



North Dallas Gazette

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Why every child should see a black male doctor

By Dale Okorodudu, M.D.

An unpleasant experience I had many years ago on an airplane initially left me angry. But it has since come to shape my thoughts on race and how increased diversity in the medical profession could influence the way white Americans view black men like me.

When I was 20, I boarded a flight from St. Louis to Houston for a trip home from college. The temperature was cool, so like a typical student I was wearing sweatpants and a hoodie. Shortly after finding my seat, a middle-aged white woman sat next to me.

We exchanged pleasantries, as strangers on a plane often do. But then, over the course of the two-hour flight, this woman began to belittle me. She criticized the way I was dressed and told me that I didn't speak well. What stuck with me the most was when she said, "Nobody will ever take you seriously. You'll never be successful."

I remember asking myself: Is this what some people think when they see a person who looks like me?

I've often reflected on that unusual encounter, wondering what would prompt a person to act that way. Clearly, my seatmate saw a young black man in a hoodie as a hopeless failure, not as a person who



Seeing Black men in positive roles, such as doctors, would go a long way to alleviate stereotypes according to Dr. Dale Okorodudu, a pulmonary and critical care physician. (Image: Screen shot from a video by UT Southwestern)

would become a doctor in a few years.

I suspect that she had had limited interactions with black men over the course of her life. Since then, I have come to believe that if more people got to know successful black professionals, outlooks would change.

Bias and racism begin to develop in children as early as age 5. As they become aware of race, they make associations based on how people look. Negative parental attitudes can make children wary and judgmental of people who look different from them; the lack of positive minority imagery in the media only adds to

the problem.

Misperceptions of black men persist among individuals who have little real-world contact with them. I'm willing to bet that when many Americans close their eyes and imagine a black man, what comes to mind may not be the most positive picture. But it should be. The truth of the matter is that most black men are people with normal jobs and lives like everyone else. Yet that's difficult for someone to appreciate if they don't see them regularly.

Being cared for by a black male

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READERS SOUND OFF!!!

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People In The News...



SN Anthony Mack



Kim Anderson

NDG Quote of the Week: "Never lose faith in America. Its faults are yours to fix, not to curse."

- Gen. Colin Powell

SN Anthony Mack

By Lt. Jake Joy
Navy Office of
Community Outreach

SASEBO, Japan – Seaman Recruit Anthony Mack II, a native of Dallas, Texas, gave college a try, but said he “wasn’t feeling it.” He wanted to forge a different path for himself. He found it in the U.S. Navy.

Now, just six months later and half a world away, Mack serves aboard one of the Navy’s newest and most advanced amphibious ships at Fleet Activities Sasebo, patrolling one of the world’s busiest maritime regions as



SCPO Gary Ward

part of U.S. 7th Fleet.

“I like it,” he said. “It’s a lot of hard work. You get used to it. I feel like it’s a big deal, you get to work on the flight deck, you pick up the Marines, the ship deploys a lot. As a team, it already feels

like a family.”

Mack, a 2016 graduate of Lakeridge High School, is a yeoman aboard the forward-deployed amphibious transport dock ship USS Green Bay in Sasebo, Japan.

“I take care of the ship’s plan of the day, handle mustering, and I help people with personnel questions,” he said.

Mack credits some of his success in the Navy to lessons he learned in Dallas.

“At home, I stuck to myself a bit, just trying to stay out of trouble,” he said, noting that he became adept at avoiding negative influences. “When I first got here, I was able to find people that

helped me learn the right way to do things and help me keep out of trouble.”

U.S. 7th Fleet spans more than 124 million square kilometers, stretching from the International Date Line to the India/Pakistan border; and from the Kuril Islands in the North to the Antarctic in the South. U.S. 7th Fleet’s area of operations encompasses 36 maritime countries and 50 percent of the world’s population with between 50-70 U.S. ships and submarines, 140 aircraft, and approximately 20,000 sailors.

“I like the culture of Japan,” Mack said. “The scenery is beautiful. I like how they do things, they’re

very clean.”

With more than 50 percent of the world’s shipping tonnage and a third of the world’s crude oil passing through the region, the United States has historic and enduring interests in this part of the world. The Navy’s presence in Sasebo is part of that long-standing commitment.

“The Navy is forward-deployed to provide security and strengthen relationships in a free and open Indo-Pacific. It’s not just the ships and aircraft that have shown up to prevent conflict and promote peace,” said Vice Adm. Phil Sawyer, commander, U.S. 7th Fleet. “It is,

and will continue to be our people who define the role our Navy plays around the world. People who’ve made a choice, and have the will and strength of character to make a difference.”

These ships support missions from sea to shore, special operations and other warfare missions. They also serve as secondary aviation platforms. Because of their inherent capabilities, these ships have been and will continue to be called upon to support humanitarian and other contingency missions on short notice, according to Navy officials.

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Kim Anderson

WASHINGTON—President Lily Eskelsen García announced the appointment of Kim Anglin Anderson to serve as the next executive director of the National Education Association.

“In our search for a new executive director, we wanted a leader who shared our values and whose commitment to our mission was equal to our own. The leader had to be an exceptional strategic thinker and have a deep understanding of the strengths and needs of our members and students. In choosing Kim Anderson, we



have more than achieved those goals,” said NEA President Lily Eskelsen García.

Anderson, who will take the helm as of September 1, 2019, will become the first woman and first person of

color to serve as the Executive Director of NEA.

Anderson has an accomplished career of service to NEA’s members and students that spans more than 28 years. Starting in 2001, as a staff lobbyist, she first used her policy expertise to advocate for NEA members in Congress and then, in 2008, led NEA’s independent political programs and national issue advocacy efforts. In 2009, her sharp strategic vision earned her a leadership role as NEA’s government relations director, where she secured increased funding for students, healthcare, and education jobs. Two years

later, she created and led NEA’s Center for Advocacy and Outreach. There, she accelerated NEA’s student-centered advocacy, maintained NEA’s strong advocacy for its members’ economic security and professional voice, and helped strengthen NEA’s professional support to reflect members’ commitment to students as well as to social and racial justice.

Anderson has served for the last three years as the executive vice president of the Democracy Alliance, bringing her deep expertise in collaborative problem solving to bear on the national stage. “She’s a catalyst for

progress, who has brought leaders together to promote civic empowerment, voting rights and expansion of the electorate, winning state and local elections, progressive leadership development, economic and climate justice, and empowering new American majority communities. She is a social justice patriot with a life-long commitment to breaking down barriers and empowering others,” said NEA Executive Director John Stocks.

As a young lawyer, she fought for African-American farmers to remedy decades of institutional racism and paved the way for the largest

civil rights settlement in American history at the time.

“I am so honored to be coming home and stepping into this role to advocate and support NEA members and their students. I have a deep reverence for the role NEA and our members have played in our country’s history and the role we can and should play in empowering educators to fulfill the promise of public education for every student,” said Anderson.

Anderson sent a strong message about the future of public education in her an-

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NDG Readers Sound Off...

A ‘New Day in Dallas’ begins with the inauguration of the new council

I won’t be able to call Johnson ‘my mayor’ until he steps up and solves the affordable housing crisis in my home town of Dallas. I was born here in 1955 and now that I’m disabled, I am soon to be out of a place to live. The city has wasted \$6mm budgeted for hud housing. No wonder the wait list is beyond my time to afford market rent. I need assistance now! Yet there is no agency with funding to provide it. My home town of Dallas is



David Wilfong

failing me. Where do I turn?

-- James Hopper

Truth to that keep us informed Mr. Thurman Jones I too at age 53 electrician trying to hold on work

in this city. Any all guidance appreciated. Just a black man lost a lot not give up.

-- Flavor Mosley

I hope he does well.

-- Rose Warren Simpson

An idiot clown to lead the circus. He’s a bad Oreo joke!

-- Fred Theobald

Not really

-- David Rapp

New day - same ole Dallas Citizens Council front man!

-- Deborah Beltran

Dallas must focus on preserving the Tenth Street Historic District

Yes!!! I’m loving all these articles!

-- Olga Hickman

changing the world, one oped at a time! going out with a bang in our last week!!

-- Stephanie Drenka

Lavallais This is GREAT! #winning

-- Yvette Blair

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Black women incarcerated for poverty

By Oscar H. Blayton

It seems like every day we learn about another facet of the cruelty of the American criminal justice system. Ava DuVernay's blockbuster documentary on Netflix, *When They See Us*, has heightened the furor over the fact that, in America, law enforcement means "control" rather than "justice" for people of color. And while the story of how the American legal system failed the Central Park Five is horrific – and for some, hard to watch – it is only one of many chapters in the saga of how this country lashes people of color with judicial oppression.

Just as we should not avert our eyes from the tragedy suffered by the Central Park Five, we should not avert our eyes from the plight of poor women of color who remain behind bars simply because they are poor.

The nonprofit organization Prison Policy Initiative has reported that almost two out of every three women in jail have not been convicted of a crime. They are incarcerated awaiting resolution of their cases.

The main reason for this startling fact is that many women are unable to raise the necessary funds for a cash bail. And this, simply put, is punishment for the "crime of poverty."

The Prison Policy Initiative

has reported that in 2015, the median income for Black women incarcerated prior to trial was \$9,083, while the typical amount of bail in those instances was \$10,000. It is obscene that too often bail is set at an amount greater than the annual income of a person facing a minor charge.

It is not uncommon for people of color to be sent to jail for not paying fines. And it is outrageous when those people are incarcerated for not paying fines and fees for violations that are not jailable offenses.

The threat of incarceration and, ultimately, incarceration has been used by some cities and towns strapped for money to squeeze dollars out of the most vulnerable members of their communities.

In 2015, CNN reported how the U.S. Justice Department revealed a pattern and practice of racial discrimination within Ferguson, Missouri, that targeted African American residents for tickets and fines. And when these tickets and fines went unpaid, those residents often went to jail.

Not only is this practice a grave injustice, but it inflicts wounds upon our society. The New York Review of Books reports that eight out of 10 women in jail are mothers, and most of them are single parents. There should be no need to explain how

parental incarceration impacts negatively on a child. Studies by the Prison Policy Initiative have linked parental incarceration to that child's risk of violence and victimization, as well as chronic health problems.

Incarceration can cause a woman to lose her job, lose her housing and even lose her child. Incarceration of the poor is a public policy that creates and maintains a cycle of poverty. It is well known that incarceration usually results in the loss of a job. It is less well known that incarceration often results in the loss of stable housing. In his 2016 book, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, sociologist and Princeton University professor Matthew Desmond set out that, "Eviction is a cause, not just a condition, of poverty." And Princeton University's "Eviction Lab" published an online report in 2018 titled *Why Eviction Matters* stating that evictions "disproportionately affect low-income women, in particular women of color."

Drilling down into this injustice, we find that, according to the Prison Policy Initiative, "[I]ncarcerated women are more likely than incarcerated men to be poor, single parents, primary caregivers, and to be victims of violence, abuse, and trauma."

Because of policies being made by those who do not

care about the plight of these victims of poverty, women now represent a higher proportion of the U.S. prison and jail populations than in the past. A May 2019 analysis of the Bureau of Justice Statistics data by essayists in the *New York Review of Books* reveals that in "1983, women made up just under 9 percent of people admitted to jail. By 2000, that share had grown to 15 percent; and in 2016, women comprised 23 percent of all admissions."

Women of color work the hardest for the least amount of money, and because they have the least money, they are the most likely to be jailed for their poverty.

When America looks in the mirror, we see we are a nation that not only jails the poor for being poor, but we jail the poorest of the poor.

Is this who we want to be? Is this who we want our country to be? This nation was founded upon so many injustices, too many of which persist to this day. One of those is punishing the poor for being poor.

Gone are the days of debtors' prisons, but imprisoning the poor is still with us. It is time to take a stand and demand that our lawmakers turn this practice into nothing more than a bad memory.

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

July 4th and the American Spirit

By Glenn Mollette

The fourth of July is here and all Americans hopefully will embrace the day without fear, total liberation and the American spirit.

Nik and Lijana Wallenda on Sunday night, June 23 in crazy, outlandish, courage, extreme athleticism and faith loudly proclaimed the American spirit - pursuing life and overcoming fear. Walking a high wire 25 stories above Times Square, New York and for 1,300 feet they talked, sang, praised Jesus and made the palms sweat of millions of Americans who were frozen to their televisions. They did what I would never even consider.

My initial reaction to their wire walking was "these people are crazy." However, the Wallenda's are super talented, phenomenal athletes who looked like Marvel comic super humans as they wire walked with mega million dollar billboards lit up behind them. I can't imagine the strength, rehearsal and nerve it took for such an accomplishment.

The Wallenda's message to the world is overcoming fear. Lijana suffered from multiple injuries from another high wire act where her family fell, that has been replayed on television numerous times. Before the world she overcame her fear, proclaimed her faith in God and did what

most no one else could ever imagine even trying.

Most of us cannot imagine what was going through the minds of 56 men on July 4, 1776, when they met in Philadelphia to pass a resolution declaring their independence from England. There was fear of what lay ahead and what they did that day would cost them greatly in the years to come. However, they overcame their fear, moved forward and their new way of thinking about government would change the course of human history.

Visit almost any cemetery in America and you'll find grave markers of American soldiers who faced cruel enemies on battlefields around

the world. Heroically they embraced and put aside their fear to fight and die for you and me. They are the true American heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and embodied the American Spirit.

This July 4th let's be encouraged. We live in a free country where we have the freedom to try and even do the impossible. If fear is holding you back it's part of the normal process of living and trying. Our forefather's paved the way, and millions of brave Americans have maintained the real spirit of America.

Contact Glenn at GMollette@aol.com or glennmollette.com.

New parents and a newborn with Sickle Cell Disease: What now?

By Dr. Kevin Williams
Chief Medical Officer
for Rare Disease at Pfizer

For the last two years, I've been honored to talk with you about sickle cell disease (SCD) through this column, sharing important information and my perspectives as a medical professional. Now, as the "Ask Dr. Kevin" series enters its third year, I wanted to change things a bit by letting you also hear directly from those who matter most—people living with SCD and their caregivers.

In this article, I'd like to introduce you to TaLana Hughes, a mother of three who is also the executive director of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Illinois (SCDAI). TaLana has one child with SCD and two children with the sickle cell trait.

As TaLana knows from both personal experience and through her work with SCDAI, learning that your



It's important to know that in recent years we've seen advances in understanding and scientific breakthroughs that are potentially paving the way for better care of people with SCD. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

child has SCD can feel overwhelming and scary. While family and friends can be an important source of support, they may not always know the best way to help—and parents may find it hard to explain what they need.

In order to help people better understand what it's like to be a parent of a newborn with SCD, and how family and friends can be most helpful, TaLana and I share our thoughts below on some of the most common questions we've been asked

about the topic.

What are the biggest fears and challenges parents face upon learning their child has SCD?

TaLana: Immediately after my child received the diagnosis, my husband and I experienced an initial wave of shock and fear. It became suddenly apparent that both of us have the sickle cell trait which we passed down to our child. After the initial shock wore off, a million questions

started to run through our minds, and we wondered what this would ultimately mean for our daughter.

Dr. Kevin: I know that for many parents, an SCD diagnosis can certainly be overwhelming, and I see how parents may fear the worst. However, it's important to know that in recent years we've seen advances in understanding and scientific breakthroughs that are potentially paving the way for better care of people with SCD.

I also can't stress enough to new parents the importance of setting up a health-care team for their child as soon as possible. Receiving care early and often can help reduce the impacts and complications of the disease. SCD takes a toll on all systems of the body, so having a team made up of a pediatric hematologist, primary care doctor, and other specialists, such as an eye doctor, pulmonologist, cardiologist, and dentist, is key

to the health of the child.

What are some tips for helping parents cope with the news?

TaLana: I know that I needed time to digest the news to really understand how the diagnosis would impact our child and family. Once I had a stronger understanding of the disease and how it would manifest over time as my child grew, I started to have a better idea of the support needed from my family and our local community.

Dr. Kevin: I've seen incredible connections and support systems form when parents of a child with SCD talk with other parents going through the same thing. There's a certain comfort that comes from talking to those who have "been there, done that." Parents can meet other families through local community groups, online platforms like oneSCD-voice*, which includes curated content and a wealth of information for those in

the SCD community, and the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA), which publishes a calendar of local SCD events around the country.

How can family and friends offer support?

TaLana: I tell parents of children with SCD to educate their loved ones about the disease and to communicate how it affects your child. Teaching others about the condition gives me the opportunity to explain what kind of specific support I need. It also allows my family and friends to figure out how to best provide support—whether it be a ride to an appointment, a change of clothes for an overnight stay in the hospital, or help with small chores at home.

Dr. Kevin: I also encourage family members and friends to learn as much as they can on their own, because there are still a num-

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EPICS students' designs help turn toys into mobility devices for kids

(UT Dallas) When pediatric physical therapist Margaret Scholl wanted to create mobility devices for her youngest patients, students in the UTDesign Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) program at The University of Texas at Dallas helped get her project rolling.

"So many children under age 3 are robbed of movement experiences," Scholl said. "I have struggled for years with families when it comes to equipment. Most funding sources will not even consider paying for a power wheelchair if the child is under 3."

Scholl and other physical therapists are helping those families by converting commonly available children's toys into mobility devices. Inspired by a national program, Scholl founded Early Wheels, a nonprofit designed to provide pediatric patients with the modified toys. She then reached out to



From left: Engineering students Omar Ijazi, Anupam Adhikari, Susana Lainez, Amy Abraham and Lan Bui used their design skills to help create mobility devices for children with disabilities. (Photo: UT Dallas)

the University's Erik Jonsen School of Engineering and Computer Science for technical help.

EPICS students are currently working on a Hover Buggy project, a custom hoverboard modification, for Early Wheels.

Scholl worked with EPICS instructor Terrell Bennett MS'07, PhD'16 to develop her project and found what she needed — original designs for the toy

modifications that were created by undergraduate students in the EPICS design course.

"I knew what I wanted to do, but not how to do it," she said. "These programs usually take 6-volt ride-on cars and adapt them so they can run with a single switch input. But what about kids with no upper extremity function?"

Scholl had learned through research that regular

ride-on cars could be driven using multiple switch inputs and that the speed and jerkiness of the cars could be controlled using a specific open-source electronic prototyping platform.

"This was when I reached out to UTD because I knew I was in way over my head," she said.

Modeled after a similar program at Purdue University, EPICS at UT Dallas is a one-credit, one-semester course that provides students with the opportunity to practice their design skills by completing projects submitted by nonprofit organizations. Projects not completed in one semester are passed along to the next team.

EPICS students gain broad experience through their projects, in part because they meticulously document their process. Each project encompasses technical writing, research and client relations — more than a typical undergraduate assignment.

"The EPICS teams must ensure the device modifications can be easily reproduced using a variety of models, and they deliver a manual with build instructions," Bennett said. "These devices can be re-created for

around \$400."

EPICS students are especially interested in helping young children achieve their potential.

"The mind is active —

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Brookhaven and El Centro students will have an opportunity to train with the Irving Fire Department.
(Photo: Brookhaven Emergency Medical Services)

DCCCD students will have the opportunity to learn from the Irving Fire Department

By Rachel Hawkins
NDG Contributing Writer

Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) students with a passion for fire safety, and medical, will have the opportunity to gain experience through a new partnership with the City of Irving.

The resolution presented to the Irving City Council was Approving an educational service agreement between the City of Irving and Dallas County Community

College District on behalf of Brookhaven College and El Centro College for Emergency medical services student internships with the Irving Fire Department, was approved during the Irving City Council meeting on June 20. This agreement will be a five-year term, which will last from June 6, 2019, to June 5, 2024.

There is no such thing as a holiday from emergencies, leading to an ever growing need for qualified emergency and healthcare

professionals. Duty-days, in this case, the student's assigned rotation-day, is a commitment to provide a necessary public service, in exchange for in the field life training.

According to the DCCCD colleges policies, the EMS Program participants at no time during a clinical or internship can be part of the regularly assigned staff at a clinical site or an ambulance vehicle. In other words, they are not replacing trained paid staff;

this is an unpaid teaching opportunity.

The hospital minimum clinical assignment hours for EMT-P is 288 hours in eight to 12-hour shifts. The MICU internship minimum clinical assignment hours is 264 hours in 24-hour shifts on "every third day" rotat-

ing schedule. To complete this program, students must complete all clinical experiences, hospital, and MICU within the designated time-frame for their class.

Dallas Area Habitat aims to improve home affordability in Dallas County

Nearly 19 million households across the United States are spending at least half of their income on a place to live, often forgoing basic necessities such as food and healthcare to make ends meet. In fact, cost-burdened households with children spend on average \$190 less on food and 70 percent less on healthcare when compared with similar households living in affordable homes.

Dallas has the lowest homeownership rate at 41.5% among the state's largest cities, with the national average being 64%. The stability

that homeownership brings continues to remain out of reach for too many people in our region.

Last week, Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity joined Habitat organizations across the country to launch a new national advocacy campaign aimed at improving home affordability for 10 million people in the U.S. over the next five years. Marking significant growth in Habitat's commitment to ensuring that everyone has a safe and decent place to call home, the Cost of Home campaign seeks to identify and improve policies and systems through

coordinated advocacy efforts at the local, state and federal levels.

Cost of Home focuses on improving housing affordability across the housing continuum in four specific policy areas: increasing supply and preservation of affordable homes, equitably increasing access to credit, optimizing land use for affordable homes, and ensuring access to and development of communities of opportunity.

"Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity has already taken several steps to empower more of our neighbors with the personal and economic

stability homeownership provides," said Dave Crawford, Dallas Habitat CEO. "Through HUD-certified homeownership classes, the organization educates hundreds of individuals each year in financial literacy to lay a foundation to become an informed homebuyer on the open market. And with the release of our new digital edu-

cation library and mobile app this year, anyone can access education modules about topics such as understanding credit scores, and determining a responsible debt-to-income ratio, so that more residents can benefit from the vast resources and knowledge that Dallas Habitat has to offer."

"We are pleased to be making strides toward more fam-

ilies achieving the goal of homeownership in Dallas. Since 1986, we've provided access to potential homeowners through our home builds, neighborhood redevelopment and educational classes, helping thousands become mortgage ready in Dallas County," said Tosha Herron-Bruff, Dallas Habitat VP of Government Relations.

DART offering transportation to Fourth of July events

North Texans looking to ride public transit to catch one of the many Independence Day celebrations on Thursday, July 4, should be aware Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) bus, light rail and Dallas Streetcar services will follow a Sunday schedule, and Trinity Railway Express (TRE) trains will not operate.

Celebrations for you and your family include:

- Rowlett Freedom 5K on Main, Main Street, Rowlett, 7:15 a.m., rowlett5k.com, (Downtown Rowlett Station)
- Five on the 4th, Klyde Warren Park, 8:00 a.m., run-dallas.com, (St. Paul or Akard station, M-Line Trolley)
- Irving Independence Day

Parade and Reception, Irving Heritage District, 9:00 a.m. – Noon, cityofirving.org, (Downtown Irving/Heritage Crossing Station)

- Fair Park Fourth, Fair Park, fairpark.org, (Fair Park Station and MLK, Jr. Station)

- Garland Star Spangled Spectacular, Firewheel Town Center, 4:00 – 9:00 p.m., visitgarlandtx.com, (Downtown Garland Station, then Bus Route 513)

- Irving Independence Day Fireworks Show, Lake Carolyn, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m., cityofirving.org, (Las Colinas Urban Center Station)

- Rowlett Fireworks on Main, Pecan Grove Park, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m., ci.rowlett.tx.us, (Downtown

Rowlett Station)

Mobility Management's Paratransit Services will operate on a Saturday schedule Thursday, July 4. X-Press Booking, Web Trip Booking and Voice Mail Booking are available, but the Paratransit Scheduling Center will be closed. Customers may call the center Tuesday, July 2, to book their trips through Thursday, July 4, and Wednesday, July 3, to book their trips through Saturday, July 6.

Route and schedule information is available at 214-979-1111, DART.org and trinityrailwayexpress.org. More information on holiday destinations can be found at DART.org/fireworks.

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E-sports at Dallas Can Academy highlights math, IT

An E-sports tournament was held last week at Dallas Can Academy. Students had the opportunity to play NBA2K on teams against each other while learning about gaming and E-sports careers.

Students built their own

wearable shot counter - a device to measure the distance and speed it takes to make a shot and help basketball players improve their shots.

Dallas Mavericks talent scout and analyst met with students to explain the math

behind sports and discuss careers off the court.

Internationally-known teacher Thelvie Cullins Jr. taught students the math behind a jump shot using quadratic equations and parabolas.

To end the experience on

a high note, the students then competed in an engaging and visual E-sports tournament and toured the new Geekletes facility in DeSoto. Texans Can Academy - Dallas Oak Cliff is the very first school to host the IT Immersion Experience.



Courtesy photo

Camp encourages young students to become fully bilingual and biliterate

About 100 first- and second-grade students are enrolled in a Spanish Immersion Camp helping them become bilingual and biliterate.

The camp gives students enrolled in the Two-Way Dual Language program an opportunity to keep practicing their Spanish during the summer break. This is the

first year Dallas ISD has organized the camp taking place at two schools.

Throughout the day, the teachers solely speak in Spanish. They organize activities that not only teach the students about the language, but also about the different cultures where Spanish is spoken. One of the in-

structors taught her students how to sing traditional children's songs in Spanish such as Pin-Pon or La Víbora de la Mar. Another group learned about sarapes (traditional Mexican colorful blankets) and painted their own patterns.

By constantly reading, writing and listening to

Spanish—and providing students with opportunities to connect their two languages through effective strategies for bridging content and language—get students closer to becoming fully literate in both languages, said Iris Ramirez-Lugo, dual language specialist for Dallas ISD and one of the camp's

supervisors.

"It's outside the yearly curriculum, so the students feel relaxed. They feel secure and confident to speak the language," Ramirez-Lugo said. "If they see other students that are speaking it, they want to mimic them."

Juan Carlos Moreno, a fourth- and fifth-grade

teacher at Personalized Learning Preparatory at Sam Houston, read his group a book about the quetzal, a bird that was considered sacred to Central and Southern American pre-hispanic civilizations. He pointed to the illustrations in the book and asked his students to name them.



Elements Digital

Harmony Public Schools to substantially boosts teacher salaries across Texas

Harmony Public Schools teachers across its 57 campuses in Texas will receive a significant salary increase of between 7 percent and 17.5 percent starting next school year, officials with the public charter system announced this week.

"We are very happy to continue to reward our staff for their dedication to excel-

lence," said Fatih Ay, CEO of Harmony Public Schools. "Every year our 35,000 plus students consistently exceed state education standards. Our teacher's hard work is recognized annually by major publications, such as US News Best High Schools, and noted children's advocacy groups."

In addition to a base

salary increase of between \$3,500 & \$5,000, teachers will be awarded a stipend of \$1,000 if they have between 5 and 9 years classroom experience. Those with more than 10 years' experience will receive \$2,000. Instructors in the system's core STEM curricula will receive an additional \$3,000 stipend.

"We see this as an investment not only in our teachers, but in our students as well," Ay said.

The new salary schedule follows Governor Greg Abbott's signing of the \$11.5 Billion school finance reform package. Harmony chose to target additional funding into pay & benefits for teachers and staff

UNT plans to expand availability of non-credit, online courses

The University of North Texas soon will offer non-credit, online courses in a variety of subjects through Coursera, giving more learners access to world-class educational content created and taught by UNT faculty.

The university recently inked a deal with the popular online education company, joining an elite group of higher education institutions

such as University of Pennsylvania, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Michigan, Johns Hopkins University, Stanford University and more.

The massive open online course (MOOC) format allows students to engage with course content on their own schedule and at their own pace. Learners have the op-

tion to either enroll in the course to listen to the videos and explore content for free or to pay a fee to complete the quizzes and receive a certification. The Coursera Certification is the second most cited credential on LinkedIn.

"We plan to launch three to five MOOCs within the next year," said Adam Fein, UNT vice president of digital strategy and innovation. "In sup-

port of our mission to provide access to education, our plan is to continue to explore options to give North Texas students and learners from around the globe flexible learning options and more ways to help them reach academic and career goals."

Non-credit courses offer students an opportunity to prep for actual for-credit courses.

"Engaging with courses on the Coursera platform gives learners access to the subject matter but also a sense of ethos of being a UNT student and exposure to UNT faculty who care deeply about teaching students and quality learning outcomes," said Karen Bollinger, UNT assistant vice president of digital growth.

A Tier-One research university, UNT regularly ranks

among the nation's top 100 schools, including top marks for some of its online programs.

"We are pleased to partner with UNT and look forward to adding UNT courses to the Coursera learning platform that currently serves 40 million learners, 1,800 businesses and over 150 top universities," said Coursera CEO Jeff Maggioncalda.

MACK, continued from Page 2

Sailors' jobs are highly varied aboard Green Bay. More than 400 men and women make up the ship's crew, which keeps all parts of the ship running smoothly, from handling weaponry to maintaining the engines. An additional 700 Marines can be embarked. Green Bay is

capable of transporting Marines and landing them where they are needed using helicopters, vertical takeoff and landing aircraft and other water-to-shore craft.

Serving in the Navy means Mack is part of a world that is taking on new importance in America's

focus on rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

A key element of the Navy the nation needs is tied to the fact that America is a maritime nation, and that the nation's prosperity is tied to the ability to operate freely on

the world's oceans. More than 70 percent of the Earth's surface is covered by water; 80 percent of the world's population lives close to a coast; and 90 percent of all global trade by volume travels by sea.

"Our priorities center on people, capabilities and processes, and will be achieved by our focus on

speed, value, results and partnerships," said Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer. "Readiness, lethality and modernization are the requirements driving these priorities."

As a member of one of the U.S. Navy's most relied upon assets, Mack II and other sailors know they are part of a legacy that will last

beyond their lifetimes, contributing to the Navy the nation needs.

"It's a great path if you're not going to school and have nothing else for yourself," he said. "I got here, I liked it. You travel in the Navy and the benefits are great. All you have to worry about is working hard, and you'll get to the place you want to be."

Carrollton reminds citizens only rain goes in the storm drain

Clean water is a natural resource and the centerpiece of any healthy environment. With continued heavy rainfall in the area, the City of Carrollton reminds citizens about the importance of keeping stormwater pollutant free.

Stormwater is rainwater or snow melt that flows over surfaces, like driveways, roofs, lawns, and buildings, and then enters the storm drain system by the storm inlets (gutters) located in parking lots and on the sides of streets. These inlets are designed to remove water from the streets to prevent flooding. The water is then discharged to surface waters like ponds, creeks, wetlands, and rivers without receiving

any type of treatment, meaning whatever the rainwater picks up, flows into the inlet and comes out in a lake, stream, or pond.

Ideally, stormwater should be comprised completely of rainwater. The storm drain is designed to remove rain water quickly from streets and parking lots to prevent flooding. Unfortunately, as the water flows over the various surfaces, it picks up contaminants and carries them to the waterways, resulting in water pollution. While some contaminants can be things such as motor oil, soap/detergents, paint, trash, pet and human waste, and fertilizers, it can include grass clippings and other vegetation as well.

These contaminants pollute our surface waters and affect the local drinking water supply, recreation, and wildlife.

Grass clippings clog the City's storm drain system, accumulate in inlets and outfalls, and flood the street instead of draining the rain water effectively. The clippings also carry nutrients which cause plants and algae in waterways to grow faster and more abundantly. This plant growth chokes a waterway by removing oxygen from the water and forcing fish to relocate or die. When beneficial plants in the waterway die, the amount of oxygen in the water needed for the fish and other wildlife is reduced, again resulting in a

fish kill or relocation.

Storm drain inlets are not trash cans. In Carrollton, the polluted storm water runoff eventually flows into the Trinity River, impacting the source of the City's drinking water.

Here are a few tips on how to keep grass clippings out of the City's storm drain system:

- For mowers that shoot grass clippings out of the side, mow a couple of passes with the mower blowing towards the yard before mowing the rest of the yard.
- For mowers with a grass-collecting attachment, make sure to keep the clippings on the yard and out of the street, curb inlet, ditch, or creek.

• With a mulching mower, the grass will not be blown out of the side and there is no need to worry about grass blowing into the street.

• If a storm drain appears to be clogged and can be cleared safely, stand on the sidewalk and use a rake to reach the leaves without entering the street. Residents are not expected to work in the road to remove leaves and grass clippings.

• Volunteer to label storm drains in your neighborhood to inform residents that they flow directly to City lakes and streams.

The City's stormwater permit from the State requires a reduction in the amount of pollution that is

introduced into the stormwater each year, so Carrollton relies heavily on its residents and businesses to help keep pollution out of surface waters and to report violators when seen.

Since stormwater pollution is one of the most difficult sources of water pollution to control, keeping it clean is a community-wide effort. Residents can help by properly caring for their lawns and cars, not littering, and never putting anything down storm drains. To report polluters, call 972-466-3060.

To learn more about preventing stormwater pollution, call 972-466-3063 or visit cityofcarrollton.com/stormwater.

DART hearings to include SNAP enrollees in reduced fare program; free paratransit rides on election day

Typically an announcement of a DART hearing regarding fares signals a fare increase request. However, this time DART is actually looking at ways to make public transportation more affordable for low-income groups. They also are expanding free rides on election day.

The DART Board of Directors has called for a public hearing, preceded by a pair of pre-public hearing meetings, to consider proposed fare structure adjustments. These changes, to take effect January 1, 2020, would include:

- Expansion of the Re-



A DART Red Line train leaves the Tyler/Vernon station during its daily service to commuters. (Photo: David Wilfong / NDG)

duced Fare category for bus and rail to include enrollees in the following programs: Texas Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Comprehensive Energy Assistance

Program, Medicaid or other low-income groups as approved by the DART Board; this would be implemented as a pilot program in effect until September 30, 2021.

- Addition of Paratransit

customer for free rides from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on any state or national primary or general election day. Showing a valid voter registration card.

• Revision of the free fare policy to require full payment on Bus Route 524 (aka Love Link, currently free shuttle service between Love Field Airport and Inwood/Love Field Station). This shuttle will no longer be free.

The pre-public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, July 2 at noon and again at 6:30 p.m. Then the final public hearing will be at 6:30 p.m. a week later on July 9. Both meetings will be held at the

DART Headquarters – Board Room located at 1401 Pacific Ave.

Opportunity for public input

The DART Board of Directors encourages public comments on the night of the public hearing or in writing beforehand. Those desiring to speak should contact DART Community Engagement at 214-749-2543 to register. Advance registration will be accepted until 1 p.m. on the day of the hearing. Those who have not pre-registered may sign up immediately before the hearing begins and will be scheduled to speak after

those who have pre-registered.

In addition, written comments received any time before the hearing is adjourned will become a part of the official hearing record. Written comments may be submitted the night of the hearing or mailed in advance to:

January 2020 Fare Restructure Public Hearing
P.O. Box 660163
1401 Pacific Ave.
Dallas, TX 75266-7232

Those sending comments should include their name, address and telephone number.

DOCTOR, continued from Page 1

doctor can change this narrative. I see this almost every day at work. When children watch their mom or dad speak with me, they see that their parent respects me. The doctor-patient relationship also builds a special trust. I still vividly remember encounters with my own childhood physician, Dr. Nina Miller, a white woman I revere to this day.

Unfortunately, the

chances of seeing a black male doctor in the U.S. are slim. Black men have historically been underrepresented in the medical profession, comprising only about 2 percent of U.S. physicians. And the number of black male applicants to medical school has not been growing. According to a report from the Association of American Medical Colleges, the number of black

male applicants to medical schools was actually lower in 2014 than in 1978.

This discouraging trend may have consequences for the health of the black community. A study published last year by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that black men, who have the lowest life expectancy of any ethnic group, are more likely to follow preventive health recommendations when they are seen by black doc-

tors.

To reverse the trend of declining black men in medicine, we need to convince more black boys to pursue careers in the field. Several years ago, I launched "Black Men in White Coats" to inspire more of these individuals to consider medicine as an occupation. It is a series of videos featuring black physicians from my medical school, UT Southwestern, and others who shared stories and perspectives on

how race has influenced their careers. We hope these testimonials will show young people that with hard work and dedication they can overcome obstacles and become the positive role models our society needs.

I wish every child had the opportunity to be cared for by a black male doctor. They would come to trust and respect this person and, early in life, develop a personal and positive relationship with a black man.

Maybe then more people would understand that individuals who look like me, no matter what they're wearing, are likely to be sincere, intelligent, and loving.

Dr. Dale Okorodudu is a pulmonary and critical care physician and an Assistant Professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. He is the founder of DiverseMedicine Inc. and the author of "How to Raise a Doctor: Wisdom From Parents Who Did It."



Roven Images / Unsplash

Plano planning big fireworks for the 4th of July

Be part of a bigger, better All American 4th Festival & Fireworks. Plano is upping our game with more food options, live music and a kid zone. Gates open at 4 p.m. with fireworks at 9:30 p.m. Tune your radio to KLAQ 97.5 for music matching the beat of the fireworks display. Performers include Kaitlyn Sparks, Joe Savage and Hannah Kirby. Guests are invited to this free event at the Amphitheater at Oak Point Park,

2801 E. Spring Creek Pwy. Park at Collin College or Plano Event Center. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic blanket for a beautiful night under the Plano sky. Coolers are allowed but alcohol is not.

Make the most of your Independence Day celebration with more great city-funded events and programs:

- Plano Community Band's Patriotic Pops concert - Wednesday, July 3, 7 p.m.,

Haggard Park, 901 E. 15th St. in Historic Downtown Plano (free). Bring your lawn chair (or a picnic blanket).

- Plano Lions Independence Day Parade - Thursday, July 4, 9-11 a.m., along Independence Parkway between 15th Street and Parkhaven Drive (free). You'll need sunscreen, sunglasses and water. Arrive early to get a good spot. Street closes at 8 a.m.
- Plano Symphony Orchestra - Thursday, July 4, 3

p.m., the Eisemann Center in Richardson (\$13-85 per ticket). Maestro Hector Guzman leads the Symphony and the Patriotic Pops Chorus in "Salute to the Armed Services." Enjoy the air conditioning.

- Courtyard Texas Music Series featuring William Michael Morgan - Saturday, July 6, 7:30 p.m. at the Courtyard Theater, 1509 H Ave. Buy tickets online (\$29 ea.).

Coppell

Mark your calendar now and plan to celebrate the grand opening of **Andrew Brown Park East** with a day of fun activities and live music.

Bring a blanket or lawn chairs, listen to live music and watch the fireworks show.

Food, a children's area, arts and crafts market and more. To stay up to date on the latest visit www.CelebrateCoppell.com.

Dallas

Dallas Metroplex Musicians' Association cordially invites the public to the **2019 annual Sacred Choral Music Concert**, dedicated in memory of immediate past President, Dr. Michael G. Ford, and dedicated member, Mrs. Alyce Gaye Goff. The 2019 Clinician is Dello Thedford of St. Louis, Missouri, a highly sought-after workshop clinician, teacher, noted composer, and direc-

tor extraordinaire. The concert is Sat., Jun. 29, 2019, 4:30 PM at the Pearly Gate Baptist Church located at 6021 University Hills Drive.

Praire View Marching Storm Band Alumni Association is hosting a mixer at Sandaga 813 Exposition Ave at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Meet the executive board, mix and mingle with fellow alum, ask questions and join their ranks on the spot. More

info via @pvalumnistorm on Instagram and Twitter.

Klyde Warren Park's Independence Day Celebration is Saturday, June 29 and will feature inspiring sound of patriotic tunes before a grand fireworks display, sampling cold treats from more than a dozen vendors and enjoying contests, live music, games and other fun family activities. Wrap up the evening with a concert by the U.S. Army's

36th Infantry Division Band and a spectacular pyrotechnic display on the Park's East Lawn. All for FREE!

Mrs. Baird's: Texas Born Texas Bread Presents The City Of Dallas And 98.7 K-LUV's 4th Annual **"Red White And Boom On The Bridge,"** Wednesday Night, July 3rd From 6-10 p.m. On The Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge In Downtown Dallas.

Free and open to the public, **Fair Park Fourth** will feature patriotic music, with a fireworks at approximately 9:30 p.m. The State Fair of Texas Midway--featuring several rides, games, and concession stands--will open at noon. For tickets and line-up visit Big-Tex.com.

DeSoto

The cities of DeSoto and **See EVENTS, Page 10**

Make plans now for the coolest ever rock-n-roll romp through a bug's world.



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FOX

Empire returns for sixth and final season on Sept. 24

FOX has set the fall premiere dates for its new and returning series.

Kicking off the new season, the 71st Primetime Emmy Awards will air live coast-to-coast from the Microsoft Theater at L.A. LIVE in Los Angeles on Sunday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. on FOX.

Hit drama 9-1-1 returns for its third season on Monday, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m., followed by the series premiere of crime drama PRODIGAL SON at 8 p.m., starring Tom Payne, Emmy Award and Golden Globe nominee Michael Sheen, Bellamy Young and Lou Diamond Phillips.

All-new Tuesdays begin Sept. 24, with the sixth and final season premiere of EMPIRE at 8 p.m., following the Season Three return of THE RESIDENT at 9 p.m.

On Wednesday, Sept. 25, television's #1 new series, THE MASKED SINGER, returns with a special two-

hour season premiere at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL, with NFL Hall of Famers Terry Bradshaw, Howie Long and Michael Strahan headlining the pregame show, returns Sept. 26 6:30 p.m. as the Green Bay Packers host the Philadelphia Eagles.

Frisco Educator nabs starring role in Plano Summer Musicals' Beauty and the Beast

North Texas Performing Arts Repertory Theatre opened its Plano Summer Musical Series with the magical Disney's "Beauty and the Beast", featuring a cast of some of DFW's finest adult performers in the DFW metroplex, from professional operatic performers with experience in Carnegie Hall to a high school theater teacher.



Courtesy photo

Co-starring with "Belle" Alexis Bruza whose voice and beauty grace the stage, Kris Allen lends his booming baritone and subtle growls to offer a compelling and powerful performance as the "Beast." With a dual-career of educator and performer, Kris Allen devotes most of his time to his students as the Director of Theatre at Frisco High School

where he recently led them to become the 2019 UIL 5A State One-Act Play silver medalists.

He previously excelled onstage, having captured a Column Award for his portrayal of "Sam Carmichael" in Mamma Mia, together with other impressive credits and his captivating performance as the "Beast" in North Texas Performing

Arts' Plano Summer Musicals. Allen's work onstage shows that one can be a great performer and still perform well in the classroom.

"Being a performer and teacher can be tricky," says Allen. "In my experience, performing has given me the opportunity to show my students and their parents that maybe I really do know what I'm talking about."

The classic story tells of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed into his former self. This is the perfect show to bring the entire family together for a

magical and heartwarming evening.

"Like most Disney shows there is certainly a target audience for young patrons of the arts, however our hope is that the parents that bring their kids to the show are just as transported into the world and have a wonderful time," says Allen.

This "tale as old as time"

is filled with spectacular costume and set opportunities or, even more simply staged, Disney's Beauty and the Beast offers a great opportunity to bring your entire community together for family theatre at its best.

For tickets and times for the upcoming shows over the next two weeks, visit <https://ntparep.org>.

NDG Entertainment: Art and flavors this week in Dallas

The Parlor, Dallas' newest cocktail bar located within the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, presents **Art Beyond The Glass**, an immersive art show featuring the work of two local artists along with live music, passed apps, drink specials, and a Roxor Gin Tasting on Friday, June 28, from 5-10 p.m.

Swing by the newest speakeasy-style cocktail bar in the city to see **Falk Dauben** showcase his urban style animal street art on canvas and Alex DeJesus

present his vibrant paintings with a focus on enveloping a very real message of strength and pride through perseverance.

Join the City of Carrollton for a tasty adventure at the inaugural **World of Foodies Fest** from 3-9 p.m. on Saturday, June 29 in Historic Downtown Carrollton (1106 S. Broadway Street). Enjoy authentic international refreshments as you jam out to music from around the globe. The event will include games, an "Around the World" photo

op, free henna tattoos, and free calaca face painting. World of Foodies is free to attend. Sample-size portions will be available for \$3, and full-size portion prices vary by vendor. For the ultimate experience, purchase a "Foodie Passport" for ages 21+ before the event for \$30 while supplies last. Passports include two cocktail samples, nine food samples, and a souvenir World of Foodies glass. World of Foodies glasses will be available at the event for \$5 while supplies last.

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(Note: Camp will be closed July 4th and 5th.)

> \$250 PER SESSION
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> 8AM - 4PM
Note: Before care and after care available for additional \$100/session, 7am-5pm.

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> On-site Registration June 6th, 3-5 pm, CVC Room M115

> Mandatory Parent Meeting June 6th, 5pm, CVC Room M115

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2019 Addison Kaboom Town Watch Parties

North Texans know Addison Kaboom Town is the premiere place to watch fireworks.

The event is held annually on July 3rd, and is the region's most award-winning fireworks show. But the night's fun is not all about the fireworks, you want to enjoy a good meal too.

Because Addison covers only 4.4 square miles, the entire town becomes a giant fireworks watching party on July 3rd – and that includes special events and menus at many of Addison's restaurants.

Below is a sampling of what's currently happening on July 3rd. For more information visit *NDG's* website.

ADDISON POINT SPORTS GRILL 4578 Belt



City of Addison

Line Road; Outdoors DJ, face painting and balloon animals. Karaoke after the fireworks.

BITTER SISTERS BREWING COMPANY

15103 Surveyor Blvd.; Celebrate Red, White and Brews with great Bitter Sisters craft beer, tasty eats and games.

CHUY'S 4440 Belt Line Road; Outdoor party with

food and drink and a DJ.

FOGO DE CHAO 4300 Belt Line Rd.; Enjoy light bites and beverages on the Fogo de Chao patio as you enjoy the award-winning fireworks.

THE HUB 4145 Belt Line Road; Enjoy a family-friendly bash with BBQ, drinks and more.

IDA CLAIRE 5001 Belt Line Road, Dallas, 214-377-8227

Kick back on the patio and enjoy the fireworks show with live music and happy hour all night long. Tickets cost \$25 and include a reserved table on the patio, valet parking and a welcome cocktail. The welcome cocktail is Ida's Bomb Pop with vodka, Combier, lemon juice, simple syrup, blue-

berry puree reduction and strawberry puree reduction. Live music by Kirk Holloway will be on the patio from 8-11 p.m. Specials will run from 3 p.m. to close and include \$5 cocktails, \$5 wines, \$3 draft beers, \$18 tall boy buckets (includes 4), \$36 canned wine buckets (includes 4), and \$5 bar bites. Tickets are limited, so email kiley.sage@fbrest.com to purchase.

LA COMIDA 5100 Belt Line Road, Dallas; La Comida's very own DJ Righteous will be providing the sounds for the best atmosphere during the fireworks. House margaritas and the world-famous and award-winning Flamingo cocktail will be available for only \$5

all day. **THE LONDONER** 14930 Midway Road; Enjoy the Women's World Cup semifinal at 2 p.m. Drink specials throughout the afternoon and free parking with the purchase of any entrée (while it lasts).

MCDONALD'S 3795 E. Belt Line Road; Enjoy balloon artists and face painters in the lobby on July 3 from 5-7 p.m.

NATE'S SEAFOOD & STEAKHOUSE 14951 Midway Rd. Blues-themed watch party with the Jackie Don Loe band.

TAQUERIA LA VENTANA 4180 Belt Line Road, Kaboom Town hora feliz from 3-6 p.m., \$3 house margaritas (frozen or rocks), cervezas and micheladas.

EVENTS, continued from Page 8

Lancaster invite you to come out for the celebration at DeSoto's Grimes Park. **DeSoto's Old Fashioned July 4th Fireworks Show and Concert** will feature a great fireworks show and concert featuring local favorite, Don Diego and national recording artist, Christette Michele on Thursday July 4th at 6 p.m.

Farmers Branch Independence Day Celebration starts at 6:30 p.m. and is free for Residents with Firecracker Fast Pass; \$5 for Non-Residents. Fireworks show with a high-energy dance band on stage, a FREE KidZone area, and more.

Garland Party in the Park Thursday, July 4 - Start your Fourth of July celebration with fun and games for the whole family! Enjoy live music, a climbing wall, a pie-eating contest, bounce houses, a cornhole tournament and more from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Audubon Park, 342 W. Oates Road. The event is free, and concessions will be available for purchase. Visit Garland-

Parks.com for more information.

Star-Spangled Spectacular Thursday, July 4 Firewheel Town Center, in partnership with the City of Garland, will proudly celebrate our nation's independence with an afternoon and evening full of free family fun, music and fireworks starting at 4 p.m. Thursday, July 4. At 9:15 p.m. fireworks will light up the sky, choreographed to an arrangement of patriotic songs.

Grand Prairie Lone Stars & Stripes Fireworks Celebration at Lone Star Park on July 3rd & 4th will feature live racing, live music by Vegas Stars from 4 to 10 p.m. and an expanded Family Fun Park with bounce houses, face painters, tattoo artists, pony rides, a petting zoo and much more from 3 to 9 p.m.

After the races conclude, stick around to enjoy fireworks show choreographed to music. Gates Open at 3 p.m. | 1st Live Race at 5 p.m.

Irving State Representative Terry Meza will host two end of session town hall meetings in Irving on Saturday, June 29 and in Grand Prairie on Wednesday, July 10. The event is open to the public and will focus on the tone of the session, an overview of local accomplishments, major pieces of legislation and the power of community organizing.

Please RSVP at Eventbrite. For more information, please contact staff at: Soraya.Ronco-Santoyo@House.Texas.Gov

Lewisville Lewisville Police Department is now taking applications for its annual **Citizen Police Academy**. This informative partnership between citizens and police officers was established for people who want to know more about their police department, officers, and the duties and responsibilities of each section of LPD.

Download the application and release form from the Citizen Police Academy page at cityoflewisville.com. Application deadline is close of business on Monday, July 15.

Plano Through partnerships with local Police Departments, families and kiddos will be able to mingle with local Plano police officers in a fun and safe environment, while enjoying free ice cream at **Cones with Cops** on Saturday, June 29 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Mc-

Donald's located at 2205 McDermott Road.

Richardson Make plans to attend **Richardson's annual Family 4th Celebration** Thursday, July 4 at Breckinridge Park. This traditional, patriotic salute is free and open to the entire com-

munity and features children's activities, food trucks, a performance by the Richardson Community Band and one of the largest fireworks shows in North Texas.

Complete information about the evening event is located at www.cor.net/family4th.

\$200M in restitution and forgiveness delivers financial justice to consumers harmed by for-profit colleges

By Charlene Crowell

The struggle to eliminate high-cost predatory debt is a daunting one, particularly for Black America. As the access to affordable credit, loans and mortgages seem ever elusive across the country, lying in wait are countless predatory lenders eager to fill the personal finance void.

But in recent days, two unrelated developments awarded consumers more than \$200 million in victories against high-cost private student loans and restitution for triple-digit interest payday loans. Together, the two developments illustrate how freedom from debt burdens can be lifted and erased.

The work of 44 attorneys general in states and the District of Columbia and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) together secured \$168 million in private student loan relief for former students of the now-defunct ITT Technical

College. In a second development, private legal advocates secured \$39.7 million in restitution and canceled high-cost loans that tried to evade state laws.

Readers may recall that following ITT Tech's closure in 2016, the institution promptly filed for bankruptcy, stranding an estimated 35,000 students enrolled at one of 150 campuses in 38 states. Due to its high cost of enrollment, most students financed their studies by using a combination of federal and private student loans. ITT targeted low-income students for its private label loans known as CUSO. These loans came with fees and interest rates as high as 16.25%.

In response to the closure, the Department of Education forgave federal student loans incurred as part of enrollment. But that action still stuck student borrowers with costly private loans that the schools and lenders pushed to finance promised

educations that rarely were delivered.

Now through intergovernmental cooperation, over 18,000 former ITT Tech students are freed from high-cost loans that were prone to default by as much as 90%. Lenders must now cease collections, discharge all debts, and notify the former students that the debts are canceled.

Texas recovers \$13 million for nearly 1,500 students

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, whose share of the national settlement returns \$13 million to 1,430 borrower students spoke to the importance of the settlement.

"Students who attended ITT Tech are burdened with unpayable debts they received while pursuing an honest education," noted AG Paxton. "This college and loan program have failed them tremendously."

A similar reaction came from North Carolina where

the settlement will bring \$4.2 million to 412 former ITT Tech students.

"As Attorney General, it's my job to protect students and ensure they can safely invest in their futures," said North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein in a news release issued on June 14. "Today's settlement will give these students the debt relief they need for a fresh educational start and a future unhindered by these debts."

By removing the financial burden of these loans, these same consumers will now be able to secure more affordable and lower interest rates as well as higher credit scores. Whenever defaulted loans are added to borrower credit profiles, the resulting credit score is lower and comes with predictable difficult and costly interest for any new credit application.

The settlement includes wiping out some of the debt entirely

In the second consumer win, efforts of private legal

advocates like the Virginia Poverty Law Center secured nearly \$39.7 million in restitution and wiped out debts from Think Finance. Once a federal judge approves the negotiated settlement, these monies and others paid by other defendants will be distributed to consumers ensnared in loans that came with an average interest rate of 375%.

For consumers, these predatory rates meant that a \$500 loan could wind up costing more than \$3,000 for unsuspecting borrowers living in California, Florida, North Carolina, and Virginia.

The settlement brings an encouraging end to litigation originally filed in 2016 against the Fort-Worth-based, Think Finance, Inc.

It should be noted that these nonprofit legal advocates' pursuit of financial justice from Think Finance stands in stark contrast to that of the current leadership at the Consumer Financial

Protection Bureau (CFPB)—especially when it comes to payday lending and other forms of high-cost loans.

Under CFPB's first director, a lawsuit against Think Finance was originally filed in November 2017 and alleged that the firm was deceiving consumers in 17 states into repaying loans they did not legally owe.

With a change of administration and key personnel, an amended complaint was filed under Acting CFPB Director Mick Mulvaney that significantly altered the affected dates as well as the amounts of monies involved in the alleged violations.

According to a May 2019 Bloomberg Law article, the dates originally cited a 7-year span of time from 2011-2018, were reduced to only two years, 2013-2015. Additionally, the news outlet reported the fees dropped from at least \$325 million to only \$40.2 million in inter-

See DEBT, Page 12

SICKLE, continued from Page 4

ber of misperceptions about the disease. For example, the belief that a baby born with SCD will die before reaching adulthood. As I mentioned in a previous article, this is a myth! The majority of children with SCD live to adulthood, thanks to advances in SCD care. However, the life expectancy of someone with SCD in the US is only between 40 and 60 years, compared to average US life expectancy of 78.8 years. By understanding the truths about SCD, family and friends are in a better posi-

tion to provide meaningful support and be allies.

What tools are most helpful for new parents caring for their child with SCD?

TaLana: I always carry a notebook with me so I can take notes and keep track of my child's "baseline" and SCD history to see how the disease manifests over time. I have an overnight bag in my trunk that includes a change of clothes and snacks. I carry a thermometer in my purse to take my child's temperature and an incentive spirometer to help

facilitate stronger breathing. I've also joined a group chat with other parents who have children with SCD, and this has been one of my most important tools for connecting with and learning from other parents who share this experience.

Dr. Kevin: These are great suggestions. I would also encourage parents to connect with their local SCD organization, like an SCDA local chapter. With a disease like SCD, which is rare in the US and often misunderstood, connecting with others who have similar experiences and challenges is so important for

building your support system.

What do babysitters or other caregivers need to know?

TaLana: I make sure other caregivers and babysitters know about my child's personal regimens and what to do in case of an emergency. I share important pointers, like to make sure my child is hydrated and never around smoke, which can increase the risk of Acute Chest Syndrome (ACS), a bout of pneumonia or a serious lung condition due to the sickling of red blood cells, in people with SCD.

Lastly, I make sure they know how special my child is and all the wonderful qualities she has. I tell them her likes and dislikes, hobbies and interests, and what makes her laugh. Having SCD may be a normal part of my child's life, but I make sure she is not defined by her condition.

Dr. Kevin: I agree wholeheartedly. Children with SCD are children first and foremost. While the disease affects them, it certainly does not define them—nor should SCD or any disease define the person who has it.

For more information about parenting a child with

SCD, check out "A Parents Handbook for Sick Cell Disease" and the CDC's "5 Facts You Should Know about SCD."

Keep up to date on Pfizer's SCD efforts by visiting the Pfizer website. You can also follow Pfizer on Facebook and Twitter.

Dr. Kevin Williams is the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for Pfizer Rare Disease. In this role, he leads a Medical Affairs organization of approximately 150 medical colleagues around the globe supporting Pfizer's efforts and portfolio in Rare Disease.

EPICS, continued from Page 4

that drive to explore is what facilitates the learning process," said Susana Lainez, an electrical engineering major.

Currently, EPICS serves 14 organizations with 19 projects. In their first project

for Early Wheels, the EPICS teams modified a Power Wheels Wild Thing. A second project currently underway, called Hover Buggy, is incorporating a joystick controller into a hoverboard, a type of powered skateboard.

"Ride-on vehicles have a relatively short shelf life," Scholl said. "If something can be standardized with a hoverboard, then we can make a consistent product for years. One of my most fun experiences was sitting on my living room floor and taking apart a hoverboard

with some students."

Students think EPICS provides a different, more immediately relevant way of learning.

"We heard about EPICS from a presentation in linear algebra," said Amy Abraham, an electrical engineering major. "We were inter-

ested in the early experience of design because it's totally different to participate in a real-world project."

Early Wheels recruits volunteer groups to assemble the vehicles using the plans provided by the UT Dallas EPICS team. Scholl said students in grades 8-12 at

Parish Episcopal School in Dallas are using the plans this summer to construct new mobility devices for community service hours while learning about the design process.

"They will use some of the ideas born at UTD," she said.

Texas attorney stresses the importance of estate planning in new book

MCKINNEY—It's a startling statistic. Only 4 in 10 American adults have a will or living trust, according to American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). For Texas estate planning attorney Taylor Willingham, this low number doesn't really come as a surprise. In fact, he says some people's failure to plan for "the end" is simply because they don't want to admit that they will one day die.

"Most people also just don't know it is important or why they need to do it," stated Willingham. "Many people are also just indifferent. It is something you can put off until you can't. It took me three years of being an estate planning attorney to get mine done, and I had two kids."

Other reasons people avoid planning for end of life is because it can be expensive, complicated and requires effort, he added. Willingham, however, warns individuals to not let

these factors stop them from planning for the future. While avoiding the issue may seem harmless, the financial burden and stress it can create for their loved ones is often enormous.

"All you are, are your memories. Your money is not you. True estate planning is to try keep your memories and those you love alive for as long as possible," stressed Willingham. "The best estate planning you can do at this moment is take out your phone. Film yourself leaving a message to your loved ones, and then store it somewhere where they can find it."

Wills and trusts are two very important documents in life estate planning. In his latest book titled, *Do I Need a Will or a Trust*, the three-time author explains the difference between the two, reasons to create one or the other, the need to protect beneficiaries, how to avoid probate, the importance of keeping your estate off

Google and much more.

According to Willingham, people over the age of 60, or those who have blended families, minor or disabled children or simply have love ones they want to take care of will, benefit from the advice and real-life examples offered in this book. Although Millennials and Generation Z tend to feel invincible and that they have all the time in the world to think about life estate planning, they, too, can learn a thing or two from the book's invaluable content.

"Young people often have large life insurance policies when they pass, leaving millions of dollars to sometimes old friends," explained Willingham. "On one occasion, I had a client leave \$1 million dollars to his ex-girlfriend. The parents were very upset because she was the reason he started using drugs, and she ended up with all his money."

The price of creating a

will or trust runs the gamut, costing anywhere from \$200 to \$20,000. The Texas attorney says it's important for people to set a budget and know that they can generally get everything they need for \$2,000 by a good estate planning attorney.

"If someone called me and said, 'I have \$1,200. Would you do all my documents for that price?' Most attorneys would probably agree to do it for that price," stated Willingham.

But doing nothing at all, he warns, should never be an option. Failure to do estate planning can not only take a financial and emotional toll on loved ones left to sort out the deceased's belongings, it will also subject the distribution of the individual's estate to the laws established by their state legislature.

"Many of these laws were established 100 of years ago," Willingham said. "Times have changed. Prop-

erty has changed. Families have changed. Don't be a fool, and put your property in the hands of your state legislature."

To learn more helpful advice regarding life estate planning, readers can purchase Willingham's *Do I Need a Will or a Trust* on Amazon. The book is available on Kindle and paperback.

Newspaper Notification for Change of Name
 I LAKHVINDER SINGH, son of PREETAMSINGH CHETSINGH, holder of Indian Passport No. K6744250 issued at Mumbai on Sep 05, 2012, permanent resident of, India and presently residing at 1401 W CAMPBELL RD, GARLAND 75044, USA do hereby change my name from LAKHVINDERSINGH PREETAMSINGH to LAKHVINDER SINGH, with immediate effect.

We are currently accepting Small Business Enterprise subcontracting bids for Major Capital Improvement Program No. 48011 Camp Wisdom Road from 2500 feet West of Carrier Parkway to FM 1382. For Dallas County.

If you would like more information please Email gbrown@tiseopaving.com, or call Grant Brown at (972) 289-0723.

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DEBT, continued from Page 11

est and fees on combined loans totaling \$45.6 million.

"The low penalty assessed to Think Finance follows a recent pattern of the CFPB entering into settlements with companies for alleged abuse of consumers but collecting either no money or low amounts in civil money

penalties and little to no consumer restitution," states the article.

In the May 2019 CFPB settlement, there was no consumer restitution. Instead, Think Finance and each of its six affiliates agreed to pay \$1 each to the CFPB to settle claims that

consumers paid at least \$325 million more than the nearly \$50 million in principal amounts borrowed between 2011 and 2018.

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

ANDERSON, continued from Page 2

nouncement to the NEA family. "The pursuit of education equity and excellence has always been my greatest passion and I am committed to building on NEA's strategic vision through collaborative partnerships with our leaders, staff, affiliates, and our many allies. Together, we'll strengthen our culture of organizing and our commitment to be an active steward of our civic and democratic norms. We'll tap into our members' expertise to drive support for all 3 million members with their professional practice and to elevate our professions."

Anderson, in particular, highlighted the organization's new initiatives in racial justice that she helped to launch in 2015. "I share a strong personal commitment—and so much pride—in NEA's efforts to confront racism in public education. If we don't achieve racial justice in our schools, we cannot expect to achieve it in our society. It begins with us."

John Stocks, the current Executive Director of NEA and the 11th person to hold that position, will step into a new role as a senior advisor to the organization focused building the resources to de-

fend our Democracy and create victories for students and working families in the 2020 elections.

"NEA is more than a membership organization," said Anderson. "NEA has been the greatest champion of public education that American has ever known. And I also believe that NEA, through the passion, knowledge, and organizing of its members, is one of the most critical institutions to the maintenance of our democracy. Together, we will create a future fueled by our members, worthy of our students, and essential to the nation."

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
2100	Million Dollar Loteria Overall Odds are 1 in 3.31	\$20	7/5/19	1/1/20
2059	777 Overall Odds are 1 in 3.94	\$10	7/20/19	1/16/20
2130	Find The 9s Overall Odds are 1 in 4.68	\$1	8/28/19	2/24/20
2121	Lady Luck Overall Odds are 1 in 4.10	\$5	8/28/19	2/24/20
2017	Bonus Break The Bank Overall Odds are 1 in 3.53	\$5	8/28/19	2/24/20
2103	Cash Blast Overall Odds are 1 in 6.39	\$10	8/28/19	2/24/20

Texaslottery.org is the official source for all pertinent game information. Some closing procedures may not include the guaranteed prize level. These prizes may have prizes cashed out, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a purchasing problem, help@texaslottery.com. © 2019 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.



Upcoming DFW area job fairs

Now until July 3 Raising Canes is hiring

Interviews will be scheduled through July 3 at the Best Western Granbury Inn & Suites located at 1517 Plaza Drive N. Interested crewmember candidates are encouraged to apply online at RaisingCanesJobs.com (search for Granbury) or stop by the hiring center Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. or Saturday between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Ongoing Census Bureau

The Census Bureau conducts continuous surveys to supply the nation with important statistics on people, places and our economy. Local field workers know their communities best, and are instrumental in conducting surveys with residents on a variety of topics. Visit census.gov to apply.

Every Monday thru July 22 Pegasus fairs

Pegasus Personnel has so many jobs available they are holding a job fair every Monday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Applicants are invited to visit their office or call 972-252-8808 for more info. Their office is located at 4441 West Airport Free-way Suite 225, Irving, Texas 75062.

June 29 Panda Express hiring event

Panda Express is hosting an interview day on Saturday, June 29. The location to visit with your resume is 3133 W Airport Fwy, Irving from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You are in charge of the operation of a single store. From the hiring, managing and directing of associates to achieving financial goals and ensuring the delivery of exceptional guest experiences, it's up to you to make your store a success.

July 11 Nurses Needed

Kindred Hospitals are



hosting a National RN Hiring Event at every location across the US.

It is scheduled for Thursday, July 11 from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. to speak directly with an experienced nurse in our specialized care setting, tour the facility and interview on the spot. Learn what it means to be a Kindred nurse at 8050 Meadow Road in Dallas.

July 18 DISD Job Fair

The Dallas Independent School District is hosting a districtwide Teacher Job Fair on Thursday, July 18, 2019 at Emmett J. Conrad High School 7502 Fair Oaks Avenue from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. If you are interested

in gaining a teaching position for the 2019-2020 school year, Dallas ISD encourages you to attend. Come and experience the opportunity to interview with campus principals and leaders.

Sept. 19 UD Job Fair

The University of Dallas Job & Internship Fair hosted by the Office of Personal Career Development is scheduled for Sept. 19. Students and alumni from

the undergraduate and graduate programs will be in attendance.

These candidates will be seeking internship, part-time, and full-time opportunities that will provide professional industry experi-

ence.

If you are an employer and would like to be invited to the next job fair held by the University of Dallas, email Christina Nguyen at mnguyen1@udallas.edu.

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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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
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Church Happenings

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, CARROLLTON (A NEW PLACE TO BELONG)

NOTICE: *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*

June 30, 9:45 am

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.

July 3, 7 pm

You are invited to join us for Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner, Pastor Bernadette and others as we study a new book by Dr. Henry Cloud, *Never Go Back*, to things that didn't work the first time, with

supporting chapters and verses. Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you; it's Time to Grow in the Word of God.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,
Senior Pastor

1944 E. Hebron Parkway
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www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP" We are Saving You a Seat!

June 30, 9:45 am

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.

July 3

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

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

June 28, 8 p.m.

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

June 30, 10 a.m.

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

July 1, 7 p.m.

You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us in His Holy Word.

Pastor Rickie Rush

7701 S Westmoreland Road
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www.Ibocchurch.org

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June 30, 10 a.m.

Join us for Morning Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory. Don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

July 3, 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. Sam Fenceroy, PhD

Senior Pastor and

Pastor Gloria Fenceroy

300 Chisholm Place

Plano, TX 75075

972-633-5511

www.mocop.org

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)

June 30, 8 and 11 am

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

July 3, 7 pm

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

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Church Happenings

is a weekly calendar of religious services produced by the

North Dallas Gazette.

To make additions or corrections to the calendar, contact:

religion@northdallasgazette.com

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Dennis Jarvis / Flickr

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

"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."
Romans 10:9.

The story is told of a man named Bill, receiving a phone call from a technology CEO. It was their second conversation. Bill began receiving a daily devotional a few weeks earlier, compliments of his mother-in-law. Each day he read the daily message and found that it really helped him.

The CEO felt that his technology product might

have some application to Bill's ministry. Bill was asked about how he had started getting the devotional. As he told his story, Bill could tell the CEO probably did not know the Lord personally. So, he inquired further with a few more leading questions.

Gradually the CEO changed the subject to his product. They discussed the product for twenty minutes or so. As the CEO was about to conclude their conversation Bill asked, "Could we go back to our original conversation? Tell me more about your spiritual journey and where you feel you are?"

The CEO told of his background in which he was raised in a particular Christian tradition. Bill shared how Christ came not to give us a religion but to have a personal relationship with



Some Jubilee of Cultures Board Members, (Left to Right): Top row, First Lady Phylis Stromile, Rowena Watters, Richard Smith, Horace Blake. Front row, Sister Tarpley and AnaLaura Gamborino, President

us. Eventually, Bill asked, "What do you think keeps you from making such a commitment?" "Well, quite frankly the CEO said, I am a controller. I feel that I can't let go of control. I fear what might happen." Bill

appreciated the CEO's honesty.

They discussed this at length and Bill helped the CEO understand that every person has a control issue to overcome. However, Christ requires us to have faith in Him and give con-

trol to Him in order for Him to give us a real life. It is the great paradox of faith in Christ.

Bill said to the CEO, "So, now that we have dealt with that issue, is there any reason you would not be prepared to make that commitment to Christ?" "Well, said the CEO, now that you put it that way, no, I guess there isn't," he responded.

Bill prayed with the CEO over the phone to invite Jesus to be Lord over his life, not just his Savior. What the CEO intended to be a typical sales call became a call for eternity.

Perhaps there will be an opportunity today to see your work as an opportunity to share the love of Christ with someone who is waiting to receive salvation through Him.

Talk to God, if you do

this; tell Him that sometimes you wonder why in the world you go through the things you do. Ask Him what lesson is it that you are supposed to learn? Rejoice in the times that God allowed you to have "faith experiences"--times that have tested and strengthened your faith in Him.

Trust that faith experiences are usually not easy, but they end up being a blessing in disguise. Ask God to hold you up and keep you from stumbling. Ask God to continue to bless you so that you may be a blessing to others and to Him.

Ask God to work through you so that your faith experiences will be a testimony to help others who need a special touch. Tell God that you love Him in the name of Jesus.

Whatever Happened to the Simple Things in Life?

By Dr. James L. Snyder

I'm not a very complicated person. I like simple things; things nice and easy.

On the other side, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is very complicated. Just when I have everything figured out, I find another side of her that I did not know was there.

I am very simple minded when it comes to going out to eat.

My wife is not quite like that. Ordering her supper is

quite a complicated thing. It takes several minutes to go through the menu and then several minutes to think about what she wants to eat.

Me, I tell the waitress, "I'll have a cheeseburger, French fries and a Diet Coke." And that's that.

"You had that," my wife will say, "yesterday. Why don't you pick something different for tonight?"

I remember one time I made a drastic mistake which I will never repeat. I said to my wife, "Okay, why don't

you choose my supper for tonight?"

I have not made that mistake ever again. However, she often asks me, "Would you like me to choose your supper for tonight?"

Once I had to buy some new shirts along with some new ties. For some reason I went shopping by myself, which in itself is good.

When I came home that night from my shopping

spree, my wife looked at all the shirts I bought.

"You bought these shirts?"

She looked at the shirts and then at me with both hands on her hips and said, "These shirts are the same shirts you have in your closet. Why didn't you get something different?"

The next time my wife took me shopping. It was the worst shopping experience I have ever had.

We went to the men's clothing store and then the simplicity of life ended in a

crash. My wife spent all afternoon shopping. **See SIMPLE, Page 16**

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.

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NDG Book Review: *In West Mills*

By Terri Schichenmeyer

The burden on your shoulders is heavy.

Your whole body sags with the weight of things you know but can't tell, and each new whisper adds to the pack. Secrets you carry are more than you can bear sometimes, which is why you need to share them – but in the new book “In West Mills” by De’Shawn Charles Winslow, there’s virtue in hushing up.

Azalea “Knot” Centre was in the process of throwing her man, Pratt, out of the house for the last time. Or maybe she wasn’t because, although she hated having him underfoot, scolding her for evenings spent at Miss Goldie’s bar, she also loved Pratt.

It was true that Knot drank a lot; even Otis Lee Loving, Knot’s best friend down the road, told her so. Otis Lee and his wife, Pep, worried about Knot. When Knot woke up one day and realized that she was pregnant, they worried even more.

Seems that was what Otis Lee did best: worry.

After he found a nearby family to take Knot’s daughter and raise her up, Otis Lee and Pep warned Knot not to sleep around



anymore but pretty soon, Knot’s belly grew big again. She mourned for months about her first girl-child, who was named Fran, and when Otis Lee found another family for the second girl, Knot mourned again. Otis Lee knew he’d have done the same thing, much as he loved his own son, Breezy.

And time passed in West Mills. Knot’s girls were raised almost right beneath her nose and Otis Lee and Pep kept her secret. There was no use telling those girls about who’d given them birth, just like there was no reason to tell Otis Lee the secret about his family that Knot had heard from another friend. There was just no sense in hurting Otis Lee with that information.

But in a little North Carolina town like West Mills, secrets have a way

of escaping. Sometimes, they’re slippery little things.

And sometimes, they’re let go in anger and revenge...

“In West Mills” is one of those novels that makes you want to pause.

It’s slow, that’s it. It takes place over decades, as its two main characters grow, for better or worse, and age together and apart. At first, you might even think that it’ll never get to the point – although it seems that is the point.

Yes, this novel works its way through slowly, but you’d be hard-pressed to find a tale that depicts friendship any better. Author De’Shawn Charles Winslow puts truth in this novel, in the form of frustration and exasperation real friends have between them, even though they love one another fiercely. He does that without ruining the story with too much silly drama, and there’s your slow-down factor.

In the end, though, that offers a languid, hazy feeling, somewhat like walking barefoot down a dusty Carolina road on a summer’s day. It makes you want to linger.

In the end, that makes “In West Mills” a book that’s no burden to enjoy.

SIMPLE, continued from Page 15

ternoon looking at all kinds of shirts in all kinds of colors and then trying to find ties that would match. I did not know so many colors existed in the world. I do not even think the rainbow has as many colors.

My idea is that a white shirt never draws attention. A shirt of any color always draws attention to itself. I like to slip in and slip out without notice; it is the simple way of doing things.

When it comes to work, I am rather simple. I start a task and keep at it and to its finished, then I move on to the next task. I do not like

to confuse things and so I do everything simply.

My wife is not like that. She is one of those “Multitaskers” that you hear about.

She can juggle four tasks at the same time and get them all done perfectly.

Don’t get me wrong here. I respect and can appreciate that kind of work ethic. There’s only one small problem.

Because my wife is a Multitasker, she expects the person who said, “I do,” at the wedding altar to have the same work ethic. I’ve tried to explain this, but by the time I finished explain-

ing it, she is already on to the next topic. I cannot possibly keep up.

I was thinking of what David once said. “Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies” (Psalm 27:11).

Following the Lord is a very simple thing. Just trust Him and he will lead you in a plain path.

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