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The quest and struggle to encourage Black America Economic Development

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

The quest and struggle for improving the quality of life in Black America has had its ups and downs over the past 100 years. It is no secret that one of the most important keys to the

advancement of the living conditions in Black America is the fundamental issue of sustainable economic development.

The truth is that we have made some economic progress during the last century.

But the overall quantita-



tive rate of economic well-being for African Americans has been too slow and not large enough to make a big positive difference in the state of the Black American economy.

During the past five

See QUEST, Page 7

A struggle for Black girls



Photo Eddie Van 3000 / Flickr

See Black Girls, Page 9

Drunk driving a growing threat in Texas

DALLAS — Whether rushing to the mall to take advantage of holiday sales, dashing to a party, or over-indulging in New Year's Eve mojitos, too many December drivers are distracted, or worse, drunk. Add poor winter driving conditions like rain, ice, fog, snow and fewer day-



Photo David Wilfong / NDG

light hours, and you've got a potentially lethal mix. According to the staff of the Injury Prevention Center of Greater Dallas (IPC) based at Parkland Health & Hospital System, December is one of the most dangerous driving months of the year.

"There are more drivers

on the road during the holidays," said Shelli Stephens-Stidham, Director of the IPC, "and many people behind the wheel are putting themselves and others at risk of serious injury or death. For motorists and pedestrians, it's a time

See DRUNK, Page 6



'Grudge Match' earns a solid three stars

See Grudge Match, Page 10



Why Americans have grown to hate congress so much today

By William Spriggs

redistributing the gains of the policy.

Congress has itself to blame for its low ratings among the American people. Policymaking is all about choices; it is the calculus of weighing costs and benefits and the distribution of those costs and benefits. In theory, there are lots of policies that can make everyone better off, but they can only be accomplished by

Congress recently passed a budget deal that ended extended unemployment benefits for those unemployed for more than six months. Congress could choose to increase government expenditures-rather than their current stance of decreasing them-as was done in all other economic

See CONGRESS, Page 3

Overcoming personal stress with pending uncertainty in 2014

By Dr. Daryl D. Green

Do you know what the future holds in 2014 for you? Are you now dreading the holiday season with more demands on the job, an unconcerned boss about your personal welfare, and new threats of pending lay-

offs? All of these things create stress and anxiety for working professionals as the holiday season approaches. Many smart buyers do not want to overspend in this economic crisis, creating a situation where the economy recovers even slower. Leader-

ship strategists offer advice to working professionals during the holiday season to reduce stress related to all the uncertainties in 2014.

Sadly, our standard of living is eroding. Families

See STRESS, Page 16



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INSIDE...

People In The News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community News	5
Education	6
Community Spotlight	7-8
Cover Story	9
Arts & Entertainment	10
Church Directory	14-15
NDG Book Shelf	16

People In The News...

See Page 2



Hon. Perry Gladstone Christie



Myavana



Jada Wright-Greene

In December over 30,000 visited NorthDallasGazette.com - news added daily!

The Honorable Perry Gladstone Christie

ATLANTA - Footprints of ten new revered civil rights icons will be added to the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame during the 2014 Trumpet Awards events.

This induction ceremony is scheduled for Friday, January 24, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, National Park Service, located at 450 Auburn Avenue (Atlanta, GA).

The program preceding the induction ceremony will be held at the Ebenezer

Baptist Church. The ceremonial host for this year's occasion is Frank Ski with WHUR FM (96.3) Radio in Washington, DC. The program and unveiling of the footprints are free and open to the public.

The 2014 honorees in this distinguished group include Bishop John Hurst Adams, The Honorable Roy Barnes, Dr. John Carlos, Dr. Tommie Smith, The Honorable Perry Gladstone Christie (Prime Minister of the Bahamas), Dr. Norman C. Frances, Harry E. Johnson,

Sr., Representative Calvin Smyre, Thomas N. Todd and Rev. Jasper W. Williams, Jr.

The International Civil Rights Walk of Fame was created in 2004 to give recognition to the foot soldiers of justice who sacrificed and struggled to make equality a reality for all. This extraordinary display has become one of the most visited tourist attractions in the city of Atlanta and has enriched the heritage of the civil rights movement. The shoes used to create the footprints will also be on display during the unveiling program.

The International Civil

Rights Walk of Fame, now in its tenth year, is sponsored by the Trumpet Awards Foundation, Inc., and was created and designed by Xernona Clayton, founder and executive producer of the legendary Trumpet Awards.

Ms. Clayton states, "This walk of fame tells a phenomenal story about the legacy of this nation.

It is a permanent testimony to those who have dedicated themselves to progress of our people and to this nation. Many of the shoes we use in the display remain on exhibition within the Visitors Center for those who visit the King Complex."



Myavana

Atlanta, GA -- Techurized Inc. announces the launch of Myavana, the first online social hair and style network developed with the express goal of helping women achieve hair nirvana.

Founders Candace Mitchell, Chanel Martin, Jess Watson, and Joy Buolamwini saw an opportunity to give women a platform to share haircare and hairstyle knowledge. The founders' personal hair experiences (all are style conscious engineers) made them keenly

aware of the challenges women, and particularly African-American women, have finding haircare solutions when they travel or when they change hairstyles. Acting CEO Candace Mitchell explains, "Many of us have dealt with the challenges of our daily hair maintenance since we were little girls as we mirrored our mothers tackle our complex curls and thick manes. Generation after generation, there hasn't been a central resource established to simplify this



process, whether it be finding a salon or stylist in your local city or receiving tips and suggestions that are unique to your hair challenges. It's time to change that and we aim to meet the hair care needs of women everywhere in an innovative way."

Myavana encourages women to form communities based on hair texture, desired hairstyles, or geography. Users can upload hairstyles, share beauty tips (including information about styling products and preferred salons), and styling techniques. Users can follow desired hair-

styles by "Girlfriending" users who post images with that style. Each time a user accepts a Girlfriend request, the community can follow that user's hair journey and learn her secrets to hair nirvana. Myavana supports its communities with tools that will best fit the user's lifestyle and hair needs including access to the best bloggers, youtubers, shampoos, conditioners and stylists. Chief Beauty Officer Chanel Martin notes, "We understand that that in order to get that perfect style, you need the right products. Myavana is the place to get

See Myavana, Page 10

Jada Wright-Greene

Jada Wright-Greene is a self-proclaimed museum activist, lover of history and passionate about changing the African-American museum culture. Jada was introduced to the museum field, through her extensive volunteer work with the Mary McLeod Bethune Foundation, Home of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune. While volunteering at the home she was fascinated with the artifacts, people and spirit of Dr. Bethune. This fascination drove her to spend countless hours at the home from her freshman to junior years at Bethune Cookman (College) University. She met

many influential people including the late Rosa Parks and the late Johnnie Cochran.

After completing college and moving to Michigan, she began a new life in law school. After three terms in law school, she knew that the world as a lawyer was not for her. In August 2002 she enrolled at Michigan State University as a graduate student in Urban & Regional Planning. After one semester she discovered the museum studies department and instantly fell back in love. She was bold enough to convince the department heads of her master's program and the museum stud-

ies department to integrate all of her electives from the museums program to replace her master's courses.

After receiving a grant from the university and fulfilling the dream of a research trip

See Jada, Page 16



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How 'Structural Unemployment' Gets Constructed

By Lee A. Daniels

(NNPA) As this is being written, more than a million out-of-work Americans have already been pushed off the edge of their narrow financial cliff by Congressional inaction; As of December 28, they were cut off from receiving emergency federal unemployment benefits.

If Congress refuses to restore the emergency benefits program for those Americans jobless for six months or longer – which has been in place since the onset of the Great Recession became evident in 2008 – another million or so of the long-term unemployed will be cut adrift by next spring.

Once upon a time, it would have been unimaginable that the Congress of the United States would leave millions of Americans – well, at least, White Americans – who'd become jobless through no fault of their own and who'd shown they want to work to destitution.

But that was then.

True, Congress in January or February may restore the program for several more months. Senator Harry Reid, the Nevada Democrat who is Senate Majority Leader, has pledged to introduce a bill doing just that. That's what happened for the 11 extensions since President Bush first proposed the emergency program. Restoring the program would cost about \$25 billion, to add to its \$225 billion cost for the last five years.

But the Republicans in both the House and the Senate have signaled they'll now oppose any further extension.

"These have been extraordinary extensions, and the Republican position all along has been, 'We need to go back to normal here at some point,'" said Rep. Tom Cole, (R-OK), clearly speaking for House Speaker John Boehner, in early December.

Apparently, the irony of using the word "normal" was lost on Rep. Cole; for the crisis facing the long-term unemployed is far from normal.

It's not normal that in modern times

4 million-plus Americans have been jobless longer than six months. That's a greater number of long-term unemployed the country has experienced both as a hard number and as a percent of the total unemployed since World War II.

It's not normal that many of the long-term unemployed – many of whom held jobs requiring white-collar skills and paying middle-income wages – tell of fruitlessly looking for work for one to two to three years.

It's not normal, as a recent White House study indicated, that at a time when there are more than three jobless workers for each available job listed, those jobless for more than a year have only a 10 percent chance of being hired for any job at all.

These aren't "normal" times in America, either politically or economically, and what is happening to the long-term unemployed isn't the result of the "invisible hand" dynamic of the so-called free market. While the long-

See STRUCTURAL, Page 12

CONGRESS, continued from Page 1

recoveries.

Republican members of Congress think America's working families have forgotten that Republicans expanded real government expenditures (adjusting for inflation) in the 1980s under President Ronald Reagan and 2001 under President George W. Bush by about 16 percent at this point in the business cycle.

The stalemate caused by Republican refusal to increase government expenditures has resulted directly in lower public sector employment-the loss of hundreds of thousands of public school teachers across the country; and more broadly in a tepid recovery.

The argument against restoring government is that it will increase the federal deficit, leaving unpaid bills for our children to pay and put pressure on interest rates that will hurt investment and homeownership by the middle class and tie the hands of future budgets with large interest costs. Well, of course, the failure to back President Barack Obama's America's Job Act back in 2011 has meant fewer teachers for our children today, rising class sizes and closed schools in many of America's cities, meaning our children will pay with higher dropout rates, lower achievement and lower future earnings. So, that is a trade-off most people think is not sensible.

Currently the Federal Reserve, understanding the dire situation of the

economy, has been aggressively pursuing a policy to keep long-term interest rates down. Its efforts has moderated the loss of wealth in housing that most people experienced when the housing price collapse took away the savings America's workers stored in their homes as equity.

The Fed policy also has meant a tremendous growth in the Fed's holding of U.S. Treasury notes. The odd thing about that is that the Federal Reserve's profits from receiving interest payments from holding those bonds go back to the U.S. Treasury. So, currently the structure of U.S. debt is at long-term low rates, and the net interest payments are lower because the Fed pays the interest back to the Treasury. This makes the arguments about interest rates silly.

Ultimately federal debt does have to be paid. Since 2009 and the current recovery, 95 percent of income gains have gone to the top 1 percent of American incomes. In the fairness category, most people would agree that if the net result of policies has benefited the top 1 percent only, then they should be the ones paying taxes. It follows directly from a belief that everyone can be made better off, but only if the people benefiting from the economic policy share the gains with others.

But, Republicans have fought hard to protect the 1% from paying their

share of policy gains with others. One example is of corporate CEOs who have boosted their salaries by shipping U.S. jobs overseas because of "trade" agreements favoring corporations over human, worker and environmental rights. Through the 1970s, CEOs made 20 times their typical worker; today they take home more than 230 times the pay of their typical worker. And, while the federal government isn't taking advantage of low interest rates, CEOs are by using corporate borrowing to buy back the company stock and boost stock prices and CEO wealth and pay.

So, if the point of all this fiscal austerity is to protect us from federal debt in a time of low interest rates, we see who is benefiting. If we favor austerity over creating jobs, then we should at least compensate the people we are asking to suffer-those who are unemployed.

Oddly, the research on the effect of extending unemployment benefits has pointed to this anomaly-people getting the benefit are more likely to keep looking for jobs longer rather than give up and drop out of the labor force (disappearing from the statistics). By ignoring them, Congress wishes they would go away. By ignoring the imbalances in their choices, the American people are wishing Congress would go away.

Follow Spriggs on Twitter: @WSpriggs.

Walgreens accepting donations for 2014 AIDS Walk South Dallas

Walgreens is a sponsor of AIDS Walk South Dallas (AWSDD) again for 2014. Throughout the month of January, help AIDS Walk South Dallas (AWSDD) reach their \$50K goal by donating \$1, \$5 or \$10 by supporting the scannable campaign as you checkout at twelve local Walgreens in the Dallas area.

This year's theme of AIDS Walk South Dallas "Changing Lives One Step At A Time" extends the mission which is to inspire, educate and galvanize the community of South Dallas and surrounding areas to continue to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS and assist those impacted.

"This partnership with Walgreens for the last 4 years has really shown their commitment to;

not only the South Dallas community but their true passion to affect the lives of people impacted by HIV/AIDS", said Auntjuan Wiley, the AWSDD Founder and Chair. "As the leading retail pharmacy, we are excited about their continued support of AIDS Walk South Dallas and our efforts to bring change to this community".

AIDS Walk South Dallas, scheduled for Saturday, March 22, 2014 at St. Philip's School and Community Center, is an annual fundraiser supported by C.U.R.E. — Community Unity Respect Education, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2007 by Rosemarie Odom and Roseann Rossetti. The mission of C.U.R.E. is to combat the continuing risks

and stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.

In AWSDD's third year, they raised over \$15,000 benefitting local organizations that provide services to people impacted by HIV/AIDS. "We met our goal in 2013 and hope to surpass it with \$50,000 in 2014. With a continuous increase of new HIV infections in Dallas, but less resources available, we know that organizations depend on us to make a difference as much as we can," said Wiley.

The participating Walgreens are as follows:

- 3211 South Lancaster, Dallas, 75216 (Lancaster and Kiest)
- 4702 North Jim Miller Road,

Dallas, 75227 (Jim Miller Road and Forney)

- 2301 Lakeland Drive, Dallas, 75228 (Lakeland Drive and Ferguson)

- 438 West Illinois Avenue, Dallas, 75224 (Illinois Avenue and Zang)

- 2060 South Buckner Boulevard, Dallas, 75217 (Buckner Boulevard and Bruton Road)

- 3418 McKinney Avenue, Dallas, 75204 (McKinney Avenue and Lemmon)

- 1461 Robert B. Cullum Boulevard, Dallas, 75210 (Robert B. Cullum and MLK)

- 3802 Cedar Springs Road, Dallas, 75219 (Cedar Springs Road and Oak Lawn)

- 5001 Ross Avenue, Dallas, 75206 (Ross Avenue and Bennett)

- 2602 Fort Worth Avenue, Dallas, 75211 (Fort Worth Avenue and Bahamna)

- 5101 South Lancaster Road, Dallas, 75241 (Lancaster Road and Ledbetter Drive)

- 1306 North Beckley Avenue, Dallas, 75203 (Beckley Avenue and Colorado Boulevard)

All proceeds from the scannable campaign will benefit AIDS Walk South Dallas 2014!

For more information about AIDS Walk South Dallas, please visit www.aidswalksouthdallas.com and register today at www.aidswalksouthdallas2014.eventbrite.com.

Eating nuts while pregnant lowers risk for peanut, tree allergies

Special to the NNPA from The St. Louis American

Children appear to be less at risk for developing peanut or tree nut (P/TN) allergies if their mothers are not allergic and ate more nuts during pregnancy, according to a study published by JAMA Pediatrics, a JAMA Network publication.

In the United States, the prevalence of childhood peanut allergy has more than tripled from 0.4 percent in 1997 to 1.4 percent in 2010. The onset of these allergies is usually in childhood and most often occurs with the first known exposure. Peanut or tree nut allergies typically overlap, according to the study back-



Photo Daniella Segura / Flickr

ground.

A. Lindsay Frazier, M.D., Sc.M., of the Dana-Farber Children's Cancer Center, Boston, and colleagues examined the association between pregnant mothers eating peanuts or tree nuts and the risk of P/TN allergies in their children.

Study participants included children born to

mothers who previously reported their diet during, or shortly before or after, their pregnancy as part of the ongoing Nurses' Health Study II. Among 8,205 children, researchers identified 308 cases of food allergy, including 140 cases of P/TN allergy.

Study findings indicate that children whose nonal-

lergic mothers had the highest P/TN consumption (five times a week or more) had the lowest risk of P/TN allergy. This lower risk of P/TN allergy was not observed among the children of mothers who had a P/TN

allergy.

"Our study supports the hypothesis that early allergen exposure increases the likelihood of tolerance and thereby lowers the risk of childhood food allergy. Additional prospective studies

are needed to replicate this finding," the study concludes. "In the meantime, our data support the recent decisions to rescind recommendations that all mothers avoid P/TN during pregnancy and breastfeeding."

UT Arlington research may unlock enzyme's role in disease

A UT Arlington chemist doing National Science Foundation-funded research on enzymes that regulate human biology has uncovered characteristics that could be used to identify predisposition to conditions such as heart disease, diabetic ulcers and some types of cancer.

Brad Pierce, an assistant professor of chemistry/biochemistry at The University of Texas at Arlington, recently led a team that examined an oxygen utilizing iron enzyme called cysteine dioxygenase or CDO, which is found in high levels within heart, liver, and brain tissues. Enzymes are pro-

teins that act as catalysts to enable metabolic functions, but under some circumstances these oxygen-dependent enzymes can also produce highly toxic side products called reactive oxygen species or ROS.

For the first time, Pierce's team found that mutations outside the CDO active site environment or "outer coordination sphere" have a profound influence on the release of ROS. Excess ROS has been linked to numerous age-onset human disease states.

"Most research in the past has focused on

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See UTA, Page 12

A prayer for the New Year



Curtis Report
by Barry Curtis

I wish you a Happy New Year and all that stuff. I won't leave you with a long drawn out soliloquy about the dire straits and unsustainable conundrums that our nation may face. We often hear these well wishes make promises, resolutions and even unattainable goals for the upcoming year. They are plentiful and they swirl around in our heads this time a year much like an uncharted symphony or a river that has no banks. Enough already with the New Year fallacies they hurt my head and eventually my heart.

I leave you with the words of the greatest living American today. These are all his words not mine. Any

feeble attempt by me to add anything to this would be like me saying Shakespeare to an empty theater or the Civil War without President Abraham Lincoln. I present to you in his own words a New Year's message to the heavens from the heavenly, the Reverend Billy Graham.

"Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of your presence and your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but you alone know what it holds for us, and only you can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into your hand, and to trust you and to seek your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life's un-

certainities in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of your unchanging love.

In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to you for the stability and comfort we will need.

In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in your sight, regardless of the cost.

And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: "Teach me, O Lord, to follow your

See PRAYER, Page 11

Ethnically diverse 'Great Gatsby' auditions scheduled for Jan. 5 at Garland Civic Theatre

GARLAND — Garland Civic Theatre has scheduled auditions for F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" which was adapted for the stage by Simon Levy on the afternoon of Jan. 5, 2014 beginning at 1:00 pm. Callbacks begin at 6:00 pm. Rehearsals begin on Jan. 20, 2014. The production dates are Feb. 27 – March 22, 2014.

The auditions will be held at the offices of Garland Civic Theatre, 102 North Sixth Street in downtown Garland. Appointments which can be made by calling the Garland Civic Theatre office at 972-485-8884 are required for all auditions. Auditioners should bring a headshot and resume to their appointment, but no experience is required. All roles (8 males and 6 females) are available for a variety of men and women, ages 18 to 65. The

audition will consist of cold readings from the script. Casting will be ethnically diverse.

The show is set in Long Island, New York in 1922. Jay Gatsby, a self-made millionaire, passionately pursues the elusive Daisy Buchanan. Nick Carraway, a young newcomer to Long Island, is drawn into their world of obsession, greed and danger. The breathtaking glamour and decadent excess of the Jazz Age come to the stage full of power, passion, and persuasion in F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel, and in Simon Levy's adaptation, approved by the Fitzgerald Estate. We hope you will join us for this elegant and masterful new work of theatre.

Scripts will be available for perusal beginning at 12:00 noon on the 5th.

Kyle McClaran will di-

rect this production.

Visit the GCT website at www.garlandcivictheatre.org or call 972-485-8884 for additional information.

Jilson to speak on changing Texas political demographics

Cal Jilson will speak on "Purple Texas: Demographic Change and the Prospects of Two-Party Competition

in Texas." Cal is the SMU Professor of Political Sciences Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences. He is described on the SMU website as

"One of the nation's foremost political experts, Cal Jilson regularly provides journalists thoughtful insight on U.S. and Texas politics. A professor of political science, he is also the author of Lone Star Tarnished, and a former member of the Council of Foreign Relations."

Anticipating a good crowd for this meeting, we have reserved a larger meet-

ing room in the new University Park Library. We will still meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The meeting will be on the 3rd floor, and someone will greet you at the elevator to take you there. We are able to serve coffee at this location.

Date: Saturday, January 4

Time: 10:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: University Park Public Library
8383 Preston Center Plaza, Suite 200
University Park, TX 75225

From Preston Road, turn east on Wentwood, and the library will be in the multi-story building on your left.

There is plenty of free parking next to the library.

Christmas is over, so countdown to Girl Scouts Cookie Program begins

DALLAS — Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas (GSNETX) will launch its annual Cookie Program on Jan. 10, 2014. New this year, Girl Scouts will have cookies in hand, allowing them to sell, deliver and collect money in one easy step; to the delight of cookie fans across northeast Texas. The GSNETX Cookie Program will run through Feb. 17.

Selling cookies is more than a tradition; the Girl Scout Cookie Program is an integral part of Girl Scouts' business and economic literacy initiative for girls in kindergarten through 12th grade. The program helps Girl Scouts develop five key skills: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics. Girl Scouts also have the opportunity to earn the new Mary Kay Entrepreneurship patch, designed to in-

spire the next generation of female leaders through the Cookie Program.

"The Girl Scout Cookie Program supplies girls with important leadership skills that will provide a lifelong foundation for success and has been proven to boost girls' self-esteem. The largest financial literacy program in the world encourages girls to dream big and plan a professional career path based on what they've learned," said Colleen Walker, chief executive officer for the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas. "Whether it's a bank, high-tech company, hospital, or even the local pet store, employers want someone who can set goals, meet deadlines, sell ideas, and they also want someone who is honest, trustworthy and reliable."

A cornerstone of the Girl Scout Cookie

See GIRL SCOUTS, Page 15

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Snoop Dogg Internship Program

(BlackNews.com) -- Rapper Snoop Dogg has announced that he is searching for a new intern to help out with his non-profit organization, the Snoop Youth Football League.

"I need an intern for a day in LA, who wants to join me? All ya gotta do is help me support the Snoop Youth Football League for inner-city children, and you'll be entered to win. I'll fly you and a friend out to my city, the great Los Angeles, and put you up in a nice hotel," Snoop says.

He continues, "Just donate a lil bit and you'll be entered to win a day as my intern. You'll get a look inside the Snoop world and help me get some work done - maybe on the set of my news network GGN Hood News, or backstage with me when I'm DJ Snoopadelic."

Those who do donate to his organization, but don't win the internship position will receive a free campaign T-shirt and a thank-you email card.

The Snoop Youth Football League is a 501c3 non-profit organization that gives inner-city children between ages 5-13 the chance to participate in youth football and

cheer. Through sport, children learn the values of teamwork, good sportsmanship, discipline and self-respect, and the importance of academics. Each year we have regular season games, playoffs and our own Super Bowl.

For more details about the program and/or to apply for the internship, visit: www.findinternships.com/2013/12/snoop-dogg-youth-football-league-internship.html.



Photo Keith Allison / Flickr

DRUNK, continued from Page 1

for extra caution."

Though Texas likes to be known as a leader, being number one in alcohol-related crashes is not a cause for celebration. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Texas led the nation in 2012 in the increase of fatalities in alcohol-impaired driving crashes, up by 80 over 2011. Texas also had the largest increase in total motor vehicle fatalities, with 344 additional deaths over the previous year.

"These are not numbers we want to see," said Stephens-Stidham, "and the data shows that Dallas County in 2012 had the second highest number of fatalities involving an alcohol-impaired driver in the state. Only Harris County had more."

The Injury Prevention Center staff recommends safe driving by avoiding the most common causes of accidents:

Distracted driving: talking and texting on cell phones while driving is a major road hazard; so is checking directions, apply-

ing makeup or changing radio stations. Anything that takes your eyes, hands or attention away from driving should be avoided.

Driving under the influence: alcohol, drugs and driving should not be mixed. Call a cab, choose a designated driver, or take the keys away from anyone who should not be behind the wheel.

If you're throwing a party where alcohol is served, make sure there is plenty of food (along with calling the cab and taking the keys). Also, be sure to have non-alcoholic beverages available for guests.

Stressed-out driving: everyone's in a rush during the holiday season, but running red lights, speeding and driving aggressively could keep you from ever reaching your destination. Be flexible in your travel plans. Leave early if you can to avoid peak traffic hours. If inclement weather is predicted during the time you plan to travel, change your schedule. It is better to reschedule your get-to-

gether than to risk the lives of traveling family or friends.

Drowsy driving: many people are burning the candle at both ends during the holidays, but driving when fatigued is dangerous. If you're traveling long distances, take regular breaks to stretch and get some fresh air. Get enough sleep, because statistics show sleep-deprived drivers are up to five times more likely to be involved in a crash than those who had a full eight hours of shut-eye. Forty-one percent of fatal traffic accidents are single vehicle crashes.

These crashes most often occur during the late night/early morning hours and the later afternoon hours with drivers who are tired, have consumed alcohol, or both.

Finally, says Stephens-Stidham, "Remember to buckle up and make sure your kids are in a properly fitted car seat or booster seat. If you need assistance with car or booster seats, you can schedule an appointment for inspection and installation, with car seat replacement if needed,

Texas college team is looking to award grant to local women-owned business

Enactus is a national non-profit organization with chapters around the nation. Its members include students and business leaders who believe in the power of entrepreneurship to change lives and communities for the better. One chapter located at Wiley College wants to award grant money to a small local business owned by a woman.

The college chapter is looking for a deserving business as the recipient of grant money the chapter received from The Coca-Cola Foundation, Sam's Club and Walmart. The total grant award comes to \$4,500, and one small business in Marshall, Texas will

be chosen for the grant award. Eligible businesses must be located within the Marshall city limits and be led by a woman.

As the project manager for Wiley Enactus, Leon Moukendi, explained, "The goal is to help strengthen the community by doing what we can, such as helping small businesses do well. "We are planning to use this grant to help a small business flourish," "It's a

woman-empowering grant. We need to find a business led by women that's helping the community."

For five years, the Wiley College Enactus chapter has been focusing their efforts on helping to build a better community. The team plans to make a selection by the end of January on which women-owned business will receive the grant.

For more information, visit enactus.org/.

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QUEST, continued from Page 1

years, however, there were very high expectations that having the first African American president would be that one historic threshold to be finally crossed into the "promised land" of economic progress and wealth-building throughout Black America. Of course, we have not yet entered into that promised land.

Some would argue that our expectations were too high. Others would posit that the history of racial discrimination and economic inequality was just too deeply rooted into the structural and institutional fibers of American society to be overcome at a faster pace. To the dismay of millions of African Americans today, the unemployment rate is devastatingly high, disproportionate mass incarcerations are increasing, and poverty appears to be expanding exponentially.

As we prepare for the New Year, I believe it is advisable, however, not to retreat into a state of disillusionment because of our current economic circumstances. Yes, there are real

problems, issues and challenges that must be confronted directly in order to push forward. There are also real solutions that will require all of us to participate in helping to improve the present and the future.

There is an old African proverb that says before you jump into the river to fish, first seek out its depth with facts in your head and hand. One place to get some facts about the economics of Black America's consumer spending power and wealth potential is to read and study the excellent national report issued by Nielsen titled "Resilient, Receptive and Relevant: The African-American Consumer 2013 Report."

According to Nielsen senior vice president Cheryl Pearson-McNeil, the companies that benefit from the large Black consumerism should have more substantive economic relationship with our community. McNeil emphasized, "With a current buying power of \$1 trillion, manufacturers and marketers should be paying careful attention to the

shopping patterns of African-American consumers."

The fact that we now spend in excess of \$1 trillion annually means that we have to be more conscious about not just "where" we spend our money, but also about "how" we spend that much money. We are grateful to Nielsen and to the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) for this informative report. It is not a strange question to pose: How it is that we are trillion dollar consumers, but the majority of people in our communities remain in the misery of poverty?

My whole purpose again is not to engage in cynicism or finger-pointing. I believe that the time is overdue for a local, regional and national discussion about how to take advantage of the opportunities to engage in the economic reconstruction of Black America. President Barack Obama is doing his job well in helping to lead the substantive recovery of the American economy. We have to do our part to focus on overall the economic development of our communities and businesses. Let's

look in our own mirrors. Let's strive to see how we can be our brothers and sisters keepers with what we already have in our own hands and pocket books.

I asked Ronald Busby, the president and CEO of the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc., to give me three things that could lead to the economic revival of Black America. His reply:

We have to be better prepared for economic development in terms of education and business planning for future expansion;

We have to build greater capacity of our existing businesses in our communities with more capitalization and increasing employment by our businesses and

We should take advantage of mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures to respond to the opportunities that are rapidly unfolding right in the heart of our communities.

That is also exactly what Reginald F. Lewis, our first African American billionaire, said to me about the

potential to sustain economic development in Black America. Lewis stated, "We should not underestimate our own economic potential. We have to first prepare and then execute a comprehensive plan for the long-term economic development of our com-

munities with contacts nationally and globally."

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr is President of Education Online Services Corporation and the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network and can be reached at <http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/drbcfc>.

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English classes and tutoring help are available in North Dallas

Humanitarian Hands Charities is hosting English as a Second Language (ESL) starting on Jan. 28.

The program features Introduction - Level Three Programs. Registration starts on Jan. 7 and is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. - Noon, or students can register from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

The cost is \$25 and includes all of the needed materials. Any interested students should register at the Humanitarian Hands Charities offices located in the Forest Abrams Place Building, Ste. 172 in Dallas. Email info@hhcharities.org or call 972-331-6098 with any questions.

Also they are seeking volunteers to tutor ESL refugees and immigrant students on Tuesdays or Thursdays in the morning or in the afternoon. Ideal project

for retirees who are perhaps available on one or both days. Training and orientation will be provided Thurs-

day, Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, email info@hhcharities.org or call 972-331-6098.



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Huston-Tillotson University students win Ford HBCU Community Challenge Competition

After an intense afternoon of presentations, Huston-Tillotson University, located in Austin, Texas, was named winner of the Ford HBCU Community Challenge Competition. The student project, in partnership with Blackshear Elementary School, is focused on transforming a 33-square-foot dumpster into a fully functioning home complete with running water, toilet, shower, bed and solar-generated electricity. The project aims to promote living practices that encourage sustainability.

The Ford HBCU Community Challenge Competition is an extension of one of Ford Fund's signature educational programs, The Ford College Community Challenge. The new program, with the theme "Building Sustainable Communities," was conducted in



Ford HBCU Community Challenge winners with all-new Mustang. (PRNewsFoto/Ford Motor Company)

partnership with the Tom Joyner and Rickey Smiley morning shows, and encouraged HBCU students to design projects that address pressing local community needs.

Students were encouraged to creatively address a tangible, unmet community need that touched on at least one of these four areas – mobility, alternative energy, sustainability/water and a systematic approach to

meeting community needs. Scholarships will be awarded to the Huston-Tillotson University team, and community grants will be awarded to nonprofits to support implementation of the winning project.

"Having the opportunity to both meet these students and listen to them present projects to help us strengthen our communities has been both refreshing

See CHALLENGE, Page 11

Patrons of Dallas Theater Center donate \$57,993 to North Texas Food Bank

DALLAS – Dallas Theater Center patrons donated \$57,993.81 to the North Texas Food Bank during DTC's annual production of A Christmas Carol. During the six-year partnership with NTFB, DTC patrons have donated \$297,912.16 to the organization.

"Dallas Theater Center is

committed to partnering with community organizations to provide our audience with meaningful experiences that inspire conversations," says DTC Artistic Director Kevin Moriarty. "Partnering with the North Texas Food Bank every year increases awareness about hunger in North

Texas and encourages our audience members to give to the organization, both now and in the future. We could not be more impressed by the generosity expressed by our patrons every year during A Christmas Carol."

After each performance

See DTC, Page 12



Marlhy Murphy collects donations from patrons during the Dallas Theater Center's drive for the North Texas Food Bank.

Photo Dana Driensky / DTC

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DALLAS **DFW**

Black girls disproportionately confined; struggle for dignity in juvenile court schools

By Monique W. Morris
America's Wire Writers Group

African American girls continue to be disproportionately over-represented among girls in confinement and court-ordered residential placements. They are also significantly over-represented among girls who experience exclusionary discipline, such as out-of-school suspensions, expulsions, and other punishment. Studies have shown that Black female disengagement from school partially results from racial injustices as well as their status as girls, forming disciplinary patterns that reflect horrendously misinformed and stereotypical perceptions.

While academic underperformance and zero tolerance policies are certainly critical components of pathways to confinement, a closer examination reveals that Black girls may also be criminalized for qualities long associated with their survival. For example, being "loud" or "defiant" are infractions potentially leading to subjective reprimanding or exclusionary discipline. But historically, these characteristics can exemplify their responses to the effects of racism, sexism, and classism.

More than 42,000 youth were educated in "juvenile court schools" located in California correctional and detention facilities in 2012, according to the California Department of Education, and a disproportionate number of them were Black girls. In the state's 10 largest districts by enrollment, Black females experience school suspension at rates that far surpass their female counterparts of other racial and ethnic groups. Little has been shared about these girls' educational histories and experiences inside the state's juvenile correctional facilities or out in the community.

As a response, I conducted an exploratory, phenomenological, action research study that examined the self-identified, educational experiences of Northern California's Black girls in confinement using in-depth interviews and descriptive data analysis, among other research activities. The study revealed the following about the educational experiences of confined Black girls



Photo Francisco J. Gonzalez / Flickr

in Northern California:

- **They value their education.** Ninety-four percent of the girls in this study reported their education to be either very important or important to them, and nearly as many said their education was equally as important to their parents or guardians, where applicable.

- **They have a history of exclusionary discipline in their district schools.** Eighty-eight percent had a history of suspension, and 65 percent had a history of expulsion from non-juvenile court schools; half cited elementary school as their earliest experience with suspension or expulsion.

- **They experience exclusionary discipline while in detention, too.** Almost all had been removed from a juvenile court school classroom, and one-third of these girls believed it was because they simply asked the teacher a question. Two-thirds reported it was the result of "talking back" - but in each case, the student felt she was responding to an unprompted, negative comment made by the teacher. One participant recalled, "She called me retarded in front of the class... I have a learning disability."

- **They have missed a lot of school.** The majority reported having recently missed at least 2 weeks of instruction. Among these girls who missed significant portions of school, 36 percent had re-

moved their court-ordered electronic monitoring device and/or were "on the run" and avoiding a warrant for their arrest. Fourteen percent cited prostitution as a major deterrence from attending or participating in school. For 18 percent, mothering a child under the age of 3 years old made attending school difficult. Over half reported they had been expelled from or had "dropped out" of school.

- **They have drug use and/or dependency issues.** Almost all of the girls in this study admitted to a history of smoking marijuana, and 65 percent reported doing so at or just before going to school. Among these girls, 64 percent reported their teachers knew they were high in class, all said there was no action taken by the school.

- **Many of them lack confidence in their teachers.** Nearly 60 percent reported a lack of confidence in the teaching ability and/or commitment of at least one instructor in their school, and almost half perceived a teacher routinely refusing to answer specific questions about the material they were learning.

- **They are not engaged.** The majority found the coursework to be too easy and perceived it as below their grade level. Their school credits do not transfer seamlessly between juvenile court schools and district schools. Most reported a prior experience in the

juvenile court school where this study took place. Among these girls, 57 percent believed that the credits they earned while in detention had not transferred appropriately to their district school; the majority were unsure of their credit status.

- **They have goals, but they don't know how to reach them.** Eighty-eight percent had ideas of their occupational goals, with one-third indicating they would like to be a staff counselor at the juvenile hall. However, 73 percent felt their education was not preparing them for their future.

This study's findings show where future research and advocacy efforts might better interrogate the effects of inferior and hyper-punitive nature of these schools.

Notwithstanding their status as "juvenile delinquents" with significant histories of victimization, these girls tended to find a potentially redemptive quality in education. Though most of the girls in this study did not consider their juvenile court school to be a model learning environment, they generally agreed these schools occupy an important space along a learning continuum that has underserved them. For many of these girls, the figurative lacerations from bureaucratic and ethical failures may leave lasting marks.

While our ultimate goal is to prevent more girls from being educated in correctional facilities, these schools should be included in the conversation about equity, not only because are they structurally inferior and failing to interrupt student pathways to dropout or push-out, but because there is a moral and legal obligation to improve the quality of education for all youth - even those who are in trouble with the law.

We must continue to explore ways for access to quality education in these facilities more equitable, while improving the rigor of the curricula, such that it is trauma-informed and culturally competent. We must also examine ways to facilitate a seamless reentry of these girls back into their district schools and home communities.

Thurgood Marshall wrote in *Procunier v. Martinez* (1974), "When the prison gates slam be-

hind an inmate, he does not lose his human quality; his mind does not become closed to ideas; his intellect does not cease to feed on a free and open interchange of opinions; his yearning for self-respect does not end; nor is his quest for self-realization concluded."

It is a long-standing American value that education is a potential tool to restructure social hierarchies and elevate the conditions of historically oppressed peoples. However, current trends in the administration and function of the juvenile court school may exacerbate many pre-existing conflicts between Black girls and teachers and/or the structure of learning environments. The limitations and challenges of these conditions may nullify the opportunities for improved associations between Black girls, school, and academic performance - antithetical to the stated educational goal of the juvenile court school.

If we can improve the accountability and performance of these schools alongside their district counterparts, we will inevitably move toward a more comprehensive approach to reducing the impact of policies and practices that criminalize and push girls out of school. We will, in essence, begin the process of maintaining her human quality - an essential component of her successful rehabilitation and re-engagement as a productive member of our communities.

A more detailed version of this article was published in the latest issue of *Poverty & Race* (www.prrac.org). Monique W. Morris, Ed.D. (info@moniquew-morris.com) is the co-founder of the National Black Women's Justice Institute (blackwomensjustice.org) and author of *Black Stats: African Americans by the Numbers in the Twenty-First Century*. (The New Press, January 2014). America's Wire is an independent, nonprofit news service run by the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education. Their stories can be republished free of charge by newspapers, websites and other media sources.

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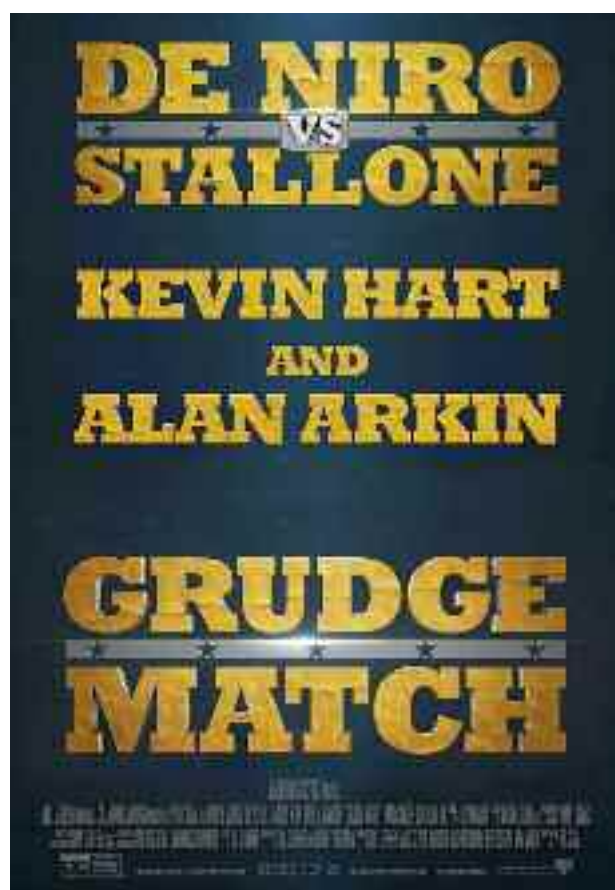
'Grudge Match' earns a solid three stars

By Dwight Brown

(NNPA) This is a charming and disarming geezer sports movie. Somewhat formulaic, but a lot of fun regardless. In fact, you may get so caught up in the moment you'll celebrate your gray and throw your Grecian Formula away.

The genesis of this AARPish story came from screenwriter Tim Kelleher (The Arsenio Hall Show and Two and a Half Men), who contemplated an abandoned, 1999 heavyweight rematch between the 50-year-old Larry Holmes and George Foreman. He added 10 or so years to his main characters' ages, and things took off. Then director Peter Segal (Get Smart) enlisted two noted actors who've portrayed cinema's most iconic boxing protagonists: Robert DeNiro (Jake LaMotta in Raging Bull) and Sylvester Stallone (Rocky Balboa in the Rocky series). It's a recipe for comic/drama success.

Light heavy weight Pittsburgh boxers Billy "The Kid" McDonnen (DeNiro) and Henry "Razor" Sharp (Stallone) have nursed a grudge for 30 years, ever since Razor ditched a decisive third match back in 1983 which would have determined who was the bet-



ter boxer. Both had won one match apiece; the third would have given one of them bragging rights.

Three decades later, The Kid, a car dealer, has won and lost fortunes and the washed-up, behind-on-his-bills Razor works in a plant. Their old boxing promoter Dante Slate, who made Don King look like an angel, has since died but his fiery, diminutive son Dante Jr. (Kevin Hart, BET's Real Husbands of Hollywood) is

determined to get the guys back in the ring. A video of the two pugilists trading barbs and jabs goes viral, and the next thing you know, it's on. "Grudgement Day" takes on a life of its own.

Lots of movies start out with intriguing premises and good intentions, but few turn into engaging entertainment. This one does. The producers (Bill Gerber Gran Torino, Mark Steven Johnson Grumpy Old Men,

and others) get a lot of the ingredients (cast and crew) right. Tim Kelleher and Rodney Rothman's script provides a solid, not stupendous, foundation.

It's filled with formulaic and sitcomish plot devices (the boxers are at odds in a love triangle anchored by an old flame named Sally Rose, played by Kim Basinger, and The Kid eats pancakes for breakfast washed down with Scotch on the rocks.) But their punchy dialogue, which often seems improvised, is sharp ("The world is laughing but you're not dead!") or hysterically funny (Dante to an octogenarian trainer played by Alan Arkin, "I choose to believe you called me Webster because of my dictionary-sized vocabulary, not because of my height and race." "No," says Arkin, "It's because you're short and Black."

Dante, "What was Jesus like? I'm Curious. Was he cool?"). And, scenes are blessedly short and the pacing is perfect (editor William Kerr, Bridesmaids).

The film works largely because the cast is fun to watch. Apparently Kevin Hart's popular BET parody of Hollywood spouse reality shows is doing wonders for his timing and he is finding his rhythm as a comic actor. He twitches, cocks his head, storms around the sets and gets in everybody's face, adlibbing like a champ.

It almost doesn't matter what he says, his demeanor is so damn funny he could deliver an eviction notice and be completely hilarious. Basinger, as the sensual Sally Rose, is still a tall glass of water at age 60. Arkin can wheel off a funny line without working up a

sweat, and he's nearly 80!

Stallone and DeNiro have so much history—cinematically and with filmgoers—they're like watching aging uncles. They step into the ring like feisty old roosters fighting over a hen.

They've got chicken legs, gullets under their chins, lines around the eyes, lumpy breasts. But make no mistake about it, these are two tough old birds who run around the ring like teenagers, do chin-ups like athletes and throw punches like missiles. They're virile, boastful, tender and amiable. The Kid and Razor are almost as old as Santa, but they're forever young.

Stay until after the final credits roll for two unbilled cameo appearances that are laugh-out-loud funny. It's a TKO.

Visit NNPA Syndication Film Critic Dwight Brown at www.DwightBrownInk.com.

Joey Carter Trio scheduled to perform 'After Hours at the Kimball'

FORT WORTH ---- Savor one final "After Hours at the Kimball" in the Louis Kahn Building on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., before it changes venue to the Renzo Piano Pavilion for the remainder of 2014. The talented Joey Carter Trio will provide live jazz music.

In addition to live music, guests will enjoy docent-guided tours, gift giveaways,

light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar (featuring this month's signature cocktail, the "Frostini," plus wine and beer).

"After Hours at the Kimball" is free for Museum members; nonmembers pay \$30 at the door.

Admission tickets are required to enter the special exhibition. Reservations are not needed.

MYAVANA, continued from Page 2

up to date styles and product information to ensure that everyday is a good hair day!"

Myavana is currently available on the Apple App Store. By Spring 2014, Myavana will be available

on Google Play. The Tech-turized founders are targeting 2QTR, 2014 to have a web-based solution that will mirror its mobile functionality. Jess Watson, Chief Technology Officer, notes, "This version is just the tip

of the iceberg."

Watson further explains, "As the Myavana community grows, users can expect to receive relevant hairstyle and hair product content delivered right to their phone from their favorite girlfriends and brands to achieve their best look."



Wingstop moves into new headquarters in Dallas

DALLAS — Wingstop Restaurants, Inc. has announced the relocation of its corporate headquarters from Richardson, Texas, to “The Crossings II” professional building at 5501 LBJ Fwy. in Dallas. The move follows the biggest year of growth in Wingstop history, resulting in 74 new restau-

rant openings and franchise development agreements for more than 180 domestic locations and more than 40 international locations.

“We’ve had an incredible year with the opening of our 600th location, international expansion to Singapore and Russia, this month’s celebration of our 10th

year of positive same store sales growth and franchise agreements to develop more restaurants in 2014 and set another record,” said Chief Executive Officer and President of Wingstop Charlie Morrison.

“We also outgrew our home office, and our new headquarters

gives us exceptional space for our team to support the growing franchise network.”

Wingstop now occupies the fifth floor of its new home with more than 25,000 square feet and much-needed resources, including conference rooms, a training room and a more collaborative open

working environment for the entire team.

The chain that started in North Texas now has locations around the world and continues to target development opportunities that will take Wingstop to new states and countries in the months and years ahead.

Fort Worth, Dallas lead Top 10 Housing Markets for investing

DALLAS — Fort Worth and Dallas sit in the first and second spots among the top 10 housing markets in the country for investing in single family homes, according to new data compiled by HomeVestors (known as the “We Buy Ugly Houses®” company) and Local Market Monitor. Job growth, particularly in lower paying jobs, population growth and relatively low home prices are factors making investments in single family homes as rental properties a nearly risk-free opportunities in Fort Worth and Dallas as well as several other markets across the country, explained Ingo Winzer, president and



founder of Local Market Monitor.

“Fort Worth and Dallas have low unemployment rates, 5.9 and 6.0 respec-

tively, coupled with strong population and job growth rates and home prices averaging below market value — 20 percent for Fort

Worth and 12 percent for Dallas — which makes them ideal market for investing in single family homes as rental properties,” said Winzer.

Markets in the top 10 include Fort Worth (1), Dallas (2), Charlotte (3), Nashville (4), Houston (5), Atlanta (6), Oklahoma City (7), Orlando (8), Las Vegas (9) and Boise City (10). “These markets also have strong home price appreciation, but are still underpriced by as much as 28 percent,”

Winzer said.

“We think the markets hold considerable opportunities for investors as long as they do not over pay for properties,” said David Hicks, HomeVestors copresident, noting that risk of investing in all markets across the country remains low. “Only seven of the top 100 markets continue to be ranked as ‘speculative.’”

These include Columbia (SC), Los Angeles, Gary, Providence, Buffalo, Toledo and Cleveland. “These mar-

kets continue to have weak population and job growth that makes them more risky investments,” Hicks said.

Hicks noted that the strong markets have fueled unprecedented growth in home purchases by HomeVestors® franchisees. “We just passed the 55,000 mark in the overall number of homes we purchased company-wide,” he noted, “and we’re on track this year to considerably outpace our 2012 total of 2,500 homes purchased in a 12-month period.”

PRAYER, continued from Page 5

decrees; then I will keep them to the end” (Psalm 119:33).

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families

also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them.

Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what you would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Psalm 33:12).

As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved. May we never pre-

sume on your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to make You the foundation and center of our lives this year.

And so, our Father, we thank you for the promise and hope of this New Year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come.”

Amen.

CHALLENGE, continued from Page 8

and encouraging,” said Shawn Thompson, manager, Ford multicultural marketing. “In the end, this program has allowed us to make an impact in the students’ education, their schools and their communities.”

Each finalist team also received funds to support the implementation of its ideas within its community, in addition to iPads for each student member.

“All of these students and their proposals were phenomenal,” said Pamela

Alexander, director, community development, Ford Motor Company Fund. “The process of narrowing the submissions down to just four was tough, so you can imagine how difficult it was to pick the winner.”

“We look forward to seeing these projects blossom and impact communities,” Alexander added.



DTC, continued from Page 8

of A Christmas Carol, cast members invited patrons to make contributions to NTFB. On average, patrons donated \$1,896.80 per performance. Each dollar provides three meals for North Texans in need. DTC also offered a collection site in the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre lobby for non-perishable food items. Patrons, including student

matinee attendees and participants in DTC's National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award-winning Project Discovery, donated a total of 934 pounds of food during the run of A Christmas Carol, which translates to 747 meals. That is almost double the amount of food collected during last year's run at the Kalita Humphreys Theater.

In addition to collecting monetary and food donations, DTC administrative and production staff and members of the Brierley Resident Acting Company donated their time by volunteering at the NTFB warehouse in December 2013. In just a few hours, DTC participants loaded 10,800 pounds of food into 360 boxes on 12 pallets. This is the equivalent of 9,000 meals for hungry North Texans.

UTA, continued from Page 4

the active site inner coordination sphere of these enzymes, where the metal molecule is located," said Pierce.

"What we're finding is that it's really the second sphere that regulates the efficiency of the enzyme. In essence, these interactions hold everything together during catalysis. When this process breaks down, the enzyme ends up spitting out high levels of ROS and increasing the likelihood of disease."

The study was published in December by the American Chemical Society journal Biochemistry. Pierce is corre-

sponding author on the paper, with UT Arlington students Wei Li, Michael D. Pecore and Joshua K. Crowell as co-authors. Co-author Elizabeth J. Blaes is a graduate research assistant at the University of Wisconsin.

Pierce believes the findings from the CDO enzyme could be applied to other oxygen-dependent enzymes, which make up about 20 percent of the enzymes in the human body.

Pierce's research brings a new level of detail to enzyme study through the use of electron paramagnetic resonance or EPR, a technology similar

to the magnetic resonance imaging or MRI used in the medical field.

In fall 2012, the National Science Foundation awarded Pierce a three-year, \$300,000 grant to study enzymes that are catalysts for the oxidation of sulfur-bearing molecules in the body.

"Dr. Pierce's research is a good example of how basic science can set a path toward discoveries that affect human health. We look forward to his continued exploration of these findings," said Pamela Jansma, dean of the UT Arlington College of Science.

Visit www.uta.edu to learn more.

STRUCTURAL, continued from Page 3

term unemployed have always existed as a small group of the jobless, what is happening now is that the conservative movement is attempting to take advantage of global economic forces and advances in technology to shape – that is, construct – this segment of the jobless as a permanent significant cohort of America's unemployed.

Yes, the Republicans' threat to break faith with millions of Americans in need is, along with their efforts to sharply reduce food stamp allotments, part of the political brinkmanship that's defined the GOP's goal of destroying the Obama administration.

But these and other efforts to shred the nation's once-admirable safety net also stem from conservatives' ideological hostility to people who have long been trapped in poverty or those who've suddenly found themselves ensnared in hard times. To conservatives, the overwhelming majority of these people are "the undeserving poor" – people whose difficulties are really their own fault.

No remark better represents how this callous conservatism masquerades as respectable analysis than the recent claim of Senator Rand Paul, the Kentucky Republican, that extending unemployment benefits beyond the

typical 26 weeks all but a few states offer does "a disservice to these workers [by] causing them to become part of this perpetual unemployed group in our economy."

In other words, despite the voluminous evidence that the increase in long-term unemployment is the result of the lack of jobs, not the laziness of the jobless, Paul asserts federal unemployment aid – which averages just \$300 a week – has seduced them into a getting-something-for-nothing laziness, and the best way to help them find work is to just cut off federal aid.

It doesn't take a great knowledge of economics, or a vivid imagination to understand the combined impact upon the jobless of a withdrawal of federal aid from them, a continuing lack of private-sector jobs for all those seeking work, and a conservative-driven refusal to have the federal government to enact the kind of public works program rebuilding America's infrastructure that could provide millions of jobs.

It's the same message conservatives have long sent to the needy: We don't care.

Lee A. Daniels is a longtime journalist based in New York City. His latest book is Last Chance: The Political Threat to Black America.

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Time Warner Cable selected as 2013 Top Company for People of Color by NAMIC

NEW YORK — Time Warner Cable was selected as a 2013 Top Company for People of Color by the National Association for Multi-Ethnicity in Communications (NAMIC), an organization that educates, advocates and empowers for multi-ethnic diversity in the communications industry.

The company was named to this list based on the results from a joint NAMIC and Women in Cable Telecommunications (WICT) Workforce Diversity Survey. This is NAMIC's first "Top Companies for People of Color" list.

"The 52,000 people of Time Warner Cable are honored to receive this recognition from NAMIC," said Peter Stern, Time Warner Cable's Chief Strategy, People and Corporate Development Officer.

"We believe passionately that our commitment to diverse voices makes us a great place to work, helps us better serve our communities, and enhances our relevance to our 15 million customers."

"Time Warner Cable shares NAMIC's goal of advancing diversity and inclusion within the evolving marketplace," said Alicin Williamson, interim head of NAMIC and principal of The Raben Group.

"Their support of members at the national and chapter levels and our Executive Leadership Development Program and Leadership Seminar programs continues to demonstrate their commitment to the career development of professionals of color throughout all levels of their organization."

NAMIC named Time Warner Cable to its "Top Company" list based on several categories, including the hiring and promo-

tion of people of color to its management and workforce, as well as the alignment of diversity with its business goals and objectives.

Other criteria included the company's demonstration to support diversity and inclusion, and strategies to guarantee diversity of vendors and suppliers. NAMIC and WICT engaged Mercer, an independent research partner and global human capital consultants, to conduct the survey.

Time Warner Cable is a longstanding partner of NAMIC. As part of this partnership, Time Warner Cable employees have participated in events, conferences, mentorship and leadership development programs.

In addition, Time Warner Cable actively supports several employee resource

groups that provide professional development and leverage the diversity of people and experiences.

Employee resource

groups available to Time Warner Cable employees include the Black Business Employee Network, OUT@twc, VetNet and !Hola TWC!.

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972-423-8833
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

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BAPTIST CHURCH**

**January 5, 2014
8 a.m.**

You're invited to our Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and stay for Morning Worship Service as we praise God for all of His blessings.

January 8, 7 p.m.

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

Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Sr.
Senior Pastor
4215 N. Greenview Drive

**CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH
IN RICHARDSON**

**January 5, 8:45
or 11 a.m.**

Join us in one or both of our Worship Services as we honor and praise God for His many blessings.

January 8, 7 p.m.

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

Dr. Terrence Autry,
Senior Pastor
George Bush Fwy at
Jupiter Road on the
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For Community help the Assistance Center serves Collin County by responding to people in crisis for emergency shelter, clothing, food, and access to medicine and medical services for county residents. Call the church or Allen's City Hall for details.

January 5, 8 a.m.

Join us in Early Worship at 200 W. Belmont Drive location in Allen as we praise God and at 9:30 a.m. at 1550 Edelweiss Drive in Allen for Sunday Morning Worship.

What's on Your Mind? Don't copy the behavior, attitude and action of the world. Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Romans 12: 2a. Join us for one or both of our Worship

Services as we praise God for the victories in our lives.

January 8, 7 p.m.

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

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr.,
Ed.D.
Senior Pastor
1550 Edelweiss Drive
In Allen for Sunday
Morning Worship.
Admin. Building Address
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www.theship3c.org

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January 5

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Pastor Sam Fenceroy
Senior Pastor
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Plano, TX 75075
972-633-5511

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January 5

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Join us for one or both of our Worship Services as we praise and honor God. Sun-

day School starts at 9:45 a.m. After each service ministers and deacons are available to meet with you for prayer or questions.

January 8, 7 p.m.

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

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
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January 6, 7 p.m.
Come to Monday School as we study the Word of God. We will worship Him and praise His Holy name.

January 10, 7:30 p.m.
Join us at our Men's Fellowship each Friday as we praise and worship God.

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'Dwell in God's secret place'



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

At this time in a person's life, especially after the Christmas holidays with kids at home from school and a new year, stress can be high. But, I have good news for every individual; Psalms 91:1 and 2, particularly, but the entire book of Psalm 91.

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God in Him will I trust."

The Book of Psalms could be life changing for many people. Society says that the Thanksgiving and

Christmas holidays are the worst for some individuals, when really they should be the happiest.

The Lord said, *"I will go before thee and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the Lord, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel."*

-Isaiah 45:2-3

When you trust God completely, I believe that He takes you to a depth of soul experience, and you should be alert to new truths and new perspectives, even if you don't fully understand what God is doing in your life at the time.

Having faith in God often leads individuals to amazing new discoveries. It can

be a storehouse of unexpected pleasures and riches for your soul.

Whatever is going in your life at this time, you must believe in God and live each day to the fullest. Don't find yourself living in the past or in the future. Live in the 'present' moment that God gives you.

When you need deliverance, God will come through for you on His time, where God has placed you.

When you find yourself going through a trial or adversity, understand that God is performing radical surgery on your life. The purpose of God's surgery is not to destroy you, but to give you a new heart.

God is making a fundamental change in who you are and who you will be. And He will always reveal treasures from these secret places if you are willing to

walk through the process patiently.

As you are going through your trials and tribulations thank God for His Word of life. Thank Him for the Holy Bible that is full of wisdom, examples guidance, instructions, promises, enlightenment and life-giving knowledge.

Thank God for His Word that is an encouragement when you need it and a chastisement at other times in your life. If you ask God, His Word will help you to find answers to life questions that arise and it will give you peace when you are confused.

God's Word will teach you about His power and love; it will reinforce the importance of following His Son Jesus, and to be a living testimony for your family, in your neighborhood and in your work place.



(L to R) Minister Greg Mason, Sunday School Superintendent, and Pastor Gregory Voss, both at Word of Life C.O.G.I.C. in Carrollton.

GIRL SCOUTS, continued from Page 5

Program is the dedication the girls have to raise funds to support educational field trips, leadership activities, and service projects. Girl Scouts also donate cookies to military personnel through Project Troop to Troop.

Project Troop to Troop encourages members of the community to buy Girl Scout cookies for donation to the

U.S. Armed Forces. The donated cookies are transported to service men and women at home and abroad, to local veterans' organizations and to wounded soldiers through Fort Hood, United Service Organizations (USO), and American Red Cross. Customers can also make a \$10 donation towards purchasing cookies for military per-

sonnel by texting the word "GREEN" to 80888.

Cookie booth sales begin on Jan. 17. Customers can find nearby cookie booths by downloading the Cookie Locator app. The app is available for iPhone and Android by searching GS COOKIES in app stores..

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Contact Information: 972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

American Adventures: Westward Journeys great for young readers

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The last time your family moved, it was quite a big project.

All your belongings went into boxes, which were stacked on furniture on a truck and it took two weeks for you to unpack. It was a mess, that's for sure.

Now imagine putting everything in a wagon about the size of a bathroom and giving away whatever didn't fit. Imagine walking 1,500 miles to get to your new home, and you have an idea of what happened to the children in "American Adventures: Westward Journeys."

On the day that Minnow saw the wagon trains, she knew what that meant: strangers were crossing the prairie again. As she went to tell her father, she spotted a girl with red hair and in "Minnow and Rose: The Oregon Trail" by Judy Young, illustrated by Bill Farnsworth, she was surprised.

Rose saw the girl with the pitch-black hair by the river, and she was surprised, too. She wanted to meet the girl, though neither one's father liked

that idea. But when tragedy struck, there was no other choice...

Running a fish stall in Baltimore almost never paid the bills, which made Moses' father very sad – but, in "Pappy's Handkerchief" by Devin Scillian, illustrated by Chris Ellison, Moses and his father heard the other Negroes talking about opportunity, and they listened very closely.

Someone said that on April 22 of that year (1889), any American could stake a claim in the Oklahoma Territory – and that included Negroes! Owning a farm was a dream for Moses' grandfather, who was once a slave. It wouldn't be easy to get to Oklahoma; in fact, it would be one of the hardest things the family would do.

But they would do it. Moses would make sure.

When Mama died, Cora missed her mother but she was excited to have a new baby sister. She even got to name the baby, but in "A Book for Black-Eyed Susan" by Judy Young, illustrated by Doris Ettlinger, Pa said that Aunt Alma and Uncle Lee were going

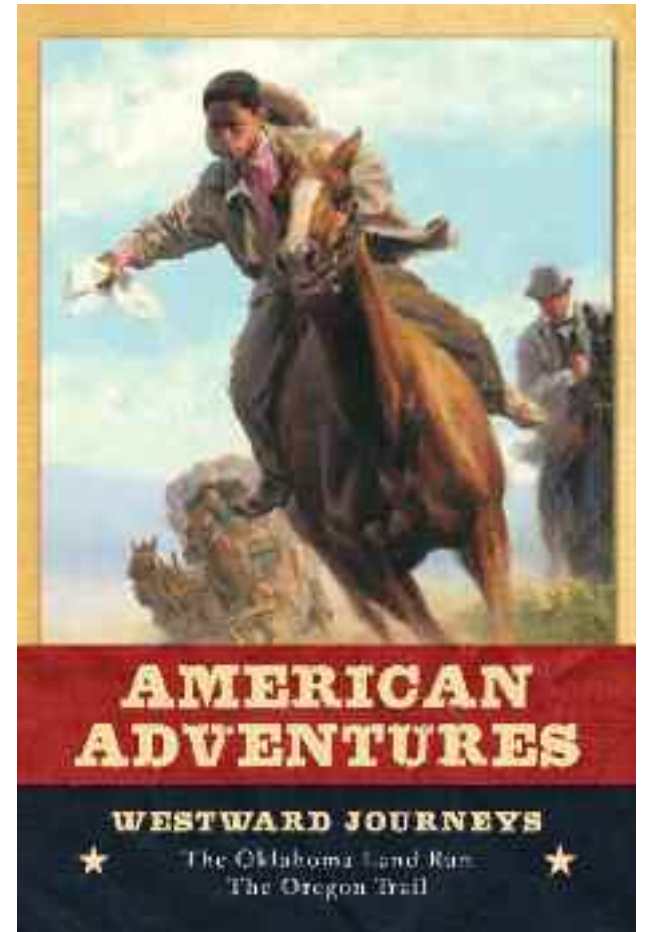
to raise little Susan.

That made Cora unhappy. She might never see her sister again, so she made a special gift for Susan. It was a gift that Cora would remember forever, too...

Sometimes, it's fun to imagine what life might've been like as a pioneer. "American Adventures: Westward Journeys" helps your child understand the hardships and joys of that time more than a century ago.

In each of three stories, young readers will see – from several vantage points – the bravery it took to travel cross-country before automobiles were invented. They'll learn that it wasn't always fun, that danger and death were constant companions. And they'll see that kids their age made a difference, even in the smallest ways.

What's nice about a book like this is that the subjects of these stories are the same age as its intended readers. So if your 7-to-9-year-old young Wild West fan is searching for the next good read, then finding "American Adventures: Westward Journeys" should be the next project.



JADA, continued from Page 2

that would include six historic homes, she was certain this was her life's work.

After earning her degree and discovering she was the first African-American to complete the museum studies program at Michigan State University, she thought, "How could I be the only African-American to complete this program?" At that point, she knew she had to do more than just

love museums; this had to be a way of life.

In 2009, Jada began Heritage Salon as a national African-American Museum blog dedicated to the museum culture. Not only was she exposing museums, but cultural institutions and historic homes and sites. Jada has encountered intriguing people through her many interviews, discussions and conversations. She

most recently served as a lecturer at the Houston Museum of African-American Culture, on the topic of the "Performances & Challenges of African-American Museums."

She has worked in non-profit management for over 14 years, with program management in museums, community organizations and arts organizations. She has served on grant panels, in 2009 was a National Arts Strategies Leadership Fellow and was named a Phenomenal Michigan

Woman by Michigan Women's Forum in 2011.

Jada Wright-Greene is continuing her persistence and determination of changing the face of the museum world with more African-Americans as museum professionals, as audiences and constant supporters of these institutions. Jada is in the midst of publishing *Heritage Salon* as a magazine to further share the message of the museums, cultural institutions and historic homes/sites.

She envisions a world where

every historically black college and university has a museum studies program, more audiences are visiting museums and museums are a way of life. In her quest, she is earning her second master's degree, in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University.

She resides in Houston with her husband, Darryl and their two children. Jada is available for lectures and public speaking engagements.

E-mail requests to editor@heritagesalon.com

STRESS, continued from Page 1

cannot make ends meet despite working multiple jobs. Companies are demanding more. It is no surprise that folks are stressed out. According to the third annual Work Stress Survey, conducted by Harris Interactive on behalf of Everest College, more than eight in 10 employed Americans are stressed out by at least one thing about their jobs. Additionally, the study showed poor pay and increased workloads were top sources of concern for many employees (1,019 surveyed by phone). The results produced a significant increase (73% to 83%) from last year's survey, which found that more employees were stressed at work.

Another holiday season has

come. After the presents have been given out and the year comes to a close, many people will reminisce about the past year. Sadly, some people's lives will be filled with many defeats, broken relationships, and unfulfilled dreams. These many setbacks may be relatively minor in nature. Pastor Richard S. Brown of Knoxville notes, "For many people, the holidays season bring great pressure and stress...We stress that we can't get everyone something for Christmas?" or they may be much more serious.

Depression can happen to anyone. Christian Maslach and Michael Leiter, authors of *The Truth about Burn-out*, explain how stress can burn out people

and impact their mental state. In fact, many professionals are succeeding in the corporate environment while failing miserably at their own personal relationships. If you are human, you will experience some disappointments. It does not take a genius to understand how someone can get depressed. Some call it a "Pity Party."

With the ongoing global crisis and individual financial struggles, more and more Americans need to find better coping tools for survival. Individuals should not lose hope. The following positive tips are suggested:

Become a good steward of your finances. Do not attempt to spend more than you have.

Evaluate your current situation at work and home. Are you mov-

ing forward or just standing still?

Consider how to improve your individual condition with self-learning, trade/professional certificates, and newer job strategy approaches.

Seek out mentors who can assist you with your personal goals.

Get rid of unnecessary stress in your life and negative people.

Surround yourself with a positive network of individuals.

Consider a hobby, interest, or a community cause which requires going outside your comfort zone.

2014 and beyond are full of a lot of uncertainty. You can spend the holidays in despair or you can take control of some things to have a more successful life. This does not happen by chance. Certainly, depression sets in for some of the 15 million unemployed

Americans, causing some women to grow weary and some men to grow angry. For millions of individuals, a pity party is a regular affair. However, individuals must be persistent during the current economic crisis and a good outlook goes a long way. Your attitude will greatly impact how you retool your life so that you can be successful in the future.

About Daryl Green: Dr. Daryl Green has done extensive research on cultural issues impacting today and future leaders. His last book, *Job Strategies for the 21st Century: How to Assist Today's College Students during Economic Turbulence*, has been rated number one on Amazon.com. For more information, you can contact him at www.darylgreen.org or www.nuleadership.com.