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COVER STORY

## A look at all sides on the issue of Obamacare



A young Marcelas Owens watches President sign healthcare bill into law.

See Obamacare, Page 9

## The world's best black dance companies slated to attend IABD Festival in Dallas

DALLAS – Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) will host the world's pre-eminent dance companies when the International Association of Blacks in Dance 26th Annual Festi-



val and Conference convenes in Dallas January 16-19, 2014. Sponsored by the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs and with support from the Na-

See DANCE, Page 7

## Dallas lawyers offer free clinic on Jan. 15

Volunteer attorneys will answer legal questions at no cost from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Jan. 15, via LegalLine, a call-in program sponsored by the Dallas Bar Association.

LegalLine is a community service for DFW-area residents, provided the second and third Wednesdays of each month.



On these designated nights, anonymous lawyers are available to answer questions in many law-related areas ranging from divorce and child support matters, to wills, insurance, employment and criminal law matters.

Dallas residents needing assistance should call

LegalLine at (214) 220-7476 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday Jan. 15.

Individuals may also receive referrals to local, legal, or social service agencies. LegalLine volunteer attorneys typically answer between 50 and 90 calls each night.



## ESSENCE Festival offers full slate of stars

See Mary J. Blige, Page 10

COMMENTARY

## A few bold predictions for the coming new year

By Raynard Jackson  
NNPA Columnist

Now that a 2014 has come, I have decided to pull out my trusted crystal ball and give you some of my predictions for the year.

I think the biggest thing to watch is on the political front. This year we will have congressional elections for the House and Senate. Republicans will

keep the House. Even if Republicans have a total meltdown, they will still keep the House. But their margins may shrink (currently the Republicans hold a 17-vote margin over the Democrats). The way congressional districts have been gerrymandered, that virtually guarantees minimum change in the composition of the House.

See BOLD, Page 3

## Local doctors are urging families to get their flu shots now

Flu season is now in full swing with people hospitalized and critically ill. That's why doctors at local AFC Doctors Express urgent care centers urge local families to get their flu shots now as the disease goes ... well, viral. The Centers for Disease Con-

trol and Prevention reports this flu season may become severe with young people hit harder than in years past. Colder temperatures keeping folks cooped up in close quarters means germs will spread quickly, and that's a prescription for danger.

"With this strain of flu threatening the young, it's imperative families get a flu shot; it's the best way to reduce your risk of catching the virus," says D. Bruce Irwin, M.D., owner and founder of American

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## People In The News...

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Marshawn Evans



Kevin Navayne



Beverly Evans Smith

In December over 30,000 visited [NorthDallasGazette.com](http://NorthDallasGazette.com) - news added daily!



## Marshawn Evans

PLANO – While the guys will be making their final preparations for Super Bowl XLVIII get-togethers on Saturday, Feb. 1, ladies you can spend the day getting enthused, inspired, and focused with Phyllis Jenkins and her team at the Powerful Journey Women's Conference.

The event, slated for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Super Bowl weekend at The Hope Center, 2001 W. Plano Parkway in Plano, will include an invigorating and dynamic keynote presentation from reinvention strategist, author, and speaker

Marshawn Evans, a panel of experts featured in Empowerment Breakout Sessions, and the REALationship Roundtable.

Jenkins, founder of Powerful Journey, said the upcoming conference "will encourage women to, among things, re-affirm their God-designed purpose."

Jenkins shares, "This is not just another event; it's an experience!"

Evans, who appeared on season 3 of NBC's The Apprentice, will speak to the theme of this year's conference: Your Time To Flour-



ish.

"As women, we are everything to everybody

and often no good to ourselves," Evans said. "This conference is an opportu-

nity for you to fill yourself back up with power, sisterhood, wisdom, and inspiration.

"I really do think that women today need that 'Mary and Elizabeth' type sisterhood to go to the next level and bond and build together. This is what this conference is about."

Born and reared in Dallas, Evans graduated magna cum laude from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. She earned her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. The attorney is one of the nation's leading experts on the art of maximizing potential and life

coaching. Evans also provides regular commentary for CNN and ESPN.

The MC's for the conference include radio personalities Markeeta Campbell from KGGR 1040 am and Jamila Camp from KHVN 970 am. The Powerful Praise and Worship will be led by Ilya Golden. Door prizes will be given away and raffle items will be up for grabs.

Jenkins announced her organization is giving back to the community by presenting the Madian Chumbley Education Scholarship to a single mom of a special-needs child who wants

See EVANS, Page 11

## Kevin Navayne

(BlackNews.com) -- Who says you can't go home again? Actor and model Kevin Navayne, is rumored to be in negotiations to co-host a soon to be named show in his home state of Connecticut as the states newest sports network (not named ESPN) takes shape and begins to format their television programming for 2014. The show will focus on golf but will specialize as a lifestyle show featuring interviews not just from leaders in golf, but for all

entertainment.

Kevin Navayne is a Jamaican born American model and television/film actor. He has modeled for Ralph Lauren, IZOD, Nautica, and Jay Z's Roc A Wear line to name just a few.

In the acting realm he has starred in Law & Order SVU, CSI:NY, and will star as the controversial civil rights leader Marcus Garvey in the biopic based on his life set to start filming this summer.

The Back 9 Network - based in Hartford, CT is a lifestyle multi-platform television network and media company. Back9Network was developed as a complementary alternative to traditional media's focus on professional golf tournament coverage.

Focused on compelling storytelling, interesting personalities, features and fashions, interviews and instruction, travel gear, and much more, fans of all kinds will want to hang with the Back9Network.

Back9Network.com, the

online clubhouse for Back9Network's leadership includes respected and outspoken executives from the golf and media industries.

Clint Eastwood serves as chairman of the Back9Network Creative Committee. Back9Network recently moved into its new Corporate Headquarters and TV/Video Production Studio in Hartford, joining ESPN, NBC Sports and YES Network in Connecticut.

For more information, visit [www.Back9Network.com](http://www.Back9Network.com)



## Beverly Evans Smith

National First Vice President Beverly Evans Smith will be the keynote speaker at the Founders Day Luncheon for the Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Saturday, Jan. 18 at noon at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel located at 400 North Olive Street in Dallas. During the annual celebration, 50 and 25-year members will be honored during the program.

A Senior Partner with The HR Group, Inc., Smith has over 25 years experience in the areas of human resources, organizational effectiveness, redesign and restructure, financial man-

agement, non-profit organizational leadership and education administration.

She specializes in strategic planning, conducting operations audits and the development of innovative solutions to improve employee effectiveness and efficiency.

In addition, Ms. Smith, who has been a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., since 1967, is a motivational speaker who has given over 400 speeches on a variety of topics. She has held several leadership positions in the Sorority, including serving as the Executive Director. Currently, Ms. Smith is Georgia's Assistant Commissioner (State

Director) for Adult Education and GED Testing, a division of the Technical College System of Georgia. Ms. Smith is the recipient of

many honors and awards including Who's Who Among African Americans and Who's Who in the Southeast.



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# My New Year wishes

By Julianne Malveaux

(NNPA) Happy New Year! January first and second are the days when most think of the "new" year, yet with the first Monday in January falling on Jan. 6, that's probably when most people will return to their desks with focused energy and ready to go. Post-its and scrawled notebook paper will trumpet "new" resolutions. Eat less, relax more, volunteer, tithe, save, all that good stuff. Some will even compose a bucket list of things they'd like to do before the end of their lives. Others will have a list of wants and wishes, both realistic and unrealistic. My wish list focuses on public policy, since better public policy means a better 2014.

I WANT JOBS, JOBS, JOBS FOR BLACK PEOPLE. With the last reported official unemployment rate for African Americans at 12.5 percent, and the unofficial rate exceeding 25 percent, I'd really like to see some

more jobs in the African American community. Joblessness leads to poverty leads to all kinds of maladies. While the stock market is soaring, is it too much to ask for a little job creation? Don't Republicans, also, represent unemployed people? Help me, somebody. By the way, I'd like more jobs for everyone, but first things first.

And while we're at it, why not fairer (and more equal) wages. There is talk of raising the minimum wage to \$10 or more by 2015, and some states are already moving to wage levels even higher. More than half of those now earning the minimum wage are raising children. If their employers don't pay enough for them to live on, the government will end up subsidizing their employers' (and them) with programs such as SNAP (food stamps) and Section 8. Ooops! Those programs are being cut as well. What is a poor person to do in a nation that is both hostile to poor people and also absolutely needs them?

I want President Obama to say "Black" or "African American" sometime other than Black History Month. And I'd like him to say it enthusiastically, not reluctantly. His Dec. 4 speech on poverty issues in Washington, D.C. went a long way toward addressing the concerns (education, housing, poverty) of the least and the left out, but his lips won't be permanently puckered in a putrid position if he managed to give his most loyal constituency a shout out. I guess I've been wishing for this for the past five years; I guess I'll be wishing for the next few. (And don't tell me that President Obama is president of everyone. He doesn't cringe when saying Latino, women, or GBLT).

I want our Congress to think long-term and provide more dollars for education, and for HBCUs, especially, because need more resources; most colleges that enroll fewer than 1,500 students with small endowments can

**See Wishes, Page 6**

## BOLD, continued from Page 1

Republicans have a better than even chance to take over the Senate if they nominate the best conservative candidate that is "electable." The GOP should be able to pick up seats in Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina and West Virginia. Republicans need only a net of six seats to win the Senate.

The Black vote could be the margin of victory in states such as Arkansas, Louisiana and North Carolina. Each has Black voters who thoroughly turned off by the Democrats and Obama. If these Republican candidates take their message to the Black community, Republicans will take over the Senate.

I know many of my Democratic friends will laugh at me and my Republican friends will continue to want to dismiss the Black vote; but I dare my Republican leaders to call my bluff if they really want to win the Senate.

As I often say, I have been Black most of my life and I know the sentiments of my community very well. To prove my point, what was unthinkable just a month ago is going to happen more frequently going forward. Democrats, especially Blacks, for the first time are publicly voicing their dissatisfaction with Obama.

A group of very liberal Blacks are about to file a lawsuit against Obama for enacting policies that have decreased the number of Black students

attending HBCUs. Civil Rights leaders such as Congressman John Lewis have publically threatened to go to war with Obama over the lack of Black judges being nominated. On Black radio, there is huge vocalization of dissatisfaction with Obama. This was unimaginable only a few weeks ago.

Blacks turning away from Obama will be one of the top news stories of the year. The question is are Republicans prepared to take advantage of this opening within the Black community?

Gun violence and mass shootings will continue, not because of the availability of guns; but because of the continued breakdown in our moral fabric. By 2016, I predict that morals and values will be in the top five issues of importance to voters. This liberal drift towards pluralism and relativism will begin to reverse itself with a lot of help from within the Black community. Republicans, are you listening?

Look for a major reduction in corporate support for many of the reality TV shows that have proliferated over the past several years. These corporations will find it increasingly more difficult to justify the expenditure of their corporate dollars from a cost/benefit analysis.

I expect to see more suicides from those who played professional football and hockey. The issue of trauma to the brain during violent sports is a lot worse than the public is being told. I

think over the next few years, pro football will become unrecognizable as we know it today.

There will be no comprehensive immigration reform. However, as a compromise, there will be a path to legalization, but not citizenship. Republicans who vote for citizenship will lose their next election and some will even be recalled before their next election (on the local level).

Journalism will continue its downward spiral towards the cult of personality. Journalists will continue down the path of becoming bigger than the story they are supposed to be covering. They will continue to put more emphasis on being famous versus being accurate.

My final prediction is that Obamacare will be a huge albatross around the necks of the Democrats for the next three years and will make their retaining the White House very problematic. The issue will be are the Republicans prepared to address some the major problems facing America with policy solutions?

If the answer is yes, then Republicans will win the White House. If the answer is no, we can kiss the America we know goodbye.

Raynard Jackson is president & CEO of Raynard Jackson & Associates, LLC., a Washington, D.C.-based public relations/government affairs firm. He can be reached through his Web site, [www.raynardjackson.com](http://www.raynardjackson.com). You can also follow him on Twitter at [raynard1223](https://twitter.com/raynard1223).

# New York Cardiovascular Associates address common myths about vein disease treatment

New York Cardiovascular Associates has released a new article to clarify some of the top myths about vein disease treatment that circulate through the public. The New York City based center says that common myths about vein disease treatments need to be dispelled so that people can recognize the symptoms of vein disease and know when to seek treatment.

According to a representative from the center, "Vein disease is not merely cosmetic, it is progressive. It is imperative for potential patients to know the facts about vein disease treatments in a timely fashion to ensure the most effective outcome." Individuals who suspect they have a venous condi-



tion are encouraged to seek care from a qualified vein doctor in NYC as soon as possible.

The article also touches on the

myth of painful, lengthy vein disease treatments. Modern vein disease treatments such as sclerotherapy, microphlebectomy and

endovenous laser ablation can be performed on an outpatient basis, meaning less time and hassle for patients, as well as minimal side effects and little to no scarring.

The NYC vein treatment center hopes that by dispelling these myths, the public will have a clearer image of vein disease treatments and their benefits. For more information about vein treatments at the center, visit:

<http://www.nycva.org>

Varicose Vein Treatment Options

Over 30 million people in the United States suffer from varicose veins and spider veins, making it a very common affliction. Varicose veins are large, bulging, some-

times twisted veins that are usually bluish in color. Spider veins are smaller, reddish veins that may appear tangled or similar to a spider's web. Both men and women can have vein problems, but women are more likely to experience them.

Modern vein treatment options are effective, safe, and accessible to everyone. New technological developments have led to minimally invasive treatments that have excellent results with few side effects and minimal downtime. The most popular treatments include microphlebectomy, sclerotherapy, radio frequency ablation and endovenous laser treatment.

## Parkland prenatal care helps prevent birth defects

DALLAS — Simply taking an inexpensive vitamin pill daily during pregnancy can prevent life-threatening and disfiguring birth defects like spina bifida. According to providers at Parkland Health & Hospital System, expectant women who take adequate amounts of folic acid, a B vitamin, can prevent serious birth defects to their baby's brain and spine, abnormalities known as neural tube defect that occur in the first few weeks of gestation. During January, National Birth Defects Pre-

vention Month, and this week, Jan. 5-11, designated as National Folic Acid Awareness Week, the staff of Parkland's Women and Infants' Specialty Health (WISH) division is stressing the importance of nutrition in averting preventable and tragic birth defects.

As many as 3,000 babies are born each year in the United States with neural tube defect. Folic acid has been found to be very important for women considering pregnancy and during pregnancy in the prevention

of neural tube defects. Folic acid is a B vitamin that every cell in the body needs for normal growth and development. The U.S. Public Health Service has recommended since 1992 that all women of childbearing age take 400 micrograms of folic acid per day to reduce the risk of neural tube defects that affect the brain and spinal cord.

"Even though awareness of folic acid's important role in healthy fetal development has been around a

long time, not all women have gotten this message," said Ruby Taylor, Director of Nursing Advanced Prac-

tice, WISH Ambulatory at Parkland. "As health care providers, it is important for us to get the message out to

women to seek early prenatal care."

Taking folic acid daily

**See Parkland, Page 6**

## Five tips to quit smoking in 2014

Most smokers say they want to quit and many will make a New Year's Resolution to quit in 2014. If this is your year to quit, the American Lung Association (ALA) offers five tips to help you along the way:

Learn from past experiences. Most smokers have tried to quit in the past and sometimes people get discouraged thinking about previous attempts. Those experiences were necessary steps on the road to future success. Think about what helped you during those tries and what you'll do differently in your next quit attempt.

You don't have to quit alone. Telling friends that you're trying to quit and enlisting their support will help ease the process. Expert help is available from the American Lung Association and other groups. Friends who also smoke may even join you in try-

ing to quit!

Medication can help, if you know what to do. The seven FDA-approved medications (like nicotine patches or gum) really do help smokers quit. Most folks don't use them correctly so be sure to follow the directions!

It's never too late to quit. While it's best to quit smoking as early as possible, quitting smoking at any age will enhance the length and quality of your life. You'll also save money and avoid the hassle of going outside in the cold to smoke.

Every smoker can quit. The ALA said each person needs to find the right combination of techniques that will for them, and above all, they need to keep trying.

For more information, visit the ALA/WellPoint site, [www.quitterinyou.org](http://www.quitterinyou.org).

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## Prosper's credit rating is upgraded by Standard & Poor

PROSPER — A strong economic future, a stable fiscal past and a population with a collective buying income well above the national average are among the reasons for an upgrade of the Town's credit rating, according to Kent Austin, Director of Finance.

"Standard & Poor's, one of the nation's largest credit rating agencies, has sent word that the Town's credit rating has been upgraded from A to AA. This is the second highest category that the rating agency assigns, and means they feel that Prosper has a very strong capacity to meet its financial commitments," he said.

Credit ratings are forward-looking opinions about credit risk. Standard & Poor's credit ratings express the agency's opinion about the ability and willingness of an issuer to meet its financial obligations in full and on time.

The upgraded rating is assigned to the Town's General Obligation bonds, monetary instruments used by local governments to finance infrastructure, capital expenditures and other large-scale purchases. The upgrade means that lenders should feel certain that any debts incurred by the Town

are a very worthy risk, and can thereby offer the Town better lending rates.

"The advantages of a higher rating are, on one hand, easy to calculate since we can expect better financing rates, but they are also indirect because a higher rating makes us far more attractive to other kinds of investors. Developers, financiers, brokers and real estate companies want to do business in a city with a stable economic outlook, and a higher rating gives us that intangible benefit," added Town Manager Harlan Jefferson.

For example, the previous A rating meant that while Prosper had a strong capacity to meet financial commitments, it was somewhat susceptible to adverse economic conditions and changes in circumstances. Such uncertainty can have an adverse effect on investment decisions by outside companies looking to establish a foothold in a city.

In addition to a stable financial past, illustrated by a conservative outlook on expenditures and impressive reserve levels, the rating agency noted that Prosper's economy is very strong, with its projected per capita effective buying income at 139.4 percent of the U.S.

average.

Moreover, S&P found: a per capita market value of \$106,974; access to the broad and diverse economy of the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area; a county unemployment rate of 6.1 percent; strong flexibility in the budget, and; reserves above 30 percent of expenditures.

The report also cited Prosper's management conditions as strong, with good financial practices, strongly supported and encouraged by the Council. And, unlike cities struggling to fund their own retirement system, putting them at risk, Prosper participates in the Texas Municipal Retirement System to provide pension benefits for employees.

Even with a strong economy, though, the rating agency noted that a more diversified tax base, including more commercial investments, would put the Town in better financial footing.

"With the guidance of a fiscally conservative Council, we certainly plan to continue to maintain our financial strength at its highest," said Austin.

## Stanley of Garland City Council earns national appointment

GARLAND - Garland City Council Member Stephen W. Stanley (District 3) has been appointed to the National League of Cities (NLC) 2014 Transportation Infrastructure & Services Steering Committee.

This committee has the lead responsibility for developing NLC federal pol-

icy positions on issues involving transportation, including planning, funding, safety and security of public transit, streets and highways, aviation, railroads and ports.

"I am honored and humbled on behalf of the City of Garland to be appointed to National League of Cities

See STANLEY, Page 13

## The moral question...



**Curtis Report**  
by Barry Curtis

There are many variables in life we can define as life altering or meaningful transitions to different stages of our life. There is however two constants in each of our lives. These constants don't seem to differ much from ethnic groups or religion.

The two constants are:

- the uncertainty of life's moral questions; and
- the certainty of death.

They are not only constants in our lives, but they are bigger than all the other issues of the day. They loom over us like an ominous cloud likely to descend at any moment and somehow we are surprised when it does.

We could easily at this point discuss the greater issues of the day such as abortion, capital punishment, or pre-marital sex. We could but we won't. Let's instead focus on the day-to-day workings of a moral dilemma.

It is hard for me to pick out just one decision and try to make a determination if it is moral or does it fit into my comprehensive

spiritual composition. Do I stop and ponder the issue? That's unlikely.

If I see that juicy hamburger I am likely to eat it, when I see that pretty lady I am likely to pursue her. That's the easy part the next steps are the issues of moral decision making.

For example with that hamburger do I also get fries? How About a shake with that? Heaven forbid do I BIGGIE SIZE them? You may have noticed that I did not mention the pursuing the girl part? I will get to that later.

I often wonder how GOD views these daily decisions we make. So I devoured two hamburgers today. Is that a good or bad choice? Does GOD really care? If GOD doesn't care than why should I? These questions play over and over in my head like a Bach Symphony Number 2 not Number 5, without the strings.

Please don't think I am in any way attempting to belittle my moral decisions or the GOD that I pray too. You see, I want to get it right. Sometimes I feel as if there is a 'how to book' and you won't let me read it. I feel left to wonder the earth unprotected, vulnerable to the whims of the

world, naked without the garden.

Now to that second constant called DEATH. Yes we all die. I didn't say I understood it, I simply accept it. Well maybe I do. Why do some people live longer than others? Why do babies die? Why does it seem as if some suffer in death and others simply fall off to a deep sleep that they never awake from?

I sometimes like to think that I want death to come quickly, with a sudden urgency that must be satisfied. When I think of a quick death I think of one that has little to no pain or so I pray. I assume a quick death would be like a soldier in war who is the victim of a large and powerful explosion with no possibility of survival. Or perhaps like the death of John Lennon on his own doorstep.

My friends, the bottom-line is I want to go to heaven but I am not sure if I want to die to get there. Please do not judge me.

To that earlier point I made of pursuing the pretty lady? Well, never mind I have enough upheaval in my life.

Barry Curtis can be reached at [www.thecurtis-report.com](http://www.thecurtis-report.com).

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# A better deal for kids in the budget? Politicians say 'Yes'

By Ann Challet

(New America Media & NNPA) June Jimenez of Silver Spring, Md. was pregnant when she was laid off from her job at a public affairs firm last year. She tried unsuccessfully for months to find a job and worried about losing her home.

"My mortgage is \$1,500 a month and I only received \$320 a week in unemployment," she says.

Her health insurance policy at the time didn't provide her with maternity coverage, and when she tried to purchase an individual plan, she discovered that she couldn't because her pregnancy qualified as a pre-existing condition. She qualified for Medicaid, which covered the cost of her pregnancy, including an emergency C-section.

But she found herself facing the possibility of having to choose among making her mortgage payments, paying for utilities, and buying food.

What sustained her, she says, was that by her sixth month of pregnancy she was able to enroll in WIC (the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children). She used WIC to buy food for her and her daughter for the next nine months.

Today Jimenez is working again, and her daughter Karanda is now almost a year old. "Without a doubt, Medicaid and WIC saved us," she says. "[Those programs] provided a crucial bridge for me."

At a congressional briefing last week, children's advocacy organization First Focus Campaign for Children, in conjunction with advocacy group MomsRising, presented the results of a nationwide poll that found bipartisan public support for protecting funding for children's programs in the federal budget.

The survey of 800 voters, commissioned by First Focus and conducted by polling firm American Viewpoint, found that strong majorities of both Democrats and Republicans opposed cuts to programs like the ones that sustained Jimenez.

Voters were surveyed by landline and cell phone in the first week of December. "Kids were affected significantly by the budget sequestration that took effect earlier this year," says Ed Walz, vice president of communications at First Focus. Cutbacks, he says, have disproportionately impacted programs serving children.

While some federal programs such as Social Security are mandatory, children's programs like WIC, Head Start (which provides early childhood services to low-income families, including education and child care), and K-12 education are funded through the appropriations process.

Head Start programs, for example, had to cut services for close to 60,000 children in the 2013-2014 school year.

According to the survey, three in four voters oppose cuts to K-12 education funding, including 87 percent of Democrats, 63 percent of Republicans, and 71 percent of independent voters.

Voters specifically oppose cuts to early learning for young children by a ratio of nearly two-to-one (62 to 32 percent), including half of Republicans, more than three in four Democrats, and almost 60 percent of independents. Nearly two in three voters oppose cuts to Head Start.

Sheila Arias of Durham, N.C. says that when she lost her job as an interpreter, she

See BUDGET, Page 8

## PARKLAND, continued from Page 4

during pregnancy could prevent up to 70 percent of some types of serious birth defects. Spina bifida, a birth defect of the spine, can cause paralysis of the lower body and learning disabilities. Another type of birth defect affects the brain and causes babies to die within a few days of birth.

"At Parkland Women's Health Centers, all prenatal clients are started on folic acid and iron at their first visit to help ensure good outcomes for mother and baby," Taylor stated.

"Moms are encouraged to eat foods rich in folic acid such as leafy green vegeta-

bles, whole grain products and cereals enriched in folic acid. In addition, women who are seeking pregnancy receive pre-conception counseling that includes education about taking folic acid, proper nutrition and the avoidance of alcohol and smoking."

"More than 90 percent of Parkland's prenatal patients receive at least four prenatal care visits. The average number of visits for Parkland's prenatal patients is nine," stated Paula Turrichi, Senior Vice President, WISH. "Consistent prenatal care leads to healthier moms and babies, better birth outcomes and lower

neonatal and infant mortality," she added.

Because up to half of all pregnancies are not planned, it's important for women of childbearing age to get enough folic acid daily if there is any chance they could become pregnant.

"It's a seemingly small thing that can make a huge difference in the health of your baby," Taylor said.

To learn more about folic acid, visit [www.cdc.gov/Features/FolicAcid](http://www.cdc.gov/Features/FolicAcid).

To find the nearest Parkland Women's Health Center, please visit [www.parklandhospital.com/medical\\_services/women\\_infants/womens\\_health\\_centers.html](http://www.parklandhospital.com/medical_services/women_infants/womens_health_centers.html).

## WISHES, continued from Page 3

use help. Many of these institutions are tuition-driven which means that cuts in financial aid, in Pell grants or Parent-Plus loans cut these colleges hard. Cutting education while suggesting the labor force should be more skills based is like eating your seed corn while hearing that food must be saved for less plentiful times.

I WANT CONGRESS TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX. As soon as another program is mentioned, recalcitrant Republicans and blue dog Democrats start worrying about cost. Here's a thought – cut everything related to military spending except pensions. Or, how about getting rid of some of the hundreds of millions dollars spent on pork. What would happen if colleges such as Harvard and Yale (really, I'm not hat-

ing) got smaller grants or were required to partner with smaller schools when they get research grants, channeling a few dollars to those schools who really need them, and to the students who need ore research opportunities.

I want Obamacare to work well. If affordable health care is part of the Obama legacy, then I want it to work, really work. It will take time for the president to live down the computer debacle, and heads

should have rolled in response to the faulty rollout of the program. By the end of the first quarter of 2014, Obamacare should be working seamlessly, and people should really be able to see a difference because Obamacare exists.

Bottom line – I'd like joy, peace, and economic justice by whatever means necessary. Happy New Year!

*Julianne Malveaux is a Washington, D.C.-based economist and writer. She is President Emerita of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, N.C.*

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# Nuñez PR Group certified as a Women's Business Enterprise

DALLAS - an agency specializing in full-service communications, received national certification as a Women's Business Enterprise by the Women's Business Council - Southwest, a regional certifying partner of the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC).

"I am proud to receive

this certification from the Women's Business Enterprise National Council," Jessica Nuñez, Nuñez PR Group founder and CEO. "We look forward to growing our agency with this certification and the opportunity it brings to our company as well as our clients."

WBENC's national standard of certification imple-



mented by the Women's Business Council -Southwest, is a meticulous process including an in-depth review of the business and site inspection.

The certification process is designed to confirm the business is at least 51 percent owned, operated and controlled by a woman or women.

By including women-owned businesses among their vendors, corporations and government agencies demonstrate their commitment to fostering diversity and the continued develop-

ment of their supplier/vendor diversity programs.

To learn more about Nuñez Public Relations Group, visit the company Internet site at [nunez-prgroup.com](http://nunez-prgroup.com).

## DANCE, continued from Page 1

tional Endowment for the Arts, more than 500 attendees will participate in workshops, master classes and performances held throughout Dallas at various venues.

The host hotel, Marriott City Center will be the conference headquarters where workshops will be held on dance management, funding, marketing, audience development and more as well as panel discussions with Arts Leaders and Corporate Partners.

World renowned master teachers Dianne Grigsby, Christopher Huggins, Theo Jamison, Virginia Johnson, Milton Myers, Stephanie Powell and more will conduct master classes at two locations: DBDT Studios on Flora Street and Booker T. Washington HSPVA.

In addition, evening dance concerts held on the campus of Southern Methodist University (SMU) at McFarlin Auditorium, January 16-18 will feature companies from around the nation. Beginning on Thursday, January 16, the following dynamic youth companies will perform: Straight to the Pointe! Dance Company (Philadelphia), Detroit School of Arts Dance (Detroit), Dance Institute of Philadelphia (Philadelphia), Booker T. Washington HSPVA (Dallas), DBDT's Allegro Performing Ensemble (Dallas) and more.

Electrifying professional artists from around the world to perform on Friday, Jan. 17 include: Ballet Creole (Ontario), Dance Theatre of Harlem (New York), Atlanta Dance Connection (Atlanta) Orchestris College of William and Mary, Howard University Dance Ensemble, DBDTII and other professional ensembles.

On Saturday, Jan. 18, the celebration will conclude with performances from the five founding IABD companies: Dayton Contemporary Dance (Dayton), Lula Washington Dance (Los Angeles), Philadanco!The Philadelphia Dance Company (Philadelphia), Cleo Parker Robinson Dance (Denver) and Dallas Black

Dance Theatre.

The performance series is sponsored by Texas Instruments.

Special classes at midnight will be taught on Thursday, Jan. 16 in Hip Hop by Keith Clark and A'naz Cotton. Clark and Cotton are members of the DC Dance Collective. Friday, Jan. 17 will feature the much acclaimed midnight African Bantaba led by Dallas favorites Bandan Koro Drum and Dance Ensemble. These classes will be held in the main studio at DBDT and will be open to the public.

The conference will also honor two legends in Black Dance, Virginia Johnson (Dance Theatre of Harlem) and Milton Myers (Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater) during a special lunch-

eon held on Saturday, Jan. 18 at the Marriott.

For more information regarding corporate panels, lecture/demonstrations, dance classes or registration for the festival and conference, please visit the website at [dbdt.com](http://dbdt.com).

Tickets for the performance showcases are available by calling the AT&T Performing Arts Center Box office at 214-880-0202 or visiting the purchasing website at [attpac.org](http://attpac.org).

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# HBCU leaders leaving in alarming numbers

(NNPA) Only three months into the academic year and headlines have been littered with announcements about HBCU leadership turnover. There have been a plethora of reasons, including university presidents being fired, being encouraged to leave their posts by their boards of trustees or opting for retirement. Gone are the days of decades of top-down leadership, now replaced by a need for charismatic personalities

who are well-skilled at fundraising while navigating internal needs and external stakeholders, as well as politics and long-standing traditions.

Harvey shares his 36 years worth of knowledge with other presidents during the annual Executive Leadership Summit held each November at Hampton. Harvey said 15 of his former university officers are now university presidents.

"I've had a lot of people who helped me," Harvey said. "I try to share the lessons I've learned."

Exiting leaders

While some may have seen the handwriting on the wall, others stepped down under arduous circumstances or planned for their next career move since the start of the 2013-14 academic year.

For example:

- Tuskegee University : two weekends ago, the fall meeting of

the Tuskegee University Board of Trustees was rocked by Dr. Gilbert L. Rochon resigning from his role as president. By the following Monday, Dr. Matthew Jenkins was posted on the university's web-site as acting president. Rochon served three years.

- Howard University: On Oct. 1, university President Dr. Sidney A. Ribeau abruptly stepped down after months of wrangling over the management and financial

health of Howard University. Ribeau served five years and extended his tenure through December.

His departure comes on the heels of a drop for the university in a major national ranking and a downgrade in its credit rating, as well as a 5 percent fall in enrollment.

- Stillman College : On Sept. 6, one day after the fall convocation,

See HBCU, Page 12

## Dallas Bar awarding Rep. Rafael Anchia the MLK Justice Award

Texas State Representative Rafael Anchia, a partner at Haynes and Boone, LLP, will be honored by the Dallas Bar Association at the 21st Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon as the recipient of the 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. Justice Award at a noon luncheon on Monday, Jan. 20, at The Belo Mansion (2101 Ross Avenue in downtown Dallas). The event is open to the public.



Commissioner John Wiley Price, Rhonda Hunter, E. Leon Carter, Dr. Walter Sutton, Jr. and Justice Carolyn Wright.

"Rafael is truly a worthy recipient of this Award," said DBA President Scott McElhaney. "His commitment to creating a more fair

and just society has been a guidepost throughout his career in public service, and his works should serve as an inspiration to us all."

During his service in the legislature, Representative Anchia has worked tirelessly on legislation to protect civil rights, improve public safety, protect our environment and improve health coverage for women and children.

Representative Anchia has received numerous community awards, including the American Jewish Committee's Institute of Human Relations Award, Texas Lawyer's Extraordinary Minority in Texas Law and LULAC's National

"Man of the Year."

The MLK award luncheon is open to the public;

the plated lunch costs \$12.76. RSVPs are required.

For more information about the event, call (214) 220-7400.

## BUDGET, continued from Page 6

couldn't afford to keep her daughter, Jaslene, who was two at the time, in daycare. Arias went to the local Children's Developmental Services Agency for help, and was told that Jaslene would probably qualify for Early Head Start.

The agency helped Arias apply, and three weeks later, her daughter was accepted into the program. Jaslene has developmental disabilities, and Arias says that the teachers "offered her important structure and a regular daily routine" that, in addition to therapy, have helped with managing her special needs.

Jaslene will start kindergarten next year, and Arias says that Early Head Start is

now helping her with her younger child, who is showing signs of a disorder that also affects his sister.

Democrats and Republicans recently reached a budget deal that would restore some of the funding to programs that were affected by sequestration. First Focus reports that if sequestration relief were to be applied proportionally to children's programs, about \$3.6 billion federal dollars would be restored to these initiatives in 2014, including \$1.8 billion for K-12 education and \$370 million for Head Start.

The poll found that when voters are asked to prioritize deficit reduction or protecting investments in children,

31 percent of respondents place a higher priority on investments in children and 41 percent rate the two options as equally important. "Voters reject what they consider a false choice," says Walz. "What this shows is that 72 percent of voters reject that the way to reduce the budget deficit is to cut children's programs."

"Congress has struggled to prove responsive to the concerns of the American people," he says. "What the current deal does, in a nutshell, is create an opportunity for Congress to undo some of the damage done in this budget year."

(This article is part of ongoing coverage by New America Media on the Affordable Care Act, supported by The Atlantic Philanthropies.)



# Obamacare: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

By Nicole Scott,  
NDG Contributing Writer

Throughout American history every president has had that one achievement that defines his presidency. An accomplishment that for him when historians look back can say this was the defining piece of legislature that improved the quality of life for all Americans. For Roosevelt it was the New Deal, Johnson the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and for President Barack Obama it would have been the Affordable Healthcare Act (ACA) had he stuck to his guns.

Healthcare reform was always atop President Obama's list of priorities since he took the Oval Office. In fact it was a central theme of his presidential campaign, when then Senator Obama vowed to enact universal healthcare for all. A huge winning point for him, because contrary to widespread perception the majority of Americans favored a single payer option.

According to various polls conducted by CBS News, CNN, LA Times as well as The New York Times dating back to 2007 65 percent of Americans support "a universal health insurance program in which everyone is covered under a program like Medicare that is run by the government and financed by taxpayers."

So what went wrong?

For starters whenever politicians polarize hot button political issues, debating them ad nauseam the public often becomes divided along party lines even abandoning their original positions and adopting the official party talking points. Why? Because they become weary, frustrated and confused by all of the misinformation and scare campaigns; talk of death panels and doomsday predictions.

The reality is America stands on an island practically alone of industrialized nations that do not provide socialized medicine for its citizenry. We often hear of our neighbors to the north but almost all of the countries in South America, Europe, Australia, even Israel have for decades provided univer-



Photo Fibonacci Blue / Flickr

*Obamacare has been a deeply dividing subject in the country, as can be seen in the faces of protestors on both sides of the issue.*

sal healthcare for their people. So it's not a left-right or liberal-conservative ideology as much as politicians have turned it into especially those on the right.

From the onset Republicans have vowed to obstruct health care reform by any means necessary.

"We're doing everything we can to stop this bill," said Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY). "I can almost guarantee you this thing won't pass before August, and if we can hold it back until we go home for a month's break in August. Senators and Congressmen will come back in September afraid to vote against the American people. If we're able to stop Obama on this it will be his Waterloo. It will break him."

And so the battle began.

It didn't stop with Rep. McConnell. Republican after Republican, even after the ACA was passed continued to oppose the bill challenging it all the way to the Supreme Court. Republican Texas Senator Ted Cruz failed miserably with a 21 hour filibuster that only accomplished him being the butt of every joke of every television pundit in liberal America.

ruptcies

- Almost 56 million adults in 2013 struggled with medical bills
- An estimated 10 million insured will still encounter difficulties covering their medical bills
- 15 million people will exhaust their savings paying for health related bills
- More than 25 million people forego, delay even skip their doses and/or refilling prescriptions due to money

So this is an issue that reaches across class and race, as well as political affiliation. In 2012 an analysis of 37 polls conducted by 17 survey groups found health



Photo LaDawn Howard / Flickr

Although the Republicans continue to make a fool of themselves time and again and appear to have lost the victory, they have managed to turn the tide. Since the President's re-election a growing number of Americans' support for the ACA has dwindled.

What the President got really wrong is you do not allow your opponent to gain momentum and poison the waters swaying your supporters away from you. Adequate healthcare is an issue that concerns the majority of Americans because it is something they experience firsthand.

An upwards of 48 million of Americans have no insurance. A study conducted in 2013 by Nerd-Wallet Health found the following:

- Healthcare related bills were the number one reason for bank-

care was the number two concern of Americans and 65 percent felt the problem of healthcare costs has worsened in the last five years.

Whether it was a lack of leadership, courage or just listening to the wrong advice President Obama missed a golden opportunity to revolutionize America's healthcare system, bringing forth monumental change in the lives of those who need it the most, his greatest constituency while finally silencing his biggest critics.

Instead he opted for the quick money and lost big. It has cost Obama the respect and confidence of many of his supporters and provided Republicans with more fuel for fodder.

On rollout day the GOP could not have asked for a greater disaster. Politicians to pundits on the

right lined up to say, "I told you so." Website glitches and technical problems prevented people from signing up even caused the site to temporarily crash. But the problems have not stopped just there.

Since the launch of the ACA there have been a non-stop plethora of issues including unexpected higher premiums. And if things couldn't become any more disastrous, once again, caving to pressure the president partly suspended the individual mandate. This means individuals who are uninsured and cannot afford to get insured will qualify for a "hardship exemption." They are also eligible for a special category of ACA insurance designed for people 30 and under.

The failures of the ACA and problems on rollout day are not a testament that we do not need healthcare reform in America. The problems that occurred with the website are not a sign of incompetence by the Obama administration, nor are they something out of the norm.

In 2005, when the Bush administration implemented the Medicare prescription benefit plan millions of Americans encountered not only technical errors, but also received incorrect information as well as insurers and pharmacies resulting in some recipients going without their medication. In spite of it all, that did not prevent Republicans from supporting and defending the plan.

There is much the President could learn from his opponents when it comes to getting behind benchmark legislature. However, it seems Obama has yet to learn the most significant rules in politics. First, when someone shows you who they are believe them. Secondly, you can please some of the people some of the time, all of the people some of the time, some of the people all of the time but you can never please all of the people all of the time.

And those are words coming from someone Obama admires and considers to have "paved the way for me" [sic].



## Mary J Blige, Lionel Richie and Nephew Tommy appearing at ESSENCE Festival

NEW YORK, NY —ESSENCE Festival organizers today announced that programming for the leading cultural gathering of its kind will expand to 20 stages of entertainment and empowerment in celebration of the event's 20th anniversary, July 3-6, 2014 in New Orleans, LA.

Over the past two decades, "...the Festival has become one of the most important forums for non hip-hop black music and culture," as reported by the New York Times. This year's milestone 4-day celebration will feature both world-renowned and up-and-coming performing acts, as well as the country's top speakers, authors, leaders, innovators and celebrities.

The Superdome Mainstage performers will include powerhouses Prince (previously announced), Lionel Richie, Mary J. Blige, Jill Scott, Erykah Badu, Ledisi and Charlie Wilson.

The daytime Essence Empowerment Experience stage will feature influential leaders and personalities including Rev. Al Sharpton, Steve Harvey, and Iyanla Vanzant, who is offering a group transformation to lucky winners of a contest launched in the January 2014 issue of ESSENCE



magazine.

Plus, attendees will get lifted during an all-star gospel tribute to illustrious vocalist Yolanda Adams, hosted by legendary Pastor Donnie McClurkin.

The Mainstage host each night will be comedian Nephew Tommy.

To purchase tickets, get more exciting news, talent and program updates go to [www.essencefestival.com](http://www.essencefestival.com).

Last year, the ESSENCE Festival saw record-breaking numbers as fans spent the Fourth of July weekend enjoying the annual event's mix of exciting newcomers and cherished Festival favorites.

## Dallas Children Theater goes To the dogs in 2014

Go, parents. Go! to the theater in 2014! Big dogs and little dogs. Dogs in cars. It's a carnival of color and dance and song. Celebrate the New Year with GO, DOG. GO! playing January 24 through February 23, 2014 at DCT's Rosewood Center for Family Arts.

In a series of rollicking vignettes, dogs of all shapes, colors and sizes travel by boat, car, scooter, roller skates and unicycle. Full of spectacle, dance and circus appeal, DCT's energetic dogs will go up and down, over and under, and straight into your heart.

"You will fall in love with these dogs as they work, play and travel like nobody's business," says director Nancy Schaeffer. "It's all to get to the best dog party ever which is a perfect way to continue celebrating our 30th anniversary season with the new year." Among all the hustle and bustle, these floppy eared, four-legged friends even manage to slip-in some important life lessons. It's a straightforward story renowned for its ability to generate fun, learning, adventure and surprise. Although the book is geared to very young children, the comedy and nods to older youth and parents make this show a winner for all ages.

P.D. Eastman's book, "Go, Dog. Go!" is a family favorite that uses single-syllable words in rhythmic repetition for beginning

readers, and honors the simplicity of the world around us.

The playwrights of the stage adaptation intended to celebrate and explore the few existing words and pictures in the same way that a child (and parent) can read through the book night after night and find something new and remarkable with every turn of the page. It's a classic book turned into a unique stage adaptation filled with music, physical comedy and wondrously loopy anarchy.

First produced at DCT in 2003 when the company had newly moved into the Rosewood Center for Family Arts, the theater is excited to bring the show back for a new generation of patrons with a fresh look and feel. Costumes by Lyle Huchton give each dog their own fun personality while sets by Bob Lavalie present a feast for the eyes with a stunning color palate.

Another special element of the play is live musical accompaniment. Pianist and composer B. Wolf returns to the show to play non-stop throughout, and in addition to the show's score, adds her own unique, creative touches. Costumed as Music Dog, Ms. Wolf creates a compelling and dynamic musical experience as she interacts casually with the action.

Join the party - a big dog party! Enjoyed by ages 4 and up.

## 50 Shades! The Musical kicks off this week in Dallas

50 Shades! The Musical, a comedic parody of the Fifty Shades of Grey phenomenon, will premiere in Dallas this January. Described as a sexy, hysterical musical romp, 50 SHADES! THE MUSICAL was a resounding hit

in Chicago and New York, and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

50 Shades! The Musical opens with a ladies book club deciding to read Fifty Shades of Grey. Through their interpretation of the novel, the audience is led

on a roller coaster ride of this unlikely bestseller. The show is full of dance numbers and original songs delivered by an outrageous cast with a live, on-stage band.

Tickets available at 214-880-0202 or online.





# Retirement Plan Limits Largely Unchanged in 2014

By Jason Alderman

Anyone who's bought groceries, filled their gas tank or paid insurance premiums recently would probably be surprised to learn that, according to Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (CPI-U), the rate of inflation is relatively flat – only 1.2 percent from September 2012 to September 2013.

That's bad news for people who were hoping to boost their contributions to an IRA, 401(k) plan or other tax-advantaged retirement savings accounts, since the IRS uses the CPI-U's September year-over-year performance to determine whether or not to make cost-of-living adjustments to many of the retirement contributions you and your employer can make in the following year.

Here are highlights of what will and won't change in 2014:



**Defined contribution plans:** The maximum allowable annual contribution you can make to a workplace 401(k), 403(b), 457(b) or federal Thrift Savings plan remains unchanged at \$17,500. Keep in mind these additional factors:

People over 50 can also make an additional \$5,500 in catch-up contributions (unchanged from 2013).

The annual limit for combined employee and employer contributions in-

creased by \$1,000 to \$52,000.

Because your plan may limit the percentage of pay you can contribute, your maximum contribution may actually be less. (For example, if the maximum contribution is 10 percent of pay and you earn \$60,000, you could only contribute \$6,000.)

**Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs):** The maximum annual contribution to IRAs remains the

same at \$5,500 (plus an additional \$1,000 if 50 or older – also unchanged from 2013). Maximum contributions to traditional IRAs are not impacted by personal income, but if your modified adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds certain limits, the maximum amount you can contribute to a Roth IRA gradually phases out:

For singles/heads of households the phase-out AGI range is \$114,000 to \$129,000 (increased from 2013's \$112,000 to \$127,000 range). Above \$129,000, you cannot contribute to a Roth.

For married couples filing jointly, the range is \$181,000 to \$191,000 (up from \$178,000 to \$188,000).

Keep in mind these rules for deducting traditional IRA contributions on your federal tax return:

If you're single, a head of household, a qualifying widow(er) or married and neither spouse is covered by an employer-provided re-

tirement plan, you can deduct the full IRA contribution, regardless of income.

See RETIREMENT, Page 16

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## Mercedes-Benz USA posts best year on record

MONTVALE, N.J. — Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA) has reported the highest annual sales volumes in its history with 312,534 units sold for the Mercedes-Benz brand in 2013, representing a 14.0 percent increase from the 274,134 vehicles sold in 2012.

Sprinter Vans achieved an annual sales total of 21,816, gaining 4.2 percent. Adding 9,264 units from smart, MBUSA's year-end total hit a record 343,614, increasing 12.6 percent from the 305,072 vehicles sold the previous year.

"It's been an incredible year for Mercedes-Benz in every way," said Steve Cannon, president and CEO of MBUSA. "We saw record sales, flexed our muscles across the entire product line from top to bottom and brought the customer experience to an all-time high. With the help of our dealer

partners and the entire organization behind us, we expect this beautifully choreographed series of product debuts to lead us to another phenomenal year in 2014."

Impressive increases were made in both the Mercedes-Benz passenger car and light truck categories, climbing 16.0 percent and 10.4 percent, respectively, from 2012. Annual retail volumes for the Mercedes-Benz brand were led by the C-, E- and M-Class model lines. The sporty C-Class took the top spot for the year at 88,251 units, rising 8.0 percent from 2012, followed by the E-Class with annual sales of 69,803, up 7.1 percent. The brand's top-selling SUV, the M-Class, rounded out the top three at 41,326, up 8.5 percent over the previous year.

Strong gains also were

See BENZ, Page 13



### Store Management Opportunities

Hobby Lobby is a leader in the Arts & Crafts industry with 530 stores and growing located in 46 states. Candidates must have previous retail store management experience in one of the following:

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www.hobbylobby.com  
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## HBCU, continued from Page 8

the university announced that Stillman College President Ernest McNealey was removed from his position by the Board of Trustees. McNealey served as president since 1997. Despite his accomplishments, critics blamed him for enrollment declines, high employee turnover and poor relations with the business community.

• **Shaw University:** In September, President Dorothy Cowser Yancy announced that she would retire after serving since 2011, when she was tapped to fill the post after former president Irma McClaurin resigned. She also served as interim president for 15 months prior to McClaurin and was credited with restructuring the school's finances during that time.

• **Norfolk State University:** In August, after a lengthy closed door session, Dr. Tony Atwater was fired by the Norfolk State Board of Visitors in

a seven to four vote that took Atwater by surprise. Atwater described the news as "sudden and disappointing." He served for two years with ten months remaining on his contract. According to reports, the university's accrediting agency had signaled trouble at the HBCU.

• **Wilberforce University** Dr. Patricia A. Hardaway is slated to retire in December after serving as president since 2009.

The burning question that remains is about the fate of HBCUs and how to stop the trend that's making it difficult for presidents to lead.

"If you look at the landscape now for all of us, it's a tough landscape," said Hampton University president, Dr. William R. Harvey. "There are a number of factors impacting all HBCUs, including the federal government debacle on the Parent Plus Loan

situation, [and] support is down for Title III, which strengthens HBCUs. All of the support for HBCUs across the board is down. In addition, there are some institutions that don't have enough students there.

"It's a tough climate right now."

The pride and traditions of HBCUs is a source of its strength and legacy, but navigating the gauntlet of closely held traditions while fulfilling the requirement to bring new life and resources to the university can be a daunting task for presidents.

Some describe it as a juggling act of trying to please too many masters, including boards of trustees who, at some institutions, have significant influence and demand compliance. Some presidents have operated independently of boards until problems occur.

*Special to the NNPA from The West-side Gazette*

"It is my desire to help them turn their dream of furthering their education into a reality."

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## AT&T taking aim at T-Mobile customers with \$450 per line offer



DALLAS — AT&T is now offering T-Mobile customers \$450 per line when they switch to AT&T and trade in an eligible smartphone.

In addition to a larger and more reliable 4G LTE network, T-Mobile customers who switch to AT&T will benefit from a superior smartphone lineup and award-winning customer service. With AT&T, customers can take advantage of AT&T's new Mobile Share Value plans, which offer data and unlimited talk and text starting as low as \$45 per month with no annual contract. AT&T Next offers customers the chance to upgrade to a new smartphone every year for \$0 down.

Beginning Jan. 3, under the limited-time offer, T-Mobile customers who switch to AT&T can trade-in their current smartphone

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T-Mobile customers can learn more by visiting [www.att.com/switch-fromtmo](http://www.att.com/switch-fromtmo) or an AT&T retail store.

## EVANS, continued from Page 2

to continue her education. Chumbley (1918-2010) was a long-time educator in McKinney ISD.

Chumbley was also a charter member of Allen Heights Baptist Church and teacher for the FIDELIS Sunday School class at First Baptist Church in Allen. The application deadline for the Chumbley scholarship is Wednesday,

Jan. 15.

"I chose single moms of special needs children because they are such courageous women who tirelessly give of themselves," Jenkins said "Many times, they forget about themselves to take care of their children. The mothers put their personal goals and dreams on hold.

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**STANLEY**, continued from Page 5

Transportation Infrastructure & Services Steering Committee.

Due to the illustrious manufacturing base located in Garland we have become a recognized leader in transportation innovation working with local, state, and federal officials, developing funding mechanisms and a model for public private partnerships. The City of Garland has been an active member of the TEX-21 IH-30 Corridor Task Force as well as the TEX-21 Third Coast Initiative working with Texas Sea Ports en-

hancing transportation and commerce not only in Texas but across the central region of the US.

The City of Garland is also a member city of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit System. As a member of the Texas High Speed Rail and Transportation Corporation, the City of Garland is at the forefront of the development of a high speed rail system in the State of Texas. The City has developed and sustained working relationships with the Federal Highway Administration, Texas Department of Trans-

portation, and the local Metropolitan Planning Organization. I look forward to sharing with and learning from my colleagues as well as representing the City of Garland."

As a member of the committee, Stephen Stanley will play a key role in shaping

NLC's policy positions and advocate on behalf of America's cities and towns before Congress, with the Administration and at home. Stanley was elected to the Garland City Council in May 2013, representing District 3.



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**BENZ**, continued from Page 11

seen at the high end. The flagship S-Class, which reset the luxury benchmark with an all-new generation for model year 2014, posted an annual increase of 12.8 percent to 13,303 units. Total sales for the SL-Class roadster rose 43.0percent at 7,007.

A best-ever December for the Mercedes-Benz brand yielded sales of 33,007, increasing 17.3 percent from the 28,145 vehicles sold in December 2012. The E-Class model line was the top volume performer for the month, jumping 25percent to 8,727. Sprinter Vans, which launched a redesigned 2014 lineup in September, saw continued growth at 2,828 for the month, up 26.8 percent. Adding volumes of 855 at smart, MBUSA December sales reached a landmark 36,690 units, increasing 17.0percent from the 31,372 vehicles sold during the same month last year.

Sales of Mercedes-Benz BlueTEC diesel models totaled 1,575 in December and finished the year at 14,943. The company's high-performance AMG models delivered strong December sales of 1,109, bringing the year-end total to 6,906, a 3.7percent increase from 2012.

Separately, Mercedes-Benz Certified Pre-Owned (MBCPO) recorded sales of

9,726 vehicles in December, an increase of 40.0percent compared to the 6,949 units sold in December 2012. For the year, MBCPO sold 99,075 vehicles, climbing 23.3percent from the 80,380 vehicles sold in 2012.

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9:30 a.m.**

You're invited to join us in  
our Sunday Morning Serv-  
ices.

**January 15**

Join us for Morning Bible  
Class at 10:30 a.m.; and  
come back for Evening  
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Service as we praise God  
for all of His blessings.

**January 15, 7 p.m.**

Join us in our Wednesday's  
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about God's Word.

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Senior Pastor

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**January 12, 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 15, 7 p.m.**

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

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food, and access to medi-  
cine and medical services  
for county residents. Call  
the church or Allen's City  
Hall for details.

**January 12, 8 a.m.**

Join us in Early Worship at  
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tion 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, at-  
titude 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 15, 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  
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day School at 8:30 a.m. and  
to stay for our Sunday  
prayer at 9:30 a.m. and  
Worship Service at 10 a.m.

**January 15**

Join us for Wednesday  
Night Prayer Service and be  
blessed of God.

Pastor Sam Fenceroy  
Senior Pastor  
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**SHILOH MBC  
IN PLANO**

**January 12  
8 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

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 15, 7 p.m.**

You're invited to our  
Wednesday's Bible Study to  
learn more about God's  
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**January 18, 10 a.m.**

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**January 12, 7:30 a.m.**

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we worship, honor and  
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**January 13, 7 p.m.**

Come to Monday School as  
we study the Word of God.

We will worship Him and  
praise His Holy name.

**January 17, 7:30 p.m.**

Join us at our Men's Fel-  
lowship each Friday as we  
praise and worship God.

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# The World Honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Send email to: [salesmanager@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:salesmanager@northdallasgazette.com) to sign up for Sister Tarpley's weekly electronic newsletter.

(My father, Mr. Lloyd David Demus, once told me, "Strive to leave the world a better place than when you found it." Dr. King did just that, he made a difference and we are better off as a world. Thank God for Dr. King.)

On January 20, 2014 our nation will celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1968 at age 35, for his contributions to our nation and to the world.

Dr. King (January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968) was born Michael Luther King, Jr., but later he had his name changed to Martin. His grandfather began the family's long tenure as pastors of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta honoring and praising God, he served from 1914 to 1931.

Dr. King's father served from then until his death; and from 1960 until his death Dr. Martin Luther

King, Jr. acted as co-pastor.

Dr. King attended segregated public schools in Georgia, graduating from high school at the age of 15; he received his B. A. degree in 1948 from Morehouse College, a distinguished Negro institution of Atlanta from which both his father and grandfather had graduated.

After three years of theological study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania where he was elected president of a predominantly white senior class, he was awarded the B.D. in 1951. Dr. King received his doctorate degree in 1955. In Boston he met and married Coretta Scott, a young woman of uncommon intellectual and artistic attainments. Two sons and two daughters were born into the family.

In 1954, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama and he was a member of the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the leading organization of its kind in the nation.

In December 1955 he accepted the leadership of the

first great Black nonviolent demonstration of contemporary times in the United States; the bus boycott lasted 382 days.

On December 21, 1956, after the Supreme Court of the United States had declared unconstitutional the laws requiring segregation on buses, Blacks and Whites rode the buses as equals.

In 1957 he was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), an organization formed to provide new leadership for the now burgeoning civil rights movement. The ideals for this organization he took from Christianity; its operational techniques from Gandhi.

In the eleven-year period between 1957 and 1968, Dr. King traveled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice, protest, and action; and meanwhile he wrote five books as well as numerous articles.

In these years, he led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, that caught the attention of the entire world, providing what he called a coalition of conscience.

Dr. King planned voter registration drives in Alabama and he directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his address, "I Have a Dream", he conferred with President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson.

He was awarded five honorary degrees; was named Man of the Year by Time magazine in 1963; and became not only the symbolic leader of American Blacks but also a world figure.

At the age of thirty-five, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize. When notified of his selection, he announced that he would turn over the prize money of \$54,123 to the furtherance of the civil rights movement.

**Christian Wisdom and Quotes:** "It is impossible for a person not to be puffed up by his good works unless he has first been deflated and destroyed by suffering and evil to the point that he knows that he is worthless and that his works are not his but God's."

—Martin Luther



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
(January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968)

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Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00pm  
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# The Tailor's Son offers a look at the Father Factor

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*The Tailor's Son* provides a pathway to the peace of appropriating a personal relationship with the best fathering of all, The Fatherhood of God.

Thomas S. Klobucher is the author of *The Great Workplace Revolution* and *The Great Workplace Transformation*, two popular books on creating great places to work. Tom is also the founder and C.E.O of Thomas Interior Systems, Inc. an office planning and furnishings firm in the Chicago area.

Tom has over thirty-five

years of experience leading, advising, and mentoring businesses and senior level leaders, in the exciting process of improving the office work environment.

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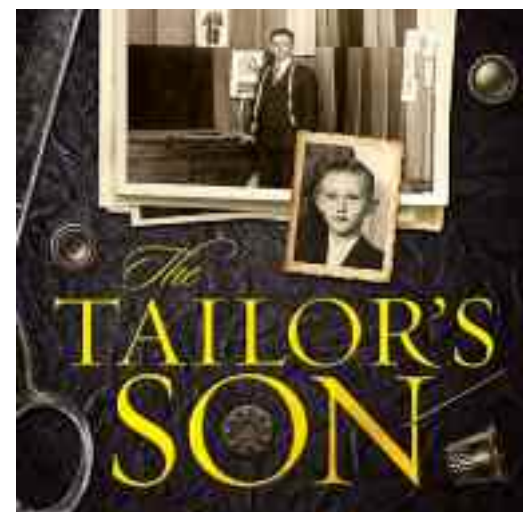
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## FLU, continued from Page 11

Family Care centers. “Based on what we’re seeing so far, this flu will be very different than last year. We expect to see many more flu cases in younger children and younger and middle-aged adults.”

“The CDC recently added Texas to its widespread flu activity list, and we’re definitely seeing a surge in people coming in to AFC Doctors Express looking for treatment for symptoms. It’s not too late to get your flu shot, though, so it’s better to be safe than sorry when it comes to the flu,” said Beata Toth, owner of AFC/Doctors Express Dallas.

### Flu Strikes New Victims

Last year, the dominant flu strain was H3N2 that tended to hit older people.

This year, the predominant flu strain in the U.S. is H1N1, the same virus that caused the international pandemic in 2009-2010. That flu hit younger chil-

dren, and younger and middle-aged adults. The CDC estimates that 284,000 people died worldwide during that flu season. This year’s flu vaccine should offer good protection against this flu strain.

The H1N1 strain can be cut short by antiviral drugs such as Tamiflu because they haven’t developed much resistance to these drugs. If you suspect you have the flu, doctors say you should be treated, especially if you have serious medical conditions like asthma, diabetes and heart disease.

“The recent cold weather, coupled with the surge in flu activity, has really impacted our area. The easiest way to combat the flu is to come in and get a flu shot. People should also avoid others who are showing flu-like symptoms, and be sure to wash their hands when they come in contact with public spaces,” said Dr.

Donald Dunlap, doctor with AFC/Doctors Express Dallas.

### Flu Shot Fast Facts:

You are 60 percent less likely to need treatment for the flu if you get a flu shot. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the shot can also reduce illness, antibiotic use, time lost from work, hospitalizations and deaths.

You can get a flu shot even if you’re feeling mildly sick. Health and Human Services advises that people with mild respiratory illnesses can still get the vaccine. Those with fevers should wait until the fever has broken to get the vaccine. If nasal congestion is a problem, wait until the congestion has cleared before getting a nasal-administered vaccine.

Mild reactions such as soreness, headaches, and fever are common side effects of the flu vaccine.

The CDC is recommending the flu shot to anyone

older than 6 months.

Pediatricians typically offer vaccines for children only. Pharmacies typically offer vaccines for only for adults. AFC Doctors Express Centers offer one-stop-flu shots and mists for the entire family – both children and adults. (ages of children vaccinated vary by center.)

Even with a vaccination, you still need to protect yourself – here are a few tips to beat the bug:

Bring your own pen – to the bank, grocery store, even to touch the ATM. Anything a sick person touches can get infested with germs, including money, mail, ATM keypads, elevator buttons, etc.

Use paper – replace hand towels in bathrooms with paper towels. They’re not as pretty, but paper towels can help get rid of a ton of germs that live in damp towels.

Wash hands frequently – use soap, warm water and

rinse long enough to say the alphabet or sing “Happy Birthday.” Recent studies show plain soap and water works just fine.

Use a proper hand sanitizer (at least 60 percent alcohol) anytime you touch anything. Make sure you use sanitizer, even under fingernails, where germs hide.

Clean with disinfectant – viruses and bacteria can live

up to two hours or longer on doorknobs, toys, TV remote controls, keyboards, mouse pads, refrigerator handles, counter tops, railings, faucets, bathroom floors and more.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services, Infectious Disease Foundation and AFC/Doctors Express Dallas

## RETIREMENT, continued from Page 11

If you are covered by an employer plan and are single/head of household, the tax deduction phases out for AGI between \$60,000 and \$70,000 (up from \$59,000 to \$69,000 in 2013); if married and filing jointly, the phase-out range is \$96,000 to \$116,000 (up from \$95,000 to \$115,000).

If you’re married and aren’t covered by an employer plan but your spouse is, the IRA deduction is phased out if your combined AGI is between

\$181,000 and \$191,000 (up from \$178,000 to \$188,000).

For more details, read IRS Publication 590 at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

**Retirement Saver’s Tax Credit.** As an incentive to help low- and moderate-income workers save for retirement through an IRA or company-sponsored plan, many are eligible for a Retirement Saver’s Tax Credit of up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 if filing jointly).

This credit lowers your tax bill, dol-

lar for dollar, in addition to any other tax deduction you already receive for your contribution.

Qualifying income ceiling limits for the Saver’s Tax Credit increased in 2014 to \$60,000 for joint filers, \$45,000 for heads of household, and \$30,000 for singles or married persons filing separately. Consult IRS Form 8880 for more information.

*Jason Alderman directs Visa’s financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney](http://www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney)*


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