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# NNPA Exclusive: Cosby spokesman salutes Geoffrey Owens, slams Hollywood

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Hollywood's biggest names, including Tyler Perry, Halle Berry and Patton Oswalt, have all joined a growing list of celebrities speaking up for former Cosby Show actor Geoffrey Owens who was shamed on social media for working at a Trader Joe's in New Jersey.

This week, following Owens' appearance on Good Morning America, Bill Cosby's spokesman Andrew Wyatt exclusively told NNPA Newswire that he and the comedian are both proud of Owens.

"There's nothing wrong with working at Trader Joe's and I commend him for taking care of his family," said Wyatt, who noted Cosby was unavailable to comment because he's continued to closely follow the terms of the court order that has him under house arrest.

Wyatt said Owens and other Cosby Show actors have been victimized by Hollywood studios which have elected to halt re-runs of the iconic show and all of Cosby's works.

The result, Wyatt said, is actors like Owens are deprived of potentially lucrative residues cast and writers earn from syndicated shows.



Former Cosby Show actor Geoffrey Owens feels no shame regarding his part-time job he held at Trader Joe's (Image: Screenshot via NNPA)

"You take 'The Cosby Show' off the air, yet you leave '7th Heaven' on the air and all of Harvey Weinstein's movies are still playing whether it's on Netflix or Hulu you can find them everywhere because you don't want to hurt these Hollywood starlets and take away their money and residue pay, yet you take 'The Cosby Show' off the air," Wyatt said.

While Cosby was convicted of aggravated indecent assault for an incident that he maintains was consensual, "7th Heaven" star Stephen

Collins admitted to molesting at least three young girls and Weinstein has been charged with several counts of rape and more than 100 women have come forward accusing the movie mogul of assault.

Sporting his Trader Joe's badge, Owens appeared on Good Morning America on Tuesday, Sept. 4, one week after Fox News broadcast photos of him stocking shelves at the grocery store.

"No one should feel sorry for me,"

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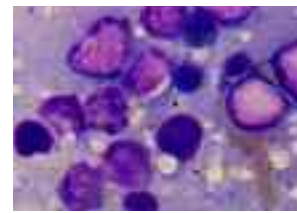
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Hon. John C. Lawson



Tesia Walker

### READERS SOUND OFF!!!

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## Hon. John C. Lawson

Los Angeles, CA (BlackNews.com) -- Our communities owe so much to the dedicated officers of the Probation Department, a hard-working and vital component of public safety whose life-changing efforts have not received the level of recognition they deserve.

However, with those achievements in mind, on last Friday, the Los Angeles County Deputy Probation Officers Union, AFSCME Local 685, hosted the organizations' 15th Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet. The union presented scholarship awards



to youth and honored outstanding Probation Officers. Hopefully, other organizations as well as the general public will follow AFSCME's model to show that we value the heartfelt contributions of the men and

women in the Los Angeles County probation department.

The Master of Ceremonies for this event was Monterey Park City Councilmember and Local 685 First Vice President Hans Liang. Liang clearly expressed Local 685's gratitude stating, "This year, we are boldly declaring that, as a community, we are highlighting probation officers as the heart of Los Angeles County. Together, we are honoring the values and qualities of success in our profession. We are also proud to honor educators, health care workers, fire fighters, law enforcement

officers, and all those who keep our community safe."

The partnership between probation officers and judicial officials is an important one in keeping our communities safe, The Los Angeles County Probation Officers Union, AFSCME Local 685 recently awarded The Honorable John C. Lawson II who is the current Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Delinquency Courts for Los Angeles County, has been awarded its Leadership Award.

Judge Lawson spent 19-years in the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office. Throughout his career, he has been committed

to the accountability and rehabilitation of at-risk youth,

He worked with the Long Beach School District to launch the Superior Court Teen Court program at Cabrillo High School. He participates in the Long Beach Gang Reduction, Intervention, and Prevention Project (LB GRIP). This program is a collaboration with the city, community based programs, law enforcement and schools to provide life skills development and counseling for at-risk youth and adults. Judge Lawson's chamber door is always open to speak to young people and he rou-

tinely goes to schools to talk about the court system and making the right choices in life.

2018 is a pivotal year for peace officers, as we face escalating danger in our public safety work. It is our profound hope that the efforts of these extraordinary Probation Officers to secure calm in our communities receive greater recognition from the public which they serve so devotedly.

For more details about the Los Angeles County Deputy Probation Officers Union, AFSCME Local 685, visit [www.afscmelocal685.com](http://www.afscmelocal685.com)

## Tesia Walker

21CF Global Inclusion recently announced writer Tesia Walker was selected as this year's Fox Writers Lab Fellow. Chosen from the seventh annual group of FWL writers, Walker has received a script development deal with Fox Broadcasting Company (FOX).

The Fox Writers Lab (FWL) is an immersive program that includes a four-month curriculum, during which the writers re-wrote an original comedy or drama pilot script and attended guest-speaker sessions with experienced writers,



showrunners and producers, including producer/writer Danny Strong (EMPIRE, PROVEN INNOCENT) and showrunners Matt Nix (THE GIFTED) and Raven Metzner ("Marvel's Iron Fist").

They received professional coaching and were mentored by executives at Fox Broadcasting Company, Fox 21, FX and 20th Century Fox Television. FWL culminated in a "pitchfest," in which writers pitched their original ideas to network and studio executives. All writers were considered for staff writer positions across new or returning FOX television series.

A native New Yorker, Walker is a graduate of the Columbia University Film M.F.A. program, where she won Best Teleplay Pilot for her drama script, "The Border," and received the Jesse Thompkins III Writing Fel-

lowship. Her short film, "Search Party," was awarded an HBO Production Grant, and also was a semi-finalist in NBC Universal's 2016 Shorts Fest. Her pilot, "The Line," was a recipient of the 2017 Showtime Tony Cox Screenplay Competition for Best One-Hour Teleplay.

In addition to Walker, the 2018 FWL class included Anthony Florez, Felicia Hilario, Milton Liu, Jenny Deiker Restivo, Aiah Samba, Elizabeth Stamp and Jai Tiggett. To date, for the 2018-2019 season, Hilario, Deiker Restivo and Walker have been staffed on the FOX shows LETHAL WEAPON, THE RESI-

DENT and PROVEN INNOCENT, respectively. Tiggett has been staffed on Bell Media/Sony Pictures Television's "LA's Finest."

"We're thrilled for Tesia and we're so proud of all the writers in this year's class. Over the course of the program, we've witnessed their professional and artistic growth and we're confident that their backgrounds, perspectives and unique voices will strengthen our pipeline of original storytellers," said MyKhanh Shelton, Senior Vice President, 21CF Global Inclusion.

"Fox Writers Lab continues to yield an incredible amount of talent," said

Michael Thorn, President, Entertainment, FOX. "We want to both congratulate Tesia on being named this year's Fellow, and express our heartfelt thanks to all of this year's participants for their tremendous work throughout FWL's rigorous process. It's an absolute honor to witness the growth these writers experience in such a short period of time."

21CF Global Inclusion nurtures diverse voices and stories, both in front of and behind the camera, through a variety of partnerships, initiatives and programs, including the Fox Writers Lab, Fox Directors Lab, Fox Filmmakers Lab and the Fox DP Lab.

## NDG Readers Sound Off...

### Black Women's Expo in Dallas

"How Not to Get Shot" ironically becomes a self-guide book

A major problem us white people cannot imagine or truthfully understand the fear.

-- Terry Clark  
via Facebook

The American education system is caught between Church and State

Flemmings is just another selfish Christian who wants to pee his god all over everyone else's children, plus he doesn't ap-

pear to know what a post hoc fallacy is.

-- Brian Westley

### The importance of vaccines on your back-to-school to do list

My daughter is getting ready to go back to school and I was wanting to get her up to date on her immunizations. Thank you for pointing out that this is the best way to reduce the risk of infection. I'll have to do some research and find the best place in our area to get her vaccinated.

-- Ellie Davis

### Criticism for Kavanaugh

(Provided by Alliance for Justice)

Brett Kavanaugh just told Sen. Coons that he has never taken a position on whether it is unconstitutional for sitting presidents to be investigated or indicted. But Judge Kavanaugh's record clearly reveals that he believes the President should be immune from criminal investigation and indictment while in office. He has argued that decisions essential to holding the President accountable to the law, like U.S. v. Nixon, were wrongly decided.

Kavanaugh has argued that "[t]he Constitution itself seems to dictate, in addition, that congressional investigation must take place in lieu of criminal investigation when the President is the subject of investigation, and that criminal prosecution can occur only after the President has left office." Kavanaugh reiterated his preference that Presidents should not be indicted while in office in a speech in 1998.

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# A penny for your thoughts



**A.D. Jenkins**  
NDG Columnist

I have this habit of picking up pennies since I was a child. I was born and raised in Waterproof, Louisiana and money was hard to come by; therefore, every penny counted. As I was picking up yet another penny in a parking lot the other day, my mind reflected on a few mind-penetrating thoughts.

• What would it take for you to pause and pick up something of value to you or worth your time?

• Would you pick up a penny if you see it on the ground?

• Would you pick up a nickel while walking in the park?

• What about a dime? Does it make sense to stop

and pick it up?

• How about a quarter? I mean it's 1/4 of a dollar we are talking about now.

• Let's think about a lifeless \$1 bill laying on the sidewalk.

Please note, I'm not talking about stealing or illegally taking money if you know it is for someone else. This is merely a mental exercise to evaluate the value of funds it takes to cause you to stop and pick it up. Pennies are undeniable the least of money being picked up because of its value followed by nickels, dimes, quarters, etc.

My philosophy is this, five pennies is a nickel, five nickels is a quarter, 10 dimes is a \$1 and four quarters equal \$1. In the bigger picture, it all counts, it all has value and it all matters cumulatively speaking. This is not a debate to say my concept is correct with no regards to your opinion.

## School teachers do not want guns

By Congresswoman  
Eddie Bernice Johnson

If Education Secretary Betsy DeVos were to consult the nation's educators and law enforcement officials she would immediately dismiss any consideration of providing federal funding to states for the purpose of arming classroom teachers.

Under her leadership, the department is currently mulling over the idea which has been promulgated by President Trump, and his allies at the National Rifle Association, which seems to believe that the answer to all of our problems is to arm every American citizen.

In a March 2018 Gallup Poll, seventy-three percent of the teachers asked responded that they were against educators being in possession of weapons. Nearly sixty percent of the respondents said that having armed teachers would create dangerously unsafe educational environments.

Congress has historically been opposed to the policy being considered by DeVos. In the legislation that we passed in March of this year, that included \$50 million for local school districts, we restricted the funds to educational purposes, excluding

our teachers, they would propose policies that make schools safer.

For instance, they would support laws and policies that prevent people with a history of mental illness from purchasing or owning firearms. They would prom-

**“If she will not listen to the voices of our teachers, perhaps she will listen to the two largest professional organizations that represent American educators, the National Education Association and the National Federation of Teachers.”**

the purchase of firearms.

School safety experts, including organizations that represent school safety officers, have joined legislators and teachers in opposing the policy being considered by DeVos.

It simply contravenes common sense. If DeVos and the administration were truly concerned about the safety of our students and

ulgate the presence of fewer guns, not more.

If she will not listen to the voices of our teachers, perhaps she will listen to the two largest professional organizations that represent American educators, the National Education Association and the National Federation of Teachers. Both oppose the possibility of funds for guns.

upgrades to a \$1 bill disaster.

In summary, let's take a moment to pay it forward and pick it up even if it's not your immediate concern. Whether it is money or practical problems we are referring to, I dare you to be cognizant to reflect on things perhaps of little value to you but mean the world to a complete stranger. The next time you see a coin on the ground, think about how you can become part of the solution.

Remember, it all counts and carries value to someone.

*A.D. Jenkins serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Irving Independent School District. The views and opinions expressed herein of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Irving ISD, its Board of Trustees or its employees.*

Law enforcement officials, including those that head major police chief organizations in America overwhelmingly oppose what is being considered by DeVos. I have personally written to the Secretary expressing my opposition to what she is considering.

Seasoned educators believe that more guns will lead to greater harm to teachers and students. They are law enforcement professionals, and certainly their counsel should be heard before any decision is made.

Secretary DeVos, who came out of the business world before becoming the administration's head educator, should listen to those who have lived and breathed education all of their lives.

To do otherwise would be foolish, and would simply be evidence that the nation's education policies are being set by groups such as the National Rifle Association and not those who have devoted their lives to the well-

# Out with the old, in with a new understanding to improve SCD care

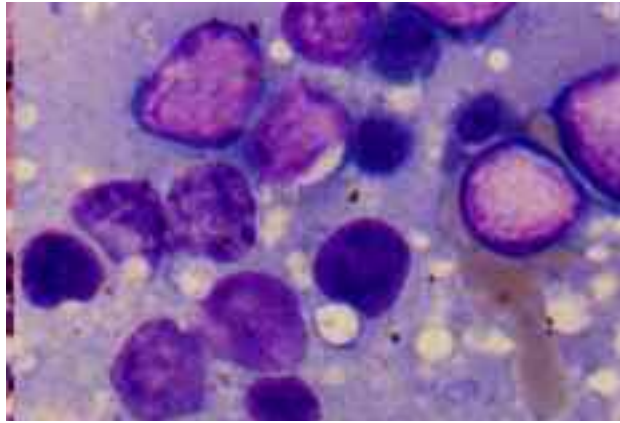
By Dr. Kevin Williams  
Chief Medical Officer  
Pfizer Rare Disease Unit

(NNPA) The “Ask Dr. Kevin” series is brought to you by Pfizer Rare Disease in collaboration with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) to increase understanding of sickle cell disease.

With National Sickle Cell Awareness Month just next month, I’ve been thinking a lot about the challenges that people with sickle cell disease (SCD) face and what can be done to make a meaningful change in their care.

Evolution of the science behind SCD has advanced in recent years, resulting in a new understanding of the disease. However, this knowledge is not commonplace among individuals living with SCD and their healthcare professionals. As with any disease, better understanding and awareness of the condition is the foundation for improvement in appropriate and timely care. Recently, the Sickle Cell Disease Council For CHANGE (CFC) has set their sights on raising awareness of the expanded science behind the disease among patients, their families, and healthcare professionals.

The CFC, a group con-



Libertas Academica / Flickr

vened by Pfizer and inclusive of more than 20 experts, advocates, and patients working to improve care for SCD patients, is looking at this issue as part of a recently released report called “Improving Vaso-occlusive Crisis (VOC) Management.” In the report, the CFC explains how the understanding of SCD has evolved through the years, and outlines recommendations for how to get this information into the hands of those who can use it—healthcare professionals, emergency department staff, and people living with SCD—to make a positive change and improve patient care.

Here is an overview of what the CFC found, which is outlined in the report:

The Expanded Science Behind the Disease

Let’s start at the beginning. A common (and somewhat outdated) view

of SCD is that complications from the disease are caused by a simple “plumbing malfunction.” In other words, it is only the sickled red blood cells that clump together and cause blockages in blood vessels that lead to pain and organ damage.

Now it has been understood that the underlying science is more complex than this.

Recent breakthroughs in the understanding of SCD have shown in fact that the vaso-occlusion (or blocking of minute blood vessels involving multiple pathways and different types of blood cells), is a key factor underlying all of the different manifestations of the disease.

In SCD, these rigid, crescent-shaped cells have difficulty passing through small blood vessels and irritate the internal lining of these vessels. This causes

the lining of blood vessels to become “sticky,” and as a result, not only the red blood cells, but also white blood cells and platelets clump together. This can further contribute to obstructions in blood flow and inflammation. These events can occur even when there are no outward signs or symptoms, ultimately causing several of the complications seen with SCD.

Other factors that contribute to vaso-occlusion may include stress, the thickness of a person’s blood, as well as infection or conditions that commonly trigger a painful crisis.

The most common symptom of vaso-occlusion is the pain crises (or vaso-occlusive crisis – VOC). VOC is the cardinal manifestation of SCD and is often thought of synonymously with SCD.

In addition, there is an increasing awareness of another SCD complication—one that is often overlooked: chronic pain. VOCs are sudden, intense episodes of pain, while chronic pain, especially for older adolescents and adults, is defined as ongoing pain that has been regularly present over a period of the past six months.

What makes it more complicated? People with SCD

can experience VOCs while also suffering from chronic pain. And while VOCs are routinely treated with opioid medications, chronic pain should be managed separately and with a different approach. Ongoing, long-term use of opioids can lead to drug tolerance, which causes people with SCD to require higher doses. However, according to the report, considering alternative pain relief options when appropriate, along with regular reassessment of medication use and dose, may be helpful in minimizing this issue.

## Getting the Word Out

It is great news that the understanding of the science of SCD has evolved, but it is important to make sure that the right people, especially patients and their doctors, are aware that SCD is far more complex than being just a disease of red blood cells in order to make a meaningful difference.

Armed with this information, individuals living with SCD and their healthcare professionals better understand and explain the varied symptoms an individual can have. They can make more informed treatment decisions for their SCD patients, and people with SCD can be empowered to advocate for better care. Additionally,

this new understanding of SCD among both healthcare professionals and patients can lead to better communication and more positive interactions in the future.

The time for change is now, and the CFC is working to get the word out about the urgency around improved care for SCD. Learn more about the Council here and read their first report here.

The next Ask Dr. Kevin article will be available this fall. Until then, join the conversation and find out more information about SCD at oneSCDvoice.com, a collaborative platform that provides access to resources designed to increase knowledge, provide emotional support, and help empower people living with SCD. Sign up for free today.

*Dr. Kevin Williams is the Chief Medical Officer for Rare Disease at Pfizer. He pursued medicine after being inspired by his father’s work as a general practitioner in his hometown of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. Kevin is passionate about raising awareness and increasing understanding of rare diseases, such as sickle cell disease, in the African American community. You can follow Pfizer on Facebook and Twitter.*

# Stop police murder of Black youth

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Contributor

Civil Rights leaders and others reacted with a sense of relief – if only temporary – after a Texas jury sentenced a former police officer to 15 years in prison Wednesday for the shooting death of an unarmed African-American teen in a Dallas suburb.

“The child murdering cop just got 15 years in prison ... he’ll likely serve all 15,” said activist Shaun King. “It doesn’t bring Jordan [Edwards] back, but it’s the closest thing to justice we’ve seen.”



Officer Roy Oliver was convicted of murder for the shooting of a Black teen in Balch Springs.

dan be alive, but this was so important.”

Journalist Jamil Smith noted a connection from Jordan to Emmett Till.

“I look at his face and see Emmett Till, lynched 63 years ago today. This story didn’t end in the typical

fine of \$10,000.

Oliver was convicted of murder for the killing of Jordan Edwards, a 15-year-old high school freshman.

He fired into a car full of teens on April 29 last year, saying he believed it was moving aggressively to-

ward his partner.

Dallas County District Attorney Faith Johnson described Oliver as a “killer in blue” who violated his oath to protect citizens.

Prosecutors sought a sentence of at least 60 years while the defense argued for 20 years or less.

“The fact that Roy Oliver was even indicted for murder was already a small victory, but to be found guilty and convicted by a jury? These things don’t happen,” said Finessa Hudgens of Dallas. “So, although 15 years may not seem like

See MURDER, Page 5

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## Rep. Helen Giddings to be honored for advocacy for children on Sept. 25

TexProtects, Champions for Safe Children selected for its 2018 Children's Champion the Honorable Helen Giddings, State Representative, District 109 (Dallas County). Rep. Giddings is being honored for her leadership as an advocate for children throughout a quarter-century in the Texas Legislature.

Additionally, the Rees-

Jones Center for Foster Care Excellence at Children's Health will be the Children's Hero awardee for its excellence providing primary care to foster care youth.

The awardees will be recognized at the Gala on Sept. 25, at Hotel ZaZa.

According to TexProtects, Rep. Helen Giddings has stood up for children throughout her quarter-cen-

tury in the Texas Legislature, securing alcohol-free zones around schools and ending "lunch shaming" to ensure that students receive at least one hot meal a day. She led efforts to overhaul juvenile justice laws to cease the criminalization of young children.

In the 80th Legislative Session, Rep. Giddings authored legislation protecting foster

care youths by requiring peace officers to report family violence incidences occurring at foster homes or foster facilities to be reported to the Department of Family and Protective Services and providing DFPS access to domestic disturbance records as part of foster home verification checks before placing a child in the home.

The public is invited to the

event which will help launch TexProtects into what they hope is a transformational year leading toward an even brighter future. Funds raised support TexProtects' mission: research, advocacy and education to improve Texas' child protection system and to support child prevention programs.

More info at [www.TexProtects.org/event/](http://www.TexProtects.org/event/).



State Representative Helen Giddings (Courtesy photo)

## Operation Kindness celebrates the 25th annual Dog Day Afternoon

Calling all furry friends and their owners to attend the 25th annual Dog Day Afternoon presented by Operation Kindness – North Texas' original and largest no-kill animal shelter – and sponsored by Pet Supplies Plus. Considered the most anticipated festival of the summer for dog lovers, this free event will be held Saturday, Sept. 8, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Operation Kindness Animal shelter located at 3201 Earhart Drive in Carrollton.

Joining the lineup of fes-



Ana Martin / Unsplash

tivities and to celebrate this momentous occasion, nationally renowned Animal Communicator and Intuitive Coach Sandra Larson will

make a special appearance. Highlights of the 2018 Dog Day Afternoon will also include:

- A "Mutt Midway" with

dozens of vendors and food trucks - the first 100 dogs in attendance will be eligible to receive FREE microchipping by Operation Kindness staff

- Low cost pet vaccinations will be offered, as well as demonstrations on Pet CPR technique and Pet First Aid

- All dogs present can also participate in a variety of Canine Contests such as "Best Costume," "Best Stupid Pet Trick" and "Best Pooch Smooch"

- "Prize Wheel" and

"Puppy Kissing Booth"

- "Pet CPR and First Aid" demonstrations

- "Unicorn Photo Opportunities" compliments of Air Ponies

- "Face Painting"

- DJ music – owners and their pups can bust their best moves together

"Dog Day Afternoon was created as a way to celebrate the bond between dogs and their owners, and to provide a free, fun event for the community to get to know us," said Jim Hanophy, CEO of

Operation Kindness. "This year we're celebrating the event's 25th anniversary and are so proud it has become the biggest dog party in town."

Created in 1993 the purpose of Dog Day Afternoon was to recognize dog supporters, adopters and advocates in Dallas-Fort Worth and continues to raise awareness for Operation Kindness' mission in finding loving homes for homeless pets while caring for them in a safe, no-kill environment.

## Warnings Issued to Delinquent Taxpayers in Dallas County

Dallas County Tax Assessor/Collector John R. Ames is proud of the number 98.75 percent. This figure represents the percentage of Dallas County taxpayers who have already paid their 2017 annual property taxes (2018 taxes will be billed in October 2018). Even though that percentage is eye-opening in terms of compliance, the small percentage that remain unpaid still owe Dallas County taxing entities over \$88 million

in unpaid property taxes. For this reason, Ames is stepping up the County's collection efforts.

Ames stated, "Essential services such as law enforcement, quality schools, roadways, and courts all depend on these much needed revenues. All we ask is that everyone carries their equal share."

As part of its collection program, the County of Dallas has asked the law firm of Linebarger Goggan Blair &

Sampson, LLP to assist in the collection. In August, Linebarger mailed 30,828 letters to Dallas County property owners. The letter provides important notices to the taxpayers requesting their immediate attention. It also provides essential information, which may be beneficial to some of the taxpayers.

Ames advises everyone, "Please open your letter and give the law firm a call. Although the law firm cannot

give you legal advice, they will assist you and guide you in the right direction so you can resolve the outstanding obligation." For those who do nothing, additional collection processes such as a lawsuit, tax foreclosure or a tax warrant (for business owners) may be a consequence.

Both Ames and the law firm recognize some taxpayers face difficulty paying. Bridget Moreno Lopez, managing partner of the law

firm said, "Taxpayers should contact us immediately to advise us of their given situ-

ation. My office will make

See TAX, Page 7

## MURDER, continued from Page 4

He fired into a car full of teens on April 29 last year, saying he believed it was moving aggressively toward his partner.

Dallas County District Attorney Faith Johnson described Oliver as a "killer in blue" who violated his oath to protect citizens.

Prosecutors sought a sentence of at least 60 years while the defense argued for

20 years or less.

"The fact that Roy Oliver was even indicted for murder was already a small victory, but to be found guilty and convicted by a jury? These things don't happen," said Finessa Hudgens of Dallas. "So, although 15 years may not seem like much, this could be the start of something great," Hudgens said.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, wrote in an email that the Oliver's sentence "finally breaks the systematic problem of denying equal justice to the families and victims of racially-motivated police murders of Black persons across the United States."

White police officers must be held accountable, said Chavis, a long-time

civil rights activist and one-time head of the NAACP.

"The prison sentence should have been at minimum a life sentence for this brutal murder of an innocent Black teenager," he said.

"But today, at least police officers in America are put on notice: if you murder us, you will be punished and imprisoned. We must stop these racist police murders."

**VOTE**  
**Carolyn King Arnold**  
District 4, Dallas City Council

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# NNPA polls Black parents on the Every Student Succeeds Act

By Freddie Allen  
NNPA Contributor

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) announced plans to conduct a groundbreaking survey that will gauge the awareness and impact of President Barack Obama's education law—the Every Student Succeeds Act—in the Black community.

The NNPA is a trade group that represents more than 200 Black-owned media companies and newspapers in the United States, that reach an estimated 20 million readers, combined, in print and online, every week.

President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) on December 10, 2015, replacing the Bush administration's No Child Left Behind Act. ESSA encourages a personalized educational environment; supports programs that enhance parental engagement in schools; and improves guidelines about targeted resources for historically, underserved schools.

In late 2016, the NNPA received a three-year grant from the Gates Foundation to develop a multi-media public awareness campaign focused on ESSA, improving educational outcomes



The NNPA will conduct a unique, education poll about the awareness and impact of the Every Student Succeeds Act among African American parents, educators, and opinion leaders. (Pixabay.com)

for Black students and increasing parental engagement.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the president and CEO of the NNPA, thanked the Gates Foundation for collaborating with the Black Press to help raise public awareness about the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Dr. Chavis described the ESSA awareness research as a “proactive move.”

“Rather than let people outside of our community tell us what's going on inside our community, this is an opportunity for the [Black Press]—the people who work and serve and live and thrive in the community—to do our own research.”

Dr. Chavis said that the data will help the NNPA and other community stakeholders gain insight into how to

be more effective in raising public awareness around ESSA.

“This study will also give a stronger voice to parents, educators and caregivers in the Black community,” Dr. Chavis said.

The NNPA has a track record of success for measuring the pulse of the Black community. The trade group partnered with Howard University in Washington, D.C. for a national poll of Black voters ahead of the 2016 midterms and for a 2017 poll on sickle cell disease (SCD) in the Black community; the SCD poll was supported by the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer.

During a press conference about the results of the NNPA/Pfizer SCD poll, Michael Goettler, the global president of Pfizer's Rare Disease unit, said that the

survey analysis provided a basis for Pfizer to seek more detailed assistance for SCD sufferers, who are disproportionately Black.

Dr. Chavis said that the success of the Black voter poll and the SCD poll not only opened doors for other research opportunities, but that it also showed that Black folks trust and rely on the Black Press.

During a 2017 interview with the NNPA Newswire, John King, the former U.S. Secretary of Education and current president and CEO of the Education Trust, a national nonprofit organization focused on closing opportunity and achievement gaps, said that the Black Press has a hugely important role in mobilizing Black parents around education and ESSA.

“It's partly about telling the story about [exposing academic and opportunity gaps], but it's also about changing the narrative,” King said. “Sometimes, we focus only on what isn't going well, but there's also a powerful story to tell about what is going well.”

Dr. Chavis said that the ESSA survey and the data that is collected should play significant roles in crafting those powerful stories.

The ESSA survey will be

conducted online and target pre-selected markets in California including: Los Angeles and the surrounding regions (Orange County, Ventura County, San Bernardino County, and Riverside County); San Francisco; Oakland; San Jose; Sacramento; Stockton; Modesto; San Diego; Fresno; Visalia and Bakersfield.

NNPA member publications in California will help to promote and distribute the survey and the results will be shared broadly across the nation.

Dr. Reggie Weaver, the former president of the National Education Association (NEA), said that, all too often, parents are not engaged in the education of their children.

“Any way that information about ESSA can be coupled with getting parents to act on the things that are in the law is absolutely critical,” Weaver said. “What the NNPA is doing to educate and inform parents of their rights is important.”

Weaver said that parents can't sit back and be spectators in the education of their children; they have to be active participants. That means getting involved in school

board meetings, working with teachers and school administrators, and participating in surveys like the NNPA's education poll.

Dr. Chavis said that the results from the NNPA's education poll will not only be used to develop successful models for future public awareness campaigns, but the national exposure would also help to enhance the visibility and value of Black newspapers in California.

“This is a historic moment for the NNPA and we are encouraged that so many of our members will be able to participate,” Dr. Chavis said. “We are eagerly waiting for the study to commence and to get the results.”

Dr. Chavis continued: “This is just the beginning. The NNPA will continue to seek out culturally-relevant research opportunities in our on-going effort to improve the quality of life in the Black community.”

Learn more about the NNPA's ESSA awareness poll at [nnpa.org/essa](http://nnpa.org/essa).

Freddie Allen is the former Editor-in-Chief of the NNPA Newswire and Black-PressUSA.com. You can follow Freddie on Twitter @freddieallenjr.

## Back-to-school season: not just for kids

By Chris Abbott

As kids head back to school this fall, they're not the only ones feeling a renewed sense of vigor and motivation. For many of us, September is synonymous with the fresh start of a new school year and the satisfaction that comes from busy, productive days and learning new things.

That makes this a great time of year to break out of the monotony of stale routines, and that's especially true for older adults. For all the wonderful things about retirement, the wide-open days with no deadlines or definitive plans can sometimes make it tough to stay motivated.

So this year, use back-to-school season as a force for good by making some changes that can put you on a path to a healthier, happier year ahead. Consider the following ideas that can take you to the head of the class when it comes to your health and quality of life.

**Volunteer.** Use your wealth of experience, wisdom and practical skills to benefit your community by volunteering for causes that are important to you. While you're helping your community, you'll be helping yourself, too. Three-quarters of U.S. adults feel physically healthier by volunteering, according to the 2017 Doing Good is Good for You study from UnitedHealthcare and

VolunteerMatch.

**Pass it on through Play.** Whether you're a grandparent, family friend or neighbor, you could make a difference in a young person's life by spending quality time with them and modeling healthy choices. Teaching a child a timeless activity or skill that you enjoyed in your youth – like fishing, checkers or a card game – can be a great way to pass on traditions and have fun while also helping kids to cut down on time in front of a computer, tablet or smartphone screen.

**Put it on Your Schedule.** You likely relied on a class schedule and student planner to help you stay accountable back in your

school days. That same concept can keep you disciplined when it comes to staying active and getting enough exercise. Whether it's gardening, attending an exercise class at your local gym, or just taking a regular bike ride or walk around your neighborhood, writing it on your calendar and planning your other activities around this time that you've carved out for exercise can be a good practice to ensure you don't brush it off.

**Head Back to Class.** Even if it's been decades since you've stepped foot in a classroom, it's not too late to learn something new. And challenging your mind can be one of the best ways to

See BACK, Page 12

## Wini Cannon

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Political Adv. Paid by Campaign to Elect Wini Cannon, Justice Schwartz, Treasurer



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## Collin Corporate College welcomes Disney Institute to Frisco

Disney Institute is bringing its renowned professional development course, Disney's Approach to Quality Service, to Frisco from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 30, 2018 at Collin College Preston Ridge Campus, Conference Center, 9700 Wade Boulevard in Frisco. Sponsored by Collin Corporate College, the one-day event will help area professionals begin to examine how they can differentiate their service to become a provider of choice and understand the processes necessary to develop a culture that consistently delivers that exceptional service. This day of Disney Institute training uses business insights and time-tested examples from Disney parks and resorts worldwide to inspire individuals and organizations to enhance their own customer experience using Disney principles as their guide.

Disney's Approach to Quality Service gives par-



ticipants the chance to explore how customer experience insights and time-tested examples from Disney parks and resorts worldwide can provide relevant illustrations and engaging stories to help organizations deliver the type of long-term results they are capable of delivering.

Registration is \$600 per person and includes all course materials as well as complimentary parking, Wi-Fi, continental breakfast, lunch, snacks, coffee, tea, water and completion certificate. Receive a price break by registering Early Bird, Alumni, & Group Rate registration available through Oct. 12. For more information or to register, visit [www.collin.edu/corporatecollege/disney](http://www.collin.edu/corporatecollege/disney), email [corporatecollege@collin.edu](mailto:corporatecollege@collin.edu), or call 972.599.3110.

ratecollege/disney, email [corporatecollege@collin.edu](mailto:corporatecollege@collin.edu), or call 972.599.3110.

About Disney Institute  
As the trusted, authoritative voice on the Disney approach to customer experience, Disney Institute uses business insights and time-tested examples from Disney parks and resorts worldwide to inspire individuals and organizations to enhance their own customer experience using Disney principles as their guide. For nearly three decades, Disney Institute has helped professionals discover ways to positively impact their organizations and the customer they serve through immersion in leadership, service and employee engagement. Unique to Disney Institute is the opportunity to go behind the scenes in a "living laboratory" to observe firsthand how Disney methodologies are operationalized and how they can be adapted and applied to any work environment.

## Smart People, Smart Place: City partners with WAZE to make drive through Plano easier

The City of Plano is working with the creators of the WAZE app to speed up the drive through Plano. City engineers are now updating WAZE providing locations of road construction and traffic. This crucial information will help the app users better navigate Plano.

Plano has been a member of WAZE Connected Citizen Program since summer of 2017. The WAZE application provides a platform for drivers to share information such as traffic congestion and accidents, and use this information to provide better naviga-

tion. Because they rely on accurate and timely data, they created the Connected Citizens Program, which works with local governments from around the world to collect (or even help create) data feeds including planned road closures, locations of parking lots, and speed limits on roads.

In return for the data about our roads, Waze shares anonymous, aggregated crowdsourced data reported by the community including traffic congestion and hazard information at no cost. We are learning how to use this

data to improve travel for drivers. We believe using this crowdsourced data will aid us in improving mobility in Plano.

The partnership with WAZE is the City's latest Smart City initiative. Smart Cities are urban areas that use an array of technology to electronically collect information to manage community services, from transportation to finding lost pets. Smart City tools are designed to improve the efficiency of City operations and services and simplify residents' daily lives.

## TAX, continued from Page 5

every effort to assist the taxpayers of Dallas County."

Ames further added, "Most of our taxpayers take pride in paying their taxes. They understand that the quality of services provided is dependent upon everyone in the community doing

their part. It's unfortunate that we have to provide these notices; however, at the same time, we have to advise our taxpayers of what can realistically happen if they fail to pay or resolve their delinquency."

Lastly, Ames added, "We

ask that our citizens contact the Dallas Central Appraisal District to see if they are entitled to any of the exemptions that state law permits. If any of our citizens are facing a hardship of any kind they are asked to please advise the tax office or the law firm of their given situation."

## Morris Day Performing At STATE FAIR CLASSIC

THE BIGGEST YET

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SEPTEMBER 29, 2018

COTTON BOWL | DALLAS, TX | 4:00PM KICK OFF

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS DALLAS City of Dallas A&M

**Allen**

The **St. Jude Carnival and Music Festival** will be held on Sep. 8, starting at 7 p.m. at St. Jude Catholic Church, in Allen. Sit under the stars and enjoy great jazz and swing band music featuring Michael Manzoni and his all jazz band, with musical director Eymard Furtado. Everyone is invited. Be sure to bring your family and friends. For more information, visit Facebook.com/events.

**Arlington**

The **Downtown Arlington Brewing Arts Festival**, is expected to take place on Sept. 13 to Sept. 15, from 12 p.m. to midnight, in Downtown Arlington. Arts, crafts

and craft brews will flow through the streets of downtown as thousands of visitors and local residents gather for a celebration of the city's thriving arts and creative community. A collision of art, music, food trucks, and craft beer that'll light up the city's bustling Urban Union entertainment district.

**Carrollton**

The **Step on the Square** will take place on Sep. 8, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Historic Downtown, in Carrollton. Come out for a performance from the hardest hittin' country rock band in DFW: Big City Outlaws. This band will jump the fence from country to top 40 all night

long. Their one-of-a-kind show will have crowds two stepping and line dancing to an array of classic hits. Two-step dance lessons will be provided at the event. The event will also include food and beverages for purchase from area food trucks such as funnel cakes, potato swirls, corn dogs, sausage on a stick, fried Oreos, fried Snickers, iced tea, and lemonade. For more information, visit Facebook.com/events.

**Dallas**

**Meet Your Mentor** will be hosted by WEDallas and Capital One, on Sept. 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Capital Factory + The DEC, in Dallas. Experienced fe-

male entrepreneurs and professionals to offer their advice during "Speed Mentoring". Individual tables will be set up for each mentor. Participants will start off with a mentor and have 15 minutes to discuss their business, experience as a female entrepreneur, wins and needs, and whatever else they have in mind. For more information, visit Eventbrite.com

The **FEDDs Mega Block Walk and Family Picnic** will be held on Sept. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Casa Linda Park, in Dallas. Besides the FEDD, the DCDP coordinated campaign, the Park Cities Democratic Women Association

(PCDWA), the Blue Broncos, the Women of Dallas United for Action (WUUA), Forward Motion Texas, and Dallas Dems 114, will join together to do a block walk. They will also have a old-fashioned picnic with food trucks, and games. For more information, contact Jill Cochran at jill-cochran5@gmail.com.

**Frisco**

**Stand Up For Your Superpowers** will be held on Sept. 8, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Sci-Tech Discovery Center, in Frisco. StandUp LD, a Dallas non-profit support network for parents and educators seeking educational resources to support and inspire children with

learning differences. This is a free event for DFW students ages 6-12 years old with dyslexia, ADHD & related learning & attention differences. The students will spend the afternoon together in a healthy, safe and supportive environment to help them realize that they are not alone. Every participant will create their own superhero item, an item that represents their own superpowers. Then the students will have an opportunity to talk about their superhero item and how that item helps exemplify their real life super powers and accommodate their real-life challenges. To register for the event, visit Eventbrite.com.

# Carrollton Fire Rescue offers CPR/AED and first aid classes

Carrollton Fire Rescue (CFR) has a goal for as many citizens as possible to be trained in CPR and is extending a challenge to the local community: get trained, save a life.

This fall, CPR/AED classes will be held the first and third Saturdays of each month through December (September 1 and 15, October 6 and 20, November 3 and 17, and December 1 and 15) from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Crosby Recreation Center (1610 E. Crosby Road). The sessions are \$25 for both Carrollton residents



rawpixel

and non-residents. Participants will learn techniques of CPR for adults and children, pediatrics, obstructed airway management, and

how to use AEDs. Basic First Aid classes will be offered on the third Saturday of each month (September 15, October 20,

November 17, and December 15) from 12:15-3:15 p.m. at the same location. Those classes are \$15 for both Carrollton residents and non-residents. Sign up to learn how to identify the signs and symptoms of a heart attack and what to do in cases of breathing difficulty, cuts, broken bones, diabetic problems, seizures, and other medical emergencies.

Each year, more than 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the United States, according to the American Heart Association.

Almost 90 percent of those victims die. CPR, especially if performed in the first few minutes of cardiac arrest, can double or triple a person's chance of survival.

Without bystander CPR, a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival decreases by 10 percent every minute, according to the American Heart Association. Bystander CPR (and early AED use when available) is the only way to increase the chance of survival, which is CFR's ultimate goal through the trainings they offer.

CFR encourages local

businesses, churches, homeowners associations, and other groups to schedule on-site training courses to establish what could be a safer environment should a cardiac episode occur. CFR instructors will travel to your location and provide scheduled, one-on-one training.

For more information or to schedule a training, call 214-243-0320. To register for the upcoming Adult, Child, & Infant CPR/AED and First Aid courses, visit cityofcarrollton.com/signupnow under the Education section.

## OWENS, continued from Page 1

said Owens, who played Elvin, the husband of Sandra Huxtable on "The Cosby Show."

"I've had a great life. I've had a great career and I've had a career that most actors would die for," he said.

The actor noted that he was overwhelmed by the response he's received after the shaming incident. "I feel like more of a celebrity now than when I actually was a celebrity," he said.

Since leaving "The Cosby Show," Owens has worked part-time as an actor and as a producer.

He has taught acting and directing at Yale and other

universities for more than 30 years. But, he said he took the Trader Joe's job 15 months ago to support his family.

Since the GMA appearance, however, Perry has publicly offered him a role on a popular OWN television show and others like Berry and Oswalt have tweeted support.

"My respect to actor Geoffrey Owens, who found honest work between gigs. As Fox News will tell you, all actors, when not acting, seal themselves in protein-solution 'shame pods' until re-activated by the Council of Casting," Oswalt said.

"Geoffrey had the courage to stand up to the Council," he said.

Berry, the Oscar winning actress, also saluted Oswalt.

"Labor Day celebrates the value of our country's workers. I'm just so sad to hear than an American felt the need to 'expose' a man for working hard," Berry said.

"I wish there were more people with as much integrity as Geoffrey Owens."

For his part, Owens discussed the sanctity and honor of being a working person. Every job is "worthwhile," he said.

"I hope what doesn't pass is this ... rethinking about what it means to work," he said. "The honor of the

working person and the dignity of work. And I hope that this period we're in now, where we have a heightened sense about that and a reevaluation of what it means to work, the reevaluation of the idea that some jobs are better than others."

Wyatt said Owens displayed what "The Cosby Show" was all about.

"What Mr. Cosby built was legacy. It wasn't just legacy to show how families should conduct themselves and live in a certain way in society," he said.

"It was to make sure that these actors were able to survive and enjoy their livelihoods. Yet, [the powers that be] have taken it away."

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# Cowboys admit money was a factor in cutting Bailey

By Dwain Price  
NDG Sports Special  
Contributor

FRISCO – The Dallas Cowboys sent shock waves reverberating around the National Football League last Saturday when they surprisingly waived veteran place-kicker, Dan Bailey.

The furor erupted because Bailey is the second-most accurate kicker in NFL history with a field goal accuracy of 88.2 percent. But the Cowboys defended their controversial decision while listing a myriad of reasons why they chose to release Bailey and instead hitch their wagon to 28-year old Canadian Football League castoff Brett Maher, who has never kicked in an NFL regular season game.

Bailey suffered a groin injury late last season, and when he returned to the lineup, he was just five-of-eight on field goals and missed the only two extra points of his career. Also, Maher pleasantly raised some eyebrows when he converted a 57-yard field goal in the preseason finale against the Houston Texans last week.

And then there's the all-important money factor. Bailey was set to earn \$3.4 million this season, while Maher will collect less than \$500,000.

"There's a business side to making a lot of decisions we make in the era of the salary cap," Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said. "You have to allocate dollars to certain guys, and you have to decide where you can maybe save some money and save some salary cap space.

"I think the biggest thing you will look at is (Bailey has) had some injuries over the last couple of years. He had a back (injury) two years ago, he had the groin (injury) last year. Obviously he didn't kick his best down the stretch last year – a lot of different reasons for that – but again, when we put the



Dan Bailey (Photo: Keith Allison / Flickr)

whole thing together and decided what was the best for our football team, this is the decision we felt like we had to make and it was a hard decision."

## Meanwhile, others remain on the roster

The decision to release Bailey served as the backdrop for the Cowboys, who will open the regular season Sunday at 3:25 p.m. at the Carolina Panthers. For starters, on Friday night tight end Rico Gathers was arrested in Frisco for possession of marijuana, yet he was still able to make the Cowboys' final 53-man roster.

"Obviously the incident that happened Friday night was poor judgment on his part, and it's not something we want from any of our players," Garrett said. "There will be consequences for that.

"That was poor judgment. Ultimately we didn't think it was enough to impact the decision that we made with our 53-man roster."

The Cowboys also decided to place center Travis Frederick on their 53-man roster instead of putting him on injured reserve. Frederick was recently diagnosed with the auto-immune disease called Guillain Barre Syndrome and had he been placed on injured reserve, by NFL rules he would have been forced to miss at least eight games.

"He's working out on his own, and he's been able to handle the work so far," Garrett said of Frederick. "So again, you take it day-by-day.

"From my perspective, the information I've gotten, there hasn't been any drastic setbacks in any way. He's getting into his program, and hopefully, it'll continue to respond the right way."

## Is the offense ready for the season?

In the meantime, the season opener will be the first game for running back Ezekiel Elliott since last season. Elliott did not play in any of the four preseason games for precautionary reasons, but all indications show that he's fired up to face the Panthers.

"Man, Zeke's been on it since we started (training) camp," right guard Zack Martin said. "I'm sure you guys have seen it.

"Just the way he's running, the way he's approaching every day. I think he's ready for a good year."

Joe Looney, who has the difficult task of replacing Frederick as the Cowboys' starting center, also has noticed how focused Elliott has been during training camp and throughout the preseason.

"Any time you've got a player like that on your roster you're excited to block

See COWBOYS, Page 16

## STATE FAIR CLASSIC Sept 29th, The BIGGEST YET

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2018

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PRESS CONFERENCE CITY HALL FLAG ROOM / 11:00AM

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HILTON ANATOLE / 6:30PM

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**  
GRAMBLING METRO DFW CHAPTER ALUMNI - WILLIAMS CHICKEN HIGH SCHOOL BATTLE OF THE BANDS  
LANCASTER HIGH SCHOOL / 8AM

PRE GAME CONCERT FEATURING  
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STATE FAIR OF TEXAS : CHEVY MAIN STAGE / 2:00PM

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SINGING THE BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM

**SPENSHA BAKER**  
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STATE FAIR CLASSIC FOOTBALL GAME  
**GRAMBLING STATE VS PRAIRIE VIEW A&M**  
DALLAS COTTON BOWL / 4:00PM KICKOFF

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# Morris Day performing this fall at State Fair; plus Beyonce, Boyz II Men, comedy and more this week

By Tiffany Gilbert  
NDG Entertainment

Fall entertainment is heating up already with headline concerts this week, but also promises of more with the 2018 State Fair Classic game with a post game concert featuring **Morris Day & The Time**. The show kicks off at 8:30 p.m. on the Chevy Main Stage. Tickets are available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com). More details about the line-up are here.

The fall concert season is off to a very hot start with Mr. and Mrs. Carter coming to Jerry's World on Sept. 11 and then immediately afterwards on Sept. 13 Boys II Men perform in Dallas. *NDG* readers have an opportunity to win tickets to both shows. Read below for more details on this and other things to do in Dallas this week.

What is your favorite Jay-Z or Beyonce song, visit



The legendary musical act Morris Day & The Time will be performing in Fair Park in conjunction with the State Fair Classic. (Photo: Ticketweb)

*NDG's* Facebook page and tell us for an opportunity to win tickets to see the **JAY-Z AND BEYONCE: OTR II** show at AT&T Stadium on Sept. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Otherwise hurry up and get your ticket to see the queen and her king perform live. This is something that you don't wanna miss.

"So we've come to the end of the road..." Is there any graduating class since 1991 that has not played this anthem song by Boyz II Men at least once during their senior year? Not many. But it is just one of the legendary group's many hits over their 25-year history. *NDG* readers have an op-

portunity to win tickets to see the trio in Dallas on Sept. 13 at the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

Man (or woman) cannot live by music alone, so if you want to get your laugh on **Sommore** is live at the Arlington Improv on Sept. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Come out for a laugh, you can buy your tickets at the Improv.

Enjoy an afternoon at the **African American Museum** in Dallas located at

3536 Grand Avenue, Dallas. It is an opportunity to learn more about the culture. Visit [aamdallas.org](http://aamdallas.org) for more info.

**Dru Hill & Sisqo** will perform at House of Blues in Dallas on Sept. 8 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. sharing all their greatest hits so get ready to sing your heart out. Tickets are available here.

**UFC 228** brings two world title fights to the American Airlines Center

on Sept. 8 from 5:15 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets are available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com).

If hungry enjoy an afternoon of art and history with a bite of BBQ and more at the **Bishop Arts Food & Historical Tour** at the Lockhart Smokehouse on Sept. 9 from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Come take a tour of the eclectic and amazing Bishop Arts District on foot. More info is available at [Visit Dallas](http://VisitDallas.com).

## New CD release shows that Peabo Bryson still 'Stands For Love'

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Contributor

Peabo Bryson grew up in South Carolina reading Black-owned newspapers like the Palmetto Leader and the Lighthouse and Informer.

And, the legendary crooner who's new album, "Stand for Love," dropped on Aug. 3, said he felt comfortable opening up to the Black Press about his award-winning career, latest CD, and his 7-month-old son whom he spent the better part of an hour-long interview cooing over.

"[Mainstream] news is hard to trust. I want to be



the king of real news, not fake news," Bryson, 67, said with a hearty laugh.

"Growing up in the Black

culture meant reading Black newspapers and it also

See **BRYSON**, Page 16

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# Betsy DeVos' \$5 billion giveaway to for-profit colleges

By Charlene Crowell

Today's increasingly competitive global economy requires and recruits those who are highly-skilled and knowledgeable. People understand and accept that higher education is a means to become employable, marketable, and competitive.

It is equally true that the rising costs of higher education have now forced 44 million consumers to borrow \$1.4 trillion in student loans to finance their educations. This debt was often viewed as more of an investment than a cost.

That rational works so long as institutions deliver what was promised: a quality education. No loan was ever incurred as a lifetime commitment to debt that worsened with every passing year.

Not only are consumers incurring serious debts, they are also defaulting in disturbing numbers. Student loan defaults plummet

credit scores, lowering them by as much as 50-90 points, according to the Urban Institute, a DC-based research organization. As credit scores drop, the cost of any future credit goes up, making it even harder for affected consumers to manage their personal finances.

While 250,000 federal direct student loan borrowers default every quarter, guess which consumers are most likely to default: people of color, veterans, and other low-income consumers. In 2018, the people who a decade ago were targeted for unsustainable, high-cost mortgage loans are now being targeted by for-profit colleges for career training that fails to deliver the skills and incomes that enable to repay student loans.

The Education Department's Gainful Employment rule, which was finalized in 2014 and took effect in 2015, requires that career and technical training programs lead to income levels that enable their students to

afford their student loan repayments. It also followed the failures of for-profit institutions like Corinthian Colleges, Everest and ITT Tech that left student borrowers without degrees, credits that could not be transferred and losses to taxpayers who fund federal financial aid.

In recent days, however, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos announced plans to revoke this key rule and instead include additional data in the web-based resource called a College Scorecard that the Department claims is better than regulation.

"Students deserve useful and relevant data when making important decisions about their education post-high school," said DeVos. "That's why instead of targeting schools simply by their tax status, this administration is working to ensure students have transparent, meaningful information about all colleges and all programs. Our new approach will aid students

across all sectors of higher education and improve accountability."

As Tony Soprano might have said, "Fuhgedda bout it!"

Information is not the equivalent of rules that protect consumers or enforcement actions that hold bad actors accountable. Last year, over 800 programs covered by the gainful employment rule failed to meet the rule's established standard – most of these programs were at for-profit institutions.

For example, recent research by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), analyzed health care programs at for-profit institutions. Entitled, Bitter Pill: Gainful Employment and Credentialism in Health Care Support Fields, the report found that among the for-profit programs studied:

- Tuition and fees for an 11-month program can cost as much as \$17,000;
- 83 percent of programs leading to either a certificate

or two-year associates degree scored poorly in the 2017 release of national gainful employment data;

• Focus groups participating in the research confirmed the financial devastation wrought by enrolling in these programs, based on the high amounts of debt incurred.

"Deleting the rule would be costly for both students and taxpayers, said James Kvaal, president of the independent and nonpartisan Institute for College Access & Success. "A single round of Department of Education data showed that more than 350,000 students graduated from substandard programs with nearly \$7.5 billion in unaffordable debt. The gainful employment rule is needed to prevent programs like these from bilking students and taxpayers."

Additionally, a recent national consumer poll found strong concerns among voters when it comes to student loans. Conducted by Lake Research Partners and re-

leased on August 8, a majority of likely voters agreed that the amount of student loan debt represents a crisis. This view held strong majorities whether the respondents were independents (67 percent agreement), Republicans (57 percent agreement), or Democrats (71 percent agreement).

"Because of DeVos' cozy relationship with this industry," noted Ashley Harrington, a policy counsel with the Center for Responsible Lending, "low-performing programs will continue to operate and ensnare hopeful students into assuming large debt with little hope of repayment. This will cost students and taxpayers almost \$5 billion over the next decade, profits that will land almost exclusively in the hands of the for-profit college sector."

*Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's Communications Deputy Director. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblending.org).*

## Is credit monitoring enough to keep your identity safe?

By Hugh Norton

Identity theft can be a time-consuming and costly hassle, but there are measures you can take to protect your personal information and avoid the headache. One tool that can help is credit monitoring. But what exactly does credit monitoring do? And more importantly, is it enough to keep you safe?

What is credit monitoring? There are a three primary national consumer credit bureaus, and you may have a credit report with more than one. Although the reports are often similar, they're not necessarily identical because some financial institutions only report data to one or two of the bureaus, and some don't report data to any of them.

At their simplest, credit monitoring services will look for potentially suspicious changes in your credit

reports based on your prior activity and send you an alert if they detect an issue. These could include a new hard inquiry (when you apply for credit and a creditor checks your report) or a new account. Either could be an indication that someone is using your information to fraudulently open financial accounts.

They may also alert you to new public records, such as a bankruptcy, and to changes to the personal information section, such as a new name or address on your report.

Credit monitoring services can range in price and function. You can find the basic monitoring and alert services for free. However, they may only monitor one or two of your credit reports, so you could have to sign up for several to get full coverage.

Services that have a monthly or annual subscription fee may monitor your

credit reports from all three bureaus. More robust identity monitoring services include additional features, such as fraud resolution assistance, reimbursements for lost funds or expenses related to identity theft and scanning the internet for your personal information. They may alert you if your info is used to open financial accounts that aren't generally on the major three consumer credit reports, such as a bank account or payday loan.

An alert may be too late, but it can still be helpful. Credit monitoring services are reactive by nature. If you're alerted that someone has tried to use (or successfully used) your personal information, then in a sense it's too late – you're already a victim of identity theft.

However, being able to react right away can help limit the damage because you can contact the companies to have the fraudulent

accounts shut down. Additionally, there are steps you can take to help minimize your risk of identity theft.

Ways to protect yourself before something happens. Unless you decide to live off the financial grid, you may not be able to completely protect yourself from large data breaches. But here are a few things you can do to help keep your personal information secure:

- Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet, and only carry other documents with sensitive information (such as a Medicare card) when you know you'll need them.
- Generally, don't share your personal information if you receive an incoming call, even if the person claims to be from your bank or a government agency. Instead, tell the caller you will call them back and use the entity's actual number (which can usually be found

on a bill, statement of account or website) to do so.

• Learn how to safely and properly dispose of computers, mobile phones and other electronics that may have your personal information on them.

• Place fraud alerts or credit freezes on your reports to make it more difficult for someone else to open an account in your name.

• Before throwing it out, shred or cut up material that has personal information, including old bank statements, credit cards and insurance forms.

• Install antivirus software on your computer and keep it up to date.

• Avoid logging into financial accounts while using public Wi-Fi networks, including those at cafes or airports.

• Set and regularly update your password for your phone and computer.

• Use different, long passwords for your online accounts.

The Federal Trade Commission also has helpful articles and resources that you can explore to learn more about identity theft prevention and recovery.

Bottom line: At a minimum, having some form of free credit monitoring or making a practice of regularly checking your credit reports for suspicious changes could help you avoid major problems down the road. If you're concerned about identity theft, taking steps to secure your personal information and paying for a service that includes resolution assistance and reimbursements could be a good idea.

*Hugh Norton directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/Practical-Money](http://www.twitter.com/Practical-Money).*

## Mortgage industry leaves millions of prospective home buyers on the table

By Hazel Trice Edney

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - The home mortgage industry across the U. S., now on "sound footing" since the crisis of 2007, is still leaving prospective homeowners behind, according to a recent Harvard University study.

"By many metrics, the U.S. housing market in 2018 is on sound footing," said Chris Herbert, managing director of the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies in the center's annual State of the Nation's Housing report. "But a number of challenges highlighted in the first 'State of the Nation's Housing' report 30 years ago persist today, and in many respects the situation has worsened for both the lowest-income Americans and those higher up the income ladder."

This dearth in homeownership - largely affecting African-Americans - is the

reason that an upcoming annual conference is crucial says Marcia Griffin, founder and president of HomeFree-USA a leader in home mortgage counseling. The 14th Annual HomeFree-USA Reaching Millions conference is set for Sept. 17-19 in Washington, D.C.

The inspirational, educational and leadership development conference will feature nationally renowned speakers. They include author/speaker Stedman Graham, the Rev. Jamal-Harrison Bryant; Gospel artist Bishop Marvin Sapp; and the Rev. Dr. DeForest Blake "Buster" Soaries, Jr., all aiming to teach and inspire financial independence and debt free lifestyles.

"This conference is a very important gathering of leaders - nonprofit, faith-based, government, mortgage and banking leaders," says Griffin. "It's crucial in order to elevate the issue of home-

ownership in general but also the financial stature of people of color specifically. This conference delivers new ideas to capture the millions of potential homebuyers who want to buy but need guidance and encouragement. The unique aspect of the conference will be a mixture of education and inspiration with a goal of establishing a synergy for partnerships," Griffin says.

"We will all come together to learn from each other, and gain ideas to increase mortgage approvals and reduce denials among people of color," Griffin continues. "It is going to take partners working together to give homebuyers the kind of guidance they need to sustain homeownership and weather the financial challenges that arise in life."

The conference is designed to:

- Increase homeownership

and financial success among low-to-moderate income people.

- Elevate the stature and increase the impact of government, nonprofit and for-profit housing and homeownership providers

- Create and strengthen public/private partnerships

- Reaching Millions is for professionals and leaders whose focus is on:

- Affordable lending

- Increasing homeownership in low-to-moderate income communities

- Personal and professional leadership development

- Developing new public and private partnerships to further their mission and expand affordable housing

- Ways to reach more qualified homebuyers

According to the latest stats from the U. S. Census Bureau, general homeownership rates in the second quarter of 2018 revealed sig-

nificant room for growth. Overall, the rate is 64.3 percent in the second quarter of 2018, growing slightly by .6 percent from the first quarter.

However, a closer look at the Census Bureau breakdown of the homeownership rate by race shows communities of color still lagging far behind White homeowners, despite historic efforts to close the gap, including the Fair Housing Act of 1968. According to the Census Bureau, the following are the current stats broken down by race:

- Non-Hispanic White householders was highest at 72.9 percent.

- Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander householders was second at 58.0 percent.

- Hispanic householders was at 46.2.

- Black householders was lowest at 41.6 percent.

"Although the changes in

homeownership by race and ethnicity were seen as mostly positive, Black households are the one group that has made no appreciable progress," says the Harvard Joint Center study.

This conference contributes to the efforts to turn these deplorable statistics around. Conference attendees will leave with a roadmap, partnerships and resources to capture the homebuyers that we are leaving behind. Working together the mortgage industry, nonprofits and government leaders will be able to deliver the tools families need to become successful homeowners.

More information about the conference can be found at [www.HomeFreeUSA.org/rm2018](http://www.HomeFreeUSA.org/rm2018). Contact MilanG@home-freeusa.org for information on a limited number of discounted registrations.

## BACK, continued from Page 6

protect your brain health as you age. Explore options available in your community, such as signing up for a class that interests you at your local community college or brushing up on your computer skills at the library. In addition to keeping your mind active, you might also meet some new friends in this sort of group learning environment.

Study Up on Your Benefits. Fall is not just back-to-school season. It's also the annual Medicare enrollment season. Just like cramming for a test the night before was never a good idea, the same goes for choosing your Medicare coverage for the year ahead. Spend some time reviewing any changes in your benefits for 2019 and considering the other options available to you. For some help with this process, check out NMEW.com to learn how you can participate in National Medicare Education Week activities from Sept. 15-21. Being studious about your Medicare

choices won't get you an "A" grade, but it could help you avoid unpleasant surprises when you need to access care and even save some money in the year ahead.

For more health and wellness information and tips for

healthy living, visit [newsroom.uhc.com](http://newsroom.uhc.com).

*Chris Abbott is the CEO of UnitedHealthcare Medicare & Retirement in Texas and Oklahoma. UnitedHealthcare is the largest business dedicated to serving the health and well-being needs of seniors and other beneficiaries.*

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Or email your resume to: [careers@edbellconstruction.com](mailto:careers@edbellconstruction.com)

# Upcoming DFW area job fairs

## Sept. 10 Dallas Job Fair

A Dallas Job Fair will be hosted on Sep. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Double-Tree, in Dallas. Meet face-to-face with local recruiters & hiring managers who will be onsite and ready to offer on the spot interviews and job offers. Available positions range from entry level up to professional & management. To prepare for this event be sure to dress professionally and bring at least 10-20 copies of your updated resume. For more information call (508) 981-6995.

## Sept. 12 Dallas Career Fair - Meet Fortune 500 Companies

Dallas Career Fair - Meet Fortune 500 Companies will be held on Sep 1 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Double-Tree, in Dallas. You will be able to meet recruiters from local, regional, and Fortune 500 companies. Many of the companies represented at the fair will have base + uncapped commission pay structure, flexible work schedule, full benefits, 401k, stock options, company car or gas allowances, president club trips & other incentives, and opportunity for immense growth. Business professional attire is required, and be sure to bring plenty of resumes. To register or apply visit CareerBuilder.com

## Sept. 13 Whole Foods Hiring Day

The Whole Foods Hiring Day will be held on Sept. 13, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Whole Foods Market, in Addison. They will be looking for team members who are interested in: prepared foods, bakery, store support/customer service, produce, meat, seafood, specialty, or grocery. They will be hiring for (seasonal and permanent) team members, and have openings for (part-time and full-time) positions. You must be able to



lift 50 pounds, stand for six to eight hours, be exposed to FDA approved cleaning chemicals, and work a flexible schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays as needed. For more information and to reserve your spot, visit careers.wholefoodsmarket.com.

## Sept. 13 Sales Associate Hiring Event

The Sales Associate Hiring Event will be held on Sep. 13 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at AutoNation Ford, in Frisco.

The Sales Associate will interact with hundreds of customers and help guide them in their vehicle purchase in a no-haggle sales

environment. Base salary plus incentives will be offered.

Requirements: High school diploma or equivalent

- Proven ability to provide an exceptional customer experience
- Drive to set and achieve targeted goals
- Prior sales experience, retail preferred
- Excellent communication, consultative, interpersonal and organizational skills
- The willingness to follow up with customers
- Experience and desire to work with technology
- Valid in-state driver's license and an acceptable, safe driving record

To apply, send your resume to [figueroae@autonation.com](mailto:figueroae@autonation.com).

## Sept. 18 Dallas Job Fair

United Career Fairs is hosting DALLAS JOB

FAIR Sales and Management on Sep. 18 starting at 6 p.m. at Renaissance Hotel, in Addison. Available positions range from entry level up to professional & management. To prepare for this event be sure to dress professionally and bring at least 10-20 copies of your updated resume.

## Sept. 20 Veterans Job Fair

The Veterans Job Fair will take place on Sept. 20 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Cedar Valley College, in Lancaster. This event will be hosted by Greater Southwest Black Chamber of Commerce or Cedar Valley College. They will be bringing together leading experts in recruitment and training spaces to discuss the ap-

proaches and processes as well as the challenges and successes of getting veterans back to work. For more information contact 972.217.3451 or [contactus@gswbcc.org](mailto:contactus@gswbcc.org).

## Oct. 17 Dallas Career Fair - Sales, Management, Business Development

The Dallas Career Fair-Sales, Management, Business Development will be held on Oct. 17 at 6 p.m. at Hilton Garden Inn, in Las Colinas.

You will first be offered a formal executive presentation in which each company will introduce itself and the opportunities they offer. You will then be free to meet with hiring managers

from each company that has attracted your interest. At the same time, you will be able to network not only with various employers but also with other professionals.

Wear business professional attire and be sure to bring plenty of resumes.

## Oct. 25 Live Recruiting/Hiring Event

The Live Recruiting/Hiring Event will be held on Oct. 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Magnolia Hotel Dallas Park Cities, in Dallas. Be sure to register at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com). Dress professionally and be sure to bring plenty of resumes. For more information contact 877-561-5627.



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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.

**September 9, 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.

**September 12, 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  
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**FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"**

**September 9, 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.

**September 12**

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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**September 7, 7 p.m.**

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

**September 9, 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.

**September 12, 7 p.m.**

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

Pastor Rickie Rush  
7701 S Westmoreland Road  
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**September 7, 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.

**September 12, 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.

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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.

**September 9,**

You are invited to join us 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.

**September 12,**

You're invited to our

**See CHURCH, Page 15**

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# Birth, death and fulfillment of a vision



Send email to: [businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com) to sign up for Sister Tarpley's weekly electronic newsletter.

*"I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." (John 12:24)*

Based on Ephesians 3:16-19, almost every significant thing that God births in humans, God allows the vision to die before it is fulfilled in His own way. Abraham had a vision of being the father of a great nation, this was the birth. Sarah was barren and became too old to have children, they forgot, nothing is impossible for God, this was the death of Abraham vision, in his mind. God kept His promise and gave Abraham and Sarah a son in their old age; and Abraham became the father of a great nation, this was the fulfillment that God had planned. Joseph was given a vision that he would be a great leader and that many would bow down to him, this was the birth of Joseph's vision. Joseph's brothers sold him to some merchants and he became a slave. Later, he was falsely con-

demned to spend his years in prison; this was the death of Joseph's vision, in his mind. God allowed Joseph to interpret the dreams of the butler, the baker and later the king, whereupon, he was made a ruler in the land, this was the fulfillment that God had planned.

God gave Moses a vision of leading His people out of the bondage of Egypt, this was the birth. Pharaoh as well as his own people drove Moses out of Egypt after Moses' first attempt to relieve their bondage; this was the death of Moses' vision, in his mind. Then God gave Moses signs and wonders to convince Pharaoh to free the people and bring them out of Egypt and into the Promised Land; this was God's fulfillment of the vision. The disciples had a vision of establishing the Kingdom of God with Jesus; this was the birth of their vision. The very ones Jesus came to save, killed Him, and the disciples saw Him buried in a tomb, the death of the vision the disciples thought. But God raised Jesus from the dead, and the disciples performed great miracles until the gospel had spread throughout the world, this will be the fulfillment of God's plan.

A grain of wheat has a "vision" of reproducing itself and many more grains

of wheat, this is the birth. The grain dies in the ground, this is the death. A harvest springs up out of the very process of "death" in the ground God's fulfillment).

Has God given you a vision that is yet unfulfilled? If that vision is born of God, He will raise it up in His own way. Do not try to raise the vision in your own strength. Remember Moses, who tried to fulfill the vision of freeing the Hebrews by

killing the Egyptian, it will only fail. But wait on your heavenly Father to fulfill the vision. Then you will know that it was His vision when He fulfills it in the way only He can do.

Pray that God will give you His glorious riches, that He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your heart through faith. And, pray that you, being rooted

and established in His love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know God's love that surpasses knowl-

edge; that you may be filled to the measure of all your fullness. Pray in the name of Jesus and trust God to do it.



Support for candidate for Congress: L to R, Candace Valenzuela, Sister Tarpley and candidate for Texas Senate, Beto O'Rourke

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## CHURCH, continued from Page 14

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

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# NDG Book Review: *Housegirl* is going to be a challenge

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You're up for this.

This next thing is going to be a challenge, but you're ready. You've studied it as much as you can and you've thought it through, you're bringing your best talents and your keenest observation skills, and you got this. You can do it. Still, as in the new book "Housegirl" by Michael Donkor, it won't be easy.

Mary was often too impetuous.

Belinda didn't mind, though. Mary was still a child, not quite a teenager, and she still sucked her thumb at night. Sometimes,



she was an exasperation but mostly, she was like a sister to Belinda, even though they were unrelated housegirls from small Ghanaian villages, given up by their mothers to work for wealthy people.

Given by her mother. That hurt, but it was why Belinda didn't feel she had much choice when her employer, Aunty, gifted Belinda to her friend, Nana, with an odd assignment attached. Belinda would move to London – not to cook and clean, but to serve as a good example for Nana's daughter, Amma, who was just a year older than Belinda, but worlds away in attitude.

It was not easy for Belinda to tell Mary that she was leaving. Mary cursed and cried but in the end, she was comforted by promises that she and Belinda would talk often on their cell

phones. Belinda was sure Mary would adjust, maybe even take over the running of Aunty's household. Mary would grow up.

In the meantime, Belinda had other worries. Nana's husband paid for Belinda to go to school, and Nana took her shopping for new clothes. They gave her a room of her own, a bed of her own, and pretty things for decoration. But Amma was a challenge – she was sassy and cursed, lied and snuck around. Belinda liked Amma, but befriending her could be quite another thing.

Still, the two girls grew close and they began to

share secrets. Belinda unburdened herself of the shameful things her mother had done. Amma told Belinda that she liked girls in that way. Both knew they'd have to rely on one another in days to come.

Neither knew their friendship would cause regrets...

Absolutely, "Housegirl" is not an easy book to read.

Parts of it are written in the Ghanaian language of Twi, and though there's a glossary before this story starts, it's cumbersome to constantly page back and forth.

More back-and-forth comes from character con-

versation in which it isn't always clear who's saying what, so it all ends up being a mish-mash of words.

Add to that a number of odd details that seem pruriently gratuitous (do we really, for example, need to know about a character's need for hygiene products? The answer is "no.") and you've got a lot of cringing ahead.

That's too bad; the characters are mostly very likeable, maybe even relatable, and the settings are perfectly written. That makes "Housegirl" flawed, though it's not a terrible novel; it's just that, if you try it, it's going to be a challenge.

## BRYSON, continued from Page 10

meant that you were a cat in a room full of rocking chairs and if you emerged from that room, you really were something," he said.

Bryson sat on the front porch of his Buckhead, Georgia home, watching a family of deer roam by as the southern sky above turned dark because of an impending storm.

Having recently completed his 21st studio album with the legendary production duo of Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, Bryson said he was as excited as ever for his new music and accompanying tour that will have him travel all over the United States and to Japan.

First, however, he wanted to talk about his son.

"I have such a beautiful family and my little man ... I can tell you it's like watch-

ing a mini version of myself. Almost every single aspect of him reminds me of me," the proud father said.

One of the premiere vocalists in music over the past 40 years, Bryson has earned two Grammy Awards and two Academy Awards – he's also responsible for a memorable 1992 Oscar night performance with Angela Lansbury and Celine Dion as they earned rave reviews for their performance of the title track from the movie, "Beauty and the Best," which won Best Original Song.

With hits that included duets with Natalie Cole, Roberta Flack and Regina Belle, Bryson has the distinction of being the first artist in music history to have separate records top-

ping four different charts.

He believes his new album, "Stand for Love," has even more hits, particularly because of the added touch of Jam and Lewis.

"Excited doesn't begin to describe what it's like working with them. The first thing you notice is the absence of ego and self-importance," Bryson said of the producers who have worked with Prince, Michael Jackson and many others.

Together, Jam and Lewis made Janet Jackson an international icon.

"My challenge to them was, 'Can you make me current without destroying what has taken me a lifetime to accomplish?'" Bryson said.

"I asked them if they could put me in today's conversation about music,

to make me valid to be in a conversation. I couldn't think of anyone else."

Even prior to its release, the new album has caught on.

The lead single, "Love Like Yours and Mine," has rocketed to No. 3 on Billboard's Adult R&B list and the second single, "All She Wants to Do is Me," has already been featured on the Showtime hit series, "The Chi."

Part of Bryson's success can be credited to his being able to say no in a world where everybody is accustomed to hearing the opposite, he said.

"I was saying no to drugs long ago. Some might have called me a 'goody-two-shoes' and a bunch of other things but I tend to look at it as being young and pragmatic as opposed to young

and restless," Bryson said.

The singer, who's career has yielded such hits as "Feel the Fire," "Tonight I Celebrate My Love," and "Can You Stop the Rain," also has kept the proper perspective on celebrity and real life.

"There are two things you have to understand about celebrity and success," Bryson said.

"One is, fame is not real. You have to accept that. Fame really for an artist is everybody else's perception of you, but you. Everybody else's perception is valid except for yours if you adapt that. In terms of success, everything that you have can be taken a way from you in the next five seconds."

Bryson continued:

"[Celebrities] become invulnerable and that's what

they think success is but the hardest thing to navigate for a human being is not adversity, it's success itself. Every single virtue you've ever had or everything you've ever hoped to achieve. Look, I treat every human being that I come in contact with the way I want to be treated and look, I buy my own toilet paper."

For Bryson, the new album is just one more thing he's grateful for.

"At this stage of my life, I appreciate things more completely and it's not just regular gratitude," he said.

"I'm starting to appreciate the concept of second-hand grace and I'm not sitting around waiting for that big grace. To have this kind of success and a 7-month-old to carry my name and to marry my best friend ... yes, I'm grateful," he said.

## COWBOYS, continued from Page 9

for him," Looney said. "You never know what he's going to do on any given play.

"He's a competitor who works hard, so I'm excited to watch him out there."

### A kicker's impact on the team's fate

The Cowboys are also excited to see the progress made by quarterback Dak Prescott, who led the team to

17 points while playing on just four drives during the preseason. Still, the loss of Bailey could come back to haunt the Cowboys, with Garrett saying they discussed at great length whether to keep the player they signed as an undrafted free agent rookie out of Oklahoma State in 2011.

"Obviously Dan's been as

good a player as we've had over the last seven or eight years," Garrett said. "He's one of the elite kickers in the game and has been throughout his career. He's made a ton of big kicks for us. It was not an easy decision for us to make.

"One of the things that gave us confidence is how well Brett Maher has kicked both in practice and in games, and we feel like he

has an opportunity to help our football team in that role. Brett kicked along Dan all throughout training camp, and he did a really nice job in practice. Dan did a nice job in practice. We just felt like when you put it all together – all the different factors – this was the best decision for our team right now."

The Cowboys are coming off a disappointing 9-7 season and have high hopes of

advancing deep into the playoffs after missing out on the postseason last year. But with tight end Jason Witten retired, and wide receiver Dez Bryant and Bailey no longer with Dallas, the Cowboys will be banking on a lot of production from their younger players.

"It's certainly energy and excitement, and we've worked very hard to get to this point," Garrett said.

"We've had a lot of hard decisions we've had to make over the last few days, but we feel good about the 53 guys we have on our roster, we feel good about our practice squad.

"I think we've laid a good foundation for our team all throughout the spring and through training camp and during the preseason. I'm excited to see these guys play on Sunday."