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Debate rages over the future of television

By Josh Peterson
Urban News Service



Alfred Liggins, chairman of TV One and president and CEO of Radio One and Bob Johnson, the founder of Black Entertainment Television

It's a spirited debate: Would minorities benefit if online video could stream through their set-top TV boxes?

Bob Johnson, the founder of Black Entertainment Television, says yes. A range of minority advocacy groups say no. Both Mr. Johnson and people on the other side of the debate have commercial interests that align with their views.

At issue is a proposal by Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler to allow cable television subscribers to access their preferred online content alongside their cable content through the set-top box, which they now typically rent monthly from their cable providers.

If the proposal passes, you could go online or into a store like Best Buy and pay a single price for a single device that would offer access to your favorite cable programs — as well as a host of streaming channels (although you'd still have to pay for programming in many cases).

For cable providers like Comcast, the move could mean a possible loss of nearly \$20 billion per year in rental fees to an industry already reeling from the trend of customers

abandoning cable in favor of streaming devices such as Apple TV and Chromecast.

For cable customers, however, it could mean a big annual savings on set-top box rental fees, as well the ability to search and compare programming choices across more than 500 cable and streaming channels.

The proposal is strikingly similar to the debate over telephones more than 40 years ago, when consumers could rent phones only from Ma Bell — the old American Telephone and Telegraph monopoly. Proponents see freeing the set-top box as

opening the door to the same kind of innovation that created cell-phones.

Wheeler's office states that a typical consumer's set-top box rental fees amount to \$231 annually, having risen 185 percent since 1994, while the cost of mobile phones has dropped by 90 percent.

Johnson, who recently launched the Urban Movie Channel, an online streaming company for diverse and African-American audiences, sees the proposal as a win — not just for

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COMMENTARY

Cop killings bear strange fruit for the families of black victims

By Jeffrey L. Boney
NNPA Wire Columnist

I'm about to be extremely facetious!

We're Black, right? We all like a "hook-up" on something every now and then, don't we?

Well, it seems as if Black people have found a way to instantaneously enhance their lives, and all it takes is the sacrifice of one of our loved ones in order for us to come up.

Wanna hear more about this exciting new phenomenon that's sweeping the na-

tion? Glad you said YES!

I want to introduce every Black family in America to an innovative new way to lucratively bless your family for years to come — it's called "The New Black Benefit Package."

That's right y'all. Forget about school. Forget about college. Forget about athletics. Forget about entertainment. Forget about learning a trade. Forget about life insurance.

Forget about investing. Why the hell should we

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Judge Phyllis Lister Brown



Vernon Jordan



James Hayes

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Judge Phyllis Lister Brown

J.L. Turner Legal Association (JLTLA) President, Emmanuel U. Obi, announced the passing of longtime member and supporter, District Court Judge Phyllis Lister Brown. Judge Lister Brown was 54 years old.

Judge Lister Brown received her bachelor's degree in science from North Texas State University, now the University of North Texas, and earned her law degree from Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Before becoming a judge, Judge Lister Brown served for



over 12 years as an assistant city attorney for the City of Dallas, and practiced law at the Zale Corporation; the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; the Law Firm of Brown, Robinson &

West, LLP; and Lorenzo Brown & Associates before founding the Lister Law Firm.

The Dallas City Council appointed Judge Lister Brown to be a municipal court judge for the City of Dallas in 1993. During her tenure on the bench, Judge Lister Brown was one of the inaugural judges with the City of Dallas' Community Courts and the New Life Opportunity Initiative, both designed to rehabilitate and revitalize Dallas communities. Judge Lister Brown was a pillar in the Dallas legal community and was sought out by other judges for her case management

skills.

Prior to her election as a judge on the 162nd Civil District Court in 2012, Judge Lister Brown was, and remains, a highly respected attorney in Dallas with years of civil litigation and trial experience. She zealously represented large and small businesses, governmental entities, and individuals in a variety of matters, including commercial litigation, banking, personal injury and family law.

Upon learning of Judge Brown's death, J.L. Turner President Obi remarked as follows:

"Judge Brown was the epitome of what a judge

should aim to be. She presided with analytical rigor and demanded analytical stamina from those practicing before her. She was practical, wise, gracious and courageous. She was universally admired beyond the bench as well. In her service as chair of the J.L. Turner Gala Committee she worked hard to purposefully prime the legal pipeline. In the process, she enabled the JLTLA Foundation to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars, which helped countless brilliant Dallas students to attend law schools around the nation. Her life showed us, at our best, what we have the capacity to achieve, es-

pecially in service to others. Those who knew her and were blessed to serve with her know the depth of the loss we suffered today."

President Obi is hopeful that the flags outside the Dallas Civil District Courthouse can be flown at half-mast as a tribute to Judge Lister Brown — a true legal legend.

The Homegoing Services for the Honorable Phyllis Lister Brown were held on May 27 from 6–8 p.m. with a wake following the next day at 11 a.m.

Both services were held at Concord Church, 6808 Pastor Bailey Drive, Dallas, Texas.

Vernon Jordan

By Marc Morial
President and CEO of the
National Urban League

"Don't just give us money, and don't just show up for the Equal Opportunity Day dinner. That is not enough when you look at Black consumer power in this country. It's not enough for you to come and shake our hands and be our friends. We want in." — Vernon Jordan, National Urban League President 1971-1981, on his message to corporate executives

The National Urban



League recently released our annual report on the social and economic status of people of color, the State of Black America. This year's edition, "Locked Out: Education, Jobs & Justice," was

especially significant because it marked the 40th anniversary of the report, first issued in 1976 by Vernon Jordan.

In a video message Jordan recorded for the State of Black America® release, he recalled the tears he wept the night Barack Obama was elected President

"It dawned on me that my tears were not really my tears, but they were the tears of my grandparents and my parents. They were the tears of all those black people who toted that cotton and lifted that bale," said Jordan. "The notion that Obama was going to be President, or that

any black person was going to be President, is stunning."

While we reflect this year on how far we've come since Jordan first issued the

State of Black America®, Jordan's own life is a vivid illustration of the progression of civil rights throughout the latter half of the 20th Century and into the 21st.

"He is kind of the Rosa Parks of Wall Street," Harvard historian Henry Louis Gates, Jr., told Bloomberg. "He realized that the first phase of the modern civil rights movement was fighting legal segregation, but the roots of racism were fundamentally economic."

According to the Bloomberg profile, published on the occasion of his 80th birthday last year:

"As a young man in Jim Crow Georgia, his first job was chauffeuring a White banker who was shocked that he could read. Now he counts some of America's most wealthy and powerful citizens as friends and CEOs of Fortune 500 companies are proud to call him a mentor."

Jordan himself often recounts what he calls his earliest political memory, listening to Georgia's segregationist Governor Eugene Talmadge on the radio in

1943, when Mr. Jordan was only eight years old. "I have two planks in my platform," Talmadge said. "N****rs and roads. I'm against the first and for the second."

Persuaded by a recruiter to apply to an integrated college in the north, Vernon enrolled at DePaw University in Indiana over his parents' misgivings.

"Here were Negro parents, both of whom had grandparents who were slaves, who to some extent were conditioned to the southern way of life," Jordan told author Robert Penn

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James Hayes

By Joann Holt
NDG Special Contributor

The Dallas Summer Musical's production of Ragtime on stage now features two local boys as young Coalhouse Walker. James Hayes, a bubbly 7-year-old 1st-grader at St. Phillips School, stole the show from the talented cast when he ran on stage at the opening night performance. He alternates the role with 5-year-old Anthony Taylor, a Pre-K student at St. Phillip's School.

We were fortunate to get the following information and comments from the two youngest cast members.

James Hayes has played the drums since he was 3.



He plays for St. Luke Children's Choir, Salem Institutional Baptist Church children's choir, and his school's Chapel Service.

James says, "My favorite musical is 'Lion King'. I loved all the bright colors. I love all kinds of music but I really like to play along with Jazz and Christian

music. My favorite musicians are Michael Jackson and Cold Play. Besides playing drums onstage, I have been in Christmas plays at my church and school. I also performed playing my drums at the Black History Program. I am very excited about being in 'Ragtime.'"

Anthony Taylor has loved participating in his school's theater program since he was four. He was a member of the ensemble for his school's "Destiny Musical" in 2016 and "Christmas Musical 2015-2016. He is interested in dancing singing, painting drawing, watching plays, visiting museums, running and soccer.

Anthony says, "I have not seen a Dallas Summer Musicals production yet. However, I saw my first musical

for my 3rd birthday. I was on a Disney cruise and saw shows nightly for seven days. I have also visited local children's theaters, attended school plays at my dad's school, and for my 5th birthday, saw 'Peter Pan 360'."

Anthony's favorite music is Jazz because he likes the sound of all the instruments. Favorite artist is Bruno Mars and Uptown Funk.

No doubt Anthony will get his wish to make people smile and laugh during the national touring production of "Ragtime." But most of us in the opening night audience also shed tears at the needless tragedy that befell so many of those 20th Century dreamers. "Ragtime" is a classic masterpiece with a message that is still as relevant as today's headlines.

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Stopping the violence in black communities starts at home

By George L. Cook III

Every Memorial Day Weekend we all read or watch the stories on Facebook or other media about the number of people shot over the weekend in Chicago. Every year I hope that it's an old story from the previous year, which of

course it is not. So far this Memorial day weekend at the time of this posting 49 people have been shot and 4 killed in Chicago.

There will be the usual cries that Rahm Emanuel is not doing enough and that the current police superintendent, Eddie Johnson is not doing enough. Those

statements will be followed by the usual calls for better schools and tougher gun laws. Some will blame institutional racism or white supremacy, but no white supremacist shot anyone in Chicago this weekend.

That's all well in good and is most likely those things are true, but that

doesn't negate the fact that we the black community must take some of the blame here too.

This is not about agreeing with Bill O'Reilly, Sean Hannity, and those of their ilk. This is about saving our young people dying on the streets including innocent

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pursue any of that stuff, when all we have to do is send our Black men, women, boys and girls out here to get killed by members of law enforcement?

I mean, with the rate at which cities across America are breaking the bank to pay off Black families after the death of their unarmed loved ones, it seems as if these cities have seemingly come to the conclusion that this is the best way for Black families to become financially free and then remain quiet about the lack of law enforcement accountability in this country.

Let's just look at examples, some as recent as last year.

I know you remember Freddie Gray, right? He was the 25-year old Black man who was murdered in police custody after suffering a severe spinal injury. Well, in September of last year, the city of Baltimore settled a lawsuit with his family for \$6.4 million. I know what you're saying. There were six officers who were indicted for Gray's death, right? Well guess what? Gray is still dead and the city of Baltimore never acknowledged the Baltimore police were wrong.

Just last month, the family of Tamir Rice, who was 12-years old when cops rolled up on him in 2014 and shot him to death in less than 2 seconds for having a toy gun, settled their lawsuit out of court with the city of Cleveland for \$6 million. Guess what? This Black family got a huge settlement and the officer who shot Rice got away with murder. No accountability whatsoever.

What about Eric Garner, the 43-year-old Black man who was choked to death on camera by an officer in July 2014? In July of 2015, New

York City settled a lawsuit with Garner's family to the tune of \$5.9 million and as usual, the officer who killed him got away with murder.

Then you have 50-year-old Walter Scott, who was shot down from the back in cold-blood by a police officer in South Carolina. Starting to see a pattern? The city of North Charleston agreed to settle a lawsuit with Scott's family for \$6.5 million in October 2015. Although the officer, Michael Slager has been charged and was terminated, the city refused to acknowledge that the officer or the police department did anything wrong.

Shall I keep going?

What about Oscar Grant III, the 22-year old Black man and father, who was fatally shot in the back by a police officer at the Fruitvale station in Oakland in 2009 on New Year's Day?

The officer worked for Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and they agreed to settle a lawsuit brought by the family by giving \$1.3 million to his mother and \$1.5 million to his daughter. The officer resigned a week after the incident and was charged with murder but was only convicted of the lesser charge of involuntary manslaughter. The officer only served about a year of a two-year term and BART made no admission of wrongdoing.

Again, of course I'm being facetious when I suggest that Black families should make a decision as ignorant and selfish as choosing to sacrifice a loved one in order to become rich and get paid. However, as I look at what is happening all across the U.S., it seems as if Black families are being forced to accept cash settlements as a substitute for real accountability and payouts as

an alternative to true justice.

After the fatal shooting on video and controversy surrounding Laquan McDonald, the 17-year old Black man who was fatally shot 16 times by a Chicago police officer, it took Chicago City Council members only five seconds to vote to approve a \$5 million settlement with the family. Until that video was forced to be released, there were no arrests and no accountability. The only thing we witnessed was another settlement with another family. Another satisfied Black Benefit Package recipient, right? Wrong.

These law enforcement officials that commit these irresponsible and fatal crimes currently have nothing to worry about and all of them continue to get their pensions and in many cases keep their jobs as if nothing ever happened. It almost seems as if these cities believe that the actions of these officers in their respective police departments are acceptable and justified.

It would be great to see these cities implement a policy that requires every member of law enforcement to have some form of Medical Malpractice Insurance or Wrongful Death Insurance, whereby premiums are paid by those officers. It should be a mandatory requirement, so that if they refuse to pay the premiums, they should not be allowed to work until they get insured. Another thing these cities should do, as it relates to incidents like this, is rather than having the city and its taxpayers shoulder the burden for police misconduct, they should have their job performance tied to their pension or the pension of all officers. By doing this, an officer would probably think twice and differently about their overall actions, because

of the potential consequences that would come as a result of there being more internal accountability from their peers and superiors.

You already know it would make a huge difference in the way policing is handled, in that none of these rogue officers will be a fan-favorite of their peers, especially because they would not want to have their money and hard-earned savings impacted by the irresponsible and rogue actions of one of their own.

Don't get me wrong. I'm pleased to know many of these Black families are getting some sort of financial retribution and financial justice for the untimely and tragic loss of their loved ones. However, I'm almost 100% certain that these families would rather have their loved ones here with them now.

It's beyond time that we put an end to this new nationwide trend of killing Black people, having their families file a lawsuit and then paying off these Black families after their loved ones were killed by an irresponsible and rogue officer. We can't allow this trend to continue and gain traction, as if having the lost life of a family member conveniently replaced by a mere vote from city council members and the distribution of a cashier's check in the name of the deceased. We want our Black men and women to live out their lives to the fullest. We don't want this “New Black Benefit Package” to become the new norm in the Black community.

Jeffrey L. Boney serves as Associate Editor and is an award-winning journalist for the Houston Forward Times newspaper. If you would like to request Jeffrey as a speaker, you can reach him at jboney1@forwardtimes.com.

Road to recovery from food addiction

By Beth K.

Since adolescence, I was either on a diet or cheating on one. I thought about food constantly. I could lose some weight but I couldn't reach or maintain a healthy weight. I had no idea that I was a food addict. I thought I just hadn't found the right diet yet. I was discouraged and hopeless.

I was never satisfied with the food I ate. If I was sticking to a diet, I felt deprived. If I was cheating, I felt guilty. I craved candy and baked goods from the moment I woke up. I would even binge on "healthy" or



Those fighting a food addiction struggle to change their relationship with food. (Photo: Honey Tee / Flickr)

"low calorie" foods. I basically grazed all day; my meals had no beginning or end.

One day, a co-worker shared that she had been maintaining a 150-pound weight loss for 14 years by

working a 12-step program called Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA). Though I was intrigued, it took me four years to get up the courage to talk to her about it. When I finally did, she took me to my first FA

meeting and helped me get a sponsor. That was seven and a half years ago.

When I joined FA, I had 35 pounds to lose. I began to eat three weighed and measured meals daily consisting of regular foods in the quantities my sponsor suggested. I didn't have to buy any prepackaged food or pay fees. The weight melted away.

FA changed my life. I now weigh 140 pounds at 5'8", and I don't think about food all day. My meals satisfy me and I eat nothing between them. I abstain from flour and sugar, attend FA meetings, and do

what I can to help other food addicts. FA helped me realize that I needed more than a diet to stop eating addictively. I need a spiritual program of recovery.

FA has also helped me cope with health challenges that cause daily chronic pain. There were days when searing pain threatened to leave me hopeless and isolated. My sponsor, other FA members, and regular FA meetings carried me through these difficult times. Helping other food addicts gave me a purpose even when I was confined to my bed for many weeks.

I have learned to accept that I must also weigh and measure my activity level so I can conserve my energy and take care of myself and my family. I am so grateful to FA for giving me the life I have today and freeing me from my obsession with food.

For more information about FA, please visit www.foodaddicts.org.

Beth K. is a pseudonym. The author wishes to remain anonymous. Anonymity is not about shame, but rather about protected FA and keeping meetings safe for those in recovery.

Minority blood donors needed for June 21 drive at Remington College

Remington College Dallas Campus invites the community to give blood at the upcoming 3 Lives Blood Drive on the campus on Tuesday, June 21 from 8:45 a.m.- 2 p.m. Remington College's blood partner for the event is Carter Blood Care.

Remington College founded the 3 Lives program to be a national effort to recruit minority blood donors and help provide local hospitals with blood. Minority donors - particu-



Banc de Sang i Teixits / Flickr

larly African American donors - are in high demand because they provide blood with unique antigens that

are vital for patients with sickle cell disease and other blood disorders.

Nationally, Remington

College has collected more than 13,000 pints of blood through the 3 Lives program. And since 1 pint of blood can save 3 lives, that is enough blood to save more than 39,000 lives.

While the focus of 3

Lives is to highlight the need for minority blood donors, everyone is encouraged to give blood at the event. Donors must be 17 years of age or older and 110 pounds. All the blood collected will go to local

hospitals and medical centers to help people in the community.

Remington College-Dallas Campus is located at 1800 Eastgate Drive in Garland. For more on the 3 Lives program, visit www.3Lives.com.

JORDAN, continued from Page 2

Warren in 1964. "They could never quite adjust to the idea of their boy even being in Green Castle, Indiana, the only Negro in a class of 400 students, and they felt their boy, their baby, their prize, would be happier and have less frustrations if he went to a predominantly Negro institution."

But his parents came to realize the significance of Jordan's choice the night a White classmate came to stay at the Jordans' home.

"In the middle of the night, my father got out of bed and came into my room and turned on the light and stood there with tears in his eyes, put the light out and went back to bed and said to

my mother, 'You know, this democracy thing is really here, and it's right here in my house.'"

Having struggled in college due to his sub-standard segregated education in Georgia, Jordan determined upon graduation to pursue a career in civil rights. After receiving his law degree at Howard University, he returned to Georgia where he successfully challenged the University of Georgia's discriminatory admissions policy.

Through the civil rights movement, he realized that economic empowerment would be the driving force for justice.

"In the 1960s, we conferred and defined the right

to check into a hotel," he said. "The 1970s were about providing the wherewithal to check out."

In a commencement address at Stanford University last year he said, "It's much easier to integrate a lunch counter than it is to guarantee a livable income and a good solid job. It is much easier to integrate a public park than it is to make genuine, quality, integrated education a reality. But that is the challenge at hand."

We are grateful that Vernon Jordan has dedicated his life to that challenge, and we are proud to continue his legacy.

Marc H. Morial is the president and CEO of the National Urban League. You can follow Marc on Twitter @marmorial.

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Bridge to be renamed in Ron Kirk's honor

By Michael Watts II
NDG Special Contributor

A historical monument, a historical man, these two objects are coming into one.

On May 25, 2016, the Dallas City Council carried a motion to rename the bridge located on Continental Ave. in dedication of the achievements of Ronald Kirk.

Kirk was born in Austin, Texas on June 27, 1954. He

was the first African-American mayor in Dallas and Secretary of State for Texas. He served as the mayor of Dallas between the years 1995-2002.

In 1999, Kirk was re-elected as mayor in a landslide with 74 percent of the vote. In 2001, Kirk resigned as mayor and ran for senate, losing to Texas Attorney General John Gramm with a 43-55 percent vote. In 2009, Kirk was nomi-

nated by President Barack Obama to serve as U.S Trade Rep and on March 18, 2009 it was confirmed by the U.S Senate in a 92-5 confirmation vote.

Citing Kirk's hard work, recognition has been shown for the development of the Margaret McDermitt Bridge and the Trinity Park Concept. During a brief intercession at the city council meeting, members of the council had positive views

about renaming the Continental Pedestrian Bridge after Kirk.

"Ronald Kirk has left a legacy of love, laughter and leadership and it seems appropriate to rename the bridge to show our dedication and appreciation toward him", said Councilwoman Tiffini Young.

"I've known Kirk for 30 years and he is a good per-

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The Dallas City Council has voted to name a bridge in honor of Ron Kirk.

SMUReads takes on issues of justice and equality

Incoming SMU students will examine tough questions about justice, equality and poverty in their first college reading assignment – attorney Bryan Stevenson's book *Just Mercy* (Random House, 2014).

Students will read the book as part of the University's common reading program, an academic initiative that includes small-group discussions about the book before and after classes begin. Community members, alumni, book lovers and book clubs are invited to join SMUReads to take part in other smu.edu/smureads events surrounding the book.

Author Stevenson's free campus lecture is open to the public at 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 13 at Mc-

Farlin Auditorium, 6405 Boaz Lane. Preregistration is requested at smu.edu/smureads.

Bryan Stevenson founded the Equal Justice Initiative in 1989 in Montgomery, Ala., as a young lawyer recently graduated from Harvard Law School. As executive director, he leads a legal staff dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need – the poor and the wrongly condemned. One of his first cases was to defend Walter McMillian, who was sentenced to die for a highly publicized Alabama murder he insisted he didn't commit. In *Just Mercy*, Stevenson describes how the case transformed his understanding of mercy and justice.

"The true measure of our

commitment to justice, the character of our society, our commitment to the rule of law, fairness and equality cannot be measured by how we treat the rich, the powerful, the privileged, and the respected among us," Stevenson writes in the book. "The true measure of our character is how we treat the poor, the disfavored, the accused, the incarcerated, and the condemned."

A New York Times best-seller and named one of the best books of 2014 by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, *Time*, *The Seattle Times* and *Esquire*, the book also won the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction. In addition it won the NAACP Image

Award for Nonfiction, the Books for a Better Life Award and was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and the Kirkus Prize.

SMUReads partners include Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy, Barnes and Noble College, Coaching for Literacy, Dallas Independent School District, DISD African American Success Initiative, Dal-

las Public Library, Dallas Social Venture Partners, Friends of SMU Libraries, Highland Park Library, Reading for a Reason and Well Read Women of Dallas.

Past SMU common reading books include *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel; *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich; *The Spirit Catches*

You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman; *The Devil's Highway* by Luis Alberto Urrea; *Dreams From My Father* by Barack Obama; *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers; *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot; *The Big Short* by Michael Lewis; *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore and *We Need New Names* by SMU graduate NoViolet Bulaweyo.

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DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

UTA study examines academic experiences of Latino students at HBCUs

ARLINGTON, Texas -- A new University of Texas at Arlington study reveals that Latino students experience academic and interpersonal validation from a variety of on- and off-campus individuals while enrolled in Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

But the study also shows there may be times when Latino students do not feel validated by the HBCU context, which can cause them to question their place on campus.

Taryn Ozuna Allen, assistant professor in the College of Education's Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, examines the issue in the paper, "(In)validation in the Minority: The Experiences of Latino Students Enrolled in an HBCU," published online in the *The Journal of Higher Education*.

"This research is integral to higher education studies because some HBCUs are actively recruiting Latino students as they try to combat declining enrollment, economic challenges and for-profit competition," Allen said. "It is important to understand the students' experiences, and how we can best support them once they arrive on campus."

Prior research examining



Taryn Ozuna Allen, assistant professor in the College of Education's Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. (Photo: UTA)

the nation's 105 HBCUs has largely focused on the experiences of African-American students and white students. Allen wanted to uniquely examine Latinos' experiences, specifically HBCUs in Texas, where the state's Latino population is quickly increasing. According to the U.S. Department of Education, Texas HBCUs enrolled 6,815 Latinos in 2001. During the 2011-2012 academic year, Latino student enrollment grew to 9,131 undergraduate students.

"As more Latinos enroll in some HBCUs, we need to further explore and understand their experiences," said Allen, who joined the UTA faculty in 2013 and has frequently contributed

to research on diversity and equity in education, and higher education trends and issues.

John Smith, interim dean of the College of Education, said Allen's research is an example of data-driven discovery, one of four core themes of UTA's Strategic Plan 2020: Bold Solutions | Global Impact.

"Dr. Allen's research is critical to helping educators to identify the challenges and meet the needs of all students on increasingly diverse and changing campuses," Smith said. "Every college student should have the opportunity to benefit from supportive faculty interactions and these strategies can potentially foster mentorship and academic validation."

For this study, Allen observed four female and four male Latino students who were enrolled in their second- to fifth-year at Texas Metropolitan University, a pseudonym used to maintain the actual institution's confidentiality. Five of the students lived on the urban-area campus; and all, but three were first-generation college students or indicated they were from low socioeconomic backgrounds. Their majors included liberal arts, business,

natural sciences, and fine arts.

Allen also conducted interviews, a questionnaire and used analytic memos to encourage the students to be active members of the university's learning community and to overcome obstacles in their adjustment to college.

Among the findings, students recalled feeling validated by relationships with faculty members, campus administrators, and peers, who challenged the Latino students to strive and to accomplish more academically. Peers provided encouragement to each other through friendships and support groups.

Latino students benefited from the university's small class sizes and prolonged courses, such as Saturday classes. One student, using the pseudonym George, said the smaller class sizes helped participants feel valued because professors were able to provide individualized assistance.

"They (TMU faculty members) gave me more attention than I had in all of grade school, junior high, and high school," he said. "It's small, but at the same time, I don't have 125 people in one class the way a lot of my friends do, and

you're just a Social Security number there."

Extracurricular responsibilities presented key barriers to academic validation. External influences, such as work responsibilities, limited the amount of time some students were on campus. Consequently, some students were unable to personally connect with their professors.

Impediments that students mentioned regarding interpersonal validation related to their minority status on-campus. Students wanted to see more Latinos on the campus website and brochures. A student, using the name Laura, described a personal struggle as an ethnic minority on campus.

"It is different coming from a school, like predominantly Mexican, Latinos," she said. "From the majority to the minority is really different."

Laura expressed feelings of loneliness and marginalization in her first year. She recognized she represented an ethnic subgroup on campus, and that status caused her to feel inferior to her peers. In her second year, Laura was able to secure on-campus employment to slowly connect to staff members and students, but she depended most on her

mother's support as she pursued her degree.

Similar to previous research demonstrating the importance of Latino parents and family members on Latino students' aspirations, choice, and persistence, this study revealed the importance of family in offering academic and interpersonal validation.

Allen said she hopes her research will assist HBCUs who implement recruitment strategies to attract prospective Latino students.

"This study sheds light on some of the benefits and challenges Latino students can encounter at HBCUs," Allen said. "As a result, HBCU faculty and administrators can explore whether these issues are occurring on their campus and then work to address them by doing such things as developing and implementing cross cultural programs, supporting Latino-based organizations, offering materials in Spanish, particularly for bilingual parents, and promoting a sense of community."

She added: "These initiatives will not only validate the Latino students currently enrolled at the HBCU, but also accurately portray the student body."

Collin College respiratory care program wins national award

For the fourth consecutive year, Collin College's Respiratory Care program received the Distinguished Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) Credentialing Success Award from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC).

The award recognizes criteria including positive job placement and credentialing success of 90 percent or above. From a program effectiveness perspective, the CoARC views the RRT credential as a measure of a program's success in inspir-

ing its graduates to achieve their highest educational and professional aspirations. The programs must also have three or more years of outcomes data and hold accreditation without a progress report.

Last year, Collin College respiratory students had a 100% credentialing success rate for both the Certified and Registered Respiratory Therapist exams. All students secured employment shortly after graduation. In addition, 33% of last year's group achieved the Neonatal Pediatric Specialty cre-

dential, which required them to pass an additional exam.

According to Michelle Millen, interim dean of Academic Affairs at the college's Central Park Campus, respiratory care students receive intensive clinical training.

"An exemplary program, Collin College's Respiratory Care program also offers students enhanced simulation experiences in the respiratory laboratory housed in the new Health Sciences building," Millen said.

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*Annual employment statistics for certification programs available at BrookhavenCollege.edu. **Estimated cost for books and supplies with an equity-based rate. University health insurance not included. Total cost will vary by program. ***Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Program Cost: \$3,840*
Avg. National Salary: \$65,940**

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Eric Ogle Named Principal of Irving's Lamar Middle School

Superintendent of Schools Jose L. Parra, Ed.D. named Eric Ogle, a 13-year employee of Irving ISD, principal of Lamar Middle School at a faculty meeting this afternoon. Ogle is currently the associate principal at Nimitz High School where he assists with all areas of leadership, including the oversight of instructional programs, facilities management and administrative responsibilities. He will begin transitioning to his new position at Lamar Middle School this month.



Eric Ogle

Having worked at Lamar Middle School as a teacher and administrative intern from 2008 to 2010, Ogle is very familiar with the Lamar community. His other positions in Irving ISD include serving as assistant principal and dean of instruction at Barbara Cardwell Career Preparatory Center, summer school principal at Nimitz High School, teacher at Cardwell

(when it was known as the Union Bower Center for Learning) and as a site director for the 21st Century Community Learning Center.

"I had the opportunity work at Lamar for two years, and I'm excited to return," says Ogle who describes this as a bit of a homecoming. "I know what a special place Lamar is, and how much pride the

students and staff have in their school. It is my desire to continue building on that pride, to work collaboratively with faculty, and to positively impact the entire school community."

Ogle says he is focused on working collaboratively with the faculty at Lamar to be the best version of themselves, consequently guiding students to be the best version of themselves. "I'm

excited to lead the students through the challenges and adventures that they'll face in middle school, high school and beyond," he says.

"Mr. Ogle is an exceptional school leader who has the experience, skills and commitment necessary to lead Lamar Middle School to greater levels of success," says Associate Superintendent of Academic Services Adam Grinage, Ed.D. "His belief that all students deserve the best educational opportunities available to them drives him to perform every day. The administration is confident that Mr. Ogle will serve the students, staff and parents well as its new principal."

Prior to joining Irving ISD in 2003, Ogle taught at Boswell High School in the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD, managed several restaurants and served as a youth minister for a church in Decatur.

Ogle holds certifications in secondary English, secondary communication applications, English as a second language and educational administration. He earned two bachelor's degrees (one in language and composition, the other in

communication studies) and a master's degree in secondary education from the University of North Texas in Denton. Ogle also earned a master's degree in educational leadership and policy studies from the University of Texas at Arlington.

TV, continued from Page 1

minority consumers but for minority programming not carried by cable.

"I want an open forum for every minority or independent producer who wants to produce content," he said in an interview with Urban News Service. "And I'm willing to compete with my content channels" — Urban Movie Channel or Acorn TV (which streams British programming) — "with whoever comes along and programs to get to the consumer."

President Barack Obama and several Congressional Black Caucus members also support the proposal.

But opponents say that if cable TV providers lose the money people are paying to lease their boxes, they would have less money to pay minority channels such as BET and TV One for subscribers.

Alfred Liggins, chairman of TV One and president and CEO of Radio One, told

Urban News Service in a statement that the proposal, known as "Allvid" regulations, is "nothing more than a sweetheart deal for Big Tech, letting companies like Google strip-mine the value of our work for their profit."

"Niche and minority-focused networks like TV One could be relegated to the remote reaches of the channel guides, or buried at the bottom rung of search results — depriving audiences of diverse viewpoints and threatening the very survival of networks like ours," said Mr. Liggins, who launched the Future of TV Coalition in opposition to the proposal.

Wheeler's statement said the new structure would encourage minority programmers to innovate.

"When it's easier for content creators to reach consumers, we would expect this to lead to more and better programming accessed more easily, especially mi-

nority, independent and international programming," said the chairman's proposal.

But major African-American, Asian-American and Hispanic-American organizations — such as the NAACP, National Action Network, National Urban League and the Rainbow PUSH Coalition — doubt FCC assertions that copyright and privacy protections will remain the same under the new arrangement.

Evan Swartztrauber, communications director of the think tank TechFreedom, said minority organizations are in part worried that the tech companies poised to win in an open system are the same companies that have yet to show a commitment to diversity in hiring or content. And so minority groups have joined in common cause with cable companies.

"They're very concerned, and that's why they're teaming up with the companies to oppose it," he said.

Johnson said he understands the opposition from cable programmers.

"It's a natural instinct," he said. "If you've got a channel that targets a certain group, do you want 10 channels targeting that same group? You'd want to keep your monopoly hold over that audience."

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CARROLLTON
Free irrigation inspections

Through the City's Save Water by the Yard program, free irrigation inspections are now available. Eligible Carrollton Water Utilities residential customers, with in-ground irrigation systems, can apply to receive the inspections through Sept. 30 or until the funds are exhausted.

Save Water by the Yard inspection service includes a consultation by a licensed irrigation expert who will check the settings on the sprinkler system's control box, check all system lines for leaks and improperly functioning sprinkler heads, and provide customers with tips on system maintenance and water conservation. Residential customers who previously participated in 2014 or 2015 are ineligible for an inspection in 2016. If interested in this service, residents should call 972-466-3000 for more information or to make an appointment for an inspection.

Cool Tuesday Movies at JRL Begin June 7

Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs Road) kicks off two months of Cool Tuesday Movies on June 7 with a showing of Minions.

Ages 6 and up are invited to attend; movies start at 1 p.m. Popular and fun family films will be shown



The Labyrinth Walk Coffee House in Oak Cliff is offering 2nd Sunday Jazz on June 12 from 5-7 p.m. (Photo: Maxime Auger / Flickr)

throughout June, July, and August. Bring a pillow or comfy sleeping bag to relax on during the movie.

For more information or a complete list of upcoming movies, contact the Library at 972-466-4800 or visit cityofcarrollton.com/library.

GARLAND
Summer nutrition program returns

The City of Garland will again host the Summer Nutrition food service program beginning Monday, June 6. During the program, free meals will be provided to all children age 18 years and younger, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided on a first come, first served basis.

Check in at NorthDallasGazette.com for a com-

plete listing of times and locations.

IRVING
Irving companies rank high in Forbes survey

Forbes has released its annual list of the world's 2000 largest companies and 7 have a large presence in Irving.

The Irving companies include:

- 9) ExxonMobil
- 12) AT&T
- 477) Kimberly-Clark
- 1011) Dr Pepper Snapple
- 1126) Fluor Corporation
- 1334) Pioneer Natural Resources
- 1534) Celanese

Five-hundred eighty-seven companies from across the U.S. made the list, including 52 from Texas. The comprehensive list is meant to measure the biggest, most powerful and most valuable companies in

the world. The ranking is based on a mix of four metrics: sales, profit, assets and market value.

For the full list, please visit: www.forbes.com/global2000.

LEWISVILLE
Office hours changing at city hall and annex

Beginning Wednesday, June 1, hours of operation will change at Lewisville City Hall, 151 W. Church Street, and at the Municipal Annex, 1197 W. Main Street. The buildings will be open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Friday.

Offices and services in City Hall include Human Resources, water bill payments, Permits and Inspections, City Manager's office and the City Secretary's office. Offices and services in the Municipal Annex include Municipal Court, Parks and Leisure Services administration and Police Department administration.

The new times will allow residents the opportunity to come before or after work to handle any city-related business. Even with the new hours, residents will be able to pay their water bills through other means, including mail, a drop box located in the City Hall west parking lot, online with a credit card on payment.cityoflewisville.com, or automatic bank withdrawal.

OAK CLIFF
Sunday Jazz

2nd Sunday Jazz Jam on June 12 from 5 to 7 pm. Admission is free but the promise the experience priceless. The donations received will be divided among the musicians. The Labyrinth Walk Coffee House is located at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff, 3839 W. Kiest Blvd., Dallas. Other musicians are invited to join. However, they ask if possible, but not required, please RSVP to jazzjam2015@labyrinth-walkcoffeehouse.com so they can have a headcount.

PLANO
Sewer overflow

The City of Plano is reporting a sanitary sewer overflow at 5501 West Plano Parkway. It began overflowing at 6:45 p.m. Tuesday. The overflow has exceeded 100,000 gallons.

Although the City of Plano has experienced an overflow of domestic

wastewater, the public drinking water continues to be safe for consumption.

Persons using private drinking water supply wells located within 1/2-mile of the spill site or within the potentially affected area should use only water that has been distilled or boiled at a rolling boil for at least one minute for all personal uses. Individuals with private water wells should have their well water tested and disinfected, if necessary, prior to discontinuing distillation or boiling. Persons who purchase water from a public water supply may contact their water supply distributor to determine if the water is safe for personal use. The public should avoid contact with waste material, soil, or water in the area potentially affected by the spill. If the public comes into contact with waste material, soil, or water potentially affected by the spill, they should bathe and wash clothes thoroughly as soon as possible.

HOME, continued from Page 3

young children riding their bikes or jumping rope. This is about us taking care of us.

Now I know that there are several organizations and churches out there working to stop the violence in black neighborhoods who get little to no press. I know some somehow think that President Barack Obama can somehow do more to keep teenagers and young men children that live in OUR communities from killing each other.

But the fact is church lead-

ers, organizational leaders, and President Obama are not in our homes teaching OUR/YOUR values and right from wrong. That's the parent's job. If for some reason the parent can't or won't teach their children to value all human life then it falls on extended family and the community.

Our children must be taught from an early age that all life including theirs and those that look like them is valuable and not to be taken on a whim. The simple fact of the matter is that when people know bet-

ter they do better. If a child does not learn that it's not the child's fault but ours.

Yes, we need more programs offering our young men and women more choices of things to do when not in school to keep them off the streets, but the onus is on us to not only demand but to implement those programs. Waiting on the government to fix this problem is like waiting on your cousin who owes you money to pay you back, it isn't happening. We have to not only march and holding prayer vigils but get to work actually doing something in our communities. As individu-

als, we can volunteer to coach or start a basketball team/league, start scouting troops in your community, mentoring programs, or after-school enrichment programs. I'm sure many of you can think of many more things that we as individuals can do.

We have to do better in keeping OUR children alive. Yes, we must call out government for their part in this, but we must also do our part.

George Cook is the vice president of the Hillside NJ School Board - you can read more of his views at AfricanAmericanreports.com.

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Powerful *Ragtime* presented by Dallas Summer Musicals

By Jo Ann Holt
NDG Special Contributor

A powerful production of “Ragtime” is onstage now through June 5 at the Music Hall at Fair Park. The national tour is presented by Dallas Summer Musicals. Based on the 1975 prize-winning novel by E. L. Doctorow, “Ragtime” is the quintessential American musical. Set during the early 1900s, the award-winning musical focuses on three very different people and their families. Set during a time of great change and upheaval for the country, it’s sad to realize traces

of the racial prejudices that tore the country apart then still exist in the 21st century.

“Ragtime” is a profoundly moving experience. But it requires an audience to pay very close attention. There are so many characters involved—including such real life figures as activist Emma Goldman and tycoons Henry Ford and J. P. Morgan—that it can get a little confusing for those who haven’t read the novel.

With a book by Terrence McNally, music by Stephen Flaherty, and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, “Ragtime” was nominated for 13 Tony

Awards when it opened on Broadway in 1998. Directing and choreographing the national touring production is Marcia Milgram Dodge.

Kate Turner dazzles as an upper-class WASP wife and mother. Her lilting voice and passion for justice make her the shining star of this poignant story. She opens her arms and her home to the baby found hidden in the garden. Chris Sams also stuns with his great voice and compelling stage presence as talented musician Coalhouse Walker. When his personal life takes a tragic turn, he resorts to violence in his search for justice. The

love story between Coalhouse and beautiful brown-eyed Sarah (Leslie Jackson, another riveting performance) brings everyone to tears.

A lighter touch is provided by Tatch, an idealistic Jewish immigrant. Delightfully played by Matthew Curiano, the artistic immigrant’s visions and dreams are fully realized. Be warned that everyone doesn’t fare that well in this morality tale.

For more information about the show or the DSM season, or for ticket information, please visit www.dallassummermusicals.org.



Ragtime returns to Dallas Summer Musical Stage (IMAGE: DSM)

Keb’ Mo to perform at ATPAC

The nonprofit AT&T Performing Arts Center and AEG Live are bringing three-time Grammy award-winning blues musician Keb’ Mo’ to perform at 8 p.m. Thursday, June 2, 2016 at the Majestic Theatre in downtown Dallas. NDG Readers can still win tickets!

Three-time Grammy winner and visionary roots-music storyteller Keb’ Mo’ embarks on a new chapter in his career with the April 22 release of BLUESAmericana on Kind of Blue Music. The disc is a signpost of artistic and personal growth.

“I only make albums when I’m inspired to, and these 10 songs come from a very honest place,” Keb’ relates. “BLUESAmericana is the beginning of the next phase of who I am.” The disc will be accompanied by Keb’s most extensive tour in years.

Achieving this wasn’t easy. In the period since the unveiling of 2011’s ‘The

Reflection’ — which paired Keb’ with India.Arie,

Vince Gill, Dave Koz and Marcus Miller while spotlighting eclectic, virtuoso performances — Keb’ and his wife, Robbie, persevered through a challenging patch in their marriage.

“I had to learn more about myself,” Keb’ says, “and in

doing that I felt a personal shift.”

Ticket can be purchased, online at www.attpac.org, by phone at 214-880-0202 or in person at the AT&T Performing Arts Center Information Center at 2353 Flora Street.

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Roots remake targets younger audience

By Freddie Allen
NNPA National News Editor

Tony Award winner Anika Noni Rose admitted that she questioned why Mark Wolper, the son of the producer of the groundbreaking 1977 miniseries "Roots," would ever consider returning to that story.

The original miniseries, based on Alex Haley's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1976 novel "Roots: The Saga of an American Family," won nine Emmy awards and was watched by more than 50 percent of United States population. The miniseries inspired scores of families to trace their own genealogy, according to the Christian Science Monitor.

With the legacy and emotional burden of the original "Roots," Rose said that she needed to understand the mindsets of the producers, their plan and what they were trying to accomplish with the remake.

When Mark Wolper sat down to watch the 1977 miniseries with his own son, then 16 years-old, he discovered that the pace and style of the original didn't resonate with younger audiences. Wolper shared what his son told him with actors and producers. His son understood why the story was important, but similar to his father's music, it didn't speak to him.

After meeting with the producers, Rose came around.

"I think that this is a story that deserves to be told over and over again. As much as we hear about the Jewish Holocaust, we need to hear about our Holocaust. This particular American Holocaust. The second American Holocaust," said Rose. "I hope that this is the beginning of the telling of the story of, you know, another



Forest Whitaker (left) and Malachi Kirby star in the "Roots" remake airing on The History Channel. (Casey Crafford/THC)

America. Of the America that built America. I hope that we continue to tell this story from different angles."

Rose continued: "We need to tell the story for new eyes, and a [younger generation] used to watching movies and television that move in a faster way and [speak with] a different language."

Malachi Kirby, the English-born actor who stars as Kunta Kinte, said that the reboot was necessary to make the film more accessible. Producers for the 2016 miniseries relied on a host of historians and research that simply wasn't available in the 1970s.

"[Roots]" was the best that it could be at its time," said Kirby. "We've updated this now, hoping that it will be the best that it can be at this time."

"If there is something that's keeping the younger generation from accessing that, then I believe we need to find a new way and I'm hoping that's what we did with this [miniseries]," said Kirby.

Like Rose, Kirby ex-

pressed anxiety about appearing in the reboot at first.

"I felt extremely unprepared for this," said Kirby. "I literally spent most of my time worrying about what I would do if I got the job instead of preparing for it. Then when I finally got it, I didn't have a clue how to tackle this."

Kirby turned to prayer to assist him in bringing his interpretation of Kunta Kinte to the screen.

"I came to an understanding that [Kunta Kinte's] strength and his power would have come from the knowledge of himself and his spirit and so I decided I wanted to take time to get a bit deeper into myself, so I could play him and also strengthen myself in spirit," said Kirby.

Kirby acknowledged that many people were left feeling very angry and very hurt after watching the "Roots" miniseries in the 1977.

Kirby hopes that the updated "Roots" sparks public dialogue about America's history of racism and the legacy of slavery and that people gain some form of

empowerment, healing and understanding in the process.

"There's 'Birth of a Nation' coming out, there's 'Underground' and ['Roots']. There are so many projects coming out about this same narrative, I don't think that it's a coincidence," said Kirby. "There's a discussion that needs to be happen. I don't think that people really understand this period of time. I hope that this project brings about more understanding and clarity."

Rose said that she hopes more Black filmmakers like Nate Parker with "Birth of a Nation," will get the opportunity to tell stories about this part of America's history.

The cast also includes

Laurence Fishburne as the narrator Alex Haley, Forest Whitaker, Mekhi Phifer, Erica Tazel and the rapper Tip "T.I." Harris. Mario Van Peebles directed the second episode. Will Packer, the executive producer of "Straight Outta Compton," also earned production credits on the "Roots" remake.

Rose said that she's excited that young people of color and others will be inspired to learn more about their own roots after watching the miniseries.

Kirby said that through the experience of filming "Roots" and conversations with actors and staffers on set, he learned the importance of self-knowledge and knowing where you come from.

Kirby, knew that his parents were from Jamaica, but he didn't know any of his family's history past his grandparents.

Kirby recently took a DNA test and learned that his roots go back to West Africa.

"Now, I can say it with confidence: 'That is where I'm from.' I can go to that land and know that is where my people are from. I can pass that down to my children and that's just the beginning," said Kirby.

Kirby continued: "It has already empowered me so much, just rooted and grounded me so much, that little information, and I'm just going to continue on that journey."



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NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit us on Facebook to win tickets to see KebMo @ The Majestic Theatre, June 2, 2016!!!

Parkland honored by Dallas/Fort Worth Minority Supplier Council

Parkland Health & Hospital System has been recognized by the Dallas/Fort Worth Minority Supplier Council (D/FW MSDC) for its commitment to increasing minority business participation and growth. Parkland was one of 37 entities recently honored at the organization's annual BUY THOSE THAT BUY US (BTTBU) Recognition Breakfast honoring executives, chief procurement officers and supplier diversity professionals for their continued commitment to the inclusion of minority businesses in their purchasing decisions.

Parkland was honored in the area of Best Practices for its implementation of a project for one of its contracted vendors.

D/FW MSDC officials stated that the Best Practice designation was awarded to organizations that provided specific examples of real results with D/FW MSDC-certified Minority Business Enterprises (MBE). The Best Practice entities were recognized for their unique and/or innovative approach to increasing MBE participation and growth. In 2015, this year's 37 honorees spent a combined \$3.1 billion with minority-owned

businesses.

"Parkland's Board of Managers made inclusion of diverse suppliers a strategic priority for the organization," said Indria Hollingsworth-Thomas, Parkland's Director of Supplier Diversity and Ethical Sourcing. "The Board's vision, coupled with the guidance of the executive leadership team, has created a climate of meaningful inclusion."

Hollingsworth-Thomas added that inclusion of MBE suppliers positively impact's Parkland's bottom line as "we strive daily to provide quality healthcare to those

who depend on us."

"We understand minority business inclusion is about economic development, expanding the tax base, putting and keeping people employed and enhancing our communities," said James Mining, Senior Director - Supply Chain at Oncor and Co-Chair of the BUY THOSE THAT BUY US™ Initiative. "It is good for our businesses, our communities and the nation. To realize success, we must continually update our message and marketing to reach more corporations and government agencies to join supplier diversity efforts."

He added that utilizing minority-owned businesses in a company's supply chain provides innovative ideas, more efficient processing and cost-controlling solutions as well as helping build

the North Texas economy.

For more information about the D/FW MSDC, visit www.dfwmsdc.com. To find out more about Parkland, go to www.parkland-hospital.com.

Charles Bell named to 'America's Retail Champions'

AUSTIN – Local small business retailer Charles Bell, owner of Bracken Textiles dba Clothes Mentor in Plano was recognized by the National Retail Federation for his contribution to advocacy and has been named as one of America's Retail Champions. As a Champion, Bell will have the opportunity to fly to Washington, D.C. to take part in NRF's Retail Advocate's Summit from May 23-25.

"Through the America's Retail Champions program, the National Retail Federation is proud to host hard-working small business owners in Washington, D.C.

to recognize our industry's most engaged retail advocates," NRF President and CEO Matthew Shay said. "These men and women truly personify the American Dream, and it is important that Washington lawmakers hear first-hand from retail job and opportunity creators in towns large and small across the country."

"We thank Chuck for taking time away from his business to make sure the voice of retail is heard loud and clear in our nation's capital."

"The Texas Retailers Association (TRA) is proud to have nominated four Texas retailers as a NRF America's

Retail Champion. Their dedication and support of our industry's advocacy efforts on behalf of small retailers is critical to our success. We thank each of them for their efforts and congratulate them for this well-deserved recognition," said George

Kelemen, President & CEO of TRA.

The America's Retail Champions program, now in its third year, honors retailers who make their mark on public policy debates directly affecting the industry.

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Hisun Motors Corp. to expand headquarters in McKinney

The McKinney Economic Development Corporation announced China-based Hisun Motors Corporation will expand the company's North American headquarters in McKinney, adding more than

44,000 square feet of warehouse space and 10 new jobs within three years. The expansion is scheduled for completion in October.

"McKinney is a great place to do business. We

are so pleased Hisun is increasing their roots here and bringing more jobs to the community," said Mayor Brian Loughmiller.

The capital investment equals more than \$4.5 million for real property and

business personal property.

"We are so glad we moved our North American headquarters to McKinney. The City of McKinney and McKinney Economic Development Corporation have provided as-

sistance in the growth and expansion of Hisun and we are grateful for their continued support," said Jason Sun, president of Hisun Motors Corporation.

Hisun, a leading maker of utility-terrain vehicles

and all-terrain vehicles, first moved to McKinney in 2014.

The company's global headquarters is in Chongqing, China. Hisun was founded in 1988 and employs 1,700 people.

Residents provide feedback to Dallas City Council in special report

By: Michael Watts, II
NDG Special Contributor

Dallas City Council this week received a report on how much the residents love the city, and a few things that need improving

several hot topics. The residents speaking before the council expressed their concerns regarding transgender people using what they consider to be the wrong restroom. Also a concerned parent is worried about the conditions of schools in the

Dallas area.

The debate regarding transgender guests using public restrooms continues to be a top issue for some Dallas residents, expressing their concern about transgender males using women's restrooms. One

resident speaking on the issue expressed concerns over the safety of his daughters using a public restroom.

On an upbeat note, according to a survey by the ETC Institute, Dallas has been voted by the population as one of the best

places to live compared to larger U.S cities like Houston, Milwaukee, Tuscan and Fort Worth. According to the survey they believe Dallas is a good place to live, work, play and apparently read - the library system getting a thumbs up.

Not everything about Dallas is so popular with the residents. They are not so enamored with the city's streets, air quality and schools. Given recent headlines, this should not come as a surprise as these are all topics greatly discussed

KIRK, continued from Page 5

son and I believe he would feel honored about having the Continental Pedestrian Bridge being renamed in his honor. I believe it's a great idea to recognize Kirk by changing the name of the bridge after him for all the work he has done for the Dallas community" said Councilwoman Carolyn

King Arnold.

Zan Wesley Holmes Jr, Pastor Emeritus of the United Methodist Church said positive things about the bridge being renamed in Ronald Kirk's honor.

"How appropriate it is to rename the bridge in Kirk's honor. Bridges are walls that are turned sideways. I

thought about the bridges. We came together from the north, south, west and east. We come from different colors. We overcame the barriers to build bridges so we can come together. When we turn walls sideways, we build bridges. We need to come together to build a bridge to honor Ronald Kirk."

At the end of the meeting,

the council passed the motion for the Continental Pedestrian Bridge being renamed as the Ronald Kirk Pedestrian Bridge.

Days after the motion was carried, Kirk expressed his views about the bridge being renamed in his honor at St. Luke Community United Methodist Church.

"I am very grateful and highly favored to know, that

the city of Dallas wants to rename the Continental Bridge after me, in order to show gratitude for my achievements and contributions throughout the city."

Dedication of the Ambassador Ron Kirk Pedestrian Bridge will be held Saturday (June 4) from 10-11 a.m. at the center of the Continental Bridge. Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings,

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, former Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, and the largest gathering of current and former Dallas City Council members ever assembled are expected to attend.

The event - hosted by the City of Dallas, Trinity Trust and the Trinity Commons Foundation - is free and open to the public.



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Opportunities add up in accounting

Army veteran and North Lake College graduate Wesley Wilson experienced a life-changing moment on a battlefield in Afghanistan in September 2011. His convoy had just been ambushed; fortunately, he escaped injury. Once back on base, he decided he was ready to move on with his life.

"It put everything in perspective. I thought: if I'm going to live my life, what's the best thing I could do? What do I really want?" Wilson asked himself. "First thing, I wanted a family, but I didn't want the military life."

Wilson left the Army, moved to Texas and enrolled at North Lake to study finance, but after talking to friends and family, he decided to major in accounting instead. "I liked the idea of a better work-life balance that a job in accounting offered. Being a financial advisor meant selling a lot, meeting clients after hours, and bringing in new clients," Wilson recalled. "I wanted something more stable where I could work from 9 to 5."

Careers in accounting add up

Numbers for the Dallas-Fort Worth indicate that Wilson should find the accounting job he wants in the area. In March 2016, more than 4,200 accounting positions were posting (non-duplicated), according to EMSI. The Dallas-Fort Worth area added 8,400 accounting and auditing jobs between 2001 and 2015 alone.

In the U.S., the number of jobs for accountants and auditors climbed 10.9 percent between 2001 and 2015; in the DFW region, that number grew 29.6 percent during the same period. And in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, the median hourly earning is \$33.31 per hour, compared to \$32.20 per hour nationally.

Wilson, who worked in graphic design in the Army, took his first accounting course in 2014 at Brookhaven College and enjoyed it. He enrolled in his second accounting class at North Lake with faculty member Stephanie Swaim.



Peddhapati / Flickr

"She's a great instructor," Wilson said about Swaim. "We did practical exercises, and she taught me what I would be doing as an accountant."

Swaim, who also studied at North Lake before she became an instructor at the college, said students in accounting need to learn that what they are studying matters on a day-to-day basis, so she tries to find context in the material she teaches.

"If you're just studying something, you have no idea what it's about. You have no concept of how you might use the information, and it becomes difficult to learn it," Swaim added. "If I just tell them how to apply the material, it's difficult to absorb it, so I try to bring context and relevance to the material."

Swaim said every business needs accounting, and she compared businesses to sports. "Every sport has a score, and accounting is score-keeping for business. You figure out how much is coming in and how much is going out. If students can think about accounting in the way you keep score in business, then they can compare statistics, just as they do in baseball," she stated.

Credentials are critical

Accounting is a very client-driven business, according to Swaim, and accountants "need to be collegial and detail-oriented. If anything slips through the cracks, it can generate significant errors," she explained.

Wilson said his Army experience as a graphic designer prepared him for a career in accounting: "It taught me to think outside the box, how to talk to people and to

be diplomatic."

Cencelia Pierre, an accounting faculty member at Mountain View College, said, "In accounting, you can 'get it' or you can learn it, and some students just 'get it.'" She added that she knew from early on that accounting was for her, and she can tell when students "get it."

"They see how credits and debits work. They have a good work ethic, and that ethic in academia carries over into their work," Pierre said. "I love students who walk into my office because those are the students who have a keen interest in learning. Students who seek me out, ask for help and ask questions--they get it instinctively, or they roll their sleeves up to get it."

Pierre teaches the CPA Starter program for the Dallas County Community College District. The program is designed for people who already have a bachelor's degree or higher credential, and it is required by the state in order to get a Certified Public Accountant's license. Mountain View is one of only four institutions that are allowed to administer the program. Pierre said her students have a variety of academic backgrounds.

"We have a lot of students who have undergraduate degrees in accounting. Others have degrees in economics and finance -- and some even have law degrees. The ones with law degrees realize there are not enough jobs for attorneys and that there are more opportunities for CPAs, so they take our course," Pierre added.

Accounting is a career that's going places

Valerie Marembo enrolled in the CPA Starter program after she earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in business administration from a university in Canada. She said one of the best things about accounting is that "accountants are always in high demand. I never had a tough time finding a job. It's highly transferable, and you can work anywhere in the world."

Marembo said she hopes to work in corporate Amer-

ica, and eventually she wants to work overseas, maybe in China, after she takes the CPA exam later this year. "I want to travel, and that's a big sell in accounting," she stated. "The work pays well, and with little tweaks, I could do it anywhere."

Swaim said accountants can choose from several areas of specialization. "Accountants, like lawyers, learn a bit of everything and then specialize. When I was an accountant, I went into audits. Tax and forensic accounting are specialties, too."

Wilson, who is enrolled at the University of North Texas in a dual bachelor's and master's program, said he would like to go into tax after he gets his CPA credentials. "Eventually, I would like to work for the federal government because I could retire in 14 years, since the government would count my military service," he added.

Pierre said students also can opt to get an accounting certificate. "That would give those who are sharp and committed a foot in the accounting world. They can go to a small company and work as bookkeepers, or they can go to corporate America and become entry-level accounting clerks," she added. "But those who earn an associate degree in accounting have an edge over those who complete a certificate. In the corporate world, the associate (degree) commands a little more respect. Obviously, it depends on the individuals involved and how well they sell themselves."

Wilson said the firefight he was in was an "eye-opening experience. Every time I left the base, I would think about what I wanted to do with my life. It put everything in perspective." He found his passion in accounting and hopes to start a family in the future, too.

For more information about the accounting programs at North Lake and Mountain View colleges, contact Stephanie Swaim at sswaim@dccc.edu or Cencelia Pierre at cpierre@dccc.edu.



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June 5, 12 Noon

How do you impact others? Join us Sunday at noon in Bible Study; Senior Pastor Woodson or Pastor Brenda Patterson will teach a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 3 and Chapter 2."

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

June 8, 7 p.m.

Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson and Pastor Brenda Patterson teaching a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 3 and Chapter 2." 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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June 5, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

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

June 8, 7 p.m.

Join us at 12 Noon with Rev. Viveca Potter teaching on the Word of God; come back at 6:45 p.m. for Corporate Prayer and stay for

Senior Pastor Autry at 7:30 p.m. teaching on the Word of God. Our youth will come for Food and Fellowship at 7 p.m. followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.

June 16-14

FREE for ages 10-16, Dallas Leadership Training. Call the church for more information and to register.

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972-991-0200
Richardson, TX 75081
www.Christcommunityrichardson.org

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June 5, 8 a.m.

You're invited to join us at our main campus at 200 West Belmont Drive for Morning Worship Services followed by our Sunday Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 for our Hype Academics Awards; bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

June 8, 12 p.m.

Join us in 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 Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

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June 5, 7:30 and/or 11:30 a.m.

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

June 6, 7 p.m.

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

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

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

June 4, 10 a.m.

Ladies, you're invited to our Testimonial Tea Service. This will be a time of a quiet moment in the present of the Lord. Call the church for details.

June 5, 10 a.m.

Join us for Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory; and don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

June 8, 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
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June 6, 9 p.m.

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

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June 6-10, 6:30 p.m.

Parents, our theme this year for Vacation Bible School (VBS) for age 3 through adult is "I've Got Talent: Showcasing My Work for Jesus". Call the church for details or see a minister after morning service on Sunday.

June 8, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word. Come and be encour-

See CHURCHES, Page 16



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Words of wisdom for 2016 graduates



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

Congratulations to the 2016 graduates from Kindergarten to Elementary School to Middle/Junior High School; from High School to a College/University or Trade School and from a College/University to a school of higher learning or the workforce.

As you reach another crossroad in your life, remember to draw on wisdom found in "The Bible." The Bible "Is the greatest instruction book you will ever read and study. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness . . . II Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)

I have learned that true success goes beyond the trappings of wealth, power, and prestige; it is honoring God in your everyday life.

It's honoring Him in your home, your school, your workplace, at church, and in your community.

An unknown author once said of the Bible: The Bible, "Contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrine is Holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true and its decisions are immutable." "Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be Holy."

The Bible contains, "Light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, and the soldier's sword. In The Bible paradise is restored, Heaven is opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its main object, and the glory of God is its end."

The Bible should, "Fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet." "It is a source of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of joy."

The Bible is given to you in life, it will be opened at the judgment, and it will be re-

membered forever. It involves the highest responsibilities; it will reward the greatest labor; and it will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents."

Many people have what seems like insurmountable problems, they have life pressures. The Bible says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray . . . II Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)

I believe that if people revered the Scriptures as they once did, this world would be a much better place for everybody.

Secret to Happiness— Learn to: 1) Trust God in the face of adversity. 2) Forget the unpleasant things that come into your life. 3) Apologize if you believe that you have offended someone; believe that a sincere apology is the superglue of life. 4)

Admit an error; and do your best to learn from them. 5) Try your best to Avoid mistakes. 6) Listen to advice; and ask God to help you make the right decision. 7) Keep your temper (God said to be ye angry and sin not. 8) Shoulder the blame. 9) Make the best of things. 10) Maintain high standards. 11) Think first and act accordingly. 12) Put the needs of your family and others before your own. 13) Forgive and forgive some more. 14) Pray without ceasing for family, friends, church members, leaders of your church and leaders our country.

In Four Steps: 1) Ask God

to show you Self-Realization, how undone am I? What to say, do, act, and how to talk. 2) Learn to make Quality Decisions based on God's Word, not on what you have or what you don't have. 3) Ask God to, Renew Your Mind, "Turn on the light from Heaven, show you the truth so that you may see, walk, talk right, and help to get away from the Spirit of Covetousness. 4) Ask for help to Build Boundaries. Be selective of people, places and things; help in where you go and what you do. Stay with God's thoughts, and hold to His unchanging hands.



Two graduates, Khiyan Gray, mother, Ms. Shanel Gray; and Chance Jones, mother, Ms. Christina Jones, with their teacher Mrs. Maria Cunningham from Ann Windle School for Young Children, Denton I.S.D.

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NDGtv North Dallas Gazette takes a moment to reflect on the past with **Historical Perspectives from Sister Tarpley**

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

Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com

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NDG Book Review: *The Fireman* is a chilling tale

By Terri Scghlichenmeyer

Your family has a good contingency plan.

You all know what to do if there's a blaze or a flood. You know where to go, what to grab if there's time, and what not to do. You've practiced – at least in your mind. But what if your Plan A fails? In "The Fireman," the new novel by Joe Hill, that's the burning question.

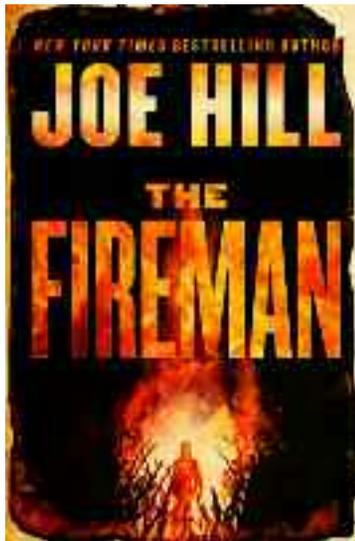
Harper Willowes Grayson couldn't quite believe that she'd gotten infected.

As a nurse, she knew the dangers. She knew that those who got Dragonscale died horrible deaths in fire that consumed them from within. Millions of people world-wide had been reduced to ash, and she'd taken strong precautions against Draco incendia trychophyton but there it was: a filigree trail snaked black-and-gold around her hips and up her arms. A sign of infection. A death sentence.

Her husband, Jakob, had sentenced her to death already, though, hadn't he? He forced Harper into agreeing to a suicide pact, should either of them fall sick. Would he really make her go along with it, now that Harper was pregnant?

The answer was yes, but on the day Jakob became crazed with fear and tried to kill her, Harper learned that her months as a nurse offered her something unique: the friendship of a tall, mysterious man, 'scaled up and wearing fireman's gear.

She had once helped the fireman's ailing nephew and, in return, the fireman vowed to save her life. He whisked her away to an abandoned summer camp,



leaving her in the care of other survivors who'd learned to harness their Dragonscale; they'd also taken measures to avoid Cremation Crews that sprang up to annihilate 'scale sufferers. Camp residents would keep Harper and her unborn baby safe.

But was she safe there, or did the camp offer its own set of dangers? As Harper learned more about her savior and about the people of the camp, she began to have her doubts but she couldn't leave.

If Jakob learned that she was still alive, he'd try to extinguish her for good.

Overall, I was quite satisfied with "The Fireman," though it did have its "huh?" moments.

Because, perhaps, of its size, it seemed that author Joe Hill let his story run away with itself sometimes. Conversations became overly-long and clichéd, there were minor head-scratchers here and there, I noticed that one character went uncharacteristically missing for awhile, and some plots were too pat. And

yet...

And yet, I almost ripped a few pages in an effort to turn them faster because Hill doesn't let up on the heart-thumpers much. Every time you think you can breathe (or laugh, because Hill

also has a fiery sense of humor), you're yanked back into a story that's hair-raising, sleep-squashing, and just about believable enough to make you check your own skin for 'scale.

That means that fans of post-

Apocalyptic novels, zombie TV shows, and good old-fashioned scream-fest novels should scream for this one. Who knew that a book called "The Fireman" could chill you so thoroughly?

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CHURCHES, continued from Page 14

aged by God's plan for your maturity and growth; it's all for His glory and His honor.

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

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