



North Dallas Gazette

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School transition, personal attention inspire best-selling child author in Lancaster

(Lancaster ISD) One year ago a shy young man enrolled in Lancaster ISD Rosa Parks Millbrook Elementary struggling with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Jamarion Rainey sat in the back of the room with his hood over his head until one day third grade teacher Cameisha Borner entered the room looking for him. Now Mrs. Borner and Rainey sit together around the table in the classroom reading Rainey's new book *ADHD and Me The Key*.

"When I came to Rosa Parks I remember having trouble at my previous school and they didn't treat me well," Rainey said. "When I came to Rosa Parks, Mrs. Borner and other teachers made me feel like I was family."

Borner said she still remembers that first day she met Jamarion. She walked into the room looking for a student staff from another campus said was coming to Rosa Parks Millbrook.

"He was the cutest little boy trying to get his work done," Borner said. "I remember he loved to read and we immediately bonded together and he began to trust me."

Rainey's book was inspired by issues he had with his prior school. Before coming to Lancaster ISD he



Lancaster ISD's Jamarion Rainey wrote a book to encourage other students dealing with ADHD. (Image: James Rich/Lancaster ISD)

says he was bullied by other students and made to feel bad about having ADHD when he attended a local charter school.

"I was always getting into trouble at my other school," Rainey said. "I remember there was a girl who wouldn't sit beside me because she said I was always getting into trouble."

While Rainey said he was inspired to write his book by his fam-

ily and friends, he mentioned that the things that happened to him in second grade is why he wrote his book.

"I wanted to make my family happy with my book," he said. "But I also wanted to let others know how it made me feel when classmates treated me the way they did."

Lancaster Rosa Parks Millbrook second grade teacher Cheryl Scott

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People In The News...



Anthony Graves



Gill Brothers

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



Anthony Graves

By Jeffrey L. Boney
NNPA Political Analyst



Imagine spending nearly two decades in prison for a crime you never committed.

Even worse, imagine spending 12 of those years behind bars on death row.

That is the story of former Texas death row inmate Anthony Graves, whose case garnered international attention after he was wrongfully convicted of multiple homicides in 1992. Graves was sentenced to the death penalty.

Graves' sentence was overturned in 2006. Then, after having to deal with

countless legal loopholes and roadblocks, he was forced to fight and wait another four years in order to be fully exonerated and released from prison in 2010 after 18-and-a-half long years.

Sadly, stories of false imprisonment and wrongful

conviction have impacted countless African Americans for decades — from having to deal with the controversial and inhumane convict-leasing system, to flawed public policy that disproportionately impacts African Americans.

Graves' case serves as but one example of the complex nuances that make up the America's controversial criminal justice system.

In 2017, Netflix released a documentary entitled "Time: The Kalief Browder Story." The film chronicles the tragic case of Kalief Browder, a young Black teenager who spent three years of his young life in pre-trial detention and solitary confine-

ment on New York's Riker's Island, without ever being convicted of a crime.

Despite denying the charges, Browder was held because he was on probation for a prior incident. On top of that, because his parents could not afford the money for bail to get him out of jail. Half of Browder's time in jail was spent in solitary confinement, until 2013 when he was released and all charges against him were dismissed.

Two years after being released, at the age of 22, Browder committed suicide outside of his mother's home, which led to calls for criminal justice reform in New York.

Stories and incidents like these have prompted activists from across the globe to focus on ways to help bring about comprehensive and effective criminal justice reform in the United States, which is why Graves has chosen to work with the ACLU of Texas and Texas Southern University's Urban Research and Resource Center (TSUURRC) to launch the Anthony Graves Smart Justice Speaker's Bureau. Graves said this program was much needed across the country.

"I travel all across the country sharing my story and no matter where I go, I hear story after story about someone who has been im-

acted by the criminal justice system, whether it was them or someone close to them," said Graves. "I felt like I had to do something to give these people a voice to share their stories, which I strongly believe will empower them to help bring about changes in the criminal justice system in America."

The Anthony Graves Smart Justice Speakers Bureau is the only program of its kind in the nation. The program works with qualified persons to help reduce recidivism and to encourage entrepreneurship and academic development through

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Gill Brothers

When three brothers, Collin (13), Ryan (10), and Austin Gill (8), sought out to start a business to make them extra money, giving back to their community and drawing in eco-conscious consumers was at top of their minds.

Titled Frères Branchiaux, their candle and home fragrance company aims to "...help savvy, eco-conscious consumers who wants to beautify and enhance their environments with lush and unique fragrances that are non-toxic,

organic affordable luxury."

Their products are handmade with organic ingredients and materials to appeal to consumers who care for their environment and their community.

With the company's founders being passionate about both servicing the community and youth entrepreneurship, the thought of entering a market where they are underrepresented presented itself often. Frères Branchiaux is a family-run business that donates 10 percent of its prof-



The founders of Frères Branchiaux Candle Co. from left to right: Ryan, Collin, and Austin Gill. (Photo: Black News)

its to homeless shelters within the Washington, D.C. community.

As a result of their brand consistency and supportive following, the boys' candles are on the shelves of 21

stores and boutiques. They were recently selected from a field of thousands of businesses to be sponsored by Facebook and featured in the Market at Macy's.

Their candles were fea-

tured in the Hillsdale location (San Francisco) until the end of 2018 and are now featured in the Herald Square (NYC) and Ross Park (Pittsburgh) locations until early February 2019. In addition to Macy's, they have collaborated with retailers such as Ace Hardware and ModCloth for special events and projects.

Frères Branchiaux candles and home fragrances help savvy, eco-conscious consumers who want to beautify and enhance their environments with lush and unique fragrances that are non-toxic, organic afford-

able luxury.

Their products are made in small batches, hand poured, hand packaged, and curated with care.

The candles, room sprays, diffusers, soy melts, and soaps are the brainchild of Collin, Ryan, and Austin Gill — 3 brothers aged 13 and under who decided to create a business to earn their own money.

As well as earning money, they donate 10 percent of their profits to area DC homeless shelters. Their motto is: Smell it, light it, love it!

NDG Readers Sound Off...

Dallas ISD students earn scholarships debating electoral college

There have been hundreds of unsuccessful proposed amendments to modify or abolish the Electoral College - more than any other subject of Constitutional reform.

To abolish the Electoral College would need a constitutional amendment, and could be stopped by states with as little as 3% of the U.S. population.

Instead, state legislation, The National Popular Vote bill is 64% of the way to guaranteeing the majority

of Electoral College votes and the presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in the country, by changing state winner-take-all laws (not mentioned in the U.S. Constitution, but later enacted by 48 states), without changing anything in the Constitution, using the built-in method that the Constitution provides for states to make changes.

It simply requires enacting states with 270 electoral votes to award their electoral votes to the winner of the most national popular votes.

All voters would be valued equally in presidential

elections, no matter where they live.

-- otto

DeDe Alexander challenges expectations, systemic problems in race for Dallas City Council

Public education needs to be held at a high standard, not "politics" or "politicians."

Well, my family has a long history of slavery, lynchings, and thefts of our lands, but we worry about our current success and many in my family are

valedictorians, college grads, and wealthy professionals. We need to make sure all of us take advantage of our blessings as American Citizens. We are not a perfect country, but we are the greatest.

-- Rodolfo Guell via Facebook

The Trump Shutdown

He better not shut down the government again!! The Jerk!!!

-- Irme Jaime via Facebook

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Legal double standards keep us in shackles

By Oscar Blayton

It's time we stop lying to ourselves.

The lying has gone on much too long and every time the lie is repeated, we are all the worse for it.

The lie is that in America, everyone is equal under the law.

It's time to pull back the curtain on this lie, but in order to do so, first we must have an understanding of what "Law" actually is.

In its most basic form, law, is a process of authoritative control whereby certain members of a particular community establish and maintain a specific public order.

This definition may seem like a mouthful, but history can help us unpack it. Nazi Germany had anti-Jewish laws, the racist regime of South Africa had apartheid laws and the southern states in this country had Jim Crow laws. The Nazis, the Afrikaners and the Southern segregationists all had authoritative control over their respective national and state communities. And with that control, they each ordered their societies in the manner they desired.

In each of these instances, it is not difficult to identify those community members who sought to maintain a specific public order, nor is it difficult to identify the "spe-

cific order" they sought to maintain.

For Blacks in South Africa and the segregated southern United States, subjugation was the public order where they lived. And in the case of Jews living under Nazi control, it was extermination. For these people, those were the laws.

A law need not be just or fair or benign to be the law. Law, like a gun or any other tool, can be used for good or for evil.

To disguise the fact that laws can be cruel, unjust and designed to harm certain members of our community, "Blind Justice" was the myth created to foster the notion of a fair legal system in America. But observations in most American courtrooms will instruct us that what passes for justice in this country is not color-blind.

Our laws are written with high-sounding words, full of dignity and sensibility but words are not deeds. And as in courtrooms, the long arm of the law, embodied in the form of law enforcement officers, reaches out into the streets and neighborhoods where we witness the double standards that are applied in enforcing our laws written in lofty language.

Even though the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ended slavery more than 150 years ago,

people of color are still forced to wear the shackles that are the double standards in our country's legal system. Bigots and racists use our system of laws and law enforcement to police Black and Brown bodies, making it clear to people of color that we are neither welcome nor expected to exist in white spaces.

Ohio maintains a specific public order that allows whites to walk the streets with automatic rifles unmo- lested by the police, but justifies gunning down a Black man who is purchasing a BB rifle in an open carry state. And it finds no fault in a police officer executing a 12-year-old Black boy for playing with a toy gun in a park. This is the law in Ohio.

Many cities and states maintain a specific public order that targets people of color for fines and the confiscation of property in order to fund local and state governments. Ferguson, Mo. was proven to use the disproportionate levying of fines on people of color to fund their municipal activities. That was the law in Ferguson. The state of South Carolina's civil forfeiture law allows police to confiscate money and property from people merely suspected of having committed a crime. This is often done without a trial, and in some instances, without even

an arrest. Black men are sub- jected to this law at a rate vastly disproportionate to their numbers in the general population. A statewide jour- nalism project in South Carolina titled "TAKEN" reports that while comprising only 13 percent of that state's pop- ulation, Black men represent 65 percent of all citizens tar- geted for civil forfeiture. This is still the law in South Carolina.

The slave codes, the Fugi- tive Slave Act, the Jim Crow laws of years past and the gutting of the Voting Rights Act just a few short years ago are all part of a process of au- thoritative control by certain community members to es- tablish and maintain a spe- cific public order that keeps people of color in shackles. There are many more laws that do this, but the list is too long to discuss in this short commentary.

We must pull back the cur- tain to determine the true public order purpose of each law governing our lives and to identify those community members who seek to estab- lish and maintain them. Once we do this, then we can ask ourselves, if this is the Amer- ica we want for ourselves. And if not, what are we going to do about it?

Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia.

Protecting Social Security

By Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson

Recently I joined more than 200 members of the House of Representatives in an effort to ensure the future of Social Security by co- sponsoring the Social Security 2100 Act, legislation designed to expand the benefits program and keep it solvent.

Supported overwhelm- ingly by Democrats in the House, the legislation would increase benefits, including the minimum amount that re- tired Americans receive.

The Democratic Party has resisted attempts to privatize Social Security. The pro- posed legislation will fix the system, and ensure that the program does not run out of

funding.

Andrew Biggs, who worked as a commissioner of Social Security under former President George W. Bush, praised the proposed legisla- tion, saying that it ensured the solvency of the program.

The Social Security Act was a brainchild of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's ad- ministration. The legislation creating the program was signed into law in 1935, cre- ating a financial safety net for senior citizens and unem- ployed Americans. Approxi- mately sixty-four million people received Social Security benefits in 2018.

The bill is a common sense approach to a problem that we face as a nation. Social Security represents a promise

that our nation made to its senior population, one premised on a pledge that they would not be left to suffer in poverty once their working years were con- cluded.

Social security represents the only income that many of our senior citizens have at their disposal. Many worked jobs where they did not receive a pension and a large number of seniors have ex- hausted their savings due to personal medical emergen- cies or those experienced by relatives.

Over the years people have become increasingly anxious about what they will do in their retirements, and whether or not social security benefits would be there for

them. The legislation at- tempts to abate that anxiety and give people the confi- dence that they will be taken care of.

Similar legislation is being proposed in the Republican- controlled Senate. I would hope that the measure would pass in the Senate as this is not a Democratic issue or a Republican issue, but an American issue that benefits our nation's seniors who have been the bedrock of our economy.

I urge my Republican col- leagues, in the House and in the Senate, to support the So- cial Security 2100 Act. It is in the best interests of all of our citizens, and is in the best in- terests of our nation.

Five exercise myths for people 55 and older

While it's expected that most older people tend to slow down with age, the notion that seniors and soon-to-be seniors should trade in exercise and their active lifestyles for bingo and rocking chairs is definitely antiquated, says Allen physical therapist James Lewis.

And yet, when it comes to exercise for the 55-and-older population, plenty of myths continue to drive people's actions – or rather, inactions – when it comes to putting in the right amount of sweat equity to stay healthy and active.

“From a purely physiological perspective, sure, you're going to start to slow down a little here and there as you get older, but that doesn't mean you just roll over and accept these so-called consequences of age,” said Lewis, clinic director of Allen



Wikipedia

Sports & Spine Care one of a partnership of 20 physical therapy clinics in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. “As they say, age is just a number. You want to be smart about how you adapt activity to certain age-related limitations, sure, but regular exercise remains just as critical now as when you were younger – perhaps even more so.”

To help encourage the 55-and-older crowd to continue making exercise a standard

aspect of their everyday lives, Lewis provided a list of his top five exercise myths for older adults:

Myth 1: “It's Too Late to Start” – It doesn't matter what you've done before now, Lewis says. Even if you've never had a regular exercise routine before, it's never too late to start. “Better late than never” when it comes to exercise isn't just an adage; it's a statement backed by multiple studies. Exercising later in life can

lower your risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, and some types of cancer.

Myth 2: “My Body's Too Frail” (aka, “I Might Break a Hip”) – Unless you've been told this by a medical professional (i.e., physician or physical therapist) based on a specific condition or injury, this is likely fear talking. Not only does regular exercise help strengthen your body's stability, balance and flexibility, reducing the chances of a fall, but Lewis points out it can also help strengthen your bones. (More on that later.)

Myth 3: “I Have Joint Pain, so I Should Stay Away from Exercise” – Again, the opposite is true. According to Lewis, it's crucial people with arthritis partake in regular exercise. Not only does it improve strength and flex-

ibility, but exercise can also reduce joint stiffness and pain while helping sufferers ward off fatigue.

Myth 4: “I'm Too Old for Weight Training” – Weight training, also known as resistance and strength training, actually takes on a more critical role as you age. According to Lewis, not only does a stronger body help seniors stay upright and confident, but weight-bearing exercise can also ward off the onset of osteoporosis by helping maintain bone density.

Myth 5: “I'm Better Off Focusing on My Mind, Not My Body” – Fact is, focusing on the body is focusing on the mind, says Lewis. According to multiple studies, including one published last month in *Nature Medicine*, exercise improves brain health, helps ward off de-

mentia, and may even slow the progression of dementia. In addition, exercise reduces stress and anxiety, and staying active often equates to a better social life.

According to 2018 physical guidelines by the U.S. Department of Health, older adults should shoot for 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity each week, plus weekly balance and muscle strengthening exercises.

And while fitness levels and certain limitations shouldn't keep most older adults from exercise, some exercises may require modifications based on such conditions, Lewis says. Fortunately, a physical therapist can provide personalized guidance based on individual health conditions, movement limitations and physician recommendations.

Hypogonadism and testosterone replacement therapy

by Dr. Jeff R. Hischke

With today's array of anti-aging remedies, it is no secret that maintaining one's youth is a common goal. From specially formulated serums and vitamins, to cosmetic procedures, science now provides more options than ever to combat the biological clock. Testosterone Replacement Therapy, also known as TRT, is often mislabeled as a “quick fix” to instantly restore vitality among aging men. Before considering TRT, men must define the cause of their declining levels.

Testosterone is a hormone that helps men maintain bone density, muscle

mass, red blood cell production and sex drive. Levels usually peak in adolescence and begin to decline one percent per year after the age of 30. Research has established TRT as an effective treatment for men officially diagnosed with low testosterone, or hypogonadism, restoring energy, muscle mass and libido. However, men who seek TRT to reverse the effects of lowered testosterone due to the natural aging process can expose themselves to serious and unnecessary health risks.

For men severely affected by low testosterone, TRT can help restore normalcy to their lives. Low testosterone

due to hypogonadism can have serious effects including insomnia, weight gain and depression. TRT can be administered in a variety of methods including gels, injections, and pellets. Doctors will monitor the patient a few weeks after treatment has initiated, and then every three to six months to adjust the dosage if necessary and monitor for side effects. Unfortunately, there is no cure for low testosterone, thus symptoms may reoccur if the TRT is stopped. However, there are natural methods of increasing testosterone production including exercise and a healthy diet to promote weight loss and increased muscle.

Testosterone Replacement Therapy is not currently advised for men simply seeking a burst of “youth.” The misconception of TRT stems from the overlap of symptoms associated with both low testosterone and increased age. For example, both are known to cause fatigue, loss of muscle mass, and increased body fat. It's important to consider that many of these symptoms can have underlying causes, therefore a blood test is required to diagnose low testosterone that warrants TRT. Possible side effects of TRT include increased risk of blood clots and heart disease, as well as acne, reduced sperm pro-

duction, baldness and swelling of breast tissue. For this reason, doctors do not recommend TRT as an anti-aging remedy. That being said, the benefits are believed to outweigh the risk for men suffering from hypogonadism.

If you are exhibiting these symptoms, please schedule a consult with your family

physician who can run the proper testing to provide a health plan specific to you.

Dr. Jeff R. Hischke is a family medicine practitioner at Family Medicine Associates of Texas in Carrollton. His special interests include sports injuries, pediatric and adolescent medicine.

'Watch what you heat,' cautions Parkland burn center staff

Imagine receiving a call that your two youngest children have been burned in a kitchen accident and are on their way to Parkland Memorial Hospital's Regional Burn Center. As you race toward the hospital a myriad of thoughts flood your mind and you're in full-blown panic mode. Annette

Johnson knows all too well what it feels like to receive that call.

“There was a pot with hot grease that caught fire. My teenage son's first thought was to get the pot outside so the house wouldn't catch fire,” Johnson said. “But because there were a lot of dry leaves in the backyard he

was afraid if he took the grease out there the leaves might catch fire.”

Anxious to rid the house of the flaming grease, he hurriedly carried the pot through the living room to the front door. In the living room he accidentally tripped over his younger siblings (ages 10 and 5) who were

seated on the floor coloring. Hot grease splashed on their faces, shoulders and arms.

“It was scary, emotional and a tragedy for all of us,” Johnson said. “But we are incredibly fortunate that we had a lot of support from our family, their school and

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DART GoPass driving innovative mobility in North Texas

Dallas Area Rapid Transit's (DART) GoPass users are enjoying new ways to plan the trips they want the way they want them with new real-time trip-planning tools and mobility choices.

GoPass, DART's all-in-one travel tool, gives customers mobile ticketing for transit throughout North Texas including DART, Trinity Railway Express (TRE), Trinity Metro and



David Wifong / NDG

the Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA). GoLink, DART's on-de-

mand shuttle service, is now integrated into DART's GoPass app for riders in Rowlett, Inland Port and Rylie/Kleberg. The neighborhood service is flexible and available when you need it for work or just to run errands. Customers in the North Central Plano/Chase Oaks, Legacy West and Far North Plano regions will continue to book trips using the TapRide

app through February 25.

For commuters that need a trip around town on a scooter, the addition of Bird locations to GoPass makes finding the closest ride quick and easy.

The newest update to GoPass also gives our customers a new way to pay for their trips with the addition of Apple Pay.

Since its launch in 2013, GoPass® has continued to

change the way customers purchase transit passes on their smartphone by providing new options and features that make traveling easier and more comprehensive. GoPass is free to download or update from the Google Play store or the Apple App Store. Search for "GoPass."

More information is at GoPass.org or by contacting DART Customer Service at 214-979-1111.

Dallas Marshals launch initiative to fight hunger during warrant round-up

The City of Dallas is partnering with the North Texas Food Bank for a special canned food drive initiative for individuals with outstanding arrest warrants. Beginning Saturday Feb. 9, defendants can bring three canned goods to court to

eliminate a \$50 warrant fee, ahead of the round-up in early March. Donations will be accepted until Wednesday, Feb. 13.

"The Marshal's Office wants to encourage individuals and businesses who have outstanding issues in

City of Dallas Municipal Courts to resolve them during this period," said Gary Lindsey, City Marshal. "Many of these outstanding offenses threaten the health and safety of our community and can easily be taken care of before an officer has

to come to your home or place of work."

During Feb. 9-13, the Dallas Municipal Court located at 2014 Main Street, will extend its hours and be open as followed:

- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9

- 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10

- 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Feb. 11-13

Individuals coming to Court who want to resolve their citations will not be arrested for outstanding war-

rants or outstanding citations.

Individuals interested in participating in the canned food drive or information on payment options can visit <http://courts.dallascity-hall.com> or call 214-670-0109 for more information.

Save your cat a spot for Nickel Neutering at Plano Animal Shelter

Get your male cat neutered for 5 cents during Nickel Neutering on Tuesday, Feb. 26. We'll have appointments from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Plano Animal Shelter, 4028 W. Plano Pkwy.

You are not required to live in Plano to take advan-



City of Plano

tage of this special offer. Schedule a time for your cat by calling 972-769-4360.

What you need to know for the appointment:

- Bring your cat in a pet carrier marked with your name.

- Provide written proof of his current rabies and FVRCP vaccinations. If needed, vaccines can be administered for \$9.95 for one

shot or \$19.95 for both.

- Consider getting him microchipped for \$10 at the same time.

- Prepare to register your cat if you live in Plano and he's not already registered. City registration for each cat is only \$10. It's \$5 if the owner is a senior citizen or

has proof of being low-income. Visit plano.gov/RegisterPet for details and to register online.

- Know his numbers. Your cat must be at least 8 weeks old and weight at least 2 and 1/2 pounds for the procedure.

Only 100 cats can be

neutered at this annual event, so sign up before all time slots are gone. Call 972-769-4360 today.

If you cannot make this event, consider other low-cost vaccination, spay and neutering services options available throughout the DFW area.

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a 12-week training program, that is taught on the Texas Southern University (TSU) campus.

The Anthony Graves Smart Justice Speakers Bureau allows formerly incarcerated people to be trained in professional public speaking and to serve as effective ambassadors related to criminal justice issues.

The program utilizes highly credentialed and experienced trainers who follow approved curriculum specific to the topic areas of criminal justice reform. The class sizes range from 5 to 10 students who are trained and prepared for speaking engagements around the country.

Students who successfully complete the program receive a certificate of achievement certifying their skills.

Selection for training is

competitive. Applicants submit a 10-minute video for consideration and/or participate in a phone interview. Afterwards, candidates are then invited to a face-to-face interview.

Speakers are trained to be effective agents of change at the local, state and national levels. Speakers' skills and time are highly valued. Trained speakers are fairly compensated consistent with speaking fees for other public policy professional engagements.

The TSU Urban Research and Resource Center (TSU-URRC) chose to partner with the ACLU of Texas with a goal to help reduce mass incarceration by 50 percent. They hope to do this through researching the key drivers of incarceration and formulating policies aimed at impacting those drivers in a way that achieves the goal.

"This program trains the people who will be most influential in telling the real stories and showing the real faces of the criminal justice system," said Marcia Johnson, TSU law professor and director of the TSU Urban Research and Resource Center. "The program helps to humanize the people within the system instead of seeing them as numbers. It ensures that we know that these are people not to be forgotten but helped to achieve goals that benefit themselves, their families and society."

TSU students and faculty conduct research on the issue of criminal justice reform in order to educate communities and policy makers on issues like bail reform, sentencing reform and racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

"When they tell their compelling stories, policy makers get to see the positive differences they could

make," Johnson added. "We do not have the luxury of marginalizing our fellow citizens. We must act humanely if we want to move our nation forward together."

The Anthony Graves Smart Justice Speakers Bureau program is being administered by TSU journalism professor Serbino Sandifer-Walker, who developed the curriculum for the program.

The program focuses on a range of communication skills and training, which include:

- Effective storytelling and general techniques for effective communication

- Media training and how to effectively communicate with the news media and handle interviews in a variety of different formats

- Delivery of impactful testimony and how to communicate before legislative bodies

- How to communicate to the legal profession and engage with private attorneys, public defenders and the District Attorney's offices

- Public engagement and generating public support for criminal justice reform by speaking before a general audience

The first seven participants of the Anthony Graves Smart Justice Speakers Bureau recently graduated from the inaugural program and have begun practicing what they have learned by participating in speaking engagements around the country, with one of the first speaking opportunities taking place during the Texas Legislative Session this month.

Having paid their debt to society, previously incarcerated people need and deserve the opportunity to integrate back into civilian life and become positive contributors to society. This program will help these individ-

uals hone and perfect their communication skills, thereby maximizing the impact of their personal testimonies and experiences can have on fostering change in the criminal justice system.

For more information on the Anthony Graves Smart Justice Speakers Bureau, please visit <http://urrc.tsu.edu/areas-of-focus/criminal-justice-reform/tsu-anthony-graves-smart-justice-speakers-bureau/>.

Jeffrey Boney is a political analyst for the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com and the associate editor for the Houston Forward Times newspaper. Jeffrey is an award-winning journalist, dynamic, international speaker, experienced entrepreneur, business development strategist and founder and CEO of the Texas Business Alliance Follow Jeffrey on Twitter @realtalkjunkies.

DISD department strives to improve M/WBE participation

By Stephanie M. Broughton
Dallas ISD

The Dallas Independent School District's (ISD) Minority/Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Department was established to ensure M/WBEs had equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of Dallas ISD's contracting and purchasing programs.

Under the leadership of Director Annie Partee and M/WBE and Program Manager, Wilton Munnings, the department has helped many minority and women business owners successfully do business with the district.

The M/WBE Department provides support services to diverse vendors in every industry through its Goods and Services division lo-



Top row (left to right): Joseph Abrahams, Eddie Jasso, Stephanie Broughton, Wilton Munnings, Jesse Saldana. Bottom row (left to right): Veronica Murphy, Tameka Sadler, Annie Partee, Velina Willis-Smith, former DISD staff member Gail Warren. Not photographed: Jollyn Mwisongo and Erica Thompson. (Photo: Dallas ISD)

located at 9400 N. Central Expressway, Suite 1510 Dallas, TX 75231 and Construction Services division located at 3801 Herschel Ave., Dallas, TX 75219.

The district understands the importance of inclusion and strives to ensure its contracting opportunities re-

flect the growing diversity of the district's business community.

The district has established board approved M/WBE goals of 30 percent for goods, services, and construction and 35 percent for bond-funded professional services (i.e. Archi-

ects, Engineering and Specialty Services).

Those percentages are met based on the dollar amount paid to certified minority and women owned businesses, at the prime and subcontractor levels.

A vendor must be certified with a Dallas ISD rec-

ognized certifying entity in order to be counted towards the district's M/WBE goals.

The M/WBE Department helps minority and women business owners navigate through the process. Their services include but are not limited to:

- Assist companies to register via the district's iSupplier vendor portal;

- Helping companies understand the contracting process;

- Providing guidance regarding the M/WBE Program;

- Connecting them to the appropriate resources;

- Providing bonding, surety and certification support;

- Monitoring contracts to ensure compliance of M/WBE policies;

- Partnering with agencies to assist in growing diverse businesses;

- Hosting educational and informative events, workshops and webinars;

- Actively supporting Dallas ISD students and the business community

The M/WBE department acts as an advocate and liaison between vendors, Dallas ISD and the community.

The M/WBE team actively recruits and educate vendors on how to do business with the district through networking, community outreach programs, webinars, workshops, and districtwide initiatives. For additional information, visit www.dallasisd.org/mwbe | Download the M/WBE Mobile App by searching DISD MWBE in your app store.

Commentary: For Black children, attending school is an act of racial justice

By Kayla Patrick
The Education Trust

As a seemingly twisted way to ring in 2019, the Trump administration has sent a loud and clear message that it's okay for educators and school leaders to keep Black children out of school buildings and exclude them from opportunities to learn. It may sound extreme, but that's exactly what it means to rescind school discipline guidance that was put in place explicitly to ensure that Black children were not treated this way and discriminated against.

The current administration, however, wants us to believe that discrimination against Black children is a myth. It is not. It is the lived experience of too many, if not all Black children. In the 2015-16 school year, Black boys made up 8 percent of public school enrollment, but they were 25 percent of the boys suspended out of school. Black girls were 8 percent of enrollment, but 14 percent of the girls suspended out of school. While



Every time a Black child is sent home for a minor offense, they are sent the message that they are unwanted or don't belong. But Black children do belong, and they deserve to be safe, included, and to have access to a quality education. (NNPA)

Black children are overrepresented in practices that exclude or remove students from school, White children are underrepresented. Such data are clear evidence that racism and bias often drive exclusionary practices. To ignore this is to preserve the status quo.

If the numbers aren't enough to show that discrimination exists in American classrooms, studies have shown that Black children do not misbehave more than their White peers, rather they are punished more. In fact, Black students are more likely than their White peers to receive a disciplinary action for a

discretionary offense like talking back, violating a dress code, or being defiant. Black children are also more likely to be suspended out of school for their first offense. Clear, appropriate, and consistent consequences and educator training — as the guidance calls for — helps to eliminate the discrimination and bias that fuel the disproportionate punishment of Black children.

This administration would also have us believe that discipline disparities are a result of poverty, arguing that experiencing childhood trauma and living in distressed communities are

to blame.

But poverty cannot explain away the discipline disparities: Studies have shown that when taking a student's economic background into account, Black children are still more likely to be suspended than students of other races. And let's not forget that poverty, too, is a result of deliberate policy choices that leave Black children isolated in neighborhoods with little resources — including the longstanding impact of discriminatory housing policies such as redlining. These are choices that this administration has done nothing to address.

What many (including this administration) fail to realize is that there is a difference between discipline and punishment. Suspensions and expulsions don't teach. They punish. And far too often, adults decide that Black children are not worthy of teaching and second chances. Excluding students from classrooms does not help them to correct the mistakes that children inevitably make. It also has

negative long-term consequences.

These negative outcomes include poor academic performance, lower levels of engagement, leaving school, and increased likelihood of involvement with the criminal justice system.

Unfortunately, attempts to exclude Black children from educational opportunities are not new. America has a rich history of locking Black children out of the classroom. This list includes anti-literacy laws, past and current resistance to school desegregation, lack of access to well-resourced schools, school based arrests, poor course access, enormous higher education costs, and unjust exclusionary policies. Every barrier and trick in the book has been used to limit the education of Black children. The removal of the discipline guidance is just the latest.

Rescinding the guidance is a reminder to those fighting for educational equity: For Black children, simply attending school is an act of

protest, and learning and excelling while there is an act of racial justice. Every time a Black child is sent home for a minor offense, they are sent the message that they are unwanted or don't belong. But Black children do belong, and they deserve to be safe, included, and to have access to a quality education. Despite the current administration's actions, this is the message that advocates must make clear at the beginning of 2019 — and every year hereafter.

It's up to us as advocates for educational justice to ensure that schools do not illegally discriminate against Black children. Encourage school leaders to commit to ongoing racial bias training; require culturally sustaining classroom management strategies; examine their school and district data to help determine if race and bias are driving who gets punished; adopt clear, fair, and transparent consequences; and eliminate school exclusion for discretionary non-violent offenses.

Allen

The **Collin County Home and Garden Show** will be held from Feb. 8 to Feb. 10 at Allen Event Center, in Allen. With thousands of square feet of exhibits, you'll find the latest in products and services for everything from builders, contractors, materials, decks, pools, spas, entertainment systems, storage, plants, landscape displays/materials, kitchenware, and much more. Adults ages 17-64 tickets are \$8. 65 and older, and retired military tickets are \$7.

This event is free for ages 16 and younger and for first responders and active military (with ID). For more information visit <http://showtechnology.com/event/annual-collin-county-home-garden-show/>.

Dallas

You can't miss out on **Dallas Mavericks vs. Milwaukee - African American Heritage Night** on Feb. 8 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at American Airlines Center, in Dallas. The Mavs celebrate the 20th annual African American Heritage

Night with pre- and post-game activities and a special half-time performance by Southern University's "Human Jukebox" marching band. From 5:30 to 7 p.m., visit the southeast corner of the AAC for a pregame mixer presented by Jack Daniels Tennessee Honey. A post-game party will take place in the Lexus Club (Platinum Level) immediately following the final buzzer. DJ Steve Nice will be spinning at both parties. Events are free but game ticket is required. Game time is 7:30 p.m. For

more information visit Mavs.com.

Explore the Hidden History DFW: African American Tour on Feb. 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at J.B. Jackson Jr. Transit Station, in Dallas. Tickets start at \$37. Hop aboard the Hidden History tour bus and learn about the rich history of African Americans in Dallas from the end of the Civil War to the 1960s. The three-hour guided tour visits more than 20 sites including Freedman's Memorial Cemetery, historic 10th

Street, Deep Ellum and more. Tour departs the J.B. Jackson Jr. Dart Transit Center at 9 a.m. Optional: Lunch is offered after the tour at an African-American restaurant.

Price of lunch is not included with tour. For tickets visit <https://www.hidden-historydfw.com/>.

Hot Chocolate 15K / 5K will take place on Feb. 9 starting at 7 a.m. at Fair Park, in Dallas. Bundle up and run through Fair Park in the Hot Chocolate 15k / 5k, stopping at "sweet stations"

along the route for a chocolate fix. Runners raise money for Make-A-Wish children's charity and receive decadent chocolate goodie bags and post-race treats. Tickets start at \$54. Visit <https://www.hotchocolate15k.com/dallas> to purchase tickets.

Mountain View College will host **Black History Jeopardy** begins at 3:15 p.m. in the Treetop Lounge, on Feb. 12 and Film screening of "Black Panther" at 7

See BRIEFS, Page 11

Mythology, politics, and romance combine for Bishop Arts Theatre's La Llorona



La Llorona begins performances at Oak Cliff's Bishop Arts Theatre Center this week. (Photo: Bishop Arts Theatre)

The Bishop Arts Theatre Center (BATC), Oak Cliff's multicultural and multidiscipline center for the arts, continues its 25th Anniversary "Silver Threads" season with playwright Kathleen Anderson Culebro's *La Llorona: A Love Story*. Opening night is Friday, Feb. 8 and continuing performances through Feb. 24.

La Llorona: A Love Story features a cast full of Bishop Arts Theatre Center debuts including Nolan Spinks as Jeffrey, an American businessman sent to Mexico City to oversee the opening of a new fast-food chain with his wife, an Anthropology professor played by Janae Hatchett. They are joined by Coy Rubalcaba who is mak-

ing his professional debut as architect Carlos who with his wife Irma, played by Nicole Romero, have been forced to rent out their home to make ends meet.

La Llorona is directed by Bishop Arts Theatre Center Director of Marketing & Community Engagement Adam Adolfo who is also

designing Costumes and Sound. The production features Scenic & Lighting design by Jorge Flores. Stage management is by Katelyn Kocher. Teresa Coleman Wash serves as Executive Producer.

Following every performance, Bishop Arts Theatre Center will be hosting a se-

ries of "Stay & Say's"; audience discussions on ideas and themes within the production such as mental health, social injustice, and race relations. These post-show discussions will last 15 to 20 minutes and will be led by local experts, artists, and community leaders guiding the conversation.

BISHOP ARTS THEATRE CENTER
25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
LA LLORONA
A Love Story
BY KATHLEEN ANDERSON CULEBRO
FEBRUARY 7 - 24, 2019
WHAT WOULD YOU DO FOR THE ONE YOU LOVE?
WWW.BISHOPARTSTHEATRE.ORG
Bishop Arts Theatre Center • 215 S. Tyler St. Dallas, TX 75208 • (214) 948-0716

Shreveport-Bossier, LA
MARDI GRAS POP UP PARTY!
event1013 in Historic Downtown Plano, Texas
7-10 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9
Live music by Shreveport's Tipsey the Band, beads, door prizes, gumbo, king cake tasting, and more!
FREE EVENT!
Laissez les bons temps rouler, y'all!
Catch the spirit of the Mardi Gras season in Shreveport-Bossier during this free party. One lucky party attendee will win the Mardi Gras experience of a lifetime - the opportunity to ride on a float during the Krewe of Highland Parade XXIV on Sunday, March 31.
Shreveport-Bossier's biggest 2019 parade weekends are Feb. 22-24 and Mardi 1-3. To plan your visit to Mardi Gras in Shreveport-Bossier, call 800-951-8682 to request a free copy of *The Gris Gris Guide to Mardi Gras in Shreveport-Bossier* or visit the website.
www.ShreveportMardiGras.com
OTHER SIDE event 1013 PLANO

This is about real change....

Over the past two years we have undertaken a massive effort to transform Wells Fargo and that includes keeping our customers and stakeholders informed about our ongoing progress.

A central part of our transformation was a deep examination of our entire business, which uncovered additional areas where we had fallen down. While headlines about these issues are recent, the issues in question occurred in the past. They don't reflect the bank we are striving to become.

This is about where our leadership is taking us

Across our organization, our leadership is focused on and committed to creating a better bank. New leaders are bringing outside perspectives to how we operate. This starts with our Board of Directors. Our new Board Chair, Betsy Duke, is a former Federal Reserve Governor. She joins seven independent directors named in just the past two years. We have filled key senior leadership roles with external talent, including our Chief Risk Officer, General Counsel and Head of Human Resources. And we have centralized key functions to improve our controls and increase visibility. We also launched a Stakeholder Advisory Council with seven external members to advise management on consumer perspectives, fair lending, environmental impact, and governance.

This is about focusing on our customers

Our first priority is our customers and making sure we serve them to the very best of our abilities. We have implemented new efforts to make sure customers are 100% satisfied with all we do for them and created stronger mechanisms to resolve issues. All of this while we continue to help customers manage their finances in many ways including the ability to receive alerts that tell you when your balance is low. And to help the many customers impacted by natural disasters and the government shutdown, we are also waiving or reversing various fees.

This is about our dedicated Team Members

We know our customers' experience is only as good as the dedicated Team Members serving them in our branches, on the phone and online. And while we've always had the best, we are doing more to support them and align their compensation with their personal goals of serving customers. This includes raising our minimum wage to \$15 per hour, aligning banker compensation with customer satisfaction and extending stock awards to 250,000 Team Members.

This is about our ongoing pledge

While we have accomplished a lot, we are by no means done. Our pledge to you is to continue to focus on being the bank you expect and want to serve you. To learn more about how we've been improving, please visit wellsfargo.com/progress

More than 8,120 homes have been built and improved through Wells Fargo Builds since 1997. Wells Fargo helps 1,074 families (per calendar day, on average) realize the dream of home ownership.

...and this is our ongoing commitment to our customers

So that's what we're doing. And this is where we're going as we continue to build a better bank for all.

This is innovation that puts customers in control

With offerings like *Control Tower*,SM *Overdraft Rewind*,SM Low Balance Alerts and Financial Health Conversations, we're working to empower customers with the information and confidence they need to succeed financially. For example, with *Overdraft Rewind* we have proactively reversed millions of dollars of fees for our customers. And with a wide range of email and text alerts available to our customers, we've helped people identify potential fraud, avoid potential fees and manage their accounts with greater assurance and control.

This is building sustainable futures for our communities

We're committing \$200 billion in financing to sustainable businesses and projects by 2030, with more than 50% focused on clean and renewable energy.

This is empowering homeownership for Americans

On average, Wells Fargo helped more than 1,000 families a day realize the dream of homeownership in 2018.

This is our commitment to helping others every day

In 2018, Wells Fargo donated more than \$1 million a day to help over 10,000 non-profits keep reaching for a greater good. We also donated nearly \$10 million in support of disaster relief and waived more than \$33 million in fees for impacted customers. And we're helping government workers affected by the recent shutdown, proactively reversing various fees and extending deadlines for certain payments.

This is our people making a difference

In late 2018, through our *Holiday Food Bank* campaign, we collected and donated more than 55 million meals to local food banks across the country and our Team Members volunteered over 9,000 hours. And on nearly every day for the past two decades, Wells Fargo volunteers have rolled up their sleeves to help build and improve more than one home per day through the *Wells Fargo Builds*SM program.

Best of all,
This is just the beginning.

This is 



NDG Entertainment: Chinese New Year, Valentines and chuckles in DFW this week

By Tiffany Gilbert
NDG Entertainment

Don't miss out on **Mardi Gras "Masquerade for Success"** on Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. at Hilton Hotels DoubleTree Campbell Center, in Dallas. There will be dinner, dancing, a live DJ and more. For more information and tickets visit <https://www.yesthrive.org/>.

Experience the **Chinese New Year Festival 2019** on Feb. 9, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at North Park Center,



Facebook

in Dallas. The Crow Museum's 20th annual Chinese New Year Festival, celebrating 2019 - the Year of the Earth Pig. Pigs are considered a symbol of wealth; their chubby faces and big

ears are both signs of good fortune. This year's festivities will include a wealth of activities and festivities to help ring in the New Year, including dragon and lion dances, art making for all

ages, and giveaways throughout the Center.

Have a great laugh at Hyena's Comedy Nightclub on Feb. 10 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Hyena's Comedy Nightclub, in Dallas. triple Headliner show featuring **Franco Harris, Matt Bel-lak, and Tim Hanlon** brings you an unapologetic, irreverent humor. In a showcase style performance, you will get three different perspectives and a night full of laughs. So kick back, relax, stay fresh,

enjoy a drink and have a smoke! This event is free. For more information visit www.freshdrunkstoned.com.

Enjoy **Valentine's Day Champagne and Chocolates** on Feb. 14, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Saint Rocco's New York Italian, in Dallas. Saint Rocco's is offering the perfect recipe for the day of love, with "Champagne and Chocolates." The ticketed event will take place on the Saint Rocco's New York Italian

Rooftop, which offers some of the best views of Dallas. Admission starts at \$30. For more information visit Facebook.com.

The **2019 Bishop Arts Jazz Series** will be held on Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. at Bishop Arts Theatre Center, in Dallas. Love, Jazz & Romance featuring Jonathan Butler & Pieces of A Dream and more. For more information and tickets visit <http://www.alwe.com/bishop-arts/>.

Dallas audiences enjoy stage production of *The Book of Mormon*

By Rachel Hawkins
NDG Staff Writer

"The Book of Mormon", brought back to Dallas by popular demand opened on Jan.29 and ran until Feb. 3, at the Music Hall at Fair Park, in Dallas. The nine-time Tony Award-winning musical holds extreme explicit language, and theme,

and is not suggested to the easily offended. Suggested audience is 18 and older.

The musical comedy itself follows the two mismatched Mormon missionaries newbies, and their adventures as they travel across the world to try to convert a tribe in Uganda. This musical is from the four-time Emmy Award-winning creators of

South Park, Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

The two main leads, Elder Kevin Price played by Liam Tobin, and Elder Cunningham, played by Conner Peirson are sent to Uganda for their first mission. Seeing how the village is suffering from disease, famine and a ruthless dictator named General Butt-F*cking

Naked, they decided to work together to baptize all of the villagers, and teach them about the Mormon ways in order to according to them, better their lives.

To their dismay, things don't actually turn out in their favor. Instead, their trip is filled with weird nightmare hell-related dreams, hilarious misinterpretations,

and realizations about what it truly means to help people.

The musical was written in collaboration with Robert Lopez, the Tony Award-winning writer of Avenue Q and Frozen, and co-directed by Mr. Parker and three-time Tony nominee Casey Nicholaw. The musical features 19 original songs.

As for the musical itself, it had fantastic lighting and orchestration. While the songs may not be liked by all, they still had pretty good singing. The set design itself will keep you guessing what is going to happen next.

While it does have an Africa feel to it, the sets continue to randomly change, surprising you each time.

Is becoming a financial planner the right career move for you?

(StatePoint) Job growth potential, work-life balance and the satisfaction of helping others; these are not only top priorities for job seekers, they are some of the most commonly cited rewards associated with careers in the financial planning profession.

Whether you are newly graduated or looking to make a professional change, check out these five facts that might

surprise you about a career in financial planning:

1. Demand is growing. Job growth for financial advisors is expected to grow four times higher than other occupations, according to Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS), and by becoming a Certified Financial Planner professional, also known as a CFP professional, you can further distinguish yourself in the financial services in-

dustry. Employers are increasingly seeking out CFP certification, which is the highest standard in professional financial planning.

2. It's not all about math. The key to a flourishing career in financial planning is creative problem solving, relationship building and communication skills. In particular, CFP professionals help people take a holistic, "big picture" look at their fi-

nances to help them reach their life goals.

"There's so much transformation in people's lives when they get their finances together," says Brittney Castro, a Los Angeles-based Certified Financial Planner (CFP) professional. "It's a great feeling because I know I helped them get there."

3. It offers freedom and flexibility. Talk to successful CFP professionals and you

will learn that what many of them value most in their work is the freedom and flexibility to balance their personal and professional lives.

4. It's not a one-size-fits-all career. From striking out

on your own to working at firms big and small, there are a variety of possible pathways in this profession. Nearly one in four personal financial planners are self-

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BRIEFS, continued from Page 7

p.m. in the Treetop Lounge on Feb. 13 at Mountain View College. Migration, assimilation and social justice are among the topics that will be explored during Black History Month by the Dallas County Community College District. DCCCD colleges are highlighting history and cultural events for all students. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Enjoy **The Singapore Slingers' Sweethearts Revue** on Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. Pocket Sandwich Theatre, in Dallas. Matt Tolentino and the Singapore Slingers will host a delightful evening of all your favorite sweetheart classics from the 1920s and 1930s, guaranteed to get you in the mood. The only group of their kind in Texas, The Slingers are completely authentic to the era. The arrangements, attire, and even many of the instruments, are period accurate. Tickets are \$25 for adults,

and \$18 for kids. Visit <https://pocketsandwich.show.com/> for information and tickets.

Fort Worth

Experience **Obama-ology** From Feb. 8 to Feb. 24 at various times at Jubilee Theatre, in Fort Worth. When African-American college graduate Warren takes a job with the 2008 Obama campaign, he's fired up and ready to go – until he lands in the troubled streets of East Cleveland. But somewhere between knocking on doors, fending off cops and questioning his own racial and sexual identity, he learns that changing society isn't as easy as he imagined. Suggested for ages 16 and older. Tickets start at \$20. For more information visit <http://www.jubileetheatre.org>.

Irving

The GRAMMY Award winning and Kennedy Center Honors recipient **Al Green** returns to the stage to perform some of his most

iconic hits and fan favorites at his first concerts in more than seven years. Tickets go on sale on Feb. 8 at 10:00 a.m. local time. Green's powerful and passionate performances of timeless classics such as "Let's Stay Together," Sha-La-La (Make Me Happy) "I Can't Get Next To You," Tired Of Being Alone" and "I'm Still In Love With You," as well as his ability move entire crowds and have them singing along to gospel favorites such as "Nearer My God to Thee," "Precious Lord," "I'll Rise Again" and his rendition of "Amazing Grace," have made him one of the greatest performers of all-time. The actual performance is on April 26

To honor **Black History Month**, North Lake College will be hosting a series of events throughout the month. The Bandan Koro African Drum and Dance Ensemble performance begins at 11 a.m. in room H200 on Feb. 12. NLC's office of student life will host the event. Afterwards there will be a presentation titled "Jim

Crowism and Racial Segregation" will be held from 1:30 to 2 p.m. in Room G401 and will be given by North Lake history instructor Dr. Roy Vu.

Black Migrations will be presented on Feb. 13 from 2:30-3 p.m. in A206, at North Lake College. The session will be hosted by NLC's Brother2Brother chapter; visiting history scholar Dr. Malcolm Frierison and Arthur James, executive dean, are chapter sponsors.

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

BURN, continued from Page 4

Parkland." Although the youngsters continue to receive outpatient wound care, Johnson said they are back to running around and acting like "normal" kids.

Preventing grease fires is one of the topics Parkland's Burn Center staff will address at its annual Burn Prevention and Fire Safety Fair held during Burn Awareness Week, Feb. 3-9. The fair is scheduled from 9 a.m. to

noon, Friday, Feb. 8 at Parkland's deHaro-Saldivar Health Center, 1400 N. Westmoreland Road, Dallas, 75211. The fair is free and open to the public.

"Hot grease or oil burns account for 7.3 percent of our total admissions and 24 percent of our scald burn admissions last year," said Stephanie Campbell, MS, RN, CCRN-K, Burn Program Manager, Parkland Regional Burn Center.

"Twenty percent of those who were admitted were kids; the majority was adults of all ages."

Campbell said that while most of the children who were burned were toddlers who pulled down pans of hot grease, there were cases of hot grease accidentally spilled on children who were "underfoot." As for adults, the majority accidentally spilled hot grease on themselves or were burned attempting to put out a grease fire.

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.



Plano council makes decision on new city manager

Plano City Council members voted tonight to appoint Mark Israelson as Plano's new city manager. Israelson will replace City Manager Bruce Glasscock, who announced he will be retiring at the end of April.

"The Council and I are excited about what is to come," said Mayor Harry LaRosiliere. "Mark com-

bines innovative thinking with a genuine understanding of Plano's culture of excellence. Those qualities makes him uniquely qualified to usher us into future."

Israelson has assumed a wide array of roles in his 19 years working for the City of Plano. He started as a budget analyst in October, 1999. He also served the City as assis-

tant to the city manager, director of customer and utility services, assistant city manager and director of policy and government relations until he was named as a deputy city manager in 2015. In May of 2019, Israelson was appointed to senior deputy city manager. He also gained valuable experience, when Plano loaned his serv-

ices to the City of Kilgore, Texas where he served as interim city manager for four months.

"I am truly honored and humbled to be selected by the City Council to lead this organization and be a part of the community I grew up in," said Israelson. "I look forward to working with the Mayor, Council and staff to

address the needs of the community and keep Plano the City of Excellence.

Glasscock says the organization will not miss a step in the transition. "I couldn't be happier council decided to appointment Mark," said

Glasscock. "Our organization prides itself on developing managers to advance internally. This is an excellent example of our success in this process. Mark has prepared himself over the years for this well-deserved appointment."

El Centro College hosts inaugural 'Top Pantry Chef Chopped Cook-off'

In an effort to bring awareness to food insecurity among college students the El Centro College Adult Resource Center will host its inaugural "Top Pantry Chef Chopped Cook-off" on Feb. 13. The event will be at 12 p.m. in the Student Center.

The goal of the Cook-off is to educate students and staff about food insecurity and to share with the college community a few of the initiatives El Centro has taken to address these needs. Prior to the cook-off, an introduction of available student services will be given and staff will be conducting a

survey on food insecurities.

Karen Stills, Interim Vice President of Student Services, and her team will be competing against Dr. Greg Morris, Vice President of Academic Affairs and his team for the honor of becoming El Centro's "Top Pantry Chef." The participants will not be aware of the dishes they will be preparing until it is revealed to them at the time of the event. A surprise ingredient from the Chaparral Food Pantry will be included in their baskets.

Special judges for the event include El Centro College Food & Hospitality In-

stitute (FHI) Instructional Specialist Chef Nina Hunter and FHI Faculty Nutritionist Jessie Yearwood as well as celebrity Chef Ken Patrick.

Patrick has been featured on The Travel Channel, where he won the International "Fiery Foods Challenge" and is a celebrity chef of Steve Harvey's Mentoring Program in Dallas. He's a celebrity chef of The Tom Joyner Cruise, where he won "Battle of the Chefs," competing against seven other celebrity chefs in the Bahamas, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and the Turks & Caicos. He's also an Execu-

tive Chef for Ehow.com, & Season 5 Winner of Guy's Grocery Games on Food Network, Double Award Winner of Okrapalooza Dallas, 1st Place Grand Champion of Bacon Bash Texas, & Brand Ambassador for Weber Grills, Pit Barrel Cooker Co, & FINEX Cast Iron Cookware.

Chef Ken is the founder of Ken Patrick Spice Rubs, based in Cedar Hill, Texas.

AUTHOR, continued from Page 1

still remembers the day she first met Rainey. She remembered their conversations about ADHD.

"He told me he couldn't sit down because he had ADHD," Scott said. "I told him he could control this himself."

Scott remembers him as the boy who always asked her every day how he was doing before he left class. One thing he always did was share his stories about being made fun of at his former school.

"I told him our policy at Rosa Parks Millbrook was that we did not make fun of anyone because we are all one big family and everyone is here to learn," Scott said. "From that point on he would do anything I asked him to do, and he would do it."

Jamarion's mother Kendra Rainey said she

chose Lancaster ISD because she had heard great things about the district. Since coming to the district, she said he has better grades and has improved emotionally, physically and socially.

"This has been the best decision I made for my son," Mrs. Rainey said. "The teachers at Lancaster ISD Rosa Parks Millbrook Elementary all sit down and take the time to work one on one with Jamarion which is something he didn't have at his previous district."

Jamarion's book has topped Amazon Kids Books Best Seller Charts above even Harry Potter since it was released. Mrs. Rainey said he process has taken quite some work but they are very proud of the book.

"I remember Jamarion ask me if there were other students at his school that were going through what he

went through," Mrs. Rainey said. "I told him yes and he said he wanted to write a book to help bring awareness to what happened to him at his other school."

Jamarion said his love for books and his experience in Lancaster ISD has been a help to him writing his book.

"I was happy to be here at Rosa Parks Millbrook when I arrived," Jamarion said. "All my teachers here were nice to me and they were not mean to me like my other school."

Jamarion is now working on his second book which will detail why bullying is not a good thing. The book titled "No Bullying Zone" will be released very soon on Amazon and in hard copy as well. Jamarion's book can be purchased on his amazon page @ <https://www.amazon.com/Jamarion-Rainey/>



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Upcoming DFW area job fairs

Feb. 8 Hiring Event - Customer Service

The Hiring Event-Customer Service will take place on Feb. 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 741 N Grand Ave, in Gainesville. EZ-CORP family of brands, which includes EZPAWN, Value Pawn, and more, has grown into a leading provider of pawn loans in the United States and Mexico. We are passionate about customer service and our Team Members. They are currently hiring for Customer Service Representatives (Pawn Broker). The positions offer competitive pay based on experience with an opportunity to quickly increase your pay and position!

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- Continue to grow your skills by entering our Pawnbroker Certification Program and earn an additional \$1/hour

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For more information apply on www.career-builder.com.

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 license. 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. 13 Hiring Event - Cashiers, Cooks, Grill, Line Servers, Shift Leaders

The Hiring Event - Cashiers, Cooks, Grill, Line Servers, Shift Leaders will be held on Feb. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 11560 Dallas Pkwy, in Frisco. TC Team Members enjoy great pay and benefits, vacation, team member discounts, and a place where you work with friends, connect with guests and feel great! Team Members will receive up to \$11/hour dependent on experience, and shift leaders will receive up to \$13/hour dependent on experience and certifications. There will be full-time and part-time positions. Walk-in's are welcome! When you arrive to the restaurant - please ask for the hiring event.

Feb. 13 Living Spaces Hiring Event

The Living Spaces Hiring Event will take place on Feb. 13, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Lux Hotel, in Arlington. They will be holding interviews for the following positions: Service technician, dock checker, inbound and outbound pickers, outbound specialist, outbound and inbound su-

pervisor, quality control supervisor, cpu lifts, lean/speed supervisor, administrative clerk, returns processor, inbound un-loader, and maintenance worker. Requirements: previous exp. with D/C or Logistics and HS diploma or equivalent plus any physical requirements needed. The entire interview process will last about 15 min. Completing our online application prior to the event is strongly encouraged and will speed up the process. Please bring your resume with you to the event. Dress code is Casual Business (jeans, button down, no tennis shoes). Please apply on <https://www.livingspaces.com/company/careers>.

Feb. 14 RecruitMilitary Veterans Job Fair

The RecruitMilitary Veterans Job Fair will be held on Feb. 14, starting at 11 a.m. at AT&T Stadium, in Arlington. Veterans, Transitioning Military Personnel, National Guard and Reserve Members are invited to attend. To learn more

please visit <https://bac.ava-tail/RecruitMilitary-Dallas-Veterans-Job-Fair/557>.



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Sprint proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a top height of 106 feet on a 100-foot self-support communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 3604 S. Buckner Blvd, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75227. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Yvelande Raymond, y.raymond@trileaf.com, 1051 Winderley Place, Suite 201, Maitland, FL 32751, 407-660-7840.*

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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

February 10, 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.

February 13, 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.

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

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"

February 10, 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.

February 13, 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.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D. Senior Pastor
2450 K Avenue #300
Plano, TX 75074
972-379-3287
www.theship3c.org

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

February 8, 8 p.m.
All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 7 p.m., (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

February 10, 10 a.m.
Please join us for our Baby Christening Service. And, don't forget to invite family

and friends to join us for our Morning Worship as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

February 11 7 p.m.
You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us and to ring in the New Year.

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.lbocchurch.org

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

February 10, 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.

February 13, 7 pm
You're invited to our New Year Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Dr. Sam Fenceroy, PhD Senior Pastor and Pastor Gloria Fenceroy
300 Chisholm Place
Plano, TX 75075
972-633-5511
www.mocop.org

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Come and connect to God through Shiloh; grow in Christ through the study of

God's Word; and Serve God through service to each other and to the world. John 12:26.

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

February 10, 8 and 11 am
You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness

February 13, 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.

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

PLAN,

continued from Page 11 employed, according to BLS.

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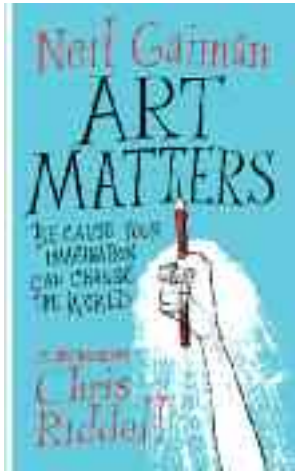
NDG Book Review: Art Matters inspires imagination

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Doodling, scribbling, sketching.

That's what most people think you're doing when you've got pen in hand and paper in front of you: just idly making squiggles and amusing yourself. You, however, know that what you're really doing is letting your ideas, your creativity, pour into the world. And in "Art Matters," author Neil Gaiman and illustrator Chris Riddell know it, too.

Sometimes, it might seem (at least to others) like a little bit of magic: with a writing tool, a keyboard, or stylus, you can make some-



thing out of almost nothing. Nothing – except the creativity you carry in your head.

Gaiman knows how important that is. He knows how fragile ideas are, and

that they can be squashed just as easy as they can be grown. But once an idea is out in the open, it's stronger and there's usually no turning back: it will forever be "hiding behind people's eyes," whether it's good or "vile."

On the subject of books, Gaiman says you should read a lot because "fiction builds empathy." Reading will "slightly change" you, as you see the world "through other eyes..." It's also essential that we "understand what libraries and librarians are" and that we know what they do.

"If you do not value libraries you are silencing the

voices of the past and you are damaging the future," says Gaiman.

Taking your ideas further won't be easy, as he shows in his final chapter.

Starting out in his career, he set his eye on a fictional "mountain" that he wanted to reach someday. He accepted jobs that took him on journeys and that made him write about many different things, which was good because, he "became a better writer the more [he] wrote..."

As for your future, remember that if you don't know what you're doing at first, "This is great" because then you can make your

own rules. Use your creativity to find adventure. Don't copy anybody, because they're not you.

And finally, in your creative process, "let go and enjoy the ride because the ride takes you to some remarkable and unexpected places."

Just by quickly paging through "Art Matters," you'll see that this book isn't very big. It'll probably take you maybe a half hour to read. But what you'll find inside may be some of the most inspirational, important notions a creative mind will ever see.

Here, author Neil Gaiman splits his thoughts on the

written word into four sparse chapters that will offer comfort to those who feel most at ease with a pen in hand.

That means that this book is not just for writers and book lovers, but also for those who think in cartoons and oils. It's a book that, through its prose, seems to free its readers of the "shoulds" of a budding career, and it's also a bit biographical.

Add in illustrations by Chris Riddell that give this book energy, and anyone ages fifteen and up might feel their imaginations soar. For that, reading "Art Matters" is a great idea.

TARPLEY, continued from Page 15

the Study of Negro Life and History. In the 1960s it was established as Black History MONTH.

In 1912 Dr. Woodson, re-

ceived his Ph.D in history from Harvard University. He developed an important philosophy of history.

History, he insisted, was

not the mere gathering of fact. The object of historical study is to arrive at a reasonable interpretation of the facts.

History is more than political and military records

of peoples and nations. It must include some description of the social conditions of the period being studied.

Even Dr. Woodson often said that he hoped the time would come when Negro

History Week would be unnecessary; when all Americans would willingly recognize the contributions of Black Americans as a legitimate and integral part of the history of this country.

His concept has given a profound sense of dignity to all Black people; and we must not forget it! Nor should we stop Black History Month.

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