



North Dallas Gazette

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Justice for Rodney Reed!

By Barrington M. Salmon
Contributing Writer
The Final Call

A crowd some of Rodney Reed's family members estimated was about 1,000 people, recently gathered at the Governor's Mansion in Austin, Texas demanding that Gov. Greg Abbott act to halt the execution of Mr. Reed in a controversial murder case.

In the past several months, there has been a groundswell of support for Mr. Reed, 51, who has been on death row for 20 years. In 1996, he was charged with and convicted of the rape and murder of 19-year-old Stacey Stites by an all-White jury.

Rodney Reed was scheduled for execution Nov. 20 when an appeals court stepped on Nov. 15 to suspend his death sentence indefinitely. The decision also ordered the court where he was originally tried to consider new evidence in the case.

"All we want is a fair trial. That's all we're asking for," Mr. Reed told *The Final Call*. "We want to be able to present witnesses and new evidence and clear his name ... I believed he would have gotten off when he was on trial because we knew the truth. He and the rest of us as a family have always stood in that truth."

Roderick Reed said he knew his brother and Ms. Stites had been in a relationship and had met Ms. Stites but because of the racial climate and the potential for backlash and retaliation, the couple had kept



Rodney Reed gestures to supporters during recent court proceedings. (Phot: The Final Call)

their relationship secret. Ms. Stites, at the time, was engaged to a police officer, Jimmy Fennell, who many believed was her killer.

The uncovering of new evidence, recent affidavits from witnesses that point to Mr. Fennell's involvement in Ms. Stites' death and enduring questions about details of the victim's death necessitates a new trial, Mr. Reed's supporters say.

Staff at The Innocence Project, which is handling Mr. Reed's case, and the Reed family have raised a number of troubling questions and highlighted a series of discrepancies which they say all add up to Mr. Reed being an innocent man railroaded by the criminal justice system. It includes discrepancies about the time of Ms. Stites' death as well as, the fact that the murder weapon, a belt, has never been tested for

DNA evidence; and the state's three forensic experts' admission on the record to errors in their testimony, which led to Rodney Reed's conviction and death sentence. They have submitted affidavits that the original time of death is inaccurate, charging the timeline for Mr. Reed killing Stites implausible.

Further, renown forensic pathologists including Dr. Michael Baden, Dr. Werner Spitz, Dr. LeRoy Riddick, M.D., and Dr. Cyril Wecht, have all concluded that Rodney Reed's guilt is medically and scientifically impossible; Mr. Reed and Ms. Stites were having a consensual sexual relationship although at the time of the trial, no one came forward to corroborate their relationship. Today, new witnesses in-

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Allred visits troops over Thanksgiving

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READERS SOUND OFF!!!

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People In The News...



Sen. Kamala Harris



Dorothy Tovar

NDG Quote of the Week: "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sen. Kamala Harris

California Sen. Kamala Harris reportedly has informed her staff she is calling an end to her race for the White House.

According to NPR Harris shared the information via a teleconference with the staff. It comes on the heels of rumors about a canceled fundraising event.

Although she began the race with high hopes at an event attended by more than 20,000 supporters according to published reports, Harris never gained a consistent sustained momentum.

During the first Democratic candidate debate, she made a bit of a splash when



she aggressively pushed front-runner former Vice President Joe Biden. Also, when she admonished fellow participants to stop the bickering, but she did not appear to capitalize on the bump in numbers.

In fact, the attention appeared to work against her a bit as more voters focused on her role as a district attorney in enforcing the crime bill which many believe led to the mass incarceration of African Americans. As this theme picked up steam, it resulted in a lukewarm reaction from African American voters.

Kamala D. Harris is a lifelong public safety and civil rights leader. Elected in 2016, she is the second African American woman in history to be elected to the U.S. Senate, and the first African American and first woman to serve as Attorney General of the state of California.

As U.S. Senator, Kamala introduced or co-sponsored legislation to provide sweeping tax cuts for the middle class, address the high cost of rent, raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, make higher education tuition-free for the vast majority of Americans, reform the cash bail system, protect the legal rights of refugees and immigrants, and expand access to affordable, quality health care with Medicare for All.

Kamala has been a key voice in the fight to hold the Trump administration accountable, asking the tough questions on behalf of the American people. She serves on the Senate Judi-

ciary Committee, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Select Committee On Intelligence, and the Committee On Budget.

As California's Attorney General, Kamala prosecuted transnational gangs that exploited women and children and trafficked in guns and drugs. She led comprehensive studies and investigations into the impacts of transnational criminal organizations and human trafficking.

Kamala achieved landmark results for middle-class Californians, by fighting the Wall Street banks and winning \$20 billion for homeowners who were

facing foreclosure during the Great Recession. She helped thousands of families stay in their homes and passed one of the nation's strongest anti-foreclosure laws.

Kamala aggressively defended the rights of consumers, winning major settlements holding big corporations accountable and forging innovative agreements with the technology industry to protect the privacy of Californians and crack down against online crime.

She successfully sued predatory for-profit colleges that scammed students

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Dorothy Tovar

(Stanford) Three Stanford students and one postdoctoral scholar have been selected to the first class of IF/THEN ambassadors for the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Each will provide support and mentorship to young girls interested in pursuing STEM fields.

Stanford graduate students Dorothy Tovar and Catie Cuan, postdoctoral scholar Helen Tran and undergraduate Erin Smith are among 125 women selected to serve as ambassadors.

Dorothy Tovar is a PhD student studying microbiology and immunology.



Growing up in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Tovar became interested in science at a young age. She frequently read science books and encyclopedias and watched countless hours of the Discovery

Channel. She also spent some of her childhood in Haiti, where she became fascinated by the way microscopic organisms could cause diseases that devastate entire countries.

Tovar earned a BS in microbiology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she was awarded the university's 21st Century Leader Award. She joined Stanford Medicine in 2015.

Catie Cuan is a PhD candidate in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Growing up in Berkeley, California, she loved math and science, but had few female role models in those fields.

"This resulted in a self-imposed narrowing of what my future possibilities were," she said.

Cuan earned a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and has had a career as a dancer and choreographer. After making performances and art installations with robots, she decided to pursue a graduate degree in mechanical engineering. Cuan is currently designing physical interactions between humans and robots, as well as haptic devices to tele-operate robots.

Helen Tran is the Intelligence Community postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Professor Zhenan Bao in

the Department of Chemical Engineering.

Erin Smith, a first-year student and native of Kansas, is the founder of FacePrint, an AI tool to detect and monitor Parkinson's disease and commonly misidentified neurological disorders using video technology and early-stage facial expression indicators.

The ambassadors recently attended the IF/THEN Summit in Dallas, Texas, where they participated in a full-body scan that produced life-sized 3D-printed statues of the ambassadors – the largest collection of statues of women. Ambassadors will also work with Bay Area Girl Scout troops,

appear on the network television series Mission Unstoppable about women working on cutting-edge STEM projects and participate in media campaigns.

The IF/THEN initiative is based on the idea that if women in STEM fields are supported, then they can change the world. The program is supported by a \$25 million commitment from Dallas-based Lyda Hill Philanthropies. It is also a partnership with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which works to advance science, engineering and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people.

NDG Readers Sound Off...

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

Being a white American, I feel this paper it's racist. Whites are the ones who get denied the benefits because we're white.... everyone wants to cry about something and blame whites. Its known people use the race card to get their ways. Whites need help too... not only blacks and mexicans struggle.

Racist is crying bc the president is Trump but when Obama was in office making music about black

president, and every article being African American this and that and wanting everything changed to suit blacks. Calling black face when you want attention but being white faced yourself. I dont like hypocrites nor do I care to only read about certain races only in every article or deal with the violence and hate crimes you are making rise in the world were all forced into....not a single race is in power.... get over yourself and realize the world is all races. Whites like to pop out many kids and get help bc we cant support them all bc our baby daddy's don't pay and bc we want to get

our hair done still. I want a home to raise my family even though I'm not African or Mexican.... I'm American And your not superior to me. Wish more whites and natives made dumb articles and blogs and comments on TV about white beauty and white happy people and compliment a white person with a comment like, "you're white, and smart etc... it's getting obnoxious. Other races would be so jealous and outcry to stop it from happening. Why so angry or jealous? When will other races be less involved with becoming known bc you're race card and be known for do-

ing something good? No talent to share? No good to blog? Nothing to stand you apart from others? The only way to reach fame is claiming racist whites ?

Lame! I'm gonna turn my racist volume up on this newspaper....it speaks volumes! Loud African American volume! White may not be your color but it's mine and I'm proud too! Support all races in the newspaper or stop printing!

- White Queen

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What do the 2019 elections mean for 2020?

By Dr. Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Contributor

If the 2019 elections are any indication, Republicans need to worry about their viability come 2020. In Virginia, Democrats have majorities in both its upper and lower houses. With a Democratic governor, Virginia has an unprecedented opportunity to shape public policy, especially around gun control, a key concern for many. In West Virginia, the candidate backed by 45 lost. Many will say it is because of the Republican governor, Matt Bevin, was extremely unpopular. If so why was 45 propping him up? He must have thought he had a prayer.

45 notwithstanding, Bevin's Democratic opponent, Attorney General Andy Beshear, scored a very narrow victory, getting 49.2 percent of the vote, compared to Bevin's 48.8. Just five thousand votes separate the two men, but a narrow win is still a victory, and 45 has egg on his face. Usually, when 45 shows up and takes it over the line, the base is supposed to get fired up. Not this time.

While Democrats scored some gains, the Mississippi governor's mansion is still in Republican hands. Mississippi has the largest concentration of Black people – 39 percent – of any state, but

African Americans remain underrepresented among elected officials in Mississippi. Is it voter turnout? An inability to forge a progressive coalition? Or, are race matters so hardwired in Mississippi that Republicans will always prevail?

Speaking of other race matters, the affirmative action ballot measure that appeared on the Washington state ballot failed, which is disappointing news for those who think that we have not yet met diversity goals. Washington state was one of the first to ban affirmative action in 1998 (California's anti-affirmative action Proposition 209 also passed that year). After California and Washington, other states followed, including Florida, Michigan, Nebraska, Arizona, New Hampshire, and Oklahoma. Although the affirmative action measure – Referendum 88 – lost very narrowly, it still failed. That means that state agencies can't openly recruit diverse candidates, and contracting agencies can't make special efforts to reach out to those who are underrepresented. And since the anti-affirmative action measure passed in 1998, the numbers of minority and women-owned businesses have dropped in the state. That's a step backward!

One of the reasons Referendum 88 failed was because a group of Chinese immigrants was among those who campaigned to defeat the affirmative action measure. Former governor Gary Locke, an Asian American man who describes himself as a product of affirmative action, fought for the referendum. But the majority of voters rejected the measure. So much for the "people of color" coalition.

Still, it is interesting that a recent Gallup poll showed that a majority of white people in this country narrowly favor affirmative action, with 65 percent advocating affirmative action for women and 61 percent supporting affirmative action for minorities. These levels of support are the highest since Gallup began polling on this issue. Perhaps the recent focus on the wealth gap has sensitized some people to inequality. In any case, as positive as the poll was, it didn't translate to the vote.

The affirmative action loss is bad news because it may signal other states to avoid pro-affirmative action referenda. Further, the loss confirms that many are satisfied with the lack of diversity that is commonplace in politics, the workplace, and elsewhere. And, given the composition of this Supreme

Court, challenges to affirmative action that come before them are likely to weaken efforts to encourage diversity in employment, contracting, and education. Several of the justices have already openly opined that race should matter less. Their overturning of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act is evidence of their race myopia. It is as if these judges are oblivious to the persistence of racism. It is as if they ignore the headlines about the police shootings of Black men. It is as if the wealth gap means nothing to them.

So, what do we learn from the last elections? Democrats have a chance to defeat some Republicans and may yet prevail in the 2020 elections. But race remains a divisive factor in our country. And unfortunately, we have a President who will use race divisiveness to his advantage. Count on the 2020 election to be as contentious as the 2016 election was, but hopefully with different results.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, media contributor and educator. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on youtube.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannealveaux.com

Why trust matters

By Lee Hamilton

To me, it was a thunder-clap. Years ago, when I was in Congress, we were in the midst of a tense, contentious debate. Members had gotten irritated, levying charges back and forth, and tempers were rising. Then one member stood up, asked for our attention, and said to us, "Let's remember: trust is the coin of the realm."

His statement at that moment hit me broadside: If we were to have any hope of progress, we had to have some faith in one another — even our opponents.

Our system rests on all sorts of values: open-

mindedness, an informed citizenry, honesty, civility, competence. But at its heart, representative democracy is about how we resolve our differences, and if the parties lack trust, then it becomes hugely more difficult to do so.

A representative democracy rests on a straightforward premise: Because nothing gets done without others, you have to have confidence in people and believe that they will do what they say they will do. Without that trust, you simply can't engage productively in negotiations, compromise, debate, and all the mechanisms we use to resolve differences in

our society.

When we don't trust one another — or don't trust one another's facts — reaching agreement and drafting laws becomes infinitely more difficult. The result is that often, cynicism, suspicion, and lack of confidence in the system hamstring our democracy.

To be sure, healthy skepticism about adversaries is natural and appropriate, but you can't let it override everything and bring progress to a screeching halt.

So what can we do about this? I think it's vital that elected officials — especially of opposing parties — spend time with one another,

learning to see one another as human beings who all, regardless of party, care deeply about the country. Similarly, the more ordinary people participate regularly in organizations, political parties, and even ad hoc efforts to improve their communities and states, the more likely they are to learn the fundamental importance of trust.

The fact is: In a system that depends on negotiation, compromise, and cooperation to achieve our goals, finding ways to build trust is essential. Without it, our democracy simply won't work.

Lee Hamilton was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Parkland helps patients with diabetes lead healthier lives

The day Maria De Los Angeles Orellana found out she had diabetes was just a normal day. She had gone to Parkland Health & Hospital System's Bluit-Flowers Health Center for a regular checkup. She walked away with a diabetes diagnosis.

"When I found out I had diabetes, I cried," she said.

Having seen family and friends pass away from diabetes, she was worried about what the diagnosis meant for her. Initially, she didn't say anything about it to her husband or her kids. After praying, she felt peace in her heart with the knowledge she needed to make changes.

Now her husband and children are her biggest cheerleaders. They support her and watch out for her, checking if she is taking her medicine and altering their own eating habits to include more vegetables and whole grains.

"It was hard at first but it has gotten easier," Orellana said about the changes she's made to her diet and lifestyle. "I take my medicine and started walking a



Parkland

little bit."

One of the biggest changes she made was eating more throughout the day. She used to eat only dinner, which caused her blood sugar to get too high. Now she has a vegetable smoothie for breakfast with her medicine, eats lunch and has less bread and tortillas and more vegetables.

Diabetes education classes led by a registered dietitian at Bluit-Flowers Health Center taught Orellana the consequences of not taking care of her diabetes, as well as how to eat healthier to control her blood sugar. She found out that problems with her vision, teeth and sleep that had plagued her were a direct result of her diabetes.

Now that she has her blood sugar under better control, she feels much better and has lost weight.

"Parkland has helped me a lot," she said. "If I didn't have Parkland, I wouldn't be able to do it."

Orellana has some advice for others struggling with a diabetes diagnosis. "It's important to have someone to help and support you. My whole family has gotten healthier. Try having a vegetable shake in the morning. You can do it!"

To observe National Diabetes Awareness Month, on Monday, Nov. 11 Parkland is offering a free "Diabetes Awareness Day" event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Bluit Flowers Health Center, 303 E. Overton Rd., Dallas

75216. Activities will include cooking demonstrations by Parkland's Executive Chef Andrea Piper who will offer delicious samples for tasting and talk about healthy diabetes-friendly recipes. Glucose screenings, diabetes information and handouts, fun games, prizes and snacks will be offered. Parkland's Sustainability Department will provide a garden demonstration area with advice about planting healthy vegetables. Eye and foot care providers will be available to give self-care information and answer questions. The event is free and open to the public.

Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the U.S. and is associated with serious health complications like heart and kidney disease, blindness and amputations. According to Kellie Rodriguez, CDE, Director, Global Diabetes Program at Parkland, more than 660,000 people in Texas don't know they have diabetes; 37% of Texans have prediabetes; 11% of Dallas County residents have diabetes; and more

than 30,000 patients with the condition currently receive care at Parkland.

"Education and screening are vital," Rodriguez stated. "Millions of Americans have prediabetes, a condition in which blood sugar levels are not high enough to be classified as diabetes, but are elevated above normal levels and many of them don't know it. Persons with prediabetes have a 50% chance of developing type 2 diabetes if they don't make significant lifestyle changes, such as eating a healthier diet and getting more physical activity."

Parkland Health & Hospital System and Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) have partnered to develop a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to identify the geographic areas and populations that experience the most significant health disparities in Dallas County. Emerging from the report were findings related to access to care, demand for health services for special populations, and leading causes of

chronic conditions such as hypertension, cancer and diabetes, among others. Parkland and DCHHS will now focus their efforts on developing an implementation plan to address key priorities identified in the report. To view the Community Health Needs Assessment, please visit:

www.parklandhospital.com/CHNA

The Global Diabetes Program is part of Parkland's continuing efforts to combat diabetes. The program is patient-centered and multidisciplinary, involving physicians, advanced practice providers, nurses, dietitians, pharmacists, behavioral health experts, social workers and financial experts across Parkland.

The Healthy Living with Diabetes Education Program at Parkland is recognized by the American Diabetes Association. To learn more about Parkland's Global Diabetes Program, visit www.parklandhospital.com or call 214-590-7219. For more information about living with diabetes, visit www.parklanddiabetes.com

Five holiday giving options offering healthful returns

The Holiday Season is a time for giving, and that includes supporting causes and organizations that make our communities stronger.

It's in this spirit that Dallas physical therapist Alan Thompson shares some holiday giving suggestions that offer a more healthful return than simply writing a check.

"As a physical therapist, my goal is to improve lives and the community by helping people move better and live healthier, more active lives," said Thompson, clinic director of Southwest Sports & Spine in Dallas. "It's based on this that I thought to offer some ideas for how people can give back to their communities while, at the same time, also benefiting from various levels of physical activity."

Such an approach to

holiday giving, Thompson adds, isn't just about contributing to one's 150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity per week, as recommended by the Department of Health and Human Services.

"The holidays are a pretty stressful time for a lot of people, and exercise is a proven way to reduce stress and anxiety while improving overall happiness," Thompson said. "It just so happens giving and volunteering provide similar health benefits. Put them together, and you're likely to experience a more joyful and relaxing holiday season."

That said, Thompson suggests the following five ways to give back and be fit this Holiday Season:

Volunteer 'Sweat Equity': There are lots of ways

to volunteer during the holidays, and many involve various levels of physical activity. Collecting gift donations for a local children's charity, for instance, or helping sort and deliver food donations for a food pantry, requires time, muscle and (if it's a charitable year) good endurance.

Do a Charity Fun Run: Running continues to grow in popularity, and so do charity fun runs – even during the colder months of the year. Registration for these runs typically goes to local charities, and some allow for added individual or team fundraising so you can maximize your donation. Check your local event calendar for options.

Lend a Neighbor a Hand: Most of us have neighbors who could use a helping hand on occasion, be they

elderly, disabled, alone, or short on time or money. The holidays are a great time to check in with them and see if they could use some help with physical tasks like yard work, clearing the driveway of snow or ice, putting out Christmas decorations, or even child-care.

Walk Your Best Friends: Are animals your passion? Perfect! Animals need exercise just like people do, and most animal shelters welcome volunteers eager to play with and walk the dogs and cats. Not only is walking great exercise for both people and pets, but spending time with animals can also lower stress and blood pressure.

Arm Your Smartphone: If the interpersonal aspect of volunteering doesn't quite fit your personal-

ity, you still have options. Some smartphone apps exist (Charity Miles is the most prominent) that al-

low you to convert workout miles and/or daily activity into donations to reputable nonprofit organizations.

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Crowley man thankful for hero co-workers' life-saving actions

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

Jamal Adams died on Nov. 11 around 2 p.m. While at work at a local high school, he experienced a cardiac arrest. But, thanks to his co-workers, Jamal was successfully resuscitated with bystander CPR and an AED.

This week, Adams was reunited with those at the school who saved his life, as well as the MedStar and Fort Worth Fire Department crews who participated in his lifesaving response. Representatives from Reliant Energy, the school dis-

trict and the American Heart Association also attended the reunion.

While sitting in a staff meeting at North Crowley High School, according to Adam's co-worker Valerie Duran, they were sitting in a staff meeting at school when the suddenly began to shake almost like a seizure. When the MedStar staff arrived, Duran stated that they slowly placed him on the ground and he stopped shaking but he was gasping for breath before appearing to pass out. She said they placed the Automated external defibrillators (AED) pads on him and shocked Adams.

Then Adams performed two minutes of CPR after the shock.

When they began to ventilate the patient Duran took a big gasp of air and opened his eyes. He told the medical staff that he felt very dizzy and lightheaded prior to fainting. However, he told the MedStar team that he did not have any chest pain or nausea. However, Adams did also share he had suffered an MI on Sept. 14 and had two stents placed.

During the reunion on Wednesday, Duran received recognition from the American Heart Association (AHA) for her efforts in sav-

ing Green's life by performing CPR. Others present included Sandee Treptow from Reliant Energy who helped the school obtain the funding for training and AEDs. Also, Margaret Terry, Coordinator of Safety and Security for Crowley ISD who coordinated CPR training and AED placements in the High School. The training and devices proved to be lifesaving and rewarding experience for the staff and Adam's loved ones.

AHA also recognized Alfred Ortiz and Nathan Duran, the MedStar crew members who arrived and helped Adams.



Jamal Adams (in green sweater) returns to work to say thank you to his co-workers and the MedStar staff who saved his life last month when he died during a staff meeting. Seen here hugging Alfred Ortiz and Nathan Duran MedStar crew members while Valeria Duran, co-worker who performed CPR (to the right) looks on with Daryl Porter, school principal (wearing cap), to the left of him is Margaret Terry, Coordinator of Safety and Security for Crowley ISD who coordinated CPR training and AED placements in the High School and beside her is Sandee Treptow from Reliant Energy, who helped with funding for the training and the AEDs which proved lifesaving. (Courtesy photo)

DHA announces its Housing Choice Voucher Program has achieved "High Performer" status based on Housing And Urban Development performance standards

DHA, Housing Solutions for North Texas announced today that it has achieved "High Performer" status from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) following an annual performance evaluation.

The "High Performer" rating is the top rating in overall categories from financial stewardship, management and physical condition and ranks DHA among the best public housing authorities in the country. The rating is based on 14 national indica-

tors of performance that measures a PHAs effectiveness and ability to assist eligible families to afford decent rental units at a reasonable subsidy cost.

HUD has set three performance grades for the Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP):

- "High Performers" (overall score of 90%+)
- "Standard" (60-89%)
- "Troubled" (0-59%)

DHA achieved a score of 99% by securing 143 points out of a maximum of 145

across the 14 key measures. The key indicators of performance are:

- Proper selection of applicants from the housing choice voucher waiting list
- Sound determination of reasonable rent for each unit leased
- Establishment of payment standards within the required range of the HUD fair market rent
- Accurate verification of family income
- Timely annual reexaminations of family income

- Correct calculation of the tenant share of the rent and the housing assistance payment

- Maintenance of a current schedule of allowances for tenant utility costs

- Ensure units comply with the housing quality standards before families enter into leases and PHAs enter into housing assistance contracts

- Timely annual housing quality inspections

- Performance of quality control inspections to ensure housing quality

- Ensure that landlords and tenants promptly correct housing quality deficiencies

- Ensure that all available housing choice vouchers are used

- Expand housing choice outside areas of poverty or minority concentration

- Enroll families in the family self-sufficiency (FSS) program as required and help FSS families achieve increases in employment income

"Our team is dedicated to ensure that families across North Texas have access to

quality housing solutions. We are proud that our most recent SEMAP 'High Performer' ranking is a direct reflection of these efforts," said David Zappasodi, senior vice president and chief operating officer for DHA. "We thank our team for their hard work to achieve this prestigious designation and are honored to have this position of service in our community," he concluded.

For more information about the SEMAP program, visit www.hud.gov.

President of IATDP selected to help address truancy and dropout issues

The International Association for Truancy Dropout & Prevention Organization (IATDP), installed Dona Mitchell as the 2019-2020 President at the 109th Annual Conference in Memphis, Tennessee. Mitchell, a Dallas, Texas native, has previously served on the Executive Committee as; 3rd Vice President, 1st Vice President, President-Elect, and now President.

For 30 years, she has been a pillar in the community, a leader and an advocate for social change. Mitchell is a playwright, screenwriter, director, and producer of stage productions and short films. She provides youth access to the performing arts while helping them to learn how to deal with their anxieties.

Her work focuses on bringing awareness and prevention to youth social issues such as bullying, crime,



Dona Mitchell greets the audience during her installation as the new president of IATDP. (Courtesy photo)

mental health, and more, all leading to missing school.

Mitchell has received recognition for:

- Her innovative creativity in Truancy & Dropout Prevention

- Her unique ability to partner and develop relationships to address the truancy and dropout prevention solutions in her community

- Her ability to empower, encourage and inspire students nationally and internationally

The theme she focused on is: BE THE VOICE; BE THE CHANGE

The IATDP is an association of educators, government officials, and stakeholders whose history of truancy and dropout pre-

vention efforts date back to 1911. We strive to create a partnership that facilitates

the dissemination of information, emerging practices, and research designed to

support learning and increase high school graduation rates.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
2174	20X Overall Odds are 1 in 4.95	\$2	12/19/19	6/16/20
2079	Blackout Bingo Overall Odds are 1 in 4.41	\$2	12/23/19	6/20/20
2172	Hit \$500,000 Overall Odds are 1 in 3.89	\$10	12/29/19	6/26/20
2146	Amazing 8s Overall Odds are 1 in 4.83	\$2	1/22/20	7/20/20
2140	Cash Game Overall Odds are 1 in 3.93	\$5	1/22/20	7/20/20

Txlottery.org is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2019 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

TEXAS LOTTERY

Dallas ISD launches Criminal Justice Pathway at Bryan Adams

Soon after being elected, Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson called Superintendent Michael Hinojosa with a request: the city needed help producing more police officers to serve the community.

Hinojosa met with district leadership and came up with an idea: launch a new Criminal Justice Pathway as part of Bryan Adams High School's P-TECH, where students can earn up to 60 hours of college credit tuition-free while in high school. Through the pathway, which includes a partnership with the Dallas Police Department (DPD) and Dallas County Com-



Dallas ISD is taking a "grow your own police force" approach with its new criminal justice program at Bryan Adams. (Courtesy photo)

munity College System, students can graduate high school with an associate degree and relevant training to begin the Dallas Police Department Academy.

David W. Carter High School already has a grow-your-own police academy program, and with Bryan Adams adding the pathway, the opportunity will now be

in each quadrant of the city.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to enter a well-paying career where they can come back and serve the community they grew up in," Hinojosa said.

On Nov. 19, Dallas ISD and City of Dallas leaders officially launched the Criminal Justice Pathway at Bryan Adams High School. The Criminal Justice Pathway joins the school's existing Early Childhood Education Pathway, meaning Bryan Adams is now preparing students for two of Dallas' most critical workforce needs, said Trustee Dan Micciche.

"I can't think of two more important careers than law enforcement and education, and I commend the amazing work happening at Bryan Adams to address public safety in both the medium and long term," Micciche said. "Dallas ISD is the most improved, most innovative school district in the state. And Bryan Adams is the most improved, most innovative school in Dallas ISD."

DPD Senior Corporal Angela Garza is a Bryan Adams graduate who returned to her alma mater for Tuesday's launch of the Criminal Justice Pathway. Garza said she was proud

of the school for launching the Criminal Justice Pathway and the good it can bring the community.

"It's an amazing feeling to grow up in this part of Dallas—to know the community and small businesses—and then later in life have the opportunity to protect them," Garza said. "This is a great opportunity for students here at BA who want to make a difference."

Students can apply to either the Bryan Adams or Carter P-TECH with the Criminal Justice Pathway—or any other Dallas ISD specialty school or program—through Jan. 31.

Prairie View A&M, Spelman College, and Morehouse College & University receive \$3M in grants to support faculty development

ATLANTA—Prairie View A&M University, Spelman College, and Morehouse College recently announced they are the recipients of \$3 million in grants from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, The Rockefeller Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the development of faculty on their campuses. Excellence and student success at the historically Black colleges and universities rely on pedagogically innovative, research-active and creative faculty who provide students with the tools that enable them to take responsibility for their learning. The grants allow the colleges to provide an array of faculty support structures and require the three institutions to share best practices with each other and with the broader HBCU community.

Prairie View received \$1 million from Mellon. Carnegie awarded \$1 million to Morehouse and \$500,000 to Spelman, which also received \$500,000 from Rockefeller.

"Faculty are the heart of a liberal arts education. At historically Black colleges and universities, heavy teaching loads often get in the way of professional

development, time for research and/or creative production. Yet, time for these activities not only keeps faculty current in their fields but provides undergraduate research opportunities for our students," said Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., president of Spelman.

Over their histories, HBCUs like these three institutions have engaged high-quality faculty, who are attracted to their unique institutional missions to educate talented, hardworking minority student populations. In the last decade or so, however, despite the growing need to educate more underrepresented minorities who comprise a larger portion of the college-age population, market pressures have made it increasingly difficult for HBCUs to recruit top faculty and support their development after hire. The foundations' critical support of these new faculty development programs leverages these institutions' history of success preparing scholars and leaders of African descent for lives of impact and meaning.

Expanding Development

The colleges plan to deepen and expand faculty development through gener-

ous grants and support the institutions' innovative and effective teaching, excellent academic outcomes, robust research and creative activity.

Over the past several years, Prairie View has made faculty development a top priority. Reducing teaching loads, creating avenues for faculty to attain tenure and opening more tenure track opportunities have been hallmarks of the institutional plan. Prairie View will use the generous funding from Mellon to continue enhancing the ranks of its faculty by identifying effective practices in faculty recruitment, advancement, and retention. Additionally, the funds will support the establishment of a Center for Faculty Excellence that will track and monitor scholarly output and professional engagement across the spectrum of academic programs.

"The single most important indicator of a successful university is its faculty. If historically Black colleges and universities wish to compete on a global level for top students, grant funding, awards, and recognition, we must pay particular attention to how we recruit,

develop and retain highly qualified faculty," said Ruth J. Simmons, Ph.D., president of Prairie View. "I am grateful to the Mellon Foundation for providing Prairie View with the funding to do this critical work and I look forward to sharing our findings for best practices across the HBCU landscape."

Spelman will use the funds to support faculty success, recruitment and retention efforts through the awarding of "Distinguished

Scholar/Maker" grants and course-release funding for academic departments, seed grants to develop curriculum in emerging areas like data science and analytics, research grants for global learning and accessing international archives, furthering strategic partnerships that advance faculty research and grantsmanship training for junior and mid-career faculty.

Morehouse will use the grant funds to support the new program, Modeling

21st Century Faculty Development at HBCUs. The program will help to make the college more competitive in attracting and retaining top talent by providing funds for start-up packages and robust opportunities for faculty growth and development.

Spelman, Morehouse and Prairie View will participate in a "shared lessons convening" every other year to inform best practices and amplify the benefits of the faculty support efforts.

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Rep. Colin Allred (TX-32) visits with troops over a Thanksgiving meal during a recent trip overseas. (Courtesy photo)

Allred travels during Thanksgiving to visit troops

Washington, D.C. — Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32) spent last week visiting with women and men in uniform serving overseas as part of a Congressional Delegation of members of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The delegation spent their Thanksgiving week

in Kuwait and Afghanistan meeting with service members, military leaders and State Department officials.

"I am so thankful for our men and women in uniform, and the many selfless sacrifices they make in service to our nation while away from their loved ones," said Allred.

"It was truly an honor to travel with my Veterans' Affairs Committee colleagues to thank our service members in person, to hear their stories of service and to share a Thanksgiving meal. Our nation owes these individuals a debt of gratitude, and I will always work to keep our

promise to all our veterans and active duty members of the armed forces."

Allred was joined on the trip by House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mark Takano (CA-41), Reps. Connor Lamb (PA-17), Haley Stevens (MI-11), and Lauren Underwood (IL-14).

Plano Animal Shelter reminds residents of holiday issues for pets

While busy making festive plans for the holidays, don't forget to include your pets. A little precaution and prevention makes a happy time for everyone. Some common holiday pet hazards include:

- **Bones:** Turkey and chicken leave a lot of tantalizing bones, but don't feed them to your pet. Beware of steak bones too. Small bones or chips can lodge in the throat, stomach and intestinal tract.

- **Fat:** Wonderful potato latkes (watch the hot oil), gravies and poultry skin



City of Plano

cause severe gastrointestinal upset.

- **Holiday plants:** Holly and mistletoe are poison-

ous. The lovely poinsettia may not be truly poisonous, but its milky white sap and leaves cause severe gastric

distress. With so many hybrid varieties available each year, the best approach is to keep the plants out of your pet's reach.

- **Electrical cords:** Holiday lights mean more electrical cords for kittens and puppies to chew. Be sure cords are secured and out of the way.

- **Candles:** Lighted candles should never be left unattended, especially when at kitty's eye level or puppy's chewing zone. An exuberant tail or a swat of a paw, and hot wax quickly becomes disastrous. An-

chor candles securely.

- **Pine needles:** Check around holiday trees frequently. Ingested pine needles can puncture your pet's intestines if sharp enough.

- **Holiday tree:** Make sure your tree is well secured. If you have a climbing cat or a large dog with a happy tail, anchor the top of the tree to the wall with strong cord or rope. Preservatives, often used in the water of a tree stand, cause gastric upset. Be sure it is not accessible. Avoid sugar and aspirin additives in the water as well.

- **Ornaments:** Sharp or breakable ornaments, dreidels and even aluminum foil should be kept out of reach. String objects, especially tinsel and ribbons, are to be safeguarded at all costs. They are thin and sharp and can wrap around intestines or ball up in the stomach.

- **Stress and company:** Make sure your pets have collars and tags on in case of escape. Provide a special quiet place with a blanket and fresh water for your pets to retreat to when the festivities get too stressful.

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Dallas

Culture Pass to bring free arts experiences to library cardholders - The Culture Pass gives library cardholders free admission to participating organizations when they "checkout" a ticket at culturepassdallas.org. Library cardholders can use these free passes to visit local museums or attend the theater, symphony, dance performances and more.

Garland Breakfast with Santa



Mike Arney / Unsplash

Saturday, Dec. 7 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Branding Iron Restaurant at Firewheel Golf Park, 1535 E. Brand Road. Enjoy crafts for the kids and photos with Santa. The breakfast buffet is \$13.95 for adults and \$7.95 for kids. Guests are encouraged to bring a

new, unwrapped toy for a local child in need. Reservation required. Reserve your seat(s) by calling 972-205-3958.

Garland Fire Department Toy Drive - The Garland Fire Fighters are collecting new, unwrapped toys for their annual toy drive. Toys will be collected at all 11 Garland fire stations and at the Fire Administration and Training Facility, 1500 State Highway 66, through Dec. 16.

Garland firefighters will

deliver the toys to local children for the holidays. For more information, contact Jerry Click at 903-513-4393 or JClick@GarlandTX.gov.

Irving

Holiday in the Heritage is all-ages wonder-filled evening of holiday entertainment by the Heritage Singers, Heritage Tappers, craft vendors, Gingerbread Housecraft workshop, carriage rides and visits with Santa! Registration required for the Gingerbread

House workshop by Dec. 6. It is at the Heritage Senior Center from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13.

Plano

The Plano Masonic Lodge is the oldest active community service organization in Plano. The Lodge will be celebrating its 125th anniversary by holding an open house during Dickens in Downtown Plano holiday festival on Dec. 6 from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The lodge is located at 1414 J Avenue.

The historic Plano Lodge Hall was built on the ashes of the Moore House/Hotel. The Lodgeroom is adorned with the symbols of mysticism that are used to instill Masonic morals and principles. More than 100 photographs are displayed on the walls honoring the past Masters of the Lodge dating to 1894. They were the pioneers of Plano and early community leaders. Their family names grace many of our schools, municipal buildings and parks.



Staff from the Church of the Redeemer Montessori School in Irving recently hosted a clean-up for the Bear Creek Cemetery. (Photo: Anthony Bond)

Cemetery clean-up a moving experience for Irving Redeemer Montessori staff

Last month on a brisk Friday morning, the teachers and administrators from the Church of the Redeemer Montessori School came together to help clean up Shelton's Bear Creek Cemetery. It was a moving experience for the participants, who not only helped restore

dignity to the gravesites but learned about its history.

"It was the most powerful moving event," Leah Garcia, the Assistant Administrator of the Training Center for the school shared. "All of us left in tears. Anthony Bond gave an amazing speech," Garcia shared.

After his speech, she stated everyone was just silent, and everyone just worked.

While cleaning the unmarked graves, Shannon Flowers, the school's director, summed it up best, according to Garcia.

"She said, 'you matter to me.' Whether they are un-

named or unmarked, it was so very powerful," Garcia admitted she was moved just thinking again about the experience.

"God works through people," Anthony Bond, organizer of the clean-up,

See CLEAN, Page 16

REED, from Page 1

cluding Stites's cousin and a co-worker, Alicia Slater, have corroborated Rodney Reed's claim that they knew that Reed and Stites were romantically involved for months after the murder, and Jimmy Fennell was the prime suspect in the case. Mr. Fennell's best friend at the time of the crime, Bastrop Sheriff's Officer Curtis Davis, has now revealed that Mr. Fennell gave an inconsistent account of where he was on the night of the murder.

Two witnesses have come forward in recent weeks and submitted signed affidavits that add to the mounting evidence against Mr. Fennell. These affidavits include testimony from an insurance salesperson who stated that Mr. Fennell threatened to kill Ms. Stites while applying for life insurance. The second witness was a deputy in the Lee County Sheriff's Office at the time of the murder, who alleges Mr. Fennell made an alarming and incriminating statement at Ms. Stites's funeral regarding her body. Then there is an alleged confession by Mr. Fennell that

came to light Oct. 29. Mr. Fennell served 10 years and was released from prison in 2018 after being convicted of assaulting a woman who was in his custody as a police officer. Arthur Snow, a former member of the Aryan Brotherhood and prison mate of Mr. Fennell, disclosed a conversation in which Mr. Fennell allegedly confessed to murdering Stacey Stites stating, "I had to kill my nigg**r-loving fiancée."

The prosecution's only forensic evidence linking Rodney Reed to the crime was semen taken from Ms. Stites's body, which was attributed to the consensual relationship between them. The prosecution used this to connect him to the murder and refute a consensual romantic relationship, but some testimony has been recanted and discredits the state's case, The Innocence Project said.

"We identify as death penalty abolitionists," Mrs. Reed said. "Gov. (Greg) Abbott has been silent. He's aware of Rodney's case but has not made any statement, said nothing about it.

He may be waiting for the (state) Supreme Court to act."

Mrs. Reed said there are many holes in this case and substantial doubt.

"We want the state to give Rodney's life back, show that he's innocent," she said. "The family wants them to stop the execution ASAP. Abbott can issue a stay and he has the power to direct this towards a new case."

On Oct. 10-11, Dr. Phil McGraw explored the case on his television show to consider Mr. Reed's claims of innocence.

"I don't think it's a question of whether he's guilty or not guilty," said Dr. Phil, who had an in-person interview with Mr. Reed, according to the Death Penalty Information Centre. "I think the question is, has he had a fair trial with a full airing of all of the evidence. And I think the answer to that question, in my opinion, is not just 'no' but 'hell no.'"

The Innocence Project and Rodney Reed are seeking DNA testing of evidence that they say will exonerate him.

Roderick Reed said his

brother's incarceration has been "a game-changer, life changing."

"Dealing with this for this amount of time is a life changer. It has changed our lives. We'll never be the

same," he said. "But every day knowing the truth and that Rodney's innocent and this experience has brought me to a whole other place in my mind."

Now, Roderick Reed

said, he's focused, looking forward to the day when his brother comes home.

"I'm very optimistic. He will be exonerated. We will have time to heal," he concluded.

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Cowboys are still in control of their own destiny

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports

FRISCO — Despite not being able to get out of their way because they've lost three of the last four games, the Dallas Cowboys listened to all of the Monday morning quarterbacks and walked away with one distinct feeling.

"We still control our own destiny," quarterback Dak Prescott said. "That's the only thing we can ask for."

The Cowboys are 6-6 and are indeed in first place in the NFC East, mainly because the second-place Philadelphia Eagles dropped to 5-7 after they were surprisingly upset by the lowly Miami Dolphins this past Sunday, 37-31. Still, the Cowboys have been in a foul mood this week because they know they haven't played up to their lofty standards.

"We're just angry that



we're not where we expect ourselves to be and just angry that things haven't been going the way that we want them to go," running back Ezekiel Elliott said. "We just got to channel that the right way."

With four games remaining in the regular season, the Cowboys hope to start channeling things the right way when they hit the road to play the Chicago Bears on Thursday at 7:20 p.m. The Cowboys practiced outside this week in preparation for playing in inclement weather in Chicago.

When the Cowboys played the Bears in Chi-

cago on Dec. 9, 2013, that turned out to be the coldest regular-season game the Cowboys have ever played. The temperature at kickoff was a mere eight degrees and a wind chill factor of minus nine degrees.

"It's the coldest game I've played in during my career," tight end Jason Witten said. "You know it's pretty bad when the offensive linemen are having to use covers on the sidelines."

On Thursday, temperatures in Chicago are slated to be in the low 40's by the time the game kicks off. But coach Jason Garrett said: "When you do play in cold weather, just how do you keep yourself ready to go based on the conditions? It's a very important thing, and you've got to be ready."

Also, Chicago is nicknamed the Windy City for a reason. The wind often

blows very strong in all different directions at all hours of the day and night, and it can play tricks with the football.

"The trajectory of the ball can move and stuff like that," wide receiver Amari Cooper said. "You just have to focus in a little more."

"I think the worst thing is the rain, though, just to be completely candid, because it's just hard to catch the ball."

Meanwhile, it's just been hard lately for the Cowboys to win a game and put some separation between themselves and the Eagles. The Cowboys are coming off a ho-hum 26-15 home loss to the Buffalo Bills on

Thanksgiving Day.

It's the third time in the last four games that the Cowboys have allowed at least 26 points. But the Cowboys are trying to put a positive spin on everything; mainly since they know if they just handle their own business, they'll be in the postseason tournament.

"All this does, being in this position, is add the doubters," Prescott said. "And that should allow the chip on the shoulders to grow."

"Get the people off the bandwagon and just know that it's about us. The people in this locker room have to go out there and execute, and it just allows this locker

room to get tight."

Besides having a tight locker room, the Cowboys know they simply need to find a way to win a ballgame. The season is drawing to the close, and the players and coaches will be judged and held accountable based on what transpired over the next month and beyond. In other words, if the Cowboys qualify for the playoffs.

"We haven't played at the level that we expect to play," Witten said. "We haven't played at a good enough clip."

"We're aware of that, and we know we've got to improve it."

Black Nativity returns to the Bishop Arts Theatre stage

Dallas is filled with many wonderful holiday traditions, one of our favorites at NDG is Black Nativity at Bishop Arts Theatre Centre every year.

The talented staff and performers at Bishop Arts find new and creative ways

to tell the familiar story which is a celebration of African American holiday traditions.

Langston Hughes' Black Nativity returns to the Bishop Arts Theatre Center stage with soul-stirring songs, music, dance, com-

bing to create a one-of-a-kind holiday pageant that is an Oak Cliff tradition. This year the production will be directed by Vickie Washington. The show runs from Dec. 5-22 tickets and showtimes are available at www.bishopartstheatre.org.



Black Nativity is a perennial favorite for audiences at the Bishop Arts Theatre. (Photo: David Wilfong / NDG)

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

Dallas Black Dance Academy presents Espresso Nutcracker

Dallas Black Dance Academy (DBD Academy) presents its second annual Espresso Nutcracker, a new twist on a holiday tradition and the only Nutcracker of color in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. The performance is jazz-influenced by the music of Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite. The show is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 13, 2019, at 7 p.m. in the Majestic Theatre, located at 1925 Elm



Street.

"Macy's is proud to support Dallas Black Dance Theatre's groundbreaking

effort to present an inclusive Nutcracker experience for the Dallas community," said Robin Harman, man-

ager of corporate giving for Macy's.

DBD Academy Director Katricia Eaglin, assisted by academy instructors of the Pre Pro Division levels 1-4 students who will perform in the production choreographed Espresso Nutcracker. Eaglin was inspired to use the traditional Tchaikovsky music along with tracks from Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite, selecting Ellington tracks

still recognizable to the original work. She included narration to the performance to unlock the mystery and magic for parts of the storyline. Eaglin also added an African dance to the Land of Sweets act that includes Spanish, Arabian, Chinese, and Russian dances.

"I was inspired to create and produce the Espresso Nutcracker for Dallas Black Dance Academy

so our academy students could be involved in the Nutcracker tradition," said Dallas Black Dance Academy Director Katricia Eaglin. "This gives our academy students more opportunities to perform ballet, and to use the amazing music that Duke Ellington created for the Nutcracker."

For tickets and more info, visit www.attpac.org or call 214-880-0202.

Jia Modern Chinese is an elegant upgrade of popular dishes

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

During the holiday season, we often promise to take time to enjoy family and friends over drinks or a special meal. Jia Modern Chinese offers a delightful ambiance, delicious food, and a great happy hour menu during your holiday break.

Jia Modern Chinese features familiar favorites, but it is undoubtedly not your neighborhood corner Chinese drive-thru food. Jia Huang, the hands-on-owner, offers a menu filled with fresh healthier versions of



Yes, you can order a combo entree but even the presentation of these items are upgraded when served at Jia Modern Cuisine as shown with what they call Dragon and Phoenix: General Chicken and shrimp with Snow Peas (Courtesy image by Jason Janik)

your favorites, including gluten and MSG-free options.

The first thing you notice is the elegance of the res-

taurant, which was rather busy on a recent Wednesday afternoon visit to the Berkshire Court Building at Preston Center.

"I want my guests to feel like they are at home eating homemade meals," Jia shared. Two things you will not find in her recipes: a lot of sugar or celery. Her preference is to focus on allowing quality meat and ingredients to take center stage.

When you taste the Egg Drop Soup, it is as fresh as homemade. Unlike the lukewarm, watered-down versions so often served, Jia's is layered with flavor. From the appetizer menu, the Steamed Pork Dumplings should be at the top of your list to try because they are not only delicious, but \$6 is a reasonable price too.

Growing up, she worked in a family restaurant in China, Jia and her roommate worked at developing updated recipes of dishes familiar to American diners. The Kung Pao Chicken is a prime example of a different approach. The chicken is tender, not chewy, and you will savor the flavors of the spices, not a sugary sweet American version of this popular dish.

The gorgeous space upstairs is intended for private parties; it starts with a lovely blue lotus-shaped lighting fixture over the stairs and features a spacious area that can be divided.

Finally, think about skipping a long wait in traffic. Instead, grab a seat at their bar or in the lounge to enjoy their \$5 Happy Hour Menu, which includes Cosmopolitans, Classic Manhattan, Classic Old Fashion, and more. For the same price, you can nibble on Edamame, Crab Rangoon, the Pork Dumplings, and more. So for just \$10, enjoy a drink and order enough appetizers to share while the Northwest Highway traffic unwinds – sounds like a winner game plan to me.

Jia Modern Chinese is located at 8411 Preston Rd., Ste. 132.

T.D. Jakes and family sail away on Faith & Family Cruise

The average person struggles to go more than ten minutes without checking their phones as more than one-third of Americans say they don't have enough time in their day to get things done. In today's fast-paced and busy world, it is challenging to find time to stop and reflect. But Bishop T.D. Jakes is recently embarked on a seven-day journey at sea with the first-ever Faith & Family Cruise last month, which included carving out time to be offline. Passengers were encouraged to embrace solitude as a means of allowing God to steer their own ships of life.

"Life moves at a fast pace. It is imperative that we all take time to relax and reflect," said Jakes, senior pastor of The Potter's House. "You cannot move



Bishop T.D. Jakes and wife Serita, share insights with passengers on the Faith & Family Cruise (Courtesy photo)

forward and understand the seeds God has sown for your life without taking time to practice solitude. This active inner reflection brings replenishment and can birth a new beginning for you."

In addition to the beauty and serenity of the Caribbean islands, passengers enjoyed programming favorites from Jakes' bi-annual international MegaFest

event, such as panels featuring the Jakes family—Serita Jakes, Cora Jakes Coleman, and Sarah Jakes Roberts—and other special guests; performances by recently engaged Kenny Lattimore, Jonathan Butler, Pretty Ricki and more; themed parties; and a variety of family games and entertainment.

For the first time, a new conference programming

track called "Women of Influence," debuted on the cruise. The program was designed for women

to learn, network, connect and explore the intersectionality of their faith and corporate America. The

highly engaged group of women participated in spe-

See JAKES, Page 15

Black NATIVITY

By Langston Hughes

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Don't let predatory lenders rob your holiday joy this year

By Charlene Crowell

After the nation gives thanks for its many blessings, the annual season of holiday joy begins with its barrage of celebrations both secular and spiritual that mark the season. Colorful decorations and Christmas trees pop up at parades, concerts, parties and more as family and friends gather in good cheer.

For many businesses, the holidays are also the difference between ending the year in profits or in red ink. So there is also an abundance of advertisements, circulars, and commercials beckoning each of us to offer loved ones a special token of the season. From Black Friday discounts to Cyber Monday sales, to the perennial Christmas Eve bargain sales, merchants hope their cash registers will ring nonstop this season.

But the holiday season is also a time when predatory lenders offer enticements to put more debt than money into your pockets. For unsuspecting consumers, it's a temptation trapped in all kinds of packages that seem too good to pass by. In reality, though, these deals are often a debt trap leading to a holiday financial hangover



Online Payday Loans Warning Sign, A yellow warning sign with text Payday Loans on a keyboard (Image: Courtesy CFRL)

that can last well into the New Year.

If you believe pre-paid debit cards are insurance against financial rip-offs, think again.

Some prepaid cards may be a helpful way to avoid overspending. But before paying cash for this convenient form of plastic, read all of the fine print that explains the terms and fees that come with its usage. Terms and options can and do vary significantly. Many include a range of fees from activation, to learning your current balances, reloading monies and in some cases fees for inactivity. Some prepaid cards even use tricky tactics that allow consumers to inadvertently overspend the value on the card and incur an overdraft

fee. By the time all applicable fees are assessed, the amount of money actually available on that prepaid card can shrink and short-change how far it can help on purchases.

Another debt trap, overdraft fees, are marketed and sold as a 'customer convenience'. Yet in truth, these fees can run up holiday bills that many consumers will not know about until after New Year. Their trick is for the bank to extend credit when transactions exceed monies actually available in accounts – including debit card point-of-sale transactions, and ATM withdrawals which banks could easily decline at no charge when consumers lack sufficient funds. Instead, some banks often accept the transaction,

putting the customer in the red and charging a steep \$35 per overdraft fee. Additionally, some banks alter the posting of transactions in an effort to maximize revenues. In 2017, customers of several large banks paid over \$11 billion in overdraft fees in just one year.

Consumers most vulnerable to these high-cost fees are those who have little or no cushion in their checking accounts. Consumers who may have accepted overdraft "coverage" still have a right to cancel the so-called costly service by directing their institutions to remove it.

"With abusive overdraft fees, financial institutions take advantage of customers fighting desperately to stay afloat," said Rebecca Borné, a senior policy counsel with the Center for Responsible Lending. "Ultimately, these fees drive many from the banking system altogether and make reentry very difficult."

Data from the Federal

Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), back up Borné's claim. Over half a million households who once had bank accounts became unbanked—primarily due to high or unpredictable fees like overdraft.

Other consumers, beckoned by the brightly-colored signs advertising "fast cash" or "bad credit? No problem", should just keep walking or driving past storefronts of payday and car-title loans. These predatory loans often lead to consumers paying more in interest and fees than for the money borrowed. They ultimately wind up costing consumers \$8 billion in fees in states where they are legal.

Research by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) has found that predatory payday loans alone drain \$4.1 billion in fees from consumers annually — borrowers who typically are unable to fully repay the original loan, usually due in two weeks' time. With aver-

age annual interest rates of 391%, three out of every four payday loans go to borrowers with more than 10 loans a year.

Although the typical payday loan averages \$357, a car title loan provides more cash, averaging about \$1,000 but must be secured with an owned car as collateral. Failure to make on-time payments often leads to the loss of the vehicle—even though the loan may only be a fraction of the vehicle's marketable value. While the lender holds on to a car title, the borrower is faced with triple-digit interest and, one of every five cases — a whopping 20% percent — end up losing their personal transportation.

In recent years, activist ministers and clergy have emerged as some of the most vocal consumer advocates on payday and car-title loans.

"American consumers

See LOANS, Page 12

Top tips for avoiding scams during the upcoming holiday season

By Cristina Miranda
Division of Consumer and
Business Education, FTC

Now that the holiday shopping season is in full swing, scammers are shopping too, looking for people to separate from their money. We already gave you some of the FTC's tips for happy holiday shopping, but here are some tips to help you outsmart those bah-humbag scammers and donate safely.

Online shopping? Pay by credit card. Credit cards give you extra protection for most online purchases. And many cards offer benefits, like protection for returns and purchases. If un-

authorized charges pop up on your statement, you'll be able to dispute those charges. Credit card protections can vary, so check with your issuer to understand all of your card's protections.

Buy gift cards for gifts, not for payments. Gift cards are a great answer for the teenager in your life. But they're also a scammer's favorite way to steal your money. Anyone who contacts you and demands that you pay them with a gift card, for any reason, is always a scammer. Report gift card scams directly with the card issuer (use this list of card issuer phone numbers and emails), then

report it to the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint. Learn even more at ftc.gov/giftcards.

Research charities before you donate. With the generous spirit of the holidays, and with year-end fundraising, 'tis the season for donations. Make sure your donation goes where you want it to, not into the hands of a scammer. If someone calls, asking you to give to a charity, don't let them rush you into making a donation. Instead, research the charity to make sure your donation counts. Visit ftc.gov/charity to learn more.

Wishing you happy and safe holidays from your friends at the Federal Trade Commission!

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FDIC and OCC proposals would strip away payday loan rate caps in 16 states and in DC

By Charlene Crowell

For most people who either work, receive retirement or other fixed benefits, it seems that your money always goes a lot quicker than it comes. While some economists marvel at Wall Street's brisk trading and declare that the economy is better than ever, not everyone has been included. On Main Street America, millions of people know that the cost of living is rising faster and higher than their incomes.

When triple-digit predatory lending is added to already financially challenged consumers, paydays become 'exchange days,' swapping those hard-earned monies for the bills waiting to be paid. Too many times the terms of credit, including high-cost interest and fees wind up costing far more than the monies originally borrowed. Even worse, every loan payment deepens the debt and drives consumers further from financial freedom.

So why did two federal financial regulators take recent actions that promote predatory lending?

On Nov. 18, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), proposed allowing banks to serve as a pass-through to predatory lenders. This change will facilitate schemes that consumer advocates term



"rent-a-bank." Participating chartered banks use its name and privileges on loans. A key privilege of the scheme is that unlike payday lenders, banks are exempt from state rate cap laws. The bank charter enables the payday lender to charge interest rates without regard to what safeguards were enacted by the states.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) followed OCC's lead the following day, Nov. 19 with its own version of facilitating rent-a-bank schemes and received approval at its same-day board meeting.

Allowing online predatory lenders to evade state interest rate caps will put people in debt and go against what the public wants. For example, California recently signed into law a rate cap of approximately 36% on loans of \$2,500 to \$10,000. Supporting rent-a-bank schemes would undercut

this new law and could allow for abusive loans that could annual percentage rates or APRs well above 100%.

Beyond essentially rolling back interest rate caps in 16 states and the District of Columbia, the regulatory reach of these two agencies is significant.

OCC supervises an estimated 1,400 national banks, federal savings associations and federal branches and agencies of foreign banks that operate in the United States. Approximately 4,000 banks chartered by the states or by the federal government fall under FDIC's supervision. It is also the back-up supervisor for uninsured banks and thrifts. Each regulator is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

And now, both agency actions appear to run counter to their stated missions.

their holiday joy. This holiday season try to add a full measure of practical sense to help your dollars preserve the spirit and joy of the season – it only comes once a year!

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

According to OCC's web, the agency "ensures that national banks and federal savings associations operate in a safe and sound manner, provide fair access to financial services, treat customers fairly, and apply with applicable laws and regulations."

Similarly, FDIC "preserves and promotes public confidence in the U.S. financial system by insuring deposits in banks and thrift institutions for at least \$250,000; by identifying, monitoring and addressing risks to the deposit insurance funds; and by limiting the effect on the economy and the financial system when a bank or thrift institution fails."

For consumer advocates, there is nothing safe or sound about predatory lending.

"Rather than facilitating high-cost loans, OCC and FDIC should be doing more to ensure banks better serve our people and communities," said Diane Standaert, Director of the Hope Policy Institute, that along with its parent organization, Hope Enterprise Corporation serves Southern consumers residing in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

"It is even more troubling that the OCC and FDIC proposals come as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is separately considering a proposal to repeal protections for payday loans, car title loans, and other high-cost loans," added Standaert.

"In 2010 in the Dodd-Frank Act, Congress limited the bank regulators' authority to preempt state consumer protection laws," noted Lauren Saunders, Associate Director of the National Consumer Law Center, "yet the OCC and FDIC are ignoring those limits."

"Voters of both parties overwhelmingly support limiting interest rates to 36% or lower, and we encourage all to speak up loudly against the proposal to let banks help predatory lenders charge rates that voters have said should be illegal," concluded Rebecca Borné, Senior Policy Counsel at the Center for Responsible Lending.

Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's communications deputy director. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

← LOANS, from Page 11

are now in the death grip of a government that is not only deaf to the cries of the poor for fundamental economic justice, but this government is also blind to their merciless exploitation by payday lending traffickers," said Rev. James T. Golden of Florida.

"Consumers don't need payday loans; they need financial stability," added

Rev. Dallas Lenear, Director of Project GREEN in Grand Rapids. "And, payday loans keep them unstable. Scripture says, 'Do not exploit the poor because they are poor...' (Prov. 22:22) But, that is precisely what payday loans do."

All forms of predatory lending bring the probability of robbing low-to-moderate income consumers of

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Ongoing Census Bureau

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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

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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

#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.

Dec. 9 Holiday Job Fairs

The Fort Worth Housing

Solutions is hosting a job fair Dec. 9 at 1401 Etta St. in Fort Worth. Job seekers are invited to meet with employers such as Fort Worth ISD Transportation, Clayton Youth Enrichment, U.S. Census Bureau, Waffle House, UPS and Link Staff.

Dec. 12

Diversity Job Fair

I Heart Radio Dallas Champions of Diversity Job Fair is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 12 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel-Market Center at 2015 Market Center Blvd. ChampionsOfDiversity.org,

I Heart Radio Choice Career Fairs have partnered to present a college & professional career fair that provides recruiters the latest in social networking communications and on-line recruitment technology along with the wide reach of I Heart Radio Columbus and the diverse job seeker network of ChampionsOf-



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December 8, 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.

December 11, 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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December 11

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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- Malachi 3:8-10

December 6, 7 pm

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

December 8, 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.

December 9, 7 p.m.



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December 8, 10 a.m.

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December 11, 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.

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8 and 11 am**

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**December 7, 7 to 8 pm
Every Monday Night**

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December 9, 7 pm

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

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Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

"Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel'"

2 Samuel 7:8

David was nearing the end of his life. The prophet Nathan was responding to David's idea to build a temple where the Ark of the Covenant would stay. God reminded David through the prophet of his roots and where He had brought him.

God took David from the fields of pasturing sheep to pastoring a nation. God reminded David that He cut off all of David's enemies for his sake and the sake of his nation. David never lost a battle.

At this time of the year when you have all that you think you need to get what you want for Christmas gifts for your love ones, it's important to remember where your source of success comes from.

Have you ever felt tempted to look at your accomplishments with pride as if you were the reason for your success? Have you ever thought your prosperity was due to your ingenuity?

Has your material success been a testimony to

JAKES,
from Page 10

cialized events and excursions throughout the duration of the cruise.

United MegaCare, the global humanitarian outreach organization of The Potter's House, is also working with emergency relief organizations to provide assistance and support for those impacted by Hurricane Dorian. Donations can be made by texting T5DR to 28950.

others that God is the ruler of all aspects of your life, even the material side?

The greatest temptation some of us will ever face is pride of ownership. If we think our success is a result of our own effort we affront God and open the door to pride.

"A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor."

Proverb 29:23

Success can be a greater test than adversity. Not every man can carry a full cup. Sudden elevation frequently leads to pride and a fall.

"The most exacting test of all to survive is prosperity," said Oswald Chambers. Success can be a breeding ground for complacency with God and pride of ownership.

Do you have a proper understanding of who you are? Do you understand that it is God who has given you the ability to work and achieve?

God is the source of all good things. Ask God today if your life models this belief and His Word.

God's Word is a river of life. It satisfies and comforts your soul like a stream



Sister Tarpley with a group of ladies at Bethel Bible Fellowship Church that had a 2019 Chili Cook-off; (left to right): Bobbie Hill, Kim Washington, Janet Ross (the leader) Denise Lewis, Yolanda Wilson, Carla Barnes and Sister Tarpley. The cook-off was won by Sister Velma Roquemore.

NDG^{tv}



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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Don't forget to thank God for loving you and providing all your needs along the way; in Jesus' name you must pray.



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NDG Book Review: *Sulwe* helps children be comfortable in their own skin

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Other kids can be so mean.

In your classroom, they call you names and whisper bad things. On the playground, they tease you, and it hurts your feelings. You wish you had more friends, and that things were different. But in the new book “Sulwe” by Lupita Nyong’o, illustrated by Vashti Harrison, life can change, and it starts on the inside of you.

For a long time, Sulwe hated her skin.

It was dark as midnight and because of it, she didn’t look like anyone else in her



family. Her mother’s skin was as bright as the day. Sulwe’s father was like sundown, and her sister was like “high noon.” Almost nobody at school was dark-skinned like Sulwe, either, and they called her names for it.

Sulwe’s sister had all

kinds of friends. Sulwe had almost no friends, and it wasn’t fair.

Maybe, she thought, she could scrub the dark away but ouch! That didn’t work.

Maybe Mama’s make-up would help make her skin lighter but it just made a mess.

She tried to eat bananas, white bread, and other light foods but that just made her full.

Praying didn’t work, either, and when Mama saw that Sulwe was sad, she tried to help. Mama reminded Sulwe that her name means “Star” and that a star’s brightness comes from the inside. Beauty

comes from inside, too, and “it begins with how you see yourself...”

All that day, Sulwe thought about what Mama said. Could it be that there was light inside her darkness? Was there beauty in skin like midnight? She thought and she thought, and she fell asleep thinking about Mama’s words.

Not long after Sulwe’s eyes closed, they opened again! There in the middle of her room was a shooting star, inviting her on a journey where dark and light were sisters and the people learned that everything was wrong if they didn’t have both.

Was that a lesson Sulwe could use?

Definitely, yes. And if your child has started to notice skin tones, this is a book she can use, too. “Sulwe” tells a wonderful tale of differences and loving the skin you’re in.

You aren’t going to see that, though, until later. No, much like the story itself, the first thing you’ll see is the outside of “Sulwe,” and it’s absolutely beautiful. Indeed, the illustrations by Vashti Harrison almost glow, and you may have a hard time keeping your hands off.

Go ahead, though, and open the book. There, au-

thor Lupita Nyong’o tells a child’s tale that, she says in her end-of-book author note, is somewhat autobiographical: like her character, she was teased for being “night-shaded.” Nyong’o goes on to offer advice to children who wish to be lighter-skinned, or who are bullied for being who they are. Not only is this comforting, but it could serve as a great conversation-starter.

Give this book to your child, read it aloud, and enjoy the gorgeous artwork, too. “Sulwe” is a book you’ll both love, as a beautiful story loaded with meaning.

DCCCD Police debut zippy new ‘Trikke’

The DCCCD Police Department is the first in the state to equip its officers with Trikkies — “personal electric vehicles” that can be used indoors, outdoors, on the street and off-road.

Lieutenant Keith Clicque recently demonstrated the scooter, which can travel up to an impressive 40 miles

per hour. According to Lt. Clicque, two Trikkies have been stationed at El Centro, and two will soon appear at Brookhaven College. The police department hopes to have a couple of Trikkies at each campus eventually.

DCCCD Chief of Police Lauretta Hill said, “The Trikkies let us be more agile

and mobile. They give us a better ability to see more of the campus and go places we couldn’t go in a car or golf cart.”

Besides providing convenient transportation, the Trikkies also should help the DCCCD PD engage students, employees and visitors. Chief Hill said,

“Officers can get around, and people will walk up to us just because they want to know what it is.”

The \$10,000 scooters are all electric and 100% green, according to Clicque. They’re equipped with multicolored lights and a siren.



HARRIS, from Page 2

and veterans, prosecuted big polluters, and defended the Affordable Care Act from partisan attacks.

Kamala has been at the forefront of major civil rights battles as well. She was proud to lead the team that helped bring down California’s Proposition 8 at the U.S. Supreme Court and to fight for marriage equality nationwide.

When the U.S. Supreme Court took up important

cases on women’s health, Kamala fought to require for-profit companies to provide their employees with health insurance that covers contraceptives and protect patients’ access to reproductive health clinics.

As Attorney General, she sponsored legislation to ensure that crisis pregnancy centers provide women medically accurate information about the full range

of reproductive services.

Kamala has worked intensively to protect children and students.

She established California’s Bureau of Children’s Justice and fought to reduce elementary school truancy so that every child can exercise his or her right to an education.

As Attorney General, Harris successfully sued predatory for-profit colleges that scammed students and veterans.

CLEAN, from Page 8

stated. “It warmed my heart in a very special way to see the total staff of that school to come and volunteer their time to help clean up an old Black cemetery.”

The staff and Father Bob Corley, the priest of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, also in Irving, were seeking a way to give back during their Talents for Tolerance conference. Friday, Nov. 16, was also declared by the United Nations as an International Day of Toler-

ance.

Garcia stated they felt very strongly about the importance of bringing together, which included teachers, heads of other Montessori schools, and staff out to support the clean-up project. Approximately 20 individuals participated.

“If you have an opportunity to give back, share your knowledge and be willing to learn, this is it,” Garcia stated. She encour-

ages others to volunteer at future clean-up dates in 2020.

Bond has worked for years to bring awareness to the plight of this historic gravesite.

“It was God working through those ladies, and I am grateful for them,” Bond added.

The Irving Parks and Recreational Department, under the guidance of Joe Moses, has partnered with the volunteers by hauling off the trash after the recent clean-ups.

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