



North Dallas Gazette

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Black Wealth 2020 Adds HBCUs to Its Economic Empowerment Agenda

(TriceEdneyWire.com) – The short-term economic impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) is \$15 billion – rivaling corporations such as Bank of America in its more than 177,000 employees.

Yet, according to the U. S. Department of Education, approximately 60 percent of all Black college students have no expectation of family financial contributions to their education. That's a family financial expectation far lower than that of Whites.

Approximately 30 percent of White college students have no expectation of family financial contributions to their education. That number is approximately 48 percent for Latinos and 38 percent for Asians.

The economic impact of HBCUs, their struggle to stay afloat, and the dire financial disparities faced by HBCU students are the reasons that Black Wealth 2020, a catalyst for Black economic equality, recently decided to add HBCUs as a fourth leg to its three-pronged focus to grow Black wealth through Black-owned businesses, Black banks, and Black homeownership.

"We've got to keep on pushing this agenda. And hooking up



Naomi Delgado Cruz, a mechanical engineering senior at the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, and physics major Derick Buckles, in 2015 worked together at the Naval Research Laboratory for students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions (HBCU/MI). HBCUs prepare students for a wide range of career of opportunities (U.S. Navy photo by John F. Williams/Released via Flickr)

with HBCUs is a big way of doing that," said Michael Grant, former president of the National Bankers Association, and a founder of Black Wealth 2020 in a meeting just before the principals voted unanimously to expand its vision to acknowledge HBCUs as being "central to strengthening the American economy."

Grant added, "If we're serious about building Black wealth, how can we not have a focus on our

youth and the next generation?"

The vision expansion was inspired, in part, by a presentation by Dr. Lezli Baskerville, president/CEO of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, also a principal of Black Wealth 2020.

"But for HBCUs, there would be no African-American middle-class today. And that's a fact and that's documented," Baskerville

See HBCU, Page 7



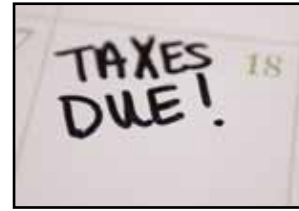
Is Trump a racist?

- See Page 3



Opioid use is running high among seniors

- See Page 4



Delinquent taxpayers put on notice

- See Page 5



Learning from those who teach our military kids

- See Page 6



DAS seeks help to empty the animal shelter

- See Page 7



Cowboys face lawsuit over Elliott car wreck

- See Page 9



Dallas' thriving Latino Islamic community

- See Page 12



Sister Tarpley: You were made to fly

- See Page 15

Inside...

People In the News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community	5
Education	6
Plano / Carrollton / Irving	7
City Briefs	8
Entertainment	9-10
Marketplace	11
Muslim Community News.....	12
Career Opportunity	13
Church Directory	14-15
NDG Book Review	16

See Page 2

READERS SOUND OFF!!!

See Page 2 to see what NDG readers are saying about the latest news!

People In The News...



Ayomide Irabor-Musa



Dr. Thomas Freeman

NDG Quote of the Week: "Most folks are as happy as they make up their minds to be."

– President Abraham Lincoln

Ayomide Irabor-Musa

The 24th annual Kids' University is an educational camp for homeless children hosted by The University of Texas at Dallas in partnership with the Dallas non-profit Rainbow Days.

The camp drew 300 children ages 4 to 12 during two weeklong sessions. The highlight of each week is the graduation ceremony in cap and gown at the end.

UT Dallas provides the tutors to help kids boost their math skills. The camp also is a learning experience for the college students, said Dr. George Fair, vice president for diversity and community



engagement and dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies.

"From the student standpoint, people hear about homelessness, but not many people have a chance to meet people who are

homeless and see that they are just like anyone else — that some are just children, and they do everything other children do," Fair said.

Kids' University also features other STEM and arts activities taught by volunteers from organizations including the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Cranium Kids and Frito-Lay.

The UT Dallas students said they had a great experience as tutors.

"I love being part of a group that is bringing joy into these kids' lives," healthcare studies sophomore Ayomide Irabor-Musa said. "Some of these kids come from really difficult

backgrounds. The camp provides an opportunity for them to have fun while learning, and it lets them be kids rather than having to focus on other things in their lives."

Serving as a tutor at Kids' University last year led to part-time work for Gloria Villarruel, a child learning and development senior. Known to kids as "Ms. Sprinkles," Villarruel asked the 4- and 5-year-olds in her group to sit "criss-cross applesauce" on the floor during a recent session.

"What did you like about the camp?" she asked.

"The pickles," a boy said. "These kids, they make

me so happy," Villarruel said. "I come here, and I forget about everything else."

Kelly Wierzbinski, director of Family Connection at Rainbow Days, said she hired Villarruel to work at the organization's events year-round after the UT Dallas student helped calm two children with special needs in separate incidents during last year's camp.

Individual attention from a caring adult can work wonders, said Wierzbinski, known as "Ms. KitKat" to the campers. She said some children treasure the one-on-one time because their parents may be focused on

getting housing, food and employment.

"Both children didn't act out again once they returned to camp the following days," Wierzbinski said. "The one-on-one, special time that Gloria gave both of them made a huge difference. Her sweet and gentle spirit, big heart and willingness to take the time to work with these kids made all the difference."

As Villarruel works with the Teacher Development Center at UT Dallas to earn her teaching certification, she said her work with Rainbow Days has sparked her interest in early childhood education.

Dr. Thomas Freeman

100-year old legendary African-American debate coach Dr. Thomas Freeman has been awarded the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Speech & Debate Association.

Freeman's 70-plus year resume includes teaching Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during his time at Morehouse, former U.S. Reps. Leland and Jordan, Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, gospel superstar Yolanda Adams, and Academy Award-winning actor Denzel Washington, who sought out Freeman's exper-



tise to coach the cast of the Golden Globe-nominated film "The Great Debaters."

Freeman was the Texas Southern University debate coach for six decades before his retirement in 2013. Freeman recently celebrated his

100th birthday on June 27, 2019.

"The National Speech & Debate Association is deeply honored to award Dr. Freeman with our 2019 lifetime achievement award," said J. Scott Wunn, Executive Director of the National Speech & Debate Association. "Our members, board members, coaches, and students hold Dr. Freeman with such high esteem — he's like a celebrity within our organization. Freeman is the epitome of who our members hope to become — someone who defies the odds and uses the power of words to propel change. His words of encouragement at

our National Tournament in Dallas will always echo through our hearts."

About the National Speech & Debate Association

The National Speech & Debate Association is the largest interscholastic speech and debate organization serving middle school, high school, and collegiate students in the United States. The Association provides competitive speech and debate activities, high-quality resources, comprehensive training, scholarship opportunities, and advanced recognition to more than 150,000 students and coaches every year.

For 90 years, the National Speech & Debate Association has empowered nearly two million members to become engaged citizens, skilled professionals, and honorable leaders in our society. For more information, visit www.speechanddebate.org.

In a recent interview with ABC13, Dr. Freeman acknowledged that he actually filled out his retirement paperwork six years ago. However, he still shows up for work everyday but Sunday. According to him he stays in the office at least 12 hours meeting with students and staff members seeking advice or training.

"The life span has been the gift of God," said Freeman. "I don't eat the right kind of foods. I don't do the right amount of exercise. I don't get the proper amount of sleep."

During the days leading up to the celebration at TSU, Dr. Freeman admitted that looking back over 70 years at the school seemed a bit surreal.

"I haven't been able to get outside of myself and feel," Freeman said. "It's been 70 years of opportunity, growth, development, challenge, and an example of what can be done through consecration and dedication."

NDG Readers Sound Off...

Ezekiel Elliott skips Dallas Cowboys charter flight to training camp

Regardless he has to show up by August 6th or he loses a year of service towards free agency.

- Brandon Marshall

It will b his loss!!!!!! We dont need his drama on the field

- Christina Hurd

let him go

- Danger B

Cut his ass

- Rusty Haynes

First of all get you facts straight! He signed a four(4) year contract! As most rookies do! Google it! Secondly this man will be in camp for he's the focal point of this offense! He Dak and Amari will get paid! The salary cap next year will be nearly 200M next year! So stay in your lane and root the guys on to long overdue SB appearance and victory!!

- Mitch Trimble

Dak will get his 30 million, Zeke will get 15, and Amari \$17 Million. They will all be paid.

- Richard Gay

Do y'all think he would be the star that he is if he had started out on another NFL team?

- Melinda Gibson

We pay him and Dak. This team going to hurt themselves by losing other valuable players. He still has 2 years left. I'll cut him after that. My opinion

- Sebastian Resendez

Go get your money young man

- Robert Parker

Anybody can get 3 yards+ per carry with that

line. That's all ya need out of a running back. Dak has to prove he can do his job

- Lee Holbert

These guys need a reality check.

2 years till his contract is up. He doesn't rep the team well in public and he gets into trouble.

Send him packing!

Tired of overpaid athletes that are not humble.

- Jeff Davis

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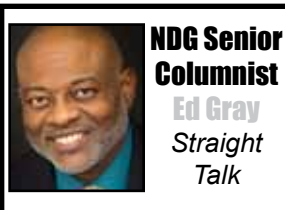
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NDG Senior Columnist
Ed Gray
Straight Talk

Yes, Donald Trump is a racist, but he is not the first one to live at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Let's review a history lesson of White Supremacy tenants at the White House.

In my July 31 political commentary on WFAA television News 8, I posed the question about Trump. It was a question to which all African-Americans know the answer. It is the age-old question of survival. It is the question my generation's grandfathers asked for their survival, in navigating in a white supremacist society.

In the year 2019, it may as well as be 1919. The President of the United States is once again a white supremacist. Whether it is the white supremacist who occupied the White House in 1919, in the person of President Woodrow Wilson or the current occupant of the White House, Donald Trump. It is the year 2019, Black America is in trouble when white supremacy becomes the unofficial guidelines of contact.

To be a racist, you don't have to burn a cross in a yard. You don't have to yell Nigger. You just have to promote others to do it for you. In both cases, these presidents show that Klan sheets may be passé, but the actions of the Klan can be done by men in well-tailored suits, who live in White Houses.

America has changed - or has it? Can we compare today to the Red Summer of 1919 of lynchings during the administration of President Woodrow Wilson? That summer witnessed a record number of lynchings of African-Americans. Now we are facing a white backlash to the progress of the past ten years. We certainly don't have far to look to see who is igniting the

Is Trump a racist?

fire of racism, he is at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

President Trump may not be the Father of the nation, but he is the Father of the Birther movement. Their plot was to discredit President Barack Obama's heritage by claiming he was not born in the United States. The taunts to an African-American Congresswoman to go back to Africa, all a pattern of gross disrespect directed to people of color.

The disrespect he has shown to "The Squad," women of color who serve in Congress, is appalling. When does a President personally attack women? You couldn't find one until 45 was elected. The 45th President of the United States is an example of boorish behavior, not refined Republicanism, or for that matter American ideals.

The Republican Party and many African-American Republicans bear silent witness to the mental flogging of their sensibilities. They stand behind Trump as they recite the fact Fred-

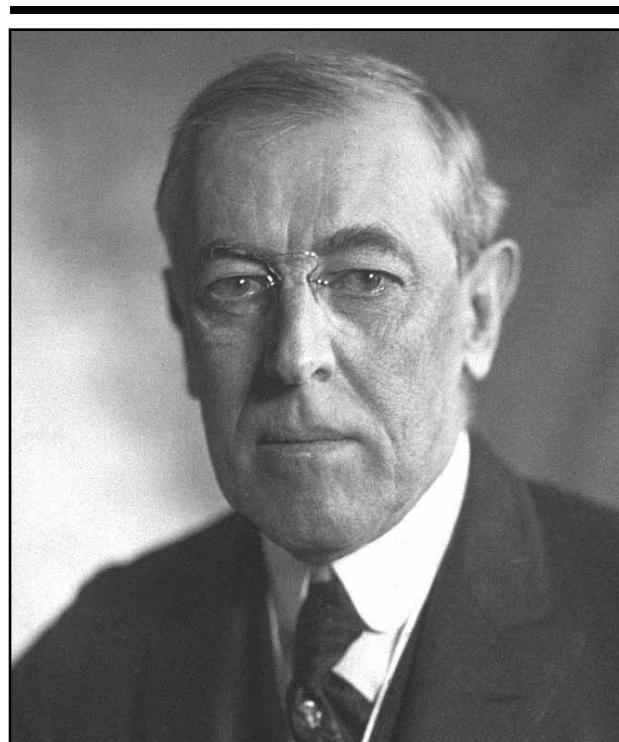
erick Douglas was a Republican of yesterday, and say nothing as the Exalted White Supremacist who lives today at the White House and burns crosses of disrespect and venom on their collective consciousness today.

Just when I thought Trump only disrespects women of color, he attacks a Black congressman, the esteemed Elijah Cummings. At least he is an equal opportunity hater. Trump's hate-filled condemnation of Congressman Cummings and the Black majority city Baltimore is unprecedented. It is unA-



President Donald J. Trump

Wilson's two-volume book, "A History of the American People," was used as an inspiration to filmmaker D.W. Griffith who quoted Wilson in his 1915 silent film, The Birth of a Nation.



President Woodrow Wilson

merican to slam a city or a people unless of course, a white supremacist like Donald Trump.

Trump likes to compare himself to President Andrew Jackson, who engaged in a type of ethnic cleansing. Jackson's "Indian Removal Act" also called the "Trail of Tears" made the South white. Trump, in his immigration policies directed toward brown asylum-seekers, "Makes America White Again."

Trump's attitudes towards political opponents of color are similar to Woodrow Wilson. They both extolled hatred toward people of color. The juvenile name-calling, and misspelled tweets make Trump appear to be ignorant, in comparison to the professorial, genteel white supremacist of Wilson. However, whether you are Trump or a college professor like Dr. Woodrow Wilson, there is no place for bigotry in the White House.

Wilson's two-volume book, "A History of the American People," was used as an inspiration to filmmaker D.W. Griffith who quoted Wilson in his 1915 silent film, The Birth of a Nation.

"The white men were roused by a mere instinct of self-preservation until at last there had sprung into existence a great Ku Klux Klan, to protect the Southern country."

That was Woodrow Wilson, and now this is Donald Trump. Their worldview is not white sheets, but white supremacy.

I am Ed Gray, and this is straight talk.

Ed Gray is a presidential scholar at Southern Methodist University. He is the host of The Commish Radio Show airing Saturdays 3-5 p.m. on FBRN.net, can be reached at egray62@att.net. NDG was awarded NNPA's 2018 Robert S. Abbott Best Editorial for Gray's "Confederate Statues: The White Man's Burden" column.

Opioid abuse among seniors runs rampant AMAC says

WASHINGTON, DC — The focus of the opioid crisis in the U.S. is on younger victims. But, according to senior advocate Dan Weber “the substance abuse epidemic is having a growing impact on older Americans, the fastest-growing segment of the population.”

The president of the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] says that there is substantial research showing that addiction to alcohol and prescription and illicit among senior citizens has gone unnoticed for too long.

Weber called a report by the Inspector General at the Health and Human Services Department published in 2017 a wakeup call. The re-



Anastasia Ostopych

port revealed that “in 2016, one out of every three beneficiaries received a prescription opioid through Medicare Part D. Half a million of them received high amounts of opioids—an av-

erage daily MED of 120 mg for at least 3 months of the year. Even more concerning, almost 90,000 beneficiaries are at serious risk of misuse or overdose. These include beneficiaries who

received extreme amounts of opioids—more than two and a half times the level that CDC recommends avoiding—for the entire year. They also include beneficiaries who appeared to be doctor shopping (i.e., received high amounts of opioids and had multiple prescribers and pharmacies).”

The AMAC chief called opioid abuse among elderly users “a crisis within a crisis” that needs immediate attention. “Physicians need to take the lead and begin offering counseling to older patients at risk of addiction. They also need to offer to prescribe opioid alternatives when treating patients suffering from chronic pain.”

Here’s the way it works.

Chronic pain is widespread among the country’s 50-plus population and one of the easiest and most effective ways of treating pain can involve the use of opioids. The danger is in the fact that legitimately prescribed opioid pain killers can become addictive and, ultimately, can lead to transitioning to illicit drugs.

And, Weber points out, that the result is that seniors are not only the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population, they are also one of the fastest-growing populations with diagnosed opioid use disorders.

Pharmacist Kathleen Cameron is also Senior Director of the National Council on Aging. In a re-

cent article published on the PainAgainstPain site, she reported a survey of 200 organizations serving seniors, “found that 81% of those organizations agree their clients have little knowledge of safe and affordable alternatives to opioids. NCOA research also uncovered that while 70% of these organizations have had to increase their efforts to address the opioid epidemic, less than 28% routinely screen vulnerable aging clients for opioid abuse or dependency. NCOA believes resources need to be invested in educating our aging population and those who serve older adults, in order to reach those at-risk before they become dependent on opioids.”

Coldwell Banker hosting food drive for Dallas ISD’s Peace Pantries in August

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage’s Lakewood office will lead a month-long food drive to collect non-perishable food items to help stock the Dallas Independent School District’s (DISD) Peace Pantries. Affiliated agents and staff will collect the items at open houses from Thursday, Aug. 1-31, to help provide meals and healthy snacks for students in need.

“Approximately over 130,000 DISD students face socioeconomically disadvantages, meaning



Dallas ISD operates food pantries known as Peace Pantries on eight campuses, including Woodrow Wilson High School, to help disadvantaged students. (Image: Dallas ISD)

that many of those students may not have access to three meals per day,” said Nancy

Wilson, branch manager of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage’s Lakewood

office. “I helped start the Peace Pantry at Woodrow Wilson High School and I know the impact it can have on a student to not have to worry about where their next meal may come from. As the new branch manager of the Lakewood office it’s important to me and our agents that we be committed to supporting our community through acts of service.”

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage will deliver the collected food items to the eight Peace Pantries throughout the

DISD, located within the schools. The pantries are accessible to all students and families and do not require paperwork. Fully-funded by the community, the pantries also offer uniforms and toiletries.

In addition to collecting non-perishable items at open houses, the following business sponsors will collect food items in marked boxes at their business locations: Veritex Bank, Urbano, St. Petes Dancin’ Marlin, Greenville Avenue

Pizza Company, Trader Joes, Times Ten Wine Cellars, Tallulah, Franks Custom Signs, Blow Hair Salon and Texas State Movers.

For more information on the Peace Pantries visit, www.woodrowwildcats.org/peace-pantry.

There are currently 65 affiliated sales associated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage’s Lakewood office. The office is located at 6301 Gaston Ave Ste 125, Dallas and can be reached at 214-828-4300.

Lyft expanding scooter availability in South Dallas; reduced fee for low-income residents

Lyft has provided the community with sustainable transportation aimed at reducing the number of vehicle miles traveled, increase public transportation trips, and provide equitable transportation solutions. This week Lyft announced it is furthering the program by expanding its geographical footprint to include even more neighborhoods in the area, including South Dallas.

“We take pride in providing the community with scooters that are both reliable and affordable, and

we’re excited to bring this service to even more of our neighbors in Dallas,” said Miller Nuttle, Senior Manager, Bike and Pedestrian Policy for Lyft. “We believe in cities built around people, not cars, and we hope that by expanding the reach of our offering as a one-stop-shop for transportation, we’ll continue to build on our mission to improve people’s lives with the world’s best transportation.”

The new neighborhoods where riders can access Lyft scooters include Fair

Park, Bishop Arts, Wynnewood North, Lake Cliff, Cedars, South Boulevard/Park Row and Owenwood, among others.

A full-coverage map is available here. Riders can take the scooters anywhere within the service area, and additional scooters have been added to these newly included neighborhoods to make them even more accessible.

The scooters cost \$1 to unlock and 15 cents for each minute a user rides one. The Lyft’s scooters are built into the existing Lyft

app, and riders are able to reserve scooters ahead of time.

Lyft also offers a Community Pass for its scooters, allowing riders in low-income areas to ride for just \$5/month

Additionally, from Aug. 15-18, Lyft will be offering a \$10 rideshare credit to the first 100 people who ride a scooter 10 times during the giveaway period. Those who take 10 rides will be entered to win \$250 in Lyft rideshare credit, and one winner will be selected at random.

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Delinquent Dallas County taxpayers receiving warning letters from lawyers

The good news is 98.6 percent of Dallas County taxpayers have paid their 2018 annual property taxes (2019 taxes will be billed in October 2019). However, Dallas County Tax Assessor/Collector John R. Ames is not yet ready to close the books on the 2018 tax year.

"Although most people have paid for 2018, the small percentage who still haven't owe Dallas County taxing entities over \$97 million," Ames said. "Essential services such as law enforcement, quality schools, roadways, and courts all depend



Senior Airman Melissa Lott / USAF

on these much-needed revenues. All we ask is that everyone pays their equal share."

To that end, the County is stepping up its collections efforts, with the assistance

of the law firm of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. Linebarger recently mailed 30,902 letters to Dallas County property owners, providing important information and requesting their

immediate attention.

"I'd ask everyone, please review the letter and give the law firm a call," Ames said. "The firm cannot give you legal advice, but it will guide you in the right direction so you can resolve your outstanding obligation."

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Both Ames and the law firm recognize some taxpayers face difficulty paying and they are willing to work with taxpayers who are facing a hardship.

"Taxpayers should contact us immediately to advise us

of their given situation. My office will make every effort to assist the taxpayers of Dallas County," Bridget Moreno Lopez, managing partner of the law firm said.

Ames points out that for those who do nothing, additional collection processes such as a lawsuit, tax foreclosure or a tax warrant (for business owners) may be a consequence.

"Most people understand that we all have an obligation to do our part to fund the services our tax dollars support, which is why such a high percentage of people

have already paid," he added. "While it's unfortunate that we have to provide these notices and, if needed, take additional steps to collect we want to be sure we advise our taxpayers of what can realistically happen if they fail to pay or resolve their delinquency."

Taxes can be paid online by visiting the tax office website at dallascounty.org/tax. For assistance, taxpayers may contact Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP at 214-880-0076 or the Dallas County Tax Office at 214-653-7811.

Welcoming America recognizes Dallas for immigrant inclusion work

Welcoming America is celebrating 10 years of immigrant inclusion work and is recognizing the City of Dallas as one of three cities in the nation to be a welcoming community. Also, Dallas' City Manager T.C. Broadnax was recently acknowledged for his efforts at building trust between Dallas and all its residents.

"A resilient, equitable Dallas must have the



trust of its residents," said Broadnax. "The Office of Welcoming Communities and Immigrant Affairs (WCIA) has proactively worked to strengthen these

ties and also to ensure that more residents, especially those with immigrant backgrounds who have existing ties and trust within their communities, can play a role as civic leaders."

Broadnax established WCIA to ensure the City is accessible, responsive and equitable to the needs of immigrant populations in Dallas. Forty-two percent of Dallas households speak

a language other than English and over 25 percent of the labor force in Dallas are immigrants.

"Dallas is a very diverse city and we should celebrate it for what it is, a strength," said Liz Cedillo-Pereira, chief of equity and inclusion for the City of Dallas. "We're in challenging times, but these are times of opportunity, too. People are more motivated

to understand the circumstances of those outside their communities."

WCIA works closely with other City departments to disseminate educational information regarding community safety. WCIA builds relationships and trust between immigrants and many types of safety and first responders, such as the Dallas Police Department, the Dallas

Fire Department, and other emergency care personnel.

WCIA is working to establish Welcoming Hubs where Dallas' diverse residents can partake of instructional and recreational opportunities for themselves and their children.

To learn more about WCIA visit <https://dallas-cityhall.com/departments/wcia/>.

Dallas Zeta Phi Beta chapter hosting youth open house

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated - Kappa Zeta Chapter (Dallas, Texas) will host its Annual Youth Popcorn Social and Open House at 3 p.m. on Aug. 3. The Kappa Zeta chapter sponsors Youth Auxiliary groups

for young ladies from primary grades thorough high school. Interested students and their parents are invited to learn more about the auxiliary youth groups.

Zeta Phi Beta's youth groups include girls ages

4-18; Archonettes (14-18), Amicettes (9-13), and Pearllettes (4-8). Each group helps Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated to achieve its goals internationally and in the local community. The mission of Zeta Youth

Auxiliaries (ZYA) is to help young girls grow culturally, socially, and educationally. ZYA advisors carefully design programs and activities, aimed to enhance the mind, body, and spirit of each young lady.

Calling all girls ages 4 to 18, to join Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated - Kappa Zeta Chapter and its Youth Auxiliaries for an afternoon of fun!

The event is scheduled to be held at the Lakew-

est Family YMCA - 3737 Goldman Street in Dallas. Pre-register for this event at www.memberplanet.com. More information is available by contacting Kimberly Blackwell at 3rdanti@kappazpb.org.

Local schools partner with online site for easier back-to-school shopping

Parents from local schools have a new tool in their back-to-school bag of tricks this year as all of their school's supply lists are now posted on TeacherLists.com.

With just one or two clicks, parents can find their child's exact supply list and then click right over to pre-filled shopping carts on Target, Walmart, Office Depot, Amazon, or Staples to purchase their list and have it shipped right to their home. Target, Walmart, Office Depot and Staples also offer in store pick-up. Super easy, super convenient.



Joel Martinez / DOD

The site already includes lists for:

- Austin Academy, Garland
- B G Hudson Middle School, Sachse
- Beaver Technology Center, Garland

- Bradfield Elementary, Garland
- Bullock Elementary, Garland
- Caldwell Elementary, Garland
- Centerville Elementary, Garland
- Cooperative Behavioral Center, Garland
- Coyle Middle, Rowlett
- Daugherty Elementary, Garland
- Davis Elementary School, Garland
- Ethridge Elementary, Garland
- Golden Meadows Elementary, Garland
- Hart Elementary, Allen

- Hiillside Academy - Excellence, Garland
- Jackson Technology Center, Garland
- Keeley Elementary, Rowlett
- Kimberlin Academy, Garland
- Northlake Elementary School, Garland
- Park Crest Elementary, Garland
- Roach Elementary, Garland
- Robert B Sewell Elementary, Sachse
- Sellers Middle School, Garland
- Shorehaven Elementary School, Garland

- Southgate Elementary, Garland
- Spring Creek Elementary, Garland
- Vernal Lister Elementary School, Garland
- Vernon Schrade Middle, Rowlett
- Walnut Glen Academy For Excellence, Garland
- Watson Technology Center, Garland
- Webb Middle School, Garland

"For decades, the supply list process has been a frustration for parents," points out TeacherLists CEO, Charles Field. "Where to find the lists? When are

they available? Forgetting the list on the counter at home. Hunting the aisles for the specific items their teacher has requested. All of those issues are solved with TeacherLists."

More than 50,000 schools now have lists posted on TeacherLists. Lists for more than 1 million classrooms are live on the site and include required and requested items as well as specific notes and clarifications from teachers and school staff.

Complete details and all the lists are available at www.teacherlists.com/parents.

What we can learn from schools that educate military children

By Dr. Elizabeth Primas

It is not uncommon for military programs to be adopted for use in civilian life. Schools in Virginia Beach, VA, that have some of the highest percentages of military children in the country, are doing an incredible job helping those students cope with the added stresses of having parents in the military. Other schools and communities can learn from Virginia Beach City Public Schools.

I recently spent a day with families and educators from Shelton Park Elementary School. About 70 percent of the students there were children with a parent in the military or a defense contractor. There is a large population of special forces personnel in Virginia Beach and at any moment, a parent can be called on for deployment to a warzone. Their families often do not know to where they are deployed, which compounds



Dr. Elizabeth Primas is the ESSA Program Manager for the National Newspapers Publishers Association.

stress and anxiety. A unique program in Virginia Beach public schools includes 28 Military Family Life Counselors, who work closely with schools' staff and families to support students. One mother we spoke with, talked about the fears her five-year-old daughter had while her father was deployed. After a particularly bad night, the mother let the school staff and the assigned counselor know that her daughter was going through a very difficult time. However, mom was able to send her daughter to school knowing that the school community would play an active role in engaging with her to help her work through her

fears. The Virginia Beach counselors, funded under a program by the U.S. Department of Defense, are licensed and specialize in child and youth behavioral issues.

It's not just supporting students through the stress of having a parent deployed where Virginia Beach schools excel in supporting this population of students. A report from The Lexington Institute looks at how schools and districts with high percentages of military families are supporting students, who, on average, move every 2-3 years to far and distant places. Uprooting and moving so often is disruptive to a child's educational progress, and it can stall their academic achievement.

However, moving is not the only thing that can disrupt educational progress. Low teacher retention, frequent absenteeism, and unsafe school environments are all factors that can also

inhibit academic progress.

The Every Student Succeeds Act, a federal education law, requires schools and districts to have a well-rounded curriculum. Too many schools have eliminated music, art, drama, and essential academic courses like social studies and science to give more instruction time to reading and math. Math and reading are critical, but these other subjects enrich the learning experience and help make a well-rounded, whole human being.

From the very beginning, students at Shelton Park Elementary School are exposed to art, music, leadership strategies. The

well-rounded curriculum combined with support from the military counselors creates a school environment that can – and should – be modeled across the country.

As a lifetime educator, I am inspired to see how Virginia Beach Public Schools are supporting military children. They are truly a model to be emulated by any school, because every kid—military or not—deserves this kind of high-quality support and instruction.

Dr. Elizabeth Primas is the ESSA Program Manager for the National Newspapers Publishers Association.

Soulman's Bar-B-Que hosting Backpack Drive at all DFW locations

With the rise in North Texas school districts that have a high volume of students in need, Soulman's Bar-B-Que is teaming up with local Dallas radio station, 94.9 KLTY, to coordinate donations of backpacks and school supplies at all of their 21 North Texas locations through Aug. 9.

"We are strongly committed to the communities we serve. In the spirit of back-to-school and access

to great education for each and every child, we are opening our doors to anyone who wants to gather new school supplies, fill as many backpacks as they can and bring them to any of our collection boxes. Our goal is to get as many supplies and backpacks to students in time for the first day of the 2019-2020 school year," says Soulman's Bar-B-Que Director of Marketing, Baylea Wood.

Soulman's and 94.9 KLTY will be hosting a Kick-Off Event on Aug. 3 at the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Additionally, there will be four live remote broadcasts in August at the Soulman's Bar-B-Que locations in Southlake (10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on August 5), Wylie (11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Aug. 6), Mansfield (5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Aug. 7) and Royse City (3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Aug. 9).

Dallas volunteer attorney program hosts monthly legal clinics for Dallas County residents

In the month of August, the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP) Clinics for Dallas County residents who meet certain financial guidelines. All clinics begin at 5 p.m., with the exception of the Veteran's Clinic, which begins at 1:30 p.m.

- East Dallas (Grace United Methodist Church—4105 Junius at Haskell) Thursdays, August 1; and August 15

- South Dallas (Martin Luther King, Jr. Center—2922 MLK Blvd.) Tuesdays, August 6; August 13, and August 27
- West Dallas (2828 Fish Trap Rd., Dallas, TX 75212) Thursdays, August 8; and August 22
- Garland (Salvation Army—451 W. Avenue D, Garland, TX 75040) Thursday, August 15
- Friendship West Baptist Church (2020 West Wheat-

land Rd., Dallas, TX 75232 Wednesday, August 21

- Veterans Affairs Medical Center SCI Center (for veterans and their families only)—1:30 p.m. Friday, August 2

Applicants are asked to bring proof of income, identification, legal papers, etc. with them to the clinic. For more information, log on to www.dallasvolunteer-attorneyprogram.org/.

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LEGAL NOTICE

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

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
2113	100X Overall Odds are 1 in 3.82	\$10	8/16/19	2/12/20
2108	Money Multiplier Overall Odds are 1 in 4.26	\$2	10/2/19	3/30/20
2133	\$30,000 Jackpot Overall Odds are 1 in 4.83	\$2	10/2/19	3/30/20
2151	777 Overall Odds are 1 in 4.74	\$2	10/2/19	3/30/20
2055	Lucky 7s Hunt Overall Odds are 1 in 3.74	\$5	10/2/19	3/30/20
2110	5X El Dinero Overall Odds are 1 in 3.63	\$5	10/2/19	3/30/20

Tlottery.org is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, 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 gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2019 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

TEXAS LOTTERY

Plano financial literacy program receives national award from The U.S. Conference of Mayors

The Plano Financial Literacy Program received the First Place City Livability Award for cities over 100,000 in population.

The 10 award-winning cities were determined by an independent panel of judges selected by The U.S. Conference of Mayors. The awards were announced last month at the USCM annual meeting in Honolulu.



The City's Financial Literacy Program has a unique approach focusing on three main components:

- Financial literacy messaging, programming and an exhibit provided by Plano

Public Library (PPL)

- Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program initiated by Mayor

- Plano Families First resource and job fair initiated by Mayor

Based on community input gathered by the library on a range of financial topics, community partners were recruited to present programs addressing the identified areas of interest.

Plano offered resources to community members to assist in promoting a unique financial education exhibition and related programs to the public.

Programs began in March

2018 and included financial education for adults (Medicare & Social Security benefits, Credit Scores, Avoiding Fraud, Building Wealth,) teens (The Game of Life), and children (Art Shop, Recycled Money and Funding Your Fido).

These programs complemented a nationwide traveling financial education exhibition, Thinking Money, hosted by Plano Public

Library in May/June 2018. In addition to in-library programming, librarians also presented financial capability workshops as part of a job readiness program in partnership with Collin College.

Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director of the USCM praised the City for "outstanding leadership in support of urban livability."

Dallas Animal Services seeks fosters to get ready to Clear the Shelters

Dallas Animal Services (DAS) invites local animal lovers to spend their last few weeks of summer saving a life by becoming a foster for one of the 100 DAS dogs in need during our Summer Blockhead Block Party. Each foster will provide a temporary home for one of our longest-stay medium or large dogs until dropping them off at our PetSmart Everyday Adoption Center for their chance to find a for-



Jairo Alzate / Unsplash

ever home during Clear the Shelters on August 17.

"This time of year, space is always an issue for shelters," said DAS director Ed Jamison. "That's why we are challenging our community to help us place 100

dogs into foster homes over the next four days. With your help, we can ensure that each of these deserving dogs has the opportunity to find their perfect home during Clear the Shelters."

DAS is making it easier than ever to be a foster parent. Whether you're a new or established foster, you can pick up a foster dog by visiting the shelter during open hours and talking with a member of our team to find the right pup for

you. Staff will also provide you with all the information you need to care for the dog during their stay in your home.

DAS always provides all medical care for the animals in our foster homes, but during the Block Party the first 25 fosters will also receive dog crates.

"We want to make fostering an easy, fun-filled experience for both the foster parent and the foster animal," said Jamison.

During this year's Clear the Shelters free adoption event, DAS hopes to find loving homes for more than 300 pets in a single day. The Block Party will help to make that goal possible by ensuring space limitations at the shelter do not prevent adoptable dogs from being featured at the event.

DAS will match fosters with dogs that meet their needs, whether the volunteers live in a house or an

apartment, have other pets, kids, work from home or at an office.

Residents interested in getting involved in the Summer Blockhead Block Party, visit DAS at 1818 N. Westmoreland Rd., Dallas, TX 75212 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

For more information contact the Foster Team by emailing DASFoster@dallascityhall.com.

HBCU, from Page 1

told the group. "And just the existence of HBCUs in our communities – even the ones that are not thriving today – ends up collectively to generate about \$15 billion in short term. And that doesn't include anything other than what the campuses, including employees and students, spend in surrounding communities."

Billionaire Robert Smith's Morehouse initiative has challenged the Black Community on the support of HBCUs

In an initial move to encourage support for HBCUs, Black Wealth 2020 principals have also sent a thank you letter to Black billionaire businessman Robert Smith, chairman/CEO of Vista Equity Partners, who touched hearts across the nation when he announced that he would pay off all of the student loans of the Morehouse College class of 2019.

The letter applauded Smith, saying, "With student debt nationally at over \$1.4 trillion and with the av-

erage college student leaving school \$30,000 in debt, your gift not only relieved an enormous financial burden from the graduating class from Morehouse and their parents, you have challenged all African-Americans of means to think bigger about how to use their wealth to improve the lives of others within our race."

Members and supporters of the Black Wealth 2020 coalition include the National Association of Black-owned Broadcasters; the U. S. Black Chambers, Inc.; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; National Bankers Association; The Collective Empowerment Group; the National Association of Real Estate Brokers; The National Black Caucus of State Legislators; Marc Morial of the National Urban League; NAFAEO; Congresswoman Maxine Waters; former SBA Deputy Administrator Marie Johns; John Rogers, CEO, Ariel Investments; Andy Ingraham, CEO, National Association of Black Hotel Owners,

Operators and Developers; and Marcia Griffin, CEO, HomeFree USA.

"We thought it fitting that a coalition committed to building wealth should take the opportunity to acknowledge and praise your commitment to uplifting our people," the letter told Smith.

HBCUs struggle for funding to the detriment of the nation

In her presentation to Black Wealth 2020 on the state of HBCUs, Baskerville made the case that student loan debt is inevitable for students who are forced to borrow because their families cannot help. But, she said, financial issues also hinder even good students from making it through college in the first place.

Baskerville drew heavily from a report compiled by noted national economist Bill Spriggs, who has contended that HBCUs are the key to diversifying technology, currently among the top-paying fields in the U. S. job market.

"In the pipeline of people who generate wealth in the

African ancestry community, there is not today a challenge in terms of Blacks getting into college. Bill's data shows that there is no disparity in the percentages of African-Americans and their numbers and Whites that are going into college and enrolled in these high needs areas. The gap happens when they get in," Baskerville said. "It's not that they're not prepared, it's not that they can't get in and could not thrive, it's that once they get in, they don't have dollars."

Other facts Baskerville noted from the Spriggs report include:

Despite the challenges of the institutions and the financial challenges of the students, HBCUs are performing above average and do very well in moving students from low-income families to the top 20 percent.

Generally, many universities now have more students drawn from the top 1 percent of the U. S. income distribution than the bottom 40 percent of the U. S. income distribution.

With a declining number of White students, and a growing share of low-income students, HBCUs are an under-resourced asset for growing the US economy; therefore an increased investment in HBCUs would expand their unreached capacity.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, there are currently 107 HBCUs operating in the U. S. All have struggled with funding.

"HBCUs Punching Above Their Weight", a recent report by the United Negro College Fund, the premier fund-raising organization for HBCUs, says despite their difficulty with fund-raising, HBCUs are still succeeding beyond expectations given their struggles.

"Given their small average size and a history of being under-resourced, the enrollment, degree and economic impacts of HBCUs on African Americans in their respective states are significantly greater than one would expect," says an introduction to the report.

Principals of Black Wealth 2020 have vowed to push for the growth of HBCUs as parts of their respective agendas and encourage other major organizations and the general public to do so.

"It certainly means that for nearly 150 years, we've had institutions of higher learning that have produced some of the best and brightest African-Americans and we certainly still recognize the benefits that accrued to the African-American community because of the historically Black Colleges and Universities," said the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Weaver, a Black Wealth 2020 principal who represents the Collective Empowerment Group, an economic initiative involving approximately 800 Black churches. "It's only fitting that Black wealth 2020 would have a relationship in which we can find ways to collaborate and to partner to create even greater synergy within the African-American community with the historically Black Colleges and Universities."

Denton

The **North Texas Fair and Rodeo** announced a brand new event at this year's fair. The annual fair and rodeo will kick-off Friday, Aug. 16 and go through Aug. 24. On Aug. 19 at 6:30 p.m. the First State Bank livestock barns will become host to the fair's No Limits Stock Show for adults and youth with Special Needs, sponsored by RDO Equipment, Co. Registration is now open for participants and for youth and adult volunteers. Paperwork for all of those positions at ntfair.com



Skull Kat / Unsplash

com under "Events" due by Aug. 15 to 2217 N. Carroll Blvd., Denton, TX 76201 or to Jacee Kiefer at jkief-er@ntfair.com

Garland

Escape Room Fun for Teens at the Library Friday and Saturday, Aug. 9-10. Teens ages 13 to 18, test your puzzle-solving skills

in the Superhero Final Exam Escape Room from 10:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9, and Saturday, Aug. 10, at the South Garland Branch Library, 4845 Broadway Blvd.

Sign up in teams of two to six to solve the puzzles and "escape" the room. Each team will solve a series of puzzles in order to free another superhero from a prison cell.

Registration is required. Call 972-205-3933.

Block Party Basics Class Tuesday, Aug. 13 - Learn how you and your

neighbors can party like block stars! Join the City of Garland's Office of Neighborhood Vitality from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13, at the Main Street Municipal Building, 300 Main St., for a free class to learn all the basics of block parties. Topics will include first steps, best practices, new ideas and available resources.

Irving

The City of Irving wants to invest in its parks and recreation properties. Along with Halff Associates, the city has drawn up

a master plan, called "Let's Play Irving, Parks Master Plan."

However, before the plan is finalized, the city encourages residents to review the proposal. Visit <https://letsplayirving.com/park-master-plan-draft-for-review> to read more about the proposal.

Richardson

Revamp of Sears Building, Surrounding Area Approved - At last week's regular meeting, the Richardson City Council approved a private development firm's plans to revamp

a portion of the former Richardson Square Mall site near the northeast corner of Plano Road and Belt Line Road, including the now-vacant Sears building.

The plans were crafted with feedback provided by nearby property owners and neighborhood residents. Plans include filling the Sears building with retailers and modernizing the façade. Also included are four new buildings ranging in size from 2,500-8,100 square feet, with three including drive-thru restaurants.

Richardson FD recognized for heart attack response

The Richardson Fire Department has received the Mission: Lifeline EMS Gold Award for the third year in a row and the Plus Award for the second year in a row from the American Heart Association (AHA), which recognized the Department for its success in treating and transporting patients who suffer a type of

severe heart attack known as a ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI). Every year, more than 250,000 people experience a STEMI, which is caused by a complete blockage of blood flow to the heart and requires timely treatment in order to prevent death.

To award Gold recognition, the AHA looks at the

percentage of first responders who get STEMI victims from first contact into catheterization surgery in less than 90 minutes at least 75 percent of the time.

The Plus Award recognition is given for the percentage of first responders who perform electrocardiograms on STEMI victims within 10 minutes of first

contact.

Richardson emergency medical personnel far exceed the AHA standards in working with Methodist Richardson Medical Center and other area hospitals, and have been able to make STEMI transports and treatment possible in as little as 43 minutes.



City of Richardson

Allred, Wright lead bipartisan letter urging action on Garland VA Clinic

Washington, D.C. — A bipartisan letter led by Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32) and Congressman Ron Wright (TX-06) was sent to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie urging quick action in regards to moving forward on a Veterans Affairs health clinic in Garland.

"Ensuring our veterans have access to the quality care they need is my top priority as a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs," said Allred. "This project is critical for veterans throughout North



Courtesy photo

Texas and would be a win for the city of Garland. I am proud of the broad bipartisan cooperation on this letter and I look forward to working with my colleagues and the Administration to move forward on this project."

The City of Garland has more than 200,000 residents

and currently does not have a hospital following the closure of Baylor Scott-White closed last Spring. The 113-bed facility led to layoffs for 711 hospital employees and 105 Aramark workers, they provided food service to the hospital.

"North Texas is one of the fastest-growing areas in

the country for veterans. I was happy to sign onto the letter to Secretary Wilkie urging him to acquire a recently closed hospital in Garland that would be able to service 184,000 vets," said Wright. "We need facilities like this one in order to be able to provide the veterans of North Texas with the quality service they deserve."

The letter was also signed by Reps. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30), Kay Granger (TX-12), Marc Veasey (TX-33), Van Taylor (TX-03) and Michael C. Burgess M.D. (TX-26).

Planned Parenthood the focus of Park Cities/Central Dallas Democrats

This Saturday, Melissa Gendason and Miranda Herrera from Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas will speak at the Park Cities/Central Dallas Democrats meeting about the latest storm their organization faces in an increasingly

divided country. They will discuss the recent issues, both statewide and nationally, in the ongoing fight for reproductive rights. Learn about some of the related bills passed into law by the Texas Legislature and how they will affect women's

healthcare in the years to come. In addition, they will discuss efforts in many states to roll back the right to choose, stepping up the attacks on Roe v. Wade.

Miranda Herrera joined the Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas Develop-

ment team as the Political Development Officer. Miranda has over seven years of political experience.

The meeting starts at 10:30 a.m. until Noon at the University Park Public Library (8383 Preston Center Plaza, Suite 200, 2nd floor).



City of Plano

Plano invites residents to learn a new language by Labor Day

Summer may be winding down but you still have time to learn a new language. The Plano Public Library has a huge selection of books and resources. If you already know a language but want to brush up on it, hit the Library's World Language collection. You'll find books in popular languages: Hindi, Chinese and Spanish.

If you are starting to explore a new language, use your library card to access Pronunciator. This online resource opens the door to 80 languages and offers

live tutors, feature films, music, quizzes and more. If English is your second language, it's a great tool to improve your English with 50 non-English languages represented and an app to download to your Apple, Android or Kindle device.

Dive into the geography and culture of your new languages with World Geography and Culture online.

If your summer is too busy, don't worry, these resources are available year-round at the Plano Public Library.

Cowboys sued for conspiring with Frisco Police to hide Elliott's car wreck

TMZ Sports is reporting that a lawsuit was filed by Ronnie Hill claiming the Dallas Cowboys conspired with the Frisco Police Department to hide Ezekiel Elliott's involvement in a car wreck days before a playoff game in 2017.

Reportedly on Jan. 11, 2017, Elliott while driving



a GMC Yukon hit a BMW 750 driven by Hill. It was four days before the Cow-

boys faced the Green Bay Packers in an NFC Divisional game.

According to the lawsuit Elliott was in a hurry because he was already late for practice. Hill is claiming his vehicle was damaged to the tune of \$33,000 and that he suffered "serious and permanent" injuries.

when the two vehicles were "wedged together" to the point it required a tow truck to separate them.

The Frisco Police Dept. at the time issued a statement which described it as nothing more than your average "minor vehicle crash."

Hill's suit disputes this

claim stating, "If anyone had actually reported the impact of the accident and had Elliott been examined he would have most likely been placed in concussion protocol and out for the Dallas Cowboys upcoming playoff game."

The lawsuit is seeking \$20 million in damages.

Neither the Dallas Cowboys, Elliott, and the Frisco Police have not issued a response to the lawsuit at this time.

In other news surrounding the stand-out running back, Elliott is currently staging a holdout from the team's training camp in an effort to get a new contract.



Nefertiti sculpture is one of many recreated art masterpieces featured in The Art of the Brick traveling exhibition. (Photo credit: JerSean Golatt/Perot Museum of Nature and Science)

The Perot extends The Art of the Brick exhibit through Labor Day

Visitors will get a few extra weeks to check out what CNN has named one of the world's must-see exhibitions. Due to popular demand, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science is extending The Art of the Brick traveling exhibition – which features recreated and original artistic masterpieces made of millions of LEGO bricks – through Labor Day (Sept. 2).

The critically acclaimed exhibition touts the largest and most elaborate display of works constructed using only LEGO bricks. Created by internationally renowned contemporary artist Nathan Sawaya, The Art of the Brick is designed to inspire ingenuity and creativity with original pieces and re-imagined versions of some of history's most famous works of art, including Van Gogh's Starry Night, Vermeer's Girl with a Pearl Earring and Michelangelo's David. Presented in English and Spanish, the exhibition requires a surcharge for members and non-members.

One of the most popular pieces is Yellow, a life-size sculpture of a man ripping

his chest open with thousands of yellow LEGO bricks cascading from the cavity. (Yellow has gained pop-culture fame appearing on fashion labels, album covers and even in Lady Gaga's music video "G.U.Y.")

Other crowd-pleasers include a LEGO portrayal

of Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa, a 20-foot-long T. rex skeleton (made of 80,000 bricks), a massive LEGO Moai (Easter Island monolith), and three LEGO sculptures of life-sized "people in the park" sitting on benches (a very popular

See BRICK, Page 10

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Samaria Driver (Courtesy Photo)

Up-and-coming Neosoul artist Samaria Driver releases new single, 'Too Late'

ATLANTA — Samaria Driver announces her return, bringing an upbeat and soulful sound to the release of her long-awaited summer single *Too Late*. The forthcoming record is a follow-up to her 2016 EP *Catharsis* and is available on all streaming platforms.

"It's [*Too Late*] about knowing your worth by leaving toxic situations," Samaria says. With heavy funk and neosoul influences, *Too Late* is a lead-in to her upcoming project re-

focuS set to be released in August.

refocuS centers on Samaria's transparency regarding mental health themes such as anxiety, depression and identity crisis. When asked about her intention for the project, she says, "It {refocuS} represents a clearer depiction of who I am and a call to people who can identify with me."

Listeners can expect to hear influences like Goapele and Amel Larreux

but some songs will have an industrial sound similar to Janet Jackson's *Rhythm Nation* album.

The Atlanta-based songstress's eclectic sound is a mixture of neosoul, funk, acoustic, R&B, and house influences. Samaria's seamless transitions, musical arrangements and abstract lyrics are her signature.

Her music can be described as a fusion of Prince, H.E.R and India Arie. She started playing the guitar at age nine and

taught herself how to play the ukulele and the drums at age 10. Samaria Driver is a quadruple threat — an independent musician, singer, songwriter and producer. She specializes in mashup covers from songs in all genres, eras and in different languages.

Samaria also released her first EP, *Catharsis* focused on uplifting people and fostering positive energy to counteract negative self-talk, anxiety and depression in 2016.

Bishop Arts Theatre Center announces upcoming performance season

Oak Cliff's award-winning multicultural and multi-discipline center for the arts, Bishop Arts Theatre Center (BATC) last week announced the 2019/2020 theatre series season. Under the direction of Founder and Executive Artistic Director Teresa Coleman Wash, the 26th

season celebrates color, culture, and creativity embodying the diverse community of voices that are found in North Texas.

The theatre season will feature five productions including three musicals, two regional premieres, and one world premiere.

The season will open

with the Andrew Lipka musical, *The Wild Party*, adapted from the Joseph Moncure March book of the same name that was banned in Boston when it was first published.

The perennial holiday favorite *Black Nativity* will return to the Bishop Arts Theatre stage for the 16th

year continuing the Christmas tradition founded by Langston Hughes when he premiered his nativity story in 1961.

The season will continue into 2020 with the regional premiere of *Loving and Lovingly* by Beto O'Bryne and developed with Meropi Peponides, a play inspired

by the true story of Richard and Mildred Loving and their landmark supreme court case.

Back for a fifth installment, *Down For #The-Count Women's Theatre Festival* will celebrate The Women Who Compose for Broadway in this regional premiere of a musical his-

tory by University of North Texas professor Marjorie Hayes.

The season will conclude with the world premiere of *Curse of the Puerto Ricans* by Rosa Fernandez, a family comedy on the dynamics of loving and living in a Puerto Rican home.

Sommore plays the Addison Improv

Local comedy fans are invited to enjoy the declared "Queen of Comedy," Sommore, at Addison Improv Aug. 9-11. Born in Trenton, New Jersey, Sommore has had a meteoric rise to the top of her field and has been a trailblazer for women in the comedy business.

Sommore is a trendsetting, highly-acclaimed veteran entertainer is widely considered one of America's top comedic female entertainers. With a winning combination of class and sass, Sommore offers audiences a hilarious, yet piercing look at today's issues from a woman's perspective. She is frank and fearless in her routines, tackling topics that range



Facebook

from the mundane to the controversial with wit, intelligence and style.

Praised by critics, respected by her peers, and adored by a diverse fan base, she performs her stand-up act to sold-out audiences across the country, and she is among the top-grossing stand-up comedienne in the United States and abroad. Oprah Winfrey proclaimed her "a force to be reckoned with in the new millennium."

Born in Trenton, New Jersey, Sommore has had

a meteoric rise to the top of her field and has been a trailblazer for women in the comedy business. She was the first woman to host BET's "Comic View," presiding over the 1994-1995 season, and in 1995, she received the Richard Pryor Award for Comic of the Year. She also has hosted Russell Simmons' "Def Comedy Jam," and "Showtime at the Apollo."

She was part of the record-breaking "Queens of Comedy" tour in 2000, which garnered Sommore a wider fan base and got her registered in Guinness' Book of World Records when she performed to a captivated audience of more than 50,000 people in Atlanta, Georgia.

BRICK, from Page 9

selfie spot). The exhibition also features a gallery showcasing an innovative, multimedia collection of LEGO-brick infused photography produced in tan-

dem with award-winning photographer Dean West.

After soaking in all the LEGO eye candy, guests can build and tinker at The Science of the Brick

— a hands-on interactive LEGO brick gallery featuring building challenges and interactive play spaces that promote STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) learning for all ages.

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School Starts August 19

NAACP and CRL: Student debt weighs heaviest on Black America

By Charlene Crowell

From its founding in 1909 to today, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has endured as a vital advocacy organization dedicated to freedom and justice for all. From July 20-24, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization's annual convention met for the 110th time in Detroit's Cobo Hall.

This affectionate granddaddy of Black conventions, known for its timely topics, added student loan debt to its 2019 agenda. Co-releasing a research report with the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), the NAACP added its voice and influence in the continuing public policy debate and dilemma wrought by an unsustainable \$1.5 trillion of student debt.

Entitled, QUICKSAND: Borrowers of Color & the Student Debt Crisis, the report examines how this unprecedented level of debt

weighs heaviest on Black America. It also offers a series of reforms designed to free borrowers of all colors in a fair and equitable manner.

"The student loan debt crisis puts deeply held beliefs like the value of hard work, the transformative power of education, and the ability to build wealth during one's own lifetime into question," states the report. "The balance sheets of millions of borrowers and this nation demonstrate that our current student debt system operates in direct contraction of these ideals."

As earlier reported in this column, Black Americans today have a dime for every dollar of wealth held by whites. That racial wealth gap forces Black families to borrow more frequently and incur deeper debts to finance college costs than their white counterparts.

Stagnant incomes that have remained nearly the same over the past 20 years is also a contributor to the student debt crisis. This

data point from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, is further strengthened by a \$7 billion drop in state funding for two and four-year public colleges that occurred from 2008 to 2018, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

These and other contributing factors led to the joint report's key findings that include:

Today, over half of all families with families led by African American heads of household aged 25-40 have student debt.

Black bachelor's degree graduates are unable to afford loan repayments at five times the rate of comparable white graduates. These Black grads are also more likely to default than whites who never completed a degree.

Four years after graduation, nearly half of black graduates owe more on their undergraduate student loans than they did when they received their degree; by contrast, only 17% of

white graduates face this same dilemma.

Women graduate, on average, with \$2,700 more in student debt than their male counterparts. Further, as they typically earn less in the marketplace, paying off their loans takes longer. Two-thirds of outstanding student loan debt is held by women.

Senior borrowers, ages 60 and older, together owed \$66.7 billion in student debt in 2015. This same year, about 114,000 seniors' Social Security benefits were seized for defaulted loans. Additionally, parents who borrowed loans to help defray college costs often also delay retirement plans as they strive to eliminate debt.

And for young college graduates, the research found an average of seven years delaying a first-home purchase, as well as delays that prevented younger consumers from creating new households or starting families.

In short, heavy college

loan debt suppresses the purchasing power of multiple generations of the same family.

"Despite making regular payments, many African American students who have attended college are disproportionately drowning in debt," said Hilary O. Shelton, NAACP Washington Bureau Director and Senior Vice President for Policy and Advocacy. We urge policymakers to put an end to predatory for-profit programs that target communities of color and strengthen and boost federal funding for public institutions that provide quality higher education alternatives."

Specifically, the research report recommends:

Make college accessible for the average American – Reinvest in higher education to better secure our economy and enable people to earn their way into the middle class.

Prevent abuses by for-profit institutions – Ineffective and/or abusive

for-profit schools do not deserve taxpayer-funding revenues; these institutions must be held accountable.

Permanently tie Pell Grant aid to the level of inflation. This reform would ensure that the level of assistance to consumers with the lowest incomes would be consistent.

Strengthen loan servicing standards and oversight – Reform current servicing to provide clear standards of performance as well as consumer protections. The Department of Education must be a better steward.

Improve repayment: Make it easier for students who currently carry debt to pay off their loans and move on with their financial lives. Repaying student loans should not take 20-30 years.

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

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Absolute Self Storage pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, shall conduct an online public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien. The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. All sales will conclude at 10:00am on the date above and will be for cash only, to the highest bidder. All successful bidders shall take possession and remove contents within 48 hours.

Absolute Self Storage reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw any items from each sale.

Property includes general household contents in the spaces of the following tenants: Stanley Jackson, Jimmy Winfrey, Diana Orosco, Noel Traylor, Tom V. Holden, Michael Headley, Maria Escobar, Jorge Herrera, Zoila Ewes, Frank Jones, Linder Smart, Stanley Steen, Jasmin Escobar, Yessica Urbina, Marcos Cano, Grant Goebel, Mattie Davis, Juan Velasquez-Mesa, Rogelio Alvarado, Cathy Boyer, Gregory Long, Jeannie Garcia, Timothy Hinton, Pablo Gallegos, Juan Martinez, Michael Parish, Angel Perez, Hilario Subialdea.

DFW Muslim Community Calendar

Eid ul Adha - August 11th marks the day of Eid ul-Adha, a celebration in remembrance of Prophet Abraham and his sacrifice. Muslims around DFW will be attending special prayers at their nearby Mosque and spending time with family and friends. Check with your local mosque to find prayer timings.

Eid Bazaars - In preparation for Eid, there will be an open bazaar held at the Islamic Center of Irving on August 3rd, and at Valley Ranch Mosque on August 9th. Vendors will be selling clothing, gifts, cultural items and more. All are welcome to attend.

Embrace: Family Game Night - Embrace, an organization which organizes social events for new Muslims or people interested in Islam, is planning a Family Game Night on Saturday August 3rd, 2019 at 901 Clinic Dr, Euless, TX. This will be held on the 1st Saturday of every month going forward. Find out more on their Facebook page at "Embrace - A project of ICNA".

Islam In Spanish Monthly Potluck - The IslamInSpanish Dallas Outreach Center hosts a monthly potluck on the 3rd Saturday of every month at their location: 13021 Coit Rd #108. Everyone is welcome to attend. Find out more on their Facebook page at "IslamInSpanish".

Misconceptions About Islam Training - WhyIslam Dallas is holding 8 bi-weekly training sessions with expert scholars and teachers to clear misconceptions and train attendees to communicate the message of Islam clearly. This will be held at the East Plano Islamic Center. Register online at <http://icnadallas.org/WhyIslam-DawahSeries2019/>

Growing Latino Muslim community thriving in Dallas



Badees Nouiouat
DFW Muslim Community News

By 2050, almost 1 in 3 Americans are predicted to be of Hispanic origin. Within that demographic, another minority is on the rise; Latino Muslims. Jalil Navarro, a Mexican immigrant who embraced Islam in the United States, is the Director of the IslamInSpanish Outreach Center of Dallas.

Jalil remembers meeting Jaime Mujahid Fletcher, a Colombian Imam from Houston, in Dallas in 2014. Jaime was giving a Friday sermon at the Islamic Association of North Texas in Richardson at the time. After the prayer, Jalil approached Jaime to inquire about finding more Islamic content in Spanish. Jaime introduced Jalil to his new project, IslamInSpanish.

Fast forward to 2017, and Jalil was now working with Jaime in distributing materials and organizing local gatherings for Spanish-speaking Muslims in Dallas. Jalil felt it was time to open an official center in Dallas, one was also opened in Houston. By 2018, he secured a location at the bus-



Jalil Navarro is the Director of the IslamInSpanish Outreach Center of Dallas. (Image: NDG/Badees Nouiouat)

ting intersection of IH-635 and US 75.

The mission of IslamInSpanish is to unite people of all cultures and educate the community about what Islam truly is.

"I used to think Islam was for a specific culture from the middle east," says Jalil. "When I found that the majority of Muslims don't even speak Arabic and the country with the most Muslims was Indonesia, I was shocked. I realized that Islam is a faith for everyone, and I wanted to learn more."

Even within the Latino community, there is a wide variety of cultures. The IslamInSpanish center is not exclusive to a specific country. It is a center which extends a welcome to all cultures, ethnicities, and races. You don't even need to speak Spanish to be involved; many volunteers do

not.

Weekly discussions (Sundays 11 a.m. - Noon) and monthly potlucks (3rd Saturday of every month) draw attendees of all kinds: Muslim or not, Spanish-speaking or not. It is a beautiful blend of culture, offering an inspiring and enriching experience.

"The Quran teaches the same stories, of the prophets Moses, Abraham, Jesus, and more."

Jalil believes sharing the teachings of Islam to Latinos helps them to understand Islam is not something foreign, as he previously thought.

"One thing that Latinos are very interested about is the history of Islam in our own culture. Many do not know this because it is not taught in the history books," says Jalil. "Muslims lived in Spain for over 800 years, and it had a tre-

mendous impact on our culture. Over 4,000 words in Spanish come from Arabic, and names such as Omar and Fatima are all from Islamic history. Even our architecture and food have some Islamic influences."

Learning more about the unrecognized influences of Islam contributes to its growth.

"A lot of times, Latinos are even practicing some teachings of Islam without knowing it," Jalil stated. "When they start to realize all of these things, Islam is much more relatable, and the walls of prejudice come down."

IslamInSpanish is very active on social media, especially Facebook, with more than 100,000 followers. They produce live

streams enjoyed by thousands around the world. Mainstream media has featured them several times, including on CNN, Vice, Telemundo, Univision, and much more. They were invited to the White House in 2016 by President Barack Obama's administration. This is all a testament to their hard work and dedication.

To learn more about IslamInSpanish or to get involved, visit IslamInSpanish.org. The center is located at 13021 Coit Road #108 in Dallas. You can find upcoming events on their Facebook page at IslamInSpanish Dallas Outreach Center.

Badees Nouiouat is the Publisher of *The Irving Muslim*.

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. Equal Opportunity Employer



AT&T Mobility proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a centerline height of 108 feet and 120 feet on an existing 119-foot building at the approx. vicinity of 302 South Houston Street, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75202. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, John, j.huter@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*

AT&T Mobility Services, LLC. proposes to build a 34-foot utility pole communications Tower. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The Site location is 7178 Kenwell Street, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75209, Lat: 32-50-41.2, Long: -96-49-38.5. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1140105.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS – Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. **HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS** – Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Andrew, a.bray@trileaf.com, 2550 S. IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*

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The United States Army is hiring for over 150 different career fields.

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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.

Aug. 5 Irving Workforce Center

Join the Irving Workforce Center for their Back to School Job Fair on Monday, Aug. 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Irving Workforce Center located at 2520 W. Irving Blvd., Suite # 100 in Irving.

The following employers will be featured: Dallas ISD, DeSoto ISD and Richardson ISD.

For more information contact the Irving Workforce Center 972-573-3500



Aug. 6 Teacher Job Fair

The Dallas Independent School District is hosting one last summer Teacher Job Fair on Tuesday, Aug. 6 at Skyline High School from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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

If attending, please ensure to register prior to the event in order to receive job fair updates and information.

Aug. 6 TekNow Hiring Event

TekNow is seeking new

experts to join their team. The job fair is scheduled for Aug. 6 from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at their corporate offices located at 4215 North Beltwood Parkway in Farmers Branch.

Candidates who believe they meet the preferred technical qualifications: local residents, 18 years of age or older, are invited for onsite interviews specifically to find technicians for the TekNow App (much like Uber but for IT Setup & Support).

Applicants may stop by any time during the specified time slot to meet the TekNow team and be considered for a position as a TekNow Expert. For more information regarding TekNow, visit website at www.teknowapp.com

August 8 Vet Career Event

DAV and RecruitMilitary are joining forces to attract, hire and retain military veterans and military spouses in the Dallas area. This is a free hiring event for veter-

ans, transitioning military personnel, National Guard members, Reserve members and military spouses. It is scheduled for Aug. 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at AT&T Stadium.

"We are pleased to provide these companies with access to the widest network of highly qualified veteran job candidates who are looking for meaningful civilian career opportunities," says Tim Best, CEO of Bradley-Morris & RecruitMilitary.

More info at: <http://bit.ly/Dallas080819>.

Aug. 22 Fairfield Fair

The Fairfield Job Fair is scheduled for Aug. 22 from 9 a.m. to Noon at 839 E Commerce St., in Fairfield, Texas. HOT Work Force Solutions and the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce invite job seekers to stop by the Green Barn.

Sept. 19 UD Job Fair

The University of Dal-

las 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 experience.

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.



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Sunday, 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.

Wednesday, 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

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Wednesday

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

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ship 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.

Monday, 7 p.m.

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Wednesday, 7 pm

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Wednesday, 7 pm

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Sister Tarpley
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"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised" (Job 1:21).

Can a caterpillar fly? If you said, "No," you would be partially correct. Actually, a caterpillar can fly, but it must have a transformation first.

The butterfly begins life as a caterpillar, a wormlike larva that spins a cocoon for itself. For weeks, the larva remains hidden within the

cocoon as it undergoes metamorphosis. When it's time for the butterfly to emerge, it must struggle and fight its way out of the cocoon. We might be tempted to help this process by tearing open the cocoon - but that's the worst thing we could do.

The struggle makes it strong and enables it to fly. Butterflies need adversity to become what God intended them to be. Humans also need adversity.

The Book of Job is the story of a wealthy and successful community leader named Job. He was a successful and righteous businessman with huge holdings of livestock and real estate. One day Satan came before God and asked him, "Where have you



Future Doctor on campus at the University of Chicago, the Pritzker School of Medicine, Devon Lewis

come from?" Satan replied, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

God said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? He is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." No-

tice that God pointed Job out to Satan! God gave Satan permission to put Job through a trial of adversity.

Job's herds were stolen, his servants were murdered, and all of Job's children were killed by a sudden tornado.

Through his trial of adversity, Job grows in strength, wisdom and faith. His entire perspective on God is transformed by his suffering. He was even accused of sin by his closest friends.

Christians must get beyond the immature notion that God is interested only in making us healthy, wealthy and happy. More than anything, He wants us to be like Christ. And the road to becoming like Christ often leads through the wilderness of adversity.

In order for the butterfly to fly, there must be a transformation process that is often developed through adversity.

All glory to our Heavenly Father, to the Son, and

to the Holy Spirit. Always pray for a closeness to God like you have never felt before. Seek God's face and desire His will. Ask for God to increase your thirst for His presence.

While God will always be your heavenly Father, and you will be His child through the blood atonement of Jesus Christ, pray that God will help you to stay close to Him and to flee from sin.

Pray that your fellowship will not be strained by sin. Ask the Lord to bring your mind to any sin that you may repent and turn fully to God. Thank God and always love, respect, appreciate, and lift up your praise to Him, in the name of Jesus.

After all, it is Monday

By Dr. James L. Snyder

I do not consider myself lazy. I think of myself as an Energy Conservative. I am saving my energy for sometime down the road when I may need it, and who knows when.

This, however, is not the opinion of the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She works hard, which I do not mind, except she expects me to keep up with her.

I enjoy slouching around, busily engaged in doing nothing. I have become an expert in this, which has

become more than a hobby with me.

The best day of the week for me to be lazy is Monday. Weekends are always busy with church work and such that Monday is a wonderful time to chill out and unwind. Over the years, I have become an expert in this weekend recovery exercise.

I try to take Monday's off and schedule nothing that day. I'm not always successful, I will admit. But it is not because I do not try.

We had come through six or seven weeks of work every day. Just when I wanted

to take a day off something came up and I had a cancel my day off and focus on the work before me.

It was a Thursday afternoon and I came into the house, sat down in my chair and in a few moments found myself sleeping. Actually, my wife found me sleeping.

"You're not sleeping?" she asked.

It startled me and I woke up and saw her there and gently said, "No, my dear. I was praying for you and

the kids and the grandkids."

She smiled very graciously and said, "Okay, that's quite all right, keep praying."

I was so excited that I got something over on her that I could not go back to sleep. I was so glad that it worked. I plan to use that ploy in the future.

Several weeks ago, we had a very busy weekend. Not only church programs but also other activities that took up most of Saturday. Come Monday morning I

was completely worn out. I said to myself as I got out of bed, "I'm going to practice my lazy exercises all day today."

I went out, sat in my chair and just relaxed. It felt so good. Being lazy

See MONDAY, 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: *Bad Axe County* is wildly good

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Your neighbor minds his business.

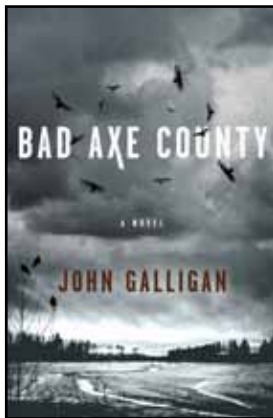
And yours, the guy's down the road, and the lady's next door. He sees everything and is happy to share – or so you've heard. As in the new novel "Bad Axe County" by John Galligan, nobody tells you a thing.

When the Weather Service said that a storm was coming and it might dump ten inches of snow, few in Bad Axe County worried.

It was just another spring in Wisconsin and the snow wouldn't last. Still, Interim Sheriff Heidi Kick needed to keep her deputies alert, though that was becoming a problem: half her staff was loyal to the last sheriff, and they made little-to-no effort to hide their dislike for her.

Much of Bad Axe County kinda seemed like that, ever since the night a dozen years ago when Heidi's parents were killed in what authorities said was a murder-suicide. Heidi was serving as the county's Dairy Queen then, and folks never forgot that those both set her apart. It surely didn't make her job – or her life – easier.

Neither did a growing sense that there were things people weren't



telling her.

Like, when elderly librarian Harold Snustead was assaulted at work. The attack seemed senseless, even to a witnesses who also said that Walt Beavers had been on the library's public-access computer. When Heidi checked its history, she discovered that Beavers had been looking at a website for local sex workers and possible predators. Was that why he skedaddled after the attack?

At the county's edge, Pepper Greengrass had only known Dale Hill for a short time, but she already knew everything about him: he wasn't very bright, so the sixteen-year-old played him like her Ho-Chunk ancestors played a drum. Hill was surely her ticket away from her sleazy stepfather, so she'd go along with whatever he said; besides, Pepper's Dad once told her to "go with the

flow" and she'd always be okay. She remembered that, as she was passed from man to man in a line that stretched from 1980 to South Dakota and straight into Bad Axe County...

Readers who are fans of author John Galligan's previous books may've wondered where Galligan's been since the last one. One possible answer: he may've been perfecting his craft, because "Bad Axe County" is as good as it gets.

With a shiver and nod at today's news, this novel opens with a scream of two different sorts as we're introduced to a new, and quite reluctant, crimefighter in Heidi Kick, who wears armor that's part platinum, part cotton, and she's not afraid to get it dirty. Readers will also be delighted that Kick is fresh, open, not-quite-naïve, but willing to be schooled; surrounding her is a bawdy dispatcher, a too-handsome officer, an eager EMS volunteer, and criminals that'll make you cringe, gasp, and dig your nails in.

Readers of thrillers take note, then: "Bad Axe County" is wildly good, frighteningly realistic, sometimes raw, and gritty as dirt. It's perfect for you. Make it your business to read it.

MONDAY, from Page 15

has a good feeling to it at times. Of course, only people who work hard can appreciate those lazy moments. I was appreciating my lazy moment.

I then heard the front door open and in came my wife who had been shopping for groceries. She looked at me and said, "You're not still in that chair doing nothing, are you?"

I could not use the prayer strategy because

my eyes were open watching TV. Looking at her with a grin all over my face I said, "I'm exercising my lazy rights. After all, it is Monday."

She smiled back, went into the kitchen and began putting away the groceries. I leaned back in my chair and said to myself, "Isn't lazy something special!"


It was then that I thought about a verse in Genesis. "And on the

seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made" (Genesis 2:2).


Even God ended his work and rested one day during the week. He is my example.

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