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Charlottesville struggles with race, history and survival

By Cash Michaels
NNPA Newswire
Regional Correspondent

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.—To say that Charlottesville, Va. held its collective breath on August 12th – the first anniversary of the deadly “Unite the Right” white supremacist violence a year ago that tragically took the life of Heather Heyer, a 32-year-old white anti-racist protestor, is an understatement.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, and Charlottesville city officials, declared a state of emergency, mobilizing every available police officer and state trooper in an unyielding show of force, to preempt the kind of street clashes that infamously marked the Ku Klux Klan and skin-head demonstrations in August 2017.

Stung by withering criticism that law enforcement did little to quell the violence that erupted last year, officials virtually shut down the core Charlottesville downtown area for the August 10–August 12 weekend to vehicular traffic, and screened pedestrians for weapons.

Indeed, the “over-policing” this year, many residents complained, actually raised tensions, especially since the “Unite the Right” rally organizers moved their demonstration to Washington, D.C. this year.



The makeshift memorial to Heather Heyer, the 32 year-old White woman who was killed by a Neo-Nazi, because she was demonstrating on behalf of Black people and against racism. (Cash Michaels/NNPA)

Anti-racism protesters—most of whom were students from the University of Virginia at Charlottesville (UVA), bristled when a phalanx of state troopers, local police, hovering helicopters, and at one point, National Guardsmen with rifles and armored vehicles, flooded the corner of Fourth and Water streets downtown; the same corner where Heather Heyer was fatally struck by the car allegedly driven by a neo-Nazi.

There were intense verbal confrontations, and four arrests, but ultimately, no violence.

“Yes, there are some inconven-

iences, but we’d rather err on the side of safety this year,” said Councilman Wes Bellamy, who helped to calm tensions between demonstrators and police.

While church and civic groups sponsored numerous events to promote racial and spiritual harmony during the tragic August 12 anniversary, some residents were resentful, saying that Ms. Heyer may have been the only protester killed last year, but there were many other victims of White supremacist violence then as well who are rarely

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



Dr. Abiy Ahmed

By Marie Y. Lemelle
Wave Newspapers
NNPA Member

When the word spread among the hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians scattered across the United States that Dr. Abiy Ahmed, the newly-elected Prime Minister of Ethiopia, would visit Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Calif., and Minneapolis, Minn., the expatriates prepared to travel to those cities by plane, bus, train or car.

Just as the election of President Barack Obama lit a spark in the imaginations of the hundreds of thousands of Americans that traveled to



Ken Jones/Alamo Montage Photography

Washington to take part in his 2009 inauguration, the rise of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed not only excited the Black community and Africans living in the U.S., it also inspired them to see and hear the charismatic leader in per-

son. Much like President Obama, who was 47 when he won the presidential election, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed also rose to power at a young age (41 years old), with the swag and attire of a rock star. Ethiopia happens to be the oldest independent country in Africa. But young or old, Abiy's message of hope has connected to a nation of many people, who lost hope and never considered returning to their homeland.

As the proverb goes, "If the mountain will not come to Muhammad, then Muhammad must go to the mountain." That's why Abiy traveled to America to speak directly to Ethiopians living

in the U.S., to let them know that change is coming and that they were not forgotten.

Ayuko Babu, the executive director of the Pan African Film Festival (PAFF) said that members of the Ethiopian Business Association asked him for permission to distribute thousands of tickets on the parking lot connected to the Pan African Film Festival office to ensure everyone could attend the free event with the prime minister at the Galen Center on the University of Southern California campus. Babu added that, with the support of Los Angeles Council President Herb Wesson, he was able to provide operational unity for the historic visit.

At 6 a.m. on Sunday morning, July 29, thousands of Ethiopians from the western region of the U.S.—from Seattle, Wash., to Denver, Colo., and beyond—lined up to get their tickets to come together and see and hear the words of the forward-thinking, young leader who represents change for Ethiopia.

The throngs that assembled at the Galen Center, celebrated the unity, peace and a new beginning for Ethiopia; many wore the country's colors, enthusiastically waved flags, danced with joy, and sang songs while awaiting the appearance of their leader.

Babu attended the event and remarked on the energy

in the USC Galen Center.

"The prime minister's trip to the U.S. is symbolic, because people now know that their leadership is in tune to the issues that caused many Ethiopians to leave their homes," Babu said.

From the moment the prime minister stepped into the arena, a thunderous sound of approval rose to the ceiling. Ahmed's speech was preceded with prayers from religious leaders and other dignitaries. The crowd began to chant, "Ahmed! Ahmed!" The crowd was ready for his words of hope.

"Tear down the wall, build bridges," Abiy said. "Ethiopi-

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Chioma Okeke

Atlanta, GA (BlackNews.com) -- Choosing Nursing, an online program that prepares nurses in the U.S. and Canada to sit their NCLEX-PN and NCLEX-RN exams and meet the prerequisites for their nursing license, is currently offering eight paid digital products and courses with strategies to help its students secure passes.

Founded by Registered Nurse Chioma Okeke, Choosing Nursing offers training year-round and has a free-to-download guide



on their official website that outlines some of the biggest mistakes nurses make when taking the NCLEX.

Choosing Nursing was founded in 2015 in response

to the increased difficulties nursing graduates were facing with their NCLEX certifications. Pass rates have been on a decline since 2012, and a significant number of students who pass are doing so with the minimum marks required.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, around 450 nursing schools have shut down since 1986, and with the current nurse shortage in North America, there are questions as to whether the quality of nurses will be affected by attempts to alleviate the issue by lowering the bar.

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics projected this year that 1.1 million additional nurses would be needed to cover unfilled positions across the country.

"This isn't just about making sure the nurses that go through my program pass," said Nurse Chioma. "While I do provide what is essentially an NCLEX cheat sheet, it doesn't work unless the graduate has critical knowledge. My course is ideal for persons who can't formulate the right study plans or are overwhelmed by the scope of the exams."

To date, Nurse Chioma Okeke has helped prepare dozens for the NCLEX, and extends her services to international students, who have a current pass rate of only 24 percent without the help her service offers. She currently holds the rank of the 37th best YouTube Nursing Channel from Feedspot Blogs and recently accepted a Top Nurse award from the International Nurses Association.

"This isn't just about content delivery," Nurse Chioma said. "I take the time to learn what each of my students is personally

struggling with and tailor my approach accordingly."

An individual approach to preparing for this profession is a timely endeavor, as registered nurses continue to be the most sought-after professionals in the country. With the current shortfall in classroom space to train the needed numbers for the next generation, the demand can only increase.

Choosing Nursing is an online-based company that helps nursing graduates prepare for the NCLEX online. You can learn more about its products and services at www.choosingnursing.net.

NDG Readers Sound Off...

Irving community fights to keep high school band director

Darrin Duff was coerced to resign by Jackie Gorena in HR at Irving ISD. This stemmed from allegations of improper behavior against one of the Assistant Band Directors.

As stated in a meeting with Magda Hernandez, Deputy Superintendent for administrative services on May 21 2018, there was NO investigation done of Mr. Duff, the Head Band Director and there were NEVER any allegations of this type of behavior made against him or the other Assistant Director.

Questions asked of Mr.



Duff were twisted and answers were paired with questions other than those that were asked. This created a false picture of what Mr. Duff did and didn't know and this was then used to coerce his resignation. Rather than conducting a proper investigation of ALL the relevant facts, it was simpler to tell Mr. Duff to resign, which he unfortunately did after

being interrogated without representation by Dr. Gorena.

Mr. Duff had NO intention on leaving his position as head director of the Mighty Cardinal Band. Mr Duff was intent to carry on for the 2018/2019 school year in the absence of 2 assistant band directors. He established a half time show and sent out with all students

a summer band calendar that included the first game August 30.

He requested that the Board approve his rescindment of his resignation four days after "resigning" but this was rejected by the Board without even taking a vote! We have been lied to by members of the administration at all levels and dismissed by the Board.

An altogether dishonest HR department and Superintendent (Jose Parra) and a cowardly Irving ISD School Board!

- David and Donna Herrmann

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Publisher’s Office:

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:

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Editorial Department:

editor@northdallasgazette.com

Online:

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Ruth Ferguson

Columnist

A.D. Jenkins

Web Master

Todd Jones

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Tiffany Gilbert
Jackie Hardy
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Angela Loston
Jacqueline Murphy
Dwain Price
Terri Schlichenmeyer
Nicole Scott
David Wilfong

Community Marketing

Nadina Davis

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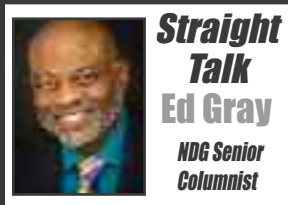
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The Dallas Police Department drops the ball



The Dallas Police Department has dropped the ball once more when it comes to dealing with the black community. The protectors of Dallas have proven that when it comes to life, a black life is still not equal to a white life or a blue life. Dallas Maverick’s Chief Operating Officer Cynthia Marshall attempted to bring unity to the community. The only thing she accomplished was getting death threats proving that many believe a black woman’s life is not worthy of respect.

Let me paint a picture of community involvement between our black community and blue community. In many cities, there is discord between the two as if they are at war. In fact, this is the perception of the black community, as they continue to witness the loss of mostly unarmed men at the hands of American police forces. Consequently, the black community’s trust toward police has eroded.

In Dallas, with its history of shootings by the Dallas Police Department, we stand one inch away from falling into the abyss of destruction.

Etta Collins, an 80-year-old black woman in the 1980s; and Jordan Edwards, in the Dallas suburb of Balch Springs a 15-year-old in 2017, have paid the price for Dallas area police actions resulting in the loss of black lives.

With this as a background story, Cynthia Marshall, bet-

Since the July 7, 2016 murder of the five Dallas members of law enforcement, there have been limited social justice actions directed against police departments. Nationwide police departments have viewed any protest against the police as intolerable, and specifically in Dallas.

members of the police force, the inclusion of the two black lives was inconsequential in comparison to five police officers lives. The fact they were included was considered an insult to the slain officers. As I have said previously in my latest WFAA, “My Voice My Opinion” commentary on Aug. 12, “All lives matter, but some matter more than others.”

The Dallas Police department blocked Cynt Marshall at the door. She was informed the gifts were not welcome. The money, the burritos, and wristbands were considered acts of defiance against police officers who actively seek the support of everyone. However, they are unwilling to share in the comfort and condolence for lives lost at the hands of police.

This is where we leave you, that All Lives Matter. Yet we must ask when it comes to Cynt Marshall why was her life endangered after the police rejected her offers of unity? Stay tuned as we continue follow-up on Cynt Marshall’s continuing battle for social justice.

This is Ed Gray, and this is straight talk.

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



Wristbands Dallas Maverick’s Chief Operating Officer Cynthia Marshall attempted to distribute to honor slain Dallas law enforcement officers from July 2016 and nationally two unarmed black men, Philando Castile and Alton Sterling, shot and killed by police officers. (Image Ed Gray)

ter known as Cynt Marshall formed a grassroots organization to bridge the gap. During the summer of 2016, nationally two unarmed black men, Philando Castile and Alton Sterling, were killed at the hands of police. The loss of these lives started nationwide protests, including one in Dallas.

From these protests, five blue lives were lost at the hands of an individual not part of the Dallas protest. The loss of these five blues effectively rendered the #blacklivesmatter movement to become a hashtag with no action.

The actions of Cynt Marshall, therefore, was viewed as intolerable. She planned a unity breakfast for policemen, which included breakfast burritos, monetary donation, and distribution of wristbands, all with the intention to honor all seven lives lost during a tragic week in American and Dallas history.

The hashtag #BB725 was inscribed into the wristbands to commemorate the loss of humanity. The seven represents all lives matter, the two for black lives, and the five for blue lives matter were radical. In the eyes of some

Be Counted in the 2020 Census!

By Congresswoman
Eddie Bernice Johnson

You and every member of your household should be represented in the 2020 Census count which will determine the allocation of state and federal resources, the number of congressional districts, the amount of federal dollars that are spent where you live, infrastructure growth and repair, and the quality of healthcare that is offered in the area in which you live.

Census data determines where the federal government commits financial resources. In 2015, various government agencies spent approximately \$700 billion

on school lunch programs, Pell grants, Medicare, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program, largely based upon data collected during the previous census.

Every ten years beginning in 1790, when the first census was mandated by Congress, the federal government counts the number of people living in the fifty states. The last census was recorded in 2010.

At the time of the first census there were nearly four million people residing in U.S. households. Three hundred eight million people lived in U.S. according to the 2010 Census data.

The Census Bureau will contact you by mail, phone,

online or in person. Representatives that come to your home will be employees of the federal government with the appropriate identification.

If you are uncertain as to whether they are actually who they claim to be, ask them to wait while you phone the regional Census Bureau for verification. They will have a record of all employees.

In your response to the question regarding the number of people that reside with you be certain to include each and every person that lives in

your home, including those that may not be citizens of the United States.

Please remember that census takers, in person or over the phone, will not ask you for your social security number, a credit card or banking details. If they do ask for such data, they are more than likely con artists intent on stealing from you.

It is extremely important that everyone be counted! An undercount can affect the quality of health services that people receive, and it can have a negative impact on our social security system.

So, please participate fully in the coming census. Your involvement will contribute towards progress in communities throughout our nation. It is one of the most important civic responsibilities.

Mom still matters, UCLA psychologists report

(UCLA) If you're a parent who feels your college-age children would choose their friends over you, a new UCLA psychology study has a reassuring message: You're probably underestimating their loyalty to you.

The psychologists demonstrated for the first time that when forced to make a decision that benefits either a parent or a close friend, young adults are more likely to choose the parent.

"Our study suggests mom still matters," said Jennifer Silvers, a UCLA assistant professor of psychology and senior author of the study, which is published online today in the journal *Psychological Science*. "Parents continue to have an enduring impact on their children as they become adults — and on their decision-making."

The study involved 174 people between the ages of



Sai de Silva / Unsplash

18 and 30. Each was asked to play a series of games that forced them to choose between the interests of a parent and a friend they chose. Each subject began with either \$5 or 50 points, and was told to play as if the points could be redeemed for prizes, and the choices they made would increase or decrease their winnings. In half the rounds, all of the player's gains went to the parent and all of the losses

went to the friend. In the other rounds, all gains went to the friend and all losses to the parent.

In each round, participants were shown 16 cards on a computer monitor, with the cards "face down." On the side that was hidden, each card indicated that the subject had either won or lost a certain amount of money or a certain number of points.

Participants could choose to turn over as many cards as

they wanted until they chose to stop or until a card revealed they had lost cash or points. Most of the cards provided money or points, but a few resulted in losses. This meant the longer each participant chose to play each round, the more they helped one person they love and put the other person at risk. Each participant played 48 rounds.

Before playing, each participant completed a 28-item questionnaire that gauged their feelings toward the parent and friend they chose. Overall, the surveys suggested the participants had strong, positive feelings toward both, but on average, the participants felt their relationships with friends were stronger.

The experiment with the cards, however, revealed something different: When they knew they were playing

the card game to benefit their parents, the participants were more than 25 percent more likely to turn over additional cards. In other words, they were substantially more likely to make choices to benefit their parents. (Researchers controlled for important variables, such as age, gender and the quality of the participants' relationships.)

"When push came to shove, they prioritized their parents," Silvers said. "Even though not much was at stake, the preferences were quite consistent."

The researchers expected the bias toward parents would occur more among older subjects than younger ones, but the study found it occurred equally regardless of age. Results also were consistent between men and women.

Interviewed after the

game, participants expressed ambivalence about the task they performed.

"Many of them seemed conflicted," said Joao Guassi Moreira, a doctoral student in Silvers' laboratory and the study's lead author. "Several said slight variations of, 'Even though it was hard to not pay as much attention to my friend, I felt like I owed it to my parent, who has helped me so much.'"

The researchers are interested in studying why young adults prioritized their parents over their closest friends and whether the phenomenon would be the same among young teenagers as well.

Co-authors of the study are Sarah Tashjian, a UCLA doctoral student in psychology; and Adriana Galván, a UCLA associate professor of psychology.

Dough-nate to help end childhood hunger at Pie Five

One in six children in America struggle with hunger. That's why Pie Five Pizza Co. is encouraging guests to eat pizza with purpose to raise funds for No Kid Hungry.

Pie Five locations across the country will be pitching in for the "Dough-nate to End Childhood Hunger" campaign from Aug. 13 to Sept. 2. Guests who donate \$1 to No Kid Hungry will receive \$2 off their next visit*. Every dollar donated to No Kid Hungry can help feed a

hungry child 10 meals. The offer can be used in-store or online and expires on Sept. 30.

"We are honored to support No Kid Hungry's life-changing work in connecting vulnerable children to effective nutrition programs," said Christina Coy, VP of Marketing. "Giving back to the community is a top priority for Pie Five. In addition to raising money for the cause, we hope this campaign helps raise awareness about the 13 million kids in our country

who struggle with hunger."

The No Kid Hungry campaign is ending childhood hunger through effective programs that provide kids with the food they need. The campaign also engages the public to make ending childhood hunger a national priority.

"No child deserves to go hungry in America," said Diana Hovey, Senior Vice President of Share Our Strength, the national organization behind No Kid Hungry. "We are truly grateful to

have the support of Pie Five's team members and guests, who are helping us make No Kid Hungry a reality. I encourage everyone to visit NoKidHungry.org to join this national movement to ensure that every child in America has access to the nutritious food they need."

Pie Five's fast-casual concept provides guests with a fully customizable experience from start to finish. With more than 30 fresh toppings, six savory sauces and five crust choices, there's a

delicious pairing to match every guest's preference. Pie Five also accommodates dietary restrictions by offering low-carb cauliflower crust, gluten-free crust and a vegan cheese option. In addition to customizable large and personal pizzas, Pie Five also serves toasted sandwiches,

freshly tossed salads and warm cinnamon stix dessert — perfect for the entire family to enjoy.

For more information on Pie Five's locations, please visit the Pie Five location finder. Connect with Pie Five on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

DART releases new fare schedule for commuters

DART's new fare structure provides riders with fare products and options to fit their travel needs across the DART service area. The new fare structure starts Aug. 18.

DART is introducing fare capping to make riding easier and cheaper. By using the GoPass mobile app or GoPass Tap card, riders will never spend more than the total cost of a day pass (\$6.00) in a single day, or the total cost of a monthly pass (\$96.00) in a calendar month.

As a local rider, after spending a total of \$6.00 on any one day, you won't be charged another fare until the following day. Each calendar month, after purchasing 16 Day Passes or the equivalent, riders won't be charged another fare until the end of that month.

Daily fare capping begins on August 18. Monthly fare capping will begin on September 1 with both the GoPass app and the GoPass Tap card.

Other major changes to the DART fare structure include:

- The Single Ride Pass has been brought back for bus only transit as a cash-only fare of \$2.50.
- The new A.M. and P.M. Passes have replaced two-hour passes. Valid for unlimited trips on all DART buses and rail modes, these passes provide savings for riders who need to travel more than two hours but who don't need a full Day Pass.
- The very successful Mid-

day Pass, available for bus and rail travel between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. is now offered on weekends as well.

• High School reduced fare passes, available for bus and rail transit with a valid DART Service Area school ID card, has been extended to include weekends.

Additional information about the fare change, including a table of the new fares, is available on at DART.org/fares.

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Dallas Arboretum to host Hispanic Heritage Celebration event

On Sept. 22, the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden will be a part of the Hispanic Heritage Celebration with its first annual Quinceañera Fashion Show. At 10 a.m., selected participants will walk the stage in Rosine Hall, showcasing their beautiful and colorful quinceañera dresses. At 11 a.m., Mariachi Águilas de UNT will lead the selected participants in a parade down the paseo allowing even more guests to see their stunning dresses. This celebration is the same day as the opening of Autumn at the Arboretum and the Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden's fifth anniversary birthday celebration. This event is free for all paid garden guests.

Among several Spanish-speaking countries and His-



Courtesy photo

panic communities around the world, girls celebrate turning 15 years old with both a religious and social event called a quinceañera. The ritual symbolizes a girl's transformation from childhood into womanhood by expressing thanksgiving to God for life and by a pu-

ricity protection blessing from a priest for the years to come. The party is the second part of the quinceañera with dancing, food and music, ending with a father replacing his daughter's flat-soled shoe with high heels. Individual rituals can vary between

cultures, but the heart of the "Sweet 15" remains as a coming-of-age ceremony.

J. Mark Wolf, Dallas Arboretum board chairman, said, "We often see these beautiful young ladies get their portraits taken at the Dallas Arboretum, yet many of us are not familiar with the traditions and customs of a quinceañera. By showcasing them as they prepare to celebrate their quinceañera, we will learn more about their culture, customs and personal stories during a special coming of age moment."

Adriana Lopez, host of Telemundo's daily show, Acceso Total, is the emcee for the fashion show. Throughout the main garden and A Tasteful Place, the Dallas Arboretum has planned demonstrations related to Hispanic culture

and traditions. Adding to the festive atmosphere are performances by Ballet Folklorico Hispano de Dallas and Spanish guitarist, Daniel Rodriguez. Hispanic vendors include Empanada Cookhouse, Topo Chico, Tamales Over Texas, who will be doing a demonstration and sale, Rock and Roll Tacos Food Truck, Cita's Salsa, La Princesa Paletas, and more. All bands and vendors are located throughout the Entry Plaza and in A Tasteful Place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Studio Vargas Jr. is the onsite photographer and videographer for the event.

Young ladies who would like to apply to be in the fashion show should email Mayra Salazar at msalazar@dallasarboretum.org to receive an application. There is no fee to

enter, and the deadline to sign up and to send the completed form is Aug. 31. Participants must be 15 or 16 years old, and they must be accompanied by a legal guardian. Visit www.dallasarboretum.org/quinceanera for more information and application to apply.

An advisory Committee consisting of board members, including John Cuellar, Victor Ornelas, Ben Leal, Tatiana Higdon Estes and community leaders will select the young ladies based on their essay and completed applications. Each participant will receive two additional general garden admission tickets for family to attend the event as well.

Those selected to participate in the fashion show will be required to attend a dress rehearsal on Sept. 15.

← NAZIS, continued from Page 1

spoken of.

"I think that there's a universal acceptance that what happened here was disgraceful," civil rights activist Rev. Al Sharpton told reporters after preaching Sunday morning service at First Zion African Baptist Church. "But they do not want this to be representative of their city, and they want to move forward."

And then there are the everyday challenges that many say are more important than removing Confederate statues.

Charlottesville is suffering many of the same struggles as other growing small and mid-size metropolitan areas, and those who consider themselves the working poor here say that not much is being done in the area of raising low wages, creating economic opportunities, or developing enough affordable housing stock for struggling families.

"They're building all of the new homes and apartments for folks making six-

figures," said "Lloyd," an independent cab driver who had to change professions in order to make ends meet.

For the first time in its history, Charlottesville has two African-Americans on its city council—Mayor Nikuyah Walker and Councilman Bellamy—both of whom were elected on the promise of improving the quality of life.

But talk with residents, like cab drivers who find themselves having to work seven-days a-week just to keep up with a spiraling cost of living in housing costs alone, and you get a sense of abandonment against the backdrop of the "haves" getting what they want, because they have those "six-figure salaries."

For many Black residents, the racial history of Charlottesville strongly lends itself to a sense of oppression. Even Mayor Walker, during an appearance on CBS news analysis show "Face the Nation" Sunday.

"The issue is this deep-

seated racism that we have here," Mayor Walker said. "And that's the challenge. And that's a lot of work."

And it doesn't help that many believe the White power structure in Charlottesville, the home of Thomas Jefferson, caters to University of Virginia—arguably the largest employer in the city next to the hospital system. UVA is also an institution that was built on the backs of slaves.

Leaders like Councilman Bellamy, insist that progress is being made when it comes to planning for affordable housing, economic development, and even the hiring of more Black police officers (few were seen on patrol during the state of emergency).

But until that progress is seen, and felt, residents say the hard feelings surrounding race, and lack of forward mobility for the average working person in Charlottesville, will remain tragic anniversary after anniversary.

This story was originally published at BlackPressUSA.com.

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

The Best in the Southwest



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6
Trustee

Dallas ISD is off to another great school year, and I'm excited about the variety of programs and opportunities that await our students. With expanded pre-K

offerings, innovative programs for middle and high school students and an eclectic array of extra-curricular activities, Dallas ISD schools hold their own as the most competitive choice for District 6 families.

Only The Best To Lead The Best

At the helm of every thriving school is a dynamic

principal leading the way. District 6 is fortunate to have the finest leaders in education empowering teachers and students at every school.

Joining the roster of rock star campus leaders are three new principals who I want to welcome to the District 6 family.

Verna Farmer, the former principal at Paul L. Dunbar

Learning Center in South Dallas, is the new principal at John W. Carpenter Elementary School.

Principal Farmer, is set to lead the steady and strong neighborhood school to new heights in learning and effectiveness.

Shondula Whitfield will lead the charge at W. H. Atwell Law Academy. The

former Tom Field Elementary principal is gearing up for a fantastic year of helping middle school students explore the possibilities of a legal career.

And Stephanie McCloud, the former assistant principal at Umphrey Lee Elementary, will step up to lead as principal this year.

McCloud is best posi-

tioned to continue the tradition of excellence at this impressive turnaround school.

Back To School

As the summer winds down, take note that school starts Monday, August 20. Get your questions about the 2018-19 school year answered by calling the Back to School hotline at 972-925-5437.

Academic Bridge program puts students on path to success at UT Dallas

This summer, Tamara Harrell has spent her mornings in classes, her afternoons in tutoring sessions and her evenings doing homework, lots of homework.

The neuroscience freshman said she has never worked so hard in school, and credits The University of Texas at Dallas' Academic Bridge Program for helping her take her skills to a new level.

"I knew that college was going to be challenging. Now that I'm here, I'm learning different study habits that have helped me adjust from high school studying to college studying," said Harrell, a DeSoto High School graduate who wants to be a neurosurgeon. "If I hadn't had this in the summer, the fall semester would have been all over the place."

Academic Bridge provides services including tutoring, mentoring, housing and financial assistance to students from underrepresented communities. Students start courses in the summer as part of the program, which is supported by funds from the Texas Legislature, the University and private donations.

After a month in the program, several of the 30 freshmen in this year's group said they learned new



Geosciences sophomore Carla Lara (left) gets assistance from Rosalinda Valenzuela BA'04, MA'08, PhD'12, Academic Bridge project supervisor, at the program's offices. In 2000, Valenzuela was a student in the inaugural Academic Bridge group.

time-management skills and study habits that helped them with the faster pace of college courses.

"When a class meets once a week, at first you're thinking 'OK, I have a week to do this assignment.' But you can't wait that long," said Luis Soto, a mechanical engineering freshman who graduated from the School of Science and Engineering at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center in Dallas.

Soto and other classmates said college classes have been a "wake-up call."

"The tutors have helped us by showing us that we need to be studying every day to get a good grade. It's not just go to class and get the information, but you also have to look over it afterward," Soto said.

"There's so much they go over in one class. It's not something you can easily

learn at once."

Neuroscience freshman Aolany Sanchez said she applied to Academic Bridge after seeing her brother, computer science junior Hepsan Sanchez, flourish in the program.

"At first, I thought it was going to be easy, but no, it's not easy," said Sanchez, a graduate of Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School in Dallas. She said she initially was overwhelmed in her pre-calculus class.

"I decided to go to tutoring every day, and I'm seeing the difference. It's such a rewarding thing when you

see the difference it makes when you put in the work," said Sanchez, who aspires to be a pediatrician.

Desta Seifu BS'01, assistant director and head of academics for Academic Bridge Program, said he urges students to work with a tutor until they can do the problems on their own.

"From day one, I preach that the successful ones are at the tutoring lab until they get it right, regardless of the time required," said Seifu, who leads Academic Bridge's group tutoring sessions.

Academic Bridge students are required to attend

weekly meetings in which they pledge to attend tutoring sessions, be academically honest and remain alcohol- and drug-free. Halfway through the summer, Dr. George Fair, vice president for diversity and community engagement and dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, encouraged students as they entered the final stretch of summer classes.

"Our intent is for all of you to be successful," said Fair, who developed the program in 2000. "We believe that all of you can be successful. Keep up the good work."

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Carrollton Public Library offers Adulting 101 classes covering home buying, car buying, and car maintenance

The Carrollton Public Library is offering free Adulting 101 classes to teach some of the trickiest ins and outs of adulthood with sessions covering home buying, car buying, and car maintenance.

“Life doesn’t come with instructions; none of us knows everything,” said Rachel Young, Josey Ranch Lake Library Branch Manager. “The Carrollton Public Library works to provide resources and education on a wide range of topics and our Adulting 101 classes focus on helpful life skills that can be useful to anyone.”

Home Buying Basics will be done in two parts Thursday, September 13 and Thursday, September 20 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Hebron & Josey Library (4220 N. Josey Lane). Car Buying



Steinar Engeland / Unsplash

101 will be at Hebron & Josey Library Thursday, October 4 from 6:30-8 p.m. and Under the Hood: Car Anatomy for Beginners will be Saturday, October 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs Road).

Registration is encouraged for each class and opens two weeks prior to the start date. Drop-ins are welcome.

HOME BUYING BASICS

Starting the Search – Thursday, Sept. 13

6:30-8 p.m. at Hebron & Josey Library

Buying that first home can be confusing and scary. The first class will focus on the home buying process from finding a realtor, to choosing a lender, and searching for listings of

houses on the market. Learn about title companies, inspectors, appraisers, surveyors, financial institutions, insurance agencies, home warranty providers, and more.

Closing the Deal – Thursday, Sept. 20,

6:30-8 p.m. at Hebron & Josey Library

Now that you have found the home of your dreams, learn how to make an offer and close the deal. Understand how to deal with surveyors, appraisal companies, homeowner associations (HOAs), title companies, closing costs, negotiating repairs, and the procedures involved in protecting you and your new home before and after the sale.

CAR PURCHASE / CARE

Car Buying 101 – Thursday, Oct. 4

6:30-8 p.m. at Hebron & Josey Library

Get advice on how to purchase the best car at the best price, all by yourself. Learn what to expect and how to avoid common pitfalls and mistakes. Understand the differences in buying new versus used, certified, and certified pre-owned vehicles. Find out how to shop rates, secure financing, and know you got a good deal for the price.

Under The Hood: Car Anatomy For Beginners – Saturday, Oct. 6

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Josey Ranch Lake Library

Whether you own a new car or a used one, this class will be a hands-on, under-the-hood-of-an-actual-vehicle class in the general anatomy of an engine. Learn what each major component looks like, where it is, and

what it does. Learn how to check the air filter, belts, fluids such as coolant and oil, and how to change a tire before you call in the mechanic.

“The Carrollton Public Library continues to look for new and exciting ways to broaden the education of patrons young and old, and Adulting 101 is one of the newest additions to our offerings,” said Jonathan Scheu, Director of the Carrollton Public Library. “The City is confident that everyone who attends will find some helpful tips – whether searching for a home, a car, or keeping dad’s old corvette purring in the garage, the Library hopes this series will help residents positively improve their entire Adulting experience.”

For more information, visit cityofcarrollton.com/library or call 972-466-4800.

Making the pitch...



NAF students from North Texas spent the summer in the NAF Future Ready Lab internship program at the Capital One campus in Plano. As the internships came to a close on August 10, the students presented their final projects in front of a “Shark Tank” panel of judges.

Above, Brandon Parrish (Sunset High School), Araceli Ramirez (Sunset), Bryanna Harris (Justin F Kimball High School), Brianna Limones (W.H. Adamson High School), and Juan Camacho (Adamson) face the scrutiny of the judges.

At right, Jose Mondragon (Sunset High School) makes a presentation while Chris Guevara (Sunset), Karla Mata (Justin F. Kimball High School), and Magaly Arzate (Kimball) look on.



Plano Families First Fall Festival announced

Garnering community-wide support from local business and nonprofit sectors, the Plano Families First Fall Fair is an event Plano Mayor LaRosiliere is launching this year. It is designed to strengthen Plano families, especially those in

need of community, educational, and career services and resources. The Fall Fair is free and open to families who reside in Plano or attend Plano schools.

Presented by United Healthcare, the Plano Family First Fall Fair will in-

clude a Job Fair with dozens of employers offering full-time, part-time and seasonal positions, plus a Career Corner where adults will receive career counseling and a free LinkedIn headshot.

Families can take advantage of free health screen-

ings and flu shots, and children who qualify based on need will receive eye exams and new eyeglasses at no cost to the family. Also on tap are fitness demos, puppet shows and book giveaways, a children’s career corner complete with cos-

tumes and props, and science-focused educational activities.

Entertainment highlights includes a free photo booth, kids craft areas and face painting, and entertainment provided by the popular bilingual children’s music

group, The Que Pastas.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Plano Event Center

Located at 2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy. Learn more at PlanoFamilies-First.com

Allen

The **Saturday Social Run 6am!** Will be held on Aug 18, starting at 6 a.m. at Life Time Fitness, in Allen. Join them for their early morning walk. Everyone and every pace is welcomed. They will have a three to eight mile routes every Saturday. Additional miles are always welcomed and you're sure to find a runner looking for more miles. Be sure to dress in comfortable athletic clothing. For more information visit Facebook.com/events.

Dallas

Dallas Against White Supremacy will be host its second event two years in a row on Aug 18 from 7 p.m.

to 9:30 p.m. at Dallas City Hall. Last year, in the wake of the events of Charlottesville, Virginia, which saw neo-nazis, white nationalists, and other members of the extreme Far Right marching in the streets and attacking people of color, They are gathering en mass at the City Hall of Dallas to denounce the sort of hateful rhetoric that has taken our country by storm. Since then, much work has been done, but there is still so much work left to do. They will gather again to raise their voices together as one in order to show the power of diversity, and the strength that comes from inclusiveness, compassion, and togetherness.

Deep Ellum Water Balloon Wars will take place on Aug 16, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 274 N Crowds St, in Dallas. Bring on your bathing suit and your war paint for water balloon fights of epic proportions, wading pools, water slides, food trucks, and a raucous good time. The Deep Ellum Community Association is partnering with Foundation 45 to raise the funds we need to continue providing free mental health services in Dallas. Be sure to grab your ticket at Deepellumwaterwars.com before its too late!

Frisco

Join **Violins & Verse LIVE**, on Aug 18, from 8

p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Frisco School of Music. Mike Guinn Entertainment in association with TheTexas SpeakNow Movement & Verbal Art Poetry Visions of Poetry bring an amazing new show to Frisco. A creatively classy combination of Live violins & powerful spokenword. Highlighted by Dance, Open Mic and Laid back Atmosphere. Tickets are only \$8.88 which includes complimentary wine and light refreshments. Be sure to dress comfy. For more information and to buy tickets visit Eventbrite.com.

Garland

BYOB Public Class: **Sipping at Sunset** will be hosted on Aug 17 from 7:30

p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Pinot's Palette, in Garland. Join them at Garland's Happy Place and come paint your own "Sipping at Sunset" masterpiece. Pinot's Palette is a pioneer of the paint and sip experience – a revolutionary way to enjoy art and wine, meet new people and bond with friends.

Guests enjoy a no-experience-required art class—all supplies included—directed by trained, local artists, who guide guests step-by-step through a featured painting. Just bring your favorite drinks and snacks, and they'll take care of all the rest! For more information and to buy tickets, visit PinotsPalette.com.

Irving

Cause an Effect for Education will be held on Aug 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 444 Renaissance Ln, in Irving. Join them at the Cause an Effect for Education house party in honor of Gwenn Burud, a teacher for State Senate District 9. Join the discussion with Gwenn regarding your concerns and her solutions for education reform in the beautiful home of John DeLorme and Dr. Bruce Sherrill. You may park at the South Irving Library and walk down the trail to John and Dr. Sherrill's home. Tickets can be reserved at www.actblue.com/donate/causeaneffect.

Rep. Eric Johnson seeking fall interns for district office in Dallas

Texas State Rep. Eric Johnson is currently seeking college and graduate students interested in public policy and state government to serve as an intern his Dallas district office for the fall semester. They are looking for responsible and highly

motivated college students with an interest in state government and public policy to assist with certain legislative activities. This is a part-time opportunity requiring the individual to commit to a minimum of 10 hours per week.

Job description includes:

- Unpaid internship based in Dallas, Texas
- Conduct legislative research on various topics to prepare for the legislative session
- Meet with constituents regarding issues and assist

with constituent casework

- Attend community events with Representative Johnson

- Assist with day-to-day activities in Representative Johnson's District Office.

The Texas House of Rep-

resentatives is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability in the employment or the provision of services.

To apply, visit Rep. John-

son's website and fill out the brief form online or contact the Dallas district office. Residents are invited to share this opportunity with any college or graduate students you know who might be interested.

DeSoto ISD Celebrates the opening of the new, State-of-the-Art Katherine Johnson Technology Magnet Academy

The Katherine Johnson Technology Magnet Academy was developed with a progressive design concept that reimagines educational facilities to better support the innovative learning and instructional practices necessary for 21st century, future-focused education. With an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and outdoor learning, the school provides extensive opportunities for students to engage in project-based, collaborative learning in a state-of-the-art building that's environmentally friendly and energy conservative. The facility's design is accented by four, secure outdoor learning environments accessible by students.



Courtesy photo

Upon entry, a set of stacked computer labs showcase the school's academic, technology-centric focus. On the upper level,

high-tech robotics and science labs share an outdoor learning lab. And, the exterior designs of the robotics and science classrooms mimic the personality of the robotics and computer science programs by applying a binary code pattern to the windows in conjunction with colored metal panels. To foster creativity through digital media, art and music, the Katherine Johnson Technology Magnet Academy features a centralized, two-story media center at the heart of the school. Other music and art spaces include

digital production labs, a voiceover studio, an AV broadcast space and an art lab with access to a private outdoor art and sculpture area.

Spread across both levels of the school, each grade level has its own dedicated collaboration space equipped with the needed technology and furniture for flexible learning. The variety of outdoor learning areas encourage student engagement and teamwork and provide daylight and easy access to outside activities.

Ice Cube, jazz and more on NDG Entertainment Calendar

By Tiffany Gilbert
NDG Staff Writer

This week DFW fans will have everything from jazz, to a show by rapper, actor and businessman Ice Cube as well as a Grown and Sexy party to choose from as the summer temps heat back up.



Ice Cube is performing at the Toyota Music Factory (Courtesy image)

Friday, Aug. 17
Jazz Becuzz Presents: **Off the Top of the Dome** on Friday night from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Jazz Becuzz Art Center. They will celebrate jazz's birthday by bringing you the Think it - speak it - read it - poetry and lyrical sounds, LIVE AND IN YOUR FACE "OFF THE TOP OF THE DOME" poetry series. Guests are invited to enjoy the live music and

spoken word these writers and spitting! Bring your favorite pieces to share, read from the pot of wisdom or shoot from the hip! See you there! Special pop up guest poets and musicians. More

info at jazzbecuzzac.com.

Grown and Sexy "Dallas Weekend" 2018 kicks off on Aug. 17. Time for you to put on your grown and sexy clothes and turn

up at the various events planned this weekend. A few events planned include a TOUR THE D "BYOB BUS TOUR" to get a look at well-known landmarks in Dallas. The Quixotic World and Pryme Bar are just two of the venues. This event will last from Aug. 17- 20 but make sure to register at Eventbrite.

Friday Night Live featuring Smoove Funk at the Allure Jazz & Cigar Lounge is from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday night live continues with Smoove Funk performing live. The doors open at 9 p.m. with the band performing from 10 p.m. to 1 p.m. The cost to get in is \$10 but you must RSVP Eventbrite. Guests can get free drinks while they last.

Saturday, Aug. 18
Ice Cube gets back to his musical roots Saturday night at the Pavillion at the Toyota Music Factory so get ready to party. For movie lovers, he often appears in PG and family-friendly flicks such as Barbershop and Are We There Yet. He is also an investor in a professional basketball league. But this weekend it is all about the music as he performs his latest music get your tickets at LiveNation.

J Cole is coming to the American Airline Center at 7:30 p.m. Cole world is finally here!! J Cole will be joined by Young Thug, Jaden Smith, Earthgang and Kill Edward T. Tickets start \$49.

Sunday, Aug. 19
Close out your weekend at the House of Blues with **The Nasty Tour with Rico Nasty**. The doors open at 7 p.m. with the show starting at 8 p.m. and is considered an all ages event. This is a standing room type concert in the Cambridge Room, so turn up in your comfortable shoes.

Tuesday, Aug. 21
Swing up to the north side of town in Addison at the Union Park Addison for **#OperaTuesday**. The after-work cocktail hour promises a kickback vibe and dope music. Legendary maestro DJ M*Knight will be there as guests enjoy food inside at the bar or outside on the patio deck.

See FUN, Page 10

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Dallas golf pro seeks to put more color on the green

Last month Advocates Pro Golf Association Tour made a stop in Dallas at the TPC Craig Ranch Golf Course. Despite more than estimated 27.1 million golfers in the United States, the numbers have plummeted to less than 1 million African American golfers as

Tiger Woods' popularity has waned in recent years. APGA is hoping to make strides in reversing the trend by spotlighting up and coming African American golfers.

Dallas local, Clay Myers, 28, made his first hole in one at 8 years old. Since

then Myers has focused on chasing his dream of playing on the PGA Tour and views the APGA Tour as a step in the right direction.

"I play the APGA Tour because it is home for me, and a great opportunity to further my golf career, says Myers. Plus I get a chance

to compete amongst my peers, Harold Varner III, Wesley Bryan, Beau Hossler, and Tony Finau."

In addition to the tournament APGA's Advocates

Foundation, in partnership with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, conducted a three-phase health, wellness, and career program for local young people.



Clay Myers, shown above, is a Dallas native and pro on the PGA tour. He is looking to introduce the sport to more minority youth, such as the young athletes honing their skills in the photo at left. (Courtesy photos)

FUN,

continued from Page 9

RSVP to the free event at OperaOnTuesdays.eventbrite.com.

Thursday, Aug. 23

On next week's pre-Friday, **Its Time to Exhale** at 6 p.m. at the Rays of Healing Counseling. This event is for women ages 23+ and cost 40\$ per session. The interactive African American women's group is designed to teach how to take care of yourself, how to love yourself, and most importantly how to get to know yourself. They meet at 612 North Story Road in Irving. Register at raysofhealingcc.com.

Low & Slow BBQ fest kicks off

By David Wilfong
NDG Contributing Writer

The weather was less than cooperative, with a steady drizzle pouring down when the Low & Slow North Texas BBQ & Music Festival opened the doors to their inaugural event on Aug. 11. Despite the weather, there was already a line waiting at the door of the historic Longhorn Ballroom when the VIP reception opened at 3 p.m.

The event brought together a number of Dallas' notable smokehouses and BBQ pit masters under one roof. Smoked brisket was the star of the show; though each establishment also did their best to showcase side items like hand-crafted jalapeno pop-



Smoked meats were the focus at the inaugural Low & Slow North Texas BBQ & Music Festival. The knife got a constant workout on the cutting board of Guero's Catering BBQ and Mexican Cuisine, which made the trip in from Mansfield to participate. (Photo: David Wilfong / NDG)

pers, and twists on the brisket such as a grilled cheese mash-up.

It also served as a showcase for many of the area's craft brew beer producers, which have gained a loyal following in the North Texas area. Finally, the evening

gave Dallas area musicians an opportunity to expand their audience as a steady lineup of local talent provided the tunes for a distinctly Texan atmosphere.

"We wanted to celebrate the great BBQ, craft beer, and country music of DFW," said Ryan Childers, co-owner of RVC Promotions which hosted the event. "Feast on offerings from Dallas' top BBQ joints, grab a local brew, and enjoy live music by future rock and country legends."

RVC reported more than 550 people attended the first inaugural festival. Childers is planning to try to turn the event into an annual gathering and grow the event, "in hopes of making it a household name in the years to come."



Shawn Eagle (at left) of Bet the House BBQ in Denton serves attendees at the Low & Slow North Texas BBQ & Music Festival. The event kicked off what is hoped to be an annual gathering of area pit masters. (Photo: David Wilfong / NDG)

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New legislation seeks debt-free college degrees and real career opportunities

By Charlene Crowell

If 17 Members of the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce can convince their fellow lawmakers of a comprehensive approach to higher education, every student across the country could gain the chance to earn a debt-free degree and a rewarding career.

The Aim Higher Act, introduced on July 24, proposes several significant improvements to higher education:

- Improves college affordability by investing more in federal student aid, and incentivizes states to reinvest in higher education;
- Cracks down on predatory for-profit institutions that target students and veterans with expensive, low-quality programs;
- Protects and expands the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program to make student loans simpler and easier to repay;
- Provides students the tools they need to graduate on time with a quality de-

gree; and

- Invests in teachers and school leaders to improve training and quality of our schools.

Commenting on the legislation, Congressman Bobby Scott (VA-03) noted, "It provides immediate and long-term relief to students and parents struggling with the cost of college. It puts a greater focus on helping students graduate on time with a quality degree that leads to a rewarding career. And it cracks down on predatory for-profit colleges that peddle expensive, low-quality degrees at the expense of students and taxpayers."

Congressman Scott also noted that the bill modernizes financial aid, and the importance of a quality education, whether it was at a four or two-year curriculum.

Those observations should strike a chord with the 44 million consumers with outstanding student loan debts that together total \$1.5 trillion. Without serious intervention on the part of Congress, the cost of

higher education will continue to climb, and with it both the number of borrowers and the nation's collective indebtedness.

The measure also attracted support from a wide array of education stakeholders who promptly chimed in with their respective support.

"The cost of a college degree is rising at three times the rate of inflation," said Randi Weingarten, President of the American Federation of Teachers. "Predatory for-profit colleges continue to scam our nation's veterans, minorities, and other student loan borrowers...The Aim Higher Act takes some important steps forward toward making higher education a more affordable, accessible reality for everyone."

"For too long, for-profit colleges have failed to serve the educational purpose for which they were intended," added Ashley Harrington, a Policy Counsel with the Center for Responsible Lending. "The combination of high costs and low grad-

uation rates by these bad actors have resulted in unfair burdens for student borrowers and taxpayers. This bill improves accountability for all higher education institutions and creates a sensible path to fix our broken student loan repayment system."

In the early 1990s, when 22 percent of students were defaulting on their loans, Congress passed a package of reforms that drove down defaults. Yet another surge of abuses led to additional reforms in 2008 and 2009.

Earlier this year, a diverse 86-member coalition of organizations began working on behalf of students, consumers, veterans, service members, faculty and staff, civil rights, and college access. Together, they advocated for integrity and consumer protections in higher education.

Additionally, in March of this year, 31 state attorneys general (AGs) urged Capitol Hill lawmakers to enact legislation that would allow federal and state governments to work in coopera-

tion to effectively respond to the student loan crisis that at the time included a loan default rate larger than any other loan category: 11 percent.

"The states have the institutional capacity, the legal framework, and the track record to protect their residents from abuses in the student loan market. The Department [Education] does not," wrote the AGs who represented the following states: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and Washington State.

It just seems sensible that every student borrower deserves to know, before a loan is incurred, how interest accumulates, when repayments begin, and the eligibility requirements for in-

come-based repayments. Unfortunately, poor servicing practices have exacerbated, rather than clarified loan obligations – particularly in repayment. Another key provision of the Aim Higher Act is to efficiently and accurately report data that is more useful for students and families.

As Mildred Garcia, President of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities recently remarked, "The Aim Higher Act's financial aid provisions would ensure that today's students – and generations to come – could attain the American Dream."

Here's hoping Congress will take timely actions to advance the Aim Higher Act. Making higher education accessible, accountable, and financially manageable would benefit the entire country.

Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's Communications Deputy Director. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org

The new tax bill makes a side-gig more enticing, but you still need to save for taxes

By Hugh Norton

This article and the recommendations included within it are provided for informational and educational purposes only and should not be relied upon for tax, legal, regulatory or other advice. Recommendations should be independently evaluated by a tax professional in light of your specific needs and any applicable laws and regulations. Neither Visa nor Mr. Norton is responsible for your use of the recommendations or other information, including errors of any kind, contained in this document.

Whether they're renting out a spare room, driving

others, delivering food or products, selling crafts or offering services online, many people are trying to find new and interesting ways to make money outside of their nine-to-five jobs. Some turn to online platforms that connect contractors with work and others are creating their own small businesses. Either way, a side gig can help you make ends meet or provide you with extra spending money.

The idea of joining the "gig economy" may be even more enticing for some after the passage of the Tax Cuts and Job Act (the new tax bill), which offers some contractors and business owners a tax break if they meet certain outlined crite-

ria. Even if you're eligible for the new deduction, you should still plan ahead to avoid a surprise next tax season.

What does the new tax bill offer freelancers and contractors? In short, you may be able to deduct 20 percent of the net income (your income after expenses) you earn as a sole proprietor or contractor. Owners of a pass-through entity, such as an S-corporation or limited liability company (LLC), could also be eligible.

The deduction doesn't apply to income you earn as an employee of a temp company, even if you've moved from one short-term gig to another. And there are exceptions for high-income

earners. But many people who work a regular job and have a side gig, or even a few side gigs, could be eligible.

Freelancers and contractors still have to pay taxes. The new deduction could help limit how much you'll owe when you file a tax return next year. However, even if you are eligible for the deductions, your net income will likely still be subject to income taxes – you should consult a tax professional for further information. You could also have to pay Social Security, Medicare and self-employment taxes on all your earnings (including the deductible portion).

Unlike income earned as an employee, when you

work as an independent contractor, taxes generally aren't taken out of your paychecks. As a result, contractors could face a hefty tax bill because they'll owe the full amount at filing time.

If you don't want to be caught off guard at filing time, consider one of the following ways to prepare:

Save part of your contract income. Knowing that you'll eventually have to pay taxes on the contract or freelance income you earn, you could set aside a portion of the money in a savings account as you receive it. An added financial benefit of doing this is that you could earn interest on the savings throughout the year.

Make estimated tax payments. If you owe more

than \$1,000 in taxes when you file your return, you may have to pay an additional penalty for underpaying your taxes throughout the year. To avoid this, you can make estimated tax payments online, by phone or by mail each quarter.

Increase your W-4(s) withholdings. If you're an employee (as opposed to a contractor), the Form W-4 you fill out helps the company determine how much money it should withhold and send to the IRS from each of your paychecks. When you start a new side gig, you can update your Form W-4 and change your withholdings based on your new total income.

See TAX, Page 16

AHMED, continued from Page 2

ans need to tear down the walls of ethnic division, sectarianism, distrust, ill-will, lack of civility and respect, selfishness and conflict that has separated them for decades and build bridges across ethnic, religious, linguistic and regional lines to construct the New Ethiopia, the future Ethiopia.”

Abiy continued: “The key to Ethiopia’s future success is not the politics of recrimination of the past, but dialogue, collaboration and unity in a common purpose.”

Abiy repeated the rallying cry “Medemer!” in his native Amharic language and the crowd cheered.

“Lasting solutions to Ethiopia’s problems can be obtained only if Ethiopians take the paths of love, reconciliation, and peace,” Abiy continued. “We have tried war and conflict, which has bankrupted the country and left the country in poverty.”

Abiy added that Ethiopians can learn from the American experience.

“Americans, in less than

250 years, have been able to be in the forefront of nations, because they uphold the rule of law and know how to work together for a common goal,” Abiy said. “Ethiopians in America need to bring the values of hard work, cooperation and teamwork [back] to Ethiopia and share.”

The crowd listened quietly as Abiy said that Ethiopia has always been a beacon of freedom and pride for Africa historically and when nearly all of Africa suffered under colonialism.

“Ethiopia should spread the flame of Pan-Africanism which she has done since the establishment of the Organization of African Union in 1963,” Abiy said.

Abiy said he foresees a time when all Africans can travel freely without visas.

“Diaspora Ethiopians in America can play a critical role in the economic life of their country by increasing remittances and contributing to a special diaspora trust fund which will be independently managed to meet spe-

cific community needs,” Abiy said. “Ethiopia needs the skills and resources of its diaspora citizens more than their money. Diaspora Ethiopians can play a central role in capacity building in all areas.”

Abiy repeated his invitation to Ethiopians living abroad to come home, to spend time teaching, training and inspiring young people in Ethiopia.

“Change can only come, if we are only able to change ourselves. We must examine our consciences and deal with each other in good faith and good will,” Abiy explained. “It will take time to drop old habits, but we must start now. Each diaspora Ethiopian must decide to make [his or her] own contribution.”

Rep. Karen Bass (D-Calif.) expressed support for the Ethiopian prime minister, issuing a congressional proclamation recognizing his historic visit.

“I am honored to take official note of the visit of Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed to the United

States in order to engage Ethiopian Americans in the new direction he plans for his country,” said Bass who represents a district that is home to thousands of Ethiopian Americans and includes the Little Ethiopia neighborhood in Los Angeles and USC’s Galen Center.

Bass said that from the time of his acceptance speech, Abiy has made his desire for political reform clear; expressed the need for unity among all Ethiopians; advocated for a resolution of the long-standing border conflict with Eritrea; and encouraged engagement with opposition groups both inside and outside of Ethiopia.

Bass continued, “These priorities resonate strongly with the Ethiopian diaspora in the United States, as well as his work to act on those priorities. He has announced political reforms, released thousands of political prisoners, negotiated guarantees for the release of Ethiopian prisoners in Saudi Arabia, and earlier this month he became the first Ethiopian leader to

meet with an Eritrean counterpart in more than 20 years.”

Los Angeles has the second-largest concentration of Ethiopians outside of Addis Ababa, behind only Washington D.C.

July 29 was declared “Ethiopia Day” in Los Angeles.

The Wave Newspaper is a member publication of the NNPA. Learn more about becoming a member at NNPA.org.

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Aug. 30, 2018

5:30 p.m. Registration

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RSVP to: Deborah McVain
MWBE Program Administrator
(972) 721-3753
dmcvain@cityofirving.org



Upcoming DFW area job fairs

Aug 21

Dallas Career Fairs

National Career Fairs is hosting a Dallas Career Fair on Aug. 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Crowne Plaza Dallas Market Center, in Dallas. Are you ready for a new career? This live recruiting hiring event is looking for future employees. To attend the event there are only three simple steps. Register by providing information, attending the event, and getting hired. Be sure to bring plenty of resumes and dress professional. To register for the event visit www.evetbrite.com. If you have any questions visit 877-561-5627.



unique development opportunity where you are trained to be a leader in a Walgreens store. You will need a bachelor's degree or high school diploma/GED and one year of retail supervisory experience, prior retail supervisory experience, and willingness to work a flexible schedule including extended days, evenings, and weekend hours. Requirements:

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with all team members to deliver a distinctive and delightful customer experience

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Supervise the operation of store and team members, opening/closing/changing shifts, and task delegation to team members

Performs and supervises merchandising by planning and ensuring the implementation, sets, resets and revisions of basic department and end stands, display tables, promotional space, etc.

Supervise the receiving, stocking, pricing, returning,

and transferring of merchandise

Receive exposure to analysis of financial & performance data for the store, pharmacy and clinic

Ensure training of team members and provide coaching and mentoring

For more information, visit Walgreens.com.

Aug 23

The information technology, finance, sales, and marketing hiring event

The information technology, finance, sales, and marketing hiring event will be held on Aug 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hilton Garden

Inn, in Allen. The will be searching for IT project managers, technology analyst, business development manager, scrum master, IT security, IT rf engineer, front end web developer, tech support, software de-

veloper, solutions architect, financial analyst, and more. Be sure to bring plenty of resumes and dress professionally. For more information contact 1-800-735-9288 or email www.dfwjobs.com.

Aug 22 Interview Day Assistant Store Manager Trainee

An Interview Day for Assistant Store Manager Trainee will be held on Aug 22 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Aug 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Walgreens (#7592) in Grand Prairie. Assistant Store Manager in Training (ASM-T) Program offers a



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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.

August 19, 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.

August 22, 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 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.bethelbiblefellowship.org

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"

August 19, 9 a.m.

Join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in

the Jocyie 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.

August 22

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

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Plano, TX 75074
972-379-3287
www.theship3c.org

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

August 17, 7 p.m.

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

August 19, 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.

August 20, 7 p.m.

You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us.

August 26, 10 a.m.

Every 4th Sunday is youth Sunday, all youth are encouraged to join us and meet God in these exciting services. These are youth and millennial getting real about their faith.

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
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www.Ibocchurch.org

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

August 19, 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.

August 22, 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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www.mocop.org

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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.

August 19

You are invited to join us

See CHURCH, Page 15

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"And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day."

Deuteronomy 8:18 (NKJV)
Pride is the greatest temptation to a successful Christian. When we begin accumulating wealth, managing people, and becoming known for our community expertise, we are most susceptible to falling to the most devious sin in God's eyes -- pride. The Bible tells us that God is the reason we are able to produce wealth. It is not of our own making. As soon as we move into the place where we begin to think more highly of ourselves than we ought, God says He will take action.

You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength

of my hands have produced this wealth for me.".... If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. Like the nations the Lord destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the Lord your God **(Deuteronomy 8:17,19 and 20).**

These are strong words from God. It demonstrates His utter impatience for any people who think that what they have accomplished has anything to do with their own power. It is God who gives us the skill, the mind, the resources, the energy, the drive, and the opportunities in life to accomplish anything. When we become prideful in heart, God will begin a process of reproof in our life.

Today is a good day to examine whether we have fallen prey to pride. Are you sharing what God has entrusted to you with God's people, or the needy? Are you being the instrument of blessing that God desires for His people to be? What

areas of pride have crept into your life? Ask the Lord to show you this today. And avoid being put on the shelf. Nothing is worse than being cast aside because of our own pride. Ask God to help you to be more concerned with your spiritual fitness than your physical fitness and good health. But, what

about our, "I know you made us and you want us to take care of our bodies," but more important is our spiritual health. Paul told Timothy to "Train yourself to be godly." For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and life

to come." **(I Timothy 4:7 and 8).**

Pray for help to also work on "firming up your faith" in addition to firming up your body, so that you will be pleasing to God and to

be an example to those around you. Develop a desire to grow closer and closer to God and to bring others along with you. Ask God to anoint you in the Name of Jesus.



The Birthday Club that Sister Tarpley belongs to, treated her to lunch on her birthday, August 2. Pictured with Tarpley (left to right) are Raymond Watkins, Velma Roquemore, Rachel Lewis, Elma Turner and Karen Watkins. And, Happy Birthday to my only daughter, Sheila Tarpley Lott, tomorrow, August 17, 2018. I love her dearly and I am godly proud of her.

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CHURCH, continued from Page 14

during our 8 am and/or our 11 am Worship Services. Sunday School will start at 8:30 a.m. We would love to have you at all our worship services.

August 22, 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."

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- Sunday Service 10:00 am
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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

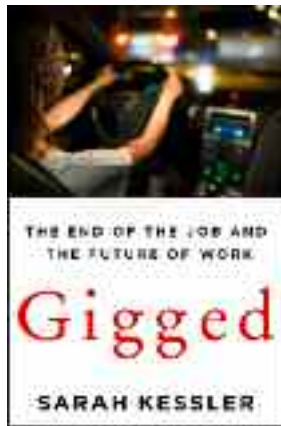
NDG Book Review: The economy is steadily getting *Gigged*

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Your allowance was never enough, as a kid.

Oh, sure, it bought you what you needed but what you wanted, well, you had to figure that out yourself. A dime here, a dollar there, little chores-for-pay, tasks for Grandma and you made it work. And as you'll see in the new book, "Gigged" by Sarah Kessler, some things never change.

Back in 2011, when she was a reporter for a tech blog, Sarah Kessler became aware of a new start-up that utilized non-traditional workers in non-traditional ways. It was called Uber, and its business con-



cept seemed unusual; having grown up in rural Wisconsin, Kessler had no frame of reference, and she paid it little heed.

Eventually, though, she began to see that the model Uber was using – modified in so many ways – was being used for a lot of start-

ups and could, potentially, benefit a lot of people. Was this gig economy really the way of the future?

It had been around awhile: in the early 1970s, Kelly Girls were available for temp work; becoming a Kelly Girl was advertised as a way to pay for life's extras. But, no surprise, research showed then – as it does now – that temp working and gig economy jobs are taken more as a way to make ends meet.

Intrigued, Kessler began following a few people who paid the bills with a string of non-traditional jobs they took for a variety of reasons: not fitting into a 9-to-5, not enough educa-

tion, desiring entrepreneurship, not enough local opportunities.

The people that Kessler profiled were young and tech-savvy (or learning) but not so mobile. Their backgrounds varied, as did their races; in other words, they fit in with the average gig worker, the numbers of which "grew 47-fold between 2012 and 2015."

While gig-working did, indeed, pay the bills for Kessler's subjects, she also learned that it was not all good. Yes, there was "independence, flexibility, and freedom" but at what price? For workers, it offered often-low pay, few-

to-no benefits, and no safety net. For employers, it saved money, but the hassles were daunting and "churn" could churn one's stomach...

So is this "what the future might look like," as author Sarah Kessler says? In "Gigged," she offers some tantalizing clues and more than one caveat.

For anyone who's stuffed envelopes for pennies, or wondered if there's real cash to be made gigging, this book sets it straight: Kessler's subjects made money but it was hard, hard work and none of them are still gig-economy workers. **Recommendation:**

tions are sparse. That says a lot.

For business owners, it's more complicated: temp workers and small tasks seem to go hand-in-hand, but Kessler outlines many laws and rules that might make your head rotate like a spin mop. And, as it appears, further legislation is coming...

Readers would be correct in assuming that we haven't heard the final word on this subject. Change occurs frequently. In the meantime, "Gigged" is interesting, informative, and timely - and until the dust has settled, that'll have to be enough.

TAX, continued from Page 11

To determine the correct withholdings, you can use the worksheet attached to

the W-4 or try the free IRS tool online. Once you figure out the correct withholdings

amount, fill out a new Form W-4 and give it to your company's HR department (or whoever manages your payroll). You can update your W-4 as many times as

you want throughout the year.

Bottom line: There are many ways to get a side gig and earn extra money, and the new tax bill means

many contract workers may be able to keep more of the money they earn. However, freelancers and contractors should still take steps throughout the year to avoid

being caught off guard when they file a tax return next year.

Hugh Norton directs Visa's financial education pro

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