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Are Republican Senators in Fear of 'Don Corleone' Trump? 'Yes!' Says Schumer

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior Correspondent

On Thursday, December 19, NNPA Newswire interviewed Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY). The discussion covered a wide range of topics, focusing primarily on the impeachment of the president. The Senator also shared some insight on his conversations with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.).

Republicans have steadfastly sided with President Donald Trump on impeachment and most other issues, perhaps out of fear that they might wind up sleeping – politically – with the fishes.

At least that's how Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer views the otherwise hard-to-explain loyalty Republicans have displayed toward the president.

When asked whether he believed the GOP has a "Don Corleone-like" fear of the president, Schumer quickly answered in the affirmative.

"I have never seen anything like this," Schumer told NNPA Newswire one day after the House voted to impeach the president, and moments after the Democrat met with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to discuss the upcoming impeachment trial in the Senate.

"What motivates these Republicans to just circle the wagons? And, whatever this president says, who is known for having a low moral char-



U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) recently shared some insight on impeachment and his conversations with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.). (Photo: NNPA)

acter, who is known for not telling the truth, why do they rally around him? When I talk to a good number of them privately, they know how bad this guy is. But, there's one reason they rally around him: Fear." When asked, "What, is he the Godfather... Corleone here?" the Senator chuckled and replied, "Politically speaking, he probably is."

On Wednesday, December 18, the House voted along party lines to impeach Trump, making him just the third president in U.S. history to face impeachment. Richard Nixon resigned during the impeachment process.

Since the historic impeachment vote, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said she would withhold send-

ing the case to the Senate until Democrats and Republicans can reach a consensus on how a Senate trial would take place.

Based on the Constitution, if the Senate votes to convict Trump, he would be removed from office.

McConnell and other Republicans have said there's no chance they'd convict the president and GOP leaders have threatened to lock Democrats and the public out of any Senate trial.

"Impeachment of the president is a very solemn and serious moment for our country," Schumer stated.

"When you have a president who overreaches, the founding fathers

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Will the impeachment trial be fair?

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Study: Coke's PR campaigns targeted teens

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MADD reminds drivers to stay sober for NYE

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READERS SOUND OFF!!!

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People In The News...



Charlotte Jones



Ben Hasan

NDG Quote of the Week: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."
-- 2 Corinthians 5:17

Charlotte Jones

Dallas Cowboys Executive Vice President and Chief Brand Officer Charlotte Jones is the distinguished guest for the 7th annual In Conversation—set for 7 p.m. Friday, February 21, at St. Luke Community United Methodist Church, 5710 East R.L. Thornton Freeway.

In Conversation is presented by the Zan Wesley Holmes Jr. Community Outreach Center, a non-profit organization. This fundraising effort makes possible the programs and operations of the Center.

Each year, a distinguished presenter helps to shine a



light on the life and events of our city, state, nation and the world.

The Zan Wesley Holmes Jr. Community Outreach Center is named for Rev. Holmes, Pastor Emeritus of St. Luke and a long-time

activist, pastor, educator and former state legislator. Dr. Holmes served as senior pastor at St. Luke “Community” United Methodist Church in Dallas for 29 years. He is a former Texas State Representative, University of Texas System Regent and a faculty member at Perkins School of Theology at SMU. A renowned activist, he has mentored scores of public servants, educators, corporate leaders and clergy around the world.

Ms. Jones is recognized as one of the most powerful women in sports. She has been a member of the Dallas Cowboys organization since 1989 and her primary

responsibilities include overseeing business operations, strategies and applications surrounding the Dallas Cowboys brand. However, her charitable involvement in the local community transcends that of professional sports. In 2012, she was named Chairman of the NFL Foundation, making her the first female executive in history to lead a major professional sports league charitable foundation. She also was the first woman to chair the Salvation Army’s National Advisory Board from 2013-2014 and is credited with introducing a groundbreaking approach to fundraising years earlier that helped the Salvation Army

raise more than two billion dollars in 1997. For more than 30 years she has been actively involved in leadership roles for a variety of organizations, including the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Southwestern Medical Foundation, the President’s Advisory Council for the Dallas Center for Performing Arts Foundation, The Rise School, Shelton School, Make-A-Wish North Texas Presidents Council and the Dallas Symphony.

Local entrepreneur and philanthropist, Roland Parrish of Parrish McDonald’s Restaurants, has been the only title sponsor for In Conversation and is spon-

soring this dynamic event for the fourth straight year. The Dallas Business ranks his company as the 5th Largest Minority Owned Firm in North Texas. In 2017, his company was named the Minority Business Enterprise of the Year by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Minority Business Development Agency.

Proceeds will support Frazier House and other Outreach Center programs, services and operations. For more information, tickets or sponsorships, contact Fannie Smith at inconversation@zwhjcc.org, 214.454.8624 or visit www.zwhjcc.org.

Ben Hasan

LOS ANGELES -- (PRNewswire) Diversitystars.com announced today that Ben Hasan has been honored as the Most Influential Diversity Star for 2019. Ben is currently SVP and Chief Culture, Diversity & Inclusion Officer at Walmart Inc. He began in his current role in July 2015.

In this global role, Ben and his team are responsible for advancing the company’s culture, the development of behaviors that embrace diversity and inclusion at all levels of the company and the promotion of the company’s ex-



ternal reputation as a great place to work.

Ben joined Walmart in 2008, and previously served as senior vice president Strategic Services in Walmart Technology. In this role, he and his team

were responsible for ISD (Information Systems Division) Strategy, Communication, Innovation, ISD Vendor Management, Project Management Office, Business Analysis, GTS – India & Mexico and Quality Assurance.

Prior to Walmart, Ben worked 11 years at Dell Inc. He progressed through several leadership positions before serving as vice president of Corporate and Product Group I/T. In this position, he directed teams in Texas, Shanghai, Taipei, and Singapore. He also served as general manager of Dell’s I/T development centers in Brazil and India. Before joining Dell,

he gained broad experience in I/T, Human Resources, Rates and Regulatory Affairs, and Customer Service during his 14-year career with ENSERCH Corporation, an oil and gas company based in Dallas, Texas.

In 2006, Ben received the Temple University Fox School I/T Award for Distinguished Alumni. Ben holds an M.B.A. from Amber University in Dallas, Texas, a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a concentration in computer science from Temple University in Philadelphia and completed Harvard’s Advanced Management Program.

Ben serves on the boards

of several national and local organizations, including the Walmart Foundation; Catalyst Board of Advisors; Ron Clark Academy (Atlanta); United Negro College Fund; and Bentonville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Ben was selected for this honor by the editorial team at D&I Mavens from Diversitystars.com’s TOP50 Most Influential Diversity Stars of 2019 and will receive an RFD Award at the upcoming Retreat for Diversity on March 10-12 in Beverly Hills. Ben will also share his thought leadership and participate at the Retreat for Diversity as an expert on a panel focused on Diversity and Inclusion

in the Retail and Fashion industries. When D&I Mavens notified Ben that he was named the Most Influential Diversity Star of 2019, he humbly replied,

“Thank you to the team at Diversitystars.com for this wonderful recognition of the work we are doing at Walmart to foster a culture of inclusion. I’m honored to accept this award on behalf of my entire Culture, Diversity & Inclusion team as well as our many partners throughout the Walmart enterprise who help move us forward on our road to inclusion. I’m looking forward to joining some of

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NDG Readers Sound Off...

Secretary DeVos offers partial forgiveness for defrauded University of Phoenix borrowers

The mess was created by a republican administration from the early 1980s, Ronald Reagan. I was an existing college was those changes happened. In a 4 year period kids, 4 years apart faces two totally different outcomes. I finish school in 1983 with only \$100.00 student loan debt and my young brother had a far different story to tell.

- Margaret Freelon

Mattis calls for a return to civility in DCC guest appearance

Shower Cap said it best: “Ilhan Omar’s would-be Republican opponent got herself permanently banned from Twitter, for repeatedly demanding the Congresswoman be hanged, so I’m juuuuust about ready for another lecture on civility, aren’t you?”

- Tommy Stewart

West Believes African Americans

Locked Out Again by Democratic Party

Endorsements like this, just like the DNC rules pushing presidential candidates out of the debates, are designed by party leadership to control the process. This effectively undermines the people’s free and fair vote. All very undemocratic.

- Mark Weynand

Libs be libbing. TBH don’t think anyone wants a DSCC endorsement, the money and support is great, but it can be a death nail label of establishment

to an active base. We will see

- Lee Daugherty

Congressional Black Caucus Members Talk Impeachment, HBCU Funding

Sheila Jackson Lee about as smart as a box of rocks. Trump asked Ukraine to look into possible corruption involving Biden. Never told them to make shit up unlike the Dems did with the Russian collusion hoax. Gotta love how liberals falsely accuse Trump of doing what they have actually done.

- Russell S Revell

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Will McConnell let the Senate hold a fair impeachment trial?

By Kamala D. Harris
U.S. Senator (D-CA)

December 18 — Today the House of Representatives will vote on whether to impeach President Trump. If it votes yes, sometime early in the new year I will take an oath on the Senate floor to uphold the Constitution, review evidence and follow the facts wherever they lead, regardless of party or ideology. Every one of my colleagues will be required to do the same.

As a former prosecutor, I understand the importance of holding powerful people accountable. I know that every trial requires fairness and truth. Having worked my whole life serving the people, I know that any trial that abandons the pursuit of truth cannot be considered fair or just.

But the Senate majority leader, Mitch McConnell, appears more interested in covering up the president's misconduct than in pursuing truth and fairness. He is already trying to limit the impeachment trial by preventing witnesses from testifying, and he has all but announced a verdict. In doing so, he showed the American people that he has no intention of honoring his oath.

Let's be clear: Mr. Mc-

Connell doesn't want a Senate trial. He wants a Senate cover-up.

Fortunately, Mr. McConnell does not have the power to unilaterally undermine this trial. Every single senator will be empowered with an equal vote on how the trial will proceed. Though in just the past year, Mr. McConnell has used his position to unilaterally block legislation to restore the Voting Rights Act, lower the prices of prescription drugs and address the gun violence epidemic, he cannot wield the same authority in a Senate impeachment trial.

In this trial, senators will be far more than jurors. Every one of us will vote to determine the rules for the trial, decide which witnesses testify and ultimately serve as both court and jury. Each of us will be called on to uphold our oath with every decision we make. We will all be held accountable by the American people if we refuse to discover the facts relevant to the articles of impeachment.

The Senate Democratic leader, Chuck Schumer, has made a reasonable request to hear from four additional witnesses with firsthand knowledge of the president's misconduct and to review documents that shed

light on why the administration initially decided to cut off military aid to Ukraine.

We need to hear from Mick Mulvaney, the acting White House chief of staff, who admitted to Mr. Trump's bribery scheme on live television, and from the former national security adviser, John Bolton, who has been shopping stories about Mr. Trump to book publishers instead of speaking with Congress. Every senator should want to hear from anyone who can speak directly to the president's misconduct related to the articles of impeachment.

Even Richard Nixon allowed the key figures behind the Watergate scandal to speak to Congress, and he eventually turned over incriminating portions of his Oval Office recordings to investigators. But Mr. Trump has stonewalled Congress and inhibited our ability to seek justice by demanding that those closest to the center of the Ukraine scandal stay silent.

Senators must be allowed to subpoena relevant witnesses and submit questions to them directly. The Senate should not vote on any article of impeachment or consider a motion to dismiss the trial until we have reviewed the additional testimony and evidence that

Mr. Schumer has requested.

I have never been in a courtroom where the accused can unilaterally block witnesses from testifying or prohibit prosecutors from asking witnesses questions. No court would allow a trial to proceed this way, and neither should any member of the Senate.

Ensuring the integrity of this trial is a solemn responsibility for every senator, with consequences that extend far beyond any one presidency. My colleagues and I have a duty to use our voice and our vote to insist on a fair trial, rooted in the pursuit of truth. We must demonstrate to the American people that in our system of justice all are equal under law, and that there are not two sets of rules, one for Donald Trump and another for everybody else. We must conduct the Senate impeachment trial in a way that is fair and that reflects impartial justice.

History will judge the actions taken by the United States Senate at a time when our Constitution and the rule of law were at stake. I'll be fighting for justice and accountability, and my colleagues should too.

Kamala D. Harris is a Democratic senator from California.

Setting A Goal for 2020

By Glenn Mollette

We hear the same message a lot this time of year. Put the past behind. Look to the future. Let bygones be bygones. Make a new commitment. Claim the new you in the New Year.

We determine to lose weight. We decide that we aren't going to do some things. Or, we decide to start doing something. Life is filled with commitments, failures and recommitments. It's okay. We all make commitments and then fail to

follow through. We diet for a day and then blow it the next. We join a gym and then never get around to working out. We aim to start a new endeavor, a new hobby or a new lifestyle. Sometimes we follow through. Sometimes we don't.

It's not the end of the world if you've broken a resolution. We are human beings filled with flaws and inadequacies. Actually about all of life is trying again and again and again.

A part of life is the fun of having a target. We all need

to aim our lives in a meaningful direction. Your goal may be starting a business, a new career, retirement, writing a book, writing a song, running for public office or just living healthy. Everybody's goals are different but it's healthy to have one or two.

We all need something to live for. Having a purpose increases our zest and passion for life. Having nothing to work toward leaves us a bit limp in our energy and sometimes hopeless and depressed.

After you read this article determine what it is you want to do and go for it. Write your goal down and put it where you will see it often. Some days you'll get sick of seeing your goal. Other days you will be reminded that you are either doing great or maybe you need to pick up the pace a little in effort.

I hope you make your goal in 2020. Good luck.

Glenn Mollette is an American Syndicated Columnist and Author. He is the author of eleven books and read in all fifty states.

Coke PR campaigns tried to influence teens' views on health impacts of soda, study says

Internal Coca-Cola Company documents show how the company intended to use public relations campaigns to influence teens' sense of the health risks of its products, including sugary soda, according to a study published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

One Coca-Cola document shows its public relations campaign goals included to "Increase Coke brand health scores with teens" and to "Cement credibility



Bradley Pissney / Unsplash

in the health and well-being space.” The study was produced by Australia’s Deakin University and U.S. Right to Know, a nonprofit consumer and public health group. It is based on two Coca-

Cola Company public relations requests for proposals, for the Rio 2016 Summer Olympic Games and for its Movement Is

Happiness campaign. U.S. Right to Know obtained the documents through state public records requests.

“The documents show that Coca-Cola tried to use public relations to manipulate teens into thinking that sugary soda is healthy, when really it increases the risk of obesity, diabetes and other

ills,” said Gary Ruskin, a co-author of the study, and co-director of U.S. Right to Know. “We are calling for governments and public health agencies to investigate how Coca-Cola uses public relations to manipulate children and teenagers in ways that may harm their health,” Ruskin said.

The study concludes, “Coke’s intent and ability to use PR campaigns to market to children should cause serious public-health concern, given that the exposure of children to the marketing of unhealthy

foods is likely to be an important contributor to increased childhood obesity rates.”

“Globally, Coke makes public pledges to reduce the exposure of children to marketing of unhealthy products. But what they say in public is at odds with their internal documents that show how they deliberately set out to target children as part of their promotion efforts”, said co-author of the study, Associate Professor Gary Sacks from Deakin University.

UT Southwestern Medical Center expands to RedBird

UT Southwestern and Reimagine RedBird have signed an agreement for UT Southwestern to establish a new medical center, expanding health care services, and providing southern Dallas residents more convenient access to UT Southwestern’s best-in-class medical care in their own community. UT Southwestern Medical Center at RedBird will occupy 150,000 square feet of the former Sears anchor building at RedBird.

“As part of our mission to improve the health of our community, we are excited by the opportunities presented by this redevelopment effort to bring additional medical services to those living and working in southern Dallas,” said Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, President of UT Southwestern. “We admire the dedication of RedBird owner Peter Brodsky, who has demonstrated bold enthusiasm to invigorate RedBird into a model live-work community and created an outstanding location from which we can reaffirm our commitment to our patients and their families in this region of the city.”

Similar to existing UT Southwestern regional medical centers – Frisco,



Richardson/Plano, Park Cities, Fort Worth, and Las Colinas – UT Southwestern Medical Center at RedBird, which is slated to open in 2021, will offer a range of care with an emphasis on specialty services. While UT Southwestern has tentatively identified some key specialties that may be most needed, final plans will be made on the basis of additional input from com-

munity leaders and residents to be sure its services best match their health care needs.

“Many of our patients travel from far and wide to the UT Southwestern main campus for care. We wanted to bring the care we offer closer to home, in this instance to the south side of our city,” said Dr. John Warner, Executive Vice President of Health System

Affairs at UT Southwestern. “We look forward to meeting with community members in the upcoming weeks and months to learn how we can best complement and collaborate with existing and future medical providers in the area to help improve health outcomes in these communities.”

UT Southwestern expects its regional center with much-needed specialty service will complement the initiative of its partner Parkland, which has committed to bringing primary care service to the

40,000-square-foot site it plans to develop at RedBird.

“UT Southwestern is world-renowned for its quality care and we are thrilled to facilitate its service of southern Dallas,” said Peter Brodsky, the majority owner of RedBird. “RedBird seeks to provide southern Dallas families with the quality amenities they want, but which are not currently available in their community. In addition to lacking retail, restaurants, and entertainment, south-

ern Dallas does not have enough medical facilities. Parkland’s clinic at RedBird, announced earlier this year, began to address the issue. Now, Dr. Podolsky and his team at UT Southwestern have demonstrated their vision to improve health for all through their extraordinary commitment to a part of our city that has been underserved for too long. We are also excited to welcome patients and families expected to visit UT Southwestern Medical Center at RedBird.”

LEGAL NOTICE

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

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2154	Blackjack Overall Odds are 1 in 4.54	\$1	2/19/20	8/17/20
2120	Double Match Overall Odds are 1 in 4.76	\$2	2/19/20	8/17/20
2143	Texas Road Trip Overall Odds are 1 in 3.93	\$5	2/19/20	8/17/20
2150	Red Hot Slots Overall Odds are 1 in 3.56	\$5	2/19/20	8/17/20
2084	Mega Loteria Overall Odds are 1 in 3.54	\$10	2/19/20	8/17/20
2067	Stacks of Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 3.37	\$20	2/19/20	8/17/20

Tlottery.org is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2020 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.



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MADD North Texas wants everyone to make it New Years Eve

MADD North Texas Affiliate has partnered with District 4 Dallas County Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia – who is also chair of the Dallas County DWI Task Force – to provide a major incentive to not drive impaired this holiday season by offering Uber discount codes for those who pledge not to drink and drive.

While drunk driving deaths usually represent about a third of all highway fatalities, that increases dramatically on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve dur-



Matthew T. Rader / Unsplash

ing the already dangerous month of December. Fifty people died in alcohol-re-

lated crashes nationwide on Christmas Eve in 2018, representing nearly half of all

traffic deaths. This was up from 36 deaths in 2017. On Christmas Day, 35 people were killed, accounting for 40 percent of all highway deaths.

And drunk driving is a problem every day of the year. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, (TxDOT) 1,024 people died in drunk driving deaths on Texas roadways in 2017. Dallas County ranks in the top five Texas cities for DUI deaths, coming in at number two under Harris County.

“Our message to the public is very simple. If you’re going to drink, don’t drive,” said Commissioner Garcia. “Drunk driving kills one person every 50 minutes in the United States and injures one person every two minutes. We know that costs over 10,000 lives a year in our country.”

The Dallas County DWI Task Force and MADD North Texas have launched the #DoYourPart Campaign that utilizes local DFW social media influencers with a huge social reach to

spread our message, save lives and keep drunk drivers off the roadways this holiday season. We have partnered with Uber to give out discount codes for those who take a pledge to not drink and drive. Uber codes will be active from 4 p.m. December 24 to 4 a.m. December 26 and from 6 p.m. January 31 to 6 a.m. January 2.

Codes will be available on the MADD North Texas site at www.madd.org/north-texas under Take the Pledge.

RL's Blues Palace II hosts the 17th annual Larry Tutson, Jr. Toy Drive

This year is the seventeenth year for the Larry Tutson Jr. Annual Toy Drive Giveaway, but it was the first without one of the key supporters of the holiday event. Terry Smith, owner of T. Smith Inspection and Testing as Mr. Smith passed away earlier in 2019. How-

ever, his generosity was remembered by organizers Gregg and Barbara Smith.

Larry Tutson, Jr., the son of Gregg and Barbara Smith is honored each year on his birthday, Dec. 23, following his unsolved murder in 2002 when he was trying to help a friend. His parents and

supporters such as Terry Smith started a toy drive to help make Christmas a happy time for many families who cannot afford holiday happiness. Throughout the previous 16 years, they have provided Christmas cheer to more than 500 children annually, with the need grow-

ing each year.

This year the Annual Toy Drive was once again held on Larry's Birthday, Dec. 23. The doors opened at 10 a.m. at R. L's Blues Palace in Dallas and hundreds of happy children and their grateful parents were able to receive bikes, toys and other gifts.



The public and donors have generously contributed to the Larry Tutson Jr. Annual Toy Drive Giveaway and will help to make Christmas bright for more than 500 kids once again. (Courtesy photo)

The City of Dallas is issuing a community survey in 2020

The City of Dallas Office of Budget is spearheading the biannual Community Survey to assess residents' perceptions of Dallas and understand community priorities regarding City ser-

vices.

The survey administrator, ETC Institute, selects a random sample of households to complete the survey, ensuring at least 100 households are chosen from

each City Council district. Selected households will be notified by mail on January 2, 2020. Households will also receive follow-up phone calls as a reminder to complete the survey. Materials

will be mailed in English, and assistance will be available for Spanish speakers to complete the survey. All survey responses are anonymous.

“It’s important that we

continuously seek input from our residents to understand the diverse needs of our community,” said Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer for the City of Dallas. “The data collected will

give City departments better insight into residents' priorities and opportunities for us to improve.”

Dallas City Council will be briefed on the results from the survey in April 2020.

Former Dallas Cowboys player not guilty in health care fraud case

A federal court jury in Dallas has found former Dallas Cowboys player Michael Kiselak not guilty in a health care fraud case tied to prescription creams to treat pain and scars.

Kiselak, 52, of Southlake, was charged in 2016 with conspiracy to defraud Tri-care, the federal program providing health care to active duty military service members and veterans, and violation of the Anti-Kick-back Statute.

The jury acquitted him on both counts.

“I’m very happy that the

jury took the time to go through all of the evidence and all of the testimony and come back with a verdict that is just,” said Ms. Knox. “And I’m happy that Michael will be able to go back to living his life.”

Kiselak worked in marketing for CMGRX LLC, which provided military members and their families with its specially made pain creams and scar creams.

“These kinds of health care fraud cases are very complex and somewhat draining,” Ms. Knox said. “But we survived the gov-

ernment’s two-month-long onslaught and learned more about how they approach this kind of prosecution.”

Kiselak was a center for the Dallas Cowboys in 1998, starting the final seven games of the season and working with NFL Hall-of-Famer Troy Aikman. Before that, he played for the Toronto Argonauts in the Canadian Football League, where he was on two teams that won the Grey Cup – the league championship – and was teamed with legendary quarterback Doug Flutie.

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DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Education leaders visit DISD to see blended and personalized learning in action

Education leaders from across the state recently visited Dallas ISD schools to see blended and personalized learning in action.

Dallas ISD, Region 10 Education Service Center and the Texas Education Agency hosted the 2019 Blended Learning Grant Program Kickoff Summit Dec. 5-6 in Dallas. Summit attendees, which in total included more than 200 Texas education leaders, heard from Dallas ISD personalized learning leaders and



Dallas ISD

visited five Dallas ISD personalized learning schools.

"We are one of the few urban school districts in

the state who have implemented personalized and

blended learning at scale, which provides our schools an opportunity to share their journey and what's working with other leaders," said Kristen Watkins, director of Dallas ISD Personalized Learning.

Dallas ISD is considered an early pioneer of personalized learning, which is a method of educating children that focuses on each individual student's interests, talents and goals. Dallas ISD is home to 14 personalized learning schools.

Blended learning is a part of the personalized learning model that blends the best of face-to-face learning with technology to meet the needs of every student. Dallas ISD has 10 schools that are emerging or working on blended or personalized learning.

"We're excited about the collaboration across districts and know that this community of practice will help us all get better together, Watkins said.

Powerful book for young Black boys celebrates 25 years with a pledge to get 1 million new readers

Jerald LeVon Hoover became the published author of a Young Adult (YA) title, one of a few books targeted toward young Black and Brown boys ages 12 and up, *My Friend, My Hero*. This novella has become a staple, as recommended reading in elementary through high schools across the country and around the world. That is a distinct honor Hoover shares with a short list of African-American male YA authors including: Walter Dean Myers, Kevin Powell, Kwame Alexander, and Ralph Burgess.

My Friend, My Hero, is celebrating its 25th Anniversary with a commemorative edition that includes an addendum of book discussion questions and now available; a full curriculum with a companion Student Success Guidebook, Teacher's Guide, and Unit Assessments containing lesson plans. The goal is to promote Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in the classroom by providing strategies for students to make better choices and gain much needed confidence to support unleashing their inner greatness.

My Friend, My Hero. This novella has become a staple, as recommended reading in elementary through high schools across the country and around the world.

Hoover then adds, "Young Black and Brown men are focused, gifted, driven, intelligent, and masterful at a host of other talents besides rap music and competitive sports; of which carries no shame, but we have other skill sets of significant influence. We

are men of honor and integrity, regardless of whether we are born into poverty or wealth. But how can young Black and Brown men, or men of any race for that matter, define themselves and live up to their full potential if they only receive distorted representations?" Hoover continues, "My Friend, My Hero is intended for all youth (races and genders), but I gave the spotlight to young, Black and Brown males because of the dire need for young Black and Brown men to have access to more positive representations of themselves to which they can relate."

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Celebrating 25 Years in Print, *My Friend, My Hero*, is the first in the acclaimed The Hero Book Series by Jerald LeVon Hoover. Other titles from The Hero Book Series are *He Was My Hero*, *Too, A Hopeful Hero*, and *Hoop Hero*. The novella took nine years to get published after forty rejections and sixty drafts.

About The Book
Bennett Wilson has the world at his fingertips as one of the top basketball players in New York State who is destined to lead Mount Vernon High School to the state championship for the first time. Many of the nation's top colleges are already reaching out, eager to sign him to their roster. Scholarships are guaranteed. Still young, Bennett is used to fanfare and eagerly anticipating his rise to fame and fortune. Yet, all is not as it appears.

Strife and difficulties plague Bennett's personal life. Growing up in Mount Vernon, he is the son of a single mother and the oldest of three, sharing a tiny apartment in the tough inner-city projects. Life is a struggle. Bennett knows his ticket to freedom is through basketball and academic excellence. Thanks to the support of his loyal friend Kirby and a budding romance with Tara, he pursues his dreams and refuses to get caught up in the fast life of the streets.

Things change when Bennett learns his mother's health is failing. She has fallen far behind on the rent, and they face eviction. The weight of responsibility falls on Bennett's shoulders, just as trouble and the troublemakers appear. Fast money seems to be the only option. Will Bennett try to help his family and risk ruining his future? Will Bennett finally succumb to the dangers and temporary comfort of the street life he has fought so hard to avoid? And if he give in, what will it cost him?

Purchase the book on Amazon or learn more at <https://theherobookseries.com>
Jerald LeVon Hoover released his debut YA title *My Friend, My Hero* in 1992. A year later, he was awarded Best New Male Writer of the Year by the Literary Society in Virginia for this novella. He was also listed among bestselling Black authors, from 1994 – 1996 in various African-American publications. In 1995, Hoover was awarded the WritersCorp Award by President Bill Clinton. In 1998, Jerald was inducted into the Mount Vernon Boy's and Girl's Club Hall of Fame.

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HASAN, from Page 2

my D&I peers from across the retail industry for what I know will be a thought-provoking conversation as part of the Retreat for Diversity."

If you are interested to see Ben speak, you can see the agenda and register for the Retreat for Diversity here. Ben will be joining 50+ other expert speakers

sharing their expertise with 400 leaders of Diversity and Inclusion from Fortune 500 and fast-growing SME organizations from many different industries. Other important speakers include, Magic Johnson, President at Magic Johnson Enterprises;

Gerri Mason Hall, Chief Diversity & Social Responsibility Officer at Sodexo Americas; Annie Wu, Chief Diversity Officer - Global Head of Inclusion & Diversity at H&M Group; Oris Stuart, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer at Na-

tional Basketball Association (NBA), Audra Jenkins, SPHR, SHRM, SCP, CDP, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer at Randstad, NA and many more.

Retreat organizers, D&I Mavens, organize this annual retreat in the USA and

Europe in order to create unique and out-of-the-box content that will help enterprise tier organizations do a better job at creating opportunities and supporting those in their workforce with diverse backgrounds and abilities.

National organization honors Plano Neighborhood Services Dept.

The City of Plano Neighborhood Services Department was awarded the, "2019 Department of the Year" by the American Association of Code Enforcement. Property Standards works cooperatively with two other divisions within the department: Community Services and BEST Neighborhoods. Together, Neighborhood Services connects



community needs with community resources. The department offers service-oriented programs and services to create HOPE (help, outreach, partner, enforce) and propel positive change so that people are proud to call Plano home. These ideals were incorporated into a

new Neighborhood Services logo shown below.

When residents are in need, whether it be financial or physical hardships, the department strives to find solutions in order for residents to feel safe and healthy in their homes and neighborhoods. Community outreach is key to educating residents and is done through property main-

tenance workshops, short informative online videos, neighborhood meeting presentations, tabling at events, and more.

All Property Standards Specialists are State Certified Code Enforcement Officers and the Senior Specialists have Zoning Inspector and Housing and Property Maintenance Inspector certifications - mak-

ing this team extremely capable of identifying innovative solutions. Additionally, residents are provided the opportunity to volunteer to help their neighbors abate code violations through the Plano CARES program. The Neighborhood Services Department is committed to making Plano a healthy and safe place where residents will continue to flourish.

Irving to host 'Keep Moving Forward' essay contest in honor of MLK

Calling all young and aspiring writers! The City of Irving is hosting an essay contest in conjunction with the city's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. observance Jan. 19.

During his life, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has inspired generations with his words and voice as an activist for equality. The essay contestants are encouraged to use inspiration from Dr. King with the

theme, "Keep Moving Forward." The essay should be no more than one page or 500 words. The deadline is Jan. 4.

The essays will be judged based on clarity, grammar and how well the theme is developed based on the writer's age. The contest age categories are:

- Grades 3-5
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12

The contest winners will

read their winning essays during the observance that will take place at 6 p.m. Jan. 19 at Carpenter Performance Hall in the Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.

Additionally, the observance celebrations will feature music and dance by the Dallas Black Dance Theater.

For more information visit IrvingEvents.org or call (972) 721-2501.



2019 essay contest winners, from left: Alaina Oommen, Great Hearts Irving, Grade 5; Shambhavi Yogesh Mokashi, Coppell Middle School East, Grade 7; and Jorge Tomaylla Emé, MacArthur High School, Grade 11. (Photo: City of Irving)



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Carrollton

12 Days of Winter Break: Noon Year's Eve – December 31 - Ages 5-8+ are invited to Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs Road) from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31 for Noon Year's Eve. Learn about New Year's traditions from around the world, play games, and write resolutions all while waiting for Noon Year's. To learn more about children's programming at the Library, visit cityofcarrollton.com/library or call 972-466-4800.

Dallas

More than 20 Dallas ISD schools during winter break will offer **morning snacks and lunch** to all children and youth through age 18 to ensure no kid goes hungry over the holidays. Meals will be served Dec. 23, 26, 27 and 30 and Jan. 2 and 3. The morning snack will

be served from 9–9:30 a.m. and lunch will be served from 12:30–1 p.m.

Garland

Garland eAssist is an easy way for residents to connect with the City to submit service requests and see other nearby requests in progress. The service is available 24/7 via the website portal at GarlandTX.gov or the free mobile app available from the Apple and Google Play Stores.

With eAssist, you can report problems such as a missed trash pickup, street-light outage or potholes. Approximately 30 different service request types are available to residents. When the request or issue is submitted, it is automatically routed to the correct department. Using eAssist is the quickest, most efficient means of reporting issues or requesting specific services - much faster than

Facebook, Twitter or other social media sites.

Irving

The Irving Chamber of Commerce is hosting the **Mayor's 2020 State of the City** on Jan. 16 at the Irving Convention Center.

Former concertmaster of the Irving Symphony Orchestra, Vesselin returns to Irving bringing his musicianship to perform two towering masterpieces for violin and string orchestra—Vivaldi's and Piazzolla's renditions—"The Four Seasons" for the **Home for the Holidays show** on January 25, 2020, at Carpenter Hall - Irving Arts Center located at 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.

Richardson

The Richardson city staff briefed the City Council Monday on the current

activities and future steps planned in preparation for a possible **2021 Bond Program**. Up to 20 studies across a wide spectrum of capital asset types are planned, with four already underway: Civic Center/City Hall/Library; Streets, Alleys, Signs and Markings; Erosion/Urban Lakes; and Fleet. Future studies will include Breckinridge Park; Main Street Open Space/Plaza; City Service Center and Eisemann Center Lobby. The City Council will be given preliminary results in summer 2020, with more updates through the year as studies are completed.

Possible bond propositions would be created and refined in 2021, with a possible bond election in November 2021. The process is similar to that undertaken for previous City bond programs.

'Dr. Amerson Day' Proclamation

Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams and City Council Members, presented local entrepreneur Dr. Linda Amerson with a Proclamation. The location was the City Council Meeting 6:30 pm, Arlington City Hall, 101 W. Abram Street, Arlington, TX 76010.

Arlington W. Jeff Williams announced 'Dr. Linda Amerson Day' as September 25, 2019! A true honor!!! Dr. Amerson shared copies of her September 2019 'Cover Girl' features in SPLASH and AMUSE Magazines with all City Council members.

With passion and purpose of 39 years, Amerson has served the community as a Board Certified Trichologist...specialist in al-

lopedia and scalp disorder maladies.

This Texas Trailblazer celebrates her 20th Anniversary of opening Dr. Amerson's International Trichology Training Center, the 1st in the western USA, 20th Anniversary journalist of 68 national magazines and newspapers with a global readership of over 350 million consumers. In addition, her 6th Anniversary of alopecia Scholarships... 'Paying It Forward' to youth aged 15-19 affected with alopecia pursuing a college education.

After the presentation, family and friends shared a celebratory toast to Dr. Linda Amerson at the Texas Live Venue. An awesome way to end 2019!

DART 23rd annual Food Fight Raised Over \$7,000 and Accumulated 17,774 Pounds of Food to Benefit UGM Dallas

Union Gospel Mission (UGM) Dallas has been a recipient of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit's (DART) Annual Friendly Food Fight for the last 23 years. During the DART Food Fight, employees raise money and collect food to support the homeless at UGM Dallas. This year, DART collected 8.89 tons of food and raised \$7,227.55 in cash. During the presentation ceremony, those in attendance enjoyed a surprise performance by Sir Earl Toon of Kool & the Gang who sang "Stand By Me."

"The annual food fight is used to bring awareness to the issues that surround homelessness and hunger," commented Gary Thomas, DART CEO. "The friendly competition offers the winning departments bragging rights for the next year, all for a good cause."

The partnership between UGM Dallas and DART extends beyond the Annual Food Fight as graduates of UGM's work training programs have been hired as DART employees.

"We are extremely grateful for the DART employ-

ees and leaders who provide UGM Dallas with needed resources so we can continue to serve the homeless

men, women, children and veterans in the Dallas community," stated Bruce Butler, CEO of UGM Dallas.



Participants celebrate raising \$7,000 and tons of food during DART's annual charity event. (Courtesy photo)



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Cowboys can still make the playoffs, but should they?

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports



Thanks to an unthinkable poor performance in Philadelphia on Sunday afternoon, the Dallas Cowboys' playoff hopes are hanging by the tiniest of threads.

Unable to score any touchdowns for the third time this season, the Cowboys fell victim to the Eagles, losing 17-9, and falling one game behind Philadelphia in the race for a place in the NFC East with just one regular-season game remaining. The only way for the Cowboys to advance to the playoffs is to win this coming Sunday's home game against the Washington Redskins and hope the Eagles lose their game this coming Sunday at the New York Giants.

Had the Cowboys (7-8) beaten the Eagles (8-7), Dallas would have clinched the NFC East, could have rested some starters against Washington and would have hosted a playoff game during the first weekend of

January. But now the Cowboys find themselves mired in a dilemma and needing extreme help from the Giants to keep their slim post-season hopes alive.

"It's very disappointing," owner Jerry Jones said. "We all expected to leave (Philadelphia) as NFC East champs — we're not.

"A disappointing setback. . . for all of us, and I know it is for the fans."

Passing game hampered by injuries and dropped passes

Quarterback Dak Prescott played despite battling injuries to his right shoulder and to one of his fingers on his right hand. Some of Prescott's throws were off target, and his receivers didn't help matters by dropping six passes.

"We didn't get it done,"

Prescott said. "We're too talented of a team and individuals to not make the plays, starting with myself. It's disappointing, it's frustrating, but we all take responsibility.

"Like I said, it begins with me, and we're too talented. We just didn't execute the way that we're capable of doing, and they did."

The play-calling also was suspect at times. Especially on the Cowboys' final play of the game when they were faced with a fourth-and-8 deep in the Eagles' territory.

Instead of having receivers Amari Cooper and Randall Cobb in the game, the Cowboys inexplicably went with a heavy tight end package. Ultimately, Prescott's pass in the end zone to Michael Gallup was broken up.

"Obviously it was a great opportunity for us, but we didn't get the job done," coach Jason Garrett said of the game. "Whatever word you want to use, we didn't get the job done, and every-

one understands that.

"Again, it's not going to come back. We're going to learn from it, we've got to move forward and control what we can control next week."

Playing with a keen sense of urgency that the Cowboys seemingly didn't play with, the Eagles darted out to a 10-0 lead in the first quarter. The only points the Cowboys could muster came via field goals of 49, 32 and 49 yards from Kai Forbath.

Prescott was 25-of-44 for 265 yards, and Ezekiel Elliott rushed just 13 times for 47 yards and took himself out of the game on a crucial series late in the second half. With Elliott on the sidelines and the Cowboys driving deep in Eagles' territory, backup running back Tony Pollard fumbled the ball away.

"I've sat here after every game pretty much, win or lost, and said the good part

about it is we control our own destiny," Prescott said. "That's gone. That's out of our hands now."

Cooper was targeted 12 times, but was limited to four catches for only 24 yards as the Cowboys trailed 10-6 at halftime and 17-6 late in the fourth quarter.

"You win this game you control your own destiny and go to the playoffs," Cooper said. "We didn't get that accomplished (Sunday)."

It certainly was an odd performance by the Cowboys, who were coming off last week's impressive 44-21 win over the Los Angeles Rams. Add in the fact that Garrett is coaching for a new contract, and it was surprising to see the talent-laden Cowboys not as energized as the Eagles.

"Talent without a direction is nothing at all," defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence said. "It's all

about us making sure we don't lose sight of our direction and bringing that talent all together."

And if the Cowboys are unable to find a way to punch their ticket to the playoffs, Jones may find the need to go in another direction next season.

"Unfortunately, we didn't get the job done, and we all have to own it," Garrett said. "I have to own it, the coaching staff has to own it, all the players and staff members have to own it, and give the Eagles credit, and now we have to go forward.

"Unfortunately, we don't control our destiny anymore, but we do control our opportunity next week against Washington. So we'll get back in there, we'll clean up this game, we'll get our eyes forward, we'll try to do our part and finish up the season the right way."

IN MEMORIAM: Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch: Remembering Carroll Spinney

By Nsenga K. Burton, Ph.D.
NNPA Entertainment and Culture Editor

Growing up, Sesame Street was a way of life. Modeled after a brownstone neighborhood in Harlem, it was familiar yet far with a cast of characters who looked and sounded like the melting pot of people growing up in America's cities at that time. There was an effortless blend of humans and puppets, some of whom walked and talked and moved about the street where the air is sweet.

Produced by the Children's Television Workshop, Sesame Street was a show written specifically for "the four-year-old inner-



Oscar the Grouch (left) and Carol Spinney (Photo by Neil Grabowsky / Wikimedia Commons)

city black youngster," but offered universal themes of love, care and friendship that resonated with children all over the globe.

When news spread of the passing of Carol Spinney, the puppeteer and actor behind "Sesame Street's" Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch, many people were saddened.

The man who had helped

give us decades of sunny days since the show's premiere in 1969, died after losing his battle with dystonia, a neurological movement disorder that produces involuntary muscle contractions, cramps and other symptoms.

Spinney who played the characters of Big Bird and Oscar Grouch for his entire career, until retiring in 2018 due to the dystonia diagnosis, brought love, joy and laughter to the lives of children for nearly half a century through two of Sesame Street's most beloved characters.

Big Bird represented hope singing and dancing

See SPINNEY, Page 10

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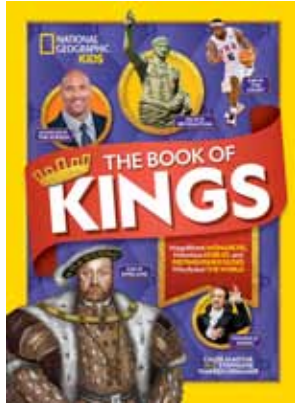
NDG Book Review: The Book of Kings and The Book of Queens

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You've always wanted your very own kingdom.

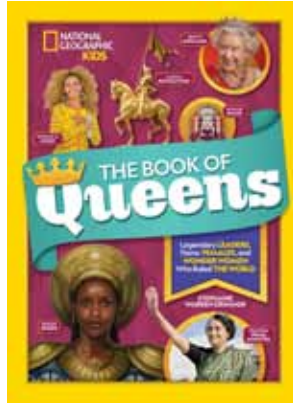
Imagine it: knights ready to joust and stables filled with noble steeds, your very own palace, a throne, and a crown with jewels. How awesome would that be? So now read "The Book of Kings" by Caleb Magyer and Stephanie Warren Drimmer, or "The Book of Queens" by Stephanie Warren Drimmer and see what you can expect.

Let's start at the top, with your head. You'll need that crown, so why not go for diamonds and rubies, one like King Christian IV of Denmark and Norway wore; or



get one with feathers like Aztec emperor Moctezuma II had in the 16th century.

If you plan on going to war with anyone any time soon, you'll want to know how to do it and you'll need a sword. There are several kinds to choose from, including curved ones and



a seven-branched sword. Know how to use your weapon by reading all about ancient "warrior queens" and evil kings of literature.

Don't forget armor. Minerva, "the Roman goddess of women and warfare" had some. Others just outfitted their elephants with it, and

stayed high and (hopefully) safe.

But okay, you're going to be a kind ruler. No war for you; you'd rather be like Akbar the Great from northern India, or Queen Isabella I who may – or may not – have used her religion as "a tool to attain power." You could be like Nicaragua's Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, or Liliuokalani, the last queen of Hawaii.

Or, well, maybe taking control of a country is more responsibility than you want and more trouble than it's worth. You're not so sure you want to have a crown or a cape, and being the king or queen of somewhere just isn't your idea

of fun. So how about being the king or queen of something? Seriously, it worked for BB King, the King of Rock & Roll, the King of Pop, Queen Latifah, and the Queen of Hearts...

The single thing a parent should know about "The Book of Kings" and "The Book of Queens" is that it's not just about rulers. That should set your mind to rest, of your child wrinkles his or her nose at history: there are people who are real here, but also some that are unreal.

Authors Caleb Magyer and Stephanie Warren Drimmer stretch the definitions of rulers in a way that works just right, in fact. Some of

the entries in this book will poke at a kid's imagination with enough interesting facts to invite further investigation; other entries may surprise kids who think they know all about princes and princesses. More fun: the information here reaches back into ancient time and forward; it includes modern stars and stars of the galaxy; and at the end of both books, there's advice for kids on how to become royally awesome.

"The Book of Queens" and "The Book of Kings" belong side-by-side on any bookshelf owned by a 9-to-14-year-old. These are books for the kid who totally rules.

SPINNEY, from Page 9

and teaching the importance of reading, writing and other positive behaviors like eating healthy and being a good friend. Oscar the Grouch represented possibility, making use of

what was there.

Many wondered how Spinney performed both characters who often shared the screen together. He had an understudy who managed one puppet while

he managed the other.

In 2000, Spinney received the Library of Congress' Living Legend Award and in 2006 a lifetime achievement award from the National Academy of Television Arts and

Sciences. He also received multiple Emmys and two Grammy awards over the

course of his career.

This article was written by Nsenga K. Burton,

Ph.D., entertainment and culture editor for NNPA/Black Press USA.

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Five strategies that can take your business from pretender to contender

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."

That quote, attributed to Benjamin Franklin, summarizes why some businesses and other endeavors fall short and end up in the scrap heap of lost dreams.

The importance of preparation for success in business is much like it is for professional sports teams trying to win a championship, says Paul Trapp (www.eventprep.com), founding owner/CEO of EventPrep, Inc., a full-service meeting planning

and management company, and co-author with Stephen Davis of Prep for Success: The Entrepreneur's Guide to Achieving Your Dreams.

"Every single significant opportunity in life is a Super Bowl if you really want to be successful," Trapp says. "The New England Patriots frequently reach the Super Bowl, but they don't get there if they don't practice with purpose every week, watch countless hours of video, and rise above the inevitable pain and struggles that come

with high-level competition.

"Being prepared for every situation along the way leads to earning their biggest opportunity, and it's the same way for a business looking for big opportunities to grow. The key to mastering the art of preparation is constant practice."

Trapp and Davis offer five strategies for businesses to take their preparation to the next level:

Become a disruptor. "You want your business to stand out from the com-

petition," Trapp says. "To do that, ask yourself, 'How can my company disrupt the industry? How do we position ourselves in the marketplace so that people will go out of their way to do business with us?'"

Attract the right talent. Picking the right person — one who can be a long-term employee vital to the company's success — should be a slow and strategic process. "For a business owner, hiring people is very much like investing," says Davis, who is EventPrep's

founding owner/president/COO. "Before you offer someone a job, do research, check references, and ask many questions. Do people you are considering have the attitude and motivation to succeed? Would they be a good fit with your existing culture?"

Establish a winning culture. "A business culture is created at the top and cascades downward," Davis says. "It takes great effort and dedication to build a winning business culture where everyone feels val-

ued as contributors. It goes beyond the professional relationship to the personal — showing compassion for employees in times of need, and recognizing exceptional efforts with tangible rewards."

Befriend Murphy. As in Murphy's Law — "Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong." Although all businesses encounter problems in a variety of ways, Trapp says, a strong organization can properly prepare in a

See CONTENDER, Page 12

SCHUMER, from Page 1

put a few tools or checks on him, but the biggest and most important most serious and solemn check is impeachment. And, if the president goes off the rails, the Founding Fathers said the Congress has the ability to remove him," he noted.

The House voted in favor of two articles of impeachment against Trump, obstruction of Congress and abuse of power.

Schumer said the Founding Fathers listed their top fear as being a president overreaches his authority and that he would get a foreign government to interfere in the U.S. election.

"That's what this is all about," Schumer stated.

"So, conducting an impeachment trial in the Senate is a weighty and solemn responsibility and we Democrats in the Senate believe that the trial must be fair and it's important to let the American people judge it to be fair," he added.

A fair trial is when the Senate hears all the evidence and can decide the case impartially, and the only way to accomplish that is with witnesses and documents, Schumer stated.

"We will treat every witness with respect and no off-topic questions. We also need documents, and we requested them. Thus far, Mitch McConnell is resisting that, and you have to ask yourself the question, 'Why don't they want the truth to come out?' Do they fear it? Why don't they

want to have a trial in the normal sense where there's evidence on both sides and, instead, want what seems to be a cover up? So, we feel strongly that this is all about our democracy and protecting it."

Schumer said the black community especially understands the value of a fair trial.

"The African American community knows when you don't have fairness, and you don't have democracy, people with little power get the short end of the stick," he stated.

Statistics show that most Americans side with the Democrats on impeachment, Schumer noted.

An ABC News poll revealed that 71 percent of Americans expect a fair Senate trial and believe that Trump should allow his top aides to testify. Approximately 64 percent of Republicans agreed, as well as 72 percent of independents, and 79 percent of Democrats.

"We believe when these [Republican] Senators go home to their constituents, they will ask them why don't you want to have witnesses and documents," Schumer stated. "Right now, our Republican colleagues are sort of twisting themselves in knots, trying to avoid this, but they don't have any good arguments."

Schumer also applauded Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.), and six others in Congress who voted in fa-

vor of impeachment despite the potential political risks of their decision.

"I have such respect for the seven members of Congress, all of whom served in the military or the CIA. They said what motivated them to serve the country is motivating them to go forward even if they lose the election because if we don't do it, and here's the problem this president is more overreached than anyone else and if there's no fair trial and he can withhold documents and witnesses, that renders impeachment impotent. This president will do even worse things, and the next president will do even worse things, so it's really our democracy that motivates us."

In his meeting on Thursday, December 19, with McConnell, Schumer said he told the Leader that witnesses and documents are necessary. "He said, 'I don't want to give them.' I said, 'well, I hope you and your 52 Republican colleagues will think about this over the holidays,'" Schumer stated.

When asked if there is anything Democrats, who are the minority in the Senate, could do to ensure that the trial would not be a rubberstamp proclaiming Trump's innocence, Schumer said he's hoping some Republicans will change their minds and allow testimony from witnesses and to include documents.

"When in the minority, you don't have many tools. But, the one tool you have in the impeachment trial

is the force of vote. All we need is four (GOP) votes because all 47 (Democrats) will be ours [and] to get to that magic number 51. And, if we get 51, we'll get the witnesses, so I hope your readers, if they agree with us, will talk to their Senators, especially Republican senators," Schumer stated.

The Minority Leader then praised the African American community for its awareness about the im-

portance of impeachment.

"Thank god the African American community has become very mobilized in New York and around the country because they know of the dangers Donald Trump presents to the African American community in so many different ways," Schumer stated.

"Reaching out [to their respective Senators] would be important," he noted. "I urge them to do it if they

believe in the future of America. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, 'The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends in the direction of justice.' All we're seeking here is justice," said Schumer.

The Senator offered a holiday greeting: "I wish your readers a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, Happy Kwanza, and happy everything!" he stated.

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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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Earn a year-end tax donation credit with your old car

As the “holiday” winds down and the end of the year is days away, it is time to prepare for the dreaded process of filing taxes. One thing to think about is what you have to donate for end of year tax write-offs. How about the old car that has been sitting in your garage that still hasn’t been fixed? What about the car that works fine but isn’t for you anymore? Donating an old vehicle is a win-win as the donor can get rid of an eyesore taking up space in the driveway or a car that is no longer needed and receive a tax write-off when donating to Texans Can Cars for Kids benefitting Texans Can Academies. All donations support Texans Can Academies in helping educate and provide items such as food, housing, clothing, child care and other basic necessities for at-risk youth as they work toward their high school diploma.

Cars for Kids is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization that has been in business since 1992. Unique among nonprofits, Cars for Kids offers a turnkey program for donating vehicles and offers free towing in most cases - running or not. They

also accept trucks, vans, motorcycles, RVs, campers, jet skis, forklifts, trailers and heavy equipment. Pick up the phone to speak with donation specialists that are available throughout the holidays, including New Year’s Eve. The donation process is quick and easy, pick up options are convenient for you, and the friendly staff will even assist you with all of the paperwork.

If the title is unavailable, Cars for Kids’ title department has staff to help donors obtain duplicate titles. Donors receive the highest

possible tax deduction for their cars when the vehicle goes to auction, which is also part of the Cars for Kids service. The nonprofit runs their own auctions every Saturday and they are open to the public.

With the public’s donations, more than 4,000 young Texans per year who are at risk of not graduating are receiving a high-quality education in classrooms with very low teacher/student ratios. All donations benefit Texans Can Academies’ 14 tuition-free, open enrollment schools of choice.

“No matter the size of the donation, Texans Can - Cars for Kids values the generosity from each of our donors in order to benefit the students of Texans Can Academies,” said Richard Marquez, CEO of Texans Can Academies. “Our students directly benefit from every donation. The proceeds go towards our youth’s education and basic necessities that they do not have access to otherwise. Thousands of lives have been changed from the support of our donors and communities.”

The organization manages its own call center, its

own title department and its own “open to the public” auto auction each Saturday, located at 7100 Marvin D. Love Freeway, Dallas, TX 75237. In addition, Texans Can - Cars for Kids operates a thrift store with a large variety of options to shop from, including holiday decorations, clothing, furniture, games and more. The store is open four days a week and proceeds benefit Texans Can Academies.

Donating a vehicle is turnkey, and it is that easy. Donors may call 972-274-5437 or visit www.carsforkids.org.

MS Office represents most commonly exploited applications worldwide

According to information gathered by PreciseSecurity.com, the most commonly exploited applications worldwide as of the third quarter of this year were related to MS Office. Other exploited applications by cybercriminals included Browsers, and operative systems, among others.

As per this data, MS Office solutions and applications were the most commonly exploited by cybercriminals around the world. Data shows that exactly 72.85% of cyber exploits were performed in MS Office products as of the third quarter of this year.

MS Office products were

followed by Browsers with 13.47% of the total number of exploits by cybercriminals, Android with 9.09%, Java with 2.36%, Adobe Flash with 1.57% and PDF with 0.66%.

In computer security, an exploit makes reference to individuals such as hackers or criminals that make use

and take advantage of a bug or vulnerability in a specific software or computer program. In many cases, these exploits can be very costly for companies and other customers that could eventually be affected.

Moreover, the data collected by PreciseSecurity.com shows that the top 5

countries that are sources of web-based attacks include the United States with 79.16% of the market share. This is followed by the Netherlands with 15.58%, Germany with 2.35%, France with 1.85% and Russia 1.05%.

Some of the most common vulnerabilities in MS

Office were related to stack overflow errors in the Equation Editor application. Other vulnerabilities were CVE-2017-8570, CVE-2017-8759, and CVE-2017-0199, among others.

Another important vulnerability was related to a

See MS, Page 14

CONTENDER, from Page 11

way to withstand them and solve them quickly. “Because Murphy is going to show up in any number of forms,” Trapp says, “when preparing to do anything, there has to be a list of solutions in place before a problem ever happens.”

Recognize and seize opportunities. “The key to seizing an opportunity is identifying a need greater than your own – that of your customer,” Davis says. “Imagine you meet someone who can help you solve a need because he or she has the tools and experience to give you what you really need. Think about what real estate agents do for home buyers. They ask specific questions about what the clients are looking for, relate to their excitement about finding the right kind of home, and create a vision of that.”

“Preparedness is the key in any and all situa-

tions,” Trapp says. “The only way you learn and grow as an individual, and as a business, is to perfect your unique abilities and a team’s winning strategies through repetition.”

Paul Trapp is a founding

owner/CEO of EventPrep, Inc. (www.eventprep.com), a full-service meeting planning and management company that supports 16 franchises across the U.S. He is a co-author of the book *Prep for Success: The Entrepreneur’s Guide to Achieving Your Dreams*.

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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>.

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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://livenationentertainment.com/careers>.

Ongoing 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 desk-

top. 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.

January 16, 2020 Get a job with the Federal Reserve

The NMBBAA DFW Chapter is excited to kick off our 2020 programming with the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, as they

look to recruit top talent like you! Attendees can look forward to an evening of learning about current and future career opportunities across the following areas:

- Finance & Accounting
- Project Management

- Banking Supervision
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It is scheduled for January 16, 2020 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas at 2200 North Pearl Street in Dallas.



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Frisco ranked 5th in the county for older workers seeking new jobs

Getting laid off — or just switching jobs — can be a daunting process at any age. But workers over the age of 50 might face even greater difficulty with landing their next gig, thanks to unconscious biases among employers. However, that's not necessarily the case across the United States. In some cities, the unemployment rate for people ages 50 and older is particularly low, which is good news for older Americans seeking work.

Frisco with more than 22 percent of the population over the age 50, has unemployment rates in the single digits for Baby Boomers. But keep in mind the media household income is \$120,701 and it requires nearly \$71,000 to live in the northern suburb.

A new GOBankingRates

study identified places in the U.S. where people nearing the end of their careers can still find jobs at a decent rate. For each city, GOBankingRates compiled unemployment rates for those 50 and older, along with the percentage of the population over age 50, the cost of living relative to the rest of the country, an overall livability score and the median household income among residents. For the cost-of-living index, the U.S. average is 100, so anything below that indicates a cheaper cost of living. Additionally, livability was scored out of 100.

Ultimately, the study allows older Americans to get a sense of which cities offer low levels of unemployment as well as cheaper costs and solid amenities. If

you're searching for a new job or struggling to find work, these areas could help

provide job security and financial security into your golden years.

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 36-foot monopole small cell communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 1126 N Munger Blvd., Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75214. 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, Beth, b.thompson@trileaf.com, 2550 S. IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*

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- Malachi 3:8-10

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MS, from Page 12

zero-day issue CVE-2019-1367 that produced memory corruption and allowed remote code execution on the target system.

Nowadays, browsers such as Windows are very complex products that tend to have many vulnerabilities. This happens because hackers and attackers are at all times finding and searching for new bugs to exploit or using hidden spy software to take advantage of.

Many of these vulnerabilities found in the last quarter aimed at privilege escalation inside the system stem from individual operating system services and popular applications.

Companies, applications, and firms are trying to avoid these exploits and reduce them to the minimum. In general, they are very costly and can affect a larger number of users. However, hackers and attackers are usually ready to find new bugs and use them to take advantage of these systems.

Some of the worst exploits are related to financial applications that could have a negative financial effect on other users or individuals. At the same time, financial data is becoming

increasingly important and valuable in the dark web, which is pushing hackers and attackers to obtain this data as well to sell it later to scammers and other malicious parties.



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Start a New Year with a New Attitude



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

(Editor's Note: This column was published January 7, 2016.)

(2019) is behind us forever! Some things God gives often, but He only gives "time" once. The flowers of spring return new again and again. The grass turn green, and trees burst into new foliage year after year. But "time" does not come twice to anyone.

This is the start of a "New Year" you can learn from mistakes that were made last year to make positive changes in your life from this day forward. You will be happier and so will those around you, because---

Life is short no matter how long we live, so use it wisely. Life never seems to be enough no matter how long one gets to live. I have never heard anyone (in the right frame of mind) say, "Ninety years is enough living for me, so I will just die now!"

Usually, people just don't speak like that when it comes to their life. Generally, everybody wants to live to that ripe old age, and if we (only) had a say in how long we should stay, we would all shout, "Forever!"

It is true most of us love life! What do we know about this thing we hold so dear? 1) It is a gift from God. 2) It is not ours to keep; it can be taken away at any time. 3) It can be worthwhile or worthless (it depends on the individual.)

Here are some things to keep in mind and put an effort in doing in 2016.

First, we should keep Christ as our center. Second, we should be grateful for the many blessings of the previous year. We are not worthy of more from God if we are ungrateful for what He has given us.

Third, may we determine to be sympathetic toward all less fortunate than we are. Having a soft heart is a big accomplishment. Fourth, let us resolve to place the best reasonable

construction on the words and deeds of others. Fifth, let us build our life on the good foundation of loving God and our fellowman.

Those of us who are alive need to know that we are at the mercy of the

"Life-giver," He is God. The time that we have been given should not be spent on trying to preserve this life, but fulfilling the purpose for which we were created.

Knowing that we all must go the way of the flesh, should hasten our resolve (especially now, a New Year) to put things in perspective. Some of the questions you should be asking are, "What have I done with my life? What do I want to do with the rest of my life?"

If this was your time to die, would your life be celebrated or mourned? You are the one who will say how the rest of your life story plays out. Will it be worthwhile or worthless, the choice is certainly yours to make.

We may not always realize that everything we do, affects not only our lives, but also others, too!

For a little bit of thoughtfulness that shows someone you care creates a ray



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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