



# North Dallas Gazette

"Most respected Voice of the Minority Community"

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## An attorney's dream to tell the story about the Black Seminoles of Florida

By Jackie Hardy,  
NDG Contributing Writer

Dr. Belinda Noah grew up in a small Floridian town called Live Oak of Suwannee County. Noah credits her passion for wanting to tell the story about the strength and character of Black Seminoles that sprang from her childhood.

"When I was very young, my father, unfortunately, had an accident on the farm. A tractor turned over on him, and he lost his leg, so as he was recuperating during that time, he would entertain me by telling me stories," explains Noah. This incident prompted her interest and lifelong quest to learn more about the history and family of the Black Seminoles.

Noah is an accomplished attorney practicing law ranging in International Law, Bankruptcy and Debt, Contracts, and Agreements for more than 20 years. Noah received her Jurist Doctorate degree from Florida State University in Tallahassee. She completed a Masters of Law for the Doctorate of Juridical Science Program at Widener University in Wilmington, DE.

In addition to her career in the legal profession, Noah has taught



*There were people of African descent who lived in and among the Native American tribes located in Florida (Courtesy photo)*

Environmental Law and Health Law at the university level as well as served as a visiting International Professor at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA).

Noah can now add screenwriting to her impressive resume. In a telephone interview with the North Dallas Gazette, she also pointed to her prior experience within the media and communications industry before she began working on this current project.

"I was the first lawyer to start a legal talk show where I provided

legal tips to the audience from A to Z, and I also produced videos years ago that looked at the historical facts surrounding the Jim Crow laws that existed in the United States back in the 1800s and early 1900s."

Her recent project, "Princess Hialeah and the Black and Seminole Indians," is a screenplay she wrote based on a book she authored 20 years ago entitled, "The Black Seminoles."

"When I wrote the book, it was

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#### READERS SOUND OFF!!!

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### People In The News...



Anita Hawkins



Tomiko Brown-Nagin

NDG Quote of the Week: "Be present in all things and thankful for all."

- Maya Angelou



## Anita Hawkins

On Giving Tuesday, December 3, 2019, Evolution Academy Charter School will host a Luxury Pop-Up Boutique & Fundraiser featuring new and gently-loved designer handbags, shoes, clothes, jewelry, and accessories. The event is free, but registration via Eventbrite is encouraged and appreciated.

Hosted by Anita Hawkins, a lifestyle expert, entrepreneur, model, author and philanthropist, along with co-host and business powerhouse Lalanii Wilson-Jones, Evolution Academy's Richardson campus will be transformed for an evening



of luxury and fanfare. Guests will meet at 1099 South Sherman Street, Richardson, TX 75081 for yummy light bites and delicious mocktails as they shop, mix and mingle.

Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the

power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (in the U.S.) and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-the-year giving.

All proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit Evolution Academy Charter School. Monies raised will help fund vocational education opportunities to arm students with professional certifications along with their diplomas. The money will also help to aid the dozens of families at

Evolution Academy's Beaumont campus displaced by the recent tropical storm. These funds will allow Evolution Academy to continue to expand the educational opportunities that give students a second chance to achieve their goal of obtaining a high school diploma.

In addition to guest attendance and support, donations of new or gently loved luxury items are accepted as well. Item donations can be dropped off daily to Rhea Shields at Evolution Academy Charter School. Monetary donations can be made via Evolution Academy's website at [www.evolution-academy.org](http://www.evolution-academy.org) and click the

button to donate. Evolution Academy, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.

Evolution Academy is a public charter high school district and dropout recovery center, serving Texas high school students up to age 21. Founded in 2002, Evolution Academy offers one-on-one attention with a mix of traditional and computer-based instruction.

The schools also offer multiple career and technical education certification courses that prepare students for professional fields including forklift drivers, food handling and dual credit college

courses. Evolution Academy recently partnered with Richland College to provide students an opportunity to complete Business Office Specialist and Microsoft Office certifications.

Evolution Academy offers a flexible school day schedule, where students can enroll in a four-hour morning or afternoon session. To date, Evolution Academy has graduated more than 3000 students, many of whom were unsuccessful in traditional school settings.

Students can enroll online at [www.evolutionacademy.org](http://www.evolutionacademy.org) or visit one of the campuses to enroll in person.

## Tomiko Brown-Nagin

Tomiko Brown-Nagin's intellectual interests and pursuits are varied, connected, and run deep. So leading an institution devoted to interdisciplinary work and research seems the perfect fit for the dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Brown-Nagin said her years growing up in South Carolina after the passage of the Civil Rights Act inspired her interest in law, and her exposure to "the life of the mind" in college drove her love of history. The joy in exploring both, she said, "explains why I am here." A historian, lawyer, and authority on constitu-



tional law, she is the Daniel P.S. Paul Professor of Constitutional Law at Harvard Law School and a history professor in Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

**Gazette:** You've been on a listening tour during your

first year as Radcliffe dean. What have you learned?

**Brown-Nagin:** I would say a couple of things came across most prominently. One is the depth of the passion for the idea of interdisciplinary research. It's not always intuitive why that's valuable, particularly for those who are not on campus. And yet, the goal of bringing together scholars from across the arts, the humanities, the social sciences, the sciences to create an interdisciplinary community is a mission that many people understood to be a unique contribution in the Harvard landscape. I heard repeatedly how critical Radcliffe's mission is, and that it's in-

dispensable at Harvard. Another point that came across clearly from my interactions, with some of our past fellows in particular, is the transformative impact that Radcliffe has on academic careers. In part that's because of the protected time we offer scholars to conduct research. The impact also is due to the level of exposure Harvard offers that virtually no other university can; fellows are able to make connections with important scholars here on campus and build community within their fellowship class. I enjoyed that unparalleled experience during my own fellowship in 2016-17. I found it was just a marvelous time

to get away from my normal duties at the law school and FAS (which I enjoy) and have the opportunity to slow down and meet even scholars here on Harvard's campus whom I knew about but hadn't really had the time to interact with.

**Gazette:** Can you outline your new strategic plan, Radcliffe Engaged?

**Brown-nagin:** In anticipation of Radcliffe's 20th anniversary next year and as the institute's fourth dean, I thought it was a great moment to assess where we have been, to reflect on what we've built over time, and to think about how we could grow to be even better. I came into the strategic plan

understanding that the prior deans have built an incredibly strong foundation and that each had moved the institute onto a new plane. Drew Faust played a pivotal role as founding dean. Barbara Grosz expanded the sciences and public programming. Liz Cohen put the institute on the map as a center for arts. Through the strategic planning process, I wanted to learn where there were growing edges at the institute, even as I understood that it's a fabulous place for all the reasons I've articulated. I also thought that the process of engaging in a strategic plan would be a way to build community internally.

## NDG Readers Sound Off...

### Can the Cowboys beat the Patriots?

I know Dak can. But the defense was letting the Lion score. Sometimes they are unfocused. I also hope D. Lawrence is okay.

- Maritza Rodriguez

Yes if they play the entire Game, and use Zeke as a decoy

- Sheri Allen Ceglarek

Anything is possible. If the defense can get a few sacks and turnovers then they should beat New England.

- Cavin Hodge

If Dallas can score on New England, defense

should be good enough to get a few stops on their offense.

- Al Crossley

Only if the TEAM shows up

-Mary Petersen

**'Searching for Black Confederates' is a book that no Civil War scholar should ignore**

I am looking forward to reading this book. Black Confederates existed - no doubt. I am interested in the authors explanation for slaves who fought for the Confederacy. Why would slaves agree to fight for the very institution that

enslaved them?

Was it the fear of the master?...love of the Confederacy?...recognition of a chance to escape?... Were these slaves the kind that Harriet Tubman spoke of when she described slaves that didn't know they were slaves?

- anonymous

**Sister Tarpley: Going Beyond Your Pattern**

Beautiful truth! Our little becomes much when we give it to the Lord.

- Steph Swan

**Ed Gray, NDG Senior Columnist:**

### Crystal Mason, A Political Prisoner

Crystal Mason mistakenly believed that she was eligible to vote in the 2016 election and was sentenced to five years in jail for not reading the fine print on the provisional ballot. The judge who sentenced her reported bogus figures on a 2013 campaign finance form and was never charged with a crime. Who says ignorance of the law is no excuse?

Source: United We Vote  
- Kevin R.

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# Peace and Strength: Celebrating African American military service

By Angela Sailor

My daughter's name is Alamni. It means "the one who brings peace." She is in her second year at the United States Military Academy, the first in our family to join the ranks of the Long Gray Line.

As her name suggests, her dream of becoming a West Point cadet was not based on a desire to fight. Her motivation was simple patriotism: to serve her country—to stand in defense of her fellow Americans, as the cadet oath goes, "support the Constitution of the United States, and bear true allegiance...."

What first sparked her interest in military service was her sixth grade American History Day Project. Her topic: the Tuskegee Airmen. Alamni was inspired by the heroics of the Red Tails and their against-all-odds achievements, which helped pave the way for full integration of the U.S. military.

She was particularly fascinated by their commander, Benjamin Davis Jr., who went on to become the Air Force's first African-American brigadier general. (Davis had a great role model; his father was the first African-American to reach the rank of Army Brigadier General.)

Davis Jr. had another admirer, too. Bill Clinton. In 1998, when presenting him with his fourth star, President Clinton characterized Davis

as "living proof that a person can overcome adversity and discrimination, achieve great things, turn skeptics into believers; and through example and perseverance, one person can bring truly amazing change."

At West Point, my daughter is following the trail blazed by the Davises and many other great leaders who have achieved great things in the military. She is in the process of learning to transform her vulnerabilities into strengths and developing her leadership abilities. I hope that one day she, too, will achieve great things and bring amazing change.

Naturally, as a mother, I am always concerned about her and her fellow cadets. If they are called to war, I want the confidence of knowing they will have the equipment they need to do the job; that their troops will have the training they need to succeed; that they will have the full backing of our political leadership.

Today I am not as confident. There is all too much reason for me to have concerns. According to recently released 2020 Index of Military Strength, today's U.S. military is "only marginally able to meet the demands of defending America's vital national interests."

While the Army's combat readiness levels are rated higher than all other services, it is still struggling

to rebuild its end strength—deteriorated by almost two decades of near continuous use, combined with inadequate funding for most of the last decade.

Today's army is low on manpower. It now has only 31 Brigade Combat Teams—down from 45 just eight years ago.

As the National Defense Strategy Commission warned Congress last year: "Simply put, the United States needs a larger force than it has today if it is to meet the objectives of the [National Security] Strategy."

It also is ill-equipped for the modern battlefield. The Army is using equipment designed primarily in the 1970s, fielded in the '80s and then only incrementally upgraded since then. The Index labels it "a modernization gap."

As the mother of a cadet, I pray that none of our sons and daughters have to go into combat. But if they do, I don't want them going into "a fair fight." I want them going in with the troops, the training and the equipment needed to make them the prohibitive favorites—and to win with minimal casualties.

To get those kinds of odds, America has a lot of rebuilding to do. Overall, the Index rates the Army as being in better shape than the Navy and Marines, and arguably better off than the Air Force.

But rebuilding won't come cheap—and it will require a sustained commitment from our political leaders to make it happen. Will rebuilding be worth the cost? I certainly think so—and not just because it may be my daughter's life that's on the line.

The main reason for rebuilding America's military, for making it the prohibitive favorite against all of our foes, is that a strong military is our greatest hope for peace. We all know so well that President Reagan's strategy of "peace through strength" won the Cold War. No sane person picks a fight with a reigning world champion in his prime. But when the champ lets himself get out of shape, when he's perceived as weakened and getting weaker, it encourages challengers—sometimes several challengers—to come forward.

Alamni wants nothing more than to live up to her name, to be "the one who brings peace." It's the hope—and the mission—of all those proudly wearing the uniform of our nation. But it is up to our leaders—and, ultimately, all of us—to make sure they have what they need to do the job.

A Heritage Foundation vice president, Angela Sailor directs the research and education programs of the think tank's Edwin J. Feulner Institute.

## How do we keep our democracy healthy?

By Lee H. Hamilton

some steps I think we need to take.

First, we have to protect our elections. It's clear that malign actors want to hack them or at least influence them. In the past we tended to assume that our elections were fair and accurate, but we can't take that for granted any more.

Second, we need to expand our democracy in appropriate ways and fight efforts to restrict the vote. Plenty of politicians want to handicap or exclude voters they don't like, and this sort of manipulation of our system is as big a threat to its integrity as outsiders' at-

tempts to hack it.

Third, keeping money's role in elections within bounds is crucial. Money will always have a place in elections, but we need to keep it from disproportionately affecting voting outcomes.

Organizations that urge their members to vote play an important role, too. They're "special interests," of course, but that's what it means to live in a pluralistic society.

Individual participation also matters, which is why civic education is vital. We need always to be mindful about how we teach and

encourage people to participate — through efforts to educate and register voters, citizen-led advocacy, and the like.

When Lincoln wondered at Gettysburg whether a "nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure," it wasn't just a rhetorical question. It's an undecided one, and each generation has to answer it.

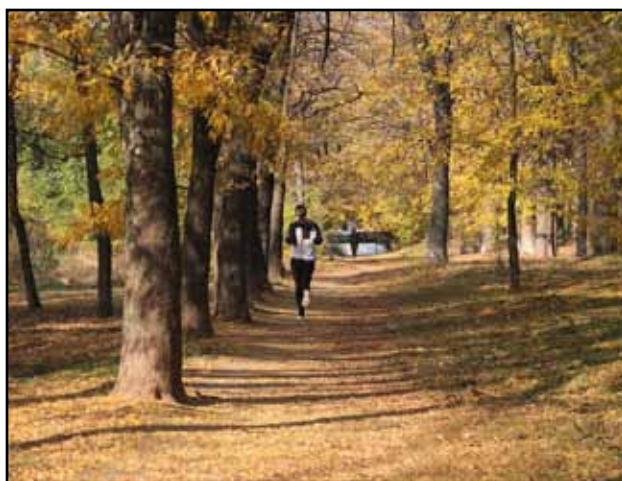
Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government and was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



# Have a 'Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving?' No Problem!

By Dr. Sarah E. Laibstain

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, you might be looking forward to spending time with your loved ones taking some time to relax, but if we're being realistic, your mind might be on all the delicious food that the holiday entails! With so many varieties and cherished recipes, it is important to keep your health in mind throughout the holiday and any time off. It is estimated that the average American takes in 3,000 plus calories during a Thanksgiving meal alone. This can be at least 1,000 calories over the recommended daily value for an adult. Still, there are some



*If you enjoy the solitude of a quick run alone, include some me-time as a break from the family during the holidays. Photo by Ekaterina Novitskaya on Unsplash*

easy ways you can enjoy your Thanksgiving without sacrificing the holiday traditions you know and love!

## Fit in a quick workout

You don't have to partici-

pate in a Turkey Trot to get some exercise on Thanksgiving. Try going for a short run or walk in your neighborhood. Watching a big football game? Try

to do three push-ups every commercial break. Even if you have a busy day ahead of you, a few minutes can make a big difference in your health and give you more energy for the festivities ahead.

## Make healthy diet choices

There are plenty of ways you can eat healthy while still enjoying traditional Thanksgiving foods. Although you might want to save your appetite for dinner, eating breakfast can help you avoid binging on unhealthy foods later in the day. Additionally, try to avoid filling up on appetizers, and save space for the food you really want. Finally, make sure to load up on the veggies rather than

skipping straight to the desserts!

## Make sure to have fun!

It's important to feel like you aren't sacrificing the Thanksgiving traditions you love. There are plenty of healthy ways to still enjoy your Thanksgiving while staying healthy. It's all about quality over quantity. By watching your portions, you can still enjoy those mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie. Even if you don't have time for a workout, try going for a post-dinner walk with your family or playing a game of football for more quality time. Additionally, continue to think about your intake and activities post-Thanksgiving, as it can be

just as easy to overindulge in leftovers.

Thanksgiving doesn't have to be a splurge. Setting realistic expectations ahead of time can help you avoid any feelings of guilt afterward. If you need more ideas on staying healthy this holiday season, contact your family physician to help brainstorm healthy choices to make while still enjoying all Thanksgiving has to offer.

*Dr. Sarah E. Laibstain is a general family medicine practitioner at Family Medicine Associates of Texas in Carrollton. She thoroughly enjoys improving the health and lives of individuals ranging from young children to adulthood.*

# 'Tis the season for 'open enrollment' scams, so stay alert

By Gretchen Abraham  
Division of Consumer & Business Education

Winter is coming, which means open enrollment season is here. With 2020 just around the corner, now's the time to add or change your health coverage through Medicare or the Affordable Care Act (ACA). You have until December 7 (Medicare) or December 15 (ACA) to make any changes. As you compare your options, watch out for scams. Here are some tips to protect your wallet and your per-



sonal information this open enrollment season.

## Eligible for Medicare?

• Anyone who tries to sell you Medicare insurance while claiming to be an "official Medicare agent" is a scammer. There are no Medicare sales representatives.

• Ignore anyone who says

you must join a prescription drug plan to keep your Medicare coverage. The Medicare prescription drug plan (also known as Part D) is voluntary and has nothing to do with the rest of your Medicare coverage.

• Never give information over the phone to someone who says they need it so

you can keep your coverage. Hang up on anyone who asks for a quick payment, threatens you, or offers you free equipment or services in exchange for your information.

• If you need help with Medicare, call 1-800-MEDICARE or go to Medicare.gov.

## Seeking coverage under the Affordable Care Act?

• Get information, compare plans, and enroll at HealthCare.gov. Check out the new Quality Ratings to see how plans compare to others in your state, based on member experience,

medical care, and health plan administration.

• Starting this year, you can also sign up for a plan directly through several certified partners. Make sure the company is on the approved list before giving them your information.

• Need help? Call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596 to ask a question, start or finish an application, compare plans, or enroll. Prefer to meet in person? Use the local assistance tool to find a list of people and organizations in your community who can

help you – for free.

• After you apply, you may get a call from the Marketplace asking you to verify or provide information. If you don't want to answer questions over the phone, ask the representative to mail you a letter with instructions for completing your application.

If you spot a scam, report it to the FTC at [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint). If the scam is Medicare related, report it at 1-800-MEDICARE. The more we hear from you, the more we can help fight scams.

# House Judiciary Committee Agrees We Need MORE with Vote Clearing Path to End Marijuana Prohibition

Washington, D.C. – Wednesday, the House Judiciary Committee voted to approve the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act (MORE Act). This step makes the MORE Act the first piece of comprehensive marijuana legislation to ever make it out of a congressional committee, and barring any other committees claiming jurisdiction, will be the first to ever receive a floor vote.

"With today's mark-up of the MORE Act, the United States is coming one step closer to ending the devas-



*Roberto Valdivia / Unsplash*

tating harms of marijuana prohibition, which have fallen so heavily on Black and Brown people," Drug Policy Alliance Executive Director Maria McFarland Sanchez-Moreno

Many agree with McFar-

land Sanchez-Moreno that the MORE Act is a step in the right direction, but it cannot undo the decades of damage caused.

"This legislation won't make up for the full scale of harm that prohibition has

caused to its victims. It's not going to return anyone their lost dreams, time lost at the mercy of the criminal justice system; or the years spent away from their families.

But this legislation is the closest we've come yet to not only ending those harms at the federal level, but also beginning to repair them. Now it's up to Congress to do the right thing and swiftly pass the bill to ensure justice is not delayed a moment longer," McFarland Sanchez-Moreno stated.

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# South Dallas Club inducts 15 new members, reclaims one!

The historic South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. held their annual New Member Induction Ceremony on November 8, 2019. A total of 15 members were inducted and one former member was reclaimed.

An affiliate of the South Central District of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., South Dallas BPW began their 2019-2020 club year with 66 members before adding 16 additional members. They are the largest club within the South Central



Among the 16 members brought in during the recent ceremony were (left to right); Alberta Blair, Paula Frazier, Patsy Parrish and Gloria Taylor. (Courtesy photos).

District and among the top clubs in the entire Association.

President Dr. Lindy M. Perkins and local officers operate 33-committees who are actively providing stel-

lar programs in the Greater Dallas community. Their mission includes initiatives to improve the quality of life for citizens (including youth) in the Dallas Metroplex and around the world.

The South Dallas BPW Club was recognized in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida last summer in the National Association's prestigious Bertha Perry Rhodes category for outstanding public pro-

grams.

In an effort to fulfill membership goals set forward nationally, the Membership Committee led by Director Gwendolyn E. Hunt, Esq. made outstanding strides in

their fall recruitment efforts. The Club works diligently to offer its membership opportunities to raise scholarships for worthy high school seniors, to volunteer with youth (ages 12 to 18), to annually adopt a nursing home, a family and a school in the community. Each of these and other programs lend the membership opportunities to serve citizens of Dallas and the surrounding cities.

For more information on the South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc., visit their website at: southdallasbpw.org.

## Main Event partners with Birthday Party Project for homeless children

Happy Birthday. It's two words. Two words often followed by a song...a big wish...cheers and hugs from friends. Yet many of the 2.5 million youth currently experiencing homelessness in America will not get to experience these time-honored birthday traditions nor feel the joy of being celebrated on their special day.

That is now changing, thanks to The Birthday Party Project, along with support from companies like Main Event Entertainment, a fastest-growing eating and entertainment brand in the country.

Main Event and The Birthday Party Project recently announced a new partnership, allowing them to now celebrate birthdays inside Main Event centers. Founded in 2012, The Birthday Party Project's mission is to bring joy to children living in homeless and transitional living facilities through the magic of birthdays. Since its inception, The Birthday Party Project has celebrated more than 10,000 birthdays with over 58,000 children in attendance.

The two organizations will kick off their partnership on Saturday, Nov. 23

at the Main Event center in Grapevine. More than 300 children and family members from The Birthday Party Project's agency partners will be in attendance.

"Every child deserves an opportunity to be celebrated on his or her birthday and we cannot wait to see the smiles on the faces of kids as they experience an epic birthday party at Main Event," said Paige Chenault, Founder, The Birthday Party Project. "We believe that joy changes lives, and a joyful community can change the world. That's why we couldn't be more thankful for the sup-

port of Main Event to help bring even a little more – actually a lot more – joy to these kids around their special day."

As part of The Birthday Party Project's inaugural party at Main Event, children and families from at least 10 agencies in Dallas-Fort Worth will celebrate with two hours of unlimited video games, bowling, laser tag, virtual reality games, billiards, gravity ropes and more. Every November birthday child will also receive a VIP Birthday Badge, a Nothing Bundt Cakes bundtlet and a chance to visit the Main

Event Winner's Choice area to redeem points for cool toys, electronics, sports equipment and over 500 other prizes.

The kids will also get to enjoy pizza from the full-service kitchen at Main Event, as well as bottomless beverages.

The Birthday Party Project celebrations at Main Event will be hosted once a quarter, beginning in 2020. The partnership will initiate at Main Event locations in Texas, before expanding to all locations. During each party, approximately 200 attendees will get to enjoy free games, activities, food,

desserts and prizes.

To add to the excitement, Main Event is inviting all customers to help elevate the impact by donating their Winner's Choice Points – the points won during game play – to The Birthday Party Project. All of the donated points will be distributed to children attending Main Event's quarterly birthday parties so they can experience the excitement of picking out even more prizes inside Winner's Choice.

To learn more, visit [mainevent.com/thebirthdaypartyproject](http://mainevent.com/thebirthdaypartyproject).

## Carter BloodCare, The Potter's House partner for community blood drive

Giving thanks is a good way to start your day, especially if you enjoy excellent health. Carter BloodCare is thankful for the hundreds of members of our community that volunteer to give of themselves through blood donation, to support local patients. Giving just one pint of blood – the ap-

proximate amount that is collected – can save three or more lives. This is because today's technology allows the blood center to separate whole blood into at least three products: red cells, platelets and plasma.

Cancer patients are often prescribed platelet transfusions to offset the side ef-

fects of disease treatments. Platelet donors are also in demand to support other patients, such as those that undergo heart surgery. These procedures are performed frequently in hospitals throughout the north, central and east Texas areas served by Carter BloodCare. Platelets have a short

shelf-life and more than 100 platelet donations are needed each day to help maintain the requirements for patients.

Carter BloodCare is grateful that The Potter's House (main Dallas campus) is hosting a blood drive from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24 at

6777 W. Kiest Boulevard in the parking lot on the Carter BloodCare bus. For more information or to schedule an appointment time, contact Liza Solares at 214-331-0954.

Eat a nutritious meal and drink plenty of water one to two hours before giving blood. Standard eligi-

bility requirements are a minimum weight of 110 pounds, the donor feels well that day and presents a government-issued photo ID at each donation.

For more information on donor eligibility and to make an appointment, call or text 800-366-2834 or visit [carterbloodcare.org](http://carterbloodcare.org)

## City and county funding agreements approved by DART Board on Nov. 12

The Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Board approved interlocal agreements for street repairs and technical assistance with Plano, Richardson and Dallas County at their meeting on Tues., Nov. 12.

DART's Street Repair Policy was approved in 1994 to assist service area

cities with needed repairs. That policy was amended in 1997 to develop a street repair process to select projects for consideration based on budgets and DART's Twenty-Year Financial Plan.

The cities and the county identified projects determined to be consistent with

the program and a benefit to DART before submitting them for approval.

For Richardson, the board's action means the complete pavement replacement of Main Street from near Sherman Street to just east of Greenville Avenue and several traffic enhancements at the Main

Street/Greenville Avenue intersection, including new turn lanes and a signal replacement.

The creation of a more pedestrian-friendly and bike-friendly area, with new and wider sidewalks, light fixtures, picnic tables, benches, trash receptacles and bike racks, and a pe-

destrian crossing signal installed at Main Street and McKinney Street are also included for a total cost of \$330,590.

Plano projects include continuous sidewalk on both sides of Plano Parkway, design for roadway, sidewalk and driveway improvements along Plano

Parkway between Independence Parkway and Alma Drive, a hike and bike trail on the south side of the roadway, installation of sidewalks with improved traffic and pedestrian railings on three bridges and updates to four DART bus stops along the trail totaling \$205,533.



# DISD Racial Equity Office makes its voice heard at the state capitol



**Joyce Foreman**  
Dallas ISD  
District 6

Dallas Independent School District (DISD) received a special invitation from Texas State Board of Education Representative Aicha Davis to share public comments in support of statewide adoption of the African American Studies curriculum.

The Racial Equity Office (REO), in collaboration with the Social Studies Department of the Teaching and Learning Division, coordinated efforts to travel to the State Capitol Building in Austin, on Wednesday, November 13, to present testimony in support of the African American Studies (AAS) course, which is currently taught at sixteen (16)



Trustee Joyce Foreman and others testified in Austin recently on behalf of the DISD Racial Equity Office. (Courtesy photo)

high schools. The larger appeal was to make the African American Studies curriculum available to all high schools throughout the state of Texas.

This one-day trip involved many DISD stakeholders including students, teachers,

administrators, curriculum writers, and advocates to be a part of the public hearing. The highlight of this opportunity showcased the cultural experience and cultural impact that the African American Studies curriculum has in the lives of our students.

We had a great turnout at the Texas State Capitol. More than 43 high school students from the New Tech, Pinkston, and Garza campuses attended the hearing, and 11 students participated by providing public testimonies. Adult attendees also serving

as speakers and/or advocates included the following individuals:

- Trustee Joyce Foreman, District 6
- Leslie Williams, Deputy Chief, Racial Equity Office
- Shannon Trejo, Deputy Chief, Teaching and Learn-

ing

- Arlena Gaynor, Executive Director, Language and Literacy Department
- Michelle Prudhomme-Coleman, Director, Racial Equity Office
- Sharon Bond, Director, Social Studies Department
- Macario Hernandez, Principal, Garza Early College High School
- Claudia Simpkins, Teacher, Garza Early College High School
- Shareefah Nadir-Mason, Teacher, New Tech High School at B.F. Darrell
- Dr. Marvin Dulaney, Community Partner, University of Texas Arlington – Professor

By focusing our efforts in support of the African American Studies (AAS) curriculum, we were able to have an impact on the State Board of Education to approve the Ethnic Studies curriculum in Texas school districts.

## Women find entrepreneurial empowerment at UT Dallas Conference

(UT-Dallas) The University of Texas at Dallas' Women's Summit recently attracted more than 350 people interested in learning more about entrepreneurship; they left the day-long event with ideas for further education, inspiration and empowerment.

One of those attendees was Harshini Rallapalli, a cognitive science junior and vice president of the UT Dallas E-Club — a student organization focused on entrepreneurship. She described the second annual event as a way to see through a window of possibilities for her future self.

"It gave me an opportunity to imagine how life can be a little different, how I can do something different — take that risk or dare to even do something different," she said. "Giving people a space where [they] can imagine themselves being changed is a very powerful thing."

The summit was part of Women's Entrepreneurship Week, a global movement in October in which thousands of women in 43 states and 30 countries con-



Harshini Rallapalli (left), vice president of a UT Dallas student organization focused on entrepreneurship, moderated a discussion with Courtney Caldwell MBA'06 and her husband, Dr. Tye Caldwell, at the Women's Summit. The Caldwells founded ShearShare, a mobile app that connects salon and barbershop owners to licensed stylists to fill unused suites and stations on demand.

verged on more than 200 universities. At UT Dallas' event, about half of the participants were students, staff and faculty, while the rest were entrepreneurs and corporate professionals.

Dresden Goldberg, director of programs and operations at the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, said the summit was started last year to show women in the UT Dallas community that entrepreneurship is available to them.

Administrators at the institute realized that even though 43% of UT Dallas

students are women, "very few were taking advantage of our entrepreneurial programs," Goldberg said. "The summit is an inspirational event, a way to bring women around to see that we offer these programs to support them, too."

The institute presented the summit in partnership with the Dallas Entrepreneur Center's WEDallas program. Nearly 40 speakers discussed a variety of topics that provided nuts-and-bolts advice on starting and operating a business, along with healthy doses of encouragement and inspi-

ration.

### Breaking Free, Moving Forward

Keynote speakers included Courtney Caldwell MBA'06 and her husband, Dr. Tye Caldwell, co-founders of ShearShare, a mobile app that connects salon and barbershop owners to licensed stylists to fill unused suites and stations on demand.

Rallapalli, who served as the moderator for their discussion, said the Caldwells' and others' presentations highlighted the need for women to break free of the boxes they put themselves in when they do not envision themselves as entrepreneurs.

Goldberg agreed that moving forward in trying to realize a dream, whether or not the resources are available, is the best thing a woman can do.

"I like one of the things that Courtney said in her session about how the only thing she regrets is that she didn't start sooner," Goldberg said. "All the connections that were made and the stories that were shared

during the summit were really incredible and will help inspire women toward pursuing their dreams."

For the lunchtime "fire-side chat," Susy Solis of radio station KRLD interviewed Tiffany and Leon Chen, co-founders of Austin-based bakery Tiff's Treats. Lila Stewart, co-founder of footwear company Hari Mari, which specializes in high-end flip flops, gave the closing keynote address.

### Empowering Moments

Rashi Daga, a mechanical engineering sophomore, hoped to learn some of the finer points of pitching the company she started in India with her mother. She attended a session in which Leah Frazier, owner and founder of Think Three Media, spoke about "Cost-Efficient Public Relations, Media Outreach and Communications Strategies for Your Business."

During the session, Daga gave an impromptu pitch to the audience, and Frazier was so impressed that she later introduced Daga to some colleagues.

"When I stood up in the middle of 50 people and gave my pitch, everyone was looking at me and listening to me," she said. "That was the empowering moment when I thought I could really take that first step, voice things out, get the opinions that I need, and I might even be able to sell my product."

Coraima Saavedra, a business administration sophomore, volunteered at the summit. As an aspiring entrepreneur, she saw the event not only as a networking opportunity but also as a way to empower women such as herself.

"Seeing these women who are making it out there as entrepreneurs — they're role models to follow," she said. "When Courtney Caldwell and Tye walked in, they looked like super-cool people who seemed so down to earth but at the same time looked like they had been through life. It's crazy to think what they had to go through to get where they're at. It makes me think that I can be like that."



# Carrollton ranked one of the safest cities in Texas in 2018

The City of Carrollton continues to experience one of the lowest rates of crime among surrounding cities of comparable size in North Texas.

The Texas Department of Public Safety recently released its Crime in Texas report for 2018, a compilation of crime data published annually that enables cities to compare crimes and crime trends across jurisdictions.

In comparison with similarly-sized cities within the North Texas jurisdiction — those with populations of more than 100,000 — Carrollton's numbers are the fourth lowest. According to the report, Carrollton has the lowest crime rate of any city over 100,000 people in both Dallas and Denton County.

Carrollton Executive Director of Public Safety Rex Redden said since 2000, Carrollton's population has shown steady growth while crime has shown a steady decrease.

"The highest percentage of crime in Carrollton is related to property crime: theft primarily, but also burglaries of homes and vehicles," Redden said.

## Go 'Blue' for Irving's kids

The Police and Fire Blue Christmas Food and Toy Drive returns for the holiday season with events starting Nov. 30 and running through December.

Those planning to donate items have two chances to drop them off at Walmart, 4100 W. Airport Freeway, on the following dates:

- 5 to 9 p.m., Nov. 30.
- 5 to 9 p.m., Dec. 10.

Volunteers are asking for

## Avoiding post-Thanksgiving plumbing bills

The City of Plano offers suggestions on how to avoid post-Thanksgiving plumbing bills

Keep your Thanksgiving fun and festive without unexpected plumbing problems by following these simple tips:

- Don't dump cooking fats, oils or grease down your sink drain. It can plug your pipes, causing sewer

Cities (100,000+)	2018 Crime Rate
McKinney	12.10
Allen	13.45
Frisco	14.59
<b>CARROLLTON</b>	<b>18.49</b>
Plano	18.61
Lewisville	19.83
Richardson	22.24
Grand Prairie	22.32
Irving	25.69
Denton	26.33
Garland	29.69
Fort Worth	33.50
Arlington	34.25
Mesquite	40.23
Dallas	40.33

"The most important part of keeping the crime rate low is for residents to not get complacent. Carrollton is a safe community, but in order to keep valuables secure, doors must be locked, garage doors kept closed, and property not left out in the open. Removing the opportunity for a crime to occur will greatly reduce the risk of becoming a crime victim."

The DPS report is based on Part 1 index crimes which include murder, rape, robbery, burglary, theft (larceny), and auto

new, unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items.

Two other events to remember:

- Chili Cook-Off: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 7 at Heritage Park, 217 S. Main St.

- Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 a.m. Dec. 14 at Plymouth Park Baptist Church, 1714 N. Story Road.

Contestants can enter the Chili Cook-Off for \$10, and chili enthusiasts can taste en-

water to back up into your house or your neighborhood.

- Use cold water to rinse pots and pans.

- Collect smaller amounts of used, cooled cooking oil in a sturdy, plastic container with a screw-top lid. When the container is full, put it in the trash cart.

- Schedule a free pick up for 1 or more gallons of cooking or turkey fryer oil.

theft. When comparing Part 1 index crimes, the rate is per 1,000 residents. Carrollton's crime rate for 2018, the most recent rating available, stands at 18.49, the lowest crime rate in Carrollton's recent history.

"The significance of this comparison is that the information source is the Texas Department of Public Safety, which provides a single statistical compilation method to compare crime occurrences in all Texas cities," Assistant City Manager Marc Guy said. "Based upon the

tries for \$5. At the breakfast, plates of pancakes, bacon and sausage cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for ages 10 and younger. Both events will feature various family friendly attractions. Santa Claus will be making an appearance at both events.

Donations also can be made at any Irving Fire Station beginning Nov. 30 through Dec. 31.

For more information, visit [CityofIrving.org/455](http://CityofIrving.org/455).

Just collect it in a container (like above) and call Environmental Waste Services at 972-769-4150 to recycle it into bio-diesel fuel.

- Pour fats and grease into a container to harden. Trash it when full.

- Soak up small amounts of fats, oils or grease from pots and pans with a paper towel, then toss the towel in the trash.

standardized crime report, Carrollton's overall Part 1 index crime rate has stayed relatively the same compared to 2017 and has declined by more than 28 percent since 2012 in the same crime categories."

Similar rankings were found in a 2019 study conducted by the National Council for Home Safety and Security. The study factored 7,639 Texas cities in the ranking with populations ranging from 7,639 to 4,007,147. Carrollton was ranked at number 58 with a crime rating of 17.523.

The study listed the City of Carrollton as one of the Safest Cities in Texas in 2019 with the fourth lowest crime rate among its comparably-sized cities in North Texas.

Carrollton Police Chief Derick Miller commended his officers for not only keeping Carrollton safe, but for doing so in what has become a very difficult law-enforcement landscape over the past two years with regard to unfunded mandates of the state and federal governments.

Despite the challenges, Miller said, the Carroll-

ton Police Department has stood firm in its commitment to proactive policing, while at the same time building and maintaining trust with the City's residents through a commitment to community engagement.

Redden credits Carrollton's crime reduction within the community to its use of intelligence-led and community policing-models to focus on the core issues of crime as well as the proactive way the CPD protects the community while treating all they encounter with professionalism, dignity, and respect.

"It is truly a partnership between the police and our community that makes us all much safer," Redden said. "We're in it together and together, we can make a difference."

CPD also participates in many community engagement events such as National Night Out held just this past October. Police, along with Mayor Kevin Falconer and members of the City Council visited neighborhoods that had gatherings planned to promote the police-communi-

ty-building campaign.

"Stepping out of the office and into the neighborhood helps the City reach its citizens in a more personalized way," Falconer said. "We, like our residents, are interested in what can make Carrollton a better place to live and raise a family."

Miller encourages residents to attend these gatherings.

"Community engagement is a priority at the CPD, and we are intentional in our efforts to build and maintain good relationships with the people we serve," Miller said.

Events and programs such as Coffee with a Cop, Citizens Police Academy, and UNIDOS — a Hispanic community outreach program designed to provide assistance to Spanish speakers in Carrollton — are great opportunities for officers to meet with citizens, discuss concerns, and get to know one another better.

For more information on Carrollton's public safety and community outreach efforts, visit [cityofcarrollton.com/police](http://cityofcarrollton.com/police).

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### Addison

Vitruvian Park will celebrate the start of **Vitruvian Lights** with the Flip the Switch Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 29 at 6 p.m. Every night is free and open to all ages. On opening night, guests will have the chance to meet Santa and his reindeer, enjoy a concert by Jordan Kahn Orchestra, write and send letters to Santa, meet holiday characters and more! The lights will remain on every night from 5 – 11 p.m. through Jan. 1.

Event parking is \$10, cash only, at two locations: Alfred J. Loos Sports Complex and Vitruvian Park.

In addition to the Flip the Switch Ceremony, Vitruvian Park will host two Magical Nights of Lights.

Phat Strad will perform on Friday, Dec. 7 and Sonny's Holiday will perform on Friday, Dec. 14. Both nights will feature Santa and his reindeer, holiday characters and a letter-writing station.

### Carrollton

The annual **Holiday in the Plaza** and tree lighting is returning to the Castle Hills Village Shops on Saturday, Nov. 30, 4-7 p.m. Holiday in the Plaza is festive and free and takes place in the Village Shops, a neighborhood destination with several unique eateries and retail shops.

**Old-Fashioned Christmas in Carrollton** will feature Victorian carolers and Santa Claus will be spreading holiday cheer. Enjoy cookies, ornament crafts, and merrymaking at the annual event to welcome the season. Tour the historic 1909 Perry Home to see its festive decorations. Informal tours are available throughout the evening. The A. W. Perry

Homestead Museum is located at 1509 N. Perry Rd. The event is from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

### Dallas

The Boho Market at The Hill, an ongoing monthly market, is **hosting two coat drives through One Warm Coat** to collect clean, gently worn or new coats during their November and December markets. The coat donation will be located in the space between Snooze and Leslie's Pool Supplies from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**ArtMart** is a chance to get a head start on your holiday shopping while enjoying live music, food available, free admission and parking at the Bath House Cultural Center, 521 East Lawther Drive on Nov. 22 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**Small Business Saturday at White Rock Farmers Market** on Saturday, Nov. 30 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. is a chance to support

local small businesses.

**African American Women's Symposium: #SayHerName** is scheduled for Nov. 23 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at SMU Collins Executive Center, Crum Auditorium. This year's theme is entitled, "Say Her Name: Black Women's Struggle with Police Violence."

### Fort Worth

**Black State Of Emergency - Standing Up For Black Lives** is Sunday, Nov. 24 at 4 p.m. at Bob Bolen Public Safety Complex located at 501 W Felix St.

### Garland

Need someone to check on your home while you're away for the holidays? **Garland Police's Vacation Watch** program provides uniformed volunteers in marked police cars to check on homes while residents are away on vacation. Add your home to the watch list by downloading a Vaca-

tion Watch Request Form. Learn more at [GarlandPolice.com](http://GarlandPolice.com).

### Lewisville

Come celebrate the annual **Fall Fashion Fest** on Saturday, Nov. 23, Noon-5 p.m., in and around Old Town Lewisville. Food and beverages will be available for purchase on-site. Info at [cityoflewisville.com](http://cityoflewisville.com).

### Plano

Shop at **Plano Christmas Market** on Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 24 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Carpenter Park Rec Center located at 6701 Coit Road. Admission is free.

Visit **Dickens in the Downtown Plano Arts District** where strolling carolers in costume bring entertainment to you. Stop by the Interurban Museum for some Polar Express fun. Head to Haggard Park at 7 p.m. for the annual tree lighting ceremony with Plano Mayor Harry LaRo-

siliere. Stop by the free S'more Station for some toasty treats courtesy of Central Market.

Our food vendors offer hot drinks, kettle corn, smoked turkey legs, fried fish and shrimp, funnel cake and more. Or if you prefer to dine indoors, visit a nearby restaurant. Find something special at the Vendor Village or in Downtown Plano's amazing shops.

Ride a real snow slide and watch the ice wars. Take free photos with a Victorian Santa. See you along the Trimmed Tree Trail on Friday, Dec. 6 from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

### Richardson

The public is invited to join the Mayor, City Council and City staff in celebrating the **Richardson Public Library's 60 years of service** at a reception Friday, Nov. 22. The reception will be held from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the first floor of the Library. All ages are welcome to attend.

## Raising Cane's donates more than \$100,000 to Kidd's Kids

Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers recently hosted its eighth annual Kidd's Kids fundraiser where more than 150 participating restaurants nationwide donated 15% of the day's net proceeds to the memory-making charitable program started by legendary radio host Kidd Kraddick.

On Nov. 13, Raising Cane's Founder & CEO Todd Graves presented a check for \$104,622 to Kidd's Kids CEO Caroline Kraddick and the cast of The Kidd Kraddick Morning Show.

"We are proud supporters of Kidd's Kids and huge fans of The Kidd Kraddick Morning Show, so we always look forward to hosting this fundraiser each year," Graves said. "Thanks to our generous customers, Raising Cane's is able to continue to support Kidd's Kids' incredible work with these brave

children and their families. We are honored to have the opportunity to help continue Kidd's extraordinary legacy with his daughter Caroline."

Raising Cane's has been a Kidd's Kids partner for eight years and with this year's donation, the company has donated more than \$600,000 to the organization.

Founded in 1991, Kidd's Kids was developed on the premise of making a difference in the lives of children with life-altering and life-threatening conditions. During the five-day trip, which is scheduled for Nov. 21-25 this year, Kidd's Kids and their families enjoy all the excitement that a Walt Disney World getaway can offer. For many families, this is a rare opportunity to escape hospitals and treatment centers and share laughter and fun in a magical environment.

Kidd's Kids covers all expenses related to the trip.

"We are grateful for Todd, his team and Caniacs nationwide for their continued support and generosity," said Caroline Kraddick, daughter of Kidd Kraddick, who now serves as CEO and Chief Happiness Officer of her late father's legacy. "We could not provide such an exciting and once in a lifetime experience without the support of our listeners and partners like Raising Cane's. We couldn't be more grateful for this ongoing partnership and can't wait for this year's trip. It's going to be magical!"

The Kidd Kraddick Morning Show is a syndicated morning radio show heard on more than 65 stations across the country, and on American Forces Radio, from 6 – 10 a.m. CT. To learn more, visit [KiddNation.com](http://KiddNation.com).

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# Lions dare Dak to beat them; a bet they lose 35-27

By Dwain Price  
NDG Sports



**FRISCO** — In some strange way, it's as if NFL teams are stacking their defense to not only prevent running back Ezekiel Elliott from beating them, but also daring quarterback Dak Prescott to beat them.

Prescott took that dare head-on at Detroit on Sunday afternoon and put on a scintillating performance as the Dallas Cowboys rallied to upend the Lions, 35-27. The four-year veteran passed for a whopping 444 yards and three touchdowns as the Cowboys – coupled with Philadelphia's 17-10 loss to the New England

Patriots – took over sole possession of the first place position in the NFC East with a 6-4 record.

With Elliott only able to rush for 45 yards on 16 carries because of the Lions' defensive scheme, Prescott again became the focal point of the Cowboys' offense. And he delivered — again — big-time.

Spraying the ball all over the field in a precision-like manner. Prescott connected

with seven different receivers en route to passing for 841 yards over the last two games. That's a two-game team record which was previously set by Don Meredith in 1963, but Prescott didn't go around gloating about his accomplishments.

"I know I can continue to play better and play better than I did (Sunday)," he said. "That's what I focus on. I don't think about performances in the past. I'm not going to sit here and live too much on this performance. It's about what we can do now, how I can get better."

## Too early to discuss MVP for Dak?

This is the third game this

season in which Prescott has passed for over 400 yards after entering this season with just three 400-yard passing games. He had 274 yards passing a pair of touchdowns in the first half, which ended with the Cowboys up 24-14 after they racked up 322 of their 509 total yards at that juncture.

What made Sunday's achievement even more impressive is that Prescott's favorite receiver (Amari Cooper) struggled mightily while battling injuries and finished with just three catches for 38 yards. But Michael Gallup caught nine passes for 148 yards, and Randall Cobb had four re-

ceptions for 115 yards and a touchdown as the receiving core didn't miss a beat.

"He's playing phenomenally," Cooper said of Prescott. "We can't ask for much more out of him."

"He's thrown for a lot of yards, he's really adjusting to the offense, he's taken command. He knows exactly how to go out there and shred the defense that we're going up against every week."

Of course, what's a Cowboys game without the team finding themselves in an early hole. It happened for the seventh time this season, as Elliott lost a fumble at Dallas' 28-yard

line on the game's second play, and Detroit took a 7-0 lead after needing just five plays to move the ball into the end zone.

But Prescott got the offense rolling by firing a 21-yard touchdown to rookie Tony Pollard. Later on, Gallup made a spectacular 41-yard circus catch that highlighted a one-yard TD burst by Elliott which put Dallas ahead, 17-14.

"I wasn't even supposed to run that route," Gallup admitted. "I kind of messed myself up, so that's really why I had to catch the ball because I messed it up."

**See COWBOYS, Page 10**

## **NDG Entertainment: Christmas lights, music and more this week in DFW**

The holidays have arrived and you have plenty of options for enjoying early Christmas shopping, concerts, comedy and more in this week's *NDG* Entertainment Calendar. Keep an eye on [NorthDallasGazette.com](http://NorthDallasGazette.com) for more updates.

Blues on Nov. 24 at 8 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at LiveNation.

Ride on the wings of love once again with **Jeffrey Osborne and enjoy Peabo Bryson** at the Music Hall at Fair Park on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 8 p.m.

**Pete the Cat**, a musical production based on the popular children's book is on stage at the Eisemann Center on Nov. 24 at 2:30 pm. Tickets start at \$12 at [eisemanncenter.com](http://eisemanncenter.com).

by Ice Rink Rinks. Take a spin on outdoor ice skating rink, which will be open through Jan. 12, 2020, and create magical memories with family and friends. All the fun begins at North Plaza at Globe Life Field (next to Texas Live!) at 1650 E. Randol Mill Rd., in Arlington.

Join **Dauché** and **Jabari**  
on the **2019 R&B ONLY**  
tour on Nov. 29 at 8:30  
p.m. to 1 p.m. at the House  
of Blues.

Take a **Photo with Santa** at the Dallas Farmers Market Nov. 30 - Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for \$15. More info on Facebook events.

Four-time Grammy award winners and Rock & Roll Hall of Fame nominees **The Doobie Brothers** have announced a 30-city North American tour to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the band's founding. They are coming to the Toyota Music Factory on October 9, 2020 with tickets going on sale Friday, Dec. 6 at LiveNation. And yes Michael McDonald is rejoining the band for the tour.



The **Prairie Lights** is opening next weekend on Nov. 28 till Dec. 29. There will be a 2 mile path of millions of lights, a chance to meet Santa, a gift shop, and food concessions. [prairie-lights.org/tickets](http://prairie-lights.org/tickets)

**Ice Skating in the North Plaza** at the Texas Christkindl Market on a 5,000 sq. ft. of frozen fun produced

**Gaylord Texan's ICE!** attraction, offers a magical walk-through holiday exhibit featuring two million pounds of hand-carved ice sculptures that tell the classic story, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, by Charles Shultz. Each were hand-sculpted by visiting artisans who traveled across the globe from Harbin, China, to Grapevine, Texas, to spend 30 days carving the wintry masterpiece. Other features include an ice bar (ages 21 and up), six ice slides, a life-size Nativity scene, and more. Complimentary parkas are provided to keep all guests warm.

Enjoy the smooth and sultry sounds of **Kem and Keke Wyatt** at the Music Hall at Fair Park, Friday Nov. 22 starting at 8 p.m.

Singer **Zhavia** is performing at the House of

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The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Inc., 2019-2020 49th season programs are supported in part by: the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, CBS-11/TKA-11, Vail Dallas, Dallas FPD, AARP, The Public Defender, City, Urban Radio Dallas and its various programs, MEDIA PARTNERS: The Dallas Weekly, The Downtown Business News, 14MattersNews.com, The Garland Journal, Texas Metro News, The Dallas Fort Worth, The Post Tribune, The North Dallas Courier, Southern Dallas Business & Living Magazine and NTHRenew.

## Enter to Win! Ticket Giveaway

***NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit us on Facebook to win tickets to the the hottest events in Dallas/Fort Worth!!!!***



# Take a break from shopping and family in Dallas during the holiday break for self-care

We love our family and many of us love the madness of holiday shopping, however, sometimes we need a break from it all and just do a few things which we find relaxing or feed our inner nerd. Here are a few options in Dallas to enjoy during the Thanksgiving holiday break.

**Relive your Childhood with Videogames at the Cidercade** – For only \$10 you can play vintage video games all day. With over 170 games that range from head-to-head combat to pinball machines will



Enjoy a free ride on the McKinney Avenue Trolley and enjoy an afternoon at Klyde Warren Park or sip mint tea at Baboush in Uptown. (Image: McKinney Avenue Trolley Twitter)

leave feeling like you did before you were forced to ADULT! Bishop Cidercade

**Make a Gratitude List at the Dallas Arboretum** – Educators enjoy

free admission to the Dallas Arboretum. Take time to write a Gratitude list at the Dallas Arboretum and literally smell the flowers. And while you are at it eat CAKE at one of the many dining options available tucked away in the gardens. [dallasarboretum.org](http://dallasarboretum.org)

**Savor Happy Hour Connection with Friends** – Make a reservation online and invite friends to meet you for Happy Hour at Savor located inside Klyde Warren Park. Can't parallel park? No problem; Savor validates parking if you

spend \$10. Arrive before your guests and check-out a board game from Klyde Warren Park's library. If your friends are not available check-out a book or magazine and just enjoy a Moscow Mule while reading alone on one the many comfy couches Savor has to offer. [savorgastropub.com](http://savorgastropub.com) and [klydewarrenpark.org](http://klydewarrenpark.org)

**Enjoy a Podcast While Sipping Mint Tea at Baboush in Uptown** – Catch the McKinney Avenue Trolley to Baboush in Uptown. Order a pot of Mint

Tea and listen to your favorite podcast. [baboush-dallas.com/restaurant](http://baboush-dallas.com/restaurant) and [mata.org](http://mata.org)

**Dollar Tree Disney Plus Chill Bag** – Sign-Up for the free seven day trial of Disney Plus & then CHILL. (Set your alarm to cancel in 7 days). Head down to the Dollar Tree and select nine items for your chill bag. My suggestions are popcorn, hot sauce (for the popcorn), Arizona tea, fruit punch, BBQ chips, bath salts, cookies, Skittles, and gummi bears. [disneyplus.com](http://disneyplus.com) and [dollartree.com](http://dollartree.com)



## 'Scorpion Inside Me' is the latest release from Maya by Name

Bold, powerful vocals and lyrics is how the new single, "Scorpion Inside Me" by Maya by Name is described.

The single exudes passion, power, and strength. It was released to digital retailers including Apple Music on Nov. 1.

Maya Gabrielle Satterwhite, the Buffalo-born and based, is better known as pop sensation Maya by Name is a talented singer and songwriter. Her first

single, "To You, From Me" from her EP Arrival along with the music video was released in 2015.

With the popular breakout EP and the "To You, From Me" hit single, Maya by Name toured and performed at many noteworthy venues including Canalside Buffalo and the legendary Tralf Music Hall.

In 2016, Maya by Name released her EP Next Verse that included the smash hit

single, "Boss" along with the music video.

Her standout sound blends pop with flavors of R&B, Hip-Hop, and Funk.

The budding talent highlighted 2017 as the opening act for the Savage tour with Grammy Award-nominated R&B artist Tank in Buffalo, New York.

In 2018, Maya by Name released her single "Raymond" and the music video in which she wrote and pro-

duced.

In November 2018, Maya by Name released her single "Rose Petals" along with the music video. On December 21, 2018, Maya by Name released her empowerment album titled, She that is adored by fans and media nationally.

For more information on Maya by Name, visit <https://mayaoofficialmusic.com>.

## COWBOYS, from Page 9

Gallup, of course, can be excused for not being totally focused on the task at hand. Sunday was the one-year anniversary of the death of his brother, Andrew, who committed suicide.

"Obviously it's going to be tough around this time every year," Gallup said. "His birthday was Nov. 10 — it's always a hard one."

"I've always loved his game and he was out there watching me. It's just a little hole in your heart now, but football helps me fill that void and I go out there and do what I do, and he definitely sees it."

As far as Cobb goes, this was his second straight 100-yard reception game as he and Prescott are starting to finally get on the same page.

"I'm starting to get a feel for how I fit into this offense, the coaching staff is starting to know what I'm good at, and the blend of the two I think it definitely helps," Cobb said. "That's what we pride ourselves on is we've got guys that can get the job done across the board, and that's what it takes to win in this league."

"Whenever they try to take one person away we're able to make big plays in

the back end. I think we've shown throughout this year what we're capable of. It's just finding ways to win, and we were able to do that (Sunday)."

While the Cowboys realize they're not winning with style points, they know that just a mere victory will suffice at this point and time.

Meanwhile, Elliott had some fun at the Lions' expense. After scoring on a side-arm TD pass from Prescott to put the Cowboys ahead, 35-21, with 7:56 remaining in the game, Elliott proceeded to do the hip-swivel dance which Prescott does during pregame warmups that have been all the rage.

# Black NATIVITY

By Langston Hughes

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# HUD rolls back fair housing rules as discrimination reaches a 24-year high

By Charlene Crowell

As a candidate, President Donald Trump promised if elected that deregulation of the federal government would be an administration priority. Soon after taking the oath of office, he issued an executive order requiring that all departments and agencies to eliminate two existing regulations for every one new regulation proposed. In some cases, rules that were adopted prior to his term office but had not yet taken effect were either suspended or delayed.

For example, the long-awaited payday rule at the

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) was one important consumer protection that was delayed. Similarly, at the Department of Education, two rules providing protections for student loans were also delayed. More recently, this column shared how Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson claimed that regulation was the reason for homelessness, not affordable housing.

Now new research by the National Fair Housing Alliance finds that as fair lending laws have not been aggressively enforced, a

corresponding rise in hate crimes and fair housing complaints have emerged.

Defending Against Unprecedented Attacks on Fair Housing: 2019 Fair Housing Trends Report, recently released by the DC-based National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), tallied 31,202 discriminatory housing complaints filed in just one year – 2018. Moreover, this data point is the highest number ever reported since the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) began collecting data 24 years ago. America's hate crimes jumped 14.7% last year as well.

Even when it comes to enforcing and defending legal breaches, NFHA's report documents how few government offices are upholding laws. Some 75% of last year's fair housing complaints were pursued by private, non-profit organizations across the country. Only 25% of such cases were the result of combined government actions by state, local and federal agencies.

"All the tools and resources we have been afforded by the passage of our Fair Housing Act and fair lending laws are either under attack or being gut-

ted," noted Lisa Rice, President and CEO of NFHA. "[W]e must concern ourselves with policies pushed by our federal, state, and local governments that are steeped in hatred and designed to inflict pain."

Instead of strengthening federal fair housing guarantees, HUD is a prime example of how regulations are trying to reverse decades of progress. One particular HUD rule, disparate impact, is at severe risk. This long-standing legal tool has helped root out discriminatory practices and policies in both housing and lending. In 2013 and under the

Obama Administration, HUD set up safeguards that assured consumers could pursue related claims while businesses were protected against claims without merit.

With disparate impact, both community banks and FDIC-insured institutions have achieved net growth profits. The rule has proven to create lending that is fairer and profits that investors desire.

Even a 2015 landmark fair housing case that made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court upheld disparate im-

**See HUD, Page 12**

## SENINOLE, from Page 1

always my desire to initially write the screenplay for a motion picture. I've been interested in little known historical facts concerning African American, minority, and it has really concerned me that there's just not much in the history books about true contributions that they've made and young people are not being educated concerning those contributions," she adds on what led her to do this project.

Black Seminoles were also known as Seminole Maroons or Seminole Freedmen. They were a group of blacks and runaway slaves that joined forces with the Seminole Indians in Florida from the time approximately between the 1700s-1800s, per an article written by Kathleen Kuiper, former Senior Arts & Culture Editor of Encyclopedia Britannica.

According to Kuiper, throughout the 18th century, many free blacks and runaway slaves went to Florida, where they lived peaceably with the Seminole Indians. In 1693, slavery was abolished in the Spanish territory of Florida, in which the area became a safe haven for runaway slaves.

There were three wars fought within the Seminole tribe between the early to mid-1800s. The First Semi-

nole War (1817-1818), was the most significant as it relates to African Americans. The premise of this war was an attempt by the United States government to recapture runaway black slaves living among Seminole groups. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, this war was led by General Andrew Jackson, where U.S. military forces invaded the area and ultimately seized Spanish-controlled Pensacola and St. Marks.

In the screenplay, Princess Hialeah is a fictional character loosely based on real-life characters of the Indigenous people of Florida. According to Noah, the story unfolds through the eyes of the protagonist, Seminole Princess Hialeah, as she struggles to live her mystical life in Florida that has been turned upside down amid the backdrop of the First, Second and Third Seminole Wars.

Noah hopes the film, once produced and released, will have not only an entertainment factor but also an educational one. As she intentionally hopes this story will give more attention to the adverse affects genocide has had on blacks and Indigenous people throughout history.

"In some respects, it changed the people psychologically," Noah explains in regards to the damage geno-



*Dr. Belinda Noah is spearheading an effort to preserve a lost piece of American history. (Courtesy photo)*

cide had, particularly on the Indigenous people both in the Black Native American and White Native American communities.

Noah is seeking to tell a story appealing to the majority of the population while remaining true to the story. She considered having a protagonist like Princess Hialeah to speak to the maternal aspect of the culture, while at the same time addressing the cohesiveness of the family in how they work together to achieve their goals.

"I was inspired by the need to educate the world concerning little known, but true history of the Indigenous people of Florida and the United States and that we were thriving and very successful long before Columbus arrived."

According to Noah, this film will not only tell the struggles of the Black Seminoles but will celebrate the tenacity and endurance of its people, and that's the message she hopes will res-

onate loud and clear to the audience.

"It's based on a true story about African Indigenous people who faced the worst unimaginable form of genocide, racism, and other atrocities yet they still survived...they survived because of perseverance, courage, character, and love of family, people,

and Nation. I think that if people hold onto those principles today and in the future, we will continue to survive and thrive, so that's the message I want to deliver," she adds.

Noah still needs financial investors, and she explains it is her desire to partner with an established film producer within the enter-

tainment industry to help bring her dream to fruition.

For more information about how to partner with Dr. Belinda Noah in bringing this film to life, contact her via phone at 813-808-5351 or via email at [info@belindanoahproductions.org](mailto:info@belindanoahproductions.org) or visit her website at [www.belindanoahproductions.org](http://www.belindanoahproductions.org).

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A local community newspaper is seeking a delivery person, one day per week (Thursday's only) to complete up to 75 bulk drops of the paper.

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# Tips to protect your money during the holiday season

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!"

That's what we tell ourselves and sing during the holiday season. Unfortunately, thieves feel the same way. As holiday shopping goes up, so does the possibility of fraud. Ally Bank offers a few tips on how to protect yourself and your money this holiday season. Common sense and precaution can prevent fraudsters from stealing your purchases as well as your bank account this holiday season.

**Tips to save your money, gifts, and peace of mind this holiday season**

**Don't let your card out of sight:** Unscrupulous restaurant staff and shop clerks have been known to collect credit card information with a skimming device or simply by snapping a picture.

**Monitor your accounts closely:** Fraudsters often sit on your bank or credit card details for weeks and months, hoping to catch you unaware when you're back in a familiar routine. If possible, set up mobile banking alerts for your smartphone so you can spot unusual activity right away. Ally Bank customers and

several major banks allow customers to set alerts for debit transactions over a set amount.

**Be wary of internet cafes and public Wi-Fi:** No internet connection or Wi-Fi signal is totally secure, but there are ways to determine whether a particular network is relatively safe to use. It's surprisingly easy for a hacker to monitor your browsing on a public network, even if there's a password or encryption certificate.

**If possible, use your debit card for cash access only, and avoid sus-**

**picious ATMs.** If anything on the front of the ATM looks broken, dislodged, or jerry-rigged, it could mean that someone has installed a card skimming machine.

**Many banks now offer some form of credit/**

**debit card management,** so if your bank offers a card control feature, understand how to use it.

• For example, if your card is lost or misplaced, turn it off immediately to protect yourself.

• To further help protect customers from this type of activity, we offer the Ally Card Controls app designed to allow customers to personalize how, when

**See TIPS, Page 15**

## HUD, from Page 11

pact as a cognizable claim under the Fair Housing Act. In *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project, Inc.*, the nation's highest court found the disparate impact rule to be an important fair housing tool to move towards a more integrated society.

So why would Secretary Carson try to roll back a rule that should be settled law?

In joint comments filed by the Center for Responsible Lending, Self-Help Credit Union, and Self-Help Federal Credit Union, the organizations advised Secretary Carson.

"Instead of creating barriers for claimants, HUD should honor its mission and work to ensure that African-American, Latino, and other communities harmed by housing and lending discrimination have every tool to stop it so that all Americans have an opportunity to thrive," wrote the organizations.

For the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., the Rainbow Push Coalition, and scores of other local, state and regional faith members, HUD was reminded of the immorality of its proposed rule.

"Everyday Americans are now struggling to keep and/or find homes they can afford," wrote the clergy. "As housing prices rise faster than incomes, an increasing number of people grapple with challenges of how hard it is to keep their loved ones safe. When the additional and illegal burden of housing discrimination emerges, the lives of many people worsen."

Here's hoping that within government there are still public servants that support improving peoples' lives.

*Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's communications deputy director. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).*

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at an overall height of 36 feet atop a public lighting structure at the approx. vicinity of 975 Commerce Street, Dallas, Dallas County, TX, 75202 and to construct a 37-foot 4-inch network node pole at the approx. vicinity of 787 Lake Carolyn Pkwy., Irving, Dallas County, TX 75039, Lat: [32-51-54.39], Long: [-96-55-46.02]. 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](mailto:j.huter@trileaf.com), 2550 South IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*

AT&T Mobility proposes to build a 38-foot 7-inch node support Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 374 N. St. Paul St., Dallas, Dallas County, TX, 75201, Lat: [32.783676], Long: [-96.797236]. 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, Alicia, [a.santucci@trileaf.com](mailto:a.santucci@trileaf.com), 2550 S. IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*

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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.

### Ongoing City of Dallas

The City of Dallas' HR Dept is currently accepting apps for the Budget and Contract Administrator position. Bachelor's degree in a business/public administration, human resources or healthcare administration field, plus 7 yrs exp.

For more info and to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/2NcCfVP>.

### Ongoing House of Blues

Want a cool job in live music? House of Blues Dallas is hiring! Spruce up your resume and join us on Monday, August 26th for a Job Fair in our Cambridge Room from 1-5PM. All departments are hiring. View job openings at <http://liv>



enationentertainment.com/careers.

### On-going First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

Every month computer professionals can participate in the monthly job fair in the comfort of your PJs. Job Seekers must complete profile on [https://tao.ai/p/fff/\\_/dfw](https://tao.ai/p/fff/_/dfw)

#FirstFridayFair (#FFF) is estimated to be largest attended career fair with

around 8,000 professionals and 500 recruiting companies. The data science and software development focussed career fair is delivered right at your desktop. No need to travel anywhere, just signup and wait for TAO.ai to organize your interactions.

### On-Going Customer Rep job fairs

Pro Staff in Arlington will be hosting an in office Customer Service Representative Job Fair for a call center located downtown Dallas every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 700 Highlander Blvd. Suite 110. The positions pay between \$12 -

\$13.50 per hour plus up to \$1.50 an hour in performance pay. The workdays will vary, must be available 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., with overtime as needed. Must have at least one year of customer service experience.

### Nov. 21 Vets @ Jerry's World

RecruitMilitary.com is hosting their next Dallas area job fair at the AT&T Stadium on Nov. 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The job fair will take place in the AT&T Endzone West, please enter the stadium through Entry "J." Parking is free in Lot 10.

Event Success Tips

- Review the exhibitor list and conduct research to help you engage effectively.

- Visit every exhibitor - find the hidden opportunity that might be perfect for you.

- Take a moment to practice your 30-second elevator pitch.

- Make eye contact and confidently greet each recruiter with a smile and firm handshake.

- Deliver your elevator pitch and engage in conversation.

- Get the recruiter's contact information and ask about the best way to follow-up.



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**Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 36-foot small cell monopole Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 2413 Harry Hines Blvd, Dallas, Dallas County, TX, 75201, Lat: [32-47-25.151], Long: [-96-48-20.784]. 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, Alicia, a.santucci@trileaf.com, 2550 S. IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.***



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**November 24, 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.

**November 27, 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, Immerse, The Bible Reading, Poets, with supporting chapters and verses. Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you; it's Time to Grow in the Word of God.

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**November 27**  
Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study class and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

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of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there will not be room to receive." - Malachi 3:8-10

**November 22, 7 pm**  
All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 8 pm, (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

**November 24, 10 a.m.**  
Please join us for our Morning Service; and don't forget to invite family and friends to join us as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**November 25, 7 p.m.**  
You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us in His Holy Word.

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**November 24, 10 a.m.**  
Join us for Morning Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory. Don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

**November 27, 7 pm**  
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

**November 28,  
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**November 25, 7 to 8 pm  
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**November 27, 7 pm**  
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# Simply obey



**Sister Tarpley**  
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*"But Naaman went away angry and said, 'I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy'"*

(2 Kings 5:11-12).

Naaman was an army general who needed healing from Leprosy. A young servant girl of the king's house suggested that the prophet Elisha could heal him.

He followed her advice and Elisha sent a message to him to do the following: *"Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed"*

(2 Kings 5:10).

However, when the instruction came as to what he was to do, it seemed ridiculous to him.

Like many of us, Naaman expected God to perform his miracle through Elisha in a dramatic and "religious" way. Sometimes we fail to recognize that God can work through a simple act of obedience that seems unrelated to the problem.

God told Joshua to walk around Jericho seven times to win the battle. He told a man to put mud on his eyes

to be healed. He told Peter to catch a fish to get a coin to pay his taxes.

There are other times God calls us to use the natural to receive a breakthrough. Sometimes we simply need to change our diet or go see a doctor to see a breakthrough in our health.

Sometimes we need to change the way we are doing our work to get a breakthrough in our careers.

Samuel the prophet told King Saul that obedience is better than sacrifice. Learning to listen to the Lord and following His instruction is the key to success in God.

Sometimes God chooses the dramatic and sometimes He chooses the ordinary. In either case, both are miracles because God is the God over all creation. Ask Him what steps you are to take for your breakthrough.

*"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourself. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus"*

(Philippians 2:3-5).



Mr. Rudy McDonald, Chaplain, VFW Post 8923 in Carrollton, Texas and Dr. Darrell C. Hartley, LCDC SAP, VFW Post 2772 Chaplain, District 1 as Chaplain McDonald conducts his Annual Service for the Atria Retirement Center veterans.

Ask God to work through Christ in all you do. Ask you and guide you so that for help that you will not you will have the mind of do anything in the flesh and

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

Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com

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out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.

That you will remain humble and never consider yourself better than others. That He will provide the means and the desire for you to look after the interests of others as well as

your own interests.

Pray that you will have a godly attitude in all your actions and decisions and that God's love will flow through you. May you be a blessing to God and to everyone around you, in the name of Jesus Christ.



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## TIPS

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and where their card can be used to give them additional control and protection for their debit cards. A really cool setting for travelers is the feature that allows cardholders to keep their debit card active around their phone, or only within a specified region on a map

It's also a good idea to have a backup plan like another card or some cash on hand so you're not stranded with no way to pay or access funds.



# NDG Book Review: *A Song for You: My Life with Whitney Houston*

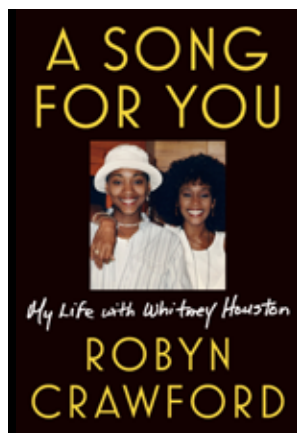
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You saw that coming.

It was easy to anticipate because the signs were there. It was plain as day, couldn't have been easier to see if it was flashing neon. You knew what was going to happen next – or, you would've, if you were paying attention. Take, for instance, author Robyn Crawford. In her new book “A Song for You,” she tells of spotting a star.

When Coach Clark called, you responded.

That's why Robyn Crawford rose early that morning in 1980: her basketball coach needed help registering counselors for summer



programs. Crawford was nineteen and thinking about college, but seventeen-year-old Whitney Houston was one of the people waiting to register and Crawford was smitten.

In the following days, as the two got to know

one another, they became “inseparable.” Crawford liked “having fun with a new friend” but, she says, “something more was growing between us.”

Before the summer was over, they were lovers.

It was “a typical teenage relationship, with... the exception of cocaine,” although they never named their love. Houston introduced Crawford to her world of music; Crawford attended church with Houston and Houston caught Crawford's basketball games. Sometimes, they had to sneak around to be together and they talked on the phone every night when Crawford was at college.

Soon after, Houston's modeling career rose and she was on her way to being a star in the music industry.

On the day she signed her first recording contract, Houston told Crawford that she thought they “shouldn't be physical anymore.”

The end of the love affair, however, didn't signal the end of their bond, and Crawford gave her life over to Houston. She served as Houston's assistant, chauffeur, manager, record-keeper, and sounding board. She propped Houston up when Houston needed it, sometimes literally, watching and helpless, unable to save Houston from her addictions. And then came the

day, says Crawford, when “I realized that I needed to save myself.”

Be honest: you are only the smallest bit surprised at all this. Whitney Houston's cocaine problem was pretty common knowledge and it's not a stretch to imagine the rest of what's inside this book. Even so, author Robyn Crawford has a few secrets to tell you.

That, however, doesn't seem to be the reason behind “A Song for You.”

All Whitney, All the Time, is perhaps a good way to describe this memoir; indeed, while it's about Crawford's decades-long relationship with Houston, it often appears that Craw-

ford is secondary in her own story here. That comes across as selflessly joyful but it also seems, at least initially, to be fraught with fear, as if Crawford recognizes something that's incredibly fragile. As this book progresses, that fear runs alongside a shrieking siren that announces the inevitable, the approach of which, even now, is impossible to stop watching.

For fans still looking for scandal, know that it's there and you'll be happy with “A Song for You.” If you're not necessarily looking for gossip, though, try it anyhow. You can still anticipate a good read.

## How to choose smart video games for your kids this holiday season

(StatePoint) When it comes to putting a smile on kids' faces during the holiday season, video games are a pretty safe bet.

So, how do you make buying decisions that make

both kids and parents happy? And how do you choose video games that are fun for kids, but also safe and educational too? Here is what to look for:

**Portability and Durability**

When it comes to handheld gaming devices, they should be designed for little hands, while offering features that will help kids take good care of their gift, like wrist straps that pre-

vent fumbles and protective bumpers when the inevitable occurs.

**Fun and Unique**

The best kind of games are those that are so fun, kids don't even realize

they're learning while playing.

**Curriculum-Based**

Look for games that can supplement classroom learning. Not only will this type of content help kids

excel academically, it may help them discover that school is fun.

This holiday season, make sure gaming gifts for kids are fun, entertaining, educational and secure.

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