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Dallas' annual MLK parade and celebration kicks off

The Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center and Celebrating Our Heritage held a kick off press conference for the upcoming Dallas Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March/Parade and Celebration earlier this week. The march/parade marks the first time Dallas will have only one march/parade observing the Dr. King birthday holiday celebration.

Historically Dallas has had two march/parades in the city over the Dr. King celebration weekend. One held for on Saturday organized by the City of Dallas Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. One held on Monday organized by a community organizer. This year, the two have consolidated to create one grand march/parade that will be held on the Dr. King holiday observance. This year the North Dallas Gazette is delighted to be a media partner with the wonderful weekend.

In recent days there have been some concerns regarding the changes in the parade's annual tradition of having two different parades. However, Mayor Mike Rawlings addressed those concerns at the press conference on Monday immediately.

"To face the challenges we must face, we must come together to be able to do that. So this unifi-



Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings addresses the audience at the press conference for Dallas' MLK celebrations. (NDG photo by Frank Lott)

cation of one parade is a symbol for a man who stood for unity," Rawlings said.

The annual march/parade brings together over 200,000 enthusiastic parade spectators and participants for the event and it is considered the largest African American family-oriented event held in North Texas and one of the top 10 largest Dr. King commemorative events in the United States. This year for the first time, the grand parade will be televised live on NBC 5 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. extending the

reach into over 1.4 million households throughout North Texas.

This year's grand march/parade will feature urban radio legend Tom Joyner as the parade grand marshal. Other celebrities set to appear in include actress Tasha Smith (FOX's Empire, Oprah Winfrey Network For Better Or Worse), actor Lamman Rucker (Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married and Why Did I Get Married Too), Miss Black USA Madison

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Dallas events slated to honor MLK

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Irving gears up for MLK celebrations

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AfroPop kicks off on MLK

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For details, go to: www.northdallasgazette.com

COMMENTARY

Why justice matters

NDG's View

We've all come together, far too many times, recently, grieving our pain over heavy losses to our families, our communities and to our future generations due to some form of the lingering remnants falling afresh from the cloud of white supremacy racism. When injustice follows the pain of our losses it is then that we, as a community, must move past grieving and stand for justice, by any means necessary. It's incredible as a

people how we create uproars, protests and marches (as we should) when an injustice presents itself amongst us.

However, as soon as the mainstream media has decided it's enough, we calm the uproar, we end the protests and marches, and we continue on with society, as is, as we await the next event to unveil, only to be remedied in the same manner.

As we begin our annual celebration of the life and legacy of our brother, the

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Carla A. Harris



Dr. Jamal Bryant



Michael J. Sorrell

Join thousands of readers who visit NorthDallasGazette.com daily!

Carla A. Harris

With headlines of the largest lottery ever dominating news coverage, the Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., is celebrating the founding of the public service organization with a financial expert, Carla A. Harris, as the keynote speaker.

Attendees at the public event will surely have finance questions for this Vice Chairman, Wealth Management, Managing Director and Senior Client Advisor at Morgan Stanley when she joins her sorority sisters for this year's program, Saturday, January 30, 2016,



11:30a.m., at the Dallas Hyatt Regency Hotel, 300 Reunion Blvd. Dallas.

Considered one of the most powerful women in business, Ms. Harris is an honors graduate of Harvard University and in August

2013, she was appointed by President Obama to chair the National Women's Business Council.

Ms. Harris will join Dallas Alumnae Chapter president Tonya Derrick as the organization recognizes 50 and 25 year honorees for their service to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Also on hand for the 103 anniversary of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the 92nd anniversary of the Dallas Alumnae Chapter is Marjorie McColl Petty, J.D., M.S., Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The Dallas Alumnae Chapter has been very instrumen-

tal in educating citizens about the Affordable Health-care Act and other critical issues affecting their communities.

The 50-year honorees are: Jennifer Brown Clark, Cressie M. Menefee Ellison, Katharine Williams-Hunter, Verna G. Brown Mitchell, Henri L. Simpson, Ph.D. and Zelma Brooks Washington. The 25 year honorees are: Felicia Cox Henderson, Aundrea Denise Mitchell, Keva Phillips Munson, Leslie Annette Swann, Dr. Rosalyn Walker and Courtney Dawnyell Weddington.

Tickets are still available for the luncheon at www.dallasalumnae.org/Fou

ndersDay.html.

Carla Harris is a Vice Chairman, Wealth Management, Managing Director and Senior Client Advisor at Morgan Stanley. She is responsible for increasing client connectivity and penetration to enhance revenue generation across the firm. She formerly headed the Emerging Manager Platform, the equity capital markets effort for the consumer and retail industries and was responsible for Equity Private Placements. Ms. Harris has extensive industry experiences in the technology, media, retail, telecommunications, transportation, industrial, and healthcare sec-

tors.

Ms. Harris was recently named to Fortune Magazine's list of "The 50 Most Powerful Black Executives in Corporate America", U. S. Bankers Top 25 Most Powerful Women in Finance (2009, 2010, 2011), Black Enterprise's Top 75 Most Powerful Women in Business (2010), to Black Enterprise Magazine's "Top 75 African Americans on Wall Street" (2006-2011), and to Essence Magazine's list of "The 50 Women Who are Shaping the World", Ebony's list of the Power 100 and "15 Corporate

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Dr. Jamal Bryant

Philanthropist, author, motivational speaker and entrepreneur, Dr. Jamal Bryant was selected to be the keynote speaker at Dallas' at the Awards Banquet & Silent Auction at the Hyatt Regency Hotel this Saturday. The elegant affair kicks off at 5:30 p.m. with a silent auction followed by the banquet at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Bryant is the pastor and founder of Empowerment Temple AME Church in Baltimore, Maryland. Acclaimed the fastest-growing African Methodist Episcopal church in the de-



nomination's 200-year history, the congregation has expanded from 47 members, since its inception in 2000, to well over 10,000. A third-generation minister, Bryant is also seen and heard throughout the world

via the Internet each Sunday, garnering more than 10,000 additional followers.

Known for his vocal and empowering stance on political and socio-economic issues, Dr. Bryant earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Studies from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. Upon completing his undergraduate studies, he obtained a Master of Divinity Degree from Duke University. In 2005, Bryant obtained a Doctorate of Ministry Degree from The Graduate Theological Foundation while having the privilege of also taking

courses at Oxford University.

Over the years, Jamal Bryant has developed an altruistic passion for faith and social justice. Highly sought after for his remarkable ability to reach broad-spectrum audiences, he has been the catalyst for empowering others spiritually, academically, financially, and socially. In recent years, Dr. Bryant has played a pivotal role in the fight for justice. Among many examples, is the notorious Trayvon Martin case. Dr. Bryant helped to spread the word about the injustices surrounding the case by

leading several peaceful protests on behalf of the 17-year old Miami native's family. He also served as a spiritual advisor to Trayvon's parents during the highly-publicized trial.

Although Bryant is known for his work around the globe, he is making a tremendous impact in his state and community with the help of faithful members and leaders at his ministry. Through Empowerment Temple Economic Development Coalition, the church's community outreach component, classes are offered to help members and nonmembers alike start

their own businesses, become homeowners, gain health insurance, complete their education and attend college.

As the ministry's founder, Bryant manages the day-to-day operations for a staff of nearly 250. Some departments include Human Resources, Finance, IT, Public Relations, Media Production, Television. He is also supported by more than 50 in-reach and outreach ministers.

To hear Dr. Bryant this Saturday night, visit <http://www.mlkcelebrationdallas.org/index-2.html> for more details.

Dr. Michael J. Sorrell

Dr. Michael J. Sorrell, President of Paul Quinn College, will be honored by the Dallas Bar Association at the 24th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon as the recipient of the 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Justice Award at a noon luncheon on Monday, January 18, at The Belo Mansion (2101 Ross Avenue in downtown Dallas). The event is open to the public.

The award is presented to local leaders whose lives and practice exemplifies the principles embodied by Dr. King's leadership. Former recipients include the late Hon. Barefoot Sanders, Senator Royce West, Mayor Ron Kirk, Kim Askew,



Rhonda Hunter, E. Leon Carter, Dr. Walter Sutton, Jr. and Justice Carolyn Wright.

The Dallas Bar Association is honored to present Dr. Sorrell with this prestigious award for his service to so many organizations, Paul Quinn College, and the Dallas community.

Dr. Sorrell has received

awards and honors too numerous to list—from Washington Monthly's "America's 10 Most Innovative College Presidents" to Dallas Business Journal's "Dallas' Forty under Forty" and "Minority Business Leaders Award." He has received both the President's and C.B. Bunkley Awards from the J.L. Turner Legal Association for his outstanding contributions to the Dallas legal community.

Sorrell's vision is to permanently transform PQC into a nationally elite small college by focusing on entrepreneurship, academic rigor, and servant leadership. Under his leadership, the school has experienced one of the greatest turn-arounds in the history of

higher education.

Some of the school's numerous accomplishments include winning the 2011 HBCU of the Year, the 2012 HBCU Student Government Association of the Year, and the 2013 HBCU Business Program of the Year awards; being recognized as a member of the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll; demolishing 15 abandoned campus buildings; and much more.

The MLK award luncheon is open to the public; the plated lunch costs \$14.95. RSVPs are required.

Contact bavina@dallasbar.org. For more information, call (214) 220-7400.

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Will Black America make major strides toward unity in 2016?

By Roger Caldwell
NNPA News Wire Columnist

This year has started with a bang and Black America is in a position to build political organizations and alliances across generational and economical demographics. “Black Lives Matter” has energized a younger segment of Black America, which older Black political organizations thought were not engaged or strategically involved. With the killing of hundreds of unarmed Blacks in 2015 by law enforcement agencies, the struggle for justice in America has been the major focus in the Black community.

The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan has mobilized the Black community

in 2015, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the historic Million Man March by returning to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. last October. This march is significant, because it proved that there is an infrastructure of committed Black men ready to implement change and unity in their community. In order to bring this initiative to fruition, our community must organize and mobilize around a Black Agenda. There was very limited media coverage on this momentous occasion, and local Black political organizations must sit down together and develop a plan based on the need for more Black political power.

Presently, there is a lim-

ited amount of communication in the Black media, in major markets across the country. As a result of our limited resources, the Black media organizations and wire services are not able to tell our story that connects from a Black perspective. In 2016, there is a need for more positive stories from Black reporters and journalist that highlight being Black in America.

In local Black communities, there is a need for more Black programming and Black images on major networks. In 2015, Black sitcoms made major advances in bringing diversity to television, but the system is set up for more Blacks to fail. On television, it appears that mainstream media would

prefer to find things that focus on the criminal elements in the Black community. Crime and Black on Black violence is a reality in our community, and the Black community collectively must attack this problem.

Black on Black crime has become a focal point in Black communities throughout America. Elected Black officials must make a commitment to safe communities, and they must be held accountable to their promises and platforms. There is no reason as to why in certain inner city neighborhoods, that drugs and criminals control the streets. Collaborating with police departments and neighborhood

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Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we should all take this opportunity to, not only, pause and reflect on the gift of Dr. King to our people; but moreover, we should study his life to understand that the uproars, protests and marches are only the beginning of a marked change in our history.

We should also gain understanding in the visions and dreams he shared with us via his sermons and speeches. These were not only his talk, but they were his daily walk. And this is the reason we honor and celebrate him for his great sacrifices. Dr. King walked for 39 years in his purpose until he was taken from us, far too early, by an assassinating gun carrier.

While we submit ourselves to the study and celebration of the legacy, we must also query ourselves, as a community. We must really ask, “Why justice matters?” today. When, seemingly, we have many brothers and sisters living the American Dream; whether in the entertainment industry, business owners, education, even, the president of the United States of Amer-

ica. Yes, we seem to be doing very well with the opportunities that were given to us, with love, from the backs, sweat, calloused feet and hands, dog bites, water hoses, nooses and worn out prayer bent knees. Thank you, Father, for the love of our fore parents.

However, we must recognize that we, today, have an obligation to continue in fighting for justice for all people. Our fight is not over, especially, here in Dallas. When our Dallas/Ft. Worth metropolitan area is booming with new businesses, has the ability over other cities of attracting major corporations to relocate their headquarters, houses state-of-the-art major league sports fields and arenas (even at the high school level), home to many of America’s millionaires, and a few billionaires ... YET, we are leaders in the nation of the most impoverished children, we arrogantly pass homeless people on the street as if they don’t exist, and we sit back and allow our children to go to school every day to receive a substandard education.

As members of the DFW community, when we wit-

ness our young girls being tossed around and manhandled by a Frisco police officer just for wanting to attend a party at a public pool, or when we witness a police officer draw his gun at one of our young men for trying to come to her aide, or when the cameras witness a mentally ill distraught man enter Dallas Police headquarters crying out for help, but he meets his very controversial demise....Our fight for justice is not over.

We shamefully witnessed armed protesters express their white superiority over Muslims (who they feel are inferior and have no rights to the freedoms of their religion without being harassed). A young Muslim boy in Irving was proud of his accomplishment of creating a clock and wanted to share his joy with his school instructor, but instead he was humiliated and handcuffed. Keep in mind, if Sally brought her teacher an apple, she would not only be praised for being such a thoughtful child, the apple would have been eaten and enjoyed by her teacher (never to be tested and even thought to be laced with poison). Mostly, Sally would have gotten a great lift of en-

couragement for going above and beyond. Just imagine the lift the young Muslim innovator could have received if encouragement had been given him.

Our fight for justice is nowhere near over. Although many of us are living the American Dream (only by the Father’s Grace) that has been gifted us from many who came before us, some we can name, and so many others who remain nameless. They fought for justice for us and our future generations. Thank the Father their fight did not end (at the beginning) with the uproars, protests and marches. We should be very grateful for the many who laid down their lives for us, and the many who committed their lives to walking in the vision and dream brought forth to us by our brother, Dr. King.

Dr. King’s words answers best, “Why Justice Matters?”

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” – Dr. Martin King, Jr.

It’s a matter of fact; injustice lingers in our own backyard. We must do our part, with love, until justice is for all.

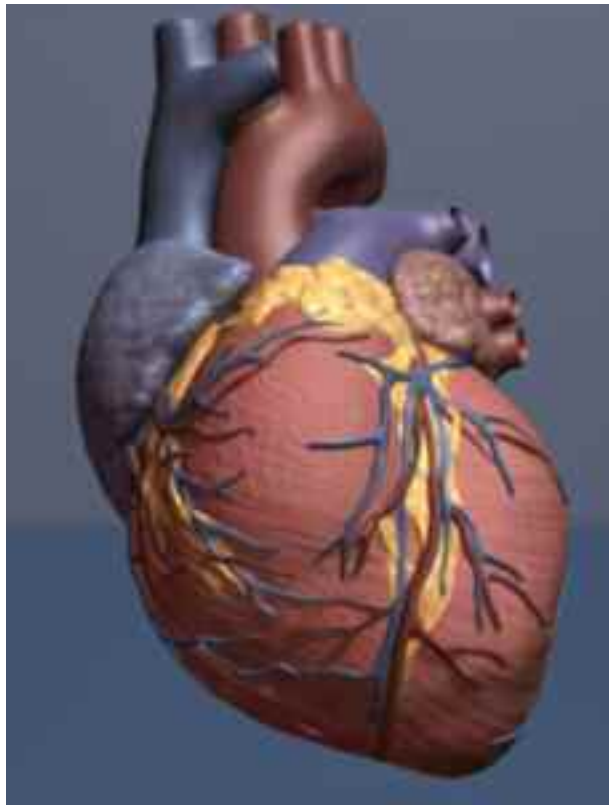
New AHA research: Even small reductions in kidney function may damage heart, blood vessels

Even small reductions in kidney function are associated with heart and blood vessel damage, according to new research in the American Heart Association's journal Hypertension.

"Even in very healthy people, a small reduction in kidney function from normal to just a bit below normal was associated with an increase in the mass of the left ventricle, a change that makes the heart stiffer and impairs its ability to contract," said Jonathan Townend, M.D., senior author of the paper and professor of cardiology at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham in Edgbaston, United Kingdom.

For years, it has been known that people with long-standing kidney disease are at increased risk of heart disease.

"Mild chronic kidney disease is common, affecting over 10 percent of the U.S. population, so if kidney disease really is a cause of heart disease it may be a major public health problem," Townend said. However, since kidney disease patients commonly have other risk factors,



American Heart Association

such as high blood pressure and diabetes, the direct effect of diminishing kidney function on the heart has been uncertain.

To look for a direct link, the researchers tracked an extremely healthy group of people – living kidney donors – to see whether the decreases in kidney function that occur after donation were associated with heart and blood vessel changes.

Researchers compared 68 kidney donors (average age 47) with 56 controls (average age 44) through the first year after surgery. Compared with controls, the researchers found that kidney donors had:

An expected decline in kidney function (as measured by the glomerular filtration rate and the appearance of the protein albumin in the urine).

An increase in the mass

of the left ventricle, a strong predictor of heart disease risk.

An increase in measures of heart damage apparent in blood tests, such as troponin.

No difference in blood pressure.

"This is evidence that reduction in kidney function itself leads directly to measurable adverse effects on the heart and blood vessels, even without other risk factors. More research is needed to know just what aspects of reduced kidney function are responsible for the effects," Townend said.

As for kidney donors, the researchers urge them not to worry about the new findings.

"Kidney donors are already highly selected as healthy individuals. Our paper has shown that kidney donation causes very small adverse effects on the heart and blood vessels that took careful and accurate measurements to detect. We do not yet know if these effects are maintained over the long term. Even if there is a small increase in your long-term risk of heart disease after donation, it is still likely

that you will be at lower than average risk, Townend said.

Researchers suggest that all people discuss heart

disease risk, and ways to lower it, with their physicians if medical tests indicate reduced kidney function.

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"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

Happy MLK Day, with great respect, appreciation and gratitude from all of us...

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Four days of events to celebrate the life of MLK

Dallas will join the nation in celebrating the legacy of the Dreamer – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Below are just a small list of events planned throughout the metroplex to honor the legacy and vision of Dr. King.

Friday, Jan. 15, 11 a.m.
MLK Jr. Oratory Competition
Majestic Theatre
1925 Elm St. Dallas, TX 75201

Friday, Jan. 15, 12 p.m.
MLK Celebration Fair
MLK Recreation Center
2901 Pennsylvania Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75215

Friday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m.
Candle Lighting Ceremony
MLK Recreation Center
2901 Pennsylvania Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75215

Friday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m.
32nd Annual Black Music and the Civil Rights Movement Concert
Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center
2301 Flora St. Dallas, TX 75201

Saturday, Jan. 16, 5:30 p.m.
Awards Banquet & Silent Auction
Hyatt Regency Hotel
300 Reunion Boulevard, Dallas, TX 75207

Sunday, Jan. 17, 5:30 p.m.
Super Sunday Church Event
Various Churches in the Dallas Area

Monday, Jan. 18, 10 a.m.
Annual March/Parade
Starts at MLK at Holmes Street & ends at Fair Park
2922 MLK Blvd, Dallas, Texas 75215

All events are open to the public to celebrate this figure who changed the course of all our lives.



Dallas ISD is launching a training program for school officers

Although confrontations between police and communities have grabbed headlines across the nation, Texas is now leading by example in solving the problem.



Rep. Helen Giddings

Rep. Helen Giddings's HB 2684 provided the guidelines for the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) to work with advocates to craft a training that equips school officers with the tools to effectively protect

Texas students. This week, Dallas ISD is hosting its three day "Train the trainer"

sessions to give districts across the state the tools to prepare their officers for the specialized training.

"We are so excited to see these trainings coming to Texas schools," Rep. Giddings said. "I applaud our officers for their eagerness to receive additional specialized training."

The drafted curriculum, which is still subject to tweaks from its public comment period, focuses on understanding adolescent de-

velopment and psychology, mental health crisis intervention, and de-escalation techniques.

Dallas ISD Assistant Police Chief Bill Avera, a member of the committee who created this curriculum, expressed optimism about the trainings and their results going forward. "The training mandated by HB 2684 will offer much needed expertise to law enforcement officers serving in Texas schools. I applaud

Rep. Giddings and her colleagues for addressing this issue."

Chief Avera explained how these trainings will offer a direct impact to Texas schools.

"It can be hard to fathom the issues some of our students face before they reach our front door. As a result of this training, our officers will be able to better de-escalate behaviors that occur as a result of the environment that our students re-

side."

Rep. Giddings emphasized that the training's impact will extend beyond the classroom.

"Today, we are beginning the critical work of building trust between our officers and the communities they serve."

Representative Helen Giddings proudly serves the cities of House District 109: Dallas, DeSoto, Cedar Hill, Glenn Heights, Hutchins, Lancaster, Wilmer, as well as part of Duncanville.

Hawaiian Falls seeks nominations for New Year Blessings program

Hawaiian Falls wants to hear about a family or individual who needs a special blessing in this new year. Nominate humble heroes who always put others' needs before their own. Maybe it's teacher, or someone who has had a rough time lately and just needs their spirits lifted.

That might take the form of added value for our season pass holders by giving them money-saving coupons and Buddy Passes. Sometimes that means offering a free day at the park to families that can't afford even a single visit to the park. If you know

of a family that needs a special blessing, please take a few minutes to nominate them."

Hawaiian Falls will choose a family from each of its seven parks to receive a complimentary Family Extravaganza to be used during the 2016 summer season.

The Family Extravaganza prize includes a private Cabana for a day, Hawaiian Falls beach towels, admission tickets for the immediate family, Combo Meals and All Day Drinks.

To enter a nomination, visit <http://tinyurl.com/hfbless16>

All nominations must be received by midnight Sunday, Jan. 31 to qualify. Sorry, only new nominations will be accepted. Nominated families from previous years are not eligible to win. Winners will be notified by phone or email no later than Feb. 5 and names will be posted in an email broadcast and at hfalls.com.

Celebrating more than a dozen years of bringing families closer together, Hawaiian Falls operates water parks in Garland, The Colony, Mansfield, Roanoke and Waco.

food, vendors and more. Admission is free.

Proceeds from this year's march/parade will benefit the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center and the City of Dallas William Blair Jr. Park.

For more information on the march/parade and celebration, log on to www.DallasMLK.com or call 214.938.4211 to participate in the march/parade, celebration or volunteer.

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Gibbs, DJ Holiday of Atlanta with special performances by African diaspora stilt walkers The Brooklyn Jumbies, Chicago's South Shore Drill Team and the Southern Methodist University Mustang Band. There will be over 150 parade entries featuring marching bands, floats, schools, community organizations, churches, elected

officials, cars and much more.

Following the march/parade a Celebration will be held at Fair Park featuring live entertainment, health and wellness resources, children's activities, college and career fair, job placement, fashion and hair show, actor's workshop with Tasha Smith and Lamman Rucker, car show,



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Brookhaven STEM students eye drones for power line repairs

Everybody talks about the hazards of winter, but STEM students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs at Brookhaven College think they've found a way to deal with at one of those weather-related hazards. Drones, they said, could provide a closer look at the ice and snow that leads to downed power lines.

A group of those Brookhaven STEM students spent part of their fall semester working on a feasible alternative to human assessment of damage to power lines. The unmanned aircraft, they said, are quicker, more intelligent and able to offer a technical approach to smart metering. These future scientists and engineers pitched their idea to Sharyland Utilities L.P., a Texas-based utility affiliated with Hunt Consolidated Inc.

The biggest damage to power lines in winter is ice that can weigh down trees and topple power lines — an added expense to operating a utility like Sharyland, a Dallas-based company that serves 50,000 customers in 29 Texas counties.

The drone solution warrants a serious look, said Daniel Price, Sharyland's vice president.

"The topics used in the student presentations such as the drone project are ideas that allow Sharyland



Brookhaven students are dressed to pitch their proposals to Sharyland.

to look at new technologies that can help find outages and get the lights back on more quickly," Price said.

Mathematics and engineering students Oreoluwa Adedapo, Delia Pena, Malick Olayitan, Benjamin Hetrick, Estrella Rodriguez Perez, Israel Makambu and Christian Mpol and student leader Thomas Lee hope to make a lasting impact on the powerline operator.

Their research showed that drones could provide critical, up-close inspections of damaged lines, said Michael Bailey, a mathematics scholar at Brookhaven who serves as the students' advisor.

Olayitan, a sophomore who is studying biomedical engineering, said the group contacted two companies about operating a drone. He

added, "They charge \$120 per hour to fly the drones. So we also looked at how much it would cost just to buy a drone."

And drones, the students said, would require regulation by the Federal Aviation Administration. "We learned there are regulations and licensing requirements," said Adedapo. "You can't just go out and buy a drone. There's a lot involved, like contracts and obtaining a pilot's license before you can proceed. We really did a lot of research."

The students found a company equipped with sensors and provided their findings to Sharyland.

In addition to the drone program, the group also suggested that Sharyland look at an enterprise software system program which

would benefit human resources, training and other areas that would collect and process ideas.

This team of DCCCD STEM students is the fourth group to work on an externship with Sharyland, carrying the momentum started by their predecessors. Each group builds on the work of the one that preceded it, Bailey said.

Makambu, a mechanical engineering sophomore, said the experience gave him a sense of focus about his career and where he might end up. "It made me more secure about what I'm majoring in. This is the real world," he stated.

Adedapo made note of the differences in working for a grade in school and working for an employer. "In class, you do things for

a grade," said Adedapo, a civil engineering sophomore. "But over there, you only have one chance."

In addition to providing experience, this program is a chance for students to interact with professionals and define their career goals, Bailey said. "This is a work experience and a learning experience.

These are the brightest students at Dallas County Community College District," he added.

Bailey said that the project is also an ideal opportunity for students to get a foot in the (industry) door. "It takes great skills to pres-

ent a solution to a non-engineer," Bailey explained. "Most companies want to see relevant work experience on a student's resume, and these students will have that."

Sharyland was founded by Hunter Hunt, who serves as chairman of the DCCCD Foundation's board of directors; he also is president and co-CEO of Hunt Consolidated Inc.

For more information about the externship at Sharyland for Brookhaven STEM students, contact Bailey by phone at 972-860-4739 or by email at michaelb@dcccd.edu.



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UNT's online MBA ranked 15th in nation by U.S. News and World Report

DENTON (UNT) U.S. News and World Report has named the University of North Texas College of Business online Master of Business Administration degree one of the nation's best: UNT was ranked No. 15 out of 228 schools listed. The 2016 rankings were published Tuesday (Jan. 12).

"This national recognition highlights our commitment at UNT to proving stu-

dents in our online courses with the same quality learning experiences that students in our face-to-face courses receive," said Marilyn Wiley, dean of the College of Business. "Today's students look toward online MBA programs for the flexible schedules and costs savings. We provide that, as well as faculty, coaches and advisors who work in tandem to ready students for leadership roles in ever-

changing business climates."

For this year's list, UNT was ranked in five categories: student engagement, admissions selectivity, peer reputation, faculty credentials and training, and student services and technology.

The online MBA program at UNT offers concentrations in marketing, strategic management and finance, as well as the new

focus in organizational behavior and human resource management, which started this fall. Classes are available in flexible formats to meet the needs of working professionals, and the UNT College of Business is fully accredited by the Association to Advance College Schools of Business-International, the premier accrediting agency for colleges of business throughout the world.

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Celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr. in Irving, starting Jan. 16

Community members and volunteers are invited to join the City of Irving in celebrating the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. this weekend.

The 2016 celebration includes three events that honor his lasting legacy:

Martin Luther King Jr. Observance: The observance focuses on the events leading up to the historic "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom" and features performances from the



Dallas Black Dance Theatre Choir, 6 p.m., Jan. 17 Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.

the Miracle Chorale and the Bear Creek Baptist Church **MLK Day of Service**

Rally and Bike Safety Rodeo: The second annual Day of Service Rally features remarks by Irving Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Webb and members of the Irving Fire and Police departments.

After the rally, elementary school students are invited to participate in a Bike and Safety Rodeo. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jan. 16, Georgia Farrow Recreation Center, 530 Davis Drive.

The festivities will continue into a second day of

celebration and community spirit.

Join volunteers from local nonprofit organizations for a motivational rally at the Georgia Farrow Recreation Center, 530 Davis Drive, for the second MLK Day of Service and Safety Rally held in Irving. At the rally, city officials will motivate attendees to serve their communities.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. students in elementary schools can take part in a Bike Safety Rodeo, where

the focus will be on bicycle safety and maintenance.

A limited supply of free bicycles and helmets will be given to rodeo participants courtesy of HOPE Worldwide and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through its core programs – Senior Corps, Americorps and the Social Initiative Fund.

DCCCD, Goldman Sachs 10KSB alum honored, encourages others

Harry Clincy had a vision of running a successful business, but that dream took some time to take off, and it required some sacrifices as well. He ignored the warnings from people who told him he had impossible dreams and, in 2009, he launched Dallas-based ACU Construction, an asphalt milling company that offers its services to local, state and federal agencies.

Clincy, a former IT business consultant, first secured a state of Texas "Historically Underutilized Business" certification and a federal "Disadvantaged Business Enterprise" certification. He then attended U.S. Small Business Administration workshops and seminars before he identified an "enormous" opportunity in highway construction. When he didn't qualify for a loan to buy a \$160,000 piece of equipment for his



Harry Clincy started ACU Construction, despite being told his dream was impossible.

company, he used funds from his children's college savings to purchase it.

The building process took time, but Clincy's company finally gained traction in 2012 when ACU Construction was contracted to demolish asphalt roads and parking lots as part of the

DART Orange Line expansion at DFW International Airport. Clincy hired 25 subcontractors for the six-month project.

Six years after launching the company, Clincy enrolled in the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program after learn-

ing about its value to entrepreneurs. He received the Government Contractor of the Year award in fall 2015 from the Center for Government Contracting and the Dallas Metropolitan Small Business Development Center.

The program, which is now accepting applications for the summer, taught

Clincy that leading with vision and values is very important in order to "build a healthy, long-lasting business."

For Clincy, one of the biggest takeaways from the program is that "it transforms you as a leader and the way you run your business. It helps you realize opportunities that you

couldn't even fathom before." He added, "I have learned how to effectively identify and evaluate opportunities for business growth as well as risk."

Clincy developed relationships with other cohort members, shared information with them, and some-

See 10KSB, Page 11

Open auditions held for 'Irving's Got Talent' competition

Calling all talented teens! Can you sing, dance, juggle, or play an instrument? Applications are now being accepted for middle and high school students interested in auditioning for Irving's Got Talent (formerly Friday Nite Live). The Parks and Recreation Department's annual teen talent show will take place on Friday, February 19 at the Irving Arts

Center. Auditions for the event will be held between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday, January 23 at the Irving Arts Center. All types of talent will be accepted to audition for the show. Past performances have included singers, musicians, bands, dance groups and a magician.

Applications may be sub-

mitted online using the link below, or you may complete an application in person at Lively Pointe Youth Center, 909 N. O'Connor Road. All interested participants must audition for the event. A panel of judges will determine which acts are chosen to participate in the event. Not all applicants will be selected to perform at Irving's Got Talent.

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DOWNTOWN DALLAS
Speaker Ryan
visiting Dallas for
MLK Forum

The United States Speaker of the House of Representatives, Paul Ryan, has scheduled a meeting to come to Dallas to meet with Community Activist/Youth Advocate Omar Jahwar, Pastor of Kingdom Worship and Restoration Church and Antong Lucky an Expert in Urban Demographics and Trends/Youth Advocate.

Also, the CEO of We Make Real Music/Mentors. Together they are hosting a Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Forum Discussion

about the Urban Specialists movement, achieving economic equality and civil technology.

This event will take place on Monday, Jan. 18 on the nationally recognized Federal Martin Luther King Jr. holiday at Kingdom Worship and Restoration Church located inside the auditorium of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Downtown Dallas starting at 12:30 p.m.

This private event will consist of key community and neighborhood leaders and members of the media.

Interested attendees need to RSVP on the Google sign up form link

(<http://goo.gl/forms/f8HT-guVHk9>) or email dallasurbanspecialist@gmail.com.

McKINNEY
Coffee with the
Mayor

The City of McKinney and Mayor Brian Loughmiller invite residents for casual conversation over a cup of coffee on Tuesday, Jan. 26. Coffee with the Mayor will be held in the Emergency Operations Center of the McKinney Public Safety Building, 2200 Taylor-Burk Dr., from 7:30-9 a.m. All community members are encouraged to attend, ask questions and learn more about the city.

Celebrating MLK at Dallas City Hall...



The city's Martin Luther King, Jr. press conference and party held on Jan. 12 brought together active members of the community from far and wide with the singular purpose of honoring America's foremost civil rights activist (see story on Page 1). The event also served as a time to meet and greet with old friends and new. Above, Vee Jackson Haywood, Pamela Davis, Natasha Cooper, Pamela Jones, Pamela Davis and LaRhonda Bacon mingle after the presentation. Pictured at right is Pamela Jones, director of the MLK Center. (NDG photos by Frank Lott)



Duncanville couple celebrates 71st wedding anniversary

Ny Nina Garcia
 NDG Staff

Wanda Miller was the breath-taking, new girl in the town of Flat, Texas. There, she attended the same high school as Lloyd Thomas, a handsome, all American athlete, who was a star on the football team.

A group of girls at the school had a crush on Lloyd as did Wanda. The girls would tease Wanda, saying that she didn't have a chance with the football star.

Wanda quickly approached the girls and bet them a bottle of Coca-Cola she could in fact get a date with Lloyd.

On a fair day in 1941, Wanda won that bottle of Coca-Cola and shared it with her new beau, Lloyd.

After courting for some time, Lloyd joined the service and was to be stationed overseas to Paris. Wanda wanted to make sure she had a ring on her finger before Lloyd was to depart out to serve the country. They were married on Jan. 8, 1945.

After serving in the military, rather than stay and work on the farm with his family, Lloyd ventured out and attended school and pursued education as a profession. He was a coach, a high school principal, and even worked for the Dallas



County Community College District (DCCCD) for many years.

During the time he worked for DCCCD, Lloyd then decided to move the family to Duncanville in 1973, where they still currently reside in the same house.

In the beginning Wanda was content on being a mother and wife. She later worked and retired from a

veterinarian's office. She was also very active with the First Baptist Church of Duncanville and was on the WMU board of Texas for many years.

The Thomas' have a lovely family of four children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

When asked how they managed to have such an enduring marriage, they both

replied, "When we both said I do, We DID!" The couple remained committed to always honoring their sacred vows.

They are a testament to a wonderful marriage.

Lloyd suffered a stroke in 2012, but is doing quite well now days. Wanda also is in good health. As they continue to live their lives together, their everlasting love is still quite evident.

Now, Mrs. Thomas is 90 years young and Mr. Thomas just recently celebrated his 92nd birthday on Jan. 12.

And to think, it all started with a bet for a bottle of Coca-Cola.

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AfroPop kicks off on MLK hosted by Empire's Jussie Smollett

NEW YORK — Season eight of AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange opens with an unflinching portrait of life as an immigrant, as concerns about illegal immigration and refugees reach fever pitch in America and across the world.

The documentary series leads off Monday, January 18, at 7 p.m. on WORLD Channel with director Ditte Haarlov Johnsen's Days of Hope. The season premiere follows three African immigrants who brave it all for a better life in Europe. Jussie Smollett, star of the hit FOX TV show Empire, serves as eighth season host for the series, which is produced by National Black

Programming Consortium (NBPC) and co-presented by American Public Television (APT),

AfroPoP takes on important issues facing the global black community, and here it is especially on point. Episode one of the series, Days of Hope, puts a face—or three—on the immigration issue, showing the lengths to which brave souls will go to better their lives and their families' dire circumstances. But the dangerous journey these individuals take is nothing in comparison with the horrors they face in their adopted countries.

"The scale and sheer numbers of immigrants from Mexico and Central



Jussie Smollett will anchor the eighth season of this enlightening documentary series.

America as well as the Syrian refugee crisis overshadow any conversation about immigration from other communities of color, where the human rights concerns are just as critical," said NBPC Director of Programs and Acquisitions and AfroPoP Executive Pro-

ducer Kay Shaw. "The opportunity to broadcast a beautifully told story about the plight of West Africans facing the same risks and challenges is a reminder that the issue is global, multi-faceted and multi-racial."

New episodes of the five-

part series premiere weekly through February 15. The show continues with:

Directors Jérôme Guiot and Thierry Teston's Pan! Our Music Odyssey (January 25), a joyful celebration of the melodious steel drum. The film explores the magical instrument from its development in Trinidad to its celebration around the world, as bands from across the globe gather to compete in the ultimate steel band competition: Panorama.

Pablo García Pérez de Lara and Marc Serena's Tchindas (February 1), which transports viewers to São Vicente in Cape Verde. There we meet Tchinda, a transgender woman who is so cherished that her name

has become synonymous with LGBT people in the area. The documentary follows the celebrated character, out and proud since 1998, as she and her cohorts prepare for the beloved annual carnival.

N'Jeri Eaton and Mario Furloni's First Friday (February 8), which heads to Oakland, California—a city with a reputation as one of the most dangerous in America—as it works to rebrand itself through its successful First Fridays monthly street festival. The murder of a young Black man sends the city reeling, threatening the very survival of this community celebration and, perhaps, the

See AFROPOP, Page 12

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Kenyan Artist Almaz to keep indigenous music alive

By Oral Ofori
Special to the NNPA News Wire

Mary Hamboga Matufi, a Kenyan musician and songwriter known in showbiz as Almaz says dropping out of school for lack of funds to continue her education and her society's preference to push enterprising males than females up the academic ladder was still not enough to quell her desires to pursue her passion for music.

"I was forced to drop out of school but I didn't let that stop me from staying positive in life. I feel through my music I have been able to make the best of the situation in the past decade during which I have been singing in different bands, one of which is The Pressmen Band, makers of the famous Kenyan hit "Mse-nangu."

At a point in time Almaz was once a victim of societal pressure as she grappled with getting married as opposed to pursuing education. She made the bold choice of resisting marriage and instead took on seasonal jobs until she later decided to get into music. This background makes her feel



Almaz is a singer, performer and composer who is learning to play the piano to help herself arrange her songs in the future. (Mary Hamboga Matufi/Courtesy Photo)

"no challenge is too difficult as it has become the foundation on which my music career is built".

The Kenyan musician who sings in French, a little bit of English, and Swahili, the common Bantu language spoken in most of the Great Lakes region of Africa, potentially exposes her work to countries like Mozambique, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of

Congo among others. Almaz is a singer, performer and composer who is learning to play the piano to help herself arrange her songs in the future.

Almaz says she is now keen on developing her skills "by focusing on using my music to help preserve diminishing aspects of the cultural heritage of the people of the Pokomo Community where I am from; a distinct tribe with our very

own way of life in Kenya. This vision of mine seeks to add value to my style of music-making."

"Every time I perform, I ensure that at least I manage to engage my audience. Their response is very important my career. Without their feedback it becomes difficult to gauge the impact of the songs I compose. I get inspired whenever my audience get onto the dance-floor and enjoy themselves while listening to me or watching me perform on stage."

In her response to how the music scene in Kenya is changing, Almaz describes the evolution as having been rapid in the past decade with a positive increase in play of local music on the airwaves and more live band performances

leading to increased competition and a higher exception from musicians and performers.

The unfortunate aspect though is the loss of ground for the traditional music industry, with more modern and foreign music influences making gains. This trend however "strengthens my resolve to pursue, create and record cultural-driven music as a way of keeping the culture and history alive with the hope that the younger generation might take a queue from this effort" Almaz hoped.

Her debut single; Nakuota Wewe, was well received in Kenyan music circles. She says having a musical identity is paramount to success and credits her achievements to her determination to be suc-

cessful and her love for numbers. "Maybe I would have become an accountant if I wasn't into music as I still like making calculations and working with figures – this has been very helpful in enabling me and my band plan work-based projections.

This year (2015) has the musician re-working on her debut album, which was stalled after she got disappointed by the output of the first producer she worked with. That not withstanding, Almaz is bent on releasing her almost complete 12-track album with a new producer in 2016 just in time for promotional performances. Check out the video of her debut single that featured fellow Kenyan musician Jilly Baby.

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Wood Springs Park	8:00 p.m. February 4, 2016	Wood Springs Recreation Center 711 W. Canty Dallas
Taylor Park	8:00 p.m. February 8, 2016	Edgewood-Belcher Recreation Center 5218 Fisher Rd. Dallas
Field Park	8:00 p.m. February 11, 2016	Field Recreation Center 2500 Bell Rd. Dallas
Garland-Grand Park	8:00 p.m. February 18, 2016	Garland-Grand Recreation Center 4200 E. 50th Ave. Dallas

City of Dallas Aquatics Master Plan information is available at www.dallas.gov

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Three reasons to go independent with your career in 2016

It's nearly bedtime, but you find yourself sitting at your laptop finishing a report the boss expects in the morning.

Your daughter's soccer game starts in five minutes, but you're a 30-minute commute away.

More and more, the modern work world infringes on home life as professionals try to balance their career needs against personal time, and end up feeling dissatisfied, frustrated and exhausted.

"In our modern culture, we are time poor, with too much focus on work and not nearly enough time for life," says Aaron Zwas, an independent consultant and author of "Transition to Independence" (www.t2iplan.com).

That's all the more reason to take the reigns of your career, becoming your own boss and adding flexibility to your work-life balance, he says. It all adds up to a new level of freedom to pursue the things that matter to you most.

Zwas knows from experience. He once worked as a technical writer for a computer-software company, but a series of events led him to make the break from his corporate job and venture out as an independent consultant. That allowed him to set his own schedule and work from home, all the while increasing his income by an average of 25 percent a year.

Plenty of people can benefit from working independently, though for reasons as varied as their circumstances, he says. They include the 20-something college graduate; the mother or father with young children who wants more flexibility; a stay-at-home mom returning to the workforce; or a middle manager recently laid off in the company's latest down-sizing move, just to name a few.

Zwas offers three reasons why going independent could be a good career move in 2016:

Career stability isn't what

it once was. Macro-economic trends are changing how we work and those changes are coming quickly, Zwas says. Those trends include both blue-collar and white-collar jobs moving overseas; higher value being placed on ideas, giving those who can articulate their expertise in a consulting capacity an advantage; and employers trying to minimize their costs by shifting from fulltime employees to a mix of independents. "They want to hire you only when they need you, just like you are a utility like water or electricity," Zwas says.

Commuting can become a thing of the past. The average American spends about 50 minutes a day commuting to and from work, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Beyond the usual stress of being in traffic, that's time lost from the day that could be devoted to family, leisure activities or whatever you

choose, Zwas says. "That's nearly an hour a day spent commuting," he says. "What could you do with that extra hour if you had it back? Over the course of a year, that commute time becomes significant."

The timing has never been better. At no time in history has the barrier to entry for a new business been lower, Zwas says. For example, he doesn't need a physical store, inventory or employees. He says his annual costs of running a consultancy from his home range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 annually, and the only time it reaches the high end of that range is when he buys a new laptop every three years or creates a new website every five.

Technology also makes it easier for an individual to accomplish what once required a small team, he says. And if there's something you can't do, there are plenty of specialists – such as web designers, social-media experts, researchers

and others – available at reasonable per-hour rates.

There's money to be made by going the independent route – sometimes very good money in the six-figure range – but that's not the primary reason to make the transition, he says.

"This is not about making \$1 million," Zwas says. "This is about improving

your quality of life. It's about pursuing your passions, whatever they might be, while still being able to pay the rent."

Aaron Zwas, the author of "Transition to Independence" (www.t2iplan.com), is a consulting journeyman with 15 years of independent experience as a strategic technology advisor.

10KSB, continued from Page 7

times even refers friends and clients to other alumni of the program. His next dream is to take his business from subcontractor to general contractor and to hire more full- and part-time staff to manage the company's growth.

Clincy said receiving the award serves as motivation and encouragement "to continue to utilize the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses growth plan to guide his business' expansion and support the DFW community."

ACU Construction started with only three people, including Clincy, but it has grown into a company with six full-time employees and 10 to 15 subcontractors. The number of subcontracted employees fluctuates, and Clincy said he will have to hire more of them because he has 17 projects in the pipeline. He also will use his growth

plan to apply for loans and credit lines to acquire new equipment.

Alumni in the 10,000 Small Businesses program also volunteer their time in the community. For example, in the tornado-ravaged Garland/Rowlett area, 10KSB alumna Elizabeth Blandford (cohort 4), owner of Lizzie Bee's Flower Shoppe, volunteered to provide flowers for the funerals of those who had died in the storms.

Applicants to the 10,000 Small Businesses program must be owners or co-owners of a business that has operated for at least two years; have at least \$150,000 in revenue; and they must employ a minimum of four people.

Participants in the program learn financing, marketing, negotiating and leadership skills. In addition, some business owners can gain access to loans and

capital that may not be available to them through traditional channels. This free program is a partnership between Goldman Sachs and the DCCCD.

All classes take place at the Bill J. Priest Institute for Economic Development, an El Centro College campus. Participants attend an orientation followed by 11 classes. They also attend networking events and develop a growth plan for their companies. The deadline to apply for the next cohort is Feb. 9, and the program starts May 13. To apply, please visit the 10,000 Small Businesses page in the district's website.

For more information about the 10,000 Small Businesses program, please contact Sheryl Hardin by phone at 214-457-8597 or by email at sheryl.hardin@dccd.edu. To contact Harry Clincy of ACU Construction, please call him at 214-

282-8987 or email him at hclincy@acuconstruction.com.

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Giving back online for MLK Day

YouGiveGoods, the e-commerce giving website, celebrates Martin Luther King Day of Service as one of its "Giving Days." On January 18th, as a Giving Day and to honor King's legacy of service, YouGiveGoods plans to strengthen the traction of all drives and unite those raising for the site's causes by making a special contribution of 10% to its charity partners for all donations valued at \$50 or more.

YouGiveGoods.com is currently hosting several drives, benefitting a variety



of causes, and calling for various donations, ranging from pet supplies, toys, fresh food, school supplies, coats and more. Some of the Texas-based drives that are currently being hosted on YouGiveGoods.com include: the Make an Impact:

Face Off Against Kids Cancer Toy Drive, hosted by the San Antonio Rampage and benefitting The Children's Hospital of San Antonio Foundation; Souper Bowl of Caring Collection, hosted by Jack and Jill - The Woodlands Chapter and benefitting the Montgomery County Food Bank; Souper Bowl of Caring hosted by Booker T. Washington High School and benefitting the Houston Food Bank; and many more.

For more information and to donate, visit www.yougivegoods.com

AFROPOP, continued from Page 9

town's very renaissance.

A shorts program (February 15) celebrating youth and the hope they both possess and inspire—with films from the west and east coasts of Africa. Nosarieme Garrick's *My Africa Is*, set in the bustling, modern city of Nairobi, introduces viewers to dynamic youth envisioning a new Kenya—designers, inventors and musicians changing the face of their communities through

innovation and entrepreneurship. Terence Nance and Blitz the Ambassador's *Native Sun* helps viewers see Ghana through the eyes and dreams of an eight-year-old in search of his father.

AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange is produced by Angela Tucker and directed by Duana Butler. The series is produced with the generous support

of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and National Endowment for the Arts.

For details on AfroPoP, visit www.blackpublicmedia.org. APT distributes the series to the full public television system in February 2016. Viewers may find out when and where to watch, including additional air dates for each of the episodes, by checking local listings or online at www.APTonline.org.

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Belk to hire 100 associates in new Glade Parks location in Euless

CHARLOTTE, N.C., – Belk announced this week the company is hiring 100 sales and support associates for its new Euless, Texas store in Glade Parks opening this March. Belk is hosting a career fair throughout the month of January to meet potential candidates and give them the opportunity to apply on site.

The career fair will be held January 13 – 16, 19 – 23 and 26 – 30 at the

Courtyard by Marriot-Bedford located at 2201 Airport Freeway in Bedford, Texas. Attendees should dress in business professional attire and bring a resume with them.

“Glade Parks is an exciting place to be and we are proud to be opening here to serve Euless, Hurst, Bedford, Colleyville, Keller, Grapevine and surrounding communities,” said Marlene Norcross, vice president and regional

manager for the Texas region at Belk. “We are seeking hardworking candidates who have interest in building a career in the retail industry and growing with our company.”

This 95,000 square-foot store represents a \$10.8 million investment and will incorporate the newest in retail design, lighting, merchandise presentation and décor. Belk will offer top brands, including: Ralph Lauren, Vince Ca-

muto, Michael Kors, Kate Spade, Doony & Bourke, Calvin Klein, Lucky, Jessica Simpson, Marc Jacobs, Lancome, Estee Lauder, Clinique, Donna Karen, Dior and more.

Belk at Glade Parks will mark the company’s 16th store in Texas and its 9th store in Dallas-Fort Worth. For more information about Belk and the company’s job opportunities, visit www.belk.com/careers.

UNITY, continued from Page 3

watch groups is the beginning of change.

It is time to change these conditions and everyone must be engaged to make a difference. Black communities must become a hub for education, innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology. Partnerships and collaborations must be the goal in the Black community, and we need coalitions to change the reality in the Black community.

This year is a presidential election and the Black vote can help determine the outcome of many elections around the country. Black Women voting bloc was the largest segment of voters in 2012, and in 2015 they have already started to organize for the 2016 election. Black men must also be more engaged and make sure they vote in all the local, state and federal elections.

In order for the Black community to realize their political power, the different Black political organizations must collaborate across generational, ideological, and financial lines. Everyone knows that 85 percent to 90 percent of Blacks in 2016 will vote Democratic, therefore we must challenge the Democratic Party to spend more money with Black media groups and organizations.

All across the country, Blacks must practice group economics and group politics, and present a united Black front in 2016. There are millions of dollars available in the 2016 campaign from candidates and the Democratic Party. Black unity is

the key to political power in the New Year, and a Black Agenda will point our community to victory.

Roger Caldwell is the President/CEO of On Point Media Group, a marketing and public relations firm located in Orlando, Florida. He is a graduate of Howard Uni-

versity in political science.

As a stroke survivor, author, and community journalist, his passion is national and statewide politics. Follow him at rogerpoliticalblogs.wordpress.com or leave comments at jet38@bellsouth.net.



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January 17, 12 Noon
How do you study the Bible? Join us for Sunday afternoon Bible Study; Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Brenda Patterson and others will teach a series on "How to Study the Bible God's way." Learn how to know Christ and make Him known to others; to help you know and grow in God's word; to give you clarity and direction; to help you worship, honor and praise God; to help you know and use God's word to lead others to Christ; and to encourage fellowship and build unity within the church. You don't want to miss this Bible Study Group.

January 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 on the subject of Spiritual Warfare. Learn what God says about critical issues and topics through the study of His word. Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you. It's Time to Grow; Ephesians 4:12 & 13.

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www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

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January 17, 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.
You're invited to our Morning Services as we worship, honor and praise God for His blessings.

January 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 the Word of God. Our youth will come for Food and Fellowship 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"

January 17, 8 a.m.
Join us as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 West Belmont Drive in Allen; followed by our Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 and bring someone with you; you will be blessed.

January 20
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.

January 24, 7 p.m.
Calling all youth! Every 4th Sunday, we host Hype Sunday Worship at our Administration Building, 200 W. Belmont Drive in Allen, TX 75013. Don't be guilty of missing out on the wonderful and exciting way we worship God and thank Him for His blessings.

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
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January 17, 7:30 and/or 11:30 a.m.
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January 18, 7 p.m.
Join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
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www.Ibocchurch.org

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

January 17, 10 a.m.
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January 20, 7 p.m.
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972-633-5511
www.mocop.org

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January 17, 9:45 a.m.
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January 18, 9 p.m.
Join us for our Intercessory Prayer Ministry and our Monday's Conference calls.

R. W. Townsend, Senior Pastor
11611 Webb Chapel Road
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972-241-6151
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January 17
You're invited to join us for Early Morning Services at 7:30 a.m., followed by Sun-

day School at 9 a.m. and Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

January 20, 7 p.m.
Join us in Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us for our growth.

Dr. Tommy L. Brown Senior Pastor
9550 Shepherd Road
Dallas, Texas 75243
214-341-6459
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This Saturday, January 16, 8:30 a.m.
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be provided. There will be door prizes and giveaways. Call or Email the church for details.

January 17, 10 a.m.
Join us as we praise and worship God in our Morning Worship Services. You will be blessed.

January 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.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr. Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074

972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

January 16, 8 a.m.
Join us for our Prayer and Stewardship Summit for your spiritual growth.

January 17 7:45 and 10:45 a.m.
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Minister Thomas Bessix Senior Pastor
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Happy Birthday Dr. King!



Sister Tarpley

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It has been said that it is not when a man was born or when he died, that makes the difference in his life and his legacy; it is the dash or space between his birth and his death.

A son, brother, husband, father, uncle, a humanitarian, civil rights leader, author, teacher, preacher and a pastor – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was all of these and more.

Plainly put, Dr. King proudly changed the consciousness and character of America. With his urgent messages of non-violence and justice for all Americans, Dr. King reached more people than any other Black leader in history, at the time and even today.

Dr. King was a Baptist minister and social activist, who led the Civil Rights Movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968.

Among many efforts, Dr. King headed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC.) Through his activism, he played a

pivotal role in ending the legal segregation of Black citizens in the South and other areas of the nation, as well as the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

He became the youngest recipient of the world famous and coveted Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, among several other major honors.

Dr. King was assassinated in April 1968, and continues to be remembered as one of the most lauded Black leaders in history, often referenced by his 1963 famous speech, "I Have a Dream."

Without a doubt, "I Have a Dream" was Dr. King's most famous and beloved speech; it was delivered to more than 200,000 people at the "March on Washington" at the Lincoln Memorial.

In the summer of 1963, the nation was seething with racial tension and frequent riots were tearing apart communities. In the midst of this crisis, Dr. King conveyed his vision in a very powerful language that the world has not forgotten and probably never will forget.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King, Dr. King's wife, recalled, "At that moment it seemed as if the Kingdom of God appeared; but it only lasted for a moment."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. He was only 39 years old.

Some Timely Quotes of Dr. King: "A nation or civilization that continues to produce soft-minded men purchases its own spiritual death on an installment

plan."
"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

"We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good

people."
"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase."

"Let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness.

Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it.

If a man is called to be a street-sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and

earth will pause to say, here lived a great street-sweeper who did his job well.

Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge, to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation."

Something to Ponder: Four Things You Can't Take Back: 1) A rock, after it's thrown. 2) The word, after it's said. 3) The occasion, after the loss. 4) The time, after it's gone.



Six-year old Terrell M. Bennett, taking instructions from his dad, Terrell R., plays the drums in Morning Prayer and Worship at Bethel Bible Fellowship in Carrollton, Texas. His mother is Sis. Jeannette and his younger brother is Russell; they are, as well as all Bethel members, proud of this young prodigy.

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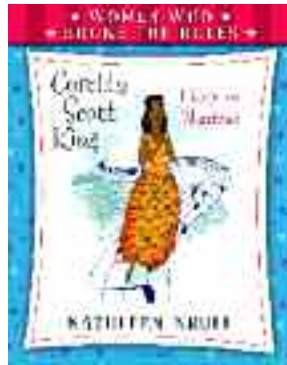
NDG Book Review: Women Who Broke the Rules: Coretta Scott King

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Leaders come from surprising places.

The quiet girl that sits the next row over may know how to inspire people. The know-it-all in your class could own a business in the future. The kid everybody picks on might become President. But in the new book “Women Who Broke the Rules: Coretta Scott King by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Laura Freeman, you’ll read about one woman who didn’t necessarily want to be a leader. She only wanted to sing.

Born in April 1927,



Coretta Scott grew up on her family’s farm and was “a bit sheltered” as a girl; still, she was very aware that some things were unfair, which always made her angry. Everybody in Marion, Alabama, knew Coretta was a fighter, that she had

“the guts to climb up and over the Rules,” and that she had a temper, but there was one thing that calmed her: music.

Because her mother was the church pianist, Coretta was encouraged to sing solos as a very small child. She was known to rush through chores so she could spend time with her music; in high school, she was the school’s most promising singer-musician. Later, she landed a scholarship at an Ohio college, where she studied music and education, “in case a career in singing didn’t work out.” From there, she attended the

New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

Six months after arriving in Boston, she was introduced to a man named Martin.

At first, Coretta didn’t think much of Martin Luther King, Jr. He wasn’t her type, and he was awfully outspoken. On the other hand, he spun dreams of a wonderful future. Their dates led her to a church, to a concert, dancing, and eventually to marriage.

But being the wife of Martin Luther King, Jr. wasn’t always a happy life. Coretta worried about Martin constantly, though she

was proud of him. Their work together on boycotts was making change, but there was always danger. She could do what she needed to do, though – as long as she had her music.

I have to say that I was pleasantly surprised by “Women Who Broke the Rules: Coretta Scott King.”

So many biographies of King begin with her marriage to Martin, but author Kathleen Krull starts much earlier, putting an emphasis on Coretta Scott King’s lifelong love of music and her desire to have a career, despite that woman generally didn’t do that sort of thing

then. That gives the story a tone of determination and quiet inspiration, a note that gets louder as the book progresses. I especially like that Krull writes at length of King as a child, which will resonate with young readers who likely won’t have any first-hand memories of this remarkable woman.

Don’t feel guilty for enjoying this book before you give it to your 9-to-12-year-old. It’s a quick and pleasant story you’ll both like; in fact, if she needs a biography to read this spring, you can put “Women Who Broke the Rules: Coretta Scott King” in the lead.

HARRIS, continued from Page 2

Women at the Top” and was named “Woman of the Year 2004” by the Harvard Black Men’s Forum and in 2011 by the Yale Black Men’s Forum.

Ms. Harris began her career with Morgan Stanley in the Mergers & Acquisitions department in 1987. Prior to joining Morgan Stanley, Carla received from Harvard Business School an MBA, Second Year Honors and an AB in economics from Harvard University, Magna Cum Laude.

She is the immediate past Chair of the Board of the Morgan Stanley Foundation

and sits on the boards of the Food Bank for NYC, The Executive Leadership Council, The Toigo Foundation, Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO), A Better Chance, Inc, Mt. Sinai and St. Vincent’s Hospitals, Xavier University, and is an active member of the St. Charles Gospelites of the St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church and the Mark Howell Singers. Ms. Harris is co-chair of the National Social Action Commission of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and was a member of the Board of Overseers’ Committee on University

Resources, Harvard University.

In her other life, Carla is a singer, and has released her third gospel CD “Unceasing Praise” (2011), her second CD, a gospel album titled, “Joy Is Waiting”, was featured on BET Nightly News while her first CD entitled, “Carla’s First Christmas,” was a bestseller on Amazon.com in New York and in record stores, and was featured on the CBS Evening News with Dan Rather in his “American Dream” segment. She is also the author of the newly released book, Strategize to Win and of Expect to Win (2009) (Hudson Press).

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Policy of Non-Discrimination The Missing Man (TMM), Incorporated

The Missing Man (TMM), Incorporated shall recruit and admit individuals of any race, color or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities. The Corporation shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin to the administration of the educational policies, sports programs, and other administered programs.

The Corporation shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the employment of its personnel.