



North Dallas Gazette

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New CCBCC President Dewayne Gibson pushes to reach new and potential business owners

By Lori Lee

The Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce (CCBCC) recently named Dewayne Gibson as its new President. Central to the organization, Gibson was on the Board of Directors prior to accepting the position. Gibson took on his new post on January 1, replacing Interim President Debra Austin, who chose not to renew.

Board Chair, Valerie Warrior, who nominated Gibson, described him as very forward thinking and connected in the community, and he has been with the Chamber since its very beginnings. "I know he is very passionate, and he is committed to seeing the Chamber grow and be successful."

Similarly, Vice President Liz White described him as "a highly dedicated leader who is hyper focused on growth, expansion and the bottom line, which makes him the right for this time to advance the needs of Collin County business owners."

The previous administration did a phenomenal job in getting us to this point, said Gibson. "The senior leadership that we have in place right now has basically carried the chamber on their backs," he said. "I appreciate them deeply, but I can't



Dewayne Gibson addresses an audience after being named President of Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce (Dewayne Gibson)

expect them to carry the chamber on their backs forever. I see this as an opportunity to step up and carry on."

As CCBCC leadership continues to fill current vacancies, Gibson said he is wearing several hats -- helping with communications, social media and marketing, and doing the necessary legwork to ensure CCBCC programs are well presented.

Gibson brings experience in finance from Bank of America and in marketing as Assistant V.P. of Sales and Media for North Dallas Gazette, a Black-owned newspaper.

Born in Odessa, Gibson was educated in Waco, graduating with a

Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science from Baylor University. He has been in Texas all his life—in Dallas/Fort Worth since 1999 and in Collin County since 2006.

Gibson comes from a long line of educators and general laborers. There were many educators on his mother's side and general laborers on his father's side, including his grandfather, who was a bellman at a fine Midland hotel. "I come from a family that gets up every day and makes something of their lives, and that's where I get my work ethic," Gibson remarked.

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Downtown area gets high praise

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Making the right Medicare decisions

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Big names team up for HBCU students

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Dog flu causes changes at Animal Shelter

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People In The News ...



Judge Helena Health



Dr. Shavon Arline-Bradley

NDG Quote of the Week: "I don't want a Black History Month. Black history is American history."
—Morgan Freeman

Judge Helena Health

WASHINGTON — Office of Justice Programs Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Amy L. Solomon announced today that President Biden has appointed Judge Helena Heath of Queens, New York, as Director of the Office of Justice Programs' Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking Office. Her appointment is effective Monday, January 30.

"Judge Heath is an accomplished legal professional with deep roots in her



community who will bring to her new role a wealth of courtroom experience, a record of sound judgment and a proven commitment to fairness and equity," said Principal Deputy Assistant

Attorney General Solomon. "I could not be more pleased to have someone with her impressive credentials and sensitivity to local needs directing the critical mission of our SMART Office."

Heath was appointed an Albany City Court Judge in 2005, becoming the first female of African descent to serve in the position in the city's 319-year history. She was elected in November 2005 to a full term of office and re-elected in 2011 and 2017. The court is part of the New York State Unified Court System.

Judge Heath served on

the bench for 16 years, presiding over trials and proceedings in the Criminal, Civil and Traffic parts of the court. She implemented the first DWI court in the city of Albany. The court focused on accountability and participation in victim impact programming. She also had a lead role in creating user-friendly court practices to implement the eviction moratorium provision of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or CARES, Act and related state laws. Judge Heath has 33 years of public service legal experience. Before ascending

to the bench, she served as a court attorney at the New York Court of Appeals, the highest court in the state; an Assistant Attorney General in the Litigation Bureau of the New York State Department of Law; an Assistant Counsel to the New York State Department of Economic Development; a Law Guardian representing children in Albany County Family Court; and a Senior Counsel for the New York State Assembly Speaker.

Judge Heath's community service dedication is longstanding. In 1994, she organized a local effort in Albany that resulted in the

establishment of a Children's Center at Albany County Family Court. From 1995 to August 2022, she served as the founding chair of the center's Advisory Committee to ensure that children are cared for in a safe and nurturing environment while their families take care of court business. She has served for 15 years as a board member for the Capital Area Boys and Girls Clubs and been involved for decades with organizations committed to the empowerment and mentorship of youth.

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Dr. Shavon Arline-Bradley

The National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW) said that Shavon Arline-Bradley would be the first president and CEO of the organization.

After 88 years, the organization said it has changed its governance structure to work more efficiently.

Dr. A. Lois Keith, the new board chair of NCNW, said, "We're excited to have Shavon as our new president and CEO."

"She is an extraordinary communicator, and her expertise in the areas of public health and social justice is impressive."



Keith predicted that Arline-Bradley would do better than expected because "these are the areas in which NCNW would like to continue, as we bridge the generational gap."

Arline-Bradley is an

ordained minister with 21 years of experience in healthcare, equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), government affairs, and executive leadership.

She's the founder and CEO of R.E.A.C.H. Beyond Solutions, a public health, advocacy, and executive leadership firm that promotes EDI, political and organizational strategy, risk management, government affairs, and technical assistance.

Under her direction, the firm's gross profit grew exponentially in 5 years by broadening its client base to include federal government, foundation, corpo-

rate, non-profit, and political candidate entities in the United States and Netherlands.

Before she started her firm, she worked as a senior advisor and director of external engagement in the Obama Administration's Department of Health and Human Services for the 19th U.S. Surgeon General,

Dr. Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy.

Before she started her firm, she worked as a senior advisor and director of external engagement in the Obama Administration's Department of Health and Human Services for the 19th U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy.

In a press release, the organization said that Arline-Bradley co-founded The Health Equity Cypher Group because she wanted to advance EDI and improve the health and social outcomes of the most vulnerable people.

That group is made up of

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Anthony Hamilton

(BPRW) -- Anthony Hamilton teams with AfricanAncestry.com to help reconnect African Americans to their original roots in its Africa Forever Challenge: A Real Love Experience (AFC).

"In 2022, I experienced the power of our ancestors during a series of concerts throughout Africa, and I instantly knew it was something I needed to share with my team and my fans," said Hamilton. "We all can't go to Africa, but we can bring Africa to us by knowing our roots, honoring our ancestors and creating legacies that propel the culture forward," Hamilton added.

"This partnership gets



right at the heart of our mission to transform the way people see themselves and the way they view Africa," said Dr. Gina Paige, president and co-founder of AfricanAncestry.com. "It is my hope that every participant gains a better understanding of who they are through the powerful lens of their ancestors."

Anthony Hamilton's Africa Forever Challenge: A Real Love Experience is also partnered with Soul Bounce, Music Marketing Magazine, and Your Black News. From January 3 through February, the event culminates with a VIP Virtual Ancestral Reveal and After Party where Hamilton learns his African roots for the first time.

Those interested in the program can visit www.AfricaForeverHome.com and follow the steps to participate and share their Tribe. One can also visit @AnthonyHamiltonOfficial and @AfricanAncestry on social media for updates.

For more information, visit www.AfricaForeverHome.com.

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Our downtown getting noticed is nice, but there's more to come

By Dallas Mayor
Eric Johnson

Dallas is a city filled with strong and unique neighborhoods. And one of them — this city's vital urban core — is getting some much-deserved national attention.

A new study ranked downtown Dallas as the nation's best downtown living experience, saying that its "unique range of features and amenities" made it a great place "for urban life enthusiasts."

The report went on to say that while Dallas is a "city that traditionally embraced sprawl as urban design, it's been recently focused on adding density in an effort to increase housing options and foster walkability. This only increases downtown's appeal for both locals and new residents, who can now enjoy a great mix of lively streets, culture and a reasonable cost of living."

In short: Downtown is the epicenter of that "Big Dallas Energy" that is palpable in this city right now.

About 88,000 people live downtown and in the adjacent neighborhoods (such as Uptown, the Cedars, and Deep Ellum). Downtown also hosts 135,000 workers. And it's obvious to everyone that the city center has come a long way in recent years.

There are more great things on the way for this city's urban core. Deep Ellum continues to diversify as a vibrant and dynamic neighborhood with new offices and retail options. The East Quarter continues to develop, and Harwood Park, which is under construction, will help connect it with the Farmers Market area. The new Goldman Sachs offices will provide

a major boost to the downtown Dallas economy. More housing is planned, including some apartments that will replace empty office space. The Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center redevelopment will activate part of downtown that has been dormant for far too long.

And nearby, the Longhorn Ballroom's restoration, which I helped facilitate by allocating \$1.8 million for infrastructure, will help preserve this city's storied music history while providing something new and exciting for Dallas residents.

On International affairs, Dallas is outperforming the global economy and is becoming an increasingly important part of it.

Of course, there are still many issues to address that affect downtown Dallas in the years ahead. This includes homelessness, public safety, and permitting.

And taking on these challenges will require an even more relentless focus on problem-solving.

But as long as this city's leaders push for accountability at City Hall, the present and the future of downtown Dallas will remain extraordinarily bright.

The Dallas-Fort Worth region produced 5.9% job growth in 2022 — a faster pace than the red-hot 5% growth for the entire state. (The entire nation came in at 3% growth).

That, friends, is what you call "Big Dallas Energy."

It's easy to see why Dallas has this momentum.

This city has focused on the right issues: improving public safety, reducing the tax rate, building new parks and trails, and creating family-friendly policies and plans.

That was also the message I shared last week with the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce during an annual address. That's because these are the priorities that drive my administration.

As long as this is where the focus remains, Dallas has an extraordinarily bright future, and this city will continue to serve as the economic engine of the

cently came to Dallas City Hall to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day with the opening of a new special exhibit. The exhibit was available in the City Hall lobby through January 31, and featured photos and stories of international diplomats who helped save lives during World War II.

This is an important exhibit, and it's critical to continue to remember the lessons of the Holocaust. Dallas has a strong Jewish community, and this city stands firmly against Anti-Semitism.

It's vital to remain vigilant against hate of all kinds. Hate and evil are real, and they are still real threats. Only love, truth, and compassion can drive them out.

Memphis

Ending today with a note about Memphis, where five police officers were fired and charged with murder in connection with the brutal beating death of 29-year-old Tyre Nichols.

Memphis authorities released video of the reprehensible incident last week. Afterward, I released a statement expressing disgust and shock while calling for prayer and for prosecution to the fullest extent of the law. Dallas Police Chief Eddie Garcia also released a statement saying, among other things, that these former officers had tarnished the oath they took to uphold the law.

Although this horrible violence didn't occur in Dallas, it's crucial to come together at times like these and continue working toward a better, kinder, and more just world.

That's all for today. Have a good week, and take care of each other.

Keep up with the news**O N L I N E****www.northdallasgazette.com**

New Year...New Medicare Advantage Plan! What If It's Not Working For You?



Lamonica Thomas
UNITED
HEALTHCARE
SALES
AGENT

It's a new year, and you decided to change to a different Medicare Advantage Plan. For most of you, it should be an improvement from last year's plan... ad-

ditional benefits, stronger provider network and lower co-pays.

But what if it's not? What if after you signed up with your new plan for 2023, you find that it's not what was promised to you. Perhaps your chosen doctors are NOT in network, copays are higher than last year, and medication costs and additional benefits are not

what you thought it would be. What can you do?

A Licensed Medicare Broker who represents multiple plans from multiple companies can sit down and review your current coverage and see if you qualify for a "special election period" that can allow you to change to a more suitable plan. Don't ever feel like you have to wait until next

AEP (October/2023) to address a concern or ask a question. A local broker will review your current coverage and see if there's an opportunity to lower co-pays, help reduce drug costs and ensure all doctors are in network.

If you use a telephone agent when changing a plan, you won't be able to call that agent back at any

time if you have a question or concern.

A local agent, however, can meet face to face and be a direct contact to answer questions and address concerns.

Understanding your Medicare Advantage Plan is the key to utilizing all of the benefits and resources available with your plan to ensure you're saving money

and having a great quality of life through Medicare.

Ms. Lamonica Thomas is a license agent specializing in assisting Medicare enrollment participants. Her articles will appear monthly through December. Reach her at: Lamonica Thomas <lathomas55@gmail.com> or call 972.249.8907.

Reducing total calories may be more effective for weight loss than intermittent fasting

(American Heart Association) — According to American Heart Association's 2022 statistics, 40% of adults in the U.S. are obese; and the Association's current diet and lifestyle recommendations to reduce cardiovascular disease risk include limiting overall calorie intake, eating healthy foods and increasing physical activity.

Many people have tried intermittent fasting. It is a growing phenomenon widely discussed in the U.S. The regimen involves switching between fasting and eating on a regular schedule in an attempt to prompt the body to start burning fat, while prolonging the period when the human body burns calories from the most recent meal.

Even though prior studies have suggested intermittent fasting may improve the body's rhythms and regulate metabolism, a report in the Journal of the American Heart Association indicated that meal timing was not associated with weight change. The study considered a large group of participants with a wide range of body weights. The analysis indicates frequency and size of meals was a stronger determinant of weight loss or gain than the time between the first and last meal.

The study concluded that



Debbie Ducic / Unsplash

timing from first meal to last meal was not associated with weight loss. The total daily number of large meals (estimated at more than 1,000 calories) and medium meals (estimated at 500-1,000 calories) were each associated with increased weight over the six-year follow up, while fewer small meals (estimated at less than 500 calories) were associated with decreasing weight.

According to the senior study author Wendy L. Bennett, M.D., M.P.H., an associate professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, although "time-restricted eating patterns known as intermittent fasting are popular, rigorously designed studies have not yet determined whether limiting the total eating window during the day helps to control weight.

The study evaluated the

association between time from the first meal to last meal with weight change using the application, Daily 24, created for the study. The app allowed participants to catalog sleeping, eating and wake up time for each 24-hour window in real time. Emails, text messages and in-app notifications encouraged participants to use the app as much as possible during the first month and again during "power weeks" — one week per month for the six-month intervention portion of the study.

Through the app, researchers measured the time from the first meal to the last meal each day, the time lapse from waking to first meal, and the interval from the last meal to sleep, calculating an average for all days for each participant.

The average time from first to last meal was 11.5

hours; average time from wake up to first meal measured 1.6 hours; average time from last meal to sleep was 4 hours; and average sleep duration was calculated at 7.5 hours.

The 2017 American Heart Association scientific statement based on their study, Meal timing and Frequency: Implications for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention did not offer clear preference for frequent small meals or intermittent fasting. It noted that irregular patterns of total caloric intake appear to be less favorable for the maintenance of body weight and optimal cardiovascular health. And, altering meal frequency may not be useful for decreasing body weight or improving traditional cardiometabolic risk factors.

The study considered a large population with a wide range of body weight. Nearly 550 adults 18 years old or older from three health systems in Maryland and Pennsylvania with electronic health records were enrolled in the six-month study. Eight percent of participants reported they were white adults; 12% self-reported as Black adults; and about 3% self-identified as Asian adults. Most participants reported having a college education or higher; the average age

was 51 years; and the average body mass index was 30.8, which is considered obese. The average follow-up time for weight recorded in the electronic health record was 6.3 years.

Participants with a higher body mass index at enrollment were more likely to be Black adults, older, have Type 2 diabetes or high blood pressure, have a lower education level, exercise less, eat fewer fruits and vegetables, have a longer duration from last mealtime to sleep and a shorter duration from first to last meal, compared to the adults who had a lower body mass index.

Researchers noted some limitations to the study. Although the study found that meal frequency and total calorie intake were stronger risk factors for weight change than meal timing, the findings could not prove direct cause and effect, according to lead study author Di Zhao, Ph.D., an associate scientist in the division of cardiovascular and clinical epidemiology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Also, the research did not evaluate the complex interactions of timing and frequency of eating, and being observational in nature, the study did not allow researchers to conclude cause and effect.

Researchers note that

future studies should work toward including a more diverse population, since the majority of the study's participants were well-educated white women in the mid-Atlantic region of the U.S., the authors noted author.

This study was funded by an American Heart Association Strategically Funded Research Network Grant to Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Other co-authors of this study are Eliseo Guallar, M.D., Dr. P.H.; Thomas B. Woolf, Ph.D.; Lindsay Martin, M.A.; Harold Lehmann, M.D., Ph.D.; Janelle Coughlin, Ph.D.; Katherine Holzhauser, B.A.; Attia A. Goheer, Ph.D.; Kathleen M. McTigue, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.; Michelle R. Lent, Ph.D.; Marquis Hawkins, Ph.D.; and Jeanne M. Clark, M.D., M.P.H. Authors' disclosures are listed in the manuscript.

Studies published in the American Heart Association's scientific journals are peer-reviewed. The statements and conclusions in each manuscript are solely those of the study authors and do not necessarily reflect the Association's policy or position. The Association makes no representation or guaran-

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For many, the devastating Tyre Nichols video shows policing in America cannot be reformed

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The devastating video of Memphis police officers rehearsing their excuse for their deadly use of force even as Tyre Nichols’ lifeless body lay just steps away painted a horrifying, if not entirely clear, portrait of five cops who murdered a man for no apparent reason and then conspired to destroy his reputation.

The actions of Demetrius Haley, Tadarrius Bean, Emmitt Martin III, Desmond Mills, Jr., and Justin Smith have left many convinced that policing in America cannot be reformed.

“One of the most devastating things to occur in this earthly existence is for one’s life to end in such a brutal and helpless way and to have the world watch, share, and analyze the video of you taking your last breath,” officials at the nonprofit The Black Girl’s Guide To Healing Emotional Wounds wrote in a statement.

They pleaded, “please, my friends, don’t share it or watch it. Let’s keep the



family in our prayers and work to identify solutions to this nonsense.”

On Friday, January 27, over an hour of footage was extracted from the officers’ body cameras and an overhead surveillance video that the men in blue were apparently unaware existed.

Each officer was arrested and terminated. They have been charged with second-degree murder, kidnapping, and other crimes in connection with Nichols’ death.

Sheriff Floyd Bonner Jr. said in a statement that two additional Shelby County sheriff’s deputies were placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation.

A body camera worn by an officer revealed that Tyre was initially confronted on January 7 at 8:24

p.m. During what appeared to be a standard traffic stop, several officers approached with their weapons drawn.

Immediate hostility ensued, with one officer threatening Tyre, “You’re going to get your [expletive] blown off.”

Nichols is heard saying, “I’m just trying to go home. I’m not doing anything.”

He is then sprayed with pepper spray and repeatedly attacked.

One of the officers can be heard struggling to catch his breath while cursing Nichols due to the severity of the beating.

Nichols begins yelling for his mother in a manner eerily similar to that of George Floyd, a Black man killed by police in 2020 in Minneapolis.

One of the officers, displaying no compassion,

pulls out a baton and yells, “I’m going to baton the [bleep] out of you!”

As the young man struggles to regain his balance, the officer strikes Nichols multiple times with the baton, while other officers can be seen punching him in the face and head.

Officers eventually drag Nichols and toss him against a patrol car. More than 21 minutes pass before emergency medical personnel arrive, during which time the officers celebrate their victory by fist-bumping and laughing about their crime.

The release of the video sparked protests across the country, including in the District of Columbia, New York, Los Angeles, and Memphis, where the crime took place.

In addition to civil rights organizations, federal lawmakers flooded journalists’ email inboxes with statements condemning the officers.

As is their custom, lawmakers promised legislation to reform American policing. Similar promises were made after the murders of Floyd in Minne-

apolis, Breonna Taylor in Kentucky, Tamir Rice in Ohio, and Eric Garner in New York, among numerous others.

In contrast, the Memphis officers were immediately fired and arrested, and the police unions did not offer them any support.

“What I witnessed in that video was horrific. It was a barbaric assault on another human being and is sickening,” Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police President Clyde Boatwright said.

“This does not represent policing or the men and women who wear a badge and dutifully protect their communities. I hesitate to even call these men police officers, because what I saw on that video is not policing. They deserve the strongest punishment allowed by Tennessee law.”

Boatwright added that in his state, “we have had historic police reform in our state over the last 5 years to ensure these types of actions don’t occur in Maryland. We will continue to be a partner with our communities as we work to protect those we serve.”

Patrick Gaspard, the president and CEO of the Center for American Progress, called driving while Black “one of the most dangerous acts in America.”

“As we all just witnessed in the searing video of the brutal slaughter of Tyre Nichols at the hands of police who are paid by us to protect all of us. The evidence here is startling and indisputable. These officers need to be tried, convicted, and imprisoned to satisfy justice and to send a message to police in all of our cities that this culture of violence in their ranks will no longer be sanctioned,” Gaspard stated.

President Joe Biden said he spoke with Nichols’ family and expressed his outrage.

“Like so many, I was outraged and deeply pained to see the horrific video of the beating that resulted in Tyre Nichols’ death,” the president stated.

“It is yet another painful reminder of the profound fear and trauma, the pain, and the exhaustion that Black and Brown Americans experience every single day.”

White Rock Lake Foundation presents donation to restore historic Winfrey Point

The White Rock Lake Foundation (WRLF) recently presented Dallas Park and Recreation Department with \$151,000 to help the department with restoration of the historic event venue Winfrey Point at White Rock Lake.

After receiving approval

from Dallas Park and Recreation and The White Rock Lake Task Force last spring, WRLF designated restoring the venue as their primary fundraising project. Restoring the building to its original glory is estimated to cost \$500,000.

Last year WRLF board

members met with park department staff at Winfrey Point to review a wish list of improvements and estimates and see the tasks targeted for renovation firsthand. This initial contribution is to go toward repairs

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tee as to their accuracy or reliability. The Association receives funding primarily from individuals; foundations and corporations (including pharmaceutical, device manufacturers

and other companies) also make donations and fund specific Association programs and events. The Association has strict policies to prevent these relationships from influencing the

science content. Revenues from pharmaceutical and biotech companies, device manufacturers and health insurance providers and the Association’s overall financial information are available on the organization’s website, www.heart.org.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
2327	Texas Loteria Overall Odds are 1 in 3.96	\$3	2/12/23	8/11/23
2247	Bonus Break the Bank Overall Odds are 1 in 4.29	\$5	2/19/23	8/18/23
2403	Lucky 3 Overall Odds are 1 in 4.36	\$2	2/22/23	8/21/23
2401	50X The Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.09	\$5	2/22/23	8/21/23
2404	Sizzling Hot \$100,000 Overall Odds are 1 in 4.09	\$5	2/22/23	8/21/23
2406	Hit \$200,000! Overall Odds are 1 in 4.03	\$5	2/22/23	8/21/23
2393	Big Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 3.91	\$10	2/22/23	8/21/23
2308	El Gordo™ Overall Odds are 1 in 4.38	\$5	3/22/23	9/18/23
2412	Power Shot Overall Odds are 1 in 4.09	\$5	3/22/23	9/18/23

Texaslottery.com 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. © 2023 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

TEXAS LOTTERY

Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF), Alkeme and McDonald's USA join to support HBCU students

(Black PR Wire) -- Traditionally, McDonald's has supported historically Black colleges and universities through departmental funding, sports sponsorships and student scholarships. McDonald's is now deepening its commitment to support the financial and mental health needs of HBCU students.

With its owner / operators and its partners, McDonald's will increase resources and investment to more HBCU students through the Black & Positively Golden Scholarship program. "It's important to build a community of culturally competent practitioners who truly understand and represent the Black experience to best support the needs of Black students," said Ryan Mundy, founder of Alkeme Health. "We want to empower our community to be the best and highest versions of



Simon Ray / Unsplash

themselves, and that is why we are honored to partner with McDonald's to help remove mental health barriers for HBCU students and provide resources to inspire wellness."

The increase will take effect in the 2023-2024 academic year to provide access to mental health resources, while awarding \$1 million in scholarships, up from \$500,000 in 2022.

Recipients will also receive a year-long subscription to Alkeme, a Black-owned streaming platform that provides therapist- and expert-led wellbeing courses, guided meditation and

livestream sessions centered around the Black experience.

"The Thurgood Marshall College Fund is dedicated to helping transform the lives of students at HBCUs by preparing them for the next generation of leadership in the workforce and in life," said Dr. Harry L. Williams, President and CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF). "We, alongside our more than 20-yearlong partners at McDonald's, remain committed to providing the support needed for Black students to succeed at all levels."

Through this new partnership with Alkeme, students will be able to access curated customized content and resources that center the HBCU experience and empower students to achieve their personal goals.

College students should be able to focus on their studies and create unforgettable memories with new friends. Yet, socioeconomic and pandemic-related concerns continue to impact Black students at HBCUs, leaving many in need of financial and mental health aid.

As stated in a study by the American Psychological Association last May, HBCU students report student loan repayment, lack of financial assistance, future educational expenses, and their education, all combine as contributing factors to stress. So, McDonald's partnered with Thurgood Marshall College

Fund (TMCF) and Alkeme to relieve some of this pressure.

"As HBCU students invest in their future and passions, McDonald's and its franchisees remain committed to providing the tools and resources they need to help them succeed," said Courtney Holeman, Greater Richmond, Virginia McDonald's Franchisee. "Through meaningful partnerships like this, we can ensure students are well-equipped to confidently manage their finances and care for their mental health on their journey to academic success."

Applications are open now through March 27, 2023, at 11:59 PM EST to incoming and current HBCU students at tmcf.org, with winners being announced in Summer 2023.

Students interested in applying for the Black & Positively Golden Schol-

arship Program must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be 18 years old or older;
- Be enrolled full-time as a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior attending an HBCU during the 2023-2024 academic school year
- Have a current cumulative grade point average of 2.7 or higher
- Demonstrate leadership abilities and financial need
- Be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident with a valid permanent resident card or passport stamped I-551

Students can apply for the Black & Positively Golden Scholarship for the 2023-2024 academic year now through March 27, 2023.

To learn more about our Black & Positively Golden movement and scholarship, follow @wearegolden on Instagram and visit www.blackandpositivelygolden.com.

Collin College celebrates Black History Month

Collin College will celebrate Black History Month with a series of events hosted by the Collin College Black American Awareness Committee (BAAC). This year's national theme is "Black Resistance: Grit, Faith, and Perseverance." Events centered on Black History are scheduled throughout the month.

City of Hope Poster Exhibition will run all month, from February 1 through 28 at Frisco Campus, J Building on the first floor. "City of Hope: Resurrection City and the 1968 Poor People's Campaign" honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s daring vision for economic justice and opportunity for every U.S. citizen. The poster exhibition examines the Poor People's Campaign — a grassroots, multiracial movement that

drew thousands of people to Washington, D.C. For 43 days between May and June 1968, demonstrators demanded social reforms while living side-by-side on the National Mall in a tent city known as Resurrection City. City of Hope: Resurrection City and the 1968 Poor People's Campaign is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

"The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords" will be screened Feb. 7, 2023 from 7-9:45 p.m. at Plano Campus Living Legends Conference Center. This 85-minute, 1999 documentary directed by Stanley Nelson provides a history of Black newspapers and jour-

nalists in twentieth-century America. Nelson, a MacArthur Fellow and three-time Primetime Emmy winner, received the 2013 National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama. A panel discussion will follow the screening. The film is not rated.

"Black Resistance: Grit, Faith, and Perseverance" presented by Mitchell Jackson will take place on February 9, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at McKinney Campus Conference Center at the Frisco Campus Conference Center. The event will be streamed.

Mitchell Jackson is a 2021 Pulitzer Prize winner in feature writing for his essay "Twelve Minutes and a Life," a profile of Ahmaud Arbery. Jackson's writing

See COLLIN Page 12

Collin College welcomes public to its 10th annual guitar festival

Free performances and classes for guitarists of all ages and skill levels will be offered at Collin College's Tenth Annual Guitar Festival. The event scheduled for Friday through Saturday, Feb. 10-11, 2023.

Guest artist Gohar Vardanyan will open the festival with a free concert in the Plano Campus Living Legends Conference Center on Friday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. Vardanyan is a Julliard-trained classical guitarist, who has been a guest artist at guitar festivals in Sweden, Italy, Panama, Canada, and Mexico. Her playing has been described as "passionate," "evocative," and "virtuosic."

The festival will continue with technique and master classes by Vardanyan beginning at 10 a.m. on February 11. Collin



David Schultz / Unsplash

College Music Professor Dr. Olga Amelkina-Vera will also offer a lecture on that day.

The festival will close with a student recital in the Living Legends Conference Center at 6 p.m. Hosted by the Collin

College Music Department and Collin College Guitar Studies, the festival is sponsored by the Student Activity Fee Advisory Committee (SAFAC).

Plano Campus is located at 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.

Canine influenza outbreak leads to temporary changes at Plano Animal Shelter

Also known as dog flu, the canine influenza virus is contagious and can involve cough, runny nose, fever, lethargy, eye discharge, and reduced appetite, reports the Center for Disease Control (CDC). It is a disease that tends to spread in kennels and shelters. Though some dogs can be asymptomatic, the disease can be serious, leading to pneumonia and sometimes death, they report.

The Plano Animal Shelter has made several temporary changes in response to a recent outbreak of dog flu experienced at their shelter. On January 17, a dog was identified as having a cough and was immediately placed in the shelter's Dog Isolation ward. The following day, three more dogs with similar symptoms started treatment.

The shelter's previous



Alex Navarro / Unsplash

employment of normal protocols to isolate canines in such a way have been successful in limiting spread to a few dogs. In this case,

however, despite all preventative measures, the infection continued to spread so that all but four of the 102 dogs currently housed

were tested and were found to have contracted the virus. The canines are currently being treated for canine influenza.

Though it is a highly contagious disease among dogs, it is not believed to be a threat to humans, with no reported cases worldwide.

While not as well-known as other canine diseases, canine influenza is now considered to be endemic in U.S. dogs. Few dogs have acquired a natural or vaccine-induced immunity, so most exposed dogs do get sick.

Similar to other flu variants, it is an airborne disease spread through respiratory droplets on contaminated surfaces or airborne during coughing and sneezing. This type of spread makes the disease easily spreadable in a shelter environment. Dogs are most conta-

gious during the incubation period when they are exhibiting no symptoms and may still be contagious for up to twenty days post infection.

In response to this outbreak, all owner surrender appointments have been canceled at the shelter, and at-large dogs will be picked up only as a last resort. Also, due to the highly contagious nature of the disease, no dogs will be allowed to leave the shelter via adoption, fostering, or other means until further notice.

Plano Animal Services feels it is irresponsible to put potentially sick dogs out into the community when it would likely spread the disease to dogs in neighboring households. The agency strongly encourages local dog owners to contact their veterinarians to discuss getting a canine influenza vac-

cination for their pets. They also highly recommend that any dog exhibiting unusual coughing, lethargy, or other signs of an upper respiratory illness contact their veterinarian as soon as possible.

According to CDC, the virus typically lasts two to three weeks. Treatment largely consists of supportive care which helps to keep the dog hydrated and comfortable while its body then mounts an immune response to the infection to facilitate recovery. In the milder form of the disease, this care may include medication to make your dog be more comfortable and fluids to ensure that your dog remains well-hydrated. Broad spectrum antibiotics may be prescribed by your veterinarian if a secondary bacterial infection is suspected.

SPCA of Texas earns four-star rating from Charity Navigator

The SPCA of Texas, founded in 1938, is the most comprehensive and long-serving animal welfare agency in North Texas. Its mission, to provide every animal exceptional care and a loving home.

SPCA of Texas' strong financial health, ongoing accountability and transparency have earned the organization a Four-Star rating from Charity Navigator the seventh year in a row for SPCA of Texas. The rating designates SPCA of Texas as an official "Give with Confidence" charity, indicating that the organization is using its donations effectively based on Charity Navigator's criteria.

"Our Four-Star Charity Navigator rating is further validation that our supporters can trust our commitment to good governance and financial health," said SPCA of Texas President & CEO Karen Froehlich,



Ja San Miguel / Unsplash

CAWA. "We hope that it will introduce our work to new donors who can help us advance our mission."

Charity Navigator is America's largest and most-utilized independent charity evaluator. Since 2001, the organization has been an unbiased and trusted source of information for more than

11 million donors annually. The organization analyzes nonprofit performance based on four key indicators, referred to as beacons. Currently, nonprofits can earn scores for the Impact & Results, Accountability & Finance, Culture & Community, and Leadership & Adaptability beacons.

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1619 Project One Act Play Festival premieres at Bishop Arts Theater Center

The story of America has traditionally centered around the courage of its founders, the ideals for which they fought and freedom that resulted from their struggle. But in August of 2019, Nikole Hannah-Jones sought to “reframe the country’s history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the very center of the United States’ national narrative.”

“Illuminating and sobering in equal measure, my intent is that this theatrical and creative production will



Social History Archive / Unsplash

be a step in the process of healing open wounds and will add to the long overdue

public exploration ignited by the book which inspired the production,” said Kur-

lander, who will direct each of the nine plays, says the play’s Director, Gabrielle Kurlander.

Bishop Arts Theatre Center has commissioned nine local and nationally celebrated playwrights to pen one-act plays based on the New York Times bestselling book “The 1619 Project” authored by Hannah-Jones. Each writer penned a script inspired by a chapter from the book, creating plays which are all less than 20 minutes. The resulting works have topics ranging from redlining to racism,

Afrofuturism to antisemitism.

Nonprofit entrepreneur, actor and critically acclaimed director Gabrielle Kurlander is leading the project of nine plays which will be staged for three consecutive weekends February 9 – 26, 2023.

Kurlander’s work has been recognized with six AUDELCO Awards for Excellence in Black Theatre, including Outstanding Director of a Musical for Sally and Tom (The American Way) by Fred Newman and Annie Roboff. Director

Gabrielle Kurlander brings decades of experience in theatrical theater and six AUDELCO Awards for Excellence in Black Theatre to local production.

Bishop Arts Theater Center is celebrating its 29th anniversary season under the leadership of Playwright-In Residence Franky Gonzalez and Executive Artistic Director Teresa Coleman Wash. The 1619 Project One-Act Festival is sponsored in part by All Stars Project and Dallas Truth Racial Healing and Transformation.

Next generation of nursing assistants to fill gap through certified apprenticeships

(Dallas College)– For those with no prior job experience in a medical setting, a small step can start a career in health care. Allied health apprenticeships at Dallas College can be a big help, offering a boost for anyone looking to make a career change that focuses

on helping people.

“Our apprenticeship programs in nursing allow students to build a foundation by first getting their feet wet,” says Brenda Chance, a nursing project lead for workforce and advancement at Dallas College, and herself a licensed nurse.

“Students can decide after completing their apprenticeship whether they would like to continue toward a nursing degree, while the opportunity remains constant: At every level in nursing there is a much-needed job and very often, as with our appren-

ticeship programs, there is a job to be had while students are learning.”

A continuing grant by the U.S. Dept. of Labor is what’s helping Dallas College enhance its nursing education while growing a pool of certified nursing assistants (CNAs) who work

in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes or with home health organizations – where a burgeoning unmet labor need is being seen nationally as the U.S. population ages, and as threats to public health from infectious diseases increase, Chance said.

In 2019, Dallas College received a \$12 million apprenticeship grant from the Dept. of Labor to develop training for 7,500 apprentices in approximately 50 critical health care occupations for health care provid-

See GAP, Page 10

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Capathia Jenkins



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Black films take center stage at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival

By Dwight Brown
NNPA film critic

Black life was on full view at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival, when legendary figures were given their due. Family dramas were showcased, and movies from the motherland added a unique perspective. Black directors, screenwriters, tech crews and actors showcased their talents at America's biggest indie film festival in films that mattered.

"A Thousand and One." In the 1990s, six-year-old Terry (Aaron Kingsley Adetola) thinks his mom Ines (Teyana Taylor) left him on a Harlem street corner when he was a baby. Now that she has done her time at Rikers Island jail, she's trying to make amends and steals him from foster care. That thoroughly inventive premise spotlights the creative genius of first-time feature film writer/director A.V. Rockwell.

From the jump, Rockwell weaves a captivating urban tale eschewing the stereotypes, clichés and tropes too prevalent in the genre and presenting a compassionate mother/child relationship that endures the Giuliani years, stop and frisk, gentrification...

Watching a ferociously protective and streetwise mother try to beat the system and raise a son who will have more opportuni-



ties than herself is so compelling. Taylor's searing portrayal of that woman is Oscar-worthy. The supporting cast playing her extended family shines. Rockwell pours more hard living and love into this 1h 57m film than a dramatic TV series could in an entire season. It is wonderful on every level and food for the soul.

"All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt." Relying on subtext and artistry to carry a film for 92 minutes is a gamble. It's a chance that filmmaker Raven Jackson takes as she spins a southern yarn about a girl becoming a woman in rural Mississippi.

The visuals are splendid: watching a butterfly on a car dashboard. The sounds are

true: crickets at night. The music is wonderful: Gladys Knight and Robert Flack. The emotions are there: admiring a boy named Wood all the way through life.

But without a sound, detailed rom/dra plotline fills in the empty spaces, and all viewers get is an inkling. It is just enough of an essence for a short film and not nearly enough for a feature.

It's never enough.

"Girl." For 24-year-old, Grace (Déborah Lukumena), an African immigrant living in Glasgow, Scotland, the only person that matters is her daughter, Ama (Le'shantey Bonsu). Grace: "I was lonely until she came along." But her overbearing protectiveness

isolates and stresses Ama.

Beautifully framed scenes look like photos in an art gallery. The sets, production design, lighting, composition and colors are mesmerizing (cinematographer Tasha Back) as are the costumes. But none of it makes sense, considering the two are supposed to be living in a condemned building on the poor side of town.

The overly sullen and trauma-rattled lead character is too tough to access emotionally. And what's on

view is way too sad for way too long, as this small drama is overshadowed by its fancy production elements. Yet, the directing technique exhibited by filmmaker Adura Onashile, in her first film, is promising.

"Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project." "A lot of things I don't remember, I choose not to remember. I make up the rest. That's what storytelling is all about," says poet/writer/activist/educator Nikki Giovanni.

In this very enlightening homage, by documentarians Joe Brewster and Michèle Stephenson, the icon gets the respect she deserves for speaking truths, reflecting on her life and discussing racism, sexism, classism and other social issues with the intelligence of a scholar and the wit of a genius.

Clips and images of her famous conversation with James Baldwin are on view. Stories of her abusive father, estranged son and babysitting an activist's child with a gun for protection add to her allure.

The spotlight shines magnificently on Giovanni as she speaks in the most poetic ways, revealing precious

and profound thoughts: "I believe the most beautiful poem ever heard is your heart racing."

"Little Richard: I Am Everything." Shut up!!! Richard Penniman, a pioneer rock 'n' roller, was the third of 12 children in 1930s Macon, GA. His brash personality got him the attention he desired. Banging piano keys like a percussive instrument, wearing flamboyant attire and singing provocative songs ("Tutti Frutti") arguably made him the music industry's first true glam rock star.

Director Lisa Cortes astutely assembles an impressive group of legends who attests to his showmanship and musical prowess: Tom Jones, Nona Hendryx, Mick Jagger, John Waters, Billy Porter...

If legends are defined by how they changed the world, blending gospel, blues and boogie woogie music, getting black and white kids to dance together, and letting fledgling bands (Beatles, Rolling Stones) share his tours, Penniman's breakthrough achievements are worthy of

See FILM, Page 10

DSO welcomes Ladysmith Black Mambazo to the Meyerson

Legendary five-time GRAMMY Award-winning South African singing group Ladysmith Black Mambazo will perform at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center on March 30, 2023.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo, founded in the early 1960s by Joseph Shabalala, has a recording career that boasts over seventy albums, nineteen GRAMMY Award nominations and five GRAMMY Award wins. The ensemble was formed from a passion for

peaceful protest against apartheid in South Africa, and have since been lauded for their ability to unite listeners across the globe. Their songs embody hope and love, receiving acclaim from world leader Nelson Mandela, who stated that he listened to the group's music while imprisoned, and later asked them to perform during his Nobel Peace Prize awarding ceremony.

The group sings from a traditional music style called isicathamiya (is-cot-a-Me-ya). They've worked

with notable names such as Paul Simon, Stevie Wonder, Dolly Parton and Josh Groban. Meyerson audiences will experience dancing and singing that captivates, leaving a lasting impression. This show will be the last stop on Ladysmith Black Mambazo's Spring 2023 US Tour.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo will perform Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Meyerson Symphony Center. Tickets start at \$30 at dallassymphony.org.

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Dallas Black Dance Theatre and Broadway Dallas partner with DISD for Second Annual Arts Education Initiative

Arts education accessibility is on the agenda this February for Dallas Independent School District (D.I.S.D.) students. From Feb. 6-24, 2023, Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) and Broadway Dallas (BD) will come together for a second year to perform the highly acclaimed "Bodies as Site of Faith and Protest" for all of D.I.S.D.'s 141,000 students. The groups will partner to make a virtual matinee performance of the work available at no charge to students during Black History Month. "Bodies as Site of Faith and Protest" brings to life Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "We Shall Overcome" speech.

Choreographer Tommie-Waheed Evans transcribed the speech into dance. The work presents a dramatic lesson on the emotional and spiritual struggle of the American Civil Rights



Courtesy photo

Era. DBDT originally performed the work on stage in 2018. In 2020 during the pandemic, the dance company filmed a reimagined version as dancers turned Dallas locations into their stage. DBDT performed scenes at Dallas City Hall Plaza, St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church, Deep Ellum, South Dallas, Klyde Warren Park, and the One Arts Plaza parking lot. Dr. King's iconic words still ring true

in this powerful work today.

Tommie-Waheed Evans initially choreographed the dance as a part of his college thesis, exploring how speeches from the Civil Rights Movement served as a vehicle for social change. The dancers sing "a cappella" in the work, which adds depth and another layer of complexity to their performance. Evans is the founder and artistic director of the Philadelphia-based

dance company waheed-works.

This arts education initiative is in keeping with the goals of the National Endowment for the Arts to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America, while providing dance, music, theater, visual arts, literary arts, and media arts education for all students. The NEA supports learning that affirms and celebrates America's rich cultural

heritage and recognizes the important role of diverse arts education in engaging and empowering youth.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is providing a 20-page guide for the teachers to use as a part of the student matinee presentation. The deadline for Dallas ISD teachers to register their classes to view the student matinee is February 17. Access to this special, on-demand performance will continue through February 24.

For registration details, teachers can email dmbal-arobertson@dallasisd.org

Founded in 1976 by Ann Williams, under the direction of Melissa M. Young, Dallas Black Dance Theatre's mission is to create and produce contemporary modern dance at the highest level of artistic excellence through performances and educational programs that bridge cultures and reach diverse

communities. As the largest and oldest professional dance company in Dallas, DBDT is the fourth-largest Black dance company in the nation, the ninth-largest contemporary modern dance company, and ranked 40th among the nation's leading ballet companies. Located in the thriving downtown Dallas Arts District, DBDT has performed worldwide for over 4.5 million arts patrons and 2.7 million students in 32 states and 16 countries on five continents. Since the pandemic began in 2020, DBDT performances have also been viewed virtually in 34 countries. The Company has been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts as an American Masterpiece Touring Artist (2008) and received the Texas Medal of the Arts Award for Arts Education (2017). To learn more, visit www.dbdt.com.

GAP, from Page 8

ers, locally and nationally.

The need for nursing assistants, often the first step to becoming a nurse, is at an all-time high with the Bureau of Labor Statistics projecting 194,500 average annual openings for nurses over the next 10 years, with employment opportunities

projected to grow 9% during that time.

One occupation that has shown high-demand for talent over the last few years is CNA, for which Dallas College has developed a new Registered Apprenticeship program.

"The program works to

pipeline students into careers where they can 'learn and earn' at the same time," says Patricia Corley, project lead for workforce and advancement. "Students who sign up for the CNA program have the opportunity to interview and get hired at a home health agency, among other employers, where they join an apprenticeship. On the flip

side, employers can enroll their existing employees in an apprenticeship, with training provided by our Dallas College CNA program. It's a win-win."

Home Health Companion is the first employer sponsor for the program, which takes about eight weeks to complete. Christian Care in Mesquite has also signed on to take

graduates of the CNA apprenticeship program as a registered clinical site.

The eight-week length allows Dallas College to keep the staff-to-student ratio low, Chance said, with apprenticeship cohorts having on average about 10 students. The first apprenticeship cohort for CNAs began this month.

Other apprenticeships

that Dallas College has started under the Dept. of Labor grant include medical office assistant, clinical informaticist, biomedical equipment technician, clinical informaticist, registered nurse residency, patient care technician, certified medical office assistant, sterile processing technician and MRI technologist.

WINFREY, from Page 5

of the HVAC system, painting the interior and replacing the roof, with other restoration initiatives to follow.

"We will continue to provide funds for the Winfrey Point restoration project, and we are calling on the community to help," said Joe Kidwell, the foundation's president. "In partnership with the Dallas Park and Recreation Department - and pending their blessing - we will post signs on site asking for donations and continue hosting our

premier fundraising events - the golf tournament in the spring and the gala in the fall."

Funds have been raised primarily through the foundation's annual golf tournament and the Jewel of Dallas Gala that raised approximately \$78,000. The foundation was also approved for a matching-fund program through the city that will bring the total amount earmarked for the initiative to more than \$300,000.

"Dallas Park and Recreation is appreciative for the longtime partnership with the foundation. Their efforts have benefited White Rock Lake and Dallas residents and visitors," said John D. Jenkins, director, Dallas Park and Recreation Department.

The White Rock Lake Foundation has raised millions of dollars for numerous projects benefitting White Rock Lake over the course of 32 years, including developing the total Master Plan rendering for White Rock Lake Park, funding and designing new

architectural stone abutments to the pedestrian bridge at the main park entrance, and installing shade structures at the Winfrey Point Ball Fields. Graffiti-poo signs will also be located along the entirety of the White Rock Lake Trail, with the four largest ones measuring 6 feet tall. Installation of the signs is expected to begin this spring.

Fundraising continues to be a critical component of the White Rock Lake Foundation's responsibilities. Private funds have paid for essentials at White Rock Lake Park such as picnic ta-

bles, bicycle racks, benches, trash receptacles, and additional landscaping.

The White Rock Lake Foundation got its start in 1989, when a concerned group of citizens formed the foundation to improve and protect the lake. The Foundation was instrumental and led the efforts to secure an \$18 million dollar bond package through the City of Dallas to dredge White Rock Lake and restore it to a healthy, life-sustaining depth by the end of the 20th century. The bond package was approved by voters in May 1995. From

those grassroots origins, the White Rock Lake Foundation has adopted goals that include the completion of the White Rock Lake Master Plan, the development of a Comprehensive Landscape Architectural Concept Plan and a schedule for all restoration, preservation, and development efforts at White Rock Lake.

Visit The White Rock Lake Foundation to learn more about events and improvements to the lake. Click here for a complete list of the projects completed at White Rock Lake by WRLF.

Dallas Economic Development Policy amended to promote economic equity

To proactively address economic inequalities and outcomes in historically underserved communities, Dallas City Council unanimously voted to amend the city's Economic Development Policy, while also creating a new Economic Development Incentive Policy.

Over the past year and a half, former Councilmember Jennifer Gates has led the Economic Development Policy Task Force to revise the policy and bring clarity, alignment and accountability to the original mission,

goals and programs of the City's Economic Development Plan adopted back in May 2021, Gates explained.

"[T]oday we finally have our north star," said Councilmember Tennell Atkins, Chairman of the City's Economic Development Committee. "This Economic Development Policy is an overarching, strategic plan that is right in line with the City's Racial Equity Plan and gives us specific goals and practices to address the economic disparities that have plagued southern Dal-

las for far too long."

The amended policy will allow the city to collaborate with the Task Force to address limitations, while generating new revenue, creating new jobs and driving more equitable and competitive outcomes for the city, explained T.C. Broadnax, City Manager.

While keeping policies in place that help to keep Dallas competitive, the new Incentive Policy directs certain programs and incentives toward designated Target Areas that

align with the state's census block groups designated as distressed areas, called Enterprise Zones. It also adds new tools that institutional a living wage, streamlines the process for smaller developers, and creates a new fund to address infrastructure challenges, while prioritizing investment in certain target areas, said Majed Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager.

The new tools included in the Incentive Policy include the following:

- As-of-right Tax Abate-

ments - activates real estate development and job creation in traditionally underserved areas by offering a simplified process

- Community Development Loans and Grants - improves living and economic conditions of persons of low and moderate income through loans and grants for qualified projects that serve a community development purpose, including projects with non-profit developers

- Predevelopment Loans - supports community devel-

opers and qualified women and/or minority developers by providing loans for eligible project predevelopment costs

Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF) - assists in closing the infrastructure gap by directing infrastructure funding to areas most in need and is capitalized by ongoing collection of windfall funds from expiring TIF districts

Both policies take effect immediately. For more information visit Dallascodev.org.

Hauling Calves

The weather around here has been horrible. A considerable amount of snow fell on Saturday. I got on our ATV and shoved snow all over the place. I'm thankful for the ATV and grateful to those who used to help me before I got it. So, I try to go around my neighborhood and help others.

We thought the worst of the storm was behind

us, but Saturday night, the wind kicked up, coming out of the north, bringing with it twenty-below-zero temperatures. The wind filled the roads and driveways with snow drifts, and the cold froze the snow into solid blocks. Some neighbors of ours came back from a tropical vacation and could not drive into their house. They had to leave their car on the

road and walk the last fifty yards, and they were still wearing sandals and shorts.

The next day, I came to clear their driveway but had to do it in small increments to break the frozen snow. It peeled away in big blocks. It took quite a while. As I worked at clearing their snow, I thought of a story a man told me.

Jason was a trucker and

hailed cattle. The weather then was a lot like it is now, with temperatures dipping well below zero. One rancher he hauled cattle for wanted to move his calves to a warmer pasture he owned hundreds of miles south.

Jason expressed his concern about hauling the calves and whether they would make it in the cold.

"With the weather that is predicted here," the man said, "I think we are taking a gamble either way. My bet would be they will do better getting moved than staying here."

Jason had to agree that things seemed quite desperate either way. They rigged up some heaters in the trailer to provide a little warmth and loaded up fifty calves

in the sixty-foot trailer. It was crowded, but the men felt that the closeness might help keep the calves warm.

Jason started on his way. He was going slowly and carefully, but that evening as he traveled through one town, a car zipped past him, then spun on the road. Jason worked not to hit the

See CALVES, Page 14



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Check us out on Youtube!

In case you've missed it, the *North Dallas Gazette* has begun producing videos. Our latest series, "Close Up" takes a deep dive into issues affecting the local DFW community. Episodes I and II are up now, with Jackie Hardy taking a look at criticisms surrounding the North Texas Tollway Authority's compliance with its stated goals of inclusion for Minority and Women in Business Enterprise firms. The first episode is a conversation with two accomplished professionals in the field, and the second features the NTTA's response to questions about its past performance. Check it out, subscribe to our Youtube channel and stay informed.



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FILM, from Page 9

acclaim.

This perceptive doc also tackles his up and down career and ambivalent feelings regarding his sexuality—proud, ashamed, proud... If you pick the right subject, a documentary sells itself. In that way, Little Richard’s legacy is a magnet, and music fans will be drawn to this revealing doc. He always knew he was worthy of the attention: “I’m not conceited. I’m convinced.” Shut up!!!

“**Magazine Dreams.**” Images of Jonathan Majors (“Creed III”) in a skimpy swimsuit, sporting a lean, muscular body that would shame Michelangelo’s David don’t portend what’s to come. So, film fans anticipating the joy of “Magic Mike” or enthusiasm

of “Pumping Iron,” think twice.

Killian Maddox (Majors) is a mentally disturbed young man shooting steroids to fulfill his dream of winning a bodybuilder competition and being a magazine cover model. His volcanic emotions, demonic delusions and hostile threats stymie his efforts: “I’m gonna come down there, split your skull open and drink your brains like soup.”

As a director, Elijah Bynum makes perfectly crafted footage, and his visual and musical tastes are impeccable. As a screenwriter, he stumbles as he spews an ugliness for 100+ minutes that won’t attract an audience or good word of mouth. Majors, the tech

COLLIN, from Page 6

has been spotlighted in several different publications, including Esquire, Harper’s Bazaar, The Guardian, and Vice. He has also given a TedTalk presentation. His most recent book, “Survival Math: Notes on an All-American Family,” named one of the Time’s 100 Books of the Year, explores the intersections of blackness, violence, and economic inequalities through the lens of his early life in Portland, Oregon.

Foundations of Exploitation, Oppression, and the Black Resistance – video presentation and panel will take place February 16, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at the Wylie Campus Conference Center, Room 103. This 36-minute YouTube video is from the African American Resource Collection (New Orleans Public Library). In “A Discussion of Black Resistance with Dr. Leon Waters,” Dr. Zada Johnson, a professor of Urban Community Studies and an anthropologist, begins the discussion by explaining how important

low the video presentation.

“Resistance and Resilience: Stories from Black History” will take place on Feb. 21, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. at the Frisco Campus Conference Center.

Panelists will share stories of strength and courage that connect our past to our present. Dr. Christopher Redgraves will examine African American service in the Civil War. Dr. Monica Gallamore will discuss Civil Rights activist, Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher. Professor Felisha Avery will explore African American cuisine and culture. And Donna Okaro will share stories of her father, Eddie “Sarge” Stimpson, author of “My Remembers: A Black Sharecropper’s Recollections of the Depression.”

LEADership in the Movies: “The Woman King” will screeb at 6 p.m. on February 20 at the Plano Campus Living Legends Conference Center, February 21 at the Wylie Campus, Student Center 121, February 22 at the McKinney Campus, Pike Hall C120, and February 23 at the Frisco Campus, Lawler Hall 135.

crew and Bynum’s direction are destined for great things. This film is likely not.

Moral to the story? -- Beware of men in G-strings bearing false promises.

“**Milisuthando.**” Poignant conversations about race in this illuminating doc make it much more than just an evocative memoir by writer/director/cultural director/artist Milisuthando Bongela.

Growing up in the Xhosa community in the Transkei in South Africa and going to white schools made her experience with apartheid unique. The prejudice she felt is revisited in interviews with her elderly aunties, faded photographs, home videos and news clips of historic events. The vestiges of bigotry still haunt her.

Says one friend: “Friendship is giving of yourself generously with no expectations in return.” That’s what Milisuthando is manifesting with her poignant documentary. Illuminating, thoughtful and reflective in ways that are continuously surprising.


“**Rye Lane.**” If “Love Actually” and “Love Jones” had a child, this would be it.

Dom (David Jonsson), a twentysomething, is ugly crying in a toilet stall in the unisex bathroom of a bar in South London. Yas (Vivian Oparah) overhears the wailing. Fate pulls them together as they discuss their exes. His left him for another man, hence the tears of a cuckhold. Hers has moved on too. Their mutual happiness may be the best revenge, but for now, they’re oblivious.

First-time director Raine Allen-Miller has created the wittiest, coolest and most contemporary rom/com in ages. Her breezy, moment-to-moment directing never loses its energy as she follows the two lovebirds across colorful sets, wearing the hippest clothes and exploring their very budding relationship.

Clever dialogue pours out of Yas, and angst fuels Dom because screenwriters Nathan Bryon and Tom Melia have captured the feel of young Black British life. Music by Lou Rawls, Terence Trent-Darby and British singer/writer Sampha make for a toe-tapping playlist. “Rye Lane” is so romantic and fun, it should be turned into a streaming series. And if that happened, international audiences would stay glued to Dom and Yas’s love parade.

For more information about the annual Sundance Film Festival go to: <https://www.sundance.org/festivals/sundance-film-festival/about>.



McKinney Housing Authority

2023 ANNUAL PLAN & SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT TO THE FIVE YEAR PLAN

PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

The Quality Housing & Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires the McKinney Housing Authority to submit an Agency Plan each year.

The PHA Plan is a comprehensive guide to public housing agency (PHA) policies, programs, operations, and strategies for meeting local housing needs and goals. There are two parts to the PHA Plan: the 5-Year Plan, which each PHA submits to HUD once every 5th PHA fiscal year, and the Annual Plan, which is submitted to HUD every year.

Below is a list of meetings that are scheduled to review and discuss the Agency Plan documents for the 2023 fiscal year. Residents, the public and staff are encouraged to attend the meetings.

Autoridad de Vivienda McKinney

PLAN ANUAL 2023 & ENMIENDA SIGNIFICATIVA AL PLAN DE CINCO AÑOS

REUNIONES DARSE CUENTA

La Ley de Vivienda y Responsabilidad Laboral de Calidad de 1998 requiere que la Autoridad de Vivienda de McKinney presente un Plan de la Agencia cada año.

El Plan PHA es una guía completa de las políticas, programas, operaciones y estrategias de las agencias de vivienda pública (PHA) para satisfacer las necesidades y los objetivos de vivienda locales. Hay dos partes en el Plan PHA: el Plan de 5 años, que cada PHA presenta a HUD una vez cada quinto año fiscal de PHA, y el Plan anual, que se envía a HUD cada año.

A continuación hay una lista de reuniones que están programadas para revisar y analizar los documentos del Plan de la Agencia para el año fiscal 2023.

Se alienta a los residentes, al público y al personal a asistir a las reuniones.

Tuesday January 24, 2023	4:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Merritt Homes Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069
Tuesday February 28, 2023	4:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Merritt Homes Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069
Thursday March 16, 2023	Noon	Public Hearing	Newsome Homes Community Center	1450 Amcott St. McKinney, TX 75069
Tuesday March 28, 2023	4:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Merritt Homes Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069

A draft of the proposed ANNUAL Plan and Significant Amendment to the Five Year Plan is available for review at the MHA main office located at: 603 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX.

Comments can be submitted by hand delivery, mail, or email to McKinney Housing Authority Main Office; 603 North Tennessee Street; Attn: Roslyn Miller; McKinney, TX 75069 or info@mckinneyha.org. The final public hearing for plan adoption will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 4:30pm – Merritt Homes community center.

Wireless Customers Who Were Subject to Data Throttling by AT&T Can Apply for a Payment from the FTC

(FTC) -- The Federal Trade Commission opened a claims process for former AT&T customers who have yet to claim a refund stemming from the FTC's lawsuit against the company for misleading consumers about its unlimited data plans.

Former AT&T customers may be eligible to claim a refund from the \$7 million remaining in a fund created to settle allegations that the wireless provider charged

for "unlimited" data plans while reducing their data speeds, a practice known as throttling.

The FTC in 2019 required AT&T to provide \$60 million for refunds for failing to disclose to millions of smartphone customers with unlimited data plans that once they reached a certain amount of data use in a given billing cycle, AT&T would reduce or throttle their data speeds. Some customers

experienced data speeds so slow that many common phone applications, such as web browsing and video streaming, became difficult or nearly impossible to use.

The money paid by AT&T was deposited into a fund that the company used to provide partial refunds to current and former customers who had unlimited plans that were throttled by AT&T. The company gave a bill credit

to current AT&T customers and sent refund checks to former customers.

AT&T has not been able to reach everyone who was eligible for a refund. The FTC is using the remaining \$7 million from the fund to provide partial refunds to consumers who meet all these requirements: they are a former AT&T customer. They had an unlimited data plan at some point between October 1, 2011 and June 30, 2015.

They experienced data throttling. And they have not received a bill credit or payment from AT&T related to this matter.

Consumers who meet these requirements can submit a claim online at www.ftc.gov/ATT.

Consumers can contact the claims administrator by calling 1-877-654-1982 or emailing info@ATTDDataThrottling.com if

they have questions or if they would like to request a claim form. Consumers have until May 18, 2023, to submit a claim.

The Federal Trade Commission works to promote competition and protect and educate customers. Learn more about consumer topics at consumer.ftc.gov, or report fraud, scams, and bad business practices at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

BRADLEY, from Page 2

health leaders who work to advance EDI and executive leadership in all sectors, officials stated.

As president and chairman of Delta for Women in Action, a 501(c)4 organization, Arline-Bradley works as a community advocate.

As president and chairman of Delta for Women in Action, a 501(c)4 organization, Arline-Bradley works as a community advocate.

Arline-Bradley is also a member of the advisory board for the Oprah Winfrey Network initiative "OWN Your Health."

She is also a member of the American Public Health Association, Links, Inc., and Jack & Jill of America, Inc., all of which she remains involved with.

She is also a member of the American Public Health Association, Links, Inc., and Jack & Jill of America, Inc., all of which she remains involved with.

A southern New Jersey native, Arline-Bradley attended Tulane University where she received a bachelor's and master's degrees in public health.

Later, she earned a Master of Divinity from Virginia Union University's Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology and became a minister.

Additionally, Arline-Bradley obtained an Executive Certificate in Business Management from Howard

University and an Executive Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University.

Additionally, Arline-Bradley obtained an Executive Certificate in Business Management from Howard University and an Executive Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University. "This is an exciting time for NCNW. Shavon is a person of vision, with tremendous ideas, a broad outreach, and a flawless work record that will be recognized for years to come," said Dr. Thelma T. Daley, NCNW immediate past president and chair, the last individuals to hold the combined position in the organization's history.

At the 60th Biennial National Convention of the NCNW, which was held in December 2022, officials said that Daley "skillfully led the assembled delegates in passing the bylaws to allow the organization founded in 1935 to be restructured."

In a news release, officials said, "This is the first time NCNW has designated separate leadership roles electing a board chair and hiring a president/CEO serving in a salaried position."

Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole suggested a new structure for NCNW where the chair would oversee bringing the board together

to do its work, which will be focused on governance and making big decisions "to set a tone for carrying out the vision and mission of NCNW."

"With this structure, NCNW will be an even better civil rights and women's rights group," Cole said in the press release.

"We are in an intensely difficult time in our country. A time when there are constant challenges to the fundamental rights of women, people of color, and all marginalized communities."

She went on to say, "At such a time as this, a deeply challenging time such as this, NCNW is so fortunate to have Shavon Arline-Bradley as our president

and CEO; for she is a deeply admired and an effective leader in our on-going struggle for justice and equity."

Arline-Bradley is scheduled to begin her new job in March.

"It is just very exciting, very exciting that a person under 50 is coming in to lead the organization, communicating to the public that NCNW is moving into the 21st century," Daley added.

"NCNW is vital. NCNW is up to date. No one is cast aside. All will work together as a unit for justice the way Dr. Bethune and Dr. Height would have like to bring us together. The idea of leaving no one behind."



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Sow a Thought Reap a Pie

One thing that has been burning in my life has been thoughts. Not that I don't have thoughts, but I'm not quite sure how to use them when I have them. Looking back over my life, it has been my thoughts that got me into trouble. I just never learn.

I was finishing up a little project in my office, and I couldn't help but think about The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's wonderful coconut cream pie. She makes a lot of pies, but this one has to be her best. It's been a long time since she baked a coconut cream pie.

Being a husband as long as I have been, over 50 years, I know it doesn't do any good for me to tell my wife what to do, particu-

larly in the kitchen. My access to the kitchen has to be supervised by her.

How can I get her to bake her infamous and delicious coconut cream pie?

This thought took a whole bunch of other thoughts to come up with a good idea. I don't always come up with a good idea, but I thought I had done it this time. I needed to plant a thought in her mind concerning this coconut cream pie.

How I was going to do this demanded some more thought, then I came up with an idea.

We get spam callers about medicare benefits and my expiring auto warranty, so I come up with a little idea. The next time someone like this calls

me, I will use it to plant a thought into my wife's head.

It didn't take long, and one of those spam calls came.

Somewhere in the conversation, they asked me a question, and I noticed The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was in the next room within hearing distance.

I inserted into the conversation, "And my wife bakes the most delicious coconut cream pie I have ever eaten." I mentioned it several times in the conversation, hoping I had planted some thought in someone's mind.

The expiring car warranty call came, and I used that as an opportunity to say, "You should taste the

amazing coconut cream pie that my wife bakes. You would love it."

I even used it when some friends called me. I would say, "Do you remember my wife's delicious coconut cream pie?"

This routine went on for a couple of weeks, and I hadn't noticed any difference with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I was beginning to feel that maybe my "sowing a thought" wasn't working. That thought in and of itself caused a little bit of despair on my side.

Giving this quite a bit of thought, I just couldn't come up with another scheme to entice her to bake coconut cream pie without knowing it was me.

I kept it up for several weeks, hoping that one little thought might take root. It was worth the trouble if I got one of her coconut cream pies at the end.

One day this past week, I had several appointments across town that would take up most of the day. So, I would be out of the house all that time, unable to sow any more thoughts.

It was a long and boring day, but finally, it was over, and I headed home. I pulled into the driveway, got out, and entered the house. As I entered, there was this familiar aroma that I really couldn't place at the time. It smelled delicious, but I didn't quite understand what it was.

My wife was in the kitchen, so I went into my

office and sat at my desk to finish my day's task.

It wasn't long before The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came to the doorway into my office with something in her hand. Then she said, "Look what I baked this morning. It's a coconut cream pie. For some reason, I kept thinking about my coconut cream pie I made a couple of years ago. I don't know why, but I just decided to bake this pie this morning." Then she smiled at me.

I smiled back at her and said, "When can I have a piece of that delicious pie?"

She brought me a piece, and I sat there enjoying every bite. I was beginning to

See PIE, Page 16

CALVES, from Page 11

car, knowing that he would probably kill those inside if he did. Eventually, the car spun off one side of the road, and Jason's truck slid off the other.

His truck rolled, but he was only bruised. He jumped out to make sure the people in the car were okay, then rushed to check on the calves. To his dismay, he found that the trailer had broken open, and the calves were rushing away. Out of

the fifty calves, he was able to stop eleven and get them trapped in the trailer.

Kind people stopped to help, but the other thirty-nine calves were gone into the night, and the wind quickly erased their hoof prints. Someone offered him a barn to put the eleven captured calves in, and another person left and came back with a trailer to transport them.

Jason searched for the

lost calves for hours, but they had mysteriously vanished. He found no trace of them. A couple of highway patrolmen and local people helped search, but they had no more luck than Jason did. Eventually, a police officer convinced Jason to get some rest and try again in the morning. Reluctantly, Jason climbed into a warm patrol car for a ride to the hotel. He shivered for a long time, but eventually warmed up. Sleep was in short supply as he worried,

knowing the calves could never last the night.

Early the next morning, a patrolman knocked on Jason's hotel door. "We found your calves," he said.

Jason hurried with him, afraid of what he'd find, but to his amazement, there were dozens of them running around.

The police officer smiled. "Early this morning, we started getting lots of calls. It seems the calves found their way to window wells all over town. The snow covered them like they were in snow caves. They frightened a few people who found them staring in their windows, though."

The calves were gathered, and all but three had survived. Jason felt that was more than a miracle. With his truck pulled out and the trailer patched together with rope, Jason was soon back on the road with the calves. He looked forward to warmer pastures, too.

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Black History Facts Continue...



Sister Tarpley
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Robert R. Taylor, (June 8, 1868 – December 13, 1942) was an American architect; and by some the most prolific contributor to Tuskegee University's structural design and the namesake of its architecture and construction school will soon be remembered with the launch of a new U.S. postage stamp.

On today, February 12, the United States Postal Service will issue a limited edition of the Forever Stamp of Robert Robinson Taylor. The stamp is the 38th addition to the service's Black Heritage series.

Taylor is believed to have been both the first Black graduate of MIT, he enrolled at MIT in 1888; and he is the country's first academically trained Black architect.

The Taylor stamp will be officially introduced during a ceremony today at 11 a.m. EST in the atrium of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C.

Tuskegee University president, Dr. Brian L. Johnson, will bring remarks,



Robert R. Taylor was an American architect

along with Valerie Jarrett, Taylor's great granddaughter and senior advisor to President Barack Obama, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) president Rafael Reif.

A celebration of the stamp's launch is also planned at Tuskegee University for later this month.

Recruited by Tuskegee's first president, Booker T. Washington, Taylor came to the university in 1892 and spent nearly his entire career teaching, developing the architecture and construction trade program, and designing more than 20 campus buildings until his death in 1942.

He was also the architect of The Oaks, Washington's home and modern day historic site. Many of his historic campus buildings still stand and are used today.

Taylor served as second-in-command to its founder and first President, Booker T. Washington.

In 1898, he married Beatrice Rochon Taylor, they had four children. After Beatrice died in 1906, he got remarried in 1912 to Nellie Chestnut Taylor, they had one child.

Taylor died while attending services in the Tuskegee Chapel, the building that he considered his most outstanding achievement as an architect.

The housing project in Chicago, Robert Taylor Homes, was named after his son, Robert Rochon Taylor, a civic leader, communist and former Chairman of the Chicago Housing Authority.

While attending MIT, in June 1890 and again in September 1891, he was recommended for the Loring Scholarship, which he held for two consecutive academic years: 1890-1891 and 1891-1892.

At the MIT faculty meeting on May 26, 1892, Taylor was one of twelve students

in Course IV recommended for the degree in architecture. The class of 1892 was the largest on record since MIT's founding.

His first building project on the Tuskegee University campus was the Science Hall (Thrasher Hall) completed in 1893. The new Science Hall was constructed entirely by students, using bricks made also by students under Taylor's supervision.

The project epitomized Washington's philosophy of instilling in Tuskegee students, the descendants of former enslaved Blacks, the value and dignity of physical labor and it provided an example to the world of the capabilities of Blacks in the building trades, and it underscored the larger potential of the manual training curricula being developed at Tuskegee.

Taylor's father, Henry Taylor, worked as a carpenter and businessman, born a slave and freed as a

result of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation shortly after the American Civil War of 1861-1865.

His mother, Emily Still, was the daughter of freedmen even prior to the Civil War and he had four brothers and sisters.

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NDG Book Review: 'The Fresh Prince Project: How the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Remixed America' has a ready-made audience

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You turned the TV on and look....

Nine hundred forty-eight channels and there's still nothing you want to watch. Seen that, seen that, watched that twice, but it wasn't always the case. Once, your Monday nights were spent with a show you never missed, featuring a young guy who made you laugh. And in the new book "The Fresh Prince Project" by Chris Palmer, he made America laugh, too.

Born to solidly middle-class parents in West Philadelphia, young Will Smith gained a reputation early for



being something of a class clown. Though he tried, he was not athletic; instead, his talents lay in helping people have fun. When he met Jeff Townes it was a perfect match: DJ Jazzy Jeff spun

the tunes, "Fresh Prince" Smith made the raps.

Everybody wanted to be at their party. They made records and went on tour. Weeks before high school graduation, months before he turned 18, Smith was a rich kid with a nice car and lots of friends. But "bubble-gum" hip hop was on its way out, "hard-driving" rap was in, and Smith's money dried up as fast as it had arrived. Seeking Fame and Fortune Part II, Smith headed for California.

Writer Andy Borowitz was already there, cutting his teeth on Normal Lear projects and other television productions in Hol-

lywood. When Brandon Tartikoff, who seemed to have a golden touch when it came to TV, asked Borowitz to work for him, the answer was yes and Borowitz's wife even joined the team. Tartikoff knew a lot of industry people, including Quincy Jones and music mogul Benny Medina, who was considering a step into the TV industry. At this same time, Will Smith was hanging around The Arsenio Hall Show backstage, hoping that fame might rub off on him.

On the afternoon that Smith met Medina, the young rapper had no idea who the elder man was.

Medina, conversely, was well aware of Smith's early career. And when he asked Smith if he could act, Smith bluffed his answer, as he had so many times before...

From the outset, "The Fresh Prince Project" tries too hard. Its earliest chapters are filled with thirty-year-old language that feels forced, and allusions to some issues with Smith's father that are never completely, satisfyingly explained. This unevenness doesn't ever get much better as the book progresses: there's a lot of backtracking, and the words "fish out of water" show up a ridiculous number of times.

And yet, if you can separate style from substance, author Chris Palmer does the job: his book shows how one TV comedy and the people who made it, shaped Monday nights and everyday viewpoints. It's also a great profile of a star with one foot in a job he loved, and the other foot firmly on film.

Overall, fans who can withstand the up-and-downs of this book and don't mind a little whiplash sometimes will want to hop on "The Fresh Prince Project." If you like things freshly-polished, though, this book might turn you off.

PIE, from Page 14

think that my planting the thought would not work.

After finishing that pie, I began thinking, is this pie the result of me planting

a thought, or did she just hear what I was saying and was trying to trick me?

I never will know which way it was. But then I got

to thinking; maybe I will try this again to get my wife to do something in the future. I'm going to have to give this an awful lot of thought because it's very hard to fool The Gracious

Mistress of the Parsonage.

Sometimes my thoughts get me into trouble and sometimes they don't. I can never tell which way any of thoughts will go.

I thought about what

David said, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:22-

24).

It is important for me to allow God to search me and know my thoughts and if there is any thing that offends God, I need to deal with regularly.

HEALTH, from Page 2

As co-chair of the Diversity and Gender Fairness Committee of the Capital District Women's Bar Association, she coordinated programs for law students of color to expose them to a variety of career paths, share keys to becoming suc-

cessful lawyers and explore how attorneys can overcome gender and racial barriers in the legal profession.

"I am deeply grateful to be appointed by President Biden and serve with the outstanding staff at the Office of Justice Programs to

protect children, enhance public safety and empower communities in furtherance of the mission of the SMART Office," said Judge Heath. "It is a dream come true to continue my public service legal career at the Department of Justice and make a positive difference in the lives of families

across our great nation."

Judge Heath graduated from New York University School of Law in 1987. She was awarded the prestigious Root-Tilden-Snow Scholarship based on her academic excellence and her commitment to public service law. She attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice and

received her Bachelor of Science in 1984.

Judge Heath takes over the leadership post from Dawn Doran, who has served as the SMART Office's acting director and will resume her role as the office's deputy director. The SMART Office was authorized by the Adam Walsh

Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 to implement the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. The office provides assistance to criminal justice professionals across the entire spectrum of sex offender management activities needed to ensure public safety.

GIBSON, from Page 1

Last year, when asked to join the CCBCC Board of Directors, Gibson answered the call, and since then, a lot of good has happened. Inspired to support small businesses, entrepreneurs and Black-owned businesses, Gibson said he feels compelled to carry on the organization's rich business traditions.

Though, at times, this has meant making the most of limited resources, the Chamber is now in a position of adequate resources, and Gibson wants to build on that.

We have a strong team now that works well togeth-

er, said Gibson, and if we continue to be consistent, we'll grow the chamber. With a passion for learning and growing, Gibson hopes to double Chamber membership and bring in new leaders in the next two years.

"Starting a business is a good thing, said Gibson. "You can put yourself in a position of earning money your way and increasing your earning potential -- possibly with unlimited potential."

Not everyone can be an entrepreneur, but everyone can definitely be a professional, he teaches, and in

any atmosphere, there is an opportunity to help build the community with your skillsets.

There is a huge opportunity to get the message out, said Gibson. "While there are a lot of people that know about us, there are a lot that do not."

There will be a lot of work to do to get their message out. Gibson is seeking more media outlets and hopes to create compelling content to carry their message of opportunity to small businesses. Based on his research, unlike many businesses, most chambers do not leverage using YouTube. Gibson hopes to increase the volume of video

the organization develops, while using all its platforms to push out their message.

"Put the right people in the right places, and I believe we can create a compelling suite of services offered to our target market, which is Collin County," said Gibson. This Chamber is unique in that it targets the entire county, unlike most, which serve specific cities. The great number of African Americans and Black businesses in Collin County offers a huge opportunity to bring resources and ideas together, while providing great mentorship and leadership.

Given its strong partnerships, like IKEA, NTTA,

Toyota, and several financial institutions, CCBCC also does a good job of bringing together opportunities to win contracts, to do business with municipalities, to secure financing, and to gain procurement opportunities.

Still, Gibson wants to bring in more sponsors, while making a stronger push to reach nonprofits. "There is a lot of synergy between businesses and nonprofits," said Gibson. The Chamber wants to foster more such relationships. Relationships drive enterprise and business, he explained. Relationships drive donations and put you in position to close deals.

As a small business or business professional, it's great if you can grow your business and have success, explained Gibson, but it's also important to have a way to give back and a way to pay it forward. It's good for business. It's good for your soul, and it's good for the community.

"Black people in America have a very rich and long history of being entrepreneurs and starting their own businesses, and when like-minded businesses come together to collaborate and learn from each other, collectively, we are better able to move forward as a progressive community."