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A packed field of candidates sets sights on the Dallas Mayor's office

By David Wilfong
NDG Contributing Writer

The race to replace Mike Rawlings, who will be stepping down as mayor, was already becoming a crowded field. This week, the race got even hotter, with longtime Texas State Representative Eric Johnson announcing he was entering the race as well.

Johnson, who has served in the Texas House of Representatives since 2010, said having represented one of the most diverse districts in the state makes him a prime candidate for the mayor's position on a council that has seen its share of challenges recently.

"It's time to move beyond the old divisions at City Hall and work together toward real solutions. If we do, Dallas will be a city of strong, safe neighborhoods where families thrive and where every child has the opportunities to succeed that I enjoyed growing up in this incredible city," Johnson said.

There is one current Councilmember in the running as well. Scott Griggs, who represents District 1 in Oak Cliff, is extremely popular among his constituents and



(Above, clockwise) State Rep. Eric Johnson, Dallas Councilmember Scott Griggs, real estate developer Mike Ablon and former DHA Chairman Albert Black are four of the 10 candidates currently running for Dallas Mayor.

is terming out on the council. Griggs has also raised the ire of a few business and government interests in Dallas, as he has developed somewhat of a reputation as a rabid watchdog. It's a reputation he has not shied away from, promising to "ruthlessly pursue transparency" on the council.

Albert Black, former chairman of the Dallas Housing Authority (DHA) and Dallas Regional Chamber, was the first to announce and has already garnered more than

\$277,000 in contributions for the race.

"From Dallas' most prominent leaders, to everyday folks who gave us five bucks complimented with their hopes and dreams for a better Dallas, we're showing that everyone can invest in a brighter future for all our families," Black said.

Mike Ablon, a real estate developer, is looking for ethics reform at city hall as well. However, as a de-

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READERS SOUND OFF!!!

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People In The News...



John Olajide



Chanel White

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



John Olajide

John Olajide, founder and CEO of Axxess, the fastest-growing home healthcare technology company, has been selected by the Dallas Regional Chamber's Board of Directors as the organization's Chair for 2020.

This year, Chris Nielsen, Executive Vice President for Product Support at Toyota North America, succeeds John Stephens, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at AT&T Inc., as Chair of the Dallas Regional Chamber. Olajide will serve as Chair-elect in 2019, and then succeed Nielsen as



Chair in January 2020.

"John has made valuable contributions to the Dallas Regional Chamber over the past several years as a member of our Executive Committee, and as Chair of our Innovation and Capital

Task Force," said Dale Petroskey, President and CEO of the Dallas Regional Chamber.

"He's a proven leader with a clear vision and lots of positive energy who has built a highly successful business in a very short time. With his unique background, relative youth, and intimate knowledge of the technology and entrepreneurial sectors, he'll bring a fresh perspective as our Chair in 2020."

Added Olajide: "Under Dale's leadership the Dallas Regional Chamber has become the best chamber organization in the country, and I gain tremendous value

through my engagement. I am honored and humbled by the Board's recognition of my contributions, and I look forward to supporting Chris's leadership this year."

The 38-year-old Olajide's vision for Axxess began while earning a degree in telecommunications engineering from the University of Texas at Dallas. After graduating in 2004, Olajide continued working within the home healthcare industry and learning about its unique needs. By 2007, he knew he wanted to create a special company to make lives better by advancing

home healthcare. Since introducing its flagship software in 2011, Axxess' solutions are used by more Medicare-certified home care organizations than any other home healthcare software provider.

Olajide was a finalist for the Tech Titans Emerging Company CEO of the Year Award in 2017, and was recently named by the Dallas Business Journal as among "20 Healthcare Innovators You Need to Know in North Texas."

In 2015 Olajide became the youngest person ever honored as a distinguished alumnus by the University

of Texas at Dallas, and in 2018 was named to the school's executive board. In addition to his involvement with the Dallas Regional Chamber and other civic and community boards, Olajide also sits on the board of the Dallas Entrepreneurial Center.

Axxess is a home health technology company "with roots firmly embedding in consulting and software development," states the company's website. Axxess focuses on providing home healthcare agencies with the solutions they need to run their businesses more efficiently.

Chanel White

Less than a year ago Lancaster ISD Belt Line Elementary computer science teacher Chanel White organized an after school club for students interested in computer science. Little did she know the club would grow so large that she would be asking her principal Mrs. Wendy Hawthorne if there could be a computer science class offered to elementary students.

"I am very passionate about teaching computer science," White said. "I am passionate about helping students understand that computer science isn't something inside a box. It is something



they use every day from how they brush their teeth to how they get up in the morning."

Since Mrs. White began teaching computer science this year, more students have become involved. Her hard

work hasn't gone unnoticed as she was nominated by Lancaster ISD's Director of Blended Learning for the Computer Science Teachers Association and Code.org 2018 Champion for Computer Science award. Mrs. White was recognized as one of the eight winners at the national convention recently.

"Mrs. White has created a culture of innovation at her elementary school," Clark said. "She is the definition of innovation."

White said she wanted to start a computer science class to give students who may not otherwise get exposure to this type of experience in elementary.

"I wanted to give students the opportunity to work with real world scenarios in the classroom," White said. "I wanted to teach students how to think creatively in order to solve problems. This is what we do every day in my classroom."

Mrs. Clark said White had her after school group up to nearly 50 students before convincing her principal she needed a computer science class.

"When this group spiraled into something magical, Mrs. White was ready to move this into the classroom," Clark said. "She has since created a culture of innovation at her elementary campus."

It is not unusual for one to see in Mrs. White's class students moving around working together to communicate their ideas to their peers. She said this will help the students in their future.

"The skills these students are learning in my class are real world," White said. "Their ability to think critically and be natural problem solvers is what companies will be looking for when they leave Lancaster ISD."

White said she enjoys the flexibility she has in her classroom. Unlike a traditional classroom here students are never doing the same thing on any given day.

"I tell them all the furniture

in my lab is moveable and they can create their own learning space with their peers to solve problems," White said. "I do not give them any answers instead I give them tools to research the problems and solve problems together."

White said she is happy she was recognized for this award. However she said she teaches because she enjoys seeing students learn.

"When you see the smiles on the students faces when they are able to solve a coding puzzle it is awesome," White said. "This is the best thing about being a teacher is seeing students excited about what they are learning."

NDG Readers Sound Off...

Tips for Finding the Right School for Your Child

My daughter is going to start school next year and I want to make sure I put her in the best school for her. Thank you for pointing out that I should make a list of attributes I want in a school for her. I'll have to do this and then do some research to find the best private school for her.

-- Ellie Davis

Richardson mayor addresses lack of MLK events

Maybe the "North Dal-

las Gaz should stay focused on "North Dallas". Just a thought.

-- thomas boughnou

Sister Tarpley: Remembering Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Wondering why the author chose to refer to Morehouse as a 'Negro institution' instead of an Historically Black College (HBCU)...?

It's an outdated term.

-- Leslie Jones

(Editor's response: That is a fair question. However, please note Sister Tarpley

grew up in an era when this was likely a common term.

As an editor, I did not consider how some react to the term as it is one I heard from my parents who would be peers of Sister Tarpley. Of course it remains a part of UNCF's name as well.

Thanks for reaching out!)

Dallas Black Clergy challenge city leaders to move beyond lip-service in honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ruth Ferguson please keep us updated on the progress here

-- Glenn Reedus (Chicago)

via Facebook

Great article. I'm proud of the work you guys are doing. Head down... (and held high)

-- Lessie Semien

via Facebook

HALLELUJAH

-- LaWanda Clark

Washington

via Facebook

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Elected Enemies – The government shutdown that’s crippling America

By Jeffrey L. Boney
NNPA Political Analyst

Imagine having to choose between paying your mortgage and picking up the much-needed prescription for your health crisis because the job you report to and the federal resources you have relied on to live day to day are no longer available to you because of things beyond your control.

Choices like those, and many others, are exactly what approximately 800,000 federal employees, roughly 4 million federal government contractors and countless low-income families — who rely on the federal government assistance — have had to deal with since the beginning of what has become the longest government shutdown in U.S. history. This has been the third shutdown of the federal government since President Donald J. Trump took the oath of office. However, as a result of the current catastrophic and life-altering shutdown, millions of the people who rely on the government for their livelihood — directly and indirectly — have been severely impacted.

People have had their Medicare and Medicaid disrupted. The stock market has been volatile. Federal workers have gone without paychecks and are in danger of losing everything they have worked so hard for while attaining the American dream. Safety has also become an issue.

Our food supply is at risk. As a result of the shutdown, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) immediately announced that they had stopped most of their routine food safety inspections because the staff had been working without pay, including safety inspections on foods that have been imported from overseas, dangerous recalls, foodborne illness outbreaks and much more.

Our drugs supply is at risk.

The FDA has stated that, because of the shutdown, they no longer have the ability to review new drugs that could be beneficial in helping people get better and/or address critical illnesses, until the government reopens.

Even our airports are at risk.

Just a few weeks ago, a passenger on Delta Air Lines, traveling from Atlanta’s Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport to Tokyo, Japan, informed authorities that he had inadvertently carried his loaded firearm through airport security and onto the plane. The Transportation Security

Administration (TSA) confirmed this problematic incident took place. There is increasing concern that unpaid TSA workers may not have the same level of focus and, perhaps even worse, many of them are not reporting to work.

Just this past week, the TSA checkpoint in Terminal B at Houston’s George Bush Intercontinental Airport was closed due to the number of TSA agents that called in sick, protest the shutdown. Things are getting more and more out of hand. On top of the potential safety issues impacting Americans, the financial strain this shutdown is putting on the American people, especially in large states like Texas, is devastating. This government shutdown will impact more than 3.5 million Texans who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits come February 2019.

SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. According to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, there were 3,580,375 people receiving SNAP benefits in Texas alone as of December 2018. Many African Americans and people of color are major beneficiaries of SNAP benefits in Texas. Texas State Senator Boris L. Miles stated that while the shutdown is already hurting Texans all across the state, he believes it will hit

“To hold the country hostage because President Trump can’t get his beloved wall across the southern border, when he stated from the onset that he would make the country of Mexico pay for it, is unfair and disingenuous.”

the poorest Texans the hardest, because after February 2019, SNAP beneficiaries will no longer receive the necessary funds to purchase food.

“This is unacceptable,” said Miles. “I am calling on the Texas leadership to make emergency preparations to help Texans on food stamps and other programs impacted by the shutdown. I am prepared to roll up my sleeves and work with my colleagues to ensure we fund these programs adequately so that no Texan should go hungry.”

Senator Miles also sent a joint letter to President Trump, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to make it clear that Texas is prepared to help those impacted in our state and expects to be reimbursed when the federal government reopens.

“This is not a Democratic

or Republican issue, or a rural, urban or suburban issue, it’s a poor people issue,” said Miles. “We need to do the right thing, help the poorest in our communities and minimize the impact of this shutdown.”

It is challenging to witness the very people who were elected to represent the American people, turn around and allow their personal politics and unconscionable political ideologies severely hurt the people they are supposed to serve — especially after being voted into office with the expectation of representing their constituents as advocates, not enemies.

The longer this government shutdown continues, the more the American people will suffer and the more America as a whole will be at risk.

The American people must demand more from the federal officials who were elected to represent them. Americans, regardless of socioeconomic status, must let their federal legislators and the current White House administration know that things have gone too far and must get back to normal for the sake of the stability of the nation.

To hold the country hostage because President Trump can’t get his beloved wall across the southern border, when he stated from the onset that he would make the country of Mexico pay for it, is unfair and disingenuous. Subsequently, any elected official who cosigns this mode of thinking and action is equally as irresponsible.

It is time for all elected officials to stop playing chicken with the American people’s livelihoods and start doing what they were sent to Washington, DC to do: Act in the best interests of American citizens and stop playing the role of “Enemy of the People” that they were elected to serve.

Lose weight now, gain future years on your life

Every year there are new food gurus, fad diets, cookbooks and theories that claim to offer the “best” way to lose extra pounds and reach a healthy weight. U.S. News & World Report even created a ranking for “Best Diets.” This year after evaluating 41 of the most popular diets, their panel awarded the gold to the Mediterranean Diet, a heart-healthy eating plan emphasizing primarily plant-based foods, whole grains, olive oil and fish.

As part of our national obsession with weight loss, 7 days are dedicated each January as National Healthy Weight Week, coming up this January 19-26 to raise awareness about healthy lifelong eating habits. According to Statista.com, 45 percent of Americans surveyed said their New Year’s resolution for 2018 was to lose weight or get in shape. But a study by the University of Scranton found that just 8 percent of people achieve their New Year’s goals.

“The reason it’s so important to attain and maintain a healthy weight,” according



Brook Lark / Unsplash

to Manisha Raja, MD, a primary care physician at Parkland Health & Hospital System, “is to increase our lifespan and enjoy a better quality of life. There are a whole slew of health problems associated with being overweight, including heart disease, hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, liver and gall bladder disease, sleep apnea and several cancers.”

But when it comes to weight, is it actually ‘healthy’ to focus on a number on the scale rather than other health indicators?

“Instead of focusing on your weight, check your BMI (body mass index). It can be a better indicator of healthy weight,” Dr. Raja advised. (Use the US Na-

tional Institute of Health calculator to determine your body mass index.)

According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), a BMI between 18.5 and 24.9 indicates a healthy weight for an adult age 20 or older. A BMI of 30 or more indicates obesity. “Some studies have shown that patients with a BMI of 40-45 or above have a life span 10 years shorter than those with a normal BMI,” Dr. Raja said.

If you do need to lose weight, be sure to consult with your doctor before starting a new diet or exercise plan, Dr. Raja said.

Sharon Cox, RD, who conducts weight-loss classes for patients at Parkland’s Bluit-Flowers Health Cen-

ter, recommends a slow and steady approach.

“Aim for losing one to two pounds a week through a combination of exercise and sensible changes in diet,” Cox said. “If you lose too fast, you won’t be able to sustain and keep it off.”

Dietitians and physicians agree that achieving a healthy weight (and maintaining it) is not just about what foods you choose. It’s about many other factors including how much and when you eat, exercise, sleep, your stress level and other health and lifestyle factors.

Maggy Doherty, RD, who works with inpatients at Parkland Memorial Hospital, recommends that people “stick to the basics – complex carbohydrates, lean proteins, low-fat dairy products, healthy fat, and lots of fruits and veggies. Eat healthy on weekdays, then relax a little on the weekends. Find the nutrition combination that works best for you.”

“It’s best to work on making lifestyle changes versus dieting. Think overall about your long-term health, not instant gratification. We get

lost trying to make too many changes at once. Set SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time-based) goals,” is what Marisa Aguillon, RD, a diabetes educator at Parkland, tells her patients.

Goal-setting begins with knowing your reason for weight change. “Is it for better health, a smaller dress size, to have more energy? The purpose is what gets you through it,” Cox said.

“Keep your goal in front of you to remind you of what you are trying to accomplish,” Aguillon said. “Write it down and put it in places you’ll see throughout the day or team up with someone who will hold you accountable.”

Doherty said we’re more likely to succeed by “making small and reachable monthly goals, instead of a monstrous yearly goal. For example, eliminate the salt shaker in January; cut out added sugar in coffee in February; swap processed chips for raw vegetables in March, and so on. When you reach your goal, reward yourself with something small to keep you motivated,

like a nice dinner out, massage or manicure.”

Other tips from Parkland dietitians:

- Eat smaller portions.
- Burn calories – find an exercise you enjoy do it 5 days a week for 30 to 45 minutes.
- Lift weights at least two times a week to preserve muscle mass.
- Eat 3 planned meals and 1 to 2 healthful snacks per day.
- Drink more water.
- Choose fresh lean protein and put more vegetables on your plate.
- Weigh weekly, chart your progress and reward yourself for reaching goals.
- Be prepared for relapse, so have a plan to get back on track soon.
- Get 7 to 8 hours sleep each night.
- Manage stress with exercise, meditation, yoga or other positive methods of stress-relief.
- Have a positive support system in place to keep you focused and motivated to maintain weight loss.

For more information about Parkland, please visit www.parklandhospital.com.

Can a stronger neck help prevent a concussion?

For a new study, which appears in the Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy, researchers looked at previous studies on the role that the neck’s strength, size, and posture play in reducing concussion risk. They also looked into the greater risk of head injury to female and young male athletes who play contact or impact sports.

The researchers then developed recommendations physical therapists and athletic trainers can use to protect athletes.

These include performing

a thorough cervical spine assessment as part of the pre-athletic participation exam; screening for pain because baseline reports of neck pain have been associated with increased concussion risk in young athletes; and providing interventions such as exercises to strengthen neck muscles.

“Our ability to detect sports-related concussions has greatly improved, but our ability to prevent concussions and decrease post-injury outcomes remains limited,” says lead author Allison Brown, an assistant

professor at the Rutgers University School of Health Professions.

“We have identified neck strength, size, and posture as potential factors that reduce risk by lessening the magnitude of force upon impact. Thus, increasing neck strength and possibly size could substantially reduce risk or severity of injury or outcomes.”

An impact that makes the brain move within the skull causes concussions, which can lead to problems with thinking, concentration, mood, or other neurological

changes. Additional symptoms can include dizziness and nausea.

A stronger, thicker neck that is aligned in a forward posture—with the ears ahead of rather than aligned with the shoulders—may reduce the amount of energy transferred to the brain during an impact and reduce the risk and severity of injury, says senior author Carrie Esopenko, an assistant professor at the School of Health Professions.

Women typically have less neck strength and experience a greater concussion risk as

well as greater severity of symptoms and longer duration of recovery compared to

men, Esopenko says. Source: Rutgers University

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Irving approves \$300,000 agreement to improve traffic control

By Rachel Hawkins
NDG Staff Writer

The Irving City Council approved a \$300,000 agreement between the City of Irving and Taurus Technologies Inc., to update the community's traffic system. The agreement was approved at the council's Jan. 17 public meeting at the Irving City Hall. Irving accepted staff's recommendation to move forward with the purchase of new monitoring equipment and controls for the



Alexander Popov / Unsplash

traffic operating systems.

The existing traffic signal system is at the end of its

18-year life span. The new system is designed to provide a fully integrated wire-

less traffic management system which will improve traffic flow, integration of emerging technologies, system monitoring, traffic safety, and provide performance measures.

This project will provide replacement and upgrades of the traffic signal controllers, traffic signal controller software, and central management software system. This will also allow them to watch school zones and improve their traffic safety.

With the new update, the system will have the capability to evaluate the real-time traffic system, allow the traffic signals and traffic signal timing to be adjusted at any time. The can also evaluate intersections which appear to be malfunctioning from the traffic operations center via cameras; also the ability to monitor special events and emergencies.

The new traffic cameras will allow the city staff to look at the vehicles approaching the intersection

and give them a better view, thus providing better reliability and response out of the system.

In 2017, The City of Irving's Traffic Signal Division replaced traffic signal controllers at more than 200 intersections. This improvement allowed all 208 traffic signals to talk to one another thereby offering improved safety and traffic flow while passing on vital information to the new traffic operations center.

Irving ISD honors school board members at Jan. 22 meeting

By Rachel Hawkins
NDG Staff Writer

Several educators were honored during the Irving school board meeting on Jan. 22. These recognitions included Kendrick Taylor, special education teacher at Nimitz High School named Teacher of the Month. Brenda Anderson, Buyer in the Purchasing department, was named Employee of the Month.

Also, Armando Robles

Del Rio, nominated by Hanes Elementary School, received Guest Educator of the Month.

To celebrate Irving school board appreciation month, Irving Independent School District (ISD) students and teachers spoke before the board and extended thanks to the school board members. The theme for this year's Irving school board appreciation month is "Planting Seeds of Success."

"More than 33,000 students depend on the school to help them prepare for the future," Tierney Tinnin, Executive Director of Communications of Irving Independent School District stated.

"Our board of trustees plays a vital role in ensuring that our schools are available, qualified teachers are in place, the building is safe, and resources are provided."

To show their apprecia-

tion, teachers, and students from several schools either made or purchased small tokens of appreciation. The special gifts composed of a navy polo shirt, a hand-crafted tree, a succulent and a framed photo. In the end, the Elliott Elementary School bell ringers performed "God Bless Amer-

ica" for the board and gathered guests.

During the meeting, an announcement was shared with the final results of their 2018-2019 Payroll Deduction Campaign Donations to Irving Schools Foundation. Last year, the school district raised \$313,864.

In 2018, they planned and

succeeded in their goal by raising more than \$350,000. The leaders were pleased to report participation rose from 71 percent from last year to 75 percent for this year.

All of this money will go towards the Irving schools for scholarships and grants for their students.

Dallas awards Green Building Certification to LBJ Infrastructure Group

Dallas Environmental Quality & Sustainability issued its Green Building Certification to LBJ Infrastructure Group for demonstrating leadership in environmentally sustainable business practices. The company received Gold status for diverting 80% of its waste from the landfill through recycling and reducing its environmental footprint by educating its staff to conserve water and energy in their daily operations.

LBJ Infrastructure reconstructs expanded frontage lanes and main lanes, as well as the addition of bypass lanes. Its toll lanes are added within existing roadway to handle more traffic volume. The company manages lanes in Dallas and offers roadside assistance services.



Dallas zero waste manager Danielle McClelland (left) presents Gold level Green Business Certification to LBJ Infrastructure chief operating officer Roberto Carrasco (center) and environmental health & safety manager Dwayne Smith (right). (Courtesy photo)

The City of Dallas Green Building Certification program recognizes local businesses which demonstrate a commitment to environmental practices through leadership and policy, recycling, education, energy efficiency,

water conservation, and transportation. To learn more about the program and to apply for certification, visit the Sanitation page at www.dallascityhall.com or email DallasRecycles@dallascityhall.com.



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Dallas ISD and North Lake College now recruiting rising ninth-graders for new collegiate program

The new North Lake Collegiate Academy is opening in August as a joint effort of Dallas County Community College District and Dallas ISD. The new program—open to students anywhere in Dallas County—will put a tuition-free high school diploma and college degree within reach of more area students at a substantial financial savings to their families.

The academy will offer courses and career pathways in public service, criminal justice and business administration. Rising ninth-graders have until



Dallas ISD

Jan. 31 to apply at www.dallasisd.org/your-choices. Parents and students can obtain details at an information sessions planned for 6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 24, at North Lake

College, 1081 W. Shady Grove Rd. in Irving.

North Lake College President Christa Slejko welcomes the new program. “This is a wonderful opportunity for more high school

students to earn a high school diploma and an associate degree at the same time,” she said. “The collegiate academy is a great option for students within our community, and we look forward to welcoming these new Blazers to our North Lake family this fall.”

Dallas ISD Principal Chase McLaurin, who will serve as administrator of the new program, says attending high school on a college campus is a major attraction for students who will in one sense be able to jump directly from middle school to college.

“I think the location is important for students,” he said. “Being on a college campus helps students realize that their dreams of going to college are real, possible, and coming true. This is a game changer for students and opens up a whole new world of opportunities.”

The tuition-free opportunity offers families the potential to save up to \$40,000 in college tuition. Students also earn credit, hands-on experience and mentoring from industry partners in a variety of career pathways.

Since their inception in

2016, Dallas ISD’s collegiate academies have become a niche for highly motivated students whose families recognize the value of their student graduating with both a high school diploma and up to 60 hours of college credit or an associate degree at no personal cost to their families.

The schools are a partnership of Dallas ISD and the Dallas County Community College District, which share faculty and curriculum and allow juniors and seniors to take classes on a college campus.

Texans Can athletes visit SMU basketball game for jersey retirement

On Jan. 12, basketball players for Texans Can Academy - Fort Worth Lancaster; Texans Can Academy - Dallas Oak Cliff; and Texans Can Academy - Dallas Ross Avenue attended Southern Methodist University’s basketball game for a special ceremony for Ira Terrell. One of Texans Can Academies’ longest and most dedicated volunteers, Terrell played basketball for SMU from 1972 to 1976 and earned



Texans Can Academy

a place in the SMU Athletics Hall of Fame. His jersey, number 32, was retired during

halftime.

Terrell ranks second all-time at SMU in rebounds,

sixth in scoring, and second in career scoring average. He was selected by the Phoenix Suns in the third round of the 1976 NBA Draft, and from 1976 to 1978, he played for the Suns, New Orleans Jazz, and Portland Trailblazers.

Terrell has volunteered with Texans Can Academies for over 30 years and is currently on the Dallas Development Council and Golf Committee. He invited Texans Can Acad-

emies’ basketball players to attend the game and the jersey-retirement ceremony.

After the ceremony, Terrell shared encouraging words with the students, signed their programs, and took pictures with them. Among those attending, only one of the students had ever attended a college or professional basketball game. The experience was one these students will not forget.

The Mustangs went on that night to take a nearly 30-point victory against the University of Tulsa.

Texans Can Academies is dedicated to graduating thinkers and committed to ensuring students have all the information and tools needed for a successful college or career path after graduation. For more information about Texans Can Academies, please visit www.texanscan.org.

MAYOR, continued from Page 1

veloper Ablon has a perspective on the city at street level. He is looking for improvements to infrastructure such as streets and emergency services.

“We can only do this if we come together as a city and do what’s right for the future success of every part of Dallas, starting with improving basic city and education services that make a positive and lasting difference in our everyday lives,” Ablon said.

Dallas Independent School District Trustee Miguel Solis has also thrown his hat into the ring, shifting from the educational side of the community to focus on the administration of city government.

“As a former Dallas pub-

lic school teacher, school board member, and non-profit leader, I’ve heard from hundreds of people across our city who believe the old ways of doing things just won’t work anymore,” Solis noted in announcing his candidacy. “Like me, they’re proud of the progress being made in Dallas but recognize the many challenges still left to overcome. They want to create paths to prosperity and equity for everyone - but they’re waiting for new leaders and ideas that will bring hope and change.”

There is also a former Presidential candidate in the running for Dallas Mayor. Alyson Kennedy ran in the 2016 election for the Socialist Workers Party

(SWP). The term “Socialist” has lost some of the stigma it held only a few years ago, but Kennedy has run for office with the SWP in elections dating back to 1977.

“The capitalist owners, Democratic and Republican politicians who run the government in their interests, could care less about young people who can’t afford to get a house or apartment of their own, get married and start a family,” Kennedy said. “The Socialist Workers Party calls for a massive government-financed jobs program at union scale wages to rebuild crumbling infrastructure and provide affordable housing for all.”

Lynn McBee is the CEO of The Bridge, which serves Dallas’ homeless population, as well as the Young Women’s Preparatory Net-

work; and she serves as an officer on the Dallas County Community College District Foundation. She has received numerous awards for community leadership and believes this experience can translate into success for the City of Dallas.

“As a CEO of an education organization, and with more than 25 years as a servant leader in Dallas, I’ve gained the perspective and experience to forge the coalitions and partnerships we need to solve our city’s greatest challenges,” McBee says.

Regina Montoya, a former Clinton administration aide and Harvard Law graduate, also comes to the table with a wealth of community and business service, ranging from the Mayor’s Task Force on Poverty, to the Vice Chair of the Board of

Directors for DFW Airport.

“We need greater collaboration and coordination between city government, civic groups, nonprofits and businesses to ensure better progress,” Montoya said. “I’ve spent my life in Dallas working across all these areas. I know good work is happening - but it’s a matter of bringing it all together.”

Jason Villalba is a former Republican Texas State Representative and a businessman in Dallas. He touts his record in Austin, including digging up \$5 billion when the state’s education was at financial risk, as proof he can “get things done” as the leader of the city.

“Like you, I am a proud Texan and proud of the community we have here in Dallas,” Villalba said. “We are a city of vitality, growth,

optimism, and development. But that doesn’t mean it can’t be better. We have the highest percentage of uninsured and undereducated children. There are senior citizens who are leaving their homes because property taxes that are so high. We must do more for all who call this city home.”

Oak Cliff resident Miguel Patino has also filed paperwork to run for the mayor’s seat, however as of press time online information on his campaign is minimal.

The crowded field has already led one candidate, former city attorney Larry Casto, to suspend his campaign. Casto has thrown his support behind Ablon. With so many candidates, and so many issues at stake, the road to the head of the horseshoe is bound to be a tough one.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy honored at annual breakfast

The annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Power Leadership Breakfast drew hundreds of community members to Collin College's Plano Campus, Jan. 19, to remember the life and work of Dr. King, and to consider his belief in education as a force for good.

The theme of this year's breakfast was "Intelligence + Character = True Education." The event included a resolution from Gov. Greg Abbott presented by State Representatives Matt Shaheen (District 66), Jeff Leach (District 67) and Candy Noble (District 89), and State Senator Angela Paxton (District 8), a proclamation from the city of Plano delivered by Mayor Harry LaRosiliere, a panel discussion by area school superintendent, student presentations and performances, and the announcement of multiple scholarships. The breakfast was also attended by Collin



Collin College student Toluwani Ogunbayode is awarded the Adrian Rodriguez Scholarship at the annual MLK Breakfast. (Courtesy photo)

Allred, U.S. Representative for Texas (District 32).

The event honored the following students and community members:

- Collin College student Toluwani Ogunbayode was awarded the Adrian Rodriguez Scholarship, which honors a Collin College Board of Trustees member who has dedicated uncounted hours to the MLK Power Leadership Breakfast as a moderator and co-chair of the committee. Ogunbayode will graduate from Collin this spring and then

head to Texas A&M for a degree in agricultural economics. He would like to apply his education to impact food production in the most rural parts of the Earth. Ogunbayode is pictured above (center) flanked by Rodriguez, MLK Power Leadership Breakfast Co-Chair Evelyn McKnight, Past Chair Joe McKnight and Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin.

- Kevin Vicknair was awarded the Evelyn and Don McKnight Scholarship, named in honor of two long-

time volunteers and leaders in the MLK Power Leadership Breakfast. Vicknair is a health science major who calls himself a proud family man. Vicknair is pictured (center) with Rodriguez, Evelyn McKnight, Joe McKnight and Dr. Matkin.

- Stefanie Lo, a surgical assistance student, was honored with the Alpha Kappa Alpha Chi Zeta Omega Scholarship. Lo has been actively involved on the campus and in the community. Lo is pictured (centered in the picture at right) with Alpha Kappa Alpha President Charisse Wright (left) and Dr. Matkin.

- Leticia Reyes was awarded a scholarship sponsored by the Plano North Metroplex Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Reyes is a surgical assistance major who looks forward her role in the operating room. She also volunteers in the preschool at her church. Reyes is pictured (center) in

the photo at right with Paula Parker, president of The Links, and Dr. Matkin.

The college also announced that the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Scholarship Fund had reached endowment status thanks to the donations of attendees over the many years of the MLK Leadership Power Breakfast and to a recent large donation by community members Ruben and Mary Alice Garza. The couple was honored for their donation, which pushed the fund over the endowment threshold, allowing it to continue funding scholarships in perpetuity.

The annual celebration is organized by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Power Breakfast Committee and was sponsored this year, as in previous years, by Capital One. Donations for the scholarship fund are accepted throughout the year through the Collin College Foundation. For more infor-

mation on making a gift to this fund, call 972-599-3145. More photos of the breakfast event are available at <https://collincollege.resourcespace.com/?c=424&k=2d46e83b1a>.

Collin College serves more than 55,000 credit and continuing education students annually and offers more than 100 degrees and certificates in a wide range of disciplines. The only public college based in Collin County, Collin College is a partner to business, government and industry, providing customized training and work force development. In addition, the college operates the Collin Higher Education Center, which serves 3,500 additional students each year in partnership with The University of Texas at Dallas, Texas Woman's University, Texas A&M Commerce, Texas Tech and the University of North Texas.

Plano City Manager retiring after nearly three decades serving the city

Plano City Manager Bruce Glasscock notified the City Council of his intent to retire at the end of April, 2019. Glasscock served in the public sector for 50 years, the last 29 with the City of Plano.

Glasscock began his career with the City of Plano in 1990 when he was selected Police Chief. In 1998 he was appointed additional responsibilities as Deputy City Manager and held dual leadership roles through

2001 at which time he transitioned to full-time responsibilities as Deputy City Manager. Council appointed him City Manager in 2011. "A lot has been accomplished during my career with Plano for which I am honored to have been a part, but the true credit goes to "Team Plano" and the more than 2000 employees who provide service to our citizen on a daily basis. I will miss those employees and the tremendous work

they do for our community," said Glasscock.

During his tenure, the City received numerous accolades including being recognized as the "Best Place to Live in Texas," third "Best Place to Live in America," third "Best Place in America to Raise a Family," "Best Run City in America," one of "10 Healthiest Cities in America" and a recipient of the 4-STAR Community Rating for Sustainability. In addition,

the City of Plano consistently receives AAA Bond Ratings.

"We applaud Bruce's service and wish him the best. He leaves this role having served Plano with great honor and distinction," said Plano Mayor Harry LaRosiliere. "Future generations will feel the enduring impact of what has been accomplished throughout his tenure."

Glasscock guided the City as an active partner in

the development of the esteemed Legacy West area which is home to Boeing Global Services, FedEx Office, JCPenney, JPMorgan Chase, Liberty Mutual, Toyota Connected and Toyota Motor North America, among other businesses. He was also influential in the urban revitalization of Downtown Plano, designated by the American Planning Association as one of the "Great Places in America" and most recently

listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

In 2000, during his tenure as Plano's Police Chief, Glasscock served as the 88th President of International Association of Chiefs of Police and currently serves as a Past President of the association.

"The time has come to move along," said the retiring city manager. Glasscock and his wife, Memrie, have two adult sons and three grandchildren.

Commentary: End the border wall madness now

By Congresswoman
Eddie Bernice Johnson

While furloughed government employees are turning to pawn shops to borrow money to pay their rents and mortgages, and others are standing in line at food banks for groceries to feed their families, the president of the United States continues to be indifferent to their plight and refuses to take the meaningful steps that would lead to the re-

opening of our government, and their return to work.

It should be obvious to all of those who witnessed President Trump's most recent address to the nation from the White House that he lacks empathy for the 800,000 government employees who are either working without pay or are simply being told to stay at home.

Not once during his nearly 15-minute address did he mention the awful fi-

nancial and personal realities that they are facing as he holds them and the country hostage. The fact of the matter is that he is more concerned about the opinions of partisan political commentators, who are imploring him not to look weak, than he is about government employees.

Shamefully, he continues to request \$5.7 billion for a border wall that the vast majority of security experts say is not necessary, and

would be a waste of taxpayer dollars. In his speech the president offered temporary protection for approximately 700,000 young people, referred to as "Dreamers," who were brought to this country as minors. He also offered a reprieve to nearly 300,000 adult immigrants who are facing deportation.

This is not the first time that we have been down this path with the president. There are those who doubt

the sincerity of his proposals. Nearly one year ago, Mr. Trump rejected a deal that offered more money than he is currently requesting for a wall in return for a plan that would have offered citizenship to the Dreamers.

While giving his most recent remarks, the president did not address the single most pressing problem that our government faces, the shutdown. It is in his power to reopen the government,

bring employees back to work, and return our nation to some sense of normalcy.

Frankly, Mr. Trump is not being serious, and until he does government employees, and the people of our nation will continue to suffer. He is presiding over the longest government shutdown in the history of our nation. Certainly he knows what the right thing to do is. Hopefully, he will end this madness!

Addison

Don't miss out on the **Dark Circles Contemporary Dance: Winter Series** on Jan. 25, and several days at 8 p.m. at Addison Theatre Centre, in Addison. The winter series will feature three world premieres centering on gay identity in America. The new works will explore gay narratives, themes and ideas and will be performed by a mostly queer company of dancers. Dark Circles has commissioned gay choreographers Mark Caserta, Eoghan Dillon and Mikey Morado for the program. A new creation by Peugh — in collaboration with queer multimedia artist Brian Kenny — closes the evening. For more information visit www.darkcirclescontemporarydance.com.

Arlington

Firefall will be held on Jan. 25 starting at 8 p.m. at Arlington Music Hall, in Arlington. For founder Jock Bartley, Firefall is a 40 year labor of love. Their layered harmonies backed by driving rhythms transcends many genres from rock to country to AC and brought the band platinum and gold success with such hits as "You Are The Woman",

"Strange Way" and "Just Remember I Love You". Other major Firefall radio hits include "Cinderella", "Goodbye I Love You", "Livin' Ain't Livin'" and "Mexico". The genealogy and musical roots of FIRE-FALL run deep into the fertile soil of American rock and folk rock music.

It began with Woodie Guthrie and later, Bob Dylan, evolving into the Byrds and the Buffalo Springfield. The genre established by these luminaries continued with Crosby, Stills and Nash, Manassas, The Band, Neil Young, The Eagles, Poco, Loggins and Messina, The Flying Burrito Brothers, Gram Parsons and Emmy Lou Harris, Dan Fogelberg, America and FIRE-FALL. Many of these participants mingled in the studio and on tour.

Individually and collectively they created a sound that changed the world's musical landscape. FIRE-FALL is one of the few surviving bands of this genre, remaining true to its founding vision and roots despite personnel changes over its 40+ year history.

The band transcends and embraces many industrial labels- rock, soft rock, country rock, contemporary

country, easy listening and Americana. For more information visit <http://www.arlingtonmusicahall.net>.

The Texas Rangers Fan Fest will be held on Jan. 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Globe Life Park, in Arlington. Get ready for a new season of Texas Rangers baseball at the 2019 Fan Fest. Get autographs from former and future players, tour the club house and meet the coaches. Fans of all ages can take part in a variety of activities. There will be a Kids Zone, a home run derby and more. Admission prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 13 and younger. The first base box office opens at 7 a.m. and gates open at 9 a.m.

Dallas

Explore Social Science: Wild World on Jan. 25 starting at 7 p.m. at Perot Museum of Nature and Science, in Dallas. Social Science offers dozens of interactive activities, discussions and performances, all in a lively Friday-night setting for adults 21 and older. The January event is themed "Wild World," giving partygoers the chance to earn about adaptations, examine carnivorous plants and ex-

plore weather patterns, all with a custom cocktail in hand. Zoologists and meteorologists also will be in attendance. Tickets must be purchased online in advance at tickets.perotmuseum.org, this event typically sells out quickly, so buy your tickets early.

You can see the **Dallas Bridal Show** on Jan. 26, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Dallas Market Hall, in Dallas. If there are wedding bells in your future, don't miss this show. Representatives from more than 300 wedding-related businesses will be on hand to guide you in planning every detail of your wedding and honeymoon. There will be door prizes and giveaways, a fashion show and more. For tickets and more information visit bridalshowsincc.com.

Have fun at **Krewe of Orleans Mardi Gras Ball** on Jan. 26 starting at 6 p.m. at Centennial Hall at Fair Park, in Dallas. It's Carnival time and the Krewe of Orleans is hosting its fifth annual Mardi Gras Ball in Dallas. There will be Louisiana-themed food, drinks and entertainment. For more information visit



<https://kreweoforleans.com/2019-mardi-gras-ball>.

Explore **Dallas history at Legacies Dallas History Conference** on Jan. 26 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Hall of State, in Dallas. The theme of the 20th annual conference will be "Diversity in Dallas: Turning Points." The conference will feature presentations, discussion panels and refreshments. The patron reception (for \$100 conference registrants) will be held Jan. 24 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Aldredge House, 5500 Swiss Ave. Appetizers and wine will be served. Conference tickets are \$35; patron tickets include the conference and reception for \$100; student tickets are \$20. For tickets and information visit dallasheritagevillage.worldsecuresystems.com.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day will be held on Jan. 27, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Dallas Holocaust Museum, in Dallas. Marking the liberation of Auschwitz, International Holocaust Remembrance Day allows us to reflect upon the profound tragedy of the Holocaust.

We also come together to share a moment of peace and hope for the future. Free. Included in cost of admission. For more information visit <http://www.dallasholocaustmuseum.org/>.

Fort Worth

Don't miss out on the **Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo** on Jan. 25 until Feb. 8 starting at 8 a.m. at Will Rogers Memorial Center, in Fort Worth. Look for daily rodeo action, carnival and midway fun, acres of shopping, kid-friendly attractions, live music on the Coors Light Roadhouse stage, and much more during the 123rd Stock Show & Rodeo, one of Fort Worth's premier events. Running Jan. 18 through Feb. 9, the event features Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and specialty rodeo performances,

See BRIEFS, Page 16

Finance Committee discusses Harvey recovery, federal shutdown

AUSTIN - Review of the supplemental budget turned to discussions about Hurricane Harvey recovery and how the federal shutdown is affecting state agencies at the Senate Finance Committee hearing on Wednesday. For the latter issue the answer is: not much, according to Legislative Budget Board Assistant Director John McGeady. He says that most agencies that depend on some level of federal funding still have plenty in reserve, though that becomes less certain should the shutdown persist through the end of February. Some agencies have staff that are paid with federal funds, and McGeady said that agencies have been able to cover those wages with state funds. He expects that they

will be able to recoup those costs once federal funds start flowing again.

As for Hurricane Harvey recovery, Finance committee members talked not only about how to pay for recovery but also how to prepare for future events. Harvey dumped up to 60 inches of rain, the most ever recorded in the U.S. from a single storm, on the Texas Gulf Coast in August and September of 2017. Damage estimates for the storm top \$125 billion, making it the second most costly storm in US history, after 2005's Hurricane Katrina. The state has or will pay out millions for recovery efforts in the current biennium, and those costs have to be balanced on state ledgers. That's where the supplemental budget

comes in, and it includes \$1.2 billion in state funds, some drawn from the Rainy Day Fund, to pay for recovery efforts in the current fiscal period.

McGeady laid out for the committee how those funds are earmarked in the first draft of the supplemental budget. The lion's share, \$900 million, is for public schools. Part of the first \$300 million goes towards holding districts harmless for loss of student population due to the storm. Since districts get education funding based on daily student population, losing students displaced by the storm hit local school district budgets hard. The rest is for compensatory education costs, that is, students who get more funding from the state

due to some hardship. The storm increased the number of students eligible for this status, and the state must cover that cost.

The remaining \$600 million would go to cover the loss in property value caused by the storm. Since Texas funds education based on property taxes, if property values go down due to storm damage, that eats away at local school budgets. The final amount of funding to cover this loss in value and where it goes will be up to lawmakers to decide.

The discussion then turned to additional issues, not only to recovery but to prevention. Lubbock Senator Charles Perry, who chairs the Senate Water and Rural Affairs Committee, studied the issue of a statewide flood

plan during the interim. He cautioned his fellow members. "We can end up like a New Orleans, that still doesn't have recovery because nothing was done with oversight, coordination and collaboration" Perry said. "We need to leave here with a statewide flood plan with oversight and accountability designated for local, state and federal partners." He has filed a bill, SB 396, which would direct relevant agencies to develop a statewide plan for future flood mitigation, including provisions for regional cooperation, by 2024.

One area where the federal shutdown is impacting Texas citizens is in the flow of FEMA money towards Harvey recovery, said Brenham Senator Lois Kolkhorst.

She said that in conversations this week with Nim Kidd, Chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management, he warned her that every day of the shutdown could mean the loss of two days worth of funding. Kolkhorst raised concerns about how this could impact coastal districts. "It's kind of shut down and we're at a standstill on the housing issue that we see in my district, and then also some of the other FEMA funds that could come to our local communities for mitigation and for repair" she said. This is an issue that's out of state lawmakers' hands, as they wait for a resolution in Washington D.C.

The Senate will reconvene Monday, January 28 at 3 p.m.

Cowboys' offense leads to a season filled with missed opportunities

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports

FRISCO – Someone had to pay dearly for the Dallas Cowboys missing out on the Super Bowl for an unprecedented 23rd consecutive season. So far, that someone is offensive coordinator Scott Linehan.

Not long after the Cowboy's season abruptly ended with a 30-22 loss to the Los Angeles Rams in the National Football Conference semifinals, the team parted ways with Linehan, who was under fire for most of this season for his suspect play-calling. Still, despite releasing Linehan, coach Jason Garrett defended the job Linehan performed this season.

"This was not an easy decision because of how highly we regard Scott Linehan as a football coach and as a person," Garrett said in a prepared statement. "He and I had some really positive, substantive and open discussions which took place in the latter part of this week and we ultimately agreed that it would be in the best interest of all of the parties involved if we were to make a change at this (offensive coordinator) position.

"This was very much a mutual decision, and there was a great deal of common ground and shared understanding between both of us during our meetings. Scott has had an incredibly positive impact on our football team. He has been instrumental in the development and success of a significant number of our veteran and younger players. He is an outstanding football coach, a great friend and we wish him and his family nothing but the absolute best moving forward."

The Cowboys' offensive coordinator the past four seasons, Linehan expressed in his own statement on



Dallas Cowboys offense had it's moments but in the end it did not meet the challenge to get the team to the Super Bowl. (Photo: Keith Allison / Flickr)

how his career with the Cowboys had come to a stressful end.

"At the end, we resolved that a fresh start was probably best for both of us," Linehan said of his meeting with Garrett. "The Dallas Cowboys have been nothing but great to me -- first class all the way.

"There's a reason that they are the most valuable sports franchise on the planet. And I'll always respect Jason as a coach and I consider him a good friend. I'll miss my fellow coaches and my players a great deal, but life is about change and growth, and I very much look forward to my next challenge."

While the Cowboys have washed their hands of Linehan, they haven't yet reached out and announced whether they plan on offering contract extensions to Garrett or quarterback Dak Prescott this offseason. Garrett only has one more year remaining on his contract, while this is the first offseason Prescott is eligible for a long-term contract.

As Garrett's job status seemingly has been in limbo forever, Prescott had a star-crossed season this year as he completed 356-of-526 passes for 3,885 yards and 22 touchdowns. He also threw eight interceptions, missed several wide open receivers and appeared to have the same recurring issues with his foot-

work and mechanics.

Is the Cowboys offense going to rise to Bowl expectations in 2019?

Meanwhile, the Cowboys also look forward to their next challenge, which comes next season when they'll again probably think they'll have all the necessary tools to win a Super Bowl for the first time since 1996. Right guard Zack Martin acknowledged the opinion of many in Cowboys Nation in that this was

a season of missed opportunities, particularly in the season-ended against the Rams.

"I think we have a team that can win a championship, and I think everyone believes that in that locker room," Martin said. "That's what makes this loss so hard, because we know we have the team to do that.

"We just didn't put it all together (against the Rams)."

Still, running back Ezekiel Elliott likes the resiliency the Cowboys played with this season after they buckled up their chinstraps and fought back from a horrible 3-5 start to win eight of their final 10 games. That includes winning a wild card playoff game against the Seattle Seahawks, 24-22.

"We dealt with a lot of adversity this season and I think we did a great job handling it," said Elliott,

who led the NFL in rushing this season with 1,434 yards. "We started off 3-5 and nobody ever would have thought that we would have been here.

"We came up short (against the Rams), but I'm proud of these guys."

The Cowboys had problems scoring before the midseason trade that brought wide receiver Amari Cooper over from the Oakland Raiders. However, if the season doesn't conclude with a victory in the Super Bowl, for the Cowboys that's a season of sheer disappointment.

"We had our backs against the wall, really, since the middle of the season," safety Jeff Heath said. "The way this team kind of responded after the slow start, we stuck together and we kept playing hard and won a lot of really close games, and I think it's just something to be proud of.

"But obviously right now

it's tough to kind of think that way."

It's tough for the Cowboys to think that way, because they wired differently than most teams. In the Cowboys' world, it's Super Bowl or bust. Thus, from the Cowboys' perspective, this season was a bust.

"You have to remember these feelings when you stand in these locker rooms when you have disappointment," Garrett said. "It has to continue to drive you, and we have the kind of guys who do that well."

For the Cowboys, that drive will continue in earnest with obviously more offseason changes to come.

"We took some steps, but we really didn't accomplish what we wanted to," linebacker Damien Wilson said. "We only had one goal and I guess we'll be back shooting at the same goal next year."

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NDG Entertainment Guide: Denton Black Film Festival, family shows this week in DFW

By Tiffany Gilbert
NDG Entertainment

This week as the Oscar nominations were announced, film lovers can enjoy both classic and discover new films at local film festival. Families have plenty to choose from especially on the northern side of Metroplex. Denton Black Film Festival will feature not only movies, but music featuring Kirk Whalum and comedy.

The Denton Black Film Festival continues to grow and as spotlighted earlier, the films they offer are first rate, well told and produced flicks. This year the festival is running Jan. 27-29 at the UNT- Murchison Performing Arts Center. They will not only feature new films, but classics such as *Imitation of Life*. It is almost a virtually confirmed fact, that no one in 60 years of watching this movie has ever seen it and not weep. A



Kirk Whalum is scheduled to perform at the Denton Black Film Festival (Image via Whalum's Facebook Page)

panel will discuss why this story on race, mother daughter relationships is just as relevant today.

This year, the festival will also include music with a performance by Kirk Whalum, a Grammy Award winner with over 20 releases whose signature sound is heard on over 300

recordings. The world renowned UNT One O'Clock Lab Band opens doors open at 5 p.m. for the 6 p.m. show on Sunday, Jan. 27.

And there are the movies - more than 60 films to choose from. The films include documentaries, narratives and shorts - will be

screened at the festival. Visit dentonbfff.com.

Family friendly entertainment choices this week

Bring the kids to **Bricklive** on Jan. 26 and Jan. 27, starting at 9 a.m. at The Star, in Frisco. Bricklive, which bills itself as "the largest Lego fan experience in America," will take over the Ford Center at The Star in Frisco Jan. 26-27. Tickets go on sale Nov. 9. This will be the event's U.S. debut, following several successful years in Europe. If "millions of Lego bricks in one place" isn't enough to sell you, event attractions include life-sized Lego animals, race ramps, brick pits (like ball pits but, y'know, made of Lego), a graffiti wall and a wide variety of differently-themed "zones," centered around such things as Star Wars, cities, gaming, Minecraft, architecture and more. For more information visit www.brickliveusa.com.

The Family Comedy and Magic Show for all ages will be held on Jan. 26, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Addison improv comedy club, in Addison. There's something magical happening at the Addison Improv and it's called the Comedy and Magic Show for All Ages. The comedy club begins its 11th season of providing quality family entertainment on Saturdays at 2 p.m. Join "Best Magician in Dallas" Mike Williams for an 80-minute show filled with clean comedy, jaw-dropping magic and loads of audience interaction. Mike thrills audiences around the world with his fun-filled show and now is your chance to experience the magic for yourself. Come early for a magic-themed lunch including a menu designed just for the youngsters and a little magic performed at your table. Doors open at 1 p.m. for lunch and show starts at 2 p.m. These

shows sell out fast so reserve your tickets early by calling the box office at (972) 404-8501 or visiting www.improvaddison.com. Ticket prices vary from \$10 to \$20 and VIP seating is available, call for details.

Dr. Seuss's The Cat In The Hat, will be held on Feb. 1 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Willow Bend Center of the Arts, in Plano. The beloved Dr. Seuss book will come to life on our stage. From the moment his tall, red-and-white-striped hat appears around the door, Sally and her brother know that The Cat in the Hat is the funniest, most mischievous cat that they have ever met. With the trickiest of tricks and the craziest of ideas, he is certainly loads of fun. He turns a rainy afternoon into an amazing adventure... but what will mom and dad find when they get home...? northtexasperformingarts.org

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City of Dallas encourages businesses to share their experiences working on City contracts

Local, small, minority, and women-owned businesses are invited to participate in the City of Dallas Office of Business Diversity's Availability and Disparity Study. Regional/area business owners will be

asked to provide information about their experiences doing business or attempting to do business with the City or on City projects at the upcoming public engagement meeting to be held on Feb. 5 from 2 p.m. –

4 p.m. at the Dallas City Hall Council Chambers.

The City has contracted MGT Consulting Group (MGT), a nationally recognized firm, to evaluate the utilization of Minority and Women Business Enterprise

(M/WBE) firms in the City's procurement/contracting activities in architecture, engineering, construction, other services, professional services and goods. Input from all businesses will be reviewed and

some will be used in the study which subsequently will provide input to the study's findings and recommendations.

MGT Consulting Group has partnered with Consumer Market Insights, In-

novative Strategies, and Rincon & Associates to assist with collecting and analyzing anecdotal information during the study.

To register for this meeting visit <https://www.cityofdallasdisparitystudy.com>.

Don't let predatory tax loans take your refunds

By Charlene Crowell

For many consumers, the New Year brings an annual effort to file taxes early enough to help pay off big bills, replace major appliances or tuck away a few bucks for the proverbial 'rainy day'.

With a continuing federal shutdown, this year there are also an estimated 800,000 federal workers who have not had a payday since December. For these consumers, an early tax refund could cover basic living needs like housing, food, child care and utilities.

And across the country, advertising – particularly on urban radio – tempts listeners with easy ways to get a loan against anticipated tax refunds. But just like other

predatory lending products, what is advertised is not quite what consumers receive. Convenient tax-related loans almost always come with a price that takes a big bite out of consumers' money.

The bigger the refund, the more attentive and helpful "tax preparers" will be in helping with e-filing, the electronic processing that typically results in refunds in two to three business days. Once the size of the refund is known, these preparers encourage unsuspecting consumers to take out a short-term loan like a Refund Anticipation Loan (RAL). Depository institutions like banks sell a 'service' known as a Refund Anticipating Check (RAC) that is most appealing to consumers who lack a bank

account.

Neither product is as helpful as they appear.

RALs are usually marketed as an 'advance' instead of a loan. Instead of interest, many of these loans come with "fees" or a "finance charge". Conversely, a Refund Anticipation Check or RAC is sold as a temporary bank account that exists exclusively to receive the IRS refund. Once the refund reaches the consumer's bank account, either a prepaid card or a check is issued by the depository institution. And once again, fees taken out of the refund reduce the amount of monies that consumers actually receive.

The biggest target for both of these products are consumers with the largest refunds, especially those

who are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credits (EITCs), one of the few tax break programs available to low-to-moderate income consumers, and/or the Additional Child Tax Credit.

To be eligible for EITC, earned income and adjusted gross income can be as low as \$15,270 for a single filer or head of household to as high as \$54,884 for a married couple with three dependent children. This year, eligible EITC consumers could receive as much as \$6,431 for families with three or more qualifying children to \$519 for single filers.

Similarly, the Child Tax Credit is available to eligible filers with children under the age of 17. For each dependent child meeting the age requirement, fil-

ers receive a \$2,000 credit that like EITC reduces the amount of taxes owed.

In 2017, 1.7 million RALs were sold, and another 20.5 million RACs valued at a half billion dollars were also sold, according to the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC).

"Tax-time is hard enough for most Americans, but they also face consumer protection challenges," noted Chi Chi Wu, staff attorney at the National Consumer Law Center. "They need to avoid incompetent and abusive preparers and decide whether to choose financial products of varying costs."

So how much financial sense does it make to purchase an 'advance' or open a temporary bank account when the Internal Revenue

Service can deposit the full refund into a checking account within two to three business days?

Just because a refund-advance product isn't called a loan, or doesn't have an interest rate, doesn't mean it's free, said Scott Astrada, the Center for Responsible Lending's Director of Federal Advocacy. "Carefully read the terms and conditions and ask plenty of questions".

Everyone who works for a living should be entitled not only to a paycheck but 100 percent of their tax refunds.

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

Five life insurance game changers to benefit consumers in 2019

By Brian Greenberg

The year 2018 laid the groundwork for big shifts in the life insurance landscape that will decidedly benefit consumers in the New Year. And it seems shifts are sorely needed with more than 40 percent of Americans not having any type of life insurance, according to Foresters Financial. While the industry is shifting at a rapid pace, consumers can take advantage of some notable game changers poised to impact the insurance industry in 2019:

Variable Rates and Fitness Trackers

With the pervasiveness of fitness trackers and health apps, it was only a matter of

time before the data they produce made its way into the underwriting process. Policies with variable rates based on fitness data were brought to the forefront of the industry back in 2016 by a forward-thinking provider, using the data from insureds' fitness trackers to adjust rates and premiums accordingly to benefit consumers. While the program started out voluntary, it is now standard with all life insurance policies written by this particular provider.

The program even offers perks such as a "free" Apple Watch (subsidized by premiums and participation in the program), discounts on other fitness trackers, and deals for healthy lifestyle

publications. On the downside, the program requires a lot of upkeep to submit data through the company's proprietary app, and premiums can increase for those people who don't realize improved health based on submitted data.

My own company, True Blue Life Insurance, ran a 2018 survey finding that most insurance consumers were not receptive to sharing fitness data, even if it meant getting better premiums. Despite these results, programs have reported successful results. As a result, this trend will continue to grow, as new policy players their hat into the ring.

Agentless Solutions

While some life insurance

purveyors use fitness information to try and offer better rates, others in the industry are looking for ways they can cut out the middlemen—even within their own companies.

Many of these companies are turning to agentless solutions, which utilize information available from other sources, such as financial, medical and prescription history to accelerate the underwriting process. This move toward automated underwriting is great for insurance companies looking to streamline their workflows and trim the amount they are paying in commissions. This operational efficiency can factor into consumer-side savings.

The downside to this automation is that it makes life insurance much harder to get for unhealthy people. These agentless solutions are more likely to reject applicants because there isn't a human agent trying to make things work and they only want to accept insureds who aren't as risky.

Similar to interactive policies, True Blue's survey found that consumers weren't comfortable sharing any of their information in exchange for a quote or with using AI when it came to their life insurance purchasing experience. Even so, there is so much investment going into these solutions that it is hard to see it slowing down anytime soon.

Innovation is Driving Higher Coverage Maximums Without Medical Exams

There was a time, not so long ago, where maximum coverage limits topped out at \$500k, but now maximums are on the rise. As a direct result of heavy investment in innovation, insurance companies can now offer maximums as high as \$1 million, with the potential to go even higher in the future.

In 2017, only one company was able to offer this a \$1 million maximum, but now at least three others are able to match that.

Up ahead, yet more insur-

See INSURANCE, Page 12

San Antonio representative files bill opposing Trump's border wall

AUSTIN - On Jan. 22, Texas State Representative Roland Gutierrez (D-119) filed Texas House Bill 990 which calls for the Texas Water Development Board and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to submit a report to the Govern-

nor, as well as the Legislature, regarding the effects of the construction of a border wall.

"The Rio Grande Floodplain is home to several towns that have seen devastating damage from record breaking floods recently,

something that a border wall would only make worse," Gutierrez said

"The findings from the report shall be submitted no later than March 1st, 2020, and determine if the State of Texas will file suit against the federal government."

On Monday, January 21st U.S. Congressman Will Hurd went on the record to say, "Building a wall from sea to sea makes no sense." As documented in the *Texas Monthly* article, Back to the Wall, published by Melissa Del Bosque in the December

issue, a border wall will mean disaster for Texas towns where a fence becomes packed with debris, creating a dam effect, thus flooding surrounding areas. These effects put Texan's lives at risk every time storms hit Texas.

"Moreover, this is also be-

comes a property rights issue," Gutierrez said. "People do not want their property divided or taken from them. It is their heritage and their livelihood. The bottom line is a wall on Texas' southern border put our citizen's lives at risk and our heritage at stake.

INSURANCE,

continued from Page 11

ance companies will be able to start matching maximums at this level because they are investing in solutions that help them cut out unnecessary spending and accelerate the underwriting process. Many have created incubators where they can focus on investing in innovations that can help automate and accelerate the underwriting process.

These innovations are powered by information that insurance companies can get through background checks. Specifically, they can now use financial, medical and prescription information. This is without mentioning the potential that DNA information could offer. The availability of this information cuts out the need for medical exams, accelerating the approval process and saving insurers money on the front end.

As noted above, some consumers are reluctant to make health information gleaned through Fitbit and other smart wearables, which can track everything from heart rate and steps taken, to quality of sleep and stress levels. This is further spurring the popularity of no medical exam policies, with some consumers overwhelmingly opting for this option even when the policies are more expensive than traditional medical exam options.

While it is yet to be seen if consumers will be apprehensive to using these innovations, like with agentless solutions, the positive effects are already manifesting themselves in the industry at large.

Group Coverage for Individuals

As noted in the point

about agentless solutions, unhealthy people and their difficulty to access life insurance coverage is part of a much bigger problem in America than some may realize. According to a 2017 survey conducted by LIMRA, more than a quarter of Americans thought they wouldn't qualify for life insurance if they applied for a policy.

To remedy this, groups have begun establishing themselves online to make basic life insurance easier to attain for people who don't think they qualify. For a small membership fee, people can join these groups and receive the life insurance benefits that they wouldn't otherwise receive outside of an employer's plan.

Without these groups, many Americans would be stuck with expensive guaranteed issue policies that wouldn't be worth their time. This way, they're getting the coverage they want without being rejected by agentless innovations.

New Big Players Entering the Market

As we look toward the future of life insurance, there are some major new competitors entering the field in the form of Walmart, Costco, and Amazon.

Here's what we know so far: Costco is working on its own proprietary product with Protective life insurance; Walmart has an affiliation with MetLife and are working on their own product; and Amazon has been working on getting an insurance license and they plan to start testing out their own quote engine in the European markets as soon as 2019.

The entrance of these "market killers" bears many similarities to the way major booksellers took out mom and pop bookstores, and are understandably concerning to independent insurance agencies. Companies like Amazon, Costco, and Walmart can operate on low margins and afford to put customers and revenue over profits. That, plus the exclusivity and perks they can offer makes it more difficult for independents to compete.

That's why this entrance is so radical in the insurance industry. It stands to completely change the way the game is played.

Thankfully for consumers, with this much lead time, current players have time to adapt and prepare for these new competitors, with consumers reaping the benefits of local agents increasingly offering incentives and thinking "outside the box" to win business.

In fact, the True Blue survey found that life insurance consumers still prefer to buy from a local agent versus a big box retailer or even an online agent. Nearly eight out of ten people surveyed stated they felt more confident buying insurance from a local agent. There may be an emotional aspect to this. Buying life insurance has ramifications that car insurance or homeowners insurance doesn't because it forces people to consider their mortality. So it's more personal. Having a local agent that the client can talk to face-to-face over matters of life and death can make clients feel less vulnerable. Also, in developing an in-person relationship, the agent becomes an ad hoc personal adviser and advocate who takes the time to

listen and find out your individual needs.

Even as the landscape stands to change quite a bit, consumers can secure better deals than ever from insurance companies focused on adaptation, growth and change in adherence with the evolving technologies in 2019 and beyond.

Brian Greenberg is a multi-faceted entrepreneur who owns and operates True Blue Life Insurance—an independent, online life insurance agency representing more than fifty of the best life insurance companies nationwide. He may be reached online at <https://www.TrueBlueLifeInsurance.com>.

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

The *North Dallas Gazette* has an internship position available. The goal is to provide students and aspiring writers an opportunity to gain published clips, experience and professional feedback.



The position is for up to 20 hours a week at \$8.00 per hour. Applicants must have reliable transportation.

Send resume and writing samples to: businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com



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Upcoming DFW area job fairs

Jan. 29 Hiring Now! Aircraft Cabin Cleaner Agents (DFW Airport)

The Hiring Now! Aircraft Cabin Cleaner Agents (DFW Airport) will be held on Jan. 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at ABM Aviation office, in Irving. Available Positions include: Domestic and International Cabin Agents, Lead Cabin Agents, Overnight Cabin Agents, Supervisors and more. It's recommended you bring a copy of your resume if available. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/ABMAViationJobs> to start on your application. Please text your name and time to 817-919-8010 to confirm attendance.

Jan 31 Dallas Career Fair

The Dallas Career Fair will be held on Jan. 31 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Plano Event Centre, in Plano. You'll meet face-to-face with hiring decision-makers from some of the areas top employers. Dress professionally and bring plenty of resumes, because they're here to hire. Walk in and start interviewing, it's that simple. Save time, money and effort interviewing with multiple companies in one day at one location. Many of these companies have several openings and are eager to meet with you. You're no longer just a piece of paper. Attend the career fair and get in front of decision makers. To register and for more information visit choicecareerfairs.com.

Feb. 7 AmeriHome Career Fair Event

The AmeriHome Career Fair Event will be held on Feb. 7 and Feb. 8 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Amerihome Mortgage, in Dallas. This event will be an open



Feb. 12 Registered Nurse (RN)- Virtual Job Fair

The Registered Nurse (RN)- Virtual Job Fair will be held on Feb. 12 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., and 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Searching for an employer whose high standards match your own? Then your destination is clear—choose an Medical City Healthcare. We share a mission, a commitment to the communities we serve and a standard of excellence for providing compassionate patient care. And we've made it easy to learn more about our open nursing careers.

Chat with one of their recruiters from your smartphone, computer, or tablet, during whichever time works best for you! We have morning, afternoon and evening times currently available. Start the year on the right career path and register for a virtual hiring event today! You must have 1 year of nursing with an RN li-

opportunity to learn more about what makes AmeriHome Mortgage different from the rest. Learn more about career opportunities, succession plans, our collaborative culture, benefits review, and market-competitive compensation structures. Attendees will also have a chance to interview 1:1 with leadership members in Correspondent Lending, Consumer Direct Retail Sales, Operations, Technology, and other supporting departments. For more information visit <https://chm.tbe.taleo.net/chm03/ats/careers/v2/viewRequisition?org=AMERIHOM&cws=37&rid=524&source=Indeed.com>

cense. Please visit medicalcityhealthcare.com to sign up.

Feb. 13 Arlington Job Fair

The Arlington Job Fair will be held on Feb. 13, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Holiday Inn Arlington NE-Rangers Ballpark, in Arlington. Open the doors of opportunity when you meet and interview with the top hiring companies in Arlington. This career fair will allow you to learn about the businesses that are hiring and what their hiring needs are. To register and find out more, visit Eventbrite.com.

Feb 27 Dallas Job Fair

The Dallas Job Fair will be held on Feb. 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Embassy Suites Dallas Market Center, in Dallas. Open the doors of opportunity when you meet and interview with hiring managers at companies ranging from small local businesses to Fortune 500 corpo-

rations. This career fair will allow you to learn about the businesses that are hiring and what their hiring needs are. Tired of sending your resume over the web and not receiving any responses

back? By attending this event, you will be able to meet directly with hiring managers and get instant feedback on your resume and possibly even be hired on the spot.



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NDG seeks Intern Video Producer

The North Dallas Gazette is a community-driven newspaper with a digital presence seeking a new Video/Audio Producer Intern for our new video platform and to assist with the growth of our media company through quality video production.



The Producer will be responsible for recording, editing and preparing final draft of our video content in our in-house studio. The producer will record and broadcast via Facebook weekly shows. Afterwards using Final Pro Cut and other related tools, the footage will be finalized and uploaded to our YouTube channel.


The right candidate will have the following skills:

- Experience using video and audio production and post production techniques and software for live streaming and final YouTube videos.
- Experience using digital content software.
- Basic graphic design experience.
- Create content based upon agreed criteria.
- Understand how to use various social media platforms for live video events.
- Good time and project management skills.
- Attention to detail as it relates to spelling and grammar.
- Provide regular status updates to stakeholders and management.

The work will be completed at our studio located at Regal Row & Stemmons with a schedule of up to 15 hours a week. Pay rate is \$12-15 per hour.

Resumes must be sent to ngarcia@northdallasgazette.com to be considered.



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

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

January 27, 2019, 9:45 a.m.

Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

January 30, 2019, 7 pm

Join us for Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner and others as we complete the book "Boundaries" when to say yes or how to say no by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend with supporting chapters and verses. Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you; it's Time to Grow in the Word of God.

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"

January 27, 2019, 9:45 a.m.

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

January 30, 2019, 7 pm

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.

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

January 25, 2019, 8 p.m.

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

January 27, 10 a.m.

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

January 28, 7 p.m.

You are invited to Monday

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP) (Uniting the Body of Christ for World Impact)

January 27, 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.

January 30, 7 pm

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)

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

January 27, 8 and 11 am

You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness

January 30, 7 pm

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.

February 2, 10 am

All teens and parents are invited to our "Teens Overcoming Pressure Summit." Call the church for more information or go to online registration.

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Famous Quotes of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Sister Tarpley

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

Lest we forget some of these inspiring words and quotes of Dr. King, remember the following:

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. The true neighbor will risk his position, his prestige, and even his life for the welfare of others."

"There are some things so dear, some things so precious, some things so eternally true, that they are worth dying for. And I submit to you that if a man has not discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

"When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, Black men and White men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'"

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

"We've been in the mountain of war. We've been in the mountain of violence. We've been in the mountain of hatred long enough."

It is necessary to move on now, but only by moving out of this mountain can we move to the promised land of justice and brotherhood and the Kingdom of God.

It all boils down to the fact that we must never allow ourselves to become satisfied with unattained goals. We must always maintain a kind of divine discontent."

"When our days become dreary with low-hanging clouds of despair, and when our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember that there is a creative force in this universe, working to pull down the gigantic mountains of evil, a power that is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice."

"We all have the drum major instinct. We all want to be important, to surpass others, to achieve distinction, to lead the parade. ... And the great issue of life is to harness the drum major instinct."

It is a good instinct if you don't distort it and pervert it. Don't give it up. Keep feel-

ing the need for being important. Keep feeling the need for being first. But I want you to be the first in love.

I want you to be the first in moral excellence. I want you to be the first in generosity."

"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase."

"Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love il-

luminates it."

"I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law."

In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

"It may be true that the

law cannot make a man love me, but it can stop him from lynching me, and I think that's pretty important." "Let no man pull you low enough to hate him."

Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity. Hate destroys a man's sense of values and his objectivity.

It causes him to describe the beautiful as ugly and the ugly as beautiful, and to confuse the true with the false and the false with the true."

"Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love."



Dr. M.L. King, Jr. Renowned Orator (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968)

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

Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com

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NDG Book Review: *Talk to Me* will make you think

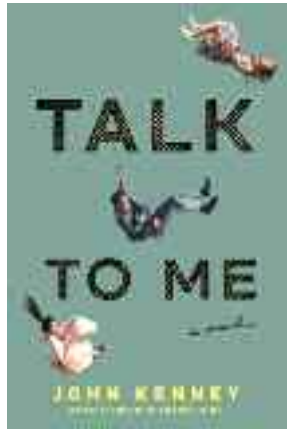
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The view from above was stunning.

The cliché says that people look like ants when you're looking down from a ledge, and they do. Trees look like the lint you'd pick off a sweater, and it seems like you could reach out and grab a cloud. It's humbling and powerful, but in the new novel "Talk to Me" by John Kenney, it's a long way down from any height.

Ted Grayson was falling.

He'd hired the instructor just hours ago, gotten a quick lesson on skydiving, and he'd been pushed out of the



plane, just like in the movies. The instructor assured Ted that he'd survive this experience. Thing was, Ted didn't want to.

It all started on his birthday, didn't it? Or was it

when his daughter, Frannie, was a teenager and had rebelled, as teenagers do? No, the beginning of the end was when Ted let his marriage slowly die, he'd stopped coming home after the last newscast, he lost interest in his wife, and Claire met someone else. Someone, she so harshly pointed out, who was "happy."

But his birthday was the cherry on the sundae. Ted was in "a mood," wrapping up the last story of the night when one thing led to another and another and he exploded, calling the temporary make-up girl something vile. It wasn't on-camera—he was

too professional for that—but on video and then, to his befuddled regret, online. Suddenly, Ted Grayson, news anchor to millions, was Ted Grayson, internet fool.

And don't think he didn't apologize. He did, but the ridicule expanded upon itself when someone dug up an ancient clip of a battle-hardened soldier insulting Ted. The station was inundated with protesters and calls for Ted's firing. Women's groups were incensed. Then Frannie wrote a scathing story about her father and though it wasn't her intention, the story went viral.

And so, in more ways than

one, Ted Grayson was falling...

If ever there was a book plucked from real life, "Talk to Me" is it.

Beginning with a miserable last-ditch aim at suicide, author John Kenney tells a blunt, hilariously nuanced but devastatingly emotional and instant news, when the past isn't past and one doesn't become outdated on what could happen online. It's altogether too easy to see yourself in this novel, in other words, and that's like a gut-punch.

And yet, you'll laugh because Kenney is profane, with a biting, spit-out-your-

coffee kind of wit that underscores the pathos and irony of it all. Indeed, Ted is nasty, but so is what happened to him and Schadenfreude weeps from each page. You'll see it, especially if you've ever snorted at someone else's gaffe.

But again, the reality sets in. We could be Ted. Ted is us.

What a novel.

Readers who relish a little snark with their story will love this one, as will those who enjoy tattletale videos and gossip mags. "Talk to Me" will make you think, and you won't want to put it down.

BRIEFS, continued from Page 8

as well as exhibitors with livestock such as cattle, horses, rabbits and sheep.

General grounds admission can be purchased at any gate and permits access to livestock events, exhibits,

carnival/midway, daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. \$10 for adults; \$5 for ages 6-16; children 5 and younger are admitted free. PRCA rodeo tickets are \$22-\$30. Rodeo tickets include admission to

the grounds. Purchase online, by phone at 817-877-2420, or at the gate (if available).

Frisco

Bring the kids to **Bricklive** on Jan. 26 and Jan. 27, starting at 9 a.m. at The

Star, in Frisco.

Bricklive, which bills itself as "the largest Lego fan experience in America," will take over the Ford Center at The Star in Frisco Jan. 26-27.

Tickets go on sale Nov. 9. This will be the event's U.S.

debut, following several successful years in Europe.

If "millions of Lego bricks in one place" isn't enough to sell you, event attractions include life-sized Lego animals, race ramps, brick pits (like ball pits but, y'know, made of Lego), a

graffiti wall and a wide variety of differently-themed "zones," centered around such things as Star Wars, cities, gaming, Minecraft, architecture and more.

For more information on the Lego event, visit <https://brickliveusa.com>.

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