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Could 'Big Data' reduce the prison population?

By Eric Easter
Urban News Service

Better use of technology and data could help solve the problem of mass incarceration. That's one conclusion that can be drawn from the work of Steven Matthews, a technology consultant who was Chief Information Officer for the Illinois Department of Corrections.

During his tenure, relatively simple changes in both technology and how data are collected resulted in both shorter sentences and significant taxpayer savings.

According to Matthews, which information is kept, tracked, shared, analyzed and acted upon, may prove a faster and more effective route to actual changes than the raft of proposed criminal-reform legislation.

"Lack of efficient tracking and outdated technology is at the root of a host of mistakes and errors that can result in prisoners being unserved, under-served, misplaced, misdiagnosed, undiagnosed and thrust into unnecessarily long sentences. Those things should be tracked and be factored into the length of the sentence, especially for non-violent, first-time offenders. The reduction in costs could be dramatic," said Matthews.



Overcrowded prisons and America's role as the nation with the highest incarceration rate in the world are heated topics of discussion in political circles. Big data might be a tool that can be used to alleviate this problem. (Photo: Urban News Service / Jocelyn Augustino)

In contrast, Offender 360, a new software and tracking system that Matthews and the Illinois system installed, has curbed the prison population by 10 percent over two years, according to the Illinois Bureau of Prisons.

The secret? Tracking a seemingly minor detail — which prisoners get awarded good conduct credits for GED education, something that never was recorded adequately. With tracking in place, 2,303 prisoners have received 314,634 new days-off credits since 2013.

Based on the estimated imprisonment cost of inmates who stayed, these early releases saved the state approximately \$11 million and returned people to their families and communities sooner. While these statistics appear dramatic, in release days, the program's broader impact is cumulative.

For the average inmate, the numbers are far less impressive. Actual release times may come a few days, or less often, a few weeks earlier. "

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NDGtv

North Dallas Gazette was on hand to capture the debate at the:

Dallas Examiner Monday Night Politics



Hear what all four candidates had to say who are vying for the Commissioner's seat in Dallas' largest district. It was a spirited exchange in what is turning into one of the hottest competitions in the upcoming ballot.

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Depression can be a real heartache

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Win tickets to see Mavis Staples

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COMMENTARY

Mockery of our Democracy

"Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education."

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

Pondering this very profound and sagaciously delivered statement, it can make one question; Why? Citizens, of a democracy, must be reminded of the importance of one's duty in utilizing one's voice to assist in the building and

sustaining of one's own nation? This inquisition almost becomes like a riddle which, seemingly, cannot be justifiably solved. Especially, when we recognize, in our present state, our country's handling of racism, sexism, rights to affordable health care, immigration and basic human rights, such as clean water for every human being who resides in, or is passing through our great country, the United States of

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Liz Mikel



Deanna Dewberry



Garth C. Reeves

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Liz Mikel

By Jo Ann Holt
NDG Special Contributor

Liz Mikel, who's long been one of the most luminous leading ladies on Dallas stages, is currently featured as The Nurse in Dallas Theater Center's "Romeo and Juliet." Shakespeare's tragic tale of doomed love has been given an exciting contemporary setting by Director Joel Ferrell. The dazzling production runs through Feb. 28 at the Kalita Humphreys Theater.

Mikel is a member of



DTC's Brierley Resident Acting Company, and some of her performances for DTC include "Medea," "School for Wives," "The Rocky Horror Show," "A Raisin in the Sun," "Joseph and the Amazing Techni-

color Dreamcoat," "Dividing the Estate," "A Christmas Carol," "Death of a Salesman," "The Who's Tommy," "Ain't Misbehavin'" and "Crowns."

She performed on Broadway and Off-Broadway in "Lysistrata Jones." Regional appearances include American Repertory Theater, The MUNY, The Cape Playhouse, A Contemporary Theater, and Arkansas Repertory Theater. Locally she has appeared onstage for Casa Manana Theatre, Dallas Children's Theater, Jubilee Theater, Theatre Three, and Watger Tower Theatre. TV/Film credits include "Get On Up," "Dal-

las," "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," Straight A's," "Past Life," "Friday Night Lights," "Sordid Lives: The Series" and "Welcome Home, Roscoe Jenkins."

Liz has received numerous awards including the Leon Rabin, DFW Theater Critics Forum, D Magazine, Dallas Observer, Dallas Voice, and multiple Column Awards. She is a 2015 Lunt Fontanne Fellow. Mikel graciously agreed to answer a few questions for this column.

Q: Is this the first time you've played the Nurse?

A: Yes, this is the first time I've had the opportunity to portray this role.

Q: What is your favorite Shakespeare play?

A: I have to say my favorite Shakespeare play is "A Midsummer Night's Dream." It has a special place in my heart. Titania is one of my favorite roles to date.

Q: Does the director's putting the action (for Romeo and Juliet) into contemporary times give it a fresh, more energetic feel?

A: Joel Ferrell's vision is always fresh and exciting for actors and the audience alike. He stays true to the story but highlights it with new energy and ideas that make the piece feel like a new play.

Q: How relevant is the tragedy of these young people, trapped in a cycle of hatred they can't overcome, to actual contemporary events?

A: This tragedy is very relevant. In this world that young people have inherited, they sometimes feel they have no other outlet than to express themselves through desperate measures. We see this happening with all the young, desperate folks aligning themselves with ISIS. It's sad that they don't feel they have any other outlet or that they choose this means to

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Deanna Dewberry

The Trinity Chapter of the Links, Inc. announced their 9th Annual "Diamonds and Sneakers Gala" is set for March 5 at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Anatole Hotel. The Gala Fundraiser benefits Trinity's signature mentoring So SMAART program. NBC5 Personality, Deanna Dewberry was selected as the MC for the benefit which promises to be an evening of dinner and dancing to the David Whiteman Band.

So SMAART, which stands for "Students Set on



Science, Math, the Arts, Aviation, Reading, and Technology", is an outreach program for girls that provides enrichment in six subjects. In the Chapter's Stellar program

So SMAART fosters achievable dreams for 4th-8th grade girls through education and exposure to Science and Engineering, Math, the Arts, Aviation, Reading and Technology. Since its inception in 2000, So SMAART has received numerous awards and accolades and has positively influenced the lives of 1000 girls in the Dallas Community.

Trinity has also influenced students through Scholarships for Excellence awards. Annually, 4-6 scholarships are awarded to deserving high school

graduates who will pursue higher education. Former scholarship recipients are now matriculating in universities and many are pursuing graduate programs and professional careers. Funds from The Gala Diamond and Sneakers Ball benefit these two important programs and Community projects.

For this year's event Ann Williams, founder of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre and Ann Gibson, CPA and former Accounting manager, will serve as chairs. Sharyn Holley is the President of Trinity

Chapter's 50 active members.

Dewberry, is NBC 5's investigative reporter in the #NBC5Responds team. As a seasoned journalist with more than two decades of experience, Dewberry worked as a news anchor and investigative reporter at WISH-TV in Indianapolis, Indiana for more than seven years. She also worked at stations in Dallas, Little Rock, Arkansas, and Lubbock.

She earned her degree in journalism from the University of Texas in Austin and is an 11 time Emmy

Award winner. Dewberry has also been honored by the Society of Professional Journalists, Associated Press, Indiana Broadcasters Association, National Association of Black Journalists, Texas Speech Communication Association and the American Cancer Society.

In 2009, Martin University awarded her an Honorary Doctorate for her contributions to the field of journalism. Dewberry is a three-time cancer survivor and is heavily involved in activities that enrich the

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Garth C. Reeves, Sr.

Newspaper publishing chief executive Garth C. Reeves, Sr. was born on February 12, 1919 in Nassau, Bahamas. His family moved to Miami, Florida four months after he was born. His father, Harry Ethelbert Sigismund Reeves, was a partner in The Magic Printing Company and founder of the Miami Times; his mother, a homemaker. His daughter, Rachel J. Reeves, became the publisher and chief executive officer of the Miami Times in 1994 following the untimely death of her brother, Garth C. Reeves, Jr.

After graduating from Booker T. Washington High School in Miami in 1936, Reeves enrolled in Florida A



& M University where he earned his B.A. degree in printing in 1940.

Reeves served in the U.S. Army during World War II in both the European and Pacific theaters. He then returned to Miami to work under his father, Harry Ethelbert Sigismund Reeves, who founded the Miami Times

newspaper in 1923. In 1970, Reeves was named publisher and chief executive officer of the Miami Times when his father passed. Reeves went on to become the first African American to serve on the governing boards of the Miami-Dade Community College, Barry University, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, and the United Way of Dade County.

He also served as organizing chairman of the board for National Industrial Bank, which was the first integrated bank in the State of Florida. During the 1950s, Reeves worked to integrate the local beaches, parks, and golf courses.

Reeves served for ten years as president of the Amalgamated Publishers of New York City, which repre-

sents over one hundred African American-owned newspapers throughout the United States. He was also elected to serve two terms as president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Reeves was a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and a founding member of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Miami, Florida. He was awarded Honorary Doctorate Degrees from the University of Miami, Barry University and Florida Memorial University.

Garth C. Reeves, Sr. was interviewed by The History-Makers on June 5, 2013.

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Payday lenders flex their muscle on Capitol Hill

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA News Wire Columnist

For years deceptive and predatory lenders have bilked millions of trusting consumers from their hard-earned monies, while consumer advocates have fought back for fair and transparent lending. On February 11, another contentious round of exchanges on debt-trap lending occurred on Capitol Hill. Unlike previous forums, however, this one came with an open bias.

A subcommittee of House Financial Services, held a hearing named, “Short-term, Small Dollar Lending: the CFPB’s [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau] Assault on Access to Credit and Trampling of State and Tribal Sovereignty.”

With a title like that, the presumption of objectivity

took a holiday. Committee members and most panelists criticized the consumer protection agency for proposing rules to rein in abusive practices in the payday loan market.

“I find it offensive that you would say that people aren’t smart enough to make decisions for themselves,” said Rep. Mia Love of Utah, believed to be the first Black representative in Congress from the state.

Subcommittee colleagues who spoke after Rep. Love ironically asked questions that suggested they did not understand how the payday loan industry works. For example, many talked about meeting the needs of the ‘unbanked’ when payday lenders do not make loans to these consumers. A payday lender is assured that a borrower will repay monies loaned due to their direct access to borrowers’ bank

accounts. By being first in line to be repaid, little is left to pay for food, rent, utilities and other household living expenses.

Rep. Keith Ellison of Minnesota, one of a few voices for fair lending rules later remarked, “If the Financial Services Committee and this Congress want to help the unbanked, let’s have that conversation. But providing misleading cover for predatory lenders will not help the unbanked. It will hurt those fighting to stay in the financial mainstream.”

More defense of the payday industry came from Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller and Dennis Shaul, chief executive officer of the Community Financial Services Association of America. Both defended the industry and their so-called ‘best practices’ that have turned a

blind eye to lenders’ triple-digit interest rates that inevitably trap financially vulnerable borrowers into long-term debt.

“CFSA member companies are licensed and regulated, and they adhere to a code of Best Practices,” said Shaul.

If all of these claims were true, there would have been no need for the Department of Justice to indict and arrest a payday lender just one day before the hearing.

Scott Tucker, operator of one of the nation’s largest internet payday loan enterprises and Timothy Muir, his lawyer, were charged and arrested on February 10 with violations of both the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) and Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act, more commonly known as RICO. The

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America.

Still in pondering the above statement, and adding to it, these profound words, which are, not only, overflowing with wisdom and hope, but they also are a never ending challenge to us as a people, of the African American community, to stand up and always utilize our voice to have a say in our lives.

“Give us the ballot, and we will no longer have to worry the federal government about our basic rights.

Give us the ballot, and we will no longer plead to the federal government for passage of an anti-lynching law; we will by the power of our vote write the law on the statute books of the South and bring an end to the dastardly acts of the hooded perpetrators of violence.

Give us the ballot, and we will transform the salient misdeeds of bloodthirsty mobs into the calculated good deeds of orderly citizens.

Give us the ballot, and we will fill our legislative halls

with men of goodwill and send to the sacred halls of Congress men who manifest justice.

Give us the ballot, and we will place judges on the benches of the South who will do justly and love mercy, and we will place at the head of the southern states governors who will, who have felt not only the tang of the human, but the glow of the Divine.

Give us the ballot.”

—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Give us the ballot and we will resolve issues, we will not sit on the sideline as second class citizens allowing others to speak for us. We will stand up as a people for equality and justice.

Have we truly lived up to our promise as a people? Are our eyes still focused on the promises we’ve made to those whose blood filled, and still fills, our streets? Are we bold enough to take a look into the mirror and understand it’s now up to us to have our say in our history?

We have the Ballot! We need to live up to our prom-

ise as a people because we still must elect just judges, district attorneys, county officials, city officials who will stand for our people and our rights to equality and fairness.

We are not a people who use our political platforms to degrade our brothers and sisters. We are better than stooping to the likes of Donald Trump and Ted Cruz in acting like bullies, or name calling (playing the dozens). We are a people of pride whose fore parents had to suffer, fight and die just so that we can have the right to vote and hold political offices. We will not shame ourselves in the manner of this modern-day political campaigning that reduces us to childlike behavior, whether we are in the arena, or on the sidelines adding mischief.

Again, in pondering Roosevelt’s statement, we must educate ourselves to the choices of candidates who are trying to earn our vote. Educating ourselves is the only way our democracy will work, and work in a just manner. Electing officials to crucial positions because

they are the biggest bully, or they got off the best one-liner is preposterous and is a mockery to our democracy. This is not Scandal, or Empire, or some dramatic series awaiting the next media-made, hyped up hysteria. This is our lives, our children’s lives and it’s our turn to stand firm on our watch.

Educating ourselves would be to study our candidates, their records of voting, their ability and strength to be a leader in standing up for our people (and not their own agendas), their ideals of change, and mostly how they plan to implement change. If said candidates aren’t able to fulfill the very basics of our needs and requirements as a community, then they have no right to our vote. The last move we should choose to make is backwards.

When we do not stand with our Ballot, we conform to second class citizenry. When we do not take the time to educate ourselves, we do risk “our safeguard of democracy”. When we don’t choose wisely, we risk making a mockery of our democracy.

Is depression breaking your heart?

By Traci Patterson

Depression could be breaking your heart. Two of the most common chronic illnesses suffered by both men and women are heart disease and depression.

Research estimates that more than 25 million people in the United States live with heart disease and more than 31 million Americans have had at least one episode of major depression during their lives. Surprisingly, most people do not realize that these conditions are closely linked. In observance of American Heart Month, Mental Health America of Greater Houston joins the fight for healthy hearts and also healthy minds.

“Depression not only affects your brain, it affects your entire body—including your heart,” says wellness advocates, Mental Health America of Greater Houston.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health:

Over the past two decades has shown that people with heart disease are more likely to suffer from depression than people without heart disease.

People with depression are at greater risk of developing heart disease.

People with heart disease who are depressed have an increased risk of death after



NaturalKnowledge247.com

a heart attack compared to those who are not depressed.

About one in three people who have survived a heart attack will have at least one episode of major depression.

Some studies show that people with heart disease are more likely to suffer from depression than otherwise healthy people. While researchers are unsure exactly why this occurs, they do know that heart attacks are closely linked with depression and that some symptoms of depression may reduce your overall physical and mental health, increasing your risk for heart disease or making symptoms of heart disease worse. Fatigue or feelings of worthlessness may cause a person to ignore their medication plan and avoid treatment for heart disease. Having depression increases a person’s risk of death after a heart attack.

Symptoms of depression can include:

- Ongoing sad, anxious,

or empty feelings

- Feeling hopeless
- Feeling guilty, worthless, or helpless
- Feeling irritable or restless

– Difficulty concentrating, remembering details, or making decisions

– Thoughts of death and suicide or suicide attempts

Symptoms of heart disease can include:

- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath, nausea and extreme fatigue
- Pain, numbness, weakness or coldness in your legs or arms if the blood vessels in those parts of your body are narrowed
- Pain in the neck, jaw, throat, upper abdomen or back

While each person experiences symptoms of depression and heart disease differently, Mental Health America of Greater Houston, suggests that depression is a brain disorder that is treatable along with treatment for other co-occurring illnesses like heart disease.

As advocates for overall patient health, the organization suggests that patients consider and request an integrated healthcare plan to treat depression that co-occurs with heart disease. This coordinated care is managed by a mental health professional such as a psychiatrist, psychologist, or clinical social worker,

who is in close communication with the physician and team providing the heart disease care. Integrated healthcare has been shown as an effective course of treatment to improve both illnesses.

Mental Health America of Greater Houston encourages, no matter how advanced the heart disease,

no one has to suffer from depression; however, it’s important to remember that recovery from depression takes time.

Don’t let depression break your heart. If you or someone you know is living with heart disease and possibly depression, talk to a primary care or mental health professional.



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Seven foods to help keep a youthful glow

You are what you eat. We have all heard this saying before, but have you ever really thought about how simple this concept is? At the foundation of a youthful body is good nutrition and sleep for that matter! Eating the right food will help you feel, look, and even perform at your best. Certain foods are great for your skin and hair, while others are vital for your mobility and

strength.

There is a vast array of nutrients, vitamins and minerals out there beneficial for your body. Choosing fresh produce in different colors and textures is key. Of course we will all have our cheat days (I know I will), but by making a simple change to fruits, vegetables and lean proteins you can

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- ◆ Fight for us, for our hope and our dreams.

Arbor Day Jubilee, recycling, H2O XPO set for April 9

Three events on Saturday, April 9 will provide Sachse residents with a way to help clean-up litter in various parts of the City, rid themselves of unwanted trash and recyclables, and learn how they can get a handle on their water use, Lance Whitworth, Parks and Recreation Director shared.

“We’ve packed the day full of ways that Sachse residents can benefit,” he said. “Volunteers will be cleaning up specific areas of the city, others can bring their recycling or unwanted materials for disposal, and everyone can become smarter water consumers.”

From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., residents can drive over to the City Hall complex and drop off their trash, debris, brush, ewaste, hazardous household waste and documents for shredding. Trucks and collection bins from Republic Services, formerly Allied Waste, will be arranged along the driveway surrounding the



Photo: City of Sachse

complex to accept the material. The free service is reserved for Sachse residents only.

At 9 a.m., a number of Sachse volunteers will participate in the “Arbor Day Jubilee: Team Up and Cleanup” event by combing areas of the city to pick up trash and litter, including the various creek beds and waterways within the city limits.

Then, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the volunteers will converge at City Hall to drop off their collected

waste and enjoy a free lunch at the amphitheater.

A group photo will be taken at 11:30 a.m. Bounce houses and live entertainment by the Daughter Judy Band will accompany their lunch.

April 9 is recognized as Arbor Day in Sachse and trees will be planted on various City Hall complex sites. And, starting at 11 a.m. and continuing until 2 p.m., the city’s inaugural Sachse Water Expo, dubbed the H2O XPO, will take place at the amphithe-

ater. Demonstrations, exhibits and conversations with experts in water use, water conservation, drought-tolerant plants, waste water, and sprinkler systems will highlight the expo. Free hot dogs and drinks will be provided, courtesy of Atmos Energy.

As an added incentive, Sachse water customers who visit the City’s water booth and register on the Water My Yard web site will get a one-time credit of \$10 on their water bill. The site, www.watermyyard.com gives visitors the most accurate information on when and how much to water yards based on local conditions.

The City of Sachse has invested in its own weather station to provide Sachse customers exact and up-to-the-minute information on rain, temperature and wind conditions. This information is then used in deter-

mining when and how much to water lawns.

“Using the information on Water My Yard gives customers the information they need to make decisions regarding their watering pattern,” said Whitworth. “Lawns and landscaping do not always need constant watering. Turning off the automatic timer and operating the sprinkler system manually saves water and saves money.”

Customers using the information on Water My Yard can avoid the unexpected spikes in water usage and the accompanying increase in water costs.

Also part of the Water Expo is a presentation by Howard Garrett, The Dirt Doctor, author and radio personality.

The Sachse amphitheater is on the City Hall complex grounds, 3815 Sachse Road.

Garland Court Offers Second Chance at Warrant Recall Day

The Garland Municipal Court will host a Warrant Recall Day from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday, March 4. On Warrant Recall Day, anyone with active Garland warrants will have a chance to enter a plea before a judge, make arrangements to pay any balance on outstanding tickets and have their warrants recalled.

Those who wish to take advantage of Warrant Recall Day should come to the Garland Municipal Court, 1791 W. Avenue B, with a valid ID and be prepared to pay their unpaid fines. Find more information at GarlandTx.gov.

DEWBERRY,

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lives of cancer survivors and promote research. She is also a member of Jack and Jill of America and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She and her husband Gary are native Texans. The couple has three children and two furry family

members a Bichon Frisé and a Golden Retriever.

“I love what I do for a living and believe in the service provided a community by strong investigative reporting. Having the opportunity to work with an extraordinary team of jour-

nalists at NBC 5 and do what I love in my native Texas is an absolute joy. It’s good to be home,” said Dewberry.

Sponsorship opportunities for the Diamonds and Sneakers Gala are still available, as are tickets for \$100 each. For more info visit www.trinitylinksinc.org.

FOODS,

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make a huge impact on your life! Incorporating these everyday foods into your diet can combat the aging process and rejuvenate your body from the inside and out.

The Safe Catch has compiled a list of seven foods to help keep your body youthful. Their mission is to provide pure seafood and protect purity in the oceans, lakes and rivers.

Avocados are packed full of nutrients that help stimulate younger looking skin,

and a healthy heart.

Inside the passion fruit you will find an overflow of vitamin A and C, which are wonderful for anti-aging and our immune system.

Papayas contain papain, which is a protein digesting enzyme that aids in digestive disorders and inflammation.

Spinach - Inside this green machine are vitamins and minerals that are great for aging skin, brain, and heart health.

Tuna fish is full of rich

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AudioFile provides a unique look at Black History for readers

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

Sometimes you can teach a reader a new trick or two.

After spending a lifetime reading, I discovered audiobooks about 15 years ago and along the way the fabulous magazine devoted solely to audiobooks – *AudioFile Magazine*. Over the years they have continued to emphasize diversity and



"28 Days" has been segmented into individual podcasts giving listeners new insight to interesting anecdotes on African American history. (Image provided by AudioFile)

spotlighted the dynamic progress of the industry. This month they are offer-

ing a unique look at Black History with a serialized podcast featuring Charles

R. Smith Jr.'s *28 DAYS: Moments in Black History that Changed the World*.

One of my favorite spotlights so far is Day 3 – Robert Smalls. Although relatively unknown today, Smalls went from slave, to ship's captain, and Civil War hero, before serving Congress. The best part about *AudioFile's* special feature is once they whet your interest – they provide you with recommended titles to explore. For Day 3

their recommendations included Nikki Giovanni's "LINCOLN AND DOUGLASS: AN AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP" read by actor, Danny Glover.

Even though Black History month is nearing an end. Make a commitment to think beyond and bookmark this fabulous series featured by *AudioFile Magazine* to discover new titles to add to your TBR list this year!

Registration open for BuzzFree PROMises Dress & Tux Giveaway

Prom season is right around the corner. Registration is underway for the 15th Annual BuzzFree

PROMises Dress & Tux Giveaway to be held on Saturday, March 5 at the Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Col-

legiate Academy from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pre-registration for this free event is required. All registrants must complete a 300-500 word essay on why they choose to be drug free. Limited availability so it is first come, first served.

The 15th annual BuzzFree PROMises Dress & Tuxedo Giveaway provides dresses and tuxedos/suits free of charge to high school students who pledge to stay drug and al-

cohol free on prom night and beyond.

The program reinforces healthy behavior while allowing the students the opportunity to have a memorable and safe prom experience that otherwise would not be possible.

On March 5, registered students who have signed a pledge to be alcohol and other drug free on prom night will attend workshops designed to promote healthy behavior, enjoy a fashion show and will

choose a free prom dress or tuxedo/suit for their special night.

For more information on this event, and how you

can help, please visit facebook.com/buzzfreeprom. To register, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/BuzzFree2016.



Naval Academy accepting applications regarding summer seminar

ANNAPOLIS, Md. - Applications are now being accepted through March 31 for the Naval Academy's Summer Seminar. Students have the opportunity to choose from three different sessions: June 4-9, June 11-16, and June 18-23.

The Naval Academy Summer Seminar is a fast-paced, six-day experience for high achievers who have completed their junior year in high school. Summer Seminar teaches students about life at the Naval Academy, where academics, athletics, and professional training play equally

important roles in developing our nation's leaders.

Summer Seminar accepts 2,550 students (850 for each of the three sessions) each year.

Tuition for Summer Seminar is \$450 and covers room and board, as well as a variety of materials. Students should plan on bringing extra cash for snacks and souvenirs.

For more information about the Summer Seminar and the application process, visit www.usna.edu/Admissions/NASS/ or call (410) 293-1858.

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Remembering Black Dallas is a non-profit organization that preserves and promotes the African-American life, history, artifacts and culture of Dallas and its surrounding cities.

You are invited to our upcoming Black History Events

February 24th Open forum on African-American culture and race issues, First United Methodist Downtown, 1928 Ross Ave, call (469)399-6264 to reserve your seat(s) admission is free starts at 6:20, George Battles, moderator

February 27th Historical bus tour of Black Dallas; Departs for the African-American Museum, 3536 Al Lipscomb Way at 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. Tickets \$20 adults/ \$15 for children for tickets purchase and information call or visit website www.Rbdallas.com

April 2nd RBDallas' 1st Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet/fundraiser at the ThornTree Country Club, at 1:00 / 825 W. Wintergreen Rd., Desoto, Texas 75115. Tickets are \$50 per person. Time 1:00

Plano invites their residents to Go Ape

Residents of Plano and the Dallas/Ft. Worth area will have the chance to swing from the trees this spring thanks to a new partnership between Plano Parks and Recreation and Go Ape, the nation's premier treetop adventure course company.

Go Ape Treetop Adventure courses inject fun and exhilaration into everyday life by giving guests the unique opportunity to experience the outdoors in a new and adventurous way. The course will be a two to three hour trek through the forest canopy using rope ladders, Tarzan swings, five zip lines, and more than 40 other challenging and fun obstacles situated more than 40 feet in the air. All Go Ape courses are designed to allow for a wide variety of skill levels, offering a balanced mixture of challenge and fun.

"We're thrilled to have this partnership be our first in Texas," says Go Ape Managing Director Dan



D'Agostino. "This will be a unique outdoor experience for residents and visitors alike. It's ideal for friends and family outings, corporate team building, and anyone who enjoys a challenge. We hope to get all Texans up in the trees."

This is the company's thirteenth course in the United States, which began construction in December 2015. With a 100 percent capital investment from Go Ape to build the Treetop Adventure course at Oak Point Park & Nature Preserve, Plano Parks

and Recreation will share in the revenue derived from all ticket sales. Go Ape estimates that approximately 70 percent of its guests are new park visitors, and that park partners generally see an increase in visitors by as much as 25 percent.

"This partnership represents the exciting new ways that we're working to grow the local and regional attendance at our parks," said Amy Fortenberry, Director, Plano Parks and Recreation. "The adventure course will give residents and visitors an

opportunity to get outside and enjoy one of our beautiful parks, experiencing views from an otherwise unobtainable vantage point."

Go Ape Treetop Courses offer a first-hand forest ecosystem experience, while also providing exercise, team building and personal confidence building skills. Participants gain access to forest canopies in a low-impact way, allowing them to experience and gain an appreciation for the forest's richly diverse ecosystem.

Additionally, Go Ape Treetop Adventure courses support the park and local communities in which they are based by taking part in park cleanups, non-native invasive plant removal, and by donating free and discounted tickets to underserved and special needs groups. Last year, Go Ape donated more than \$620,000 in free and reduced-price tickets to local community groups.



Jazz fans can win tickets to Will Downing at TBAAL

NDG readers can win tickets to enjoy jazz by Will Downing by visiting our Facebook page on Saturday March 12 when he appears on TBAAL's Naomi Bruton Main Stage at 8 p.m. Young fans have an opportunity to attend Jazz Appreciation Educational Youth Workshop at Noon in the Clarence Muse Cafe Theatre.

Fans of hot jazz can get

their tickets and prepare for a fantastic Dallas night on the town.

The prices are \$25-\$30 and are available at TBAAL's box office. The evening is hosted by TBAAL Board of Directors and Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Tickets and information are available at TBAAL.org.

LOANS, continued from Page 3

criminal indictment alleges that the two ran a \$2 billion payday business in violation of state laws that capped interest rates on loans. The loan rates offered by Tucker and Muir were as high as 700 percent and affected over 4.5 million consumers from at least 1997 to 2013.

Additionally, because the payday lending monies are held in bank accounts owned by the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, a Native American tribe, the tribal corporation agreed to forfeit \$48 million. The non-prosecution agreement between the tribe and DOJ also acknowledges that a tribal representative filed false factual declarations in multiple state court actions.

If convicted on the charges of conspiring to collect unlawful debts in violation of RICO, the two defendants would face a maximum term of 20 years in prison. Both would also

forfeit the proceeds and property derived from the alleged crimes including bank accounts, homes, an airplane and automobiles.

Just as consumers rely upon other federal agencies to protect the public from harmful products like pharmaceuticals, tainted food, or water, the nation's financial health can and should be a national concern. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act created CFPB to do just that.

The lone hearing panel member to speak in support of consumers and against payday lenders was Dallas' Rev. Dr. Freddie Haynes III.

In a Dallas community, where 20 payday and auto-title loan stores were located within a five-mile radius of his and other local churches, Dr. Haynes shared how his congregation at Friendship-West Baptist Church now holds a federal credit union charter. The credit union offers

"Liberty Loans," up to \$500 in value on six month terms and at an annual interest rate of 28 percent. After several years' experience making these micro-loans, not a single borrower has defaulted on this lending alternative.

Commenting on Dr. Hayes' community-based efforts, Rachel Anderson, CRL's Director of Faith Affairs said, "Many churches do step in with affordable loans and other kinds of support to struggling households but these are a complement to, not a substitute for, just regulation of this industry," said Anderson.

"We don't want Jesus to say in the Judgment, 'I was hungry and thirsty, and you gave me a payday loan,'" noted Rev. Haynes.

Somebody ought to say 'amen.'

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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Voters with a disability may apply with the county voter registrar for a permanent exemption to showing photo ID at the polls. The application must contain written documentation from either the U.S. Social Security Administration (indicating he or she has been determined to have a disability), or from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (indicating a disability rating of at least 50 percent).

Volunteerism in the African-American Community

By: Charlene Hunter James

It's been said that volunteers are seldom paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.

At least 63 million Americans volunteered their time in 2014, according to The Corporation for National and Community Service. Of those heroes, nearly 1 in 5 were African-Americans of all ages.

Volunteerism in the African-American community is a high priority to Naomi Andrews of Houston. Now 76 and retired, she has been volunteering her entire adult life, sometimes juggling her volunteer commitments with the challenges of law school, raising children and holding a



Students and volunteers worked together during a recent campus beautification project at Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School. photo source: photo source: DISD

job.

"It's very important that we reach out and help somebody else and bring somebody up," said Andrews. "I was always exposed to professional people. People need to know that someone cares enough to give of their time to make their lives better."

Andrews remains eager to serve. She volunteered with Women in Action, The

Houston Symphony, her alma mater Texas Southern University, the Youth Freedom Institute, among other organizations. She says her parents taught her to give back, and she instilled that same spirit in her four children who are now grown.

The Andrews family is not alone in its quest to make its communities better. Getting involved in civic matters is also a prior-

ity for 16-year-old Jakobi Robinson. He not only volunteers with young students at his mother's elementary school, but he also volunteers with AARP.

"My mother taught me that our society is only as strong as its weakest link," Robinson said. "I want to help strengthen that link by being a good role model and letting young students at her school know anything

in life is possible."

Managing academics, athletics and volunteerism can be a challenge, but this Strake Jesuit Sophomore from Houston said it's all worth it in the end.

"Working alongside seniors at AARP has also been a blessing," he said. "The knowledge and years of experience I have access to is priceless. These individuals have 'been there' and 'done that' and I work with them, that's awesome."

Andrews and Robinson join the ranks of other African-American volunteers

who serve their communities. They often volunteer while also meeting the challenges of balancing their career and family lives. But their services make a difference. And while it's not financially rewarding, volunteering brings other rewards for volunteers and the communities in which they serve.

AARP is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that offers many volunteer opportunities for people of all ages. Learn how you can get involved at www.aarp.org/volunteer or by calling 1-888-687-2277.

Arlington woman is given the key to the city in Corpus Christi on Feb. 19

Black History was celebrated in Corpus Christi on Friday, Feb. 19. The 40th Black History Scholarship Banquet was hosted by the Black History Cultural Committee (BHCC), was held at the Holiday Inn Airport. The master of ceremony was Rev Bryant Gray, and Dr. Linda Amerson from Arlington was the keynote speaker for the affair.

The beautiful program included Presenting of the Colors by Foy H Moody High School Color Guards, entertainment from children mimes, praise dancing, as well as the songbird Seraphia Lott leading the

'Negro National Anthem' (Lift Every Voice and Sing) and Summertime.

The 2015-16 Scholarship recipients included DeQuajia Caveness who is majoring in nursing, and Armani Brooks who is majoring in communications.

An appointee from Mayor Nelda Martinez's office presented a Proclamation to the BHCC, and furthermore, presented the keynote Speaker Dr. Linda Amerson the 'Key To The City' for her outstanding work with alopecia, helping kids with alopecia and hosting her philanthropy 'Cruise With a Purpose' to present her educational

scholarship(s).

After James Amerson of Houston, comically entertained guests introducing the speakers, the historical journey of the Theme: 'Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories' was enthusiastically shared with 175 attendees by the keynote speaker Dr. Linda Amerson, a native of Corpus Christi, but now resides in Arlington. Family members and friends were present to support Dr. Amerson.

Dr. Amerson had her exclusive products available for purchase, and provided each attendee a leather

keychain reflecting her brand. Then she announced an educational scholarship opportunity for 2016 for kids ages 10-18 affected with alopecia.

Submissions are currently being accepted for 2016-17 scholarships. For additional information, contact the President Robert Russell, Jr 361-779-4478.

Local African American heroes recognized at special program

Southwest Center Mall, traditionally a gathering spot of the Southern Dallas County community, is experiencing a resurgence under the leadership of new owner Peter Brodsky and with the support of the City of Dallas and Mayor Mike Rawlings.

The event, moderated by Wilson, recognized the contributions of Dr. E.K. Bailey,

Judge Louis Bedford, Dr. Emmett Conrad, Juanita Craft, Yvonne Ewell, Mildred Newton Finch and Fred Finch. James, whose group works to reinvigorate opportunities in southern Dallas, also will speak about how African-Americans are a foundational pillar of United States history, expanding beyond the borders of Black

History Month.

In addition to the program, the event features local dignitaries.

Special guests attendees included Deputy Mayor Pro tem Erik Wilson State Senator Royce West and CitySquare CEO Larry James along with African-American and Hispanic community leaders

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NDG Readers can win tickets to hear legendary Mavis Staples

There are some songs that you just know them and you are ready to groove from the first note. I'll Take You There by the Staple Singers is one of those songs that has touched the souls across the last 50 years. Mavis Staples soulful lead on the song is a big reason why. NDG Readers have an opportunity to win tickets to her performance in Dallas at the Kessler Theater. She is set to perform on March 4-5.



Mavis Staples is an alchemist of American music, and has continuously crossed genre lines like no musician since Ray Charles.

Weaving herself into the very fabric of gospel, soul, folk, pop, R&B, blues, rock, and even hip hop over the better part of the last 60

years, the iconic singer has seen and sung through so many changes, always rising up to meet every road unwaveringly.

Along the way, she has learned from, worked with, and schooled countless legends from all arenas, and has brought her own timeless talent to each and every performance. Who else can claim to have answered the call time and time again, to become a leading voice of not just a generation, but of multiple eras and in myriad manifestations? Who else was there to sell a million gospel records, walk beside Dr. Martin Luther King, to help lead the '70s soul-power movement, to sing under the spotlight during The Last Waltz, to serve as

muse to both Bob Dylan and Prince at the peak of their careers, and to win over 21st-century fans with a trio of deeply spiritual solo albums produced by Ry Cooder (2007's We'll Never Turn Back) and by Wilco's Jeff Tweedy (2010's Grammy winning You Are Not Alone and 2013's critically acclaimed and Grammy-nominated One True Vine)?

With the release of her new album *Livin' On A High Note*, she continues to gain momentum. Referencing and drawing from her past while taking the music

to fresh places, Mavis and her team recruited a unique dozen of today's heralded and up-and-coming artists to write songs for the record. The names gathered here impress and excite: Neko Case, Justin Vernon, Nick Cave, Ben Harper, Tune-Yards, Aloe Blacc, Benjamin Booker, The Head and the Heart, M. Ward—with Ward also tapped to produce the album in full.

To enter for a chance to win tickets visit NDG's Facebook page for more details. To purchase tickets to the show visit <http://thekessler.org>.

MIKEL, continued from Page 2

express their outrage.

Q: How long have you been a Brierley Resident, and can you please talk about how you were chosen for this prestigious acting company position.

A: I have been a proud member of the Brierley Resident Acting Company since 2008. Kevin (Morarity, artistic director of Dallas Theater Center) extended the offer after I auditioned. The audition included both a contemporary and classical monologue and a song. I'm extremely honored to be included alongside some of Dallas' premiere talent. Each member is unique and dedicated to elevating the theatrical experience of our community. It's a blessing that I don't take lightly.

Q: Please also tell a little about your experience in taking "Lysistrata Jones" all the way to Broadway.

A: Now that whole experience still feels like a dream! I had no idea when we started the new musical here in Dallas, "Give It Up!," that it would land on Broadway. Douglas Carter Beane, Lewis Flinn, and Dan Knechtges believed enough in me that they in-

cluded me when the play transferred off-Broadway. It ended up being a hit for the producers, Transport Group. We performed in a gym at Judson Memorial, and after the successful opening, it started selling out.

I never will forget Doug telling me as I was waiting offstage one night, "It's happening, Liz...I've been here before. We're going to Broadway! The audience is filled with who's who in New York theatre!" The

closing day, I was heading home to do "The Wiz" here at DTC. Doug, Lewis and Dan met with us after the show and made the announcement. Broadway was happening indeed. I almost passed out! I literally got lightheaded!

Q: What's next for Liz Mikel, any exciting ventures in the works?

A: I am gearing up to FINALLY record a fully produced CD and will be having fundraising performances around the city to make that happen this year. I will also be joining

forces with two of Dallas' favorite Divas. I will be performing with Sheran Keyton's theater company, DVA, this Spring in "From the Mississippi

Delta."

And in May, I will be doing a cabaret show for Denise Lee's Cabaret Series at the Women's Museum at Fair Park. But you

can ALWAYS catch me Mondays at The Balcony Club where I host my Entertainer's Showcase featuring some of the city's most exciting new talent.



Kerry Warren Liz Mikel Chris Hury in DTC's Romeo and Juliet (Photo by Karen Almond)

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Spring break at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science stretches to two weeks

Extending to two weeks this year, Spring Break at the Perot Museum will come chock-full of fun and exciting science March 5-20. From daily activities and "science on the spot" demos including pinwheels, egg dyeing, cloud making, marshmallows, rainbows, Slinkys and more, to Discovery Camps, a sleepover, 3D films and a fossil-themed Discovery Days, the Perot Museum will be springing forward with exploration around every corner. Plus from March 5-19, the Museum will stay open until 7 p.m. giving guests extra hours to squeeze it all in.

"With five floors, 11 exhibit halls, a fabulous 3D theater and ongoing activities and adventures throughout, the Perot Museum is like a one-stop-shop for all you Spring Break visitors," said Colleen Walker, Eugene McDermott Chief Executive Officer of the Perot Museum. "Dinosaur devotees, bird watchers, crafty kids, sports lovers, film buffs, robot fans and curious minds of all ages will



Joe Mabel / Wikimedia

find something intriguing and inspiring. And no matter which week you're on break, we have you covered!"

Beginning March 5, daily programming will include bookworm readings, science crafts, science trivia, live "science on the spot" demos and other spring-themed drop-in activities at select times through March 20. (See end of release for a detailed schedule.) On Saturday, March 12, Discovery Days: Fossils will feature a variety of paleontology-themed activities, from giant 3D dinosaur puzzles to fossil artwork and a fossil scavenger hunt, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

And a new revelation will have fossil enthusiasts intrigued. As it turns out, a 90-million-year-old fossil fish that has been on display in the T. Boone Pickens Life Then and Now Hall is in fact a new species from North Texas.

The large tuna-like fish has been named *Pentanogmus fritschi* in honor of Joseph Fritsch, a local amateur collector who discovered the fossil, dug it up with the help of another avid fossil collector, Kris Howe, and donated it to the Perot Museum. It's just another exciting example of live science happening right here in North Texas.

Patti LaBelle visits Black History exhibit at Disney

Legendary singer, actress and author Patti LaBelle experiences the unique cultural exhibit at Epcot in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., "Re-Discovering America: Family Treasures from the Kinsey Collection," which celebrates African-American history and culture.

LaBelle is one of four

renowned African-American authors and cultural icons appearing each Saturday during the month of February honoring Black History Month at The American Adventure pavilion at Epcot.

Epcot is one of four theme parks at Walt Disney World Resort.

Known for not only her

singing, but also her cooking with her popular cookbooks and now famous sweet potato pies. LaBelle signed copies of her books for fans.

But for even a legend like LaBelle no visit would be complete without a photo with the resident diva of Disney – Minnie Mouse!



LaBelle visits Kinsey Collection during recent appearance at Disney (Image: Disney)

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What does it take to be a successful entrepreneur?

By Armstrong Williams
NNPA News Wire Columnist

Time is one of those magical dimensions of the human experience. At certain instances it seems like there is not enough of it. And at others, it seems like the moment lasts forever. The intellectual and emotional experience in the passage of time is one of those unique aspects about being human that sets us as a species apart from the rest of the animal kingdom. Since we are blessed with that perception we should engage it and contemplate ways in which to make time an ally in



our quest for personal and societal growth.

One of the interesting things for me, looking back over the past decade or so, is how quickly our business has grown. And yet, as I look back, it seems that a lot has remained the same. I still get up at the same time almost

every morning. I rise well before the sun, usually starting off my day at around 4:30 in the morning with a prayer and call to my folks in South Carolina. I then arrive at the gym just before five a.m., and work out for about an hour before arriving at my office at precisely 7 o'clock. The end

of my day is similarly bounded. It is exceedingly rare that I get in bed any later than 9 p.m.

And so as I look back on my work life, it is apparent that while our business has expanded and we have been able to manage an increasingly complex organization, we aren't necessarily spending more time doing it. Time has gone from being our enemy in the early stages of running a company, to being our friend today. Why is that?

In some respects, it comes down to how we conceive of ourselves in the marketplace. If you consider yourself an

employee, you are looking at time as a finite resource. You expect to arrive at work on time, to leave on time, and be paid on time. You essentially are tying your income to a fixed, linear relationship with time. But entrepreneurs view

time much, much differently. For one thing, the entrepreneur's perception of time is not linear, it is pivotal. For example, as an entrepreneur I am willing to spend a lot of

See SUCCESS, Page 13

PRISON, continued from Page 1

For a person confined, a release even of just a few days [sooner] matters," Matthews said.

Still, prison experts stress that early releases gained this way address only one small part of the need for broad reform.

While state taxpayers may benefit in raw numbers from such technological innovations, barriers to success for the newly-released — scarce job opportunities, lack of education, few effective transition programs — remain high.

According to Matthews, most state prison systems collect these data, but rarely use them, and often lack the resources — or political will — to analyze them. Matthews cites problems throughout many states that have not updated technology or tracking systems in years.

"There are drug addicted people... and hardcore drug dealers in the same programs, often because they are all classified simply as 'drug offenders'," Matthews said. A. Scott Bolden, a prominent Washington D.C. defense attorney and former New York prosecutor, echoed these sentiments.

"There simply is no incentive on the part of the prison industry to ensure accuracy of data, and more important, the accuracy of

the data is only as good as the people who put it in and analyze it," Bolden said.

"As both a prosecutor and a defense attorney," said Bolden, "I've often found that it is the inmates who can calculate their time better than the judges, the prosecutors or the prison system. It can get pretty complicated, and it's the inmate who has the vested interest in that. But aside from them, there is no one out there advocating for the cor-

rect use of tracking or data on their behalf."

While much of the focus on justice reform has been on prisons and prisoners, Matthews also sees this technology and tracking as tools to be used well before people enter the system.

"When a judge sentences someone to three years, for example, neither that judge nor anyone else knows if there are beds available, or occupancy levels, or what services will be available during the time served,"

said Matthews.

"So someone may be sent to prison for one period and be in need of services, but those services may not be available until most of that sentence is served. So how does that really help?

"The bottom line is that thousands of people are staying in prisons much longer than they should and not getting the services they need because of a lack of transparency and accountability."

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Black Nurses Rock represents over 150,000 professionals worldwide

ENID, OK - What started with a dream and the goal of creating a community for black nurses from across the nation in 2014, has quickly become a powerful reality. Black Nurses Rock, Inc. is an international black nurse organization now representing more than 150,000 black nurses and students from the United States, Canada, Eastern Caribbean, Africa, Japan and Germany.

Black Nurses Rock was founded in 2014 by Dr. Romeatrius Moss to foster a positive environment for professional growth and development. The non-profit organization provides support and mentorship to nurses in an effort to elevate the profession and improve communities.

"In the two years since I launched Black Nurses Rock, it has become a powerful forum for black nurses," said Dr. Moss, the organization's Founder and CEO. "It is a place for everyone to share their stories, insights and opinions. As the trusted voice



for black nurses, we not only facilitate communication, but act as a catalyst of change, giving a voice to vital issues pertinent to the profession and the community. In our first year, we had more than 100,000 members. In year two, our membership has exploded, and we now represent more than 150,000, with the largest online social media following for black nurses."

Dr. Romeatrius Moss is an award-winning health professional, speaker, community advocate and active duty Air Force Nurse. During her 20-year career, she has created hundreds of health-focused programs and projects, using her abilities to encourage

other health care professionals to develop their skills and knowledge to combat the gap in health care disparities. She's been working with non-profits since age 15.

"We aim to inspire and empower innovative leaders that will serve and educate vulnerable communities here in America, and throughout the world," said Dr. Moss.

More than just a forum for members to engage, blacknursesrock.com offers a wide array of professional and educational tools. The site includes a portal for members to find over 21 member benefits; access to leading telemedicine software; a

See NURSES, Page 13

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NURSES, continued from Page 12

database of nursing scholarships, grants and loans; a quarterly online magazine; a series of webinars and support groups; a literary book club; and information about

upcoming conferences and organization cruises.

Members will be convening for the first time this October at the First Annual Black Nurses Rock Confer-

ence. Held at the Chattanooga Hotel, in Chattanooga, TN, from October 20-22, the theme of "Empower, Embrace, Engage" will be highlighted as speakers provide powerful presentations on health disparities

and share best practices. Celebrity Guest Crystal Aikin, a famed Gospel singer and winner of BET's Sunday Best, will be the keynote speaker.

For more information, visit www.blacknursesrock.com.

SUCCESS, continued from Page 11

my time not directly earning income. I spend it building relationships with key allies and future business associates. I give time to worthy causes and public issues that I support. And yet I see these activities as worthy investments of time because of the potentially outsized payoffs in the future. Two hours on the tennis court or having dinner with a key ally could potentially lead to opportunities to make millions in the future.

This is admittedly a difficult concept for many people with the employee mindset to grasp, let alone put into practice. The reason for that is that the entrepreneurial mindset exposes us to uncertainty. There is no guideline or formula or time-table that dictates when an idea or a relationship will bear fruit. That can be frightening to some people. But my entrepreneurial mindset is guided by a deep faith and belief in the laws of creation. I know for a fact that if you sow, you shall reap. I believe that in life there are definite seasons, and that the pattern is inexorable. The spring precedes the summer, which precedes the fall and the winter. In the spring one plants, and in the fall one harvests. In the winter, one relies for sustenance upon the storehouse of goods harvested in the fall that grew from the seeds planted in the spring.

It is somewhat counterintuitive to tell someone with an employee mindset to save some of their seeds and use them to plant a new crop. They are accustomed to having their needs taken care of by their employer. But we are experiencing a new economy in this country where jobs no longer offer either the degree of certainty of the financial rewards they once did. No longer can one rely on working the same job for one's whole career. People need to become more entrepreneurial

these days to survive. But what they don't often realize is that doing so requires using mental and psychological tools that may be unfamiliar to them.

One of the major tools, to which we have already alluded, is the relationship with time. But another psychological skill is managing customers and clients. In a situation in which one is an employee, one essentially has only one customer or client. And the relationship with that customer is not generally subject to change – for better or for worse. But when you are an entrepreneur and the world is potentially your customer, you have to pay extra close attention to the creation and exchange of value.

Getting paid as an entrepreneur requires an extreme degree of concentration and emotional strength. You are not getting an automatic payment sent to your account on regular intervals. No, an entrepreneur often has to confront his client to make sure the payment is received. Doing this effectively requires both boldness and tact. It is not for the faint of heart.

But the trade off is that if you are successful in managing this client-oriented relationship, you are in the driver's seat in terms of how much you can earn from your time and effort. This is why entrepreneurs are willing to sacrifice the certainty and security of working for someone for the uncertain and potentially infinitely rewarding job of charting their own course.

Armstrong Williams is the manager/sole owner of Howard Stirk Holdings I & II Broadcast Television Stations and Executive Editor of American CurrentSee online Magazine. Watch our Right Side Forum every Saturday Live Newschannel 8 TV 28 in DC, 10:30 am – 11:00 am and repeats 6:30 pm EST. Follow Armstrong Williams on Twitter @arightside.



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February 28, 9:45 a.m.
You're invited to our Sunday Morning "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship Service at 10 a.m. for our Black History Program See what God is doing through and with us; you will be blessed.

February 28, 12 Noon
How do you impact others? Join us Sunday at noon in Bible Study; Senior Pastor Woodson and Pastor Brenda Patterson will teach a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 1 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; to give others clarity and direction.

March 2, 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 1 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

February 28, 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.

March 2
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"

February 28, 8 a.m.
Join us in our Fifth Sunday Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 West Belmont Drive in Allen; followed by our Fifth Sunday Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 and bring someone with you, it is Friends and Family Day; you will be blessed.

February 28, 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.

March 2, 9 a.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.

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
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972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

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

February 28, 7:30 and/or 11:30 a.m.
You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's

Holy name.
February 29, 7 p.m. Leap Year Night!
Join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

March 4, 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.

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

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

February 28, 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.

March 2, 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

New Location February 28, 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.

February 29, 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
February 28
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.

March 2, 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
www.nmzb.org

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)

February 27, 9 a.m.
You're invited to join the Women of Shiloh for their Annual Prayer Breakfast; our guest speaker is Minister Louise Moorehead. Call the church for details.

February 28, 10 a.m.
Join us as we praise and worship God in our Morning Worship Services. You will be blessed.

March 2, 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.

Our church ministries offers opportunities for motivation and growth.

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

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, LEWISVILLE
February 28 A Taste of Soul 7:45 and 10:45 a.m.
You're invited to join us for Sunday Morning Worship and for a taste of Soul immediately following our 10:45 a.m. service, as we praise and worship God for His many blessings. Attire is cameo and jeans.

March 2, 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
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Black history continues...



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It has been said that Black History is a persist strength in our society.

I totally agree; it makes society aware of the great contributions made by Black Americans in our country and world.

Some distinguished Black Americans: Richard Allen, organizer and the first Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME).

James Armistead an American spy; he was born a slave and was a valuable intelligence agent during the Revolution by gathering information concerning British forces at Portsmouth, VA.

George Bonga a Black American trader of considerable wealth, served as interpreter at the signing of the Chippewa Treaty of 1837.

Ambrose Caliver was a senior specialist in the education of African Americans in the U.S. Office of Education from 1930 to 1946.

He initiated and directed the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) and Works Progress Administration (WPA), the U.S. emergency education programs under the New Deal;

And, he created and directed "Freedom's People" a series of nationwide radio broadcasts on the participation of Blacks in American life.

George Carruthers, a Physicist, one of the two naval research laboratory persons responsible for the Apollo 16 lunar surface camera/spectrograph which was placed on the lunar surface in 1972.

Elmer Simms Campbell, a master cartoonist of sophisticated humor for Esquire and Playboy magazines. His art also appeared in hundreds of newspapers and magazines as a syndicated feature.

Albert Cassell, an Architect, he worked on the construction of five buildings at Tuskegee Institute; as a draftsman, he was responsible for designing an industrial plan for the manufacture of silk.

John Rock, an attorney, was the first Black to practice before the U. S. Supreme Court in 1865. Captain B. Collins

patented the portable electric light in 1938.

Prince Hall petitioned the city of Boston to establish schools for Black chil-

dren equal in quality to those for white students in 1787.

Black Inventions: Walter S. McAfee is the first

Black mathematician and physicist who first calculated the speed of the moon in 1946; the calculation allowed a team to send a radar pulse through a special 40-foot square antenna towards the moon.

Two and a half seconds later, they received a faint signal, proving that transmissions from earth could cross the vast distances of outer space.

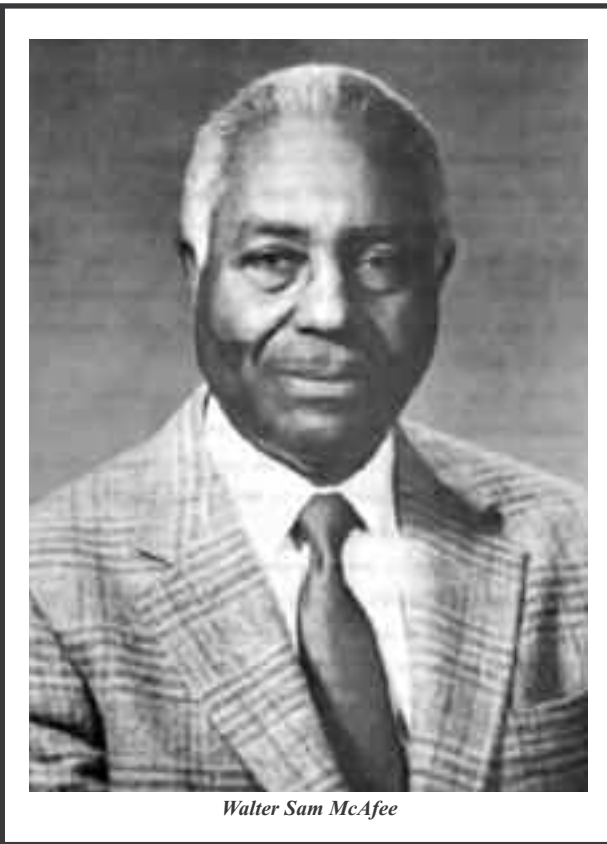
Frederick McKinley Jones, born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1893 and orphaned at the age of nine, is best remembered for devising a

method to refrigerate trucks carrying perishable food, an idea expanded to include air coolers for ships, planes, and trains.

As a result of this method called pre-fabricated refrigerated construction, meat, fruit, vegetable, and butter could be transported long distances.

Peter Hill, born a slave was a highly skilled clock maker; only the most skilled craftspeople could create one. Two of the clocks Hill made still exist.

See TARPLEY, Page 16



Walter Sam McAfee

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Wednesday Night Live
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Allen, TX 75013
7:00 pm.

Lady Lake Staff

NDG Book Review: *The Opposite of Everyone* can't be beat

By Terri Schlichenmeyer



You've always marched to the beat of a different drummer.

When your friends wanted to do one thing, you were the lone voice of dissent. You rocked your own fashion, hair color, and make-up, never kowtowing to the crowd or following anyone else. But as in the new book "The Opposite of Everyone" by Joshilyn Jackson, you were never really alone.

Every month, Paula Vauss sent money to one of a series of P.O. Boxes. Every month, the check was cashed, so she knew her

mother was alive, although Paula hadn't seen Kai in years.

That wasn't on purpose; Kai never stayed in one place for long, and she told Paula more than once that she didn't need visitors. So when the last check was returned, uncashed, Paula fig-

ured it was just another of her unconventional mother's quirks.

For the first ten years of Paula's life, it had mostly been just the two of them. They'd moved a lot then, to a series of houses, often with a series of boyfriends, none of whom lasted more than a year. What was constant, though, were Kai's bedtime stories of Kali the goddess, Ganesh, and Hanuman. They were heroes to Paula then. She remembered every tale, word-for-word.

But when the adolescent Paula did something that still hurt to think about and Kai went to jail, everything

changed between them. Kai wasn't like her old self, and she never looked at Paula again. Paula wanted a normal life, which she realized she wouldn't get from her mother. She escaped from Kai's house as soon as she could.

Now she was everything her mother wasn't, complete with a law degree, a great job, a fancy condo, and an alcoholic private-eye ex-lover-slash-coworker.

And then she saw the note.

Though Kai had written on the back of the check that she had cancer and her time was short, the story, she said, wasn't done. It

ended with Paula, she wrote, which made no sense - except that Paula knew her mother, and Kai held a few more surprises....

One of them, in a way, was this book.

I initially thought that "The Opposite of Everyone" was a mystery. It had all the elements: a hard-driven, sass-talking lawyer; a hard-drinking PI; and a hard-living past for one of the characters who had secrets.

Ah, but no, author Joshilyn Jackson didn't make a whodunit here. We know exactly who dun it, why, and how it resonated throughout the years, which

is the roundabout basis for a multi-level of story-threads and character flaws. On that note, Jackson's heroine isn't always heroic, but she's smart enough to be reflective and self-aware without navel-gazing, a propensity which directly allows Jackson to give this book a shimmering ending that's as perfect as its middle.

Your book group has been looking for a book exactly like this: something that's realistic and spunky with a light dab of nasty and a plot-strand that'll keep you tied fast to the story. For that, "The Opposite of Everyone" can't be beat.

TARPLEY, continued from Page 15

One is in the Westtown School in Westtown, Pennsylvania. The other is in the National Museum of

History and Technology at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Andrew Jackson Beard

lost his leg by crushing it between two railroad cars, while linking them together. Beard then created a device to hook cars together automatically; it be-

came the model for a national standardized linking mechanism.

Paul Boli in 1955 invented the first heart pacemaker. However, Otis

Boykin created an electrical mechanism as a regulating unit for it. Raised in Dallas, Texas, Boykin device uses electrical impulses to maintain a steady

heart beat.

The true meaning of Black History Month is honor and respect for another person and his/her contribution to society.

Vote for Hillary in the Democratic Primary on Tuesday, March 1. Polls are open from 7:00am to 7:00pm

"She can govern and she can start here, day one, more experienced than any non-vice president has ever been who aspires to this office."

President Barack Obama
Politico
January 25, 2016

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