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Joe V's Smart Shop Highlights
SMOKEY JOHN'S BANANA PUDDING
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CEO OF PROSPERITY MINT OPENS GRAND LOCATION IN ARLINGTON!

JULY 2024

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THE PUBLISHER'S DESK



July is Sha'Carri's month!

June blew by faster than Sha'Carri Richardson running the 100m in the Olympic trials, and we all know that was fast! June was packed with all sorts of Juneteenth events and celebrations, and I did everything I could to cover them all! My heart was so full in seeing the number of Juneteenth celebrations all over the country and even outside the US! Additionally, I was overjoyed to witness Ms. Opal Lee continuing to walk and inspire us to do great things in the name of freedom. God bless her. She's our national treasure. Also, the Together We Sing event at the Meyerson was a concert for the ages! Dr. Marvin Sapp brought the house down and built it back up again along with all the other great singers. If you didn't go this year, make sure to put it on your calendar for 2025. Moving on to this month, many of you will have already attended some spectacular July 4th celebrations! Firework displays from Klyde Warren Park in Downtown Dallas to Kaboom Town in Addison, to the concert in Desoto featuring the Bar-Kays, Natural Change and more! If it's one thing we do well in Dallas, it's celebrate! Speaking of celebrations, the City of Dallas recently broke ground on the new Kay Baily Hutchinson Convention Center expansion! This is a $3.7 billion dollar project paid for through hotel taxes. The expansion will bring more jobs and expand The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, better known as TBAAL! Minority owned construction companies will also benefit greatly from this expansion. Mayor Pro-Tem Tennell Atkins says, "This will help build the bridge between North and South Dallas." We will talk more about this in the August edition. Moving on to the Presidential debate. It really wasn't much of a debate at all. In my view, former President Trump shouldn't even have the right to run for office after asking Georgia to "find votes". That recorded phone call alone should bar him from ever running for President. That call struck at the very heart of democracy and the ideals of a fair and honest election, which it was, and he still denies. Admittedly, President Biden didn't have the best showing, but he tells the truth and that alone is enough for me. Hopefully, the Democratic Party will have more youthful party leaders, like former President Obama. The same can be said for the Republican Party. I firmly believe it's time to have an age limit on becoming President. That position is far too important not to have one. Southern Dallas Magazine will have Olympic coverage this year from Beyond the Ball Founder and CEO, Erica Johnson-Mollet! Her organization will be at the Olympics this year, and she volunteered to bring us back some cool pics for the magazine! We are hoping the US will win many gold medals and our own Sha' Carri Richardson will bring home the gold in the 100m! The games begin Friday July 26th through Sunday, Aug.11th. Go Team USA!

Until next time, may God bless and keep you
is my prayer.

The Publisher,

James Valentino Thomas II

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SOUTHERN DALLAS COUNTY
BUSINESS & LIVING MAGAZINE

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Dallas Mavericks Acquire Klay Thompson in 3 year $50 Sign and Trade Deal!

It will be interesting to see Klay Thompson in another jersey other than Golden State but he's a Maverick now. Hope it works!



GRAMMY AWARD WINNING ARTIST KIRK FRANKLIN HEADLINES THE 2024 HBCU SWINGMAN CLASSIC

By: Amber Barbee Pickens

Texas, are you ready for the HBCU Swingman Classsic?! Twenty-time Grammy-winning artist, producer, songwriter and music icon Kirk Franklin is headlining the entertainment and ceremonial celebrations of the 2024 "HBCU Swingman Classic presented by T-Mobile & powered by the MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation". Franklin and his gospel choir will perform both the U.S. National Anthem and "Lift Every Voice and Sing" prior to the All-Star showcase of Division-I baseball athletes from Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs). The game will be played on Friday, July 12th at Globe Life Field, beginning at 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET, LIVE on MLB Network, MLB.tv, MLB.com, and the MLB app.

HBCU Swingman Classic Coach; former Texas Rangers second baseman; Rangers Broadcaster, Mark McLemore shared, "The HBCU Swingman Class shows more Black kids or kids who look like me, to baseball. It shows them a pathway the big leagues. It's a great showcase for them because these opportunities are harder to come by now then any time before. Griffey coming up with this idea, then Major League Baseball getting behind it to help with that…I think it's great for our community and baseball."

Dr. Opal Lee, the "Grandmother of Juneteenth" will announce "Play Ball!" prior to the start of the game. During pregame ceremonies, hosted by Texas Black Sports Hall of Famer, Chris Arnold, 10 representatives from each of the "Divine Nine" Black Greek-letter organizations will surround the infield. Additionally, three representatives will perform on each dugout with a step routine that will feature individual customized performances, to be followed by a joint performance as a sign of unity and strength among the organizations. DJ Blast, Divine Nine Fraternity Member & 2023 HBCU Swingman DJ, will once again perform a set while gates are open until the pregame ceremonies begin. Pinch-hitting for regular Rangers PA announcer Chuck Morgan is Marque Denmon, who is the SWAC Baseball Public Address Announcer.

HBCU culture will be present throughout the ballpark during the pregame, in-game and postgame with "Battle of the Bands" performances by Texas Southern's "Ocean of Soul" and the Prairie View A&M's "Marching Storm."

Proceeds from the sale of each ticket will benefit the MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation (YDF), a joint initiative by MLB and MLBPA to support efforts that focus on improving the caliber, effectiveness and availability of amateur baseball and softball programs across the United States and internationally.



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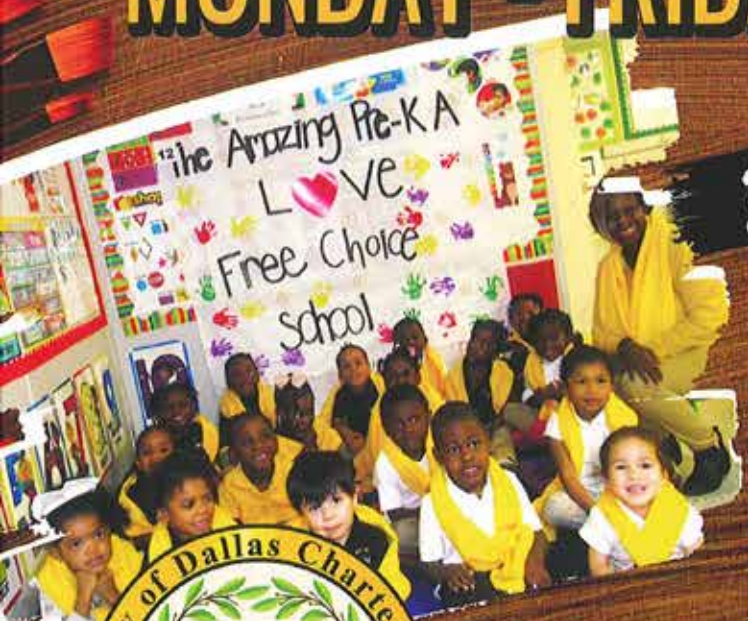
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JOE V'S FINALLY OPENS IN SOUTHERN DALLAS

Highlights Smokey John's BBQ Amongst Local Brands

by: Leah Frazier

Joe V's Smart Shop by H-E-B finally opened its doors in Southern Dallas on June 12th, and the parking lot has been packed ever since. This marks the first Joe V's location in Dallas for the multi-format retailer, with plans to open the second location at the corner of Buckner Blvd. and Samuell St. in spring 2025.

Joe V's Smart Shop by H-E-B is an innovative price format that delivers a uniquely curated assortment of community focused products, and the most relevant high-quality, fresh products H-E-B is known for at even lower prices. Joe V's Smart Shop is committed to delivering the lowest prices in the marketplace with the highest quality fresh products for its customers, also fondly known as Smart Shoppers.

"With the introduction of Joe V's Smart Shop to Dallas, we are excited to build on our longstanding presence in the area and commitment to serve more customers in this dynamic and growing part of Texas," said Roxanne Orsak, H-E-B Chief Operating Officer. "As a multi-format retailer, we have developed a variety of brands and formats to best serve our customers across the state. With each store we open, our goal is to provide the best shopping experience, offer fresh, top-quality products, and create jobs and career opportunities that help build a stronger community."

In addition to building a stronger community, Joe V's also showcased a commitment to spotlighting local brands and products throughout its 55,000 square feet space. One of those brands was family owned and operated Smokey John's BBQ — who inked a partnership with the retailer to sell its signature BBQ rub, BBQ sauce, and exclusively its banana pudding. Owned by brothers Juan and Brent Reaves, who are also Oak Cliff natives — inking a deal for their grandmother's banana pudding recipe, made their Joe V's partnership even sweeter.

"Being that we're from Oak Cliff, this is a full circle moment for our family and the Smokey John's BBQ brand," said Brent Reaves, Co-Owner of Smokey John's BBQ. "We're excited to partner with Joe V's in offering a selection of our signature items, but even more ecstatic to exclusively house our Grandmother's banana pudding recipe at an establishment that has high quality food and principles. Through this partnership, we are able to give back to a neighborhood where we grew up, and that has meant so much to our entire family."

The Smokey John's Banana Pudding is available at Joe V's for $14.75 while supplies last. And while the product is constantly restocked, demand is high for the signature dessert item.

Joe V's Smart Shop is now open, and located at the corner of W. Wheatland Rd. and Highway 67 at 4101 W. Wheatland Rd.





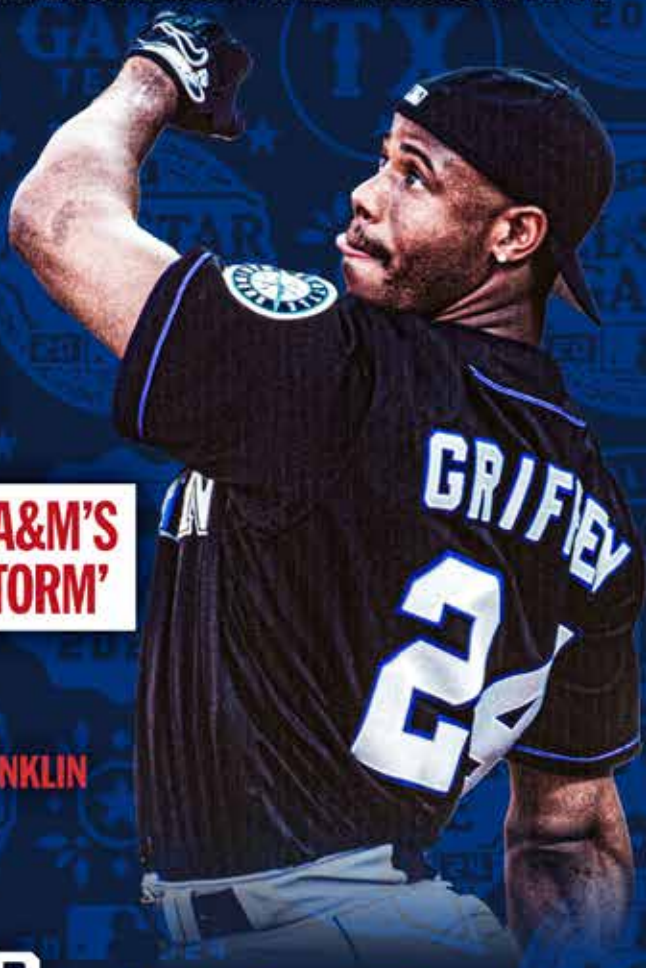
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BEYOND THE BALL IS HEADED TO THE OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES PARIS 2024

Beyond the Ball, a Dallas-based organization dedicated to harnessing the transformative power of sports is set to make a global impact during the upcoming 2024 Olympics in Paris, France. Founded on the belief that sports can be a gateway to education and career exploration, Beyond the Ball aims to expose youth to the realms of mathematics, science, and innovation that extend far beyond the game itself. This groundbreaking initiative marks a pivotal moment as the organization brings its mission to an international stage, emphasizing the importance of holistic education through sports.

Erica Molett, Founder/CEO of Beyond the Ball, first envisioned bringing the organization to Paris during a visit to the city two years ago. She was captivated by the idea of leveraging the Olympic & Paralympic Games to offer students in underresourced communities a front-row seat to global exploration and sports innovation. Last summer, Erica connected with the co-founders of Wevolv, a sports tech company co-founded by pro basketball players Jori Davis and Julie Wotja, who share a deep commitment to exposing children to diverse global experiences. With the support of Jaqueline NGO MPII, founder of Little Africa Village—a cultural hub in a vibrant yet underserved neighborhood—they formed a collaborative vision to leverage sports, culture, and education for positive social impact.

Together, this dynamic team is poised to make a significant impact during the Olympics in Paris with an event scheduled for August 7th. The event will feature esteemed panelists including Jori Davis, co-founder of Wevolve; Evelyn Nora, CEO of VLGE; and Scarlen Martinez, Senior Director of Rise. This gathering aims to highlight the intersection of sports, culture, and empowerment, emphasizing the transformative potential of community engagement. In a unique display of solidarity and sisterhood, Erica Molett fostered a connection with Dominique Hamilton, CEO of the Black Girl Magic Museum in Dallas, TX, who will simultaneously host an event at her museum. This dual event across two continents and time zones underscores the shared experience and resilience of Black women-owned galleries in fostering community enrichment and empowerment through art and culture.

The upcoming experience promises to be transformative for the participating girls. They will have the opportunity to hear from accomplished women in sports, technology, and fashion, setting the stage for a hands-on Sneaker Lab where they can unleash their creativity. Following this, they will engage in discussions about their potential as global change-makers, sharing their perspectives and insights. An innovative highlight of the event will be their virtual rendezvous in the metaverse via VLGE, where they will collaborate to design their own fantasy world, fostering creativity and global perspective. This initiative is driven by a belief in nurturing curiosity and expanding horizons beyond social media consumption, aiming to inspire young minds to explore new interests and possibilities. Beyond the Ball is particularly excited to bring four teens from the Dallas-Fort Worth area who will create and livestream content, aiming to both entertain and educate their peers. The event has garnered strong support locally and internationally, with sponsorship from the Dallas Mavericks for the local event, and The Otis and Rosie Brown Foundation generously providing passport and travel scholarships to two young ladies, ensuring that access and opportunity are extended to all.

If your daughter, ages 12-17, is interested in attending the Beyond the Ball: Global Sneaker Lab on August 7th, at Black Girl Magic Museum, please email us at beyondtheballteam@gmail.com. You can also learn more about the organization at beyondtheball.net.



MORGAN FREEMAN AND LAMONICA GARRETT TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM HALL OF FAME

By: Vivian Fullerlove

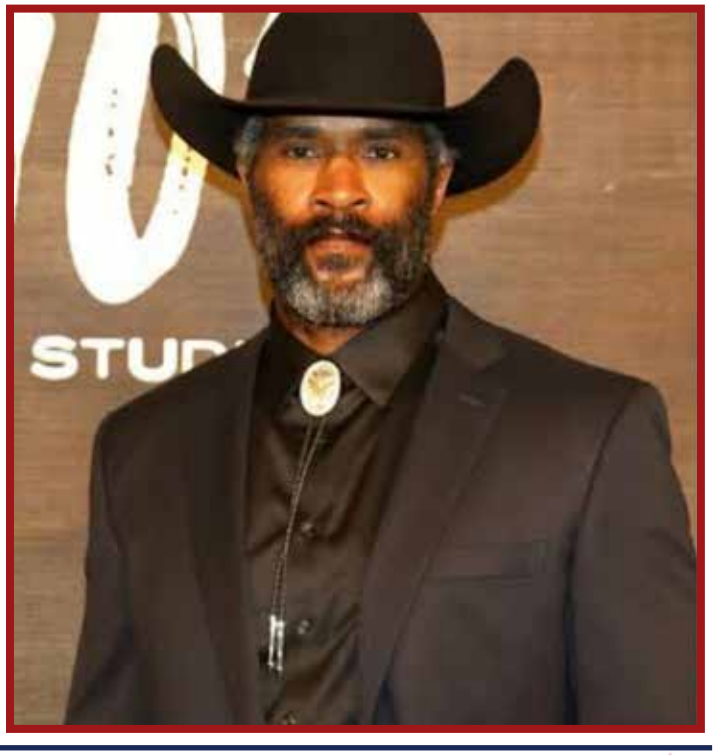
The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum (NMWHM) has been honoring men and women and their dedication to preserving the Western way of life for over 20 years with their annual Hall of Fame Induction and Banquet Ceremony.

This year's honorees include Academy Award winner Morgan Freeman, star of the western drama 1883, actor LaMonica Garrett, Western artist Gladys Roldan-de-Moras and National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum co-founders Jim and Gloria Austin. Cowboy and Indian Scout Britt Johnson and Native American activist and social worker Wilma Mankiller are being inducted posthumously.

"This year marks our 20th year of honoring and celebrating the men and women who have preserved, protected and continue to cherish the Western way of life," says NMWHM Co-Founder Jim Austin. "Our honorees represent the very best of those who work tirelessly to carry on the legacy of those who help build this nation. My wife, Gloria and I, are especially honored this year to have been selected by the nominating committee to be inducted into the Hall of Fame with this incredible class of men and women." In addition to the awards presentation, the banquet will feature a silent auction. Longtime Dallas radio and television personality Scott Murray, who was inducted into the museum's Hall of Fame in 2017, returns as event emcee.

The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum was founded in 2001 and acknowledges the multicultural contributions of Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, European Americans, and African Americans in the settlement of the American frontier. Works of artists and others who documented people and events of the time via journals, photographs, and other historical items are part of the museum's collection of overlooked materials that tell, often for the first time, the complete story of the contributions of people of color to the Old West. Through various educational programs (e.g., storytelling sessions, "Forgotten Cowboys Tour," cultural heritage workshops, historical reenactments, participatory learning) at the museum and in the community, the Museum shares the rich multicultural western heritage while instilling positive values of diversity, tolerance, hard-work, and determination. Visitors to the Museum and traveling exhibitions leave with an awareness that the American West came into being through the struggles and triumphs of racially and socio-economically diverse people.

The 20th Annual Hall of Fame Induction and Banquet will take place Saturday, July 27th at the Worthington Renaissance Hotel located at 200 Main Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102. The VIP reception begins at 6 PM and the banquet commences at 7 PM. For tickets and sponsorship information, visit www.nmwhm.org.





Precious Metals Dealer David Wren CEO of Prosperity Mint Opens Grand Location In Arlington!

By: Keeshala Henderson

David Wren is the Founder and CEO of Prosperity Mint, one of largest African American owned precious metals dealers in the nation and world for that matter. We are so grateful that he carved time out of his busy schedule to talk to us about precious metals investing and why we should all have precious metals in our investment portfolio.

SDM- David, you have created a powerful company that deals in precious metals. You are the only African American precious metals company in Texas based on my research. Before we go to far, tell us a little about yourself. You are originally from California, correct?

David- I'm originally from Hackensack, NJ, but most of my adult life was spent in California within the City of Los Angeles. However, growing up in New Jersey really shaped my work ethics and perseverance.

SDM- You were also in law enforcement as a police officer. How did you get in the precious metals business?

David- Yes, I was police officer in the City of Los Angeles for about 15 years sworn and 3 years as a reserve. Being a police officer was a childhood dream and after fulfilling that, I then decided to focus on my adult dreams. Those dreams were much more essential to my core independence and sacramental cause, which was always the precious metals. I had an immediate affection for the precious metals as far back as I can remember into my early childhood. I mean it was almost instantaneous for me because at an early age I loved everything that had value, or anything which was valuable. I loved the fact that it was called precious metals, which meant to me that it was prized and as a metal, it certainly had to be a priceless form of strength. God's Money to be more exact and precise.

SDM- Your company, Prosperity Mint, teaches classes about precious metals. Is that right?

David- Yes, teaching about the proper way to accumulate the precious metals is critically important. You know control of money is our economic power "Achilles Heel" we own all the debt and control none of the money. We OWN Everything AND CONTROL NOTHING! Teaching is our primary responsibility and obligation to the people.

SDM- How long has your company been in business? You recently moved from Downtown Dallas to a beautiful new space in Arlington. Congratulations to you on the big move! What made your choose Arlington and that building?

David- Officially we've been in business since 2014, but started moving into business around late 2009 early 2010. Thank you, James. I first saw our current building in 2016 and told our V.P. it was the building we needed to buy. So, when I saw it on the market, I threw our hat in. During the purchasing process, things took a turn for the worse, but not from our doing. I walked over to the very spot I first saw the building, at the seat of adversity and looked up, to see staring right back at me was our company's 'tree' logo. Immediately, I knew this building was built for us and our calling. So, I counted it as divine intervention.

SDM- For people who have never bought precious metals before, why should they chose to invest in them? Is it very expensive to do so?

David- I would say starting where you are is the most important step. The fundamental reason is that you work too hard for the energy of your labor to be harvested for someone else's wealth building. You should chose to build your wealth with the energy of your labor. I believe in this thing about what a wage is and what's your wage(s). The wage of a King and Queen (what they are paid for the output of their energy) is silver! Every King and Queen is paid in silver. The wage of a Lady or a Gentleman (someone who works for the royal agenda) is paid in Gold. Finally, the wage of a slave is debt; every slave is paid in debt. Think about how does the global economy see you? Does it pay you like a King, Queen, a Lady or Gentleman? No most likely the system see you as a debt slave wage earner. God's Money is a way "the slave Becomes King/Queen." No, this isn't expensive at all, but more than necessary to regain our "Season Of Exodus".

SDM- You eventually will also be a depository for precious metals. Why is this important?

David- A depository is critically important because it allow us to control a Teir 1 financial asset, which our clients will directly benefit from. Also, it puts us in the position to be the only Black controlled depository in the world. We must bring our own chair to the table, which creates our holistic sphere of influence.

SDM- What are some of the most important business lessons that you've learned? Being a successful entrepreneur is hard work!

David- Wow, the most important business lessons that I've learned and still currently learning are:

a) Learned- When it comes to business stepping into this blood sport requires so much, some say funding, some say mentorship, others say experience. I learned for me the most important thing was and is ENERGY! You must be able to charge yourself nonstop. You must endure without end. You can't become an empty tank that doesn't move anywhere or anymore. I say ENERGY over it all!!!

b) Learning now- Seek advice from these three types of people. A Wise Person, a Person of Conformation (POC) and The Foolish Person. You take directions from them all: The wise tells you the solid path, while your POC gives you conformation and most important the fool tells you WHAT NOT TO DO. An important key is sometimes your wise becomes the fool, and your fool becomes the wise. You have to be keen enough to recognize the switch. Especially when you have become the fool.

SDM- You are an unabashed man of faith! Your faith in Jesus Christ is quite evident. How has your faith made a difference in your business?

David- I believe we can't just be reader of the word and doers of the word only. There is also. I think, another enlightening part that we often overlook . As you are doers of the word, don't forget to make yourself available to God almighty to be continuous writers of the word.

SDM- If someone is interested in contacting you about buying precious metals or taking a class on precious metals investing? How can they reach you?

David- Purchasing the metals can be done via our website www.prosperitymint.com or email me at info@prosperitymint.com to schedule a visit at our showroom : Prosperity Mint Coin & Memorabilia: 501 E. Border St #100, Arlington TX 76010 Phone number (214) 643-6148

SDM- Any words of wisdom that you would like to leave for our readers?

David-I would like to remind us that the first step to becoming wealthy is you must first become a prodigious saver and seeder in God's money. A form of money which has never reneged.






DALLAS COLLEGE APPOINTS TWO NEW PRESIDENTS

Two highly accomplished education leaders have joined the ranks of Dallas College as the school's newest presidents of its Brookhaven and Mountain View campuses. Dr. Macario Hernandez, an education administrator for 25 years, will lead Mountain View Campus in southwestern Dallas County, and Dr. Madeline Burillo-Hopkins will lead Brookhaven Campus in Farmers Branch.

Both appointments were made by Dr. Justin Lonon, Dallas College chancellor. Dr. Hernandez, who was raised in Oak Cliff, has a long history with Dallas College where he received an associate degree in 1996. He was also honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2019.

Dr. Hernandez was a Dallas ISD principal for 23 years, including at Trinidad "Trini" Garza Early College High School on the Mountain View Campus. Under his leadership, the school earned recognition as a National Title-I Distinguished School in 2018 and received a National Blue-Ribbon Award from the U.S. Department of Education in 2021.

Known as a public education advocate, Dr. Hernandez will lead Mountain View's campus culture and local business community engagement and advancement. Among his other duties, he will work with industry partners and business leaders to develop and expand workforce opportunities in Dallas' southern sector.

He is a graduate of the University of North Texas and holds a master's degree from Texas Woman's University and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Hernandez comes to Dallas College from the University of North Texas in Dallas where he served as chief of staff.

"Given his background, connection to the community and affinity for Mountain View, I am excited for the future and look forward to supporting Dr. Hernandez in his new role," Dr. Lonon said.
Dr. Burillo-Hopkins comes to Dallas College from Houston Community College where she served as vice chancellor for workforce instruction and was instrumental in securing federal and state workforce grants. She led efforts in credit and continuing education and developed workforce partnerships as well as prior learning assessment. She is noted for her efforts to raise private sector funds for student support and instructional programs.

In 2021, Dr. Burillo-Hopkins earned the Hispanic Women in Leadership Award for outstanding service in education. Two years later, Houston Community College honored her with the Chancellor's Medallion for Outstanding Service. In 2010, she was an HCC (Houston Community College) Eagle Award recipient for Administrative Leadership. D'Mars Magazine selected her as one of Houston's Top 30 Influential Women.

In addition to being a champion for Brookhaven's campus culture, Dr. Burillo-Hopkins will oversee and help improve workforce training pathways to meet the demands of employers and students. She has degrees from Sam Houston State, University of California at Berkeley, and the University of Puerto Rico. She received a doctorate in education from Sam Houston State.

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Burillo-Hopkins join Dallas College. Her extensive experience working with community colleges will undoubtedly serve us well as we navigate the evolving landscape of higher education in Texas and beyond," Dr. Lonon said.



Dr. Macario Hernandez



Dr. Madeline Burillo-Hopkins

DALLAS-NATIVE EBONIE JACKSON NAMED ONE OF THE 2024 MOST POWERFUL WOMEN IN ACCOUNTING

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and CPA Practice Advisor Honor Influential Leaders Shaping the Accounting Profession.

By: Tiffaney D. Hunter

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) is proud to announce that Ebonie Jackson, DBDT board member, has been named among the 2024 "Most Powerful Women in Accounting" by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and CPA Practice Advisor. An annual recognition, the award honors 25 influential leaders who have made a positive impact and significant contributions to the accounting profession.

Jackson is a senior vice president in the Chief Financial Officer Group at Bank of America where she serves as the finance business partner supporting Small Business. She is also a member of the company's Regional Banking Finance Leadership Team, the Black Executive Leadership Council, and is the senior finance leader in the North Texas market.

"I am truly honored to be celebrated amongst this group of trailblazing executive women who are breaking glass ceilings, shaping our industry, and creating new opportunities for current and aspiring accounting professionals," said Ebonie Jackson, senior vice president in the Chief Financial Officer Group at Bank of America. "My hope is that this award will show women all over the world what is possible and inspire them to confidently reach their full potential and accounting success."

Now in its 13th year, the 2024 "Most Powerful Women in Accounting" awards event was recently hosted at AICPA ENGAGE, one of the largest accounting and finance conferences in North America. This year's honorees represent top business leaders who have been a driving force for creating a culture of excellence, innovation, and inclusion within their companies. Nominated by their peers and selected by a group of independent judges, these women personify leadership, inclusivity, and go above and beyond for the accounting profession. Among the 25 award recipients joining Jackson in this coveted recognition are Lara Abrash, chair and chief executive officer of Deloitte & Touche, LLP US and Julie Boland, EY Americas Area managing partner and EY US chair and managing partner; along with AICPA & CIMA's current board chair Carla McCall, vice chair Lexy Kessler, and past chair Kimberly Ellison-Taylor.

"Amplifying the many diverse voices of the profession is critical," said Crystal Cooke, the AICPA's diversity and inclusion director. "Not only does this award provide visibility into the amazing things that women are doing in our profession, it also shows what is possible with hard work and determination. In order for women to believe there is space at the top for them, they need to see it!"

A full circle moment, Jackson's journey with AICPA dates back over twenty years. She was one of the organization's college scholarship recipients and later became a member of the inaugural class of AICPA's

Continued on Pg 17...



UNIVERSOUL CIRCUS RETURNS TO DALLAS FOR 30TH-ANNUAL "FAMILY REUNION TOUR" JULY 25-AUG. 11 AT RED BIRD MALL

Flying acrobats, stunts that defy the laws of physics, colorful costumes, fire breathers, stilt dancers and the ultimate pageantry and flare. Celebrating 30 years under the big top, UniverSoul Circus returns to Dallas with its show-stopping cultural extravaganza July 25-Aug. 11 at Red Bird Mall (3662 Camp Wisdom Rd, Dallas, Texas 75237). The interactive "Family Reunion Tour" will bring together big names from five continents all backed by the infectious beat of world music including sounds and dance styles spanning the African diaspora.

Reimagined with over a dozen culturally diverse performances under a sparkling new big top, UniverSoul features never-before-seen acts from Ethiopia, the Dominican Republic and Mongolia plus an 18-person flying trapeze act from China.

"Our special presentation of 'Cousins Around the World' celebrates a global community that connects us all in a more inclusive society," said UniverSoul founder and CEO Cedric Walker. "United in the spirit of family, we strongly believe that soul is not a color; it's an experience."

Enjoyed by more than 25 million people from around the world, UniverSoul Circus' highly interactive combination of circus arts, theater and music spans genres including pop, classic R&B, Latin, hip hop, jazz and gospel. Rated as one of the top live family acts in America along with Cirque du Soleil, UniverSoul's fresh approach to family-friendly live entertainment has garnered it a coveted spot as one of Ticketmaster's top 10 most requested family events.

At UniverSoul Circus, the audience is part of the show, and everyone gets to participate. Whether playing "Simon Says," showing off their Swag Surf dance moves or singing in the "Soul Karaoke" spotlight, the patrons take the spotlight. Fresh the Clowns choose kids from the seats for the Big Top Kids Dance contest, and the entire tent gets to play as the beach balls bounce overhead.

"UniverSoul Circus is presented in a brand-new custom big top imported from Italy, enhanced with advanced state-of-the-art lighting, and a sound system that moves and grooves as if it were the show itself," Walker added.

New world-class artists this year include the enchanting Power of Love duo ballerina act from Mongolia who performs ballet on the shoulders and back of her male partner; the soul-stirring African Dream hoop divers from Addis Abba Ethiopia; and the beautiful Ethiopian female duo Morning Dove with their stunning aerial contortion acrobatic act.

Other new additions include a one-of-a-kind flying trapeze act with 18 people flying in air between three positions on multiple cues; an exciting, styled teeterboard act from Ethiopia; a tantalizing strong-man hand-balance duo called Double Vision from the Dominican Republic; and a dynamic twirling Cuban-Caribbean dance party and roller skating-themed spectacular.

In addition, the fan favorites – Caribbean Street Carnival – will bring flair with 20-foot dancing puppets, fire-blowing stilt dancers, authentic folklore characters and dancers from almost every Caribbean Island. The kid-friendly, hip-hop dancing Fresh the Clowns will turn up the crowd with the hottest dance moves, while the extremely dangerous wheel of death stunt masters will have crowds on the edge of their seats as they flip, dive and jump on a fast-moving pendulum 60 feet in the air.

Other popular moments will include Sifiso Kamela, aka "Whistle Man," from South Africa who will engage the audience with his hilarious boxing clown skit, the ringmaster/comedian Donald "N.O." Long from New Orleans, plus UniverSoul's original Zander "Zeke" Charles from Atlanta and its newest foxy dancer, Bella, from Trinidad.

Tickets are $25 and up at ticketmaster.com. Performances are at 7 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays; noon, 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays; noon, 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sundays.



Continued from Pg 15...

Leadership Academy. Most recently, she served a three-year term on the AICPA & CIMA Board of Directors in which she served on the Audit and Finance Committee and as the board representative for the Africa Regional Engagement Group.

With a strong passion for accounting and finance, Jackson has a proven history of transforming financial, IT, and business processes on behalf of organizations with aggregate revenues up to $5 Billion. Her extensive financial reporting and leadership experience has helped transform quasi-governmental agencies, manufacturing companies, colleges, universities, and not-for-profit organizations. Highly respected in the industry, she has a powerful reputation for successfully forging strategic partnerships, FP&A, audit & treasury competencies, and strategic finance. Prior roles include serving as the chief financial officer and director of administrative services at Lucas County Children Services and chief financial officer of Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority.

Jackson received her Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Master of Business Administration from Florida A&M University. A Certified Public Accountant, she is committed to making a lasting impact in the profession and community. In addition to AICPA, Jackson serves on the board for the Dallas Black Dance Theatre and previously held board positions with the Ohio Society of CPAs, Ohio CPA Foundation, LISC Toledo and the Toledo Zoo. She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, The Links, Incorporated and Jack & Jill of America.





SURREALISM AND US

Through July 28

Surrealism and Us: Caribbean and African Diasporic Artists since 1940 is inspired by the history of Surrealism in the Caribbean with connections to notions of the Afrosurreal in the United States. The exhibition includes over 80 artworks from the 1940s to the present day, in a wide range of media such as painting, sculpture, drawing, video, and installation.

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Surrealism and Us: Caribbean and African Diasporic Artists since 1940 is generously supported by the Crystelle Waggoner Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee; Texas Commission on the Arts; the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; the Terra Foundation for American Art; and the Fort Worth Tourism Public Improvement District, with additional support provided by Frost.

Pictured: Elliot & Erick Jiménez, *Blue Chapel* (detail), 2022. Archival photo print on canvas in Artists' custom frame. 50 x 40 inches (each). Set of 4, unique. Spinello Projects. © Elliot & Erick Jiménez. Photograph by Elliot & Erick Jiménez, courtesy of Spinello Projects

THE VISION OF TIFFANI MARTIN: BRIDGING THE ACCESSIBILITY GAP IN TECHNOLOGY

By: LaShonda Walker



Accessibility in technology is crucial for equal access to information and resources for people with disabilities. Tiffani Martin experienced the stark contrast of full sight to blindness due to severe medical crises. Despite these challenges, she leveraged her experiences to become an advocate for accessible technology.

Tiffani's vision is to raise awareness about the disparities faced by people with disabilities, especially in the Black community. Celebrating Disability Pride Month helps highlight these issues and fosters support for better resources and inclusivity. Tiffani's own journey, marked by her diagnosis of Type 1 juvenile diabetes, severe health decline, and eventual blindness, underscores the importance of accessible technology in enabling a quality life for everyone.

Tiffani co-founded VisioTech, a company focused on accessible technologies, offering consultations on IT, web, and digital accessibility. Her vision for VisioTech was born during her recovery from severe health setbacks, including a kidney and pancreas transplant. VisioTech has since grown, advocating for accessible technology through various projects, consultations, and speaking engagements.

After losing her sight, Tiffani had to relearn technology using tools like JAWS, a screen reader. This journey led her to transition from marketing to technology, becoming a certified Scrum Master and product owner. She is also pursuing an MBA in cybersecurity at Baylor University to further her mission of aiding marginalized communities through technology.

Accessibility in technology means more than just access; it ensures people with disabilities can use technology effectively. Access is essential services like banking, where inaccessible websites can block access. Tiffani emphasizes the importance of universally accessible websites to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Community awareness and advocacy for accessibility are also imp. Tiffani and her husband, a public service officer, actively work within their Southern Dallas community to raise awareness about disability rights and resources. Together with DeSoto Mayor Rachel Proctor, they have launched initiatives like the "Able to Work Resource Fair" to provide job opportunities and education on accessible resources.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) also plays a significant role in promoting accessibility. Tiffani advocates for inclusive AI development, addressing biases that affect people with disabilities. She said it's important to incorporate diverse data and involve professionals with disabilities in AI development to ensure these technologies are designed inclusively.

She's sharing more about this in her upcoming e-book, "eyeRobot," that explores how AI can enhance accessibility. Blending professional insights with personal narratives, the book aims to demystify AI and advocate for inclusive design that serves everyone, particularly marginalized communities.

Tiffani's mission is clear: societal change is needed to remove the barriers that render people disabled. Her advocacy for accessible technology and inclusivity strives to create a world where everyone can thrive. Connect with Tiffani on LinkedIn or through VisioTech to learn more about her work and initiatives.

GRITZ N WAFFLEZ OWNER JURNI RAYNE

By: Kassha Brown

Jurni Rayne, the dynamic force behind one of Los Angeles' most exhilarating Southern-inspired culinary destinations, Gritz N Wafflez, is a testament to the power of passion and perseverance. Originally hailing from Dallas, Texas, Jurni moved to Los Angeles with dreams of becoming a successful singer and songwriter.

However, fate had different plans. Trading in the microphone for a chef's apron, Jurni discovered a new calling in the world of cuisine. Her deep-rooted love for Southern comfort food inspired her to create Gritz N Wafflez, a restaurant that captures the heart and soul of Southern hospitality.

Under her leadership, the restaurant has quickly become a favorite among locals and food critics alike, known for its authentic flavors and warm, welcoming atmosphere. Jurni's journey from aspiring musician to accomplished restauranteur is a story of resilience and reinvention. As the CEO of Gritz N Wafflez, she brings the same creativity and dedication to her culinary endeavors that she once brought to her music, making her a standout figure in Los Angeles' vibrant food scene.

Jurni's road to success hasn't been an easy one, but through hard work, sacrifice and the support of the community, her territory continues to grow. As she expands to a more spacious location in Koreatown, California, Gritz N Wafflez will feature a larger menu, a bar area, and specialty seasonings for purchase, including her secret spices dedicated to her grandmother called Mama Zulu's.

If you are ever in Los Angeles, California, please stop by a Gritz N Wafflez location near you. There's no place like home!







DALLAS BLACK CLERGY SEEKS ANSWERS FOR INHUMANE CONDITIONS AT HENRY WADE JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

By: Leah Frazier

The Dallas Black Clergy held an emergency press conference on June 30 at Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center (Henry Wade) concerning the purported inhumane conditions of the Dallas County Juvenile Detention Center. The gathering was swiftly organized following the airing of the most recent investigative report by WFAA Channel 8's Rebecca Lopez, that detailed a former employee's depiction of the callous conditions for juveniles at Henry Wade.

Several of the concerning conditions of confinement are listed below, but not limited to (taken from the 2023 Evident Change Report):

- 15 Violations of state juvenile standards
- Children isolated in cell as long as 5 days (not sure how frequent)
- Kids reported not showering daily
- Guards not checking on kids per state standards, especially for suicide watch
- White (including Hispanic) kids tend to wait less time than Black kids for their cases to be decided
- Over half of the children are sent deeper into the system instead of diverted out – when they are reported low risk (47%) or medium risk (32%)

Founding members of the Dallas Black Clergy were in attendance at the press conference, in addition to several community leaders and luminaries, in an effort to rally for change, and to make one critical demand from Dallas County officials — to meet with each member of the Dallas County Juvenile Board.

According to Reverend Dr. Michael W. Waters, Founding Member of the Dallas Black Clergy and the Founder and Lead Pastor of Abundant Life A.M.E. Church, "Either they will lie to our faces concerning the conditions inside Henry Wade, or they will allow us to join with them in correcting the issues. Their willingness to meet with us and the substance of those meetings will determine our next actions."

Speakers at the press conference included:

- Rev. Dr. Frederick Douglass Haynes, III - Founding Member of the Dallas Black Clergy; Senior Pastor, Friendship West Baptist Church
- Rev. Dr. Michael W. Waters - Founding Member of the Dallas Black Clergy; Founder and Lead Pastor of Abundant Life A.M.E. Church
- Sha Smith - Impacted Individual by the Henry Wade conditions
- Ms. A. Jones - Impacted Individual by Henry Wade conditions
- Mr. John Fullinwider - Co-Founder of Mother's Against Police Brutality
- Rev. Dr. Irie Session - Founding Member of the Dallas Black Clergy for Safety, Equity and Justice; Co-Pastor of The Gathering: A Womanist Church in Dallas
- Minister Dominique Alexander - President and CEO of the Next Generation Action Network
- Rev. Virzola Law - Senior Minister of Northway Christian Church
- Rev. Dr. George Mason - Founder and President of Faith Commons

"My time at Henry Wade was short, but it was something that was traumatic and that I will never forget," A. Jones said. "During this time I was forced to sleep with a blanket covered in my menstrual blood, and was denied access to more than one cup of water each day. Being locked down for 23 hours [a day] affected me mentally and emotionally. I became really depressed, hopeless and suicidal."

Additional testimonies of impacted individuals was voiced citing similar conditions and treatment, along with a final demand by the Dallas Black Clergy for change.

"Henry Wade is supposed to be a place of rehabilitation," Dr. Waters stated. "Instead, it is a place of trauma. It is supposed to be a house of healing; instead, it is a house of horrors. These are our children. We must protect our children. These horrors must cease immediately. The system must change."





‘EVERY YEAR THIS IS THE BEST’: THE JUNETEENTH FASHION SHOW SHINES AGAIN

By: Leah Frazier

The third annual Juneteenth Fashion Show hit Plano’s Lexus Box Garden at Legacy Hall on June 15, to a nearly sold out crowd. Themed “Legends”, the vibrant extravaganza celebrated the contributions of Black Americans spanning fashion, retail and entertainment, on both a local and national level.

The Pre-Shopping party and experience set the stage for an unforgettable evening, featuring samplings of the specialty Juneteenth “Electric Strawberry Lemonade Cocktail” crafted and sponsored by SweetBeat Vodka. Attendees also shopped the offerings of many pre-selected black-owned businesses, including: AND MADE; Kodesh Le’olam; CourDiva’s Corner; Borokiniyabo; Wrist Vibes Design; Puzzles of Color; ESW Perfume Bar; GabeJade; Golden Hour Studio; NU Standard; and House of Dasha.

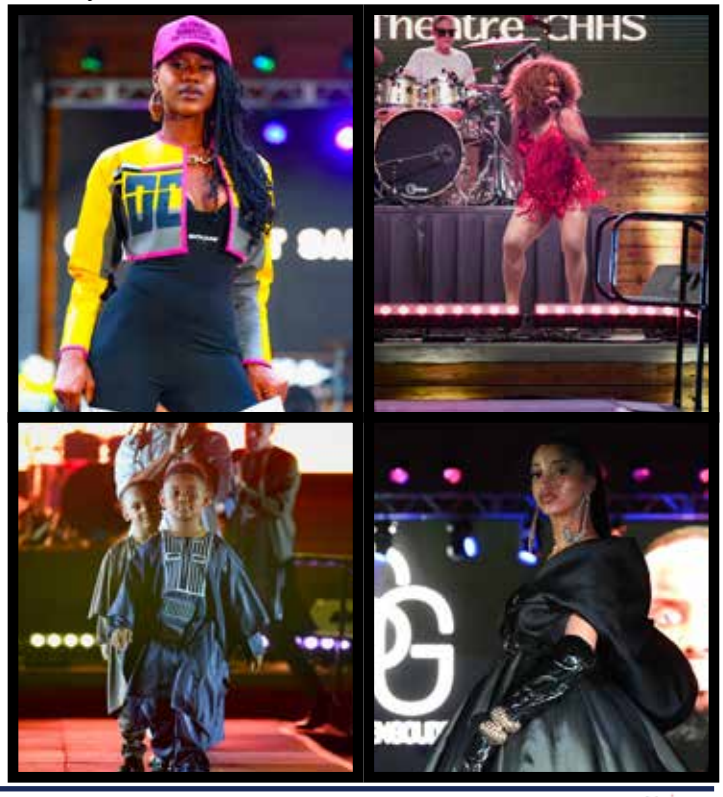
Thirteen North Texas designers/collections hit the catwalk with colorful and radiant designs, matched to the tunes of DJ Gnarly, and to the live entertainment act – LaLa Johnson and the i.Tina Band. Featured designers and retailers included: One Street Sales; House of Dasha; Jacob + John (2024 Fashion Group International Rising Star Honoree); NU Standard (a first-ever hair show featured in collaboration with Meke The Salon, Keya Neal, Kia Stering, and more); Indigo 1745; Levenity; Annia Louisa Resortwear (2024 Fashion Group International Rising Star Honoree); AND MADE; Legacy West; Yoma Fashion; Five Eleven Collection (2023 Texas Fashion Industry Designer of the Year); Cedar Hill High School; and headliner, Stephen Goudeau.

“I’m absolutely blown away by the magic of this show, and even more so by the talent that we get to showcase at Legacy Hall’s Lexus Box Garden year after year,” said Leah Frazier, Creative Director and Producer of the Juneteenth Fashion Show. “To see everyone smiling, dancing, laughing, and vibing together – all the while enjoying incredible runway styles and entertainment – is truly at the heart of a spectacular Juneteenth celebration. I think Opal Lee would be proud.”

In addition to numerous celebrity models strutting in the show — Anita Hawkins, Dr. Froswa Booker-Drew, Jess Garland, Roshawnda Foster, Christina Puga, and Raven Johnson (Miss Juneteenth DFW 2023) — the night was also filled with many spectacular moments, such as the “Black Country, Reimagined WesternWear” segment by Indigo 1745, inspired by the Black Country music artist movement. Indigo 1745 owners Keith and Denise Manoy were also surprised with the inaugural Juneteenth Fashion Show Black Excellence Award in Retail, while fashion designer Venny Etienne was also surprised with the inaugural Juneteenth Fashion Show Black Excellence Award in Fashion. Former Cedar Hill High School student Jackson Sims was awarded a $500 scholarship to further his interest in fashion design.

City of Plano Mayor John B. Muns told Texas Metro News, “I think it just raises awareness throughout the entire community and it just shows how much love we have all around us and this is just a great event.” Muns said. “Every year this is the best.”

The event was emceed by Venny Etienne and veteran media personality Lady Jade, plus made possible by generous sponsors, including Comerica Bank, SweetBeat Vodka, Stemme Florals, Valenti Funk, Essations, and Dallas Black Bloggers. Partial proceeds from ticket sales, amounting to $2100, will be donated to the National Juneteenth Museum, supporting its mission to preserve and share the rich history of Juneteenth.



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Can You Sell Your House If You Have A Reverse Mortgage? Yes!

We are extremely delighted to have Kisha Thompson, CEO of Problem Property Solutions come talk to us about various common myths regarding reverse mortgages, and how she can help homeowners who have them.

SDM - Before we jump into the misconceptions about reverse mortgages, can you tell our audience in the simplest terms, what a reverse mortgage is, and why someone might get one?

Kisha - Absolutely! A reverse mortgage is a type of loan for senior citizens aged 62 or older who may want money to pay off an existing mortgage, supplement their income, or pay for necessary expenses. It allows them to convert part of the equity in their home into cash. This can be very appealing with seniors on a fixed income.

SDM - The most common scenario I hear about reverse mortgages is that once the person who has the reverse mortgage dies the mortgage company automatically gets the house. Is that true?

Kisha - The mortgage does NOT automatically revert back to the lender. The mortgage must be repaid in the event the seller dies. This can be achieved by selling the home. The heirs of the seller have the legal right to sell the home to repay the mortgage, and in today's market they can repay the loan and walk away with a profit from the sale of the home.

SDM - I've also heard that if the person dies that has the house, then their heirs will have to take on that debt. Any truth to that?

Kisha - The Estate of the seller becomes responsible for repaying the loan or letting the house go back to the lender. As stated above the estate can sell the home to repay the loan.

SDM - It has also been stated that if the homeowner owed taxes on the house, then the home couldn't be sold. Any truth to that?

Kisha - There is a two-part answer to your question. When a senior takes out a reverse mortgage; they are still responsible for the annual property taxes and maintenance of the home. If not budgeted correctly they can easily become delinquent on their property taxes and lose their home to a foreclosure tax sale. However, they can sell the home, and the taxes can be paid from the profit of the sale.

SDM - Well Kisha you've put a lot of rumors to rest! Our community can greatly benefit from your many years in the housing business as a realtor and expertise in this arena. Are there any other misconceptions that you want to clear up? Also, how can people reach you if they need your services?

Kisha- I want our community to be educated on the pros and cons of a reverse mortgage. It can be a very helpful monetary resource for seniors on a fixed income, but they must be properly educated first. I've seen many homes lost because of the misinformation out there. I'd be happy to answer any questions about how to avoid losing a home with a reverse mortgage. My contact number is 214-854-2424 and website is www.problempropertydfw.com. Additionally, I hold a SRES. That's a Seniors Real Estate Specialist designation. I've been recognized by the National Association of Realtors as an expert in real estate matters involving senior citizens.

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Grab a mango for a little love and happiness



By Carol Taylor, MCN, RDN, LD, Registered Dietitian and Journalist

Honey, Francis, Haden, Keitt, Kent and Tommy Adkins. By any name or variety, mangos sweeten any dish or brighten any day, but especially July 22 -- National Mango Day.

During the summer, other stone fruits grab the spotlight, but mangos are a treat available fresh year-round.

Mangos, which belong to the same family as cashews and pistachios, are native to southeast Asia and are the national fruit of India, Pakistan and the Philippines.

Mangos arrived in Mexico and South America in the 1600s with Spanish explorers.

Buddhist monks once cultivated them, considering them sacred, according to the National Mango Board. They are still revered as a symbol of life, love and happiness.

But their nutritional profile is quite glorious as well.

One cup of chopped mango (165 g) has just 100 calories and 3 grams of fiber. One whole mango is about 200 calories.

Mangos are an excellent source of vitamin C; a good source of folate; have appreciable amounts of vitamin A, which helps with skin and eye health; some B6, which supports metabolism; and potassium, which supports healthy blood pressure.

ANTI-INFLAMMATORY

Antioxidants give mangos their vibrant yellow and red coloring.

Beta-carotene and lutein contribute yellow coloring, and anthocyanins add red to some varieties. They also have flavonoids such as quercetin and catechin.

These antioxidants have anti-inflammatory benefits. Research suggests they may help improve brain health, support heart health, may have anti-cancer benefits and lower risk for cardiovascular disease when consumed as part of an overall healthy diet. Researchers have noted some benefits in fasting blood glucose control, but more research related to diabetes, heart, cancer and more is ongoing and not definitive.

Supplements haven't proved to provide the same benefits.

The fiber in mangos can help with reducing the symptoms of constipation. Short-chain fatty acid levels, which indicate improvement of intestinal microbial composition. The mango group also experienced a reduction in certain biomarkers of inflammation, a benefit over fiber consumption.

RIPE MANGOS

5 varieties grown in California, Florida, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. They are always in season. The major mango varieties vary by color, so don't use that as a guide for ripeness. Instead, give a mango a gently squeeze. The ripe ones give a little. Mangos continue to ripen once picked, so they will become sweeter and softer if allowed to sit out at room temperature. Store them in the refrigerator to slow ripening.

Mangos are versatile. Peel and eat raw. Puree as part of a smoothie, stir into yogurt, or dice and create a fruit salsa to serve with seafood. Slice mangos and add the to coleslaw for a tropical twist.



NAVIGATING ALZHEIMER'S: TIPS TO BOOST BRAIN HEALTH AND HELP CAREGIVERS

BRAIN HEALTH AWARENESS

Age may be just a number, but as we add more candles to our birthday cake our risk for cognitive decline also increases. Alzheimer's disease is a progressive neurological disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills and can eventually impact a person's ability to perform simple tasks. It's the most common type of dementia and involves the parts of the brain that control thought, memory and language.

During Brain Health Awareness Month in June, experts at Parkland Health share tips on ways you or a loved one can lower your risk of developing dementia and as well as highlighting strategies to help caregivers of dementia patients deal with this challenging diagnosis.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 5.8 million people in the United States have Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, including 5.6 million aged 65 and older. Additionally, minorities and women have an increased risk of developing Alzheimer's disease, and it is estimated that Hispanic and Black Americans will see the largest increases in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias diagnoses through 2060.

"People diagnosed with dementia may act and speak normally one moment and be disoriented or confused the next," said Raja Paspula, MD, Medical Director, Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) and a Geriatrician at Parkland Geriatric Center. "It can be difficult for families and caregivers because the disease makes people behave unpredictably. Their loved one no longer has proper judgment or impulse control, so in turn, they can act inappropriately or even put themselves or others at risk of injury."

While age and genetics play significant roles in Alzheimer's disease, certain lifestyle choices and habits can influence brain health and potentially reduce the risk of cognitive decline. Dr. Paspula offers these tips to help protect cognition as you age:

Engage in Mental Stimulation: Keeping the brain active through activities like reading, puzzles, learning new skills or engaging in intellectually stimulating conversations.

Eat a Balanced Diet: A nutritious diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins and healthy fats provides essential nutrients that support brain health.

Stay Physically Active: Regular exercise not only benefits physical health but also contributes to cognitive well-being.

Prioritize Quality Sleep: Adequate sleep is crucial for brain health and cognitive function.

Maintain Social Connections: Social interaction and meaningful relationships

Manage Stress: Chronic stress can have negative effects on brain health and may contribute to cognitive decline.

Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia can be emotionally and physically challenging. As a caregiver, it's essential to take care of yourself while providing the best possible support for your loved one.

Educate Yourself: Take the time to learn about Alzheimer's or dementia, including its symptoms, progression, and available resources.

Establish Routine: Maintaining a consistent daily routine can provide stability and reduce anxiety for both you and your loved one.

Practice Patience and Compassion: Listen attentively and validate their feelings. Approach each interaction with empathy and kindness.

Simplify Tasks: Break tasks into small, manageable steps to make them easier for your loved one to complete.

Ensure Safety: Create a safe environment by removing potential hazards and employing safety measures such as installing handrails,

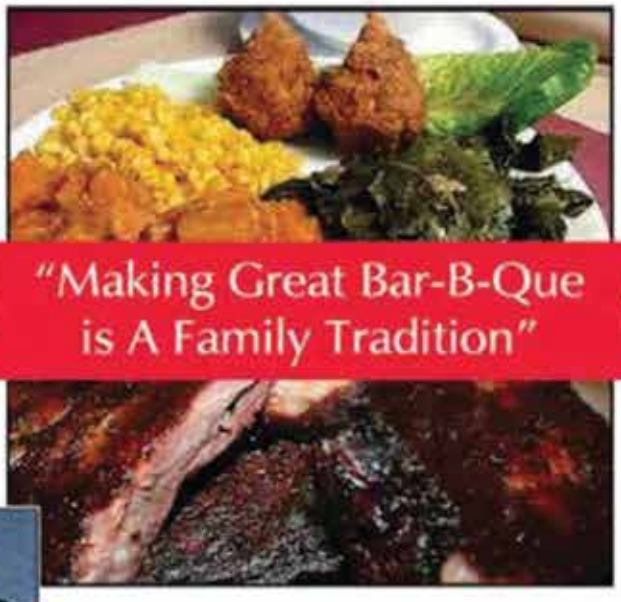
Seek Support: Don't hesitate to ask for help when needed.

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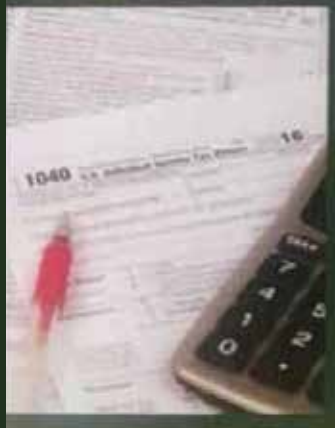
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