, she suggested that taking advantage of low- and no-cost programs designed to educate homebuyers, such as those offered by the local affiliates of the National Urban League, as well as other community organizations.

Ask plenty of questions.

said Dennis. "As basic as it

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

Peace and blessings in the New Year!



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

Two days from now, December 30th, is my first born birthday. I didn't know that I had so much love in me until my children were born.

But now that I have four grandchildren, Tyanna, David, Deven and Philip, I have discovered an even deeper love within me.

When Jarrell Edwin Tarpley was born and I held him in my arms, I thought about how much God loved His earthly children.

Until a few years ago I did not know how the tradition of "Watch Night Services" in churches got started. I only knew that my family always celebrated them.

A tradition that this brings fond memories to my mind is when my family would visit our grandparents; Dea-

con David N. & Mother Ida anywhere around 10 pm, that Watch Night Service Rutherford Demus in Mexia.

At the home of my grandparents, during the summer and the Christmas Holidays; everybody in the home, gathered in the living room; got on their knees and prayed prior to starting the

This seemed to strengthen "family unity and love" within the household. My parents never did this in Dallas; I guess this is because we lived in the "Big City" and not the "Country Town of Mexia."

One year a Short Story of Floyd Erving was the history of Watch Night Service. I learn something about a tradition that I had been doing with a lot of fond memories.

WATCH NIGHT SERV-ICES -- Many of you who now live, or grew up in Black communities have probably heard of "Watch Night Services," (the gathering of the faithful in church on New Year's Eve.)

The service usually begins

and ends at midnight with the entrance of the New Year. Some people go to church first, before going out to celebrate.

For others, church is their only New Year's Eve celebration. I always assumed was a fairly standard Christian Religious Service - but, a bit more Afro centric.

Still, it seemed that predominantly White Christian churches did not include Watch Night Services on their calendars, but focused

instead on Christmas Eve Programs.

The Watch Night Services in Black communities can be traced back to gatherings on December 31, 1862, also known as "Freedom's Eve."

On that night, Black people came together in churches and private homes across the nation, anxiously awaiting the news that the **Emancipation Proclamation** had actually become law.

Then, at the stroke of midnight, this meant that all slaves in the Confederate States were declared legally free.

When the news was re-

ceived, there were prayers, shouts and songs of joy as people fell to their knees and thanked God.

Black folks have gathered in churches annually on New Year's Eve since; and there are praises to God for bringing Black people safely through another year.

It's been 155 years (January 1, 1863) since that First Freedom's Eve and many of us were never taught the Black history of Watch Night, but tradition still brings us together at this time of the year to celebrate, "How we got over."

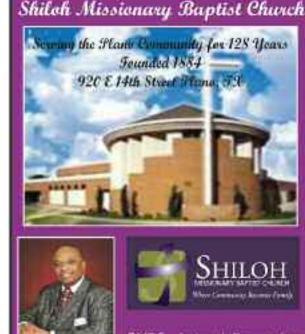


Thomas Lovett just released an album, Hook Line and Sinker; he has been playing for 30 years and is a music teacher at Smith Elementary in Duncanville ISD. His album is now on iTune & Amazon.com, in 2018 it will be on CD.

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO









SMBC: A church Focused on Excellence while Teaching the Word. Preaching the Gospel, Reaching the World

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

BRIEFS, continued from Page 8

31 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Free Play Richardson located at 1730 East Belt Line Road, Richardson.

This 80's-themed party inspired by 1987's nightlife capital, Miami, will feature adult beverages, 80's music, a VHS-powered video montage, a 999-red balloon drop,

midnight champagne, and

This event is open to those aged 21 and over.

To submit events and announcements, send an email to editor@northdallasgazette.com with headline Community Briefs.

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 dif-ferent Dallas when Booker T. Washington was a black school. Sister Tarpley graduated frm there and went on to college and later became a city councilmember in Carroll

Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com



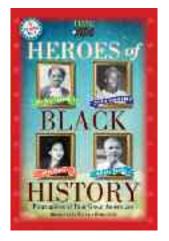


NDG Book Review: Time for Kids: Heroes of Black History

By Terri Schlichenmeye

Who do you look up to?
Who is the person you
most want to be like when
you grow up? The one you
go to when you need advice,
a kind word, or new direction? Is it a parent who puts
your head on straight? Or a
teacher that always knows
what to say? Do you look up
to someone close to you
now or, as in "Time for
Kids: Heroes of Black History," is it someone much
bigger than that?

If you had to make a list of everything that happened in Black History, you'd have to put the year 1500 on



the top of your list because that's where African American history began. On your list, there'd be a lot of names and dates, too, but four names may stand out for you

Born in 1820, Araminta was a slave because her parents and grandparents were slaves. Called by her mother's name, young "Harriet" worked hard at everything she did but she was beaten because she was also "rebellious." It was that rebellion – and fear of being sold – that made her escape from her master. It was freedom that made Harriet Tubman want to help others to escape, too.

When Jackie Robinson began playing baseball, there were "rules" that told him where he could eat, live, and even get a drink of water. But Robinson wanted to play ball and so he smashed a few rules to be the first African American major-leaguer.

Even before he was born, "Barry" Obama's mother believed in him: Barry's real name is Barack, which means "blessed" in his father's native language. Barry was a good student, and had a sense of humor, but he was teased because he was the only Black kid in his school. That was all just a memory when Barack Obama became President of the United States.

And "On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks stepped

onto a bus – and into history."

So your child has been given an assignment to read one biography this winter. Just one – but one will turn into four when you've got "Time for Kids: Heroes of Black History" on your shelf.

The first thing kids will notice about this book is its easy-to-understand narrative and easy-to-read print; it's just enough of a challenge, but not overly so. Kids will also like the artwork in this book, including photographs from different eras in history. The four subjects here are examined with a

young audience in mind: each mini-chapter includes a bit about the childhoods of Tubman, Robinson, Parks, and Obama, which keeps the information relevant for children. Parents will appreciate that there's a glossary and thumbnail bios of other Black heroes for plenty of further learning.

Though it can surely be read by anyone, "Time for Kids: Heroes of Black History" is really meant for kids ages 8 and older, especially those who love history. If you know a child like that, you might as well find it now. It's a book your kids will want to look up.

Dallas Women's Foundation Leadership Key Club members meet Dallas Police Chief U. Renee Hall

Dallas Women's Foundation Leadership Key Club members met the city's first female Police Chief, U. Renee Hall, at an exclusive reception at Le Meridian Dallas, The Stoneleigh, on Nov. 15. Chief Hall talked about her path to becoming the first African American female police chief and

thanked the members for their work.

The Leadership Key Club is for those who have contributed at least \$100,000 or more to the Foundation's Unlocking Leadership Campaign.

In 2013, Dallas Women's Foundation began the Unlocking Leadership Cam-

paign to raise \$50 million to improve the future of North Texas by investing in the economic security and leadership potential of women and girls.

The Economic Security Initiative aims to strengthen the economic security of 16,000 women and girls by 2021, and to date, has al-

ready helped more than 8,750 women and girls.

The campaign's Leadership Initiative aims to provide 60,000 women and girls with leadership training and opportunities, and thus far has reached nearly 28,000 women and girls through grants and programs.



Roslyn Dawson Thompson of the Dallas Women's Foundation meets with Dallas Police Chief U. Renee Hall during a recent charity function. (Courtesy photo)

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veal t-bone and jumbo prawns and of course Taverna's famous risotto and get home to watch the ball drop on TV. The same is true if you decide to visit Bistro 31 in Highland Park Village to enjoy their butternut squash veloute, tagliatelle pasta, pan roasted Atlantic halibut and roasted rack of lamb.

Party Time!

There are two very hot spots in DFW for New Year's Eve. My first choice is the James Bond Party at The Gaylord Texan. No need to head to Oklahoma, when you can enjoy a night filled with casino games and cocktails Agent 007 would enjoy (shaken, not stirred of course). If you stay overnight the package includes VIP passes to the Glass Cactus Nightclub and an open bar for two hours from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. plus a complimentary glass of wine at Midnight. The second option is KLUV's Rockin' New Year's Eve Party, according to Jody Dean last week, they are taking over the beautiful Hilton Anatole with different themed rooms for the party from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. The hotel package includes free self-parking, a room for two, tickets to the party and reception style dinner. Pay a little more and you can enjoy the brunch on New Year's Day.

For a family-friendly option, enjoy four hours of unlimited bowling (shoes included), a buffet, soft drinks, sparkling cider or a champagne toast at one of the AMF bowling hotspots.

Free Rides!

Miller Lite and DART are offering free rides from 6 p.m. until the end of service on Dec. 31 for the third year. So no reason to drink and drive. For more information visit DART.org and TrinityRailwayExpress.org.

