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Flint is just the tip of the iceberg

By Nicole James Scott
NDG Contributing Writer

The water crisis in Flint turned the country's attention to Michigan. Not only were the citizens and community leaders of Flint outraged but Americans at large. The story has left everyone to ask the question why? Why something like this could occur, not in Haiti, Nepal or Burundi, but America, the world's second wealthiest country on the planet?

The truth of the matter, Flint is not an isolated case. What the country is witnessing with the residents of Flint is not unique or unprecedented. Flint, like many other urban cities throughout the U.S. is the collateral damage that occurs when unbridled capitalism intersects with a loss in democracy. In order to get a comprehensive understanding of how and why a city's entire populace can be poisoned it is essential to dissect the root cause of this growing epidemic.

HISTORY OF LEAD WATER POISONING

As far back as the 1800s it was well known that the use of lead pipes for drinking water caused lead poisoning. In 1859, a series of articles included corroboration from engineers, public health officials



Flint residents pick up free bottled water offered. (Image: Michigan State Police Emergency Mgmt. via Flickr)

and physicians, was published documenting the toxic danger of the use of lead pipes to transport water. By the 1920's cities throughout the U.S. had begun restricting the use of lead pipes. Government officials concluded the health risks undoubtedly outweighed any benefits associated with the use of lead pipes and enacted health codes prohibiting the use of lead pipes.

So how does the lead industry respond? The same manner in which the cigarette, alcohol, oil and other big industries did when faced with the prospect of losing untold profit—launch a propaganda campaign.

The Lead Industries Association (LIA) sent representatives to speak with plumbers' organizations, architects, federal officials and local water authorities to convince them the use of lead pipes was not only healthy but also more efficient as the longevity of lead is exceedingly greater. They produced a series of literature and books promoting the use of lead and lead pipes, even launched an independent investigation to disprove the widespread belief that lead in and of itself causes danger. Their focus was on the "proper" use of lead and promoted

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AT&T & NDG team up for the #ItCanWait movement!

Local students awarded scholarships for texting and driving essay contest.

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MLB sponsors 30 college scholarships

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Jungle Book will thrill moviegoers

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COMMENTARY

Baptist leader calls payday lending an "abomination in plain sight"

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA Columnist

tions."

In plain English, it was a time to publicly debate whether the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) had been good or bad for the country, since opening operations in July 2011. The forum also hearkened back to many of the former supporters and opponents of proposals to reform Wall Street in the aftermath of the worst economic crisis since that of the 1930s.

Every once in a while a congressional committee hearing can almost seem like a time to grab your popcorn and a seat to hear the exchanges and varying opinions. On April 5, a U.S. Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee hearing on consumer finance regulations became one such occasion. The session was convened to publicly "assess the effects of consumer finance regula-

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People In The News...

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Micqueal Semia Harris



Eric Hale



Blair Underwood

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Micqueal Semia Harris

Micqueal Harris is a product of Detroit, having been born, raised and educated in the rough city, which she holds close to her heart. As a woman who was raised by drug dealers, Micqueal is no stranger to the underworld.

However through perseverance, determination and prayer, Micqueal found her way out of what she had known to be the norm, eventually becoming a graduate of Michigan State University's College of Engineering.



As the mother to Onestee (honesty), a child she had with her once college boyfriend now NFL player Dion Sims, Micqueal envisioned her degree serving as the vehicle to endless suc-

cess for she and her daughter.

Struggling to find a job opportunity, Micqueal decided to follow her passion and pursue a dream of becoming a self-published author with her own Magic Publishing company.

Through her 1st novel "Blue Magic," Micqueal seeks to tell a story—a thriller filled with love, pain and success in hopes of inspiring broken youths like herself as well as reaching the masses, with a story that is sure to have its' readers on the edge of their seats, falling in love with the witty, street-savvy and

sweet talking main character, Magic.

As a college graduate, single-mother and a woman destined for greatness, Micqueal recently relocated to Atlanta, Ga. with the desire to not only make *Blue Magic* a success, but the aspiration that children from broken homes have an opportunity to experience and thrive in higher education settings through her non-profit organization B.A.B.S. (Breaking All Barriers Successfully) providing financial support to young adults who face or have faced challenges similar to her.

Micqueal's commitment

to overcoming is what sets her apart from any one else. She has a goal of sending 100,000 students to college for FREE to help them develop the same "unbreakable" spirit.

Armored with prayer, tenacity and a passion for rising above the confines of adversity, Micqueal seeks to fulfill her dreams, while helping individuals to realize that every dream can become a reality with dedication and willpower.

Blue Magic is young author Micqueal Harris' way in the door. The gritty series is a real life testimony of

her own. The story describes a lost girl on the road of destruction trying to find her way out. She hopes the sincerity of her words will find her way to other young adults around the world, giving them inspiration to set out and fulfill their dreams.

With a "NO REGRETS" policy, she lives by the idea of taking what life throws at you, and throwing it right back. Blue Magic has garnered strong reviews and is on its way to best seller status. Harris is busy at work on the eagerly awaited sequel!

Eric Hale

Dallas ISD teacher is among the top 10 finalists in one of the most prestigious national teacher recognition programs in the country.

Eric Hale, a third-grade Math and Science teacher at David G. Burnet Elementary, is one of only 10 teachers nationwide who have been named finalists for the 2016 Fishman Prize for Superlative Classroom Practice, a \$25,000 award recognizing the nation's most effective teachers working in high-need public schools.

The Fishman Prize is ex-



tremely selective, boasting thousands of nominations each year and nearly 800 teachers' applications in 2016.

The applicants undergo a six-month selection

process, with selection decisions made based on their submitted essays, teaching videos, letters of reference, and in-person classroom observations. Hale is the only finalist from Texas this year.

Hale and the other nine finalists will convene this weekend in New York City for interviews with an expert panel of judges at TNTP, the Brooklyn-based nonprofit that offers the award.

Four of the finalists will be named winners in May, winning \$25,000 each and a seat in a special summer

residency with TNTP.

"I can't even explain how excited I am about being named a finalist," Hale said. "It will be an honor to represent my school and Dallas ISD in New York City."

Hale was named a Distinguished Teacher by Dallas ISD in 2015 for ranking in the top one percent in district-wide teacher performance.

When asked about his teaching philosophy, Hale says he focuses on teaching the whole child.

"My kids know that they are more than just a number," Hale said. "My kids

often have rough lives and are dealing with lots of issues. I keep that fine line of sympathy and empathy while maintaining high expectations.

"I tell my students that I know things might be happening in their lives, but we have to push through and get to our ultimate goal."

Burnet Principal Sonia Loskot said Hale is a true leader who combines a sense of urgency with the joy of learning.

"Students look up to [him] as a mentor and a person who inspires them to have grit, and put forth the

effort and achieve," she said.

Hale said his success as a teacher wouldn't be possible without the support he gets from his fellow teachers, principal, and his school feeder pattern Executive Director Tim Hise.

"Everyone in my school and feeder pattern have always been incredibly supportive and lent a helping hand whenever needed.

"I'm blessed to be able to work with such outstanding, caring people," Hale said. "This recognition is for everyone here at Burnet Elementary, not just me."

Blair Underwood

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters (TBAAL) – Grammy and Image Award Winner and Golden Globe nominee, Blair Underwood is this year's recipient of The Black Academy of Arts and Letters' Luminary Arts Award at the highly anticipated 4th Annual Ties and Tux Gala, Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 7:00 PM. The evening will be a night of reflection and celebration, honoring the more than 30-year career of Blair Underwood.

Blair Underwood is an exceptional and internationally famous actor, who for more than 30 years, has lent his talents to many television shows and films over



Athema LeTrelle / Flickr

the years. Voted one of People Magazine's "Top 50 Most Beautiful," Blair always comes prepared with his remarkable wit and his charm. As a graduate of Carnegie Mellon School of Drama, the two-time Golden Globe nominee and seven-time NAACP Image Award winner has an exten-

sive series of credits to his name, both on and off screen.

Underwood's career launch in 1985 after his debut in the semi-biography, *Krush Groove*, and subsequent appearances on *The Cosby Show*. He later landed a short stint on the ABC soap opera *One Life to Live* as Bobby Blue, which eventually led to his stand out performance on the TV series *L.A. Law*, where he appeared from 1987 to 1994.

Underwood's film career began with roles in *Just Cause* (1995), *Set It Off* (1996) *Soul of The Game* (1996) playing Jackie Robinson and *Deep Impact* (1998). His major success with film didn't cause Underwood to abandon TV. In

2003, he guest starred in four episodes on the HBO series *Sex and the City*, playing Cynthia Nixon's love interest. He gained acclaim as the sexy grade school teacher in the CBS sitcom, *The New Adventures of Old Christine* opposite Julia Louis-Dreyfus for two years. He played the character Alex in the first season of the HBO series *In Treatment*, for which he was nominated for best supporting actor at the 2009 Golden Globes. This year, Underwood will return to the Television in the new Reese Witherspoon's new and yet to be titled legal show for ABC.

The Ties and Tux Gala will take place at the Hilton

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Voting is key to education reform

By Brian L. Pauling
 NDG Guest Contributor

Education -- the answer to many of the problems ailing our country -- is getting the least amount of attention from the candidates on the presidential campaign trail.

According to a November 2015 Gallup poll, only 4 percent of Americans consider education or education

policy to be the most important problem facing our nation. Respondents instead cited the economy, poorly run government, immigration, gun control and health care of most concern. While I agree that these are important issues, we at 100 Black Men of America, Inc. (The 100) believe that without a quality education, many young people, particularly

African Americans, will be condemned to lives of poverty, incarceration and despair.

As a nonprofit mentoring organization, the education of our youth is one of our top concerns. In our advocacy work, The 100 has sought to raise public awareness about the need to reform our nation’s education system, especially in

predominately African-American and low-income communities where far too many of the schools are failing our children. We are working to ensure that every child, no matter their zip code, has access to high-performing schools. Schools with caring and nurturing environments,

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Alabama’s Sen. Richard Shelby, chair of Senate Banking has consistently opposed the idea of creating an independent bureau with a director instead of a commission and a budget that would not be subject to the annual budgetary appropriations process.

“Because of the Bureau’s structure and the means by which it is financed, it remains one of the least accountable agencies in the federal government,” said Sen. Shelby in his opening remarks.

Conversely, Ohio’s Sen. Sherrod Brown, the committee’s Ranking Member, has just as vociferously supported financial reforms to shield consumers from further harms.

“The CFPB has been a success,” stated Sen. Brown. “The agency has taken strong actions in a number of consumer finance markets that previously had no federal oversight, including credit reporting, debt collection, payday loans, student loan servicing, and auto finance. The benefits of the CFPB are clear: its actions have resulted in \$11.2 billion being returned to over 25 million consumers.”

The only hearing witness that spoke in support of all that CFPB has accomplished was Reverend Dr. Willie Gable, Jr., pastor of New Orleans’ Progressive Baptist Church and chair of the Housing and Economic Development Commission of the National Baptist Convention, USA. He brought to the forum a bit of Baptist cadence and truth-telling to the Capitol Hill committee, underscoring the damage that

predatory lending continues to inflict. His perspective was also a significant one representing the National Baptist Convention USA with its 7,500,000 Baptist congregants. It is the oldest and largest religious convention in the nation.

“Twelve million families lost their homes as a result of the financial crisis,” stated Rev. Gable’s written testimony. “Twelve million. Lives turned upside down. Life savings washed away. \$2.2 trillion in lost property value, over half from communities of color.”

In its comments submitted to the committee record, the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) agreed with Rev. Gable’s assessment.

“Abusive loan terms and lender practices bear responsibility for the foreclosure tsunami that disproportionately stripped wealth from communities of color,” noted Mike Calhoun, CRL President. ‘Risky borrowers’ had neither the power nor the authority to cause a housing market meltdown.”

As this column has earlier reported, the families who lost their homes to foreclosure since 2004 were not the only victims of the crisis. Untold millions who lived nearby foreclosed homes may have kept theirs, but became upside down on their mortgages, owing more than the devalued homes are now worth. The rippling effects of foreclosures nationwide led to multiple losses – jobs, businesses, incomes, and even local property taxes that support vital services like police, fire and emergency medical assistance.

“But other abuses continue

to run rampant,” continued Rev. Gable. “Some may be more obscure than mortgage lending, but they are ever powerful, ever destructive ... Payday lending is an abomination in plain sight. A debt trap by design.”

In his allotted five minutes, Rev. Gable cited a litany of other lending ills: bank overdraft fees, discriminatory auto lending, law-breaking debt collectors, student debt and those who prey upon the elderly.

“Please allow me to be clear: The notion that struggling Americans need access to products like those the Bureau has been working so hard to address is an insult to the basic dignity of every vulnerable person,” concluded Rev. Gable. “The predatory practices CFPB is addressing siphon off what little resources targeted per-

sons have and leave them worse off. . . Uncontrolled predatory lending practices will relegate some communities to a state of perpetual poverty.”

“Now, when more than a million families remain seriously behind on their mortgage payments and just under half a million more are in some stage of foreclosure, it is not a time to move backwards into the same failed and reckless lending practices,” continued Calhoun. “Instead, we must continue to move forward to a more sustained housing recovery that benefits consumers, lenders and investors alike.”

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

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Tina Deal is relying on her faith and the generosity of friends and strangers, during one of the most challenging times of her life. Recently she has endured both health and financial crisis.

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Are they friends or not? Just a second of laughter can reveal relationship status, UCLA study finds

Hearing other people laugh together, even for just one second, can be enough information to gauge whether or not those people are friends, according to a UCLA study.

The research, co-authored by Greg Bryant, a UCLA professor of communication studies, was published today in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. It found that the phenomenon holds true in societies around the world — and that when people hear two females laughing together, they are highly likely to assume the women are friends, even when they are not.

Bryant and 32 collaborators across the globe, including Daniel Fessler, a UCLA professor of anthropology, and Riccardo Fusaroli, an assistant professor at the Interacting



Blast 707 Photography / Flickr

Minds Center of Aarhus University in Denmark, were interested in better understanding the communicative functions of co-laughter.

They played 48 short audio clips of two people laughing together for 966 listeners from 24 different societies. The listeners included people from hunter-gatherer and other traditional small-scale populations, working-class urban

groups, and college students.

The laughter was recorded during conversations between pairs of undergraduate students at UC Santa Cruz — some who were friends and some who were recently acquainted strangers. Recordings captured the simultaneous laughter of two women, two men, and a woman and man together. Overall, listeners from every society could

correctly identify whether the people they were hearing were friends or strangers 61 percent of the time.

The scenario in which listeners were best able to judge the relationship correctly was when two women friends were laughing together — listeners were accurate more than 80 percent of the time.

In past research, Bryant has investigated the idea that listeners can tell the difference between involuntary, or spontaneous, laughter and volitional, or “fake,” laughter. His findings indicate that the different kinds of laughs are produced by different vocal systems and that they have different communicative functions. The current study suggests that laughter between friends is generally more spontaneous, and that lis-

teners across the globe can hear the difference.

Bryant said he was surprised at how consistently participants, regardless of their cultural backgrounds, presumed that co-laughter between women meant that those women were friends.

“Obviously there is an assumption about female relationships at work,” Bryant said. “People from around the world assume that when two females are laughing together that they are friends. This is consistent with other research showing that women take longer than men to develop friendships that result in genuine co-laughter.”

He added that the dynamics of co-laughter might also hint at important universal differences in friendship patterns between the sexes.

The authors write that the

findings shed light on how the evolutionary development of laughter might have facilitated the evolution of cooperation.

“In a highly cooperative species such as ours, it is important for individuals to correctly identify the social alliances of others,” Bryant said. “If laughter helps people accomplish that, it has likely played a role in social communication leading to cooperative interactions.”

The researchers also examined the sound features of the laughs. They found that the clips judged as simultaneous laughter between friends were characterized by greater irregularities in the pitch and loudness of the laughs, as well as faster bursts of sound, all of which are usually associated with excitement and spontaneous, genuine emotion.

Ways in which women can help other women heal

Vice President Joe Biden recently introduced pop star Lady Gaga at the Oscars to spotlight the issue of campus sexual assault, which is part of a White House campaign against domestic and sexual violence.

Gaga’s performance, which included sexual-assault survivors onstage, highlights a startling problem: despite immense progress, women continue to suffer spousal abuse at an

alarming rate. A woman is beaten every nine seconds in the United States, according to Domestic Violence Statistics.

“April is Women Helping Each Other Heal Month — an empowering message to all women that there’s abundant hope if you are or have ever experienced spousal abuse,” says Aurea McGarry, a domestic violence and cancer survivor who has dedicated her life to advocacy for those

in need, including abused women.

“My awakening came with my daughter, because I couldn’t bear for her to think that what I suffered from my ex-husband was acceptable.”

From that moment on, McGarry — now an Emmy-winning TV show host, charity expert and sought-after inspirational speaker — flowered. She says there are several ways women can

help themselves, and others, such as.

- Go one better than surviving; put forth a mindset to “sur-thrive.” McGarry has survived the murder of her father, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, poverty, divorce and single motherhood. Having her spirit nearly broken many times, her will to survive overflowed into a desire to sur-thrive.

“It’s a goal of the spirit, one that can be measured

every day by positivity — positive actions, feelings and the determination for well-being for one’s life and that of others,” she says.

- Live your legacy (www.LiveYourLegacySummit.Com) now. How will you be remembered after you’re gone? What will your legacy be? These questions are better understood by linking it with your actions today. Your legacy is in your hands. Whether it’s a

simple good deed among two strangers or a widely publicized global movement, the good consequences of positive action live on in time. That’s just some of what McGarry emphasizes in her Live Your Legacy Summits — events designed to inspire, inform and support women who want to start building a new legacy — now in its 10th in-

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high-performing teachers, rigorous curriculum, and the proper materials and technology are some of the key ingredients to preparing our kids to successfully graduate high school, handle college-level coursework without requiring remediation, compete in a global marketplace and become productive members of society.

How we get there is the real question. One answer is by voting. When we go to

the polls in November, we will not only elect the next president. We will use our voting power to also make important decisions about our children’s education. In some states, for example, the electorate will be asked to decide whether to turn the operational and decision-making control of failing schools in their communities over to their state governments. Others will be asked whether more charter public schools should be permitted

to open in their communities to provide families with an option to traditional public schools. Still others will be asked how money raised through state lotteries, property and sales taxes, and state and federal allocations should be earmarked to support educational initiatives from cradle to college.

As voters, we are facing some tough choices. Many of our local public schools are struggling and some even failing, but is a state government takeover the answer? There has been a

decades-long imbalance in the distribution of educational quality and opportunity due, in part, to how public schools are funded, but will proposed funding formula changes address those inequities and produce successful outcomes? If we allow more charter schools, will that irreversibly damage our traditional public schools or will the competition make both stronger?

What happens to the children and schools in our communities will depend

largely on the actions we take as voters. Elections at both the federal and local levels -- from the school board to the statehouse and from the assembly to the White House -- are vitally important. We need to be talking about education in our households and at PTA meetings, in our barber shops and coffeehouses, and in our workplaces and houses of worship.

But transformation doesn’t come by talk alone. We also must take decisive action. We can start

by increasing our knowledge of the issues, committing to exercise our right to vote, encouraging others in our communities to do the same and then casting ballots for candidates for whom education and the academic success of our children are top priorities.

The choice -- and the vote -- is ours.

Brian L. Pauling is national president and CEO of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. Learn more about the work of The 100 at www.100blackmen.org.

Heroes for Children Raises \$ 264,605 at Heroes and Handbags Event

Heroes for Children, a unique nonprofit organization that provides financial and social assistance to families with a child battling cancer, hosted the 11th annual Heroes and Handbags designer handbag auction and brunch on Friday, April 8, 2016, at The Ritz Carlton – Dallas. More than 430 guests were in attendance and raised \$264,605 for Heroes for Children.

“When my daughter Taylor was diagnosed in December 2000, I was a stay-at-home mom with two kids under age 3 and a third on the way. Our one-income family could not afford full-time childcare, in addition to the other out-of-pocket expenses that come with a

cancer diagnosis,” says Larissa Linton, co-founder and executive director for Heroes for Children. “We were blessed to have a strong community of friends to step in and help us during our time of need.”

“Each year this event allows us the opportunity to enjoy a beautiful brunch and snag a new handbag for our spring wardrobe, while raising money for Texas families who are facing similar battles. We are beyond grateful for our dedicated supporters who have helped us provide financial and social assistance to more than 4,500 families.”

At this year’s Heroes and Handbags event, chairs Dawn Greiner and Julianna

LeBlanc planned a beautiful brunch featuring more than 150 designer handbags available for auction from designers like Chloé, Chanel, Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Yves Saint Laurent and many more. Guests also bid on a bag for a hero, providing the moms, grandparents or special caregivers of children battling cancer with a handbag filled with gift certificates and wish list items to help make their lives easier.

The next event hosted by Heroes for Children is the annual summer golf tournament scheduled for June 17, 2016, at TopGolf Allen. Guests of all ages are invited to join Heroes for Children to sip drinks, savor

tasty bites and participate in a chance to win awards, raffles and prizes during three hours of TopGolf play. To sign up, purchase tickets or for more information about this event, please visit www.heroesforchildren.org.

Heroes for Children is a unique nonprofit organization that provides social and financial assistance to families with a child battling cancer. Since 2005, Heroes for Children has helped alleviate families’ worries, giving them comfort and a brief respite from the everyday challenges of fighting cancer and care giving. Since its inception, more than \$5 million has been given to 4,200 families in need.

Dallas DA hosting Criminal Justice Forum on Saturday

The Dallas County District Attorney’s Office will partner with the University of Texas at Dallas’ Pre-law Office to host a criminal justice forum Saturday, April 16 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at UTD. During this forum, the audience will hear from various divisions in the office including prosecutors who are a part of the more progressive units at the DA’s Office.

“UT-Dallas Pre-Law is honored to be hosting this event again, where we can show our students the practical applications of the skills and information they are learning in the classroom, and help educate the public about im-

portant work that the Dallas DA’s office is doing, and how we can all get involved.” UTD Pre-Law Director, Anne Dutia said.

This year’s Criminal Justice Forum will feature a series of interesting case studies, and participants will hear from UTD Faculty and various progressive divisions within the DAs Office, including the Reformatory Justice, Conviction Integrity, and Elder Abuse Units along with the Community Response Team.

“Anytime we can share with the Dallas County community and educate the public about what we

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Promise House’s Spring Youth Forward Luncheon raises over \$40,000

More than 150 people came out to support Promise House at the Spring Youth Forward Donor Luncheon on Friday April

8, raising more than \$40,000 in funds to support the organization’s mission to help local homeless, runaway and at-risk youth.

The fundraising event provided an opportunity for community members to engage with Promise House and join the organization as

they transform the lives of homeless and at-risk youth across North Texas. Participants enjoyed a lunch at

Park City Club followed by a presentation from Casey Gerald, co-founder and CEO of MBAs Across

America.

Casey grew up in South

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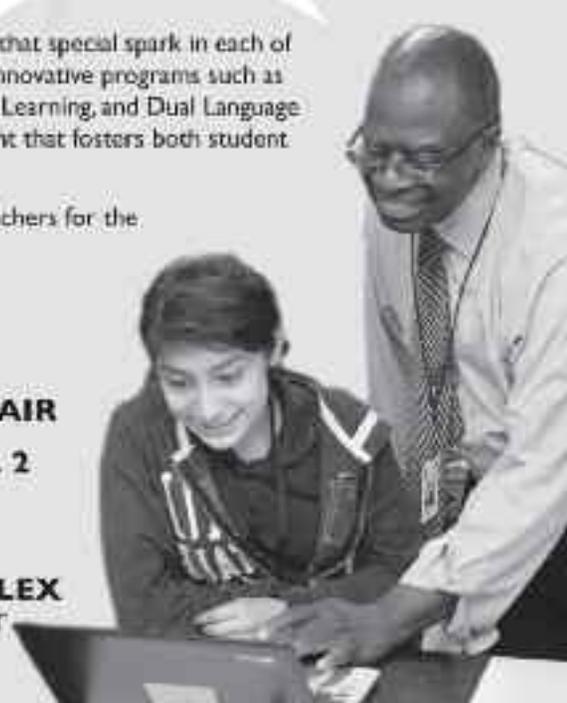
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MLB to sponsor 30 college scholarships and donate \$1 million to Jackie Robinson Museum Project

NEW YORK -- As the baseball world prepares for Jackie Robinson Day, the 13th annual MLB celebration of Jackie Robinson's enduring legacy, Major League Baseball (MLB) and the Jackie Robinson Foundation (JRF) announced today that MLB has increased its financial commitment to the Foundation and that the two organizations will expand their programmatic partnership beginning this year. MLB will greatly enhance its longstanding philanthropic support by funding 30 four-year JRF scholarships – one for each of the 30 MLB Clubs and by contributing \$1 million to the Foundation's Jackie Robinson Museum project. Additionally, MLB and JRF will engage JRF Scholars to mentor young people in MLB's youth and community partnership programs, including Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI), MLB Urban Youth Academies and MLB-supported Boys & Girls Clubs of America programs. JRF Scholars will mentor participants in these various youth programs, encouraging their young



Della Britton Baeza, JRF President and CEO, Robert D. Manfred Jr., Commissioner of Baseball, Rachel Robinson, Sharon Robinson, and Thomas Bennett, JRF Scholar Alumnus

mentees to embrace educational opportunities and joining them in extra-curricular activities, such as attending MLB games with the League's support.

Commissioner of Baseball Robert D. Manfred, Jr. said: "Jackie Robinson inspired change throughout the National Pastime and society. Major League Baseball and its Clubs have long been proud to support the Jackie Robinson Foundation, recognizing the Foundation's important role in perpetuating Jackie's legacy by advancing education. MLB's expanded commitment reflects a shared desire to inspire and

broaden opportunities for young people in our communities to truly reflect Jackie's vision for our American society and positively impact future generations."

"We are extremely grateful to Major League Baseball for its ongoing, very generous support of our mission to address the achievement gap in education," said Della Britton Baeza, president and CEO of the Jackie Robinson Foundation. "This increased support from MLB and Commissioner Manfred for the Foundation's scholarship program and to help bring the Jackie Robinson

Museum to fruition provides a tremendous boost to our efforts. We are thrilled also about the Commissioner's commitment to expand our programmatic partnership with MLB that involves both job opportunities and community service engagement for JRF Scholars, not to mention the benefits to the greater community of young people."

Historically, Major League Baseball and its clubs have contributed more than \$15 million to the Jackie Robinson Foundation for its scholarship program and for the Jackie Robinson Museum. The Los Angeles Dodgers, the New York Mets and the New York Yankees organizations have been particularly generous to the Foundation, donating millions of dollars and partnering with JRF around various initiatives.

Other Major League organizations that provide funding and engage with the Jackie Robinson Foundation are the Baltimore Orioles, Chicago White Sox, Philadelphia Phillies, Boston Red Sox, and the San Fran-

cisco Giants, as well as a roster of current and former MLB players, including Derek Jeter and the Turn 2 Foundation, which has endowed a scholarship in perpetuity at the Jackie Robinson Foundation.

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Workshop to offer teen girls options

The 31st Annual Adolescent and Ladies Symposium will be held at the Greenville Avenue Church of Christ, 1013 S. Greenville Avenue in Richardson on Saturday, May 7 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Symposium is designed to assist preteen girls, ages 9 – 12, adolescent misses, ages 13 – 18, and adult ladies, ages 19 – up, to more effectively combat the social and generational issues that confront them today.

The Symposium highlights the knowledge, understanding, competencies and skills that they will need to deal with these issues from a Biblical perspective.

The Symposium theme is "Thriving for a Disciplined Body in Jesus" includes two General Sessions and sixteen Small Group Workshops that will give participants an opportunity to become actively involved in the subject. Participants will also learn proactive skills that will enable them to

avoid worldly practices. The Symposium is free and includes continental breakfast, lunch, and door prizes. Please note, children under 9 years of age cannot attend.

Spaces for workshops are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, according to registration. Popular workshops fill fast! The Early Registration Deadline is April 27, 2016. Go online for Workshop Sessions and Early Registration details at: www.gacoc.org or call 972-644-2335.

House continue providing exceptional services to homeless, runaway and at-risk youth.

For more information on Promise House, visit their website at www.promise-house.org.

YOUTH, continued from Page 5

Oak Cliff and beat the odds to later receive an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BA in Political Science from Yale College. Casey gave the commence-

ment speech at the 2014 Harvard Business School graduation which has gone viral.

The funds raised will be used to help Promise



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Imagine Irving Comprehensive Plan unveiling April 13

Join Irving in April and May to celebrate the release of the public draft of the Imagine Irving Comprehensive Plan.

The public draft of the Imagine Irving Comprehensive Plan culminates a year-long effort of public events, hands-on workshops, interactive polling, surveys and open houses. The city will present the public draft of the Comprehensive Plan 6 p.m. April 13 at the South Irving Library, 600 S. Schulze

Drive. Throughout April and May there will be additional events for residents to learn more about the plan, provide feedback and interact with the Imagine Irving team.

For a full listing of upcoming events surrounding the public draft plan release, learn about the Imagine Irving Comprehensive Plan and the process that led to the plan's development, or to sign up for project updates, visit imagineirving.org.

Linda McMahon, partners to kick-off Women's Leadership LIVE in Irving

Linda McMahon, co-founder and former CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE), has partnered with Stacey Schieffelin, founder and president of ybf Beauty; and social media strategist Debbie Saviano to launch a new company aimed at promoting leadership opportunities for women. The women will



host their first Women's Leadership LIVE event right here in Irving on May 19-22. The weekend sem-

inar will be held at the Omni Mandalay Hotel.

Through workshops, panels, and access to speakers, participants will learn from experts the real strategies that led to their success. The program will give women the confidence to pursue whatever goals they have as well as take part in opportunities for ongoing mentor-

ship. There are many organizations that support women in business, but what sets Women's Leadership LIVE apart is the community and the follow-up that emerge following the event. Research has shown that women who had mentors usually have higher rates of success than those who didn't.

Three ways to learn more about your Muslim neighbors

Muslims are the fastest-growing religious group in the world, but in the United States Islam is often viewed negatively because of constant news about terrorism.

For the average Muslim who seeks peace and security as much as anyone else, that can be both sad and frustrating.

"I don't think we always do a good job of telling our story," says Fadel Al Mheiri, an Emirati filmmaker

(www.tentpic.com) and author of the historical novel "Kingdom of Peacocks - Mists of Time."

"We are just people and we have the same struggles as anyone else. But the extremists have been able to drive the narrative and that gives non-Muslims the wrong impression about the religion and the people who follow it."

Through his storytelling - both in film and in print - Al Mheiri wants to change the perception.

"I think it's our responsibility - my responsibility - to give a voice to the other side and let people know that what they see in the news isn't representative of Muslims," Al Mheiri says. "But I also encourage non-Muslims to take the initiative and learn

all they can about the religion, because knowledge paves the way to understanding."

To begin exploring Islam, he suggests that non-Muslims:

- Start with online research. This is the digital era, so information that can help educate people is just two or three clicks away. Personal

See MUSLIM, Page 8

HEAL, continued from Page 4

carnation.

• Empower yourself by empowering others. Helping others helps us feel good, according to the American Psychological Association, which indicates that volunteering with a charity boosts self-esteem and personal development. Efforts including Women Helping Women

perfectly illustrate helping oneself by helping others.

• Be a positive example for your daughter, mother, sister and friends. Positivity tends to breed more of the positive.

When something good happens you feel better about other aspects of your life. The same is often true interpersonally. If you are

surviving, for example, who wouldn't want to join you? Be the leader in your own life, and others will follow.

Aurea McGarry is an Emmy-winning TV show host, actor, author, speaker and charity advocate, and founder of the Live Your Legacy Summit National Event Series (liveyourlegacysummit.org).

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CARROLLTON
Registration open for Carrollton Trails event

Registration is now open for the 5th annual Carrollton Trails 5K and Family Fun Run/Walk event on Saturday, May 7. Early registration guarantees a race bag, a

T-shirt and timing chip. Register by Sunday, May 1 to receive a discounted rate.

Races include a timed 5K, and a 1-mile Fun Run/Walk. Strollers and pets are allowed, but bicycles and inline skates are prohibited. Race participants will park at Creekview High School

(3201 Old Denton Road) and be bused to the starting line.

Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each age category of the 5K competitive run.

For more information, visit cityofcarrollton.com/carrolltontrails5k.

GARLAND
Earth Day recycling event

For Earth Day, Garland Environmental Waste Services will host a recycling event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 23, at the Homer B. Johnson Stadium parking lot, 1029 E. Centerville Road. Attendees may recycle items not normally accepted as part of the residential recycling program, such as electronic devices, batteries and bulbs. Info: visit GarlandTx.gov or 972-205-3761.

McKINNEY
McKinney National Airport honored

The City of McKinney announced the Pete and Nancy Huff Air Traffic Control Tower at McKinney National Airport was awarded the 2015 Facility of the Year by Robinson Aviation (RVA) Inc. for its significant contributions to the safety and efficiency of the National System.

MUSLIM, continued from Page 7

research is always a good first step to learning. Just make sure the internet sources are legitimate, because the web has plenty of misinformation as well.

• Just ask. The best way to eliminate any mystery is to have a conversation, and most Muslims welcome sincere interest in and questions about their beliefs. Al Mheiri says not long ago in Washington, D.C., he met with a group from Indiana. "I got these great questions about ISIL and about why things are happening the way they are," he says. "We talked about why the media focuses so much on negative things about Islam and why average Muslims are being silent."

• Visit a mosque. Check with a nearby mosque about the possibility of paying a visit to learn more. Sometimes mosques hold events, such as open houses, where non-Muslim community members are

invited with the express purpose of getting to know their Muslim neighbors and learning more about the religion.

"Each of us needs to do all we can to understand the lives and beliefs of others," Al Mheiri says. "It's important that we see each other as real people and not as the stereotypes that can drive us apart rather than bring us together."

Fadel Al Mheiri (www.tentpic.com) is an Emirati filmmaker and author of the historical novel, "Kingdom of Peacocks – Mists of Time," the first of a trilogy about the Portuguese invasion of an imaginary kingdom in the Persian Gulf in the early 1500s. He graduated from the American University of Sharjah. He founded his own film production company, Tent Pictures Productions, in 2013 at the Abu Dhabi Media free zone Twofour54.

In the business of leadership...



The North Dallas Chamber of Commerce held its Luncheon and General Meeting on Friday, April 8 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel. Pictured above (from left to right) are State Senator Royce West, students from the Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy; Jim Lentz, CEO of Toyota Motor North America; Jack Towsley, Divisional Senior VP, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas and Nakia Douglas, Principal of Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy.



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NDG Interview: Kirk Franklin reflects on his career

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

When you think of urban gospel music the first name that comes to mind is Kirk Franklin. He virtually created the genre that features a strong hip hop flavor to praise.

It has not always been an easy journey because for traditionalists this was a hard transition for some. But Franklin pressed on and now he finds himself looking back over a career that has lasted for over 20 years and seen him feature beyond writing songs to writing a book and from singing on TV to hosting a successful gospel music competition show.

After nearly 20 years leading the gospel music charts, when asked what



memories stand out, Kirk Franklin could not narrow it down to just one.

“At this point they all have had such a major impact on your life. Whether it is the first church you played in, the first time you played Six Flags at home,

or the first time you could move out of the hood in Riverside. The memories are not just musical, they are about what they did for your life.”

Franklin has a new album out, “Losing My Religion”, but his latest tour is not sim-

Jodie Woods, our Kirk Franklin concert winner. She shared her favorite song is, “Nu Nation Project: ‘If You’ve Been Delivered’ I use to love this song because when my Grandson was 3-4 yrs old, he loved to dance to this song!”

When it came to the part that says, “All the people on my Left Clap your Hands, All the people on the Right Clap your Hands. He really jammed & got tickled, because he said, I know my Left & Right Hand now Grandma-Byijo, then he would spin around & Clap his Hands like Kirk & Michael Jackson. Wow he’s 20 yrs old now~ That was the Cut... Just one of my favorites.”

Thanks for bringing back memories ...”

ply to promote the new album.

“It is about the celebrating the music, celebrating the people who have celebrated the music with you. They supported you, kinda been there from day one,” and of course he added it is

“for God.”

Recently Franklin wrote a very intimate and heartfelt post on Instagram to his wife and how much he missed her. It was not the kind of transparency you expect to see from a gospel artist trying to maintain a certain image – it was real.

“I enjoy just being real and sharing. Maybe it is the gift God gave me as a song writer, but I feel very comfortable in sharing my heart and who I am with people,” Franklin shared. “The road can get hard and lonely. You want to be able to go through life with her and hold her hand.”

Never one to rest on his laurels, Franklin spoke to NDG by phone while in Los Angeles in between shows on his tour. He did not share any secrets but he was in

town for meetings related to a new potential project.

“It is always me trying to open other doors. I am always grinding, to push the ideas forward. I am always trying ideas,” Franklin stated.

Franklin is very excited to come home in the middle of this tour. First to see his family and sleep in his own bed.

But secondly because he can’t wait to bring his Twenty Years in One Night Tour World Tour to his local family and fans. They have watched his career, but Franklin promised this show is special.

“They have never seen me like this! They have never seen me span my career in one night. This is the best one by far,” Franklin emphasized.

Ashanti and Ja Rule rocked Gas Monkey Live

By Nina Garcia
NDG Contributor

On Saturday April 9, Gas Monkey Live featured Ashanti and Ja Rule. Upon entering the venue, you could not help but to be lured in by the old school hip-hop from the opening D.J. The crowd was definitely animated before the main performances.

Ja Rule was first to perform. He hyped the concert goers with many of his classic hits like, 'It's Murda', 'Holla Holla' and he had the crowd going with 'Living it



up'. Ja Rule kept them engaged as he had them singing and rapping along.

Right before Ashanti was about to start the crowd went ballistic.

She performed with a little more verve as she hit the stage in a leather ensemble and had backup dancers

dressed similarly.

Ashanti sang many of her hits as well. 'Foolish', 'Rain on me' and everyone's favorite 'Baby' definitely had all hands swaying in the air.

In closing, Ashanti and Ja Rule performed together. This seemed to be the highlight of the whole concert.

They offered the typical crowd-pleasers but when they sang “Always on Time,” no one could contain themselves.

I believe the attendees at this concert got more than their money’s worth.

DA, continued from Page 5 do and how we fit into the criminal justice system, we want to take advantage of that.” District Attorney Susan Hawk said. “Our partnership with the University of Texas at Dallas for this event, has given us the awesome opportunity to connect with the commu-

nity and continue to be accessible.”

“The Criminology Program is looking forward to participating in the Criminal Justice Forum.

It is an excellent venue for faculty, students, practitioners and the public to

come together to learn about the challenges facing the criminal justice system as well as how we are working to address them.” UTD Criminology Professor Lynne Vieraitis said.

This event is open to the public, but attendees must register online at www.alumni.utdallas.edu/epps.

ANNUAL ADOLESCENT AND LADIES SYMPOSIUM

The THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL 2016 ADOLESCENT AND LADIES SYMPOSIUM will be held at the Greenville Avenue Church of Christ, 1013 S. Greenville Avenue, Richardson, Texas on Saturday, May 7, 2016, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Symposium is designed to assist preteen girls, ages 9 – 12, adolescent misses, ages 13 – 18, and adult ladies, ages 19 – up, to more effectively combat the social and generational issues that confront them today.

The Symposium highlights the knowledge, understanding, competencies and skills that they will need to deal with these issues from a Biblical perspective.

The Symposium theme, “THRIVING FOR A DISCIPLINED BODY IN JESUS”, includes two General Sessions and sixteen Small Group Workshops that will give participants an opportunity to become actively involved in the subject. Participants will also learn productive skills that will enable them to avoid worldly practices. The Symposium is FREE and includes continental breakfast, lunch, and door prizes. Children under 9 years of age cannot attend.

Spaces for workshops are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, according to registration. Popular workshops fill fast! The Early Registration Deadline is April 27, 2016. Go online for Workshop Sessions and Early Registration details at: www.gacoc.org or call 972-644-2335 for more information.

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NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit us on Facebook to win tickets to see Black Violin in concert at The Kessler, Saturday, April 30, 2016

TOPDOG/UNDERDOG a thought-provoking, moving experience

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

Soul Rep Theatre's production of Suzan-Lori Parks' Pulitzer Prize winner TOPDOG/UNDERDOG kicked off April 8 and this is not a show to be missed. It is powerful, moving, and heartbreaking. Leaving the show I missed an opportunity to speak to the actors because I was still caught up in the web of their efforts.

Lincoln is the older brother who finds himself sleeping in his brother's recliner at a run down apartment that does not even have water. Every week he

brings home his check to Boothe and they do a budget on how they will manage the \$314 Lincoln has earned as an Abraham Lincoln impersonator at a local arcade. Watching them do their budget you realize, they have seen brighter days and have a game plan to do better.

The two brothers were abandoned by both parents, first the mother left with her lover. Then the father left 16 year old and 13 year old to fend for themselves. But once they were a happy family eating pork chops and peas in their house which OK it had a cement backyard and trash in the

front but they were out of the projects.

Despite parents just moving on with their lives, the two boys held it together. Lincoln even married for a while, he was thriving at one point hustling cards. But when his friend Lonny was killed he walked away from it and eventually he found himself sleeping in his brother's recliner.

Boothe never really found himself, but he always has big dreams. Including getting married to Grace. More than anything he wants to learn to hustle cards like his big brother.

Parks' words are wonderful and clearly Ed Smith has

done a fine job in directing this show. However, Djore Nance as "Lincoln" and Brentom Jackson as "Booth" must bring it all to life. Neither man fails. With a look and voice inflection they convey the fear each man has of a future slipping away.

The final scene is so powerful that as they returned to stage to take their bows they seem to still be impacted by the final moments of the play. I certain was.

This is the final weekend with a show Friday 8 p.m., two shows on Saturday before closing Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and it

is an opportunity to experience a show that will leave you reflecting on your choices because of the fine efforts of Nance and Jackson.

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Snoop Dogg and Wiz Khalifa drift into Dallas Aug. 19

Multi-platinum selling artists Snoop Dogg and Wiz Khalifa have announced they will kick off a 33-city North American co-headline summer tour dubbed The High Road Summer Tour this July.

The summer tour will kick

off on Wednesday, July 20 at the Perfect Vodka Amphitheatre in West Palm Beach, FL and they are coming to Dallas on Friday, Aug. 19 at the Gexa Energy Pavilion. Kevin Gates, Jhene Aiko, Casey Veggies and DJ

Drama will be special guests on all dates on The High Road Summer Tour.

Well known as kindred spirits for their creative collaborations in music and film, Snoop and Wiz are taking 'The High Road' this

summer together on a nationwide tour.

Tickets are on sale at Live-Nation.com.

Jungle Book retelling adds digital magic to a timeless masterpiece

By David Wilfong
NDG Contributor

Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book* has been firing up the imagination of young children for more than a century since it first appeared as words on paper.

The Walt Disney company upped the ante in 1967, taking the classic story and translating into an animated musical that was a hit at the box office and became a standard for home video collections.

With the advent of digital special effects, it was one of the very few stories that definitely warranted a remake, and Disney did it up right with this version.

The 2016 version combines an all-star voice cast to accompany newcomer Neel Sethi as Mowgli, an



Mowgli and Baloo are two main characters in the modern adaptation of the classic tale of a feral childhood by Rudyard Kipling. (Photo: Walt Disney)

orphan left in the jungle to be raised by wolves.

Accompanied by Bagheera the panther (Ben Kingsley) and Baloo the bear (Bill Murray), Mowgli makes his journey of self-discovery and survival while being hunted down by Shere Khan the tiger (Idris Elba).

The hyper-realistic CGI world created in this film might be a bit dangerous and violent for the very young viewers. Luckily, the

1967 version is still available for them to watch at home, while the older kids and adults head to the theater for what is definitely one of the best treats of 2016.

Hollywood has a bad habit of remaking movies when there really is no point. In any given year, there are way too many remakes on the market. *Jungle Book* is one exception. Well-done, Disney.

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WATER, continued from Page 1

the idea that the evidence wasn't conclusive.

The LIA also made generous donations to the Plumbing and Heating Industries Bureau, enlisting them as a strong ally in their propaganda campaign, and it worked. Cities began to re-write their plumbing codes and the sale of lead pipes began to revive.

In the 1940's public concern surrounding the hazards of using lead pipes began to resurface. In 1959 a tenant in an apartment building in Milwaukee sued the owner for \$200,000 in damages over lead poisoning resulting from the use of lead service pipes. The LIA worked with the defendant in this case as it invoked great concern as to the long-reaching implications it could have on the lead industry. Meeting records from one of the LIA show the secretary stating the following:

"Success of a suit like this could well mean the end of lead services not only in Milwaukee, but in Chicago and many another city, amounting to thousands of tons of lead a year."

The tenacious efforts by the LIA are evident not only by the continued use but also the requirement of lead pipes, especially in commercial and federal buildings, long after its dangers were well known.

Even after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention set acceptable blood lead levels for children in the 1960's lead poisoning has persisted. But it's not solely due to lead pipes. Lead poisoning can result from a number of causes, including contaminated soil, lead paint, and emission of lead in the atmosphere. Unfortunate for residents, particularly African-American, in the greater Dallas area they are at risk on all fronts.

With the establishment of lead smelting companies RSR Metals (formerly Southern Lead) in West Dallas, Dixie Metals in South Dallas, later owned by

Exide Battery and currently by National Lead, lower income and primarily African-American communities have been most affected by lead poisoning. In 2011 West Dallas families were still fighting to receive the medical treatment promised to them in a court decision that came about as the result of a lawsuit against the aforementioned RSR in 1983. Contamination of the soil, as well as air, resulted in lead levels as high as 20.1 µg/dL in children that were tested. According to the CDC in 1985 25 µg/dL should be a cause for concern.

In 1991 it was dropped to 10 µg/dL, however, recent data indicates even lower concentrations than this can have irreversible damage in young children, including a decrease in IQ. The fact remains lead serves no useful purpose in the body and there have been numerous studies exposing its harmful effects.

DALLAS WATER SUPPLY

In spite of public outcry the Dallas City Council moved forward and voted in

favor to add Hydrofluorosilicic Acid (HFS) to the drinking water. Council members were warned of the dangers of HFS, the potential adverse effects it could have on residents as it is highly contaminated with toxins including lead and the fact that African-Americans are at the greatest risk leading with higher lead levels than their White and Hispanic counterparts.

WHAT IS HYDRO-FLUROSILICIC ACID?

Hydrofluorosilicic Acid (HSF) is an industrial chemical. It is the diluted version of fluorosilicic acid, which is a waste product of fertilizer manufacturing companies such as Cargill and CF Industries. HSF is created during the process of converting phosphate rock into soluble fertilizer. In the past this lethal toxin was being released into the air during this process, which posed an environmental hazard. As a result of government intervention fertilizer companies are now permitted to trap the chemical before it is released into the air, house it in containers, which they then sell to water departments throughout the coun-

try as a source of water fluoridation, and it's quite costly.

LINKS BETWEEN LEAD POISONING AND CRIMINALITY

Research dating as far back to the 1900's, shows a correlation between high lead levels and violent crime. In 2000 Rick Nevin, a Senior Economist with ICF International wrote a paper documenting the rise and fall in violent crime, showing the direct link to increase and decrease in lead consumption. Two years later Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh, Herbert Needleman also wrote a paper highlighting the cause and effect of lead to violent crime. A simple online search of lead levels and violent crime will yield hundreds of articles on the subject. The suspicion that exaggerated levels of lead in the blood could be the root cause of violent crime is not far fetched.

When the story of the Flint water crisis first broke, the pediatrician who was instrumental in bringing it to light was Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha. She shared, "If you were to put something in a population to keep them

down for generations and generations to come, it would be lead.

It's a well-known, potent neurotoxin. There's tons of evidence on what lead does to a child, and it is one of the most damning things that you can do to a population. It drops your

IQ, it affects your behavior, it's been linked to criminality, it has multi-generational impacts. There is no safe level of lead in a child."

Perhaps the citizens of the Dallas-Ft. Worth area should ask their elected officials why?

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5by20 Initiative reaches 1.2 million women entrepreneurs

ATLANTA - The Coca-Cola Company today announced strong progress toward its goal to enable the economic empowerment of 5 million women entrepreneurs across the Coca-Cola value chain by 2020. Year-end results for 2015 indicate that the initiative, known as 5by20, has reached a total of more than 1.2 million women entrepreneurs across 60 countries since its launch in 2010.

More than 372,000 women entrepreneurs were enabled by 5by20 in 2015, increasing the total number of women participants by 43 percent over the course of the year. This growth can be attributed primarily to programs scaling and replicating in the Eurasia- Africa and Asia-Pacific regions.

"We believe thriving, sustainable communities are critical for a sustainable business and women are absolutely essential to our suc-

cess," said Bea Perez, Chief Sustainability Officer of The Coca-Cola Company. "We still have a significant amount of work to do, but I am proud of the progress we are making. It's inspiring

when I am able to meet the participants and see firsthand how 5by20 is transforming the lives of women, families and communities

See 5BY20, Page 13

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Meso Maya hiring for three locations

Dress to impress and remember your resume! Meso Maya is holding Job Fairs on Monday, April 18th and Tuesday, April 26th for both part-time and full-time positions.

Meso Maya will be accepting applications and hosting interviews at their historic downtown location.

The scheduled job fairs are Monday, April 18 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and Tuesday, April 26 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Meso Maya Downtown - El Cuarto Privado (second floor) located at 1611 McKinney

Ave. in Dallas.

This hiring opportunity will include roughly 100 openings, across the two current locations (Downtown across from the Perot Museum and North Dallas in the Preston Forest Shopping Center), as well as the new Lakewood location, set to open in late spring.

Available positions (subject to change) include:

- Front of house positions:
- Restaurant Assistant Manager
 - Server
 - Busser
 - Host/Hostess

- Bartenders
 - Barbacks
 - Food Runners
 - Stockers
- Back of house positions:
- Chef de Cuisine
 - Sous Chef
 - Line Cook
 - Prep Cook
 - Tortilleras
 - Dishwasher

For more information, or to apply online, please visit:

- www.zippyapp.com/biz/mesomaya-dallas for openings at downtown Dallas location
- www.zippyapp.com/biz/mesomaya-ndallas for

openings at north Dallas location

www.zippyapp.com/biz/mesomaya-mockingbird for opportunities at the upcoming Lakewood location.

Drivers-Co: \$1,250+ per week, Weekly guarantee + mileage. Benefits, Vacation, Home Daily, Class A / Good Driving Record. sunsetlogistics.com **817-589-1455**

UNDERWOOD, continued from Page 3

Anatole Hotel, 2201 North Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX 75207. Guests who purchase a VIP Table or Ticket will be welcomed to a private VIP Reception with Mr. Underwood at 6pm. During the gala TBAAL's Y.G.B.A. (Young, Gifted and Black Artists) along with Martha Burks, Andrea Wallace, the Jason Davis Jazz Band and Xavier Jackson Soul Band will provide the evening's entertainment.

To purchase a table or tickets, call TBAAL's Box Office at 214.743.2400. For more information about the Ties and Tux Gala, call 214.743.2440.

5BY20, continued from Page 12

around the world." 5by20 focuses on helping women entrepreneurs across the Coca-Cola value chain -- agricultural producers, suppliers, distributors, retailers, recyclers and artisans -- overcome challenges when establishing and growing their business. By providing access to business skills, financial services, assets and support networks of peers and mentors, 5by20 is helping women succeed as entrepreneurs, while also helping create sustainable communities.

Humana

Humana Health Plan of Texas, Inc. is seeking a Technology Manager for its Irving, Texas location./Will act as a liaison between multiple business and technology areas, assisting both internally and externally with the assessment, procurement and implementation of technology solutions./Must have Bachelor's Degree in CS, Info. Tech. or a related field and 5 years of progressively responsible, post-bachelor's related experience./Pre-employment drug screen and background check required. 0-5% travel to professional conferences may be required./Send cover letter and detailed resume to Humana, Attn: Andrea Nickol, Talent Acquisition Specialist, 500 West Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202, or apply online at www.humana.com/careers (Ref. # 157734)./Only persons w/authorization to work permanently in the U.S. need apply./EEO.



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BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, CARROLLTON (A PLACE TO BELONG)

April 17, 9:45 a.m.

You're invited to our Sunday Morning "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship Service at 10 a.m. See what God is doing through and with us; you will be blessed.

April 17, 12 Noon

How do you impact others? Join us Sunday at noon in Bible Study; Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Brenda Patterson and others will teach a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 2 through Book 7."

Learn how to introduce others to Christ and make Him known to them; to help others know and grow in God's word; and to give others clarity and direction.

April 20, 7 p.m.

Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Dr. Woodson and/or Pastor Brenda Patterson teaching a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 3 through Book 7." Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you. It's Time to Grow; Ephesians 4:12 & 13.

Dr. Terrance Woodson, Senior Pastor
1944 E. Hebron Parkway
Carrollton, TX 75007
972-492-4300
www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

April 17, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

You're invited to join us for morning worship as we praise and worship God for His blessings.

April 20

Join us at 12 Noon with Rev. Viveca Potter teaching on the Word of God; come back at 6:45 p.m. for Corporate Prayer and stay for Senior Pastor Autry at 7:30 p.m. teaching on the Word of God. Our youth will come for Food and Fellow-

ship at 7 p.m. followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Terrence Autry, Senior Pastor
701 Centennial
972-991-0200
Richardson, TX 75081
www.Christcommunityrichardson.org

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"

April 17, 8 a.m.

Join us in our Sunday Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 West Belmont Drive in Allen; followed by our Sunday Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 and bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

April 20, 12 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word at the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 West Belmont Drive in Allen. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all, be prepared to grow.

April 24, 8 a.m.

Every 4th Sunday
Calling All Youth! Join our Hype Sunday Worship (first service only) on our main campus at 200 West Belmont Drive and be blessed.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D. Senior Pastor
5705 Cheyenne Drive
at Bolin Elementary School in Allen 75002 for Sunday Morning Worship and the Admin. Building Address is 200 W. Belmont Drive Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH, Let's Go Fishing! MATTHEW 4:19

April 15, 7 p.m.

All men, you're welcome to

our Men's Friday Night Service for fellowship and learning what God requires of men as leaders of households and in the community.

April 17, 7:30 and/or 11:30 a.m.

You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

April 18, 7 p.m.

Join us in Monday School as we grow in God's Word and learn what God has to say to us.

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.Ibocchurch.org

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

April 17, 10 a.m.

Join us for Sunday Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory. Call the church for details.

April 20, 7 p.m.

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

Pastor Sam Fenceroy Senior Pastor and Pastor Gloria Fenceroy
300 Chisholm Place
Plano, TX 75075
972-633-5511
www.mocop.org

MT. PISGAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

April 17, 10 a.m.

You're invited to join us in our Worship Service at our new home, 1020 Sherman Street in Richardson, Texas. Call the church for details.

April 18, 9 p.m.

Join us for our Intercessory Prayer Ministry and our Monday's Conference calls.

R. W. Townsend, Senior Pastor
1020 Sherman Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-241-6151
www.dallasmtpisgah.org

NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

April 17

You're invited to join us for Early Morning Services at 7:30 a.m., followed by Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Dr. Tommy L. Brown Senior Pastor
9550 Shepherd Road
Dallas, Texas 75243
214-341-6459
www.nmzb.org

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)

April 17, 10 a.m.

Join us as we praise and worship God in our Morning Worship Services. You will be blessed.

April 20, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's

Word. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and growth; it's all for His glory and His honor.

April 24, 4 p.m.

Join our SMBC Praise Dance Ministry for their Praise Dance Extravaganza as they praise the Lord through Dance!

Our church ministries offer opportunities for motivation and growth; join us and see.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr. Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, LEWISVILLE

April 17, 7:45 and 10:45 a.m.

You're invited to join us for Sunday Morning Worship Service, as we praise and worship God for His many blessings.

April 20, 12 Noon

Join us for Prayer and Bible Study with Pastor Bessix teaching on the word of God and praying for the sick.

Minister Thomas Bessix Senior Pastor
900 Bellaire Blvd.
Lewisville, TX 75067
972-221-5668
www.wbcchurch.org

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Reasons to go to church



Sister Tarpley

Send email to: businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com to sign up for Sister Tarpley's weekly electronic newsletter.

Note: This was sent to me by a college friend of mine and his wife, Jesse & Bobbie Fontenette, I thought you would enjoy this summarized version. If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this! If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

A man that goes to church wrote a letter to the editor of a local newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

'I've gone for 30 years now,' he wrote, 'and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them.'

So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.'

This started a real controversy in the 'Letters to the Ed-

itor' column; much to the delight of the editor it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

'I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.'

But, I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!' When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, 'Jesus, could you get that for me, while I forward this message to your children?'

If you cannot see God in all things, you cannot see God at all! And, B.I.B.L.E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!

Did you know that ... 1) When you carry "the Bible", Satan has a headache? 2) When you open it, he collapses? 3) When he sees you reading it, he loses his strength, and,

4) When you stand on the Word of God, Satan can't hurt you! Author Unknown

Productivity is a term all believers can relate to. It is the by-product of what we desire from our lives. Without productivity, we do not make friends for God, and we do not achieve our goals.

There are things in our lives that can creep in making us unproductive with our

walk with God.

The Apostle Peter tells us that we can become knowledgeable of Jesus but fail to be effective and productive in our relationship with Him.

The Apostle Peter tells us there is a solution to this dilemma. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith, goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control.

And to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

For if you possess these

qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:5-8.

Is your Christian experience filled with knowledge, but little power? Is there staleness in your walk with God? Is there unrest in your soul? It may be due to a need to develop character that only the Holy Spirit can develop out of an obedient heart.

Ask the Lord today to add these qualities to your faith so that you can be productive as a soldier of Jesus Christ.



Sister Rachel Lewis, Dr. Bobby Burns, Supt. of Carrollton-Farmers Branch I.S.D. and Sister Tarpley at a community function

Inspiring Body of Christ
Pastor Rickie G. Bush

7701 S. Waterford Rd
Dallas, TX 75227
972.794.1888 (IBOX)
www.iboxchurch.org

Worship: Sunday 10:00am & 11:00am
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NDGtv North Dallas Gazette takes a moment to reflect on the past with **Historical Perspectives from Sister Tarpley**

Hear what it was like growing up in a very different Dallas when Booker T. Washington was a black school. Sister Tarpley graduated from there and went on to college and later became a city councilmember in Carrollton.

Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com

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Sunday Morning Worship
Saves Fellowship
555 E. Belcher Drive
Allen, TX 75013
9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Night Live
200 W. Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
7:00 pm.

Lady Lake Staffed

NDG Book Review: The perfect companion for National Parks Week

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You already called your seat.

Driver's side, second row, right by the finest view of the road. It's the best place for wind in your hair, sun on your face, and the vacation of your life: this year, you're going on a ride, and with "National Parks Guide U.S.A." by National Geographic Kids, you'll make the most out of your time.

Imagine what the United States looked like four centuries ago.

You'd probably see tall grasses, wild animals, huge trees, and mountains. The good news is that you'll see those exact things – looking just as early Americans saw them – in the over 84-million acres we call our National Parks.

Wow. Why do we have so much parkland?

A hundred years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt "made it his mission"



to preserve as much natural land as possible, "so that future generations could enjoy" it. So what's your family interested in seeing this summer? Do you like history or hiking? Swimming or soldiers? Animals or American statues? You'll find them all in parks – and you'll find them in this book.

Starting on the East side of the country, you can visit Mammoth Cave in Kentucky and see what's underground. You can tour the Everglades in Florida, or

bathe in a hot spring in Arkansas. In the Midwest, the Badlands aren't bad at all for hiking. You can also thank Theodore Roosevelt personally by visiting his National Park in North Dakota. Visit the world's longest cave in South Dakota, go whitewater rafting at a national park in Texas or look for desert animals in New Mexico. And you can't, of course, miss the Grand Canyon! It's amazing.

In the West, there are forests to see, and lots of spooky sites. There's Glacier National Park in Montana to roam; you can hike Denali in Alaska, see whales in Washington, or visit a volcano in Hawaii.

Don't forget your binoculars. And don't forget this book!

So you say you're plagued by "Are We There Yet - Are We There Yet - Are We There Yet" on every vacation? You can minimize

that – maybe eliminate it – by securing a copy of "National Parks Guide U.S.A." before you even leave.

There's a lot of goodness packed into 176 pages here: kids can learn about the wildlife they might encounter at each park listed. They'll get stats on the park, including size and a website, so they can sleuth more info themselves. There are "ranger tips" here, hints on

resting and picnicking, and tips for relaxing and taking in the scenery. For kids who are fit and super active, this book includes "extreme" fun they might find and extra activities they can do.

There are chapters on packing, specifics on animals and endangered creatures, info on unusual monuments and sculptures to visit near the parks and, as you'd

expect from the National Geographic folks, dozens and dozens of full-color pictures.

For 7-to-13-year-olds, that makes for a perfect book to keep them happy during your vacation and to serve as a nice keepsake. Before heading out, therefore, find "National Parks Guide U.S.A." Your kids will call it "awesome."

UPCOMING CONTESTS FROM NDG!!!



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BLACK VIOLIN- THE KESSLER**

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Minnie H. Goodlow Page

SECTION

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SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2016

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240 W. Beltline Road
Lancaster, Texas 75146
(972) 227-0995

Registration: 12:00 PM

Tee Time: 1:00 PM

For More information contact:

Phone: (214) 420-1440
Carolyn (214) 432-8296
Connie (214) 207-3826

Fax: (214) 203-0803
NCMW Email: NCMW.Member@att.net