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Minority leaders feel Muslims unfairly targeted

By Audrey A. Lundy
Special Contributor

Muslims have lived in Texas since 1854. They have established mosques, schools and other institutions that serve the greater community. Like most residents, they are proud Texans and Americans, according to Omar Suleiman, who serves as the Resident Scholar of the Valley Ranch Islamic Center in Irving.

"In the over 150 years that this community has been here, never has there been a problem with the Muslim community trying to overthrow the system," he said. "Not once has there been a Muslim promoting anything unconstitutional that infringes on the rights of our friends and neighbors. These aren't alternate facts they're just facts."

Last Wednesday, Suleiman with a group of interfaith and civil rights leaders held a press conference at Irving City Hall to oppose a summit spearheaded by Texas State Representative Kyle Biedermann and supported by Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne.

The summit entitled "Defending Against Radical Islamic Terrorism in Texas" took place at the state capitol last week. Community leaders in attendance at the press conference believe the summit unfairly targeted Muslims.

However, Rep. Biedermann dis-



Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne speaking on the topic Understanding the Threat at the summit entitled "Defending Against Radical Islamic Terrorism in Texas"

agrees with the community leaders. His office acknowledged receipt of questions for this story; they did not answer the questions but sent a press release about the summit.

"With the rise of radical Islamic terrorism throughout the world, our homeland security must be our top priority. When I took office, I assembled a Law Enforcement & Homeland Security Advisory Council," Rep. Biedermann stated in the press release. "We have a responsibility as Texans to secure our border and to protect against the serious, and growing, threats of terrorism."

Community leaders said Rep. Biedermann should spend more time building relationships with the Mus-

lim and speak out against racists and xenophobes.

"Texas strength is in its diversity. This is one of the most diverse states in the country and that is what makes us strong," said Sahar Aziz, a board member of ACLU of Texas during last week's press conference. "If he truly cares about Texas, then he should be defending the religious freedom rights of all Texans of all faiths."

Hispanic activist Carlos Quintanilla said Mayor Van Duyne should also stop the rhetoric and support the large Hispanic and Muslim community in Irving.

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Mayor issues apology to travelers

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Plano library celebrates Black History

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Costa Rican mother denied entry

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Girl Scouts hit streets with new flavor

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COMMENTARY

It's time for the Democratic party to wake up

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Contributor

Everyone appears to have figured out that a dangerous, stupid fascist with no knowledge of how the federal government works is now the President of the United States. Everyone, that is, except members of the Democratic Party, now serving in the 115th Congress.

You have to wonder how many dangerously incompetent, racist and

blindly ideological decisions the executive branch have to make before the Democrats in the United States Congress, who are supposedly in the opposition party, wake up.

What is the strategy? What is the plan? Trump's careless staff couldn't even spell the name of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom correctly on a press release. What makes anyone think they'll be

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Robert W. Bogle



Zachary Harris



Victor Rivas Rivers

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Robert W. Bogle

Robert W. Bogle, the Chairman, President and CEO of the *Philadelphia Tribune*, received the 2017 the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) Lifetime Achievement Award in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Bogle joined the *Philadelphia Tribune* in 1970 selling advertising. Bogle has been a community leader for many years, and is especially active in the advancements of black Philadelphians.

Thurman Jones, publisher of the *North Dallas Gazette* (left) and Bob Bogle (right) publisher of the *Philadelphia Tribune* by the National



Newspaper Publisher Association. "Mr. Bogle is a giant within our industry. On a personal note, he is a man greatly admired by myself and countless others. Congratulations Mr. Bogle!" shared Jones.

The *Philadelphia Tribune* is reportedly the oldest continually publishing African-American newspaper in the United States. The paper began in 1884 when Christopher J. Perry published its first copy. Throughout its history, The *Philadelphia Tribune* has been committed to the social, political, and economic advancement of African Americans in the Greater Philadelphia region.

Bogle attended Cheyney

University in Cheyney, Pennsylvania, where he matriculated to study Sociology, earning a B.A. in Urban Studies. He attended the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business and Finance to study marketing and economics.

Bogle is chairman of the Hospitals and Higher Education Facilities Authority of Philadelphia and serves as a commissioner of the Delaware River Port Authority. He contributes as a board member to the Zoological Society of Philadelphia, the Workforce Investment Board, and the African-American Chamber of Commerce.

In October 1997, Bogle

was appointed as a governor to the Board of Governors of the United Way of America and board member to the Philadelphia Orchestra.

In 1995, 1997 and 1999, the NNPA honored Bogle with the Russwurm Award, the highest honor to "Best Newspaper in America," in the name of John B. Russwurm, co-founder of *Freedom's Journal*, the first African-American newspaper in the U.S. (1827). In June 2000, at Drexel University, Philadelphia, an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters degree was bestowed upon Bogle.

Bogle is chairman of the Council of Trustees at

Cheyney University, chairman of the Hospitals and Higher Education Facilities Authority of Philadelphia and serves as Mayor Michael A. Nutter's appointee on the Independence Blue Cross Board.

Active in many professional, civic and social organizations, Bogle serves on the boards of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the Mann Music Center for the Performing Arts, the African-American Chamber of Commerce, the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the *Philadelphia Tribune*. He is a former board member of US Airways Group.

Zachary Harris

(BlackNews.com) -- Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO) is one of the most fraudulently peddled products on the market. In 2011, U.C. Davis released a study that showed at least 90 percent of the EVOO on American grocery and specialty store shelves isn't the real thing.

The real stuff, as defined by the International Olive Oil Council, contains olives that are harvested and pressed the same day with zero defects, not only makes food tasty, but its health benefits are exactly what African Americans need. Compounds like



oleocanths fight against prostate, colon and breast cancer. All of these cancers are prevalent in the black community. Studies show these compounds also help to prevent neurological dis-

eases. And EVOO has been proven effective against heart attacks, too. Unlike other oils, EVOO doesn't include cholesterol and that does a body good. So why are African Americans not consuming it more? Or, in the business of selling it?

Entrepreneur Zachary Harris is making sure black people benefit by adding EVOO to their diets as well as turning it into a business.

While on a recent trip to Italy in 2014, Harris made connections with top-rated EVOO producers. He also discovered the beauty and significance of it. Harris' dad is suffering from prostate

cancer now. He's terminal. Harris couldn't let it go as it runs in the family; his uncle also suffered from prostate issues. Maybe a better diet, like more access to EVOO would have made things different.

Harris wants to bring EVOO to black people by positioning himself as a bridge between quality EVOO producers and the African American community. Harris' goal is to start an on-line business, and at some point he wants to sell EVOO to community groups, churches, health fairs, bazaars -- any place where African Americans are in so-

cial and business settings.

"In regards to this business, like anything I am interested in, I pursue it with an ardent passion -- yeah, I am also a writer -- and with anything that has a serious component to life, I don't like being involved in the fake and the fraudulent," Harris said. "If you start learning the history of olive oil, and you start understanding the history of the wine industry, you'll realize that they have much in common. As I am also in the wine industry, my integrity starts there and I will expand it into this."

Harris wants to use crowd-

funding to initially fund this idea. Harris needs a minimum of 300 folks to contribute \$30 each [with a maximum of 3,600.] Early investors would receive three bottles of EVOO: a half-liter bottle from Calabria, and two .25L bottles from Puglia. Each bottle would be made from a different type of olive. And since there are more than 800 different kinds of olives, the variety in tastes is endless. It can be done.

For more information, visit evoo4everyone.com, igg.me/at/evoo4everyone/x/6555558, or call 215-474-1911

Victor Rivas Rivers

Dallas Furniture Bank, the only non-profit organization in Dallas that provides needy households with new or gently used furniture, will host its 12th Annual CHAIRity Friendraiser and Luncheon at the Belo Mansion, 2121 Ross Ave., Dallas, at noon, Feb. 15.

Victor Rivas Rivers, actor and author, most recently known for his recurring role on the television soap opera,

The Bold & Beautiful, will serve as the keynote speaker as part of his ongoing effort to raise awareness on the issues associated with poverty and domestic violence. Many of the families assisted by the Dallas



Furniture Bank are homeless, survivors of domestic violence who flee their abusers and others in need.

"Most of us take 'going home' for granted," said Aliah Henry, Dallas Furniture Bank chief executive officer. "Whether you live in an apartment or a house, going home has a connota-

tion of safety and comfort.

This fundraiser helps Dallas Furniture Bank continue its mission to provide homeless individuals with the basics -- a bed, sofa, a table and chairs -- and other items they need to create their own place of comfort and safety -- their home."

Since 2003, Dallas Furniture Bank has provided furniture for more than 3,700 families touching the lives of some 15,000 individuals. Henry adds that the organization is on track to impact more than 500 families in 2017.

Individual tickets to the 12th Annual Chairity Friendraiser and Luncheon are \$125. Tables of ten are \$1,250. A unique Center-piece Sponsorship of \$150

gives guests the opportunity to provide small appliances to the Dallas Furniture Bank clients. Sponsorship opportunities that include program recognition and reserved tables begin at \$2,500.

Since its inception, Dallas Furniture Bank has provided furniture that meets basic living needs to families and individuals who are transitioning out of homelessness, or to others in need, filling in the missing gap in the continuum of care. Working in collaboration with multiple Dallas social service agencies, Dallas Furniture Bank identifies people in need and helps them to acquire basic household furnishings.

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Rev. William Barber tells Black press: ‘Bowling down is not an option’

By Freddie Allen
Managing Editor
NNPA Newswire

Reverend William Barber, the president of the North Carolina state chapter of the NAACP and leader of the Moral Mondays movement, delivered a rousing keynote address to open the 2017 Mid-Winter Conference of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).

The theme of the conference was “Strengthening Black-owned Newspapers through Training, Innovation and Technology.” The NNPA partnered with General Motors, Chevrolet, Ford Motor Company, Reynolds Ameri-

can Inc. (RAI), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to host the conference; Volkswagen, Ascension, Coca-Cola, and the American Association for Cancer Research supported the event as sponsors.

During his speech titled, “Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?” Barber tackled voter suppression in the aftermath of Shelby v. Holder, White evangelicalism and the current political environment in the age of “alternative facts.”

Noting that President Woodrow Wilson played the White supremacist propaganda film “Birth of a Nation” in the Oval office in

1911, Barber said that Trump’s ascension and election is not an anomaly in American history.

“This is not the first time that White supremacy has occupied The White House. This is not the first time that America has elected a racist egomaniac,” said Barber, reminding the audience that President Wilson, a former college president, played “Birth” to signal that Reconstruction was over. “Education doesn’t necessarily get racism out of you.”

To a chorus of “Amen,” Barber said that the one thing that we have to first decide to do in this moment is that bowing down is not an op-

tion.

Recognizing that he was addressing a room full of journalists and publishers, Barber pitched ideas for a number of articles and commentaries.

“Somebody has to unpack ‘so-called’ White evangelicalism that is illogical malpractice and heresy,” said Barber. “We’ve got to have some papers that write and do some investigative work to connect the money to White evangelicalism to the policies of extremism and racism, because some of our own folk are sending money to some of these TV White evangeli-

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more detailed on other initiatives they plan such as an “investigation of voting fraud” or the selection of the next United States Supreme Court Justice?

Be certain to take note of the Democrats who vote in favor of Trump’s cabinet nominees for Treasury, Education, Labor and Health and Human Services. If Democrats support Steve Mnuchin, Betsy DeVos, Andrew Puzder and Rep. Tom Price, there is no resistance movement in the Democratic Party in Congress.

Senate Democrats have unified against exactly zero of Trump’s cabinet nominees. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) who is allegedly a progressive leader, voted in favor of Dr. Ben Carson to lead a department he has no qualifications to run. Senator Cory Booker (D-N.J.), who has great Instagram posts of food, voted with Republicans to raise prescription drug prices.

Senators who have no reelection fears whatsoever in 2018 are lying down and showing no signs of resisting Trump when the easiest show of resistance is a simple “thumbs down” on the Senate floor.

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-

N.Y.), who took over as Democratic Leader from retired Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.), so far, has decided to vote in favor of almost all of Trump’s nominees. What makes this even more confusing is that the messaging of Democratic leaders is the opposite of the action. The Democratic Party is at its lowest point in four decades in terms of seats held in the U.S. House of Representatives, governors’ houses and seats in state legislatures. With Trump’s arrival and no strategy to be seen, there has never been a better argument for younger and newer leadership. The decision between Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) and former Labor Secretary Tom Perez for Democratic National Committee Chair will be a crucial benchmark for the party.

Over a million people took to the streets to participate in marches around the world, the day after Trump’s Inauguration, which drew far lower numbers than President Obama’s historic inauguration in 2009, with the Trump that needed to see resistance. There were protests in the streets of Washington on inauguration day. Thousands figured out there needed to be resistance to

Trump before he took office, but Democrats standing on the floor of the U.S. Senate and House remain asleep.

Last weekend, Trump signed an executive order that blocked entry of all refugees to the U.S. for 120 days and barred Syrian refugees from entering the U.S. indefinitely. The order also blocked entry to anyone from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen — all Muslim majority countries. After confusion and protest at several major airports across the U.S., federal Judge Ann Donnelly granted a temporary stay so those in transit taken into custody could continue their travels.

On the evening on January 28, after a day of learning how airheaded and careless the Trump administration conducts itself, it was learned that Trump had installed his racist, anti-Semitic political advisor Steve Bannon as a member of the National Security Council (NSC). The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, four-star Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford was removed from the NSC.

This happened a day after the Trump White House released a Holocaust Remembrance Day statement that omitted the words “Jewish” or “Jews” from it and

avoided mentioning that of one of the worst mass murders in history happened because of the faith of the victims. Then Trump officials doubled down on January 28, saying that not mentioning Jewish people was intentional because “others were killed too.”

On the day of Barack Obama’s first inauguration on January 20, 2009, top Republicans met for dinner to discuss strategy against his agenda. That strategy was eight years of obstruction against Obama’s agenda and it worked. Whether Democrats in the Senate and House like it or not, they are the first line of defense against the Trump Administration.

The careless refugee executive order was issued on Holocaust Remembrance Day. Trump will select a Supreme Court nominee this week. He will go after voting rights. Have Democrats seen enough yet? If so, they need to stop crying over their election loss and start playing better defense.

Lauren Victoria Burke is a political analyst who speaks on politics and African American leadership. She is also a frequent contributor to the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com. Connect with Lauren by email at LVBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LVBurke.

Parkland staff urges caution when handling gasoline

As the winter chill gives way to warmer temperatures and sunnier days, working in the yard doesn't seem quite the chore. Lawn mowers and leaf blowers that have been stored for months are seeing the light of day. Parkland Health & Hospital System's world-renowned Regional Burn Center caution against using gasoline to prime an engine or when the weather warms start a fire to burn brush or trash.

"There is a lack of understanding of the explosive nature of gasoline; people underestimate the danger," said Stephanie Campbell, RN, Parkland's Burn Program Manager. "Gasoline-related burns are preventable and are often associated with its misuse."

In conjunction with Burn Awareness Week, Feb. 5-11, Parkland is partnering with the American Burn Association (ABA) to provide information on ways to prevent gasoline and other burn injuries.

Burn Center staff will host a Burn Prevention and Safety Fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday, Feb. 6 in the private dining room located in the first floor cafeteria at Parkland Memorial Hospital, 5200 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, 75235. The event will offer burn prevention education including electronic smoking device safety; cooking, gasoline and home oxygen safety; Dallas Fire-Rescue Department's "hazard house" for hands-on fire prevention demonstra-

tions regarding smoke alarms; escape planning and carbon monoxide detectors; candle safety; and an appearance by Sparky the Fire Dog.

Each year, thousands of individuals suffer gasoline-related burns that require a visit to a hospital emergency room and – in many cases – hospitalization. In addition, approximately 500 people die each year in the U.S. as a result of gasoline-related burns, according to the ABA. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that gasoline-related fires account for over \$450 million in direct property damage each year.

The flash point – the lowest temperature at which the vapors of a fluid will ignite – of kerosene is 100 degrees

versus the flash point of gasoline, which is minus 45 degrees. This means gasoline is always ready to ignite. The fumes and vapor are just as dangerous as the actual liquid and those fumes are capable of ignition up to 12 feet from the gasoline source.

Use caution when fueling automobiles. Do not get in and out of the automobile when fueling. Although rare, an electrical charge on your body could spark a fire, especially during the dry winter months.

Buy a gas can that contains a built in "flame arrestor" to potentially reduce the risk of an explosion.

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Local STEM video contest winners lauded

To fill the Tech Titans resource vault to provide professionals and educators compelling content to share with students, the STEM/Workforce Committee held a STEM video contest amongst high school and university students this past fall.

Videos targeted elementary students, describe a technology, create excitement about its future and how they can play a part. The targeted areas included Internet of

Things, 3D printing, autonomous vehicles or robotics.

Volunteers, including technical experts, educators and video production teams, judged the entries. Two winners received \$1000 for their entries, with two more in finalist positions and another team as a special award. A reception was held on Jan. 26 with host State Farm.

The student videos may be viewed on the Tech Titans YouTube channel.

Winners from this year's contest include:

Winner 3D/4D Printing:

Steven Macias, DeSoto High

Winner Robotics: Cordejah Walker, DeSoto High

Finalist Robotics: Andrea

Nguyen, Foster High

Special Award, all technologies: The STEMeducational Newscast, RL Turner High, Carrollton-Farmers Branch

Special Mention, Autonomous Vehicles: Zhi Su, DeSoto High



The top two winners of the Tech Titans STEM video contest were from DeSoto High School. Pictured are Bob Hill, head of the Tech Titans STEM talent team; Steve Macias, winner; LaShonda Petty, STEM teacher; Cordejah Walker, winner; and Lisa Frey from sponsor State Farm.

Lack of African Americans on UT Regents board remains

AUSTIN – On Monday, Jan. 23, Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced three appointments to the University of Texas System – Board of Regents replacing the same number of regents whose six-year terms are set to expire next month. The Texas A&M Board of Regents as presently comprised does not have an African American regent and will not when the new appointments assume their posts on Feb. 1.

“I could not be more proud of my former Senate

colleague, Kevin Eltife, being named to the UT Board of Regents and have no qualms with the other selections,” said Senator Royce West. “But I feel that an opportunity was missed to add a perspective that one of Texas’ flagship institutions has been without for nearly four years. It is a void that cannot be addressed for at least another two years.”

Two hundred and forty-two regents have served on the UT System Board during its 100-year history.

Three have been African American. Former Dallas State Representative and renowned pastor, Dr. Zan Wesley Holmes Jr. was the first African-American appointed to serve in 1991. The two other African American regents were Judith Craven, whose term ran from March 2001 through November 2007 and Prentice L. Gary, who served as a regent from 2007 – 2013.

“As Texas continues into the 21st Century economy and demographic trends persist, diversity will be-

come more and more critical as changing populations represent our society and the workforce of the future. There is room at the table for the viewpoints of the many faces and ethnicities that are part of a population that is urban, rural and suburban and reflective of all walks of life,” said Senator West. “How higher education will respond, guide and supplement the Texas workforce is critical and the University of Texas – Board of Regents should be at the helm of these societal ad-

vances. The African American perspective is a functional component of Texas’ future that is too important to proceed without. I would hope that the Governor will be more mindful of these considerations at the next and earliest opportunity.

“Although I’ve spoken with the Governor’s office on several occasions asking that he consider diversifying his appointments to UT’s Board of Regents the three Regents that he appointed on yesterday did not reflect my nor the

African American community’s request.”

This week, Governor Abbott also announced appointments to the Board of Regents for the Texas A&M University System and the Texas Tech University System. These universities’ Boards of Regents terms expire during odd-years in which the Texas Legislature also convenes. The next sets of regents would be appointed in 2019. Regents’ appointments are confirmed by the Senate.

New course introduces physicians to value-based health care model

A new online program recently launched by the Executive Education area in the Naveen Jindal School of Management teaches physicians and health care executives the fundamentals of designing, developing and operating an accountable care organization (ACO).

Over the past year, Dr. Michael J. Deegan, a clinical professor at the Jindal School, developed the Essential Elements of Accountable Care Organizations program, which began Jan. 23.

Many health care experts see the nontraditional, value-based delivery model of ACOs as a way to reduce medical costs and possibly increase physician income, said Deegan, a former physician and health care executive. He said while an ACO may entail increased financial risk for its backers, it also will secure higher-quality, more integrated care for

patients via a model called patient-centered medical homes, which provide a more comprehensive set of primary care services by transforming their organization and delivery.

“I was approached some time ago by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas President Dr. Dan McCoy, who at the time was the Texas plan’s chief medical officer,” Deegan said. “He asked if I would be interested in putting together what’s turned out to be this unique program that focuses on the fundamentals of accountable care.”

Through its foundation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas partnered with the Jindal School to fund 25 to 35 percent of the program’s development costs, Deegan said. After they agreed on a format, Deegan hired a professional videographer to create the content videos and

built a course format that is similar to his online Healthcare Leadership and Management for Physicians Certificate Program.

“The course is intended, primarily but not exclu-

sively, for interested physicians who are either contemplating starting an ACO or are already in a leadership role such as leader, co-leader, committee chair or board member,” Deegan

said. “These ACOs are pretty sophisticated, and it takes somewhere between 18 and 24 months and between \$1 million and \$3 million of capital investment to start even a moderately sized

one.”

In an ACO, some cost reductions can come from team-based care in which doctors delegate certain re-

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Celebrate African American History at Plano's Haggard Library

Want to learn more about Black art, jazz and the National Museum of African American History and Culture? We kick off our African American History Month celebration with Boitumelo: The History of Jazz this Saturday, Feb. 4 at 3 p.m. at Haggard Library. Musicians Rochelle Rabouin and Stewart Shelton take you on a quick journey of the history of jazz in America, from its roots in Africa to its landing in New Orleans and beyond.

We'll reflect on prominent African American female vocal pioneers, the jazz poetry of Ntozake Shange and a jazz collage by Romare Beardon. Then together we'll create our own jazz collage for display in the library.

Visit Haggard Library in February and take a tour of two displays:

- Black Art - Ancestral Legacy: The African Impulse in African American Art is a photographic exhibition. The exhibit answers the question

posed by American poet Countee Culleen in 1926: "What is Africa to me?" Explore a number of examples of pieces by 20th century African American artists who visually respond to this question.

- A Place for All People: Celebrating the Opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture is a reflection of the African American story characterized by pain and glory, power and civility, en-

slavement and freedom. This exhibit portrays the long struggle to create the Museum, its architectural design and its prominent location on the National Mall. It's a tribute to the African American community's powerful, deep and lasting contributions to our American story. A Place for All People exemplifies the power of oration and freedom stories marked by artistic achievement, cultural expression, philosophy, sports and politics.



Toyota and United Way offering \$1 million impact grant

To help address mobility challenges in North Texas, Toyota announced a \$1 million impact grant in partnership with United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, available for local non-profits, academic institutions and social entrepreneurs. The grant, a joint program between Toyota Motor North America and Toyota Financial Services, requires collaboration among up to five organizations.

"By engaging multiple

local partners on a single issue, we can build on ideas, pool resources and achieve greater impact in the communities we serve," said Mike Goss, general manager, Toyota Social Innovation. "The initiative is part of larger community programming aimed at creating public-private partnerships to solve societal issues."

The grant, which provides funds to implement a two-year program, is geared to-

ward transportation mobility issues and social mobility issues. It requires applicants to also consider the scalability of their programs. Following the first year of the grant, the awardees will have the opportunity to partner with Toyota to further improve outcomes.

"We believe that new technologies and approaches can increase access to mobility for underserved communities, low income including seniors

and people with disabilities, and that access to reliable, safe, affordable transport systems has direct social, equality and economic implications," said Karen Ideno, vice president of product, marketing, corporate social responsibility and communications, Toyota Financial Services. "By tapping into organizations on the ground through a collaborative approach to innovation, we can foster real change and improve quality

of life in our communities." According to recent Census figures, The Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex is the second fastest-growing metro in the nation. However many parts of the DFW area lack convenient access to jobs.

"We are proud to partner with Toyota to implement a unique program aimed at accelerating positive change in the community," said Jennifer Sampson, president and CEO of United Way of Metropoli-

tan Dallas. "With nearly one third of residents in North Texas one crisis away from financial distress, finding new and innovative ways to address mobility is critical. Toyota's leadership will amplify our collective ability to make a more secure and meaningful future for everyone in our region."

Further information on the grant will be available at www.toyotagrants.com/impact.

Alzheimer's Association annual African-American Caregiver Seminar slated for Feb. 18

The Alzheimer's Association is hosting its annual African American Seminar on Saturday Feb. 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Tarrant County College - South Campus Student Center.

The seminar, "Self-Care is Life-Care," will focus on

tips for managing the daily hurdles faced when dealing with Alzheimer's disease, community resources available to caregivers to help relieve some of their stress and current updates on research done on brain aging.

All caregivers are wel-

come to attend the seminar and will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from organizations who serve caregiver needs. A light breakfast and lunch will be served in between sessions.

African American's are

two times more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease than those of any other race but less likely to receive an accurate diagnosis.

It is important that warning signs are not ignored and not seen as a normal part of aging so that proper

planning and treatment can occur.

Admission is free of charge but registration is required. For more information

or to register, call 800-272-3900.

Social workers may receive three hours of continuing education free of charge.

COURSE, continued from Page 6

sponsibilities of patient care to other team members.

"There are many things that physician assistants (PAs), nurses, and medical assistants can do in the care of a patient that don't require a physician's knowledge," Deegan said. "The goal of everyone on the team is for everyone to work at the top of their license. In other

words, doctors don't do what PAs can do. PAs don't do what nurses can do, and so on."

Although it's not known whether this model will actually reduce costs, Deegan thinks it will.

"I've worked in a system like that," he said. "It's much less fragmented than much of the care that's currently

being delivered, and you do get better care."

About 20 physicians enrolled in the first course. Because Deegan wants to maintain a consistently high-quality product, future classes will not be much larger.

Elements of the course include critical leadership competencies; structural and functional elements; legal aspects of ACO formation;

budgets, resource allocation and financial risk; performance metrics and information technology; clinical risk and population health management; and value-based care delivery.

The course is composed of eight units, each of which is introduced every three weeks and requires five to seven hours of work. The course takes about six months to complete.



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Dallas mayor issues apology to travelers stuck at DFW airport

"First the president's executive action purports to be a response to national security, that we are not safe. If I believed that I would be very supportive of this action. That is not true. We have been very safe in the Dallas area for the past couple of years. In fact, 800,000 refugees have been admitted to the U.S. since 9/11; none of them has committed an act of terrorism on U.S. soil.

"If I'm a business person on that trip, and I just was told to go home, you think I'm going to come and invest money and do business here? I don't think so. From a business standpoint we are doing everything we can to become an international business cen-



ter. This move sends a clear signal that -- not so fast -- we don't want to have your business, and that is concerning to me.

"That's not the way you do business. You do it with

a handshake and a spirit of welcoming. On behalf of citizens of Dallas, we are sorry. We are not that way."

**- Mike Rawlings
Mayor, City of Dallas**

Young Costa Rican mother turned back from Houston airport

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

Adriana Portillo shared with friends via Facebook the plight of her cousin, Adriana Salazar Vila, who was scheduled to visit family in Dallas from Costa Rica. President Donald Trump's Executive Order is stated to impact visitors from seven countries in Africa and the Middle East. However, Salazar's family believes the order is being used as leverage to target other tourists according to the Facebook post.

Vila arrived at the Houston airport with her mother, Vilma Salazar, they were together for the first eight hours of the nearly 36-hour



detainment of Vila. During the process according to Portillo, the officials allegedly called Vila a liar and insisted she voluntarily sign deportation papers to speed up the process.

Both women were accused of smuggling drugs in the many coffee bags they

were carrying. None were found when each bag was opened. Eventually, Salazar was allowed to enter the country and travel on to Dallas. However, while she normally receives a six-month visa, she was informed she must leave by Feb. 25.

The family was informed Vila was returned to Costa Rica via a text believed to be from immigration or the airline notifying the family of her return flight. Her phone was confiscated so the details are unknown at this time, but the family believes Vila signed the paperwork because her baby was upset and she was prevented from meeting his needs.

MUSLIM, continued from Page 1

"We need to send a message to Mayor Beth Van Duyne that the City of Irving constituents will not tolerate hatred," said Quintanilla, the leader of Accion America.

"We have never seen any radical Islamic behavior in Irving and we need to share that type of awareness with the community. Irving has a large minority community that includes Muslims and hate mongering is not accept-

able."

The office of Mayor Duyne acknowledged receipt of questions but did not provide a response for this story.

Suleiman said Muslims welcome government officials to visit mosques to get to know them in the spirit of friendship and not suspicion. He said they reject a privately funded poll sent out to Muslim groups earlier this month by Rep. Biedermann request-

ing their response.

"The representative didn't reach out to us through one of the many mosques in Texas. Some in his own district to learn about us as a community and how we understand and practice our faith as Texas Muslims," Suleiman said during the press conference last week. "Instead, he decided to put us through a litmus test that is grounded in intimidation. These loyalty tests are not new in America, and they essentially imply a

second-class citizenship on the part of those who receive them. We reject that status and characterization. By sending us these letters dictated by Xenophobes and hate groups not even based in our state, he is negating a decade of interfaith dialogue, multi-faith cooperation and civic engagement here in Texas."

Dr. Michael W. Waters, who also attended the press conference, said he is concerned about the growing acceptance of racism and xenophobia sweeping across the country.

"I believe there is an assault on our civil liberties secured for us in blood by generations of soldiers and generations of activists," said

Rev. Waters, a pastor of Joy Tabernacle A.M.E. Church in South Dallas. "I believe Muslims are being targeted."

Shayan Elahi, an American Muslim who is the chair of the civil rights committee of the Dallas County Democratic Party added, "Political intimidation will not work just as they have not worked against other minorities."

ALLEN Allen Community Theater presents Epic Proportions

Epic Proportions, written by Larry Coen & David Crane, has heavy technical demands with grand scale sets, costumes, lighting and sound. The idea is that we are backstage at a heroic Biblical movie like Ben Hur, The Ten Commandments, or Spartacus. For information on ticket prices and show performances, visit www.allenscommunitytheatre.net

GARLAND Kids create 'moving' illustrations at the library

Children ages 6 to 12 can create moving line drawings at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4,

at the Walnut Creek Branch Library, 3319 Edgewood Drive. Participants will make abstract illustrations using crayons and markers, then cut their drawings into strips and glue them to construction paper. This will create a wave effect and give the illusion that the drawings are moving! For more information and to register, call 972-205-2585.

General Election Filing Deadline is Feb. 17

Garland residents may file for a place on the May 6, 2017, General Election ballot for the offices of Mayor and City Council Districts 3, 6, 7 and 8. Anyone interested in candidacy must submit the required documents to the City Secretary's Office before the filing deadline of Friday,

Feb. 17. Candidate packets are available online and may be picked up at the Office of the City Secretary, 200 N. Fifth St.

IRVING Irving's Got Talent provides a platform for local performers

The Irving's Got Talent annual competition is the biggest night of the year for many local teens.

On Friday, Feb. 17, adults take a seat while talented teens take to the stage at Irving Arts Center's Carpenter Hall, 333 N. MacArthur Blvd. This free, all-ages show will feature music, dance and other performances by Irving teens.

A panel of judges will select winners and the audience will vote on the best performance via text.

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New video network puts the spotlight on the global Black experience

LOS ANGELES — ONX, an online video network targeting Black millennials began delivering original video content that shines a light on the global Black experience, to audiences in the US and around the globe.

Filling a void, ONX offers a diverse collection of content, including news, entertainment, and lifestyle programming. “Over the past couple of years, we’ve seen an appetite for more stories highlighting the Black experience,” CEO Lateef Sarnor said. “ONX shares those stories within our community and to those seeking perspectives that are not shown



on major networks.”

ONX’s launch coincides with shifts in the cultural, social and political landscapes. “Now more than ever, it’s important for Black people—

young and old—to have a voice,” said Sarnor. “We can’t let our opinions be silenced, especially in the current political climate. ONX puts a spotlight on the signif-

icance of Black culture, speaking truth to power and telling important stories of diversity.”

To celebrate Black History Month, ONX will launch #BlackInTheDay, a video series featuring ONX talent describing a moment that shaped their Black experience. In addition, a new line up of daily and weekly programming began Jan 30. For the full lineup, visit WATCHONX.COM.

DAILY DOSE LIVE – Daily live news show covering the day’s trending stories in news and entertainment live on social media.

THE DEEP DIVE –

Breaks down complex and important cultural topics/issues to answer the pressing questions that many of us want to know, but are afraid to ask.

WHAT IT’S LIKE – A snapshot into the lives of people who are marginalized in their communities, considered outsiders, or just plain misunderstood aiming to give their perspective on their experiences.

HE SAID SHE SAID – A weekly debate talk show discussing relationship topics from the male and female perspective.

ABOUT LAST NIGHT – A weekly recap show featur-

ing highlights and opinions on notable moments in TV & Film from the past week.

MAN-ISH – A no-holds barred conversation featuring two male hosts discussing all the things men really care about; from sports to music to the latest gear and more.

ANDRE’S CLOSET – Docu-style fashion makeover show where everyday people get a style makeover using clothes from their own closet.

THE STYLELIST – A fast paced interactive roundup of the latest trends in entertainment, fashion, lifestyle, food & drinks, trave

DSO hosts special concert for audience on autism spectrum this weekend

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra (DSO) announces the second annual My DSO Concert on February 5, 2017, at 2:30 PM, a free concert specially designed for children and adults on the autism spectrum and with developmental disabilities, and their families, friends and caregivers. My DSO Concert is presented in partnership with Autism Treatment Center, Best Buddies, LaunchAbility, My Possibilities, The McDermott Scholars at the University of Texas at Dallas, UT Southwestern Medical Center and The Warren Center. Tickets will be available to the general public beginning January 5, 2017.

Prior to the performance, representatives from the partner organizations as well as other organizations from North Texas will be on hand for a resource fair. Patrons will also be able to interact with musical instruments at an instrument petting zoo and participate in a music therapy experience provided by “Sing Your Way Home.” Pre-concert events start at 1:30 PM.

My DSO Concert will last about an hour and will be performed without an intermission. The performance will not vary from a traditional orchestra concert

programmatically, but arrangements will be made to accommodate the individual needs of people with acute sensitivities. “Quiet rooms” will be set aside in case the music becomes overwhelming; the performance will also be

broadcast via television monitors on the lower level of the Meyerson. House lights will be set to a brighter level. There will be remarks from the stage to welcome the audience and introduce the music. Fidgets, ear plugs and eye cov-

ers will be available to help prevent overstimulation.

After the performance, patrons are invited to stay for a casual reception to meet other audience members and musicians of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

The inaugural My DSO Concert on April 10, 2016 served 1,100 participants, many of whom had never been to a classical concert before. “The response to the first My DSO Concert was overwhelming, joyful and affirming,” said Jonathan

Martin, President & CEO of the Dallas Symphony. “There was a buzz of enthusiasm from the audience as the music was performed, and gratitude from families that they could enjoy a Dal-

See DSO, Page 10

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Girl Scout cookie season includes new S'Mores cookie

Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas (GSNETX), the largest organization shaping young female leaders in North Texas, is debuting a new cookie for the 2017 Cookie Season underway through Feb. 26.

Since 1917 the Girl Scout Cookie Program has been the engine that powers opportunities for girls participating in Girl Scouts. The 21st century Girl Scout participates in the Cookie Program not only to build skills such as leadership, business ethics, money management



Girl Scout S'Mores Cookie debuted for the 2017 Cookie Season

and more, but to also create change within their own North Texas community by raising money to support community projects and

troop activities for the upcoming year. In 2016, the Girl Scouts Troop to Troop program aims to donate 100,000 Girl Scout Cookie

packages to local military veterans.

"The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the finest example of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience," said Jennifer Bartkowski, CEO of Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas. "Girls who participate in the Cookie Program develop critical skills such as goal setting, decision making and interpersonal skills while earning money to fuel opportunities for their troop. 100 percent of the proceeds from the Girl Scout Cookie Program stay right here in our

council. Buying a box of Girl Scout Cookies helps more than 26,000 girls fulfill their dreams, follow their passions, learn to lead and ultimately change the world."

To celebrate 100 years of Girl Scouts selling cookies, Girl Scouts introduced a new cookie flavor: Girl Scout S'Mores.

The Girl Scout S'Mores cookie will be sold alongside Girl Scout classics including Thin Mints, Tagalongs, Samoas, Trefoils, Do-Si-Dos, Tagalongs, Savannah Smiles, and Toffee-Tastic.

Classic cookies can be purchased for \$4 a box and specialty ingredient cookies, Girl Scout S'Mores and Toffee-Tastic, sell for \$5 a box.

Cookie fans can find nearby cookie booths by visiting www.texascookie-time.org or by downloading the Cookie Finder app. The app is available for iPhone and Android by searching GS COOKIES in your phone's app store.

For more information about the Cookie Program, visit www.texascookie-time.org.

DSO, continued from Page 9

las Symphony concert without stress or worry. We are delighted that we are able to present this event again and welcome more friends to the DSO."

"We could tell from the overwhelming response of our clients that the DSO was offering a truly unique opportunity. Every potential obstacle was already eliminated – from keeping the lights brighter throughout to a no shame and no shush attitude to any noise or distractions in the audience," said Zack Parsons, Program

and Development Associate at LaunchAbility. "Our clients and their families were able to relax in what would normally be a daunting event, and enjoy music at its finest. We thank the DSO for their attention to detail in presenting such a wonderful gift to this community."

Music Director Jaap van Zweden's personal experience was the motivation for this concert. At about six years of age, van Zweden's third child was diagnosed on the autism spectrum.

Soon, they discovered music was a way to communicate. "We had conversations with him by making music, through rhythm and other things," van Zweden said. "We saw this really work for him." The work with their child resulted in the creation of the Papageno Foundation. Today 25 screened and certified music therapists travel throughout the Netherlands visiting children in their home, and the organization researches the effect of music on children with autism. Papageno House, a new home for autistic

young adults and children, was opened in Laren, The Netherlands, in August 2015.

"We are excited about the opportunity to partner with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra on this concert again

this year," said Michael Thomas, Executive Director of My Possibilities. "It is so wonderful to be a part of something that brings the world of classical music to children and adults with disabilities who have a diffi-

cult time engaging in the traditional setting."

My DSO Concert is free, however, seats must be reserved. For information and reservations, visit www.mydso.com or call 214.TIX.4DSO.

More Happy Winners...



Stacey Starkey (top left), Chris McDaniel (above) and Trina Joe (at left) were winners of free tickets to go and see Drumline LIVE when it performs here in Dallas. Stay tuned to the North Dallas Gazette on Facebook and Instagram for a chance to win free tickets to the hottest events happening in DFW

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
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1781	Casino Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 3.69	\$10	2/13/17	8/12/17
1753	100X The Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 3.48	\$20	2/23/17	8/22/17
1805	Pitbull Overall Odds are 1 in 4.42	\$2	4/5/17	10/2/17
1769	\$250,000 Extreme Green Overall Odds are 1 in 3.19	\$10	4/5/17	10/2/17

For detailed odds and game information, visit txlottery.org or call 800-376-6888. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education and programs. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. For help with a gambling problem, visit www.problemgambling.org. © 2017 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

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Refinancing your debt could be a good idea if...

By Nathaniel Sillin

Have you ever considered how lenders compare applicants? Typically, the lowest rate goes to those who have the highest likelihood of repaying the loan on time. A lot of data goes into determining that probability, including the person's credit, income and outstanding debt.

As these factors improve, your terms on new loans might improve as well. You could also refinance debts you took on earlier in life to take advantage of the



changes. As a result, you might be able to decrease your interest rate, lower your monthly payment and save a lot of money.

Refinancing, which is often done by taking out a new loan to pay off existing debt, can be surprisingly simple. In some cases, you can submit all the information online, and the entire

process will only take a few days. However, refinancing more complex debts, such as a mortgage, can take considerably longer.

While refinancing doesn't always make sense, it's worth considering if you're in one of the following situations.

Interest rates dropped. Some loans' interest rates

depend on a benchmark interest rate, such as the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR). Even if your financial profile stays the same, when the benchmark rate rises or falls, your interest rate on a new loan could rise or fall as well.

You want to change the terms of your loan. Because you're taking out a new loan

to pay off existing debt, you might have the opportunity to change the terms of the loan. For example, you could have a variable-rate student loan whose interest rate rises or falls with a benchmark. You might be able to refinance with a fixed-rate student loan and have certainty that your monthly payments won't change in the future.

If you have a lower interest rate after refinancing and have the same amount, or less, time to repay the loan, you can save money over the lifetime of the loan.

You want to lower your

monthly payments. Say you have a 30-year mortgage that you've been paying off for five years. If you refinance with another 30-year mortgage, you have an extra five years to pay off approximately the same amount of money. As a result, your monthly payments could be lower, but be sure to take into consideration the fact that you will likely wind up paying more in interest.

Your loan has a cosigner. Perhaps you asked someone to cosign your auto loan to improve your chances of

See IDEA Page 12

New service launches to help African American entrepreneurs create apps

Columbia, MD (BlackNews.com) — Savvier Health, LLC has been granted a license to offer the same easy-to-use subscription-based app creation plat-

form that has been used by tens of thousands of people around the world to successfully publish hundreds of thousands of apps. Their system uses a simple what-you-

see-is-what-you-get format to allow subscribers to easily exchange standard text and pictures with their own in hundreds of ready-to-publish app templates. With this sys-

tem, even the average high school student can churn out multiple apps each month and make money for college in his spare time.

Now, anyone who can use

a home computer has the potential to copy and paste and write their way into a piece of the explosive international app market that has made more than a few millionaires.

Neither coding experience nor a large investment in time or resources is needed to become a part of the app revo-

See APPS Page 12

OPTION, continued from Page 3

cals."

Barber said that the loss of the full protections of the Voting Rights Act and voter suppression were two of the most underreported stories during the last election cycle.

"Long before any Russian hack, the American electoral process was hacked by systemic racism and fear," said Barber. "The Southern Strategy is alive and well."

Barber acknowledged that civil rights leaders and Democrats could have voiced louder criticism about the lack of work done in the U.S. Congress to restore the Voting Rights Act.

"Democrats talked more about David Duke than they did about voter suppression and the Voting Rights Act being dismantled," said Barber.

Barber said that they were 868 fewer voting places across the nation; those closures disproportionately affected Black voters.

"Voter suppression has been proven, voter fraud has been disproven. The lie about voter fraud is a distraction from the truth about voter suppression, because voter suppression is about thievery. You scratch a liar, you'll find

a thief," said Barber. "Trump won because of the voter suppression that went on in the Black community."

After delivering a brief history of fusion politics, a time when poor Whites and Blacks worked together to achieve political power in the South following the Civil War, Barber questioned why so many poor, White people today cast votes for lawmakers that oppose establishing living wage standards, better healthcare and more educational opportunities for low-income families.

The North Carolina pastor noted that there are 18.9 poor White people in the United States, about eight million more than the number of poor Black people, though Black people experience poverty at higher rates than Whites.

Barber said that exploring the real reasons why so many poor Whites vote against their own self-interest, would make for a great investigative report.

Returning to the theme that today's political environment in America is nothing new, Barber told the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who he described

as "three millennials from the Bible days," that liked to write and Nebuchadnezzar, "a maniacal egomaniac who loved to tweet out his own news," loved to build towers and invited people to come to his towers to bow down.

When Nebuchadnezzar commanded that everyone bow down to his image and Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused, the king threatened to throw them into the furnace.

"He didn't know they already had a fire. They came from people who had been through the fire," said Barber. "They remembered how the lord had dealt with pharaoh. They remembered how David dealt with Goliath."

Barber said that the three young leaders had a fire in them, because they sang the songs of their ancestors.

"Can we just make a decision, Black folks? Can we just make a decision, publishers? Can we just make a decision, civil rights...that bowing down is not an option?" Barber implored. "I gotta suspicion that it's going to be some fiery times. I gotta suspicion that it's gonna get hot. I gotta suspicion that Nebuchadnezzar is gonna do some rough stuff."

Barber implored the pub-

lishers, journalists and activists in the room to go into the proverbial fire standing up, because help won't come, if you go in the fire bowing down.

"If you go in the fire standing up, God can transform the fire and the same fire that was meant to destroy you, can become a fire of deliverance!" Barber shouted.

The crowd roared, delivering Barber a standing ovation. The Moral Mondays leader continued:

"Bowing down is not an option! Standing down is not an option! Looking down is not an option! Breaking down is not an option! We've been through worse before." Barber exclaimed. "We've been through slavery. We've been through Jim Crow. We've been through the Trail of Tears and we're gonna stand up in this moment!"

The next day at the conference, Barber committed to writing a regular guest column for the NNPA Newswire

that will be distributed throughout the NNPA's network of 211 Black-owned media properties and will reach an estimated 20 million readers in print and online.

"Somebody has to write from the perspective of crisis, even if the crisis doesn't end immediately," Barber explained. "Somebody has to make sure that there is a witness that [the Black Press] didn't go along with it. So we have to do that."

PLANO'S
Community Investment Plan [CIP]
PROJECT UPDATE

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- > Ask procurement and project questions



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Green Dot purchases Simmons' Rushcard in megadeal

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire Contributor)

Every American needs a RushCard — or Green Dot.

That's the mantra of RushCard founder and business mogul Russell Simmons, who together with Green Dot Corporation President Steven Streit, explained the intricacies of their new partnership in an interview with the NNPA Newswire.

Simmons and Streit said Green Dot Corporation has agreed to purchase UniRush, LLC, the parent company of the RushCard prepaid debit card.

The deal is worth about \$167 million and will merge Green Dot's 4.5 million cardholders with RushCard's 750,000 account holders.

Simmons, long a champion for the underbanked and unbanked, will remain with the company and continue to play a significant role in guiding the union in its mission to create more banking opportunities for all Americans.

"There are some things that we can do with our card that will be happening soon that will make us unique," Simmons said. "I don't care how many cards you have in your wallet, you will need us with

all of the tools and resources we'll have. Every American needs a RushCard."

Among those resources are the formation of the nation's largest mobile, online and direct mail "direct-to-consumer" providers of bank accounts, debit cards and other financial services.

Of course, Green Dot's acquisition of the RushCard enhances the company's prospects among the tech-savvy, urban and millennial consumer segments of the financial services market where RushCard has traditionally excelled.

"The reason Steve was so attractive, as a partner, is that he does care and he has the innovative products that go with caring," Simmons said. "We have early direct deposit, where people get their pay two days early, fraud protection and features that my customers need."

Viewed by many as both a pioneer in the financial services industry and as a passionate advocate for the unbanked and underserved communities, Streit said his mission continues to be to financially educate low-income families and to serve their needs.

"If I had my way, young people, especially from low-

income families, would always talk about money and learn how to manage money," Streit said.

The deal is one Simmons called "a no-brainer" and one that will greatly benefit his already large customer base.

"We made a move to make sure that we better service our customers and that's why we did this deal," Simmons said. "We were set up to do a partnership and we will execute."

The two CEOs said while they've long been competitors, they've also been admirers.

When Simmons didn't shy away from a storm of bad publicity and personal criticism for a glitch in the RushCard two years ago, Streit said he was impressed with how the Def Jam founder responded.

Simmons helped to create a multi-million-dollar fund to help cover the costs that customers had while their cards were beset by technical problems.

In some instances, Simmons sent money to customers to help pay their rent, car loans and other payments.

"A big part of [buying RushCard] is Russell himself," Streit said, noting that he met Simmons some time ago when Simmons gave a keynote speech at a conference about

prepaid cards. "Russell understands the community and cares deeply. I thought he handled himself so well [during the glitch]. Everyone can be a great CEO or a great leader when things are going well."

Streit continued: "Russell worked hard when things were going bad. The fact is that he quickly turned the health of that company around and he regained the confidence of his customers."

Green Dot also encountered problems of its own last year when a glitch stopped many of its customers from accessing their accounts, making purchases and withdrawing cash.

With Streit's guidance, the company was also able to overcome those issues.

Together, Green Dot and RushCard are two of the oldest prepaid debit cards in the marketplace. Simmons' RushCard popularized prepaid cards, while Green Dot pioneered the reloadable prepaid card and is the largest provider in the U.S., according to Forbes Magazine.

Recognized with numerous industry awards including a two-time winner of Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Streit has heavily been involved in philanthropic efforts, founding Patti's Way, a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation

providing grants to single mothers and their children.

Streit also has mentored children in foster care in Los Angeles and has been a benefactor to the Los Angeles Police Department's Hollenbeck Police Athletic League.

"Russell and I are both philanthropic and, yes, it's always a danger when you align yourself with any human because you're always worried about someone getting into trouble," Streit said. "But, Russell has so many years of being an activist and, as far as his activism goes, I love it. Look, money is power, money is politics and money has its means and Russell gets it."

Streit said Simmons' voice and creative spirit and love for the community at-large were important factors in doing a deal of this magnitude.

"I don't like when big companies buy companies and homogenize it. I wanted to make sure we kept the flavor and kept Russell's energy, love and passion," Streit said.

In the end, the pair each said the deal was easy.

"Year ago, the RushCard supported a financial service tour that we did we Dr. Ben Chavis," Simmons said. "We taught financial literacy and a part of our mission, as this

company grows, is to teach financial literacy."

Simmons continued: "The potential to help the community grows with this deal. We speak their language and we speak to their needs."

The deal, expected to close before the end of the first quarter, enhances Green Dot's shareholder value and materially expands the company's scale, Streit said.

As he's done with ventures in music, comedy and fashion, Simmons said he's partnering with the best company in the industry, Green Dot, to expand opportunities and continue RushCard's mission to revolutionize the banking industry.

"We believe our customers are among the most loyal in prepaid and I want to thank them for their years of support. I always wanted to serve the customer and I sold into a place where I've known Steve for a long time and I trust him and he's been a great competitor," Simmons said. "We are excited to continue and expand upon our tradition of providing great and important products for our customers over the many years to come and the truth is millennials are looking at us as the future of the bank-

See DEAL, Page 13

APPS, continued from Page 11

lution anymore. It is no secret that people of color, specifically African-Americans and Hispanics, are grossly under-represented among the ranks of app creators, but Savvier Health hopes to help turn the

tide.

With AppsILike.net subscribers choose from hundreds of templates, change the text and pictures, and then click a button to submit their work to their technical sup-

port team, who then 'builds' the app and submits it to the AppStore under the subscribers' AppStore developer account, or provides the code (APK) that subscribers can upload to their GooglePlay or Amazon/Kindle developer accounts. With literally millions of stock photos avail-

able online for purchase, the possibilities for creating new apps is endless.

While not everyone is computer savvy, AppsILike.net provides numerous step-by-step tutorials to help even the most skeptical subscribers create stunning apps with little effort. Free techni-

cal support via email is also available. While there will be a slight learning curve for many, a person with no app creation experience whatso-

ever could create a basic app in a Saturday afternoon with easy methods and tutorials, and soon be able to create a basic app in less than an hour.

IDEA, continued from Page 11

getting approved or getting a lower interest rate. If you're eligible for refinancing on your own, you might be able to release your cosigner and take full responsibility for the new loan.

Proceed carefully because applying for refinancing could hurt your credit. Applying for refinancing often results in a hard inquiry, when a potential lender reviews your credit. Generally, a single hard inquiry won't have a large negative

impact on credit, but multiple hard inquiries might.

When you're refinancing a mortgage, auto loan or student loans you can still shop around and try to find the best rate without worrying about your credit too much. As long as the hard inquiries happen within a 14- to 45-day period (depending on the credit-scoring model) the credit-scoring model will consider them a single inquiry.

Consider the fees and find your break-even point be-

fore refinancing. Depending on the type of debt and the lender, there could be costs associated with refinancing debt. For example, some loans have an origination fee, either a flat fee or a percentage of the loan amount, which could be significant.

The break-even point is how long it'll take you to recoup the costs associated with refinancing. For example, it could cost you \$3,000 to refinance your mortgage, but you'll save \$150 each month. You'll break even after 20 months because that's when you'll have saved \$3,000 in monthly

payments. If you plan on selling the home before the break-even point, it likely doesn't make sense to refinance.

Use the same sort of calculations to weigh the pros and cons of refinancing other types of debts. When it looks like refinancing could be beneficial, shop around to try and find the terms that best fit your needs.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: www.twitter.com/Practical-Money.

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Raising Cane's taking applications for 38th DFW-area restaurant

Renowned as one of the "Best Companies To Work For" in Dallas/Fort Worth, Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers is always on the lookout for talented individuals to help foster its most coveted qualities: a cool culture, fast and friendly service and an all-embracing commitment to community involvement.



"We're looking for a select group of friendly, energetic, customer-service-oriented crewmembers to join the Raising Cane's team," said General Manager Leo Scarborough. "We offer competitive pay, a great work envi-

ronment and a cool company culture that sets us apart from our competitors. And because this will be a late-night location – our drive thru will be open till 3:30 a.m. from Thursday through Saturday –

we'll need lots of great individuals to help us share our ONE LOVE with this vibrant part of town."

With its 38th restaurant in the DFW Metroplex rapidly nearing completion, the pop-

ular Louisiana-based brand is seeking more than 75 candidates for multiple crewmember positions. When the restaurant opens on Feb. 14 at 2255 W. Northwest Highway (near I-35), it will be the 105th Raising Cane's in Texas and among more than 300 system-wide.

Interviews will be scheduled through Feb. 3 at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites located at 2287 W. Northwest Highway in Dallas. Interested crewmember candidates are encouraged to apply online at caniacareers.com (search for NW Highway).

Richardson Parks and Recreation now hiring for part-time and summer positions

The City's Parks and Recreation Department is now hiring for a variety of part-time and seasonal jobs. Hourly salaries start at \$7.25 and up, and many of the positions are open to

teens under age 18. Positions posted include lifeguard (minimum age: 15), pool cashier/slide attendant (minimum age: 16), swim instructor (minimum age: 16), swim team coach

(minimum age: 16) and day camp counselor (minimum age: 16); positions for day camp director, pool manager, assistant pool manager, swim instructor coordinator, phys-

ical activity class instructor and recreation support technician are also available.

Visit www.cor.net/jobs for more information or to apply online.

DEAL, continued from Page 12

ing industry."

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association said that Russell Simmons continues to advance the economic development interests of the African American community, as well

as all marginalized communities across the United States.

"The NNPA, in particular, recognizes this acquisition with serious anticipation toward helping to further fulfill the inclusive goal of economic justice and equality for all," Chavis said.

Looking for energetic interns in the Dallas Area

A local community newspaper has an internship position available. The goal is to provide students and aspiring writers an opportunity to gain published clips, experience and professional feedback. The position is for 20 hours a week at \$8.50 per hour. Assignments will include covering local events, phone interviews, and rewriting press releases.



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Church Happenings

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, CARROLLTON (A PLACE TO BELONG)

NOTICE: Pastor Woodson serves the community by providing "Professional Therapy and Counseling Services" on a "Sliding Fee" scale. To schedule an appointment call the Pastoral Counseling Center at 972-526-4525 or email the church.

February 4, 10 a.m.

Ladies, join us for our Women's Ministry meeting, W.O.R.T.H. at the church. We meet the first Saturday of each month.

February 5, 9:45 a.m.

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

February 8, 7 p.m.

Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Brenda Patterson and others teaching a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 6, Chapter 2." 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 5, 8:45 a.m.

You're invited to our Morning Services as we worship, honor and praise God for His blessings.

February 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 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"

Follow us on Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Vimeo).

February 5, 8 a.m.

Join us on our main campus at 200 West Belmont Drive for Early Morning Worship and be blessed; followed by our Sunday Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 and bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

February 8, 7 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
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February 3, 2017

All men are invited to

Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 7 p.m.

February 5, 10 a.m.

(Only One Service, every Sunday)
You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

February 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)

February 5, 10 a.m.

Join us for Worship Service as we praise and worship God in 2017 for His Honor and His glory; and don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

February 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.

February 10, 7:30 p.m.

Join us for our Pre-Valentine Celebration Love Extravaganza, "It's About Love"; attire is dressy, call the church for details, you don't want to miss this affair.

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

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)

February 5, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Join us for Worship Serv-

ices and fellowship as we give God all glory, honor and praise.

February 8, 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. We are, "Growing in Christ through the study of His Word."

Two Notices: Our AWANA (Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed from 2 Timothy 2:15) is held from 6:30 - 8:15 pm, now through May 2017. There is no charge

for registration for new participants! This is a Bible-based program for children and youth, ages three years old through the 12th grade. The emphasis is on memorizing the Word of God and developing a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ in a structured, safe and fun environment. Our church ministries offer opportunities for motivation and growth; join us and see. Be blessed of the Lord.

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Black History Month



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

The month of February is the United States' observation of Black History. The 2017 theme is "The Crisis in Black Education." It focuses on the crucial role of education in the history of African Americans.

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) founder, Carter G. Woodson, once wrote that "If you teach the Negro that he has accomplished as much good as any other race he will aspire to equality and justice without regard to race."

It is disheartening to think of the controversy surrounding this very important holiday.

Some people have joked, "We were given the shortest month of the year to celebrate our history." This is not just Black History that we are celebrating, not just America's history, but history of the world.

Many great and useful inventions that are being used worldwide and that are taken for granted were invented by Black people.

The "gamma-electric cell" that makes possible our use of the mobile phone was invented by a Black man, the car battery and open heart surgery to name a few essential things that are in use today.

Some people think that it's by pure accident that some Black people, the same ones that we hear about year after year; have done something worthwhile.

People easily accept that we have a few famous entertainers, sports figures and a few entrepreneurs making millions of dollars.

However, they are slow to recognize that there are many Black people that

have excelled and are continuing to excel and inventing devices.

And, they use math and science to make a difference in how we live, work, play, and entertain today.

As a retired teacher, I too wish that all history of great magnitude is put in our textbooks, especially Black History, which is American's history; in spite of what we have been taught.

But wishing it is not going to get the information in our textbooks on the grand scale that it needs to be.

The story of Carter Godwin Woodson, Father of Black History (December 1875 – April 1950) is a captivating and inspiration story in itself.

Dr. Woodson said, "Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history."

When Dr. Woodson established Negro History week in 1926, he

realized the importance of providing a theme to focus the attention of the public.

The intention has never been to dictate or limit the exploration of the Black experience, but to bring to the public's attention the important developments that merit emphasis.

He believed that Blacks should know their past in order to participate intelligently in the affairs in our country.

Dr. Woodson strongly believed that Black history—which others (even some Black people) have tried so diligently to erase—is a firm foundation for young Black people to build on in order to become productive citizens of our society.

Prior to "Negro History WEEK," Dr. Woodson and several of his friends established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In the 1960s it was established as Black History

MONTH.

In 1912 Dr. Woodson, received his Ph.D in history from Harvard University. He developed an important philosophy of history.

History, he insisted, was not the mere gathering of fact. The object of historical study is to arrive at a rea-

sonable interpretation of the facts.

History is more than political and military records of people and nations. It must include some description of the social conditions of the period being studied.

Dr. Woodson often said that he hoped the time



Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Father of Black History

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: Catching up with a *Man on the Run*

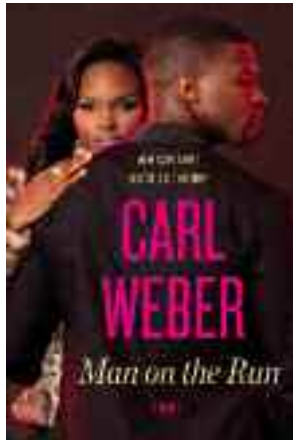
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Catch me if you can.

You might have said that once, giggling. You may have yelled it at a game one afternoon. You said it, maybe, in a flirtatious manner on some romantic evening. Run, run, run, catch me if you can because, as in “Man on the Run” by Carl Weber, this chase may keep a man out of prison.

The night Kyle Richmond learned that his best friend, Jay Crawford, had busted out of prison was unusually memorable: Kyle and his wife were naked in their hot tub when U.S. Marshalls broke in and surprised them. The Feds were sure that Jay had contacted Kyle, in search of money and a place to hide.

The Marshalls had shown up at Wil Duncan’s office that afternoon, too, but they quickly learned that Wil didn’t know where Jay was. Wil was best friends with his boy, Jay, for years but that didn’t mean he was a regular visitor



at the prison. Truth: he hadn’t seen Jay in ages. No, Wil had enough problems, with his job and his powerful uncle putting the pressure on him to join the “family business.”

Jay’s other best friend, Allen, wasn’t visited by the U.S. Marshalls – maybe because he’d never gone to see Jay in prison. He had his hands full just keeping his beautiful wife, Cassie, happy, so instead, Allen anonymously put money in Jay’s commissary fund and sent him gifts, but his name was not tied to the criminal Jay

Crawford.

It was quite a surprise that Jay showed up on Allen’s doorstep, looking for help.

Ten years ago, Jay Crawford was accused of raping a woman, but she’d set him up. He was innocent and because of that, he wasn’t about to take the rap for anything, even if it meant parole – and so, he escaped from prison instead. He figured he could count on his three best friends to help a guy out.

He never figured that his friends would be the ones who’d need help...

Confession time: I’d stopped reading author Carl Weber’s novels a few books ago. I was getting tired of all the women, beautiful, and all the men, criminal. Same-same-same, and it was no fun. But with “Man on the Run,” I’m glad I came back into the fold.

The women are still all beautiful here and the men still get into trouble, but this book arcs back into some old Weber favorites from many

years past. Savvy, long-time readers will remember many hearts and laws broken, as well as a lot of hot mattresses and cold revenge. You’ll welcome all of them back as Weber takes readers again

into his beloved Queens, to backstabbing boardrooms, steamy bedrooms, and businesses that are never as innocent as they seem.

Yes, it’s over-the-top, but this book just feels better than

prior ones. Once you’ve read it and gotten over its slippery little cliffhanger, in fact, you’ll be hungry for the next installment. In the meantime, “Man on the Run” is the book to catch.

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Pol adv pd for by the Young Sung Campaign
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- 35-plus year Carrollton resident
- Fluent in both English and Korean
- Active member of the Korean Chamber of Commerce
- Children are a product of CFBISD school system
- Member and Deacon at the Korean United Central Methodist Church

Professional Accomplishments

- Court Interpreter and Mediator
- Real Estate Broker
- Department of Justice Language consultant
- Holds an MBA degree
- Endorsed by the Korean Chamber of Commerce
- Former an All American collegiate soccer nominee
- Interpreter/Translator for Korean World Cup National Soccer Team in 1994