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Irving citizens learn about concerns related to Irving entertainment center

By: Rachel Hawkins
NDG Staff Writer

Concerned citizens of Irving met on Thursday, June 28 at Red Lobster to discuss several aspects that led to the closing of Big Beat Dallas at the Toyota Music Factory. Also in attendance at the meeting were representatives of Billy Bob Barnett, Big Beat Dallas owner. The primary goal of this meeting was to inform the citizens of recent behind the scenes activity related to Big Beat's closure and related lawsuit.

Reportedly, Billy Bob brought the entertainment concept to Irving in 2006. A referendum went before the citizens of Irving and was passed in 2007 by voters in support of building the entertainment center.

Therefore, many were surprised at the abrupt closing of Big Beat Dallas on May 29, following advice from his legal advisors.

"This is personal to me," Anthony Bond said at last week's meeting. "Behind the scenes, it's a complete mess, and the citizens of Irving don't have a clue," he shared adding his chief concern is what is in the best interest of the Irving citizens. "We need for everyone who was involved, to tell the truth, and let's do the best for the Toyota Music Fac-



Anthony Bond addresses concerned Irving citizens during a meeting after the closing of Big Beat Dallas, while (foreground, left to right) A.D. Jenkins, Abdel Khreiwesh, (background, left to right) Marina Ecolatino and Makini Shakur listen on. (Photo: Rachel Hawkins / NDG)

tory." The City of Irving is slated to enter into mediation with the ARK Group on July 22 to decide if the requested \$44 million should be paid based on a definition of completion. Currently, the definition of completion is in dispute.

"It's a series of complicated issues, but we have reason to believe that the Irving entertainment center was not completed as it was supposed to be completed significantly," Dan Phillips, advisor to Billy Bob stated.

"Originally we were supposed to

open in February 2017. The pavilion didn't open until November 2017, and it was a disaster. They had 300 items on their punch list," according to Phillips.

The city commissioned two independent surveys with each determining the parking is not adequate.

"What ARK has done in order to gain more square footage, they are trying to say that streets that run behind the Alamo and the pavilion, are counted as part of that plaza," according to Phillips.

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Dr. Jaffus Hardrick

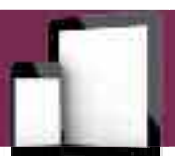


Vernon Lockhart

READERS SOUND OFF!!!

See Page 2 to see what NDG readers are saying about the latest news!

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



Dr. Edward Mulraine

E.A. Raine Publishing recently released this month a new male empowerment book titled, *The Ten Step M.A.N.- A Practical Guide to Peace, Power, Purpose and Liberation in a World of Women, Wine, War and Wickedness*. Authored by Duke University's newly minted D.Min, Reverend Dr. Edward Mulraine, who also leads Unity Baptist Tabernacle Church in Mount Vernon, New York, *The Ten Step M.A.N.* is devoted to addressing the challenges men of color face in their lives and positively transforming them towards success.

Through his many years of



preaching and speaking to men at conferences as well as counseling men in their most difficult times, Dr. Mulraine has tailored a book built on real life experiences and circumstances to equip and empower men for their life's

journey. (visit link to see Rev. Dr. Edward Mulraine discuss "The Ten Step M.A.N" on a recent Bronxnet interview - www.bronxnet.org/watch/videos/5085/).

"From topics of Fatherhood to incarceration, many books examine the social and moral decline of Black men, but not many books today look at the good and potential of our men. I wanted to change that and it took me seven years to write *The Ten Step M.A.N.* with the goal to proactively address the emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs of men," states Reverend Dr. Edward Mulraine. "By teaching Black men how to positively and strategically equip their minds, bodies and

spirit with the goal to build a man's character up for living triumphantly in society, *The Ten Step M.A.N.* is ultimately a step-by-step guide for men towards positive transformation for themselves, their families and communities."

The alarming statistics on men reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) to the National Coalition on Men (www.ncfm.org) suggest that Black and Brown men in the U.S. society are experiencing systematic discrimination in public health issues, parenting, domestic violence policies, education, financial literacy, and criminal sentencing, to name a

few. *The Ten Step M.A.N.- A Practical Guide to Peace, Power, Purpose and Liberation in a World of Women, Wine, War and Wickedness* recognizes the daily societal pressures men face. The book uses everything, from sports and history to politics and pop culture, to empathize with the male reader and his temptations, from sex and women to criminal mischief and more.

Moreover, *The Ten Step M.A.N.* is rooted in the biblical text of Ephesians 6:14-17. It is the metaphorical use of the armor in the bible verse that *The Ten Step M.A.N.* is based on and purports the "Ten Steps" that all men must arm themselves with in order

to be transformed into better selves. The acronym, M.A.N., stands for "Man of Armor Nation," with the goal of the book to empower men to be bold, wise and secure in business, education, service to the community and more.

The Ten Step M.A.N.- A Practical Guide to Peace, Power, Purpose and Liberation in a World of Women, Wine, War and Wickedness (ISBN: 978-0-692-07473-2) is available at www.thetenstepman.com. For further information or media inquiries, call 908-672-6024 or e-mail Dr. Tyrha M. Lindsey-Warren at Tyrha.Lindsey@laicommunications.com.

Vernon Lockhart

Vernon Lockhart, Executive Director of Project Osmosis, a nonprofit helping youth pursue careers in design, was honored by AIGA Chicago on Thursday, June 14, 2018 for his commitment to diversifying the design industry.

The lack of diversity in industries where minorities are underrepresented has pushed companies like Uber, Google and AirBNB to demonstrate stronger commitments to diversity and inclusion. Like the tech industry, the design industry has historically had low numbers of minority representation. A 2016 study by



Google and AIGA - the professional association for design - found that only 9% of designers were Hispanic, 8% were Asian, and 3% were African American.

As the Executive Director

of Project Osmosis and founder of Art on the Loose (AOTL), Vernon Lockhart has dedicated his 30-year career to increasing those numbers. A native of St. Louis, Lockhart started his career as a designer at Northwestern University after graduating from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He launched AOTL, his multidisciplinary design firm, in 1995. Key projects include designing and building the Bronzeville Children's Museum and working with corporate giants like Exelon, as well as designing and constructing the Marcus Garvey Interactive Museum and Peter Tosh Museum in Jamaica.

Just as meaningful is the work he's done with Project Osmosis, the nonprofit organization which emerged from the Chicago chapter of the Organization of Black Designers. For the past 21 years, Osmosis has engaged minority youth in activities that promote creativity and self-expression. The organization helps 700+ students each year to gain access and knowledge about career opportunities in design.

"We want to say 10, 20, 50 years from now, that we were encouraged thousands of youth to pursue careers in design they may never have considered otherwise. I believe every person has the

human right to be creative, regardless of their economic background or race," says Lockhart.

His accomplishments include helping to implement internship programs at the Harrington College of Design, Columbia College, SAIC, and Chicago State University. Lockhart helped UIC establish the Osmosis Charles Harrison Scholarship, and recently published *Design For Life*, a full-color coffee table book celebrating the life of Leroy Winbush - one of Chicago's pioneering designers of color.

Because of his contributions to design, Lockhart has been selected to receive the

2018 Above & Beyond Award from the Chicago Chapter of AIGA. Former Executive Director of AIGA, Rick Grefé says, "We bestow our deepest appreciation to Vernon Lockhart for leading the profession in its efforts to become... inclusive... and encouraging young people to discover design as an expression of creativity."

The AIGA Chicago Awards was held on June 14, 2018 at Forth Level, 845 West Washington Boulevard, 4th floor, Chicago, IL 60607. For more information, visit bit.ly/aigachicagoawards18. For information on Project Osmosis, visit www.projectosmosis.org.

NDG Readers Sound Off...

Dallas Hispanic Chamber giving \$2.5 million to local students

Hi there! It's awesome news especially for current college students. I was not so lucky at the time I was in college as well... But I hope the government programs like this will eventually change the student life for the better. Otherwise, for me one of the easiest installment loans to get were small loans I could get at a service which my group-mate advised me and said he was totally satisfied. Indeed, students often have to turn to professional lending

services in order to stay afloat of finance their student life.

- Yulia Yemelianova

North Dallas Gazette wins national editorial award

Congrats Ruth, Thurman and Ed. You all deserve to take a bow. This makes me feel good to know. God bless you all!

- Anthony Emanuel Bond via Facebook

Congratulation Ruth.

- Linda Griffin via Facebook

So happy for you!

- Carla Ivory via Facebook

wow major congrats! i'm so happy and proud!!!!

- Scott Nicole via Facebook

That's awesome!!! Congratulations, Ruth!!!

- Kayla Tucker Adams via Facebook

Alright, Ruth Ferguson!!!! This is great news! Congrats to you, my former editor!!!

- Jacquinette Murphy via Facebook

That's so awesome! Way to go Ruth Ferguson and NDG!!!

- Jackie Hardy via Facebook

Congratulations Mr. Ed Gray!

- Audra Williams-Chambliss via Facebook

Excellent. Congratulations Ed for a well deserved award.

- Michael Phillips via Facebook

To share your opinion visit NorthDallasGazette.com

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This is America: Black clergy jailed and shackled for Supreme Court prayer protest

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Faith and prayer have been the backbone of the African American community since we came upon these shores. We have counted on our faith leaders (the roll call would include Revs. Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, James Walker Hood, Martin Luther King, Jr., Wyatt Tee Walker, Jesse L. Jackson, William Barber, Vashti McKenzie, Barbara Williams Skinner and many others) to articulate the justness of our cause and to mobilize us to work for the justice that is called for in the New Testament, especially in Matthew 25: 35-45. Our ministers are revered leaders who often stand in the face of injustice. We are not surprised, and indeed, encouraged, when their firm stands in the face of oppression lead to collisions with the law. Still, when faith leaders are treated harshly, it forces us to examine the injustice in our system. When Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote the "Letter from the Birmingham Jail" in 1963, he chided White ministers who made a public statement about his methods, suggesting that segregation should be fought in the courts, not in the streets. His letter moved the White faith community to confront some of the injustices of segregation and to form alliances with the Civil Rights movement.

King spent eleven days in the Birmingham jail in extremely harsh conditions.

NAACP statement on the retirement of Justice Kennedy

(NNPA) — NAACP, the nation's foremost civil rights organization, issued the following statement regarding the announced retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Justice Kennedy played a pivotal role on the Supreme Court for thirty years. He was the deciding vote in many close cases involving civil rights and civil liberties. Without his moderating influence, the balance on the Court could shift dramatically to the right.

This court has already undermined basic rights we all believed we enjoy as Ameri-

However, the oppressor does not learn from its excesses. On June 12, nine faith leaders were shackled and held for 27 hours after being arrested for praying at the Supreme Court. The multicultural group of men and women are part of Rev. William Barber's Poor People's Campaign (A National Call for Moral Revival). Their effort is to bring attention to the amazing inequality and moral bankruptcy of our nation. Their prayers at the Supreme Court were extremely timely given the court's recent actions to make it more difficult for people to vote in Ohio, and given the injustices, this court continues to perpetuate.

Like Dr. King, the nine who were arrested—Poor People's Campaign co-chair the Rev. Liz Theoharis, D.C. clergy the Revs. Jimmie Hawkins, Graylan Hagler and William Lamar IV, and the Revs. Rob and Hershey Stephens from the Fort Washington Collegiate Church in New York City—were subjected to extremely harsh conditions. No threat to anyone, they were shackled, placed in handcuffs and leg irons, confined to roach-infested cells with nothing to rest their heads on, but a metal slab. This is the 21st century, but you wouldn't know it by the way these clergies were treated. Yet, their actions and those of the Poor People's Campaign are writing the contemporary letter from the Birmingham jail. Their brief incarceration, in

the name of justice, is part of a larger movement to bring attention to increasing poverty and injustice, even in the face of economic expansion. Like Dr. King's Poor People's campaign, this 21st century Poor People's Campaign, launched fifty years later, is an attack on poverty, racism, and militarism, and also ecological devastation and our nation's "moral devastation."

At the 2018 Rainbow PUSH International convention on June 15, Rev. Barber railed against interlocking injustices that did not begin with our 45th President, but have been exacerbated by the depravity he represents. In a rousing address that wove humor, statistics, public analysis and a scathing attack on our nation's immorality, Barber argued that "the rejected," which may comprise more than half of our nation, will lead to the revival of our nation.

Who would have thought that nine faith leaders would be among the rejected? Who would have thought that Dr. King would have been? But Dr. King eagerly embraced the status of "rejected." He once preached, "I choose to identify with the underprivileged. I choose to identify with the poor. I choose to give my life for the hungry. I choose to give my life for those who have been left out of the sunlight of opportunity." Rev. Liz Theoharis told Democracy Now's Amy Goodman that the conditions she and fellow clergy experi-

enced, while uncomfortable, were the same conditions poor inmates experienced. That's the power, in some ways, of the Poor People's Campaign. Clergy and others are forcing the issue, lifting their voices, making connections, claiming the discomfort and pain of the rejected, embracing the fact that they, too, are among the rejected.

To shackle clergy simply for praying is to exhibit a peculiar form of cruelty and inhumanity. Shackling is reminiscent of enslavement; shackling is a method of humiliation; shackling is an attempt to use the harsh lash of unjust law on the backs of those who pray for just law. Rev. William Lamar IV, who has been arrested on three consecutive Mondays for protest action said that the June 12 arrests and treatment were the harshest, he has yet experienced. In Washington, D.C., people who are arrested for protesting are usually given a ticket that requires a court appearance and a likely fine. What did the shackling say about the hallowed sacredness of the "Supreme" Court?

Unjust law enforcement can shackle arms and legs, but not movements. Harsh treatment of leaders in the Poor People's Campaign only strengthens resistance against injustice, racism, poverty, and ecological devastation.

Julianne Malveaux can be reached at www.julianne-malveaux.com or on Twitter @drjlastword.

justice system.

The constitutional process for appointing and confirming the next justice must be careful, deliberative and conducted with bipartisan support. The Senate should not consider a nominee until a new Senate is seated next year. Moreover, the new Senate should ensure that the nominee have a demonstrated commitment to equal justice and civil rights. The names identified on Trump's shortlist do not fit that bill. For the good of the American people, we urge that the Pres-

ident and the Senate to carefully exercise their respective roles under the Constitution in light of the consequential impact of this nomination on our democracy.

The NAACP and its members are committed to protecting the gains won through the sacrifices of our ancestors and to protecting civil rights for generations to come.

Our justice system—and indeed the very peace and tranquility of our nation—hang in the balance.

We will not go silently into the night. We can't.

Texans Can Academies have implemented student counseling services for students at all of their 13 campuses located across the state in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio to help high school students with depression, mental illness, and other issues receive the help they need. Texans Can Academies' students are now able to call a telephone number 24-hours, seven days a week year-round for emergencies or to schedule off-campus counseling appointments. Texans Can Academies covers the cost of the services making it possible for their students to receive confidential, complimentary crisis intervention help.



Texans Can Academies' student counseling services allow enrolled students to make appointments at a pri-

counseling appointments are available for each different problem a student may have in one school year.

lems now and by doing so, prevent future, more difficult emotional issues." SAP / TS is the program manager and an affiliated company of Jorgensen Brooks Group (JBG), both Arizona firms. For 27 years, JBG customers have included colleges, school districts, counties, cities and towns, hospitals and other service groups.

(NAMI), 20% of youth ages 13 to 18 live with a mental health condition. Suicide is the third leading cause of death in youth ages 10 to 24. The National Institute of Mental Health states an estimated 3.1 million adolescents aged 12 to 17, or 12.8%, in the United States in 2016 had at least one major depressive episode. However, 60% of those with a major depressive episode did not receive treatment.

Given the widespread

See CAN. Page 8

Dr. Sarah E. Laibstain

Summer is here, and for many it is an exciting season filled with summer camps and sports activities. As you and your family plan out your summer, visiting your physician for summer physicals should be on the top of your list. Summer physicals, also known as pre-participation physicals, are great for understanding your child's health and making sure they can participate in summer activities safely. Summer is also a good time for adults to schedule physicals to better understand their own health, and learn more about how to live a healthy lifestyle. Regardless of age, physicals are important to staying on top of your health and help you and your family have a safe and enjoyable summer.

a pre-existing condition. Visiting your physician before summer activities may reduce the risk of injury and is a great time to make sure your child is current on vaccinations. A physician will

review your child's medical history and evaluate their physical health to determine what activities are safe for

See SUMMER. Page 9

[illegible]

DART*able* STAYCATIONS

Staying home this Summer but still want to have big fun? DART has you covered. Check out our DARTable Staycations for adventures the whole family will enjoy. From entertainment to dining, these local hidden gems have a little something for everyone to enjoy. And the best part? It's all DARTable!



DART.org/staycation

Carrollton advises residents to be aware of potential roofing scams

The City of Carrollton advises residents to be aware of potential roofing scams in response to the recent hail storms and offers these tips from the Better Business Bureau:

Residents can contact their insurance company to ask about their policy coverage and specific filing requirements. The City encourages

residents to save all receipts, including those for food, temporary lodging, or other expenses that may be covered under their insurance policy. The insurance company may also have recommended contractors.

Do the research and find businesses on sites such as BBB.org. The BBB has business profiles on more than one

million home contractors. Seek out references from friends and relatives as well. The state of Texas does not require roofers or general contractors to be licensed. However, some organizations such as the North Texas Roofers Association require an accreditation process to be listed on their website (<https://www.ntrca.com/roofer>

rs/residential/).

Resist high-pressure sales tactics. Some storm chasers use schemes such as the “good deal” residents will get only if they hire the contractor on the spot. Be proactive in selecting a contractor and not reactive to sales calls on the phone or door-to-door pitches. Disaster victims should never feel forced to make a hasty de-

cision or to choose an unknown contractor.

Be especially careful of door-to-door contractors. Ask for identification and check their service vehicle for a business name, phone number, and license plates for your state.

Be mindful when having work performed on areas of the home that are not easily

accessible or visible such as the roof, an attic, crawl spaces, or ducts. While most contractors abide by the law, some unethical ones may actually create damage to get work.

If residents believe they are a victim of a home repair scam, they are encouraged to call the office of the Texas Attorney General at 1-800-252-8011.



Luke, Ma / Flickr

Garland seeks input on dog park plans

The City of Garland seeks additional input from citizens for plans to develop a dog park in Central Park. On June 28, Garland residents had an opportunity to review two conceptual plans for the future park and provide feedback. Here are descriptions of the two concepts (click on the Concept title for an image):

Concept A

- 100 parking stalls

- Access from north and south

- Linear orientation of interior dog fencing

- Buffer to adjacent homes

- Interior shade structures are distributed

Concept B

- 85 parking stalls

- Access from south only

- Radial orientation of interior dog fencing

- Wider buffer to adjacent

homes

- Interior shade structure is centralized

Residents are invited to view the concepts online and provide additional feedback. An instant poll is available on EngageGarlandTX.Mindmixer.com until July 13. Select the concept you prefer in the poll. You can also provide additional comments on the instant poll.

The Engage Garland platform requires the user to set up an account. Your information is used to verify the validity of the public input. It is not shared for any other use.

For additional information, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 972-205-2750 or ParksandRec@GarlandTX.gov.

Water averaging can help families manage budgets

LITTLE ELM - Whether it's a consumer purchase, like a car or large appliance, or a service like lawn maintenance or housecleaning, homeowners count on knowing how much their monthly charge will be, allowing them the ability to set and maintain their household budget.

“Knowing their monthly payments for their budget every month will make it easier for families to allocate their discretionary spending,” says the Town’s Chief Financial Officer Karla Stovall. “But when the monthly cost of an essential service like water is unpredictable, it’s difficult to develop and maintain a family budget.”

To address the uncertainties of household water bills, Little Elm’s Utility Billing Department has introduced the Average Monthly Payment Plan (AMPP), a payment-leveling program.

“When customers switch to AMPP, previous usage information is used to determine their average billing amount,” added Stovall. “Each month the average bill

is then adjusted based on their actual usage.”

The payment plan is based on an average of the previous rolling 12 months’ charges and current actual charges. A customer’s bill will fluctuate according to the average water consumption.

The program removes the summer peaks and winter valleys of water billing, giving customers a chance to more accurately budget their family finances. The predictability of the utility bill can make it possible for households to create and maintain a reliable and accurate spending profile.

Customers who are interested in enrolling in the program should contact the Utility Billing Department at (214) 975-0480 or visit the Utility Billing office, located on the second floor of Town Hall, 100 West Eldorado Parkway. There is no additional charge to participate in the program but there are some eligibility requirements.

“This is not a discount program, and there is no change

in the costs,” said Stovall. “It is a way for families and households to manage their finances in a more equitable way, month to month.”

While the program can be a welcome relief in the summer, participants should be mindful that traditionally light winter water bills will match those of the summer, putting all 12 months of the billing cycle on an even footing.

The program, while important to those families seeking a more even budgeting process, can allow for individuals to become somewhat complacent in their summer watering habits.

“Just because the summer peak is evened out to a lower cost does not automatically mean that irrigation watering can be increased,” she said. “Conservation and smart watering is still required, and in fact, will be even more important since the high-water bills that typically signal high usage will no longer be there.”

SPECIAL EXHIBIT
June 5 – Sept. 3, 2018 | Included with Museum admission



REBEL SPIRITS

Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

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Rebel Spirits: Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. was produced by Wiener Schiller Productions and is presented locally by The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. The exhibition was curated by Lawrence Schiller with support from Getty Images, Photo, Carl Stoughton, White House Photographs, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston.

What to do when your child HATES math

Kids hate math for many different reasons. Some find it too hard, others find it overwhelming, and still others are so bored by it that they can hardly bring themselves to complete their assignments.

But whatever the reason, nothing ruins a day (and mom's nerves) like fighting about math. The constant arguing, whining, and crying spill over beyond math time and make the whole day miserable.

Quick fixes like rewards and sticker charts sometimes make math tolerable for a few days. But, before long, the math battles begin all over again. No wonder some families end up doing less and less math at home in an effort to keep the peace—but with the constant worry that they're not preparing their child adequately for the future.

Not all kids are going to adore math, but if math is a never-ending struggle at your house, these strategies will help stop the math fights and make math time more tolerable—for both you and your child.

Find the Goldilocks challenge level

Think about a time when you were deeply engaged in your learning: it may have been discussing a great book with a friend, learning how to crochet from your grandmother, or mastering a piece on the piano. But whatever it was, one of the reasons you likely found it so satisfying was that you were working at your Goldilocks challenge level: not too easy, not too hard, but just right.

Finding the right level of challenge is key to helping kids enjoy math, too. There's no satisfaction in whizzing through easy busywork problems, but it's very frustrating to plug away at problems that are too hard.

When kids are frustrated with math, many parents immediately think about closing the textbook. That may indeed be a good decision—but there are other ways to adjust the difficulty level,



US Dept. of Education

too.

Here are some ways to find the Goldilocks difficulty level for your child:

Do fewer problems

If your child is exhausted or overwhelmed by the length of their assignments, shorten them. Your child doesn't have to do every problem if it's going to make him or her miserable. Skip problems that are too easy, work on just the odds or evens, or simply pick out the problems that your child most needs to work on.

Do more practice and review

While some kids need to do fewer problems in order to not hate math, other children may actually need to do more. If your child is having trouble retaining what he's already learned, go back and make sure those skills are sharp before moving on.

Every step in math builds on each other, and it's very frustrating to kids to keep moving forward when they're missing some of the building blocks. Make sure your child has the math facts mastered and basic skills solid before you move onto more complex work.

Set a timer

If your child has a short attention span, but needs a lot of practice in math, you can make math less difficult for her by breaking assignments into smaller chunks. Set a timer and ask your child to do quality work for a very short time. Kids are often amazed at how much they can get done when they just put their head down and get to work for 15 minutes. And, make sure to keep your expectations realistic, especially for little ones: kindergartners and first-graders

often can only focus on for five to ten minutes at a time.

Require less writing

Actual physical pain makes anything a lot less enjoyable. Younger children who have already done writing, spelling, and copywork may not have the stamina left for copying problems from a textbook or writing out many answers. If your child has trouble with this, don't require them to copy from a textbook. Or, allow your child to answer as many problems orally as possible. If you are working out of a textbook you own, allow your child to (gasp!) write directly in the textbook. It costs a little extra, but eliminating math battles is well worth it.

Another way to make writing in math less arduous is to solve problems together on a mini whiteboard first. It's much easier for kids to write on a whiteboard than with a pencil on paper, since they don't have to concentrate so much on keeping their numbers neat and properly-sized. Plus, working problems together on a whiteboard is also a great solution for kids whose attention tends to wander if you stick them in a room by themselves with a math assignment.

Support and mentor your math learner

When I was in college, I was struggling in one of my math classes. After years of feeling capable and confident in math, I was shaken and doubting myself when I went to my professor's office hours for help. Instead of helping me understand what I was doing wrong or explaining the material in a new way, he gave me some

of the most unhelpful advice I've ever received: stare at the problems longer.

Needless to say, that class was not a satisfying learning experience. (I ended up struggling along by myself and barely passing—and resolving that when I was a math teacher, I would be more helpful!) If you're not a fan of math yourself, you probably have a similar story. But if we want our kids not to hate math, it's essential that we support and mentor them in their learning.

Model a positive attitude toward math yourself

If you don't like math yourself, I know it can be hard to fake a positive attitude. But we parents set the tone for our homes. When we're dragging, everyone's dragging. When we're energized and positive, the kids are much more likely to be, too.

If you don't like math and

find it hard to muster a positive attitude, simply try to be neutral. Don't talk negatively about math, and try to put a smile on your face when you announce that it's math time. Even a little bit of positivity can go a long way.

Teach, don't just assign

There are two huge drawbacks to sending your children off to work on math by themselves.

First, kids associate math with banishment and not getting mom or dad's attention until they have a problem. This actually makes some kids more likely to act up, since it's the only way to get mom or dad's attention during math time. And for our extroverted kids, it's hard for them to like a subject that they always have to do by themselves.

Second, when kids do math on their own, they're often able to limp along and get most answers right. But are they really reading the

lesson, thinking it through, and internalizing it? Do they really understand what they read and did? Unless you have a very studious and responsible student, a child who does math on her own is usually missing out on the deeper understanding that comes from working through the lesson with a parent. Mentoring your independent math learner doesn't have to take a long time each day, but even five minutes will go a long way to helping your child feel supported and encouraged in their math studies.

Use a teacher's guide

Those teacher's guides are a wealth of useful information. Most will help you understand the main objective of the lesson and show you some ways to demonstrate the concept. Some will even provide games and activities to reinforce what your child is learning and

See MATH, Page 12

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Wells Fargo ups donations to more than \$1 Million a day to charities

Wells Fargo & Company last year continued to invest in communities across the country through its philanthropy and volunteerism, donating more than \$286.5 million in 2017 to more than 14,500 nonprofits, the company announced.

The company's plan to target \$400 million in donations to nonprofits and community organizations in 2018 is an increase of approximately 40 percent from 2017.

Wells Fargo already is one of the top corporate cash donors, ranking first among financial institutions and third among all U.S. companies in a 2016 report (most recent ranking) by The Chronicle of Philanthropy.

"We understand the important role we play in helping our communities, so we will continue to identify additional opportunities where Wells Fargo can make a difference," CEO, Tim Sloan

said. "Wells Fargo's increased philanthropy will have a positive effect on the causes and communities we support and further enhance our Corporate Social Responsibility efforts, which will continue to focus on advancing diversity and social inclusion, creating economic opportunities in underserved communities, and accelerating the transition to a lower-carbon economy and a healthier planet."

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Wells Fargo commits \$3.5 million to increase financial capability across U.S.

Toncé Jackson was at a low point four years ago. In Chicago's Cook County Jail for a fourth time, she was struggling with substance abuse, had no job, a limited education, terrible credit, and was burdened with debt — she didn't even have a bank account. Caught in a painful cycle that was destroying her family, she resolved to change.

"I wanted to start my life over," said Jackson. "I just needed a little help with my beginning."

The Wells Fargo Financial Capability Grant program focuses on helping people, like Jackson, who are facing destabilizing economic challenges. Started in 2017, the program's grants help people from diverse populations who are underbanked by connecting them to income supports and financial training.

The program has just awarded \$3.5 million to two nonprofits with thoughtful and focused financial capability programs — the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and the Cities for Financial Empowerment (CFE) Fund.

The Wells Fargo grants will provide \$1 million funding for the CFE Fund and \$2.5 million funding for LISC financial capability programs in a total of 25 U.S. cities and regions over three years.

"All of the cities we are working with demonstrated that they are looking to make financial empowerment front-and-center in the work they can do," said Tamara Lindsay, a principal at the CFE Fund. "The long-term vision is to create a permanent home for this work, to help make sure it is sustainable."

City leaders collaborate with CFE Fund partners to open Financial Empowerment Centers, or FECs, for their residents. At FECs, professionally trained counselors help consumers with low and moderate incomes manage their finances, pay down debt, increase savings, establish and build credit, and access safe and affordable mainstream banking products. The FEC model integrates counseling into other social services, including housing and foreclosure prevention, workforce development, prisoner reentry, benefits access, domestic violence services, and more. First piloted in New York City under Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in 2008, the FECs are a proven success — about 80,000 consumers have reduced individual debt by almost \$94 million and increased their families' savings by about \$12 million. A recent CFE Fund evaluation showed that this program works even for residents with very low incomes and other complex financial challenges.

"Offering financial counseling as a public service, though local governments, helps stabilize struggling households and communities. Local leaders know the importance of helping families and neighborhoods build financial stability and make better use of social services," said Jonathan Mintz, president and CEO of the CFE Fund.

Wells Fargo's grant to LISC will strengthen and expand the Financial Opportunity Center, or FOC, model across 15 target markets. Working through local nonprofits nationwide since 2006, FOCs

offer services including employment and career counseling, one-on-one financial coaching and education, and connect individuals with low-cost financial products that help build credit, savings and assets. FOCs also have a remedial education component that provides participants with foundational reading and math skills that they need in order to get into job training programs that can lead to higher paying, living-wage careers.

"Promising talent exists in all our communities, and we have to invest to help people realize their full potential. That's where FOCs come in," said LISC CEO Maurice A. Jones. "By connecting people to the tools they need, they can compete for the quality jobs that employers must fill to innovate and grow. They'll be able to earn more, save more and access life-changing opportunities for themselves and their families."

During a conversation with her parole officer, Jackson found out about a local Financial Opportunity Center housed at Chicago's Jane Addams Resource Corporation, a nonprofit local community resource center. The FOC helped Jackson find additional education opportunities and got her into a job placement program. After she successfully landed her welding job, Jackson continued to receive guidance from a financial coach. She created a budget, reduced her medical debts, and established credit.

Mike Rizer, head of Wells Fargo Community Relations, said results like Jackson's are the goal.

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Carrollton

The Art Of Dallas Reloaded will take place on July 8 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Plaza Arts Center, in Carrollton. Join them while they tap into the much talked about subject of Depression and Suicide through theatre. We have decided to "reload" these stageplays, free of charge, to the public to bring that awareness to our communities. This event is absolutely free but you have to RSVP for entrance. Mature Audience due to the subject matter. Be sure to register at Facebook.com/events.

Dallas

Hairspray in Dallas, TX - Broadway's Big Fat Musical Comedy Hit will begin their production on July 7

starting at 8 p.m. at Winspear Opera House, in Dallas. The AT&T Performing Arts Center and Tony®-winning Dallas Theater Center join together for an unprecedented new collaboration to produce the Broadway musical HAIR-SPRAY in the Winspear Opera House. The 1950s are out, and change is in the air! Hairspray, winner of eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical, is a family-friendly musical, piled bouffant-high with laughter, romance, and deliriously tuneful songs. It's 1962 in Baltimore, and the lovable plus-size teen, Tracy Turnblad, has only one desire – to dance on the popular "Corny Collins Show". When her dream comes true, Tracy is transformed from social outcast to sud-

den star. She must use her newfound power to dethrone the reigning Teen Queen, win the affections of heartthrob, Link Larkin, and integrate a TV network... all without denting her 'do! For information and tickets visit <http://www.attpac.org>.

The Community Conversation With Beto O'Rourke will be held on July 8 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 1011 Ten Eleven, in Dallas. Presented by The Black Women's PAC Beto O'Rourke talks about a criminal justice system that Texas can trust followed by Q&A. Small room, community conversation. Dialogue with Beto on criminal justice issues. Ask your question. \$50 per person, Food For The Soul Sunday by

Chef Ty Includes Full Meal & Non-Alcoholic Beverages, excludes alcoholic beverages. (Limited Seating) Only 100 Seats. Proceeds benefit The Black Women's PAC. Beto O'Rourke is a Congressman from El Paso. He is the Democratic Party candidate for U.S. Senate aimed to defeat Ted Cruz in November. Come get to know the man and the candidate. The Black Women's PAC is committed to empowering black women in Texas as political donors in support of electing more black women to public office across the state and to helping develop, build, train, fund and grow the political and intellectual infrastructure necessary to help black women win elections and successfully govern once elected.

Grand Prairie

An Ice Cream Challenge will be held on July 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Grand Prairie Farmers Market, in Grand Prairie. Summer is officially here, and the temperatures are rising rapidly. There's no better way to cool down on a hot summer day than with homemade ice cream! The Grand Prairie Farmers Market, 120 W. Main St., will host the second annual Ice Cream Challenge on Saturday, July 7, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Local Grand Prairie charities and organizations will go head-to-head to see who has the best homemade ice cream recipe in order to be crowned the champion and win money for their charity. Tickets to sample all charities homemade ice

cream and vote for your favorite will be on sale for a minimal fee. Come cool yourself off with ice cream while you enjoy live music, shop the market, and help your favorite charity win money! For more information, contact Andrew Byrd at 972-237-8115 or abyrd@gptx.org.

Irving

Live! Concert in Irving, TX will take place on July 10 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at The Pigeon Hole, in Irving. Chainbreak3r is coming back to an old home in Irving, Texas to rock out with some old friends! There will be free admission, bring a love offering.

For more information visit Facebook.com/events.

North Dallas Gazette wins national editorial award at NNPA

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

The *North Dallas Gazette* (NDG) was awarded first place honors in the Robert S. Abbott Best Editorial category at the 2018 National Newspapers Publishers Association's (NNPA) Merit Awards on June 28 at the celebration in Norfolk, Virginia. The winning editorial was published on Nov. 1, 2017, written by Ed Gray,



NDG Senior Columnist it was entitled "Confederate Statues: The White Man's Burden."

"I am very humbled to be

honored," Ed Gray stated when notified of the award. "It is our duty as members of the Black press to speak the truth no matter how uncomfortable it may be," he added.

Throughout 2017 across the nation and particularly in Dallas, what to do about Confederate Statues was an on-going and contentious discussion. Gray's coverage on the issue actually kicked off a month before the

protests Charlottesville, Va. on Aug. 11 which led to violent confrontations and ultimately the death of three individuals and injuries to more than 30 before the weekend was over. He called on the community and leaders to do better on July 26, 2017, with his editorial entitled, "Dallas, Lose Your Plantation Mentality and Remove Confederate Symbols." Eventually, Dallas would develop a plan for re-

moval of several Confederate symbols throughout the city following the advice of a task force appointed by Mayor Mike Rawlings.

Co-founder and Publisher Thurman R. Jones accepted the award on behalf of NDG at the NNPA's 2018 Annual Convention: Celebrating 191 Years of Black Press in America Sustaining, Engaging & Mobilizing Black Communities at the Hilton Norfolk The Main.

The criteria for the editorial award was based on clarity of thought, community interest, style, and relevance. Named in honor of the historic trailblazing publisher Robert Sengstacke Abbott. He was the founder, editor and publisher of the renowned Chicago Defender in 1905, the publication under his leadership reached more than 200,000 African American readers throughout the country weekly in the 1920s.

Irving-Las Colinas housing offers access to employers and amenities at a lower price than other suburbs

Irving can offer homebuyers many of the same amenities and conveniences as its fellow suburbs, like Plano or Frisco, for a lower price.

Though Plano has recently attracted high-profile headquarters like Toyota North America, Irving has long been a magnet for corporate campuses, housing Exxon Mobil, Kimberly-

Clark, Fluor, Pioneer Natural Resources and many more.

One of its most recent additions, Pei Wei Asian Diner, began relocating from Scottsdale, Arizona, last year. CEO J. Hedrick said his company was attracted to Irving thanks in part to its proximity to Dallas Fort Worth International Airport,

which puts the company within a 3-hour direct flight to all of its restaurants.

In an effort to keep its daytime population in the city, Irving has started developing more restaurant, retail and entertainment options. Toyota Music Factory, a \$200 million, 50,000-square-foot-plus development, has brought amenities

like eateries and an Alamo Drafthouse along Highway 141.

Now, like Plano, Irving is seeing its employer base, transportation options and lifestyle offerings, along with its proximity to downtown Dallas, bring in more homebuyers.

"They've done different things and created a vibrant

community," Jim Berrong, associate broker with Dave Perry-Miller Real Estate, an Ebby Halliday Real Estate company, said of the city.

As a compilation of master-planned communities like Las Colinas and Valley Ranch, Irving also offers potential homebuyers a variety of housing options, Berrong added.

Homes near Las Colinas and Valley Ranch may be older, but are well-established and tend to offer proximity to shopping, offices and restaurants.

Cheaper options exist north of Highway 183, where buyers can find a variety of condominiums, townhomes and single-family houses.

CAN, continued from Page 4

mental health conditions and diagnosed clinical depression among teenagers, Texans Can Academies is proactively putting treatment op-

tions in place for students. "We see some of our students suffering daily from issues outside of school that affect their success in

school," said James Ponce, PhD, Chief of Schools for Texans Can Academies. "With the tragic outcomes we have been seeing across our nation among youth who could have possibly benefit-

ted from mental health care, we decided to implement a program for our students to help them through their teenage years. We also wanted to remove the stigma of asking for help by making

it easily and confidentially accessible. We encourage our kids to reach out for help with problems big and small."

Written consent from a parent or legal guardian is re-

quired for students under the age of 18 years seeking to receive counseling services. All services are confidential in compliance with HIPAA regulations and State student requirements.

City Men Cook soars to new audience levels, inducts Hall of Fame leaders

City Men Cook successfully celebrated Father's Day with a roster of DFW Who's Who's of tasters and cooks Sunday, June 17, 2018, Gilley's Dallas, at 1135 S. Lamar St., Dallas, TX 75215 with over 1400 attendees. Local leaders, fathers and Community icons were recognized for their contributions to the core pillars of City Men Cook which are Leadership, Mentoring and Fatherhood.

"This Sunday, we truly became the largest Sunday Dinner in North Texas," says Terry Allen, managing founder, "Our standing room only crowd increased by 450 more attendees than the past two years and the cooks presented some of the best dishes ever!"

For ten 10 years the community has been asked to nominate and identify mentors in the community who convey and operate on our core pillars of mission: Leadership, Mentoring and Fatherhood. City Men Cook Baker's Dozen Honorees include the following men:

- Roland Parrish, Restaurateur /Philanthropist, Mentor – also awarded City Men Cook Father of the Year
- John Fullinwider, Social Justice and Community Activist, Mentor



Restaurateur, philanthropist and mentor Roland Parrish was awarded City Men Cook Father of the Year for 2018. (Courtesy photo)

- Ed Gray, Commissioner/Cultural Historian, NDG Columnist, Mentor

- Robert Pitre, Founder, Skyline Ranch, Entrepreneur, Mentor

- Stephen Wright, NBC News Manager, BEN Network Board Member, Mentor

- Demond Fernandez, Senior reporter, WFAA Channel 8 News

- Christopher Fisher, City of Dallas Park and Recreation Manager, Mentoring Expert -PURSUIT

- Hon Kevin Felder, City of Dallas Council Member, District, Entrepreneur, Mentor

- Calvin Golden, Restaurateur, Mentor

- James Thomas, Publisher, Mentor

"Our mission is clear and what remains most impor-

tant is that we continue our commitment to fathers and father figures in our families and communities through this showcase of men, mentors and leaders. Thanks to the support of FedEx, US Virgin Islands and Parrish Restaurants, we will launch our mentoring program this fall giving training, clothes and jobs to area youth," says founder Allen.

City Men Cook will be expanding the MBK-modeled mentoring program to include school based workshops for area young men teaching essential cradle-to-career strategies while enhancing overall father/son relationships. The City Men Cook mentoring program is a part of the local My Brother's Keeper(MBK) initiative's network.

SUMMER, continued from Page 4

them to take part in and identify activities to limit. Most summer camps and sports organizations require campers to visit their physicians for physicals before they can participate. Even if not mandatory, it is important for camp staff or coaches to be familiar with the medical history of each child in case of an emergency.

As schedules lighten with children away at camp, it is a great time for you to visit your physician for a preventive health visit as well. A

routine physical exam keeps you caught up on vaccinations and can identify minor health problems before they turn more severe. During your exam, your doctor will check your vitals and perform a physical exam to make sure you are not at risk for developing diseases such as diabetes, cancer, or stroke. Based on your family and personal medical history, your physician can also identify any risk-factors for cancer and other diseases and help you better understand healthy lifestyle habits

to make part of your daily routine.

Getting your camper packed and ready with all the needed supplies can be very hectic, but it is important to make the time to visit your family physician before sending your child off to summer or sports camps.

Dr. Sarah E. Laibstain is a general family medicine practitioner at Family Medicine Associates of Texas in Carrollton. She thoroughly enjoys improving the health and lives of individuals ranging from young children to adulthood.

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For information about the Army ROTC program at Texas Christian University, please contact Eddie Smith at eddie.smith@tcu.edu, call 817-257-6461 or visit goarmy.com/rotc/le98.



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On set with DCT Tech Director Josh Smith

DCT Technical Director Josh Smith took time out of his busy schedule to talk about the process of assembling the touring set of *HOW I BECAME A PIRATE*. The show literally traveled to 60 cities and performed for 113,791 audience members before returning to Dallas for a four-week run on the DCT mainstage this June. Over the course of our interview, Josh let us in on the steps involved in building a set, the challenges of creating a transportable pirate ship, and how young people can work towards a career in technical theater.

How did you get into theater?

I kind of stumbled into theater. My older sister was in theater when I was in college, and I'd go see their final performances. For fun,



DCT

I'd help them strike. Later, when I went to the same college, the teachers already knew me. And they said, "If you want to work in theater, we'll give you scholarship money." I thought, "Hey, get paid to play around and build stuff: my kind of deal."

What did you do when you first started out there? What were your jobs?

I did some set construction. As I got good at it, they had me do more and more

set construction, but I was in a theater program where there were never enough guys, so I always ended up on stage. Even though I never auditioned for anything, I'd be cast. And I'd say, "Just let me run sound or lights or the flyline," but I was always on stage.

What's the first step in getting ready to design a set, and what was your experience like getting ready for *PIRATE*?

When you're designing a set, the first step is obviously reading the script. You read the script; you do research on the subject—for this case, our designer did research on pirates and studied the [How I Became a Pirate] books. My job comes in usually after the designers come up with their design and talk to the director to make sure

they're on the same page. I get to see the plan and the drawings, and then I have to figure out how to build what they want, even if it defies physics. We have to make sure we're in budget and on time, so there are a lot of steps involved, and one of the biggest things is making sure the actors are safe.

How did knowing that your set would have to be boxed up after each performance to tour the country affect your process?

One of the big things about tours is you can't build a big, heavy, unit set. Everything has to fit into a box truck, so everything needs to break apart, be as light as possible, and be as

durable as possible because it's going to get thrown around and slammed around. It's a big challenge

balancing all that while also making a set that can be put together within a two-hour time span. For the touring group to build it, the set has to be light enough to allow them to move everything.

What was your work schedule for building this set, and what was the team process?

Here, we try really hard to keep a 9 to 5 schedule as much as possible and not work on weekends during the building stage, so a lot of it comes down to planning ahead of time, knowing your crew and what their strengths are—making sure people who are good at welding do welding; people who are good at finish work do finish work; and people that are good at artsy, decorative stuff do artsy, decorative stuff.

What do you enjoy about your job, and what's difficult about it?

I really enjoy the challenges. No two sets are the same. You have curved stair railings; you have crow's nests that have to be supported with minimal amount of structure showing. There are always different and interesting challenges. That's my favorite part of the job, but that can also be the most stressful part of the job because you can do anything with the right amount of money and time. In theater, though, those are two things that you usually don't have a whole lot of.

HOW I BECAME A PIRATE runs June 15th through July 8th at DCT. For tickets and more info, visit dct.org.

George Wallace returns to Las Vegas with a new residency

(BlackNews.com) -- The "New Mr. Vegas" is back. Renowned comedian and longtime star of stage and screen, George Wallace, is returning to Las Vegas with a new residency show at the intimate Westgate Cabaret at Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino. George Wallace will serve up a plate of laughs, with extra hot sauce, beginning Tuesday, June 26, 2018.

"I'm very happy to return to Las Vegas on a regular basis," said George Wallace. "Time away from the city the last few years has



Courtesy photo

provided me with plenty of new material and experiences to add into the show. I'm looking forward to performing in an intimate

venue and thrilled to be part of the Westgate family."

George Wallace, who has been selling out comedy clubs and concert venues all

over the world, derives his comedy from the everyday and simply shares moments of life. He finds humor everywhere he turns—from media to relationships to dialogue clichés. At all costs, he avoids standard opening lines and is known to be an ace at reading an audience. Among other comics, Wallace is known as "the guy who can roll the room over if it's dead."

Wallace began his career in comedy as a writer for "The Redd Foxx Show" and made a huge splash on the stand up scene as one of

150 competitors on the cable television special "The Big Laugh Off." Wallace captured first prize, which included club gigs all over the country. Recently, Wallace appeared in the hit show "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee" with Jerry Seinfeld and starred alongside Morgan Freeman in the film "Just Getting Started." He will be appearing in the upcoming movie "The Last Laugh," alongside Richard Dreyfus and Chevy Chase.

George Wallace will perform Tuesday through Thursday at 8 p.m. inside

the intimate Westgate Cabaret at Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino, beginning Tuesday, June 26, 2018. Tickets are \$65, \$75 and \$95 plus tax and fees and can be purchased at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino Box Office at (800) 222-5361 or online at www.westgatelasvegas.com. Must be five years or older to attend.

Follow George Wallace on Facebook and Twitter. Find the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino on Facebook and follow on Instagram and Twitter.

Black History card game helps parents teach their children why Black Lives Matter

(BlackNews.com) -- African American parents who want to teach their children about their heritage can now easily do so thanks to a new Black History card game now available at BlackHistoryCardGame.com. The game, designed for children in grades K-8, is a simple, but very effective "Guess Who?" card game that features 28 Black history legends.

Here are some of the features of the card game:

- * Play "Guess Who?" and add interest to Black History Month lessons with these clever 2-sided Knowledge Cards

- * Front of each card shows an image of a notable figure in black history along with the printed question "Who Am I?"

- * Back of each card lists 3 points about the person and

their contributions

- * 28 cards include Alex Haley, Alice Walker, Arthur Ashe, Barack Obama, and 24 more

The web site also sells activity books that feature the top 101 achievements made by African Americans! Both products are high quality, affordable educational tools that teach African American children about their history... while allowing them to have

fun at the same time.

Priced at just \$9.95 for the card game and \$7.95 for the activity book, the tools can be easily purchased even by low income families. A combo package of 5 game sets and 5 activity books can also be purchased for just \$49.95.

For more details and/or to make a purchase, visit www.BlackHistoryCardGame.com



Courtesy photo

NDG Book Review: *Note to Self* is a book to pay attention to

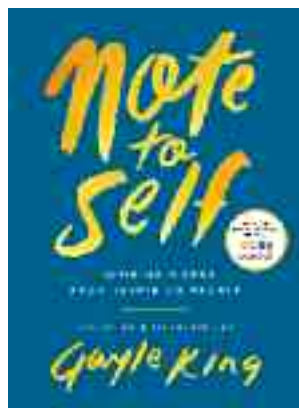
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Listen up.

Pay attention. Eyes forward, ears open. You've heard those things before in your life, and now you say them to yourself, your kids, and your employees. But do they hear what you say now... or, as in the new book "Note to Self," collected and introduced by Gayle King, will your words ring back in the future?

When she was just nine years old, a classmate told Gayle King that she would be his slave, were it not for Lincoln.

Stunned, she ran home to



tell her mother, who comforted her with words King still remembers – but it made King wonder what she, as the woman she is today, would tell that "skinny little nine-year-old girl..." if she could send her young self a mes-

sage. In her Emmy-nominated series for CBS This Morning, she gives opportunities for others to do the similar.

Beginning with Oprah, King's best friend, there are words of comfort for a young woman who was dating the wrong man: "I use the word beautiful because... that's never a word you would call yourself."

Kermit the Frog admits that he's "green with envy" for the possibilities ahead for the frog he once was. Former Vice President Joe Biden advises his twelve-year-old self to look forward, because there's great adventure ahead.

NFL player Ryan O'Callaghan advises his younger self to "Breathe." From Dr. Ruth, who was orphaned by the Nazis: "... your bravery will be rewarded."

Tyler Perry thanks his young self for thriving. Architect Frank Gehry says, "Once you find your passion... work your tail off..." John Lewis advises himself to always remember the words of Dr. King: "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

Surround yourself with those you love. Hug often. Examine your mistakes. Have fun. And remember that

people can be "meaner or crueller or wetter or prettier... but they can't be more human than you."

If you could, would you become 18 years old again?

For most people, the answer is "yes," but only if they can take their knowledge back with them. It's a moot point, of course – you can't, and you can't – but "Note to Self" sets forth an intriguing exercise.

It also offers a chance for reflection on a sleepy summer afternoon, too. There's a good mix of inspiring, gracious and grateful tales inside this book, from those with stardom already in-pocket, to

a few that may not be household names quite yet. Some of the tales are exactly what you'd expect, while others may surprise you with candor and reasoning. TV Host and story collector Gayle King explains how she received these stories and others like them; she then lays down a few rules, and leaves blank pages for readers' own Notes to Self.

This is not a difficult book to read. With its short, quick chapters, it practically begs to be browsed in office or commute, and it'll make a great grad gift. Truly, "Note to Self" is a book you'll pay attention to.

ARK, continued from Page 1

There were also allegations the project had a required completion date of Feb. 28, 2018, to qualify for the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) grant. Part of the agreement stated nine restaurants were expected to be completed by this date, in addition to five thousand square feet of retail space.

One of the allegations is ARK played musical chairs with the accessories, including toilets, countertops, etc. to gain Certificate of Occupancy (CO).

"They would put them into a venue to get their CO

and the next day they would take it out," Phillips said. "There is a long list of certification requirements, and they certified that they met all of them."

(A video linked on the NDG Facebook page features Mayor Rick Stopfer discussing his displeasure with how the city's partnership with ARK Group has resulted in what he characterized as mistreatment of city staff and threats of lawsuits from parties representing the ARK Group.)

The Irving Taxpayers Matter, an Irving-based 501(c)(4) nonprofit corpo-

ration, filed a lawsuit last month seeking to prevent the City of Irving from releasing \$44 million of taxpayer's money requested by ARK for additional building expenses.

"We want the council to have the courage to do what they should do," Phillips said. "If the council follows the contract and ARK doesn't get the money, then it [the taxpayer lawsuit] goes away, and the money can be put to proper use at the Toyota Music Factory and be done with them," he added.

"They didn't do what they were supposed to do, and the council knows," Phillips said. "They are

afraid that they are going to get sued.

Additional concerns

There was a question raised by the language ARK included in the lease agreement regarding the type of music and the order of the music which the tenant could play in their restaurant. According to the petition included as a sidebar to this story:

"For example, is the following language racially discriminatory to a tenant at the Toyota Music Factory if this language is included in their lease agreement with the Ark Group?"

"A tenant shall not permit

two(2) "hip-hop or Tejano" or "rap" music formatted songs to be played back to back."

"I knew that this would touch a chord with some people," Bond stated.

Other concerns include the failure to meet other stated goals during the construction phase.

"The City of Irving, we forced them to sign an M/WBE (Minority and Women-Owned Business) policy and they endorsed it in 2007, but they didn't adopt it until 2008," according to Bond. The goal was to award 32 percent of the contracts to M/WBEs; how-

ever, reportedly the project did not reach the 20 percent benchmark.

Other speakers suggest the city is hesitant to engage in more lawsuits surrounding this project having lost an earlier case.

"That's what the problem has been, the city is so afraid because they had actually lost that lawsuit and they are being sued again because they don't have a proper legal standing to stand on and the actions have already been taken," Sanko Prioleau II, candidate for the District 4 seat on the Irving Independent School District school board, said.

Citizens' group urges Irving council to begin investigation

We the undersigned Irving Concerned Citizens for Fairness, are asking our Irving City Council can be emailed as a group ccouncil@cityofirving.org.

We are asking the Irving City Council to conduct a thorough investigation surrounding the following concerns about practices by the Ark Groups at the Irving Toyota Music Factory before the disbursement of the pending 44 Million TIF payment to the Ark Group, the developer of the Toyota Music

Factory. Our concerns are as follows;

1. Is Irving Mayor, Rick

Stopfer, right in saying that the Ark Group has threatened two of our current City Council members and threatened to sue the City of Irving if this City Council does not vote ASAP to pay them the 44 Million TIF payment?

2. Are we right in our understanding that this payment is to be made only upon completion of this project? We are concerned that the Completion Conditions have been falsified and therefore the February 15, 2018 finding by this Irving City Council that completion conditions have been satisfied by the Ark

Group has still not been properly verified. This is crucial.

3. Did Ark force tenants to sign leases that racially discriminate when it comes to the type of music a tenant can play in their venue?

For example; is the following language racially discriminatory to a tenant at the Toyota Music Factory if this language is included in their lease agreement with the Ark Group?

"A tenant shall not permit two (2) "hi-hop or Tejano" or "rap" music formatted songs to be played back to back."

4. We want the Irving

City Council to address our concerns that the Ark Group failed to meet our MWBE goals regarding equal and fairness in contracting opportunities in the construction of this 200 Million dollar Irving Music Factory. To date according to Open Records info provided to us by the City of Irving with a set goal of 32%, the number of MWBE's awarded contracts at the Irving Toyota Music Factory stands around 20%. This is very troubling in such a diverse city as Irving, Texas and our surrounding cities and communities. What happened and what enforcement tools

does the City of Irving have to ensure we achieve our MWBE goals on such a huge project.

5. Did the architectural drawings call for a 50K sq. ft. outdoor, open-air Plaza at the Irving Toyota Music Factory? If so we want the Irving City Council to investigate our concerns that what we have in actuality is a reduced size Plaza.

6. Is there any evidence that fraud was committed in this project in the obtaining of the Certificates of Occupancy for each tenant which denote that each tenant at the Irving Toyota

Music Factory has passed all necessary City Inspections?

Finally, in 2007, over 60% of Irving voters voted for a referendum saying we give the City of Irving our blessing to do what is necessary and legal to build us an Irving Entertainment Center. After nearly 12 years we now have the Irving Toyota Music Factory as our Entertainment Center. We want our concerns investigated fairly to all parties involved in the Irving Toyota Music Factory.

Sincerely!

(Signers)

Racial divides found in student loan defaults

By Charlene Crowell

With 44 million consumers owing student debt that now reaches \$1.5 trillion and still climbing, a lot of people want to better understand how and why this unsustainable debt trajectory can be better managed. For Black consumers who typically have less family wealth than other races and ethnicities, borrowing is more frequent, and as a result, often leads to five figure debts for undergraduate programs and well beyond \$100,000 for graduate or professional degrees.

Besides deep debt incurred to gain a college education, another sphere of concern presents yet another financial hurdle: student loan defaults.

New research by Judith Scott-Clayton of the Brookings Institution focuses on explaining these defaults and what happens once they occur. Her research shows that a large racial gap exists in default rates between Black student loan borrow-

ers and their White counterparts. This gap can only be partially explained by controlling for multiple socioeconomic and educational attainment factors.

After accounting for variations in family wealth and income, differences in degree attainment, college grade point average and even post-college income and employment, a stubborn and statistically significant 11 percentage point gap remains between Black and White student loan borrowers. Before adjusting for these factors, the gap is 28 percent, with Black borrowers defaulting at a rate of more than double that of Whites -- 49 percent compared to 21 percent over 12 years.

The research also finds a strong disadvantage to attending for-profit colleges, in which Black students disproportionately enroll. More than a decade after leaving school, and accounting for the same background and attainment factors listed above, loan defaults of for-

profit college borrowers exceed those of two--year public sector peers by 11 percent.

The author points to the need to understand what influences the "stark" remaining divide.

"The better we can understand what drives these patterns," wrote Scott-Clayton, "the better policymakers can target their efforts to improve student loan outcomes."

Among these influences are the widening racial wealth gap. As Black student debt is typical heavier and often takes longer to repay, the ability to build wealth becomes a heightened challenge. Years that might have been opportunities to become homeowners or begin other investments can have lengthy deferrals due to large student loan debts.

Similarly, a new report by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) that focused largely on student loan repayment reached a similar conclusion. Authored by Thomas Conkling, the

new CFPB research examining borrowers who were unable to fully repay their student loans early, "suggests that their required monthly student loan payments constrained their ability to pay down other debts." CFPB also found that the typical student loan repayment lasts a full decade with equal monthly payments. Further, borrowers repaying on schedule are not more likely to become first-time homeowners.

A portion of the Brookings report provides useful information that could help those at risk or in default. Loan "default is a status, not a permanent characteristic." Four ways to get out of default are cited: rehabilitation, consolidation, paying in full, or have a loan discharged.

For my money, paying in full is seldom a practical option unless someone's lottery numbers hit a jackpot. But the other three options offered could begin to chart a path in important ways.

Rehabilitation of student loan defaults can only be

used one time. It also requires, according to Brookings, successfully making 9 payments over 10 months.

A second option, consolidating defaulted loans, can end default more quickly and is used by more than half of Blacks who have defaulted.

In recent years, loan discharge has been frequently pursued, especially by former students of now-defunct for-profit institutions. Others choosing public service careers may be eligible for loan forgiveness depending upon the type of loan, servicer assistance and employment.

Any loan default will worsen credit scores and will be a part of a consumer's credit record for up to seven years. During this time, the cost of credit for other goods and services will be higher, and additionally cost many job applicants to lose out on employment opportunities. For several years, credit score screening has become a part of the job application process for many employers.

"The numbers show that our current system is not working, and that higher education is not providing the pathway to financial stability that it once accomplished," said Ashley Harrington, Policy Counsel and Special Assistant to the President of the Center for Responsible Lending. "We need federal and state policymakers to take concrete steps to effectively address this crisis, such as better regulation of for-profit colleges."

"As for loan servicers, it is time to hold them accountable for their errors," continued Harrington. "Standardizing income-based repayment plans, and when appropriate, refinancing of student loans, should be offered as alternative options before allowing borrowers to default."

Charlene Crowell is the Communications Deputy Director with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at charlene.crowell@responsible-lending.org.

MATH, continued from Page 6

add some fun to your math time. Even if you don't do every activity they recommend, they'll help you teach math well.

Grow your own math skills

You don't have to be a math whiz to help your child with math, but it's hard to guide what we don't understand ourselves. If math was always a difficult subject for you, there are a ton of good resources out there to help you learn to teach math with confidence.

If you like to learn by reading, I've put together a book list of my favorite books for moms who teach math. Or, if your prefer videos, check out my video courses at the Well-Educated Mind Academy on elementary arithmetic.

Help your child feel a sense of accomplishment

Imagine if you were told you had to learn to crochet a

scarf—but that you would be working on crocheting the same scarf, day after day, lesson after lesson, for the next 12 years! That's how math feels for many kids. Helping your child feel a sense of accomplishment in math prevents the daily homework struggle from feeling like unending drudgery.

Teach your child both how to do math and why it works

It feels good to get answers right, but working through procedures you don't understand—over and over, day in and day out—doesn't provide much of a feeling of satisfaction. Kids enjoy learning math more when they understand what they're doing and get to have those satisfying aha-moments when a concept suddenly clicks.

Encourage your child to think about what she's doing

and why. Help her see the connections between what she's learning and what she already knows. And use manipulatives to help make new concepts concrete and visual. When kids learn math with understanding, they not only get more problems right, but they also feel a greater sense of pride and satisfaction in their math learning.

Go over completed assignments together

Don't just correct math on your own after child has gone to play. Instead, make time to go over completed assignments together. Notice all the correct answers first, then analyze the incorrect answers with your child. Ask your child to correct any careless mistakes and work together on any problems your child had trouble with. If you discover that your child didn't understand the concept well, make a note to tackle it again the next day.

Looking over the work together helps your child feel ownership of his learning and a greater sense of responsibility. Plus, you show your child that learning from mistakes is part of the learning process. This is especially important for math-anxious kids: knowing that it's okay to make mistakes can help them take a deep breath and relax as they do their math assignments, without the pressure to be perfect.

Celebrate your child's progress

When your child finishes a unit, go back through the unit with your child and talk about the new skills your child has mastered. When you're working on math facts, make a chart of the facts your child needs to learn and have her cross them the ones that she has down pat.

There you have it: Simple ways ways to help make math more tolerable for your

math-hating child. Pick one or two and give them a try in your own home. I hope that they'll help make math a more satisfying learning experience for your child—and stop the daydreaming, tears, and tantrums as well!

Kate Snow is a math educator on a mission to help parents raise kids who are capable and confident in math. For more information, please visit, www.kateshomeschool-math.com.

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July 6 Grand Prairie Hiring Event

The Grand Prairie Hiring Event will take place on July 6 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 801 State Hwy 161 suite 500. They are looking for a clamp forklift, and an experienced auto painter in Grand Prairie, and an experienced stand-up reach operator in Irving. Must apply in person. Bring your valid photo ID and social security card. Need more information? Call us at 817-491-5991

July 7 Harley Job Fair

Harley-Davidson of Dallas is hosting a Job Fair on July 7 starting at 8 a.m. at Harley-Davidson of Dallas, in Allen. Are you Awesome? Love Motorcycles? Looking for a lifestyle and not just another 9-5? We got it! Come in and apply! Hiring for all positions! Be sure to bring plenty of resumes and dress professionally.



July 10 Dallas Job Fair

Dallas Job Fair hosted by JobFairX will be held on July 10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sheraton Dallas Hotel by the Galleria, in Dallas. Live interviews in Dallas, TX with AT&T, Lockheed Martin, Starbucks, American Airlines, City of Dallas, Vasayo, Texas Health Resources, Kroger, Maverick Enterprises Inc., T-Mobile, Bank of America and many more! 250 plus jobs available at this event.

July 11 Dallas Job Fair

A Dallas Job Fair will be held on July 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Doubletree by Hilton Dallas-Market Center, in Dallas. It is strongly recommended that

attendees arrive at the career fair no later than 11 a.m., wear business professional attire, bring at least 10-15 copies of your updated resume, and display an engaging and motivated attitude. There will be interviews from over 10 companies from companies ranging from small local businesses clear to Fortune 500 corporations. For more information, register at CareerBuilder.com.

July 12 Holiday Inn Arlington Job Fair

The Holiday Inn Arlington JOB FAIR will take place on July 12 from 1

p.m. to 3 p.m. at Holiday Inn Arlington Ne-Rangers Ballpark, In Arlington. They are looking for team members that are driven and will go the extra mile for our guests and co-workers.

- Cooks
- Front Desk
- Engineer
- Houseman
- Servers
- Drivers
- Laundry Attendant
- Public Area Attendant

Must pass a background check. Full Time and Part Time Available. Apply at careers.hmhospitality.com.

July 17 Dallas Career Fair - Meet Recruiters

The Dallas Career Fair - Meet Recruiters will take place on July 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Embassy Suites, in Dallas.

Be sure to dress in business professional attire, bring your updated resume, and have a positive attitude. To register for this event visit <https://www.eventbrite.com>.



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

July 08, 9:45 a.m.

Join us in 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. Also,

hear an inspiring word from God.

July 11, 7 p.m.

Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner, and others conducting a new book study with "The Red Sea Rules" by Robert J. Morgan, 10 God-Given Strategies for Difficult Times, 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
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July 08, 9 a.m.

Join us in our Sunday

Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, followed by our Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed. It's for God's glory and honor.

July 11

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study class and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

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MATTHEW 4:19**

July 5, 7:30

Tonight is our Leadership Training, those that are interested please join us.

July 6, 7 p.m.

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

July 8, 10 a.m.

Don't forget to invite family and friends to join us for our Morning Service as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

July 9, 7 p.m.

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

July 15, 3 pm

Make plans to attend our Baptism Center for our Baptism.

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)**

July 08, 10 a.m.

Join us for Morning Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory. Don't

forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

July 11, 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.

Dr. Sam Fenceroy, PhD
Senior Pastor and
Pastor Gloria Fenceroy
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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.

July 08

You are invited to our annual Friends & Family Day during the 8 am & 11 am

See CHURCH, Page 15

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Tempted in three areas



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

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1).

Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan! After 40 days of fasting, when Jesus was at his weakest physically, Satan came to Him. He tempted Jesus in three areas where you and I are most tempted. Why would the Father require this? Jesus needed to affirm to Satan who He was and from whom He gained His authority and provision.

Our Identity - "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, 'It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" Jesus understood His identity and refused to allow Satan to redefine Him. Do not allow Satan to define your identity from anyone or anything other than God.

Our Authority - "Again, the devil took Jesus up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, 'All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Jesus' authority was rooted in doing only what He saw the Father do. He did not use fleshly authority.

Our Source of Provision - "And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, 'If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.' But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Have you ever felt that serving God had little reward and the ungodly seemed actually to be more blessed than you? This is what the people of God felt. God heard their cry and responded through the prophet Malachi to explain God's view on this matter.

Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened

and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored His name. "They will be Mine," says the Lord Almighty, "in the day when I take up My treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those

who serve God and those who do not" (Malachi 3:16-18).

There is a day coming in which God will honor His "treasured possessions." We will see that there is a distinction between the righteous and the wicked on that day when "the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall" (Malachi 4:2). What

a beautiful picture of what we will feel like on that day.

God rewards faithful obedience. It often requires patience, suffering, and perseverance. Be of good cheer; He will reward you if you faint not.

Today, realize your identity resides in being a son or daughter of your Heavenly Father. Your authority resides in being led by the Holy Spirit and your provision comes from your Heavenly Father.



Kathy Cheng, who is running for Texas Supreme Court Place 6, visits with Sister Shirley Tarpley.

CHURCH, continued from Page 8

Worship Services. Sunday School will start at 8:30 a.m. We would love to have you at our services.

July 11, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and growth; it's all for His glory and His honor. We are, "Growing in

Christ through the study of His Word."

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

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AWANA: Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
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www.smbcplano.org

NDGtv

North Dallas Gazette takes a moment to reflect on the past with **Historical Perspectives from Sister Tarpley**

Hear what it was like growing up in a very different Dallas when Booker T. Washington was a black school. Sister Tarpley graduated from there and went on to college and later became a city councilmember in Carrollton.

Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com



CONGRATULATIONS!

CHEVROLET AND NNPA OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE OUR 2018 DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED FELLOWS!

The wait is over! Chevrolet and the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) are proud to announce our six Fellows selected for Discover the Unexpected (DTU) 2018 - a life-changing journalism fellowship.

Chosen from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) nationwide, our DTU 2018 Fellows each receive a \$10,000 scholarship, \$5,000 stipend and a journalism adventure in the 2018 Chevrolet Equinox.

Our DTU 2018 Fellows are geared up and ready to go discover stories of inspiration and innovation in our African American communities. Follow us and show our HBCU students some love along the way. The journey begins!



NNPA.ORG/DTU

#DTU2018, #ChevyEquinox, #Chevy, #NNPA