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Sanchez seeks to make history as first Latino US Rep from North Texas

FT. WORTH — U.S. Congressional Candidate Tom Sanchez is vying to become the first Latino U.S. representative in North Texas history. On March 4, accompanied by friends, family and supporters, Sanchez will watch the polls from his election night headquarters at Es-



peranza's Mexican Bakery & Café, 2122 N Main St., in Fort Worth.

Sanchez has declared his top priority is creating jobs: "I have a record of creating jobs. I understand how this works and every day in

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Dallas Black Criminal Bar Association endorses candidates for judicial positions

The Dallas Black Criminal Bar Association (DBCBA) is an organization of Black lawyers in the private practice of law in Dallas County. As attorneys they work with the judges and candidates who are running for judicial positions currently on the Democratic Primary ballot for March 4, 2014 election.

These lawyers have hearings on



motions and trials with these judges and interaction with other lawyers that gives Black lawyers a unique knowledge of all candidates running for judge.

DBCBA has endorsed the following candidates for judicial positions on the ballot for the Democratic

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Tax tips for the self employed

By Jason Alderman

Calculating income taxes is a royal pain, even when your situation is uncomplicated enough that you can file a 1040EZ Form. And if you're self-employed, be prepared for extra layers of complexity. Not only must you file an

annual return with numerous additional forms and schedules, you're also responsible for paying quarterly estimated taxes, which can mean having to write a pretty hefty check while waiting for your clients to pay their overdue bills.

Add in that you're also

responsible for funding your own health insurance and retirement and you may start to miss having an employer manage a portion of your financial affairs. (Although many people go into business for themselves precisely to call their

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COVER STORY

HUD applicants file discrimination complaint against Irving



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12 Years a Slave wins big at NAACP Awards

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COMMENTARY

What will happen if we raise the minimum wage?

By William Spriggs

played and underemployed.

Last week, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a report saying that the proposal to increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour in 2016 would cost the creation of 500,000 jobs in 2016. While they did conclude that millions of families would be lifted out of poverty, they cautioned there would be real losers by adding people to the roles of the unem-

Their conclusions are curious because the research they cite in their report on the minimum wage points to opposite outcomes. For instance, they cite the work of Hristos Doucouliagos and T. D. Stanley who looked at more than 64 studies on the jobs effect of minimum wages increases.

Doucouliagos and Stanley conclude there is:

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People In The News...

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Johnathan Lee Iverson



Tyler Perry



Aaron Dotson

In January nearly 30,000 visited NorthDallasGazette.com - news added daily!

Johnathan Lee Iverson

By Linda Armstrong
Special to the NNPA
from the *New York
Amsterdam News*

“Legends” is the name of the 144th edition of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. The circus stars Harlem-raised African-American Johnathan Lee Iverson as its ringmaster and has had him in this role for over a decade. Recently, Iverson took the time to do an interview with the AmNews. The Q&A follows.

Amsterdam News: Mr. Iverson, how does it feel to know that you were the

youngest ringmaster and the first Black ringmaster in the history of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey?

Johnathan Lee Iverson: Recently during our engagement in Birmingham, Ala., two grandmothers approached me with grins as wide as the state: “We couldn’t even go to a circus when we were young ... seeing you out there just gives me goosebumps.”

I didn’t have to march countless and treacherous miles to gain rights already guaranteed me as a citizen of the United States. I didn’t have to bear the brunt of



brutality, indignities and government-endorsed policies designed to oppress me. As James Baldwin would say, “[My] crown has already been bought and

paid for. All [I] have to do is wear it.” Well, I wear a top hat, and every time I put it on, I thank my Heavenly Father and my glorious ancestors, and then I get to

work.

AmNews: What part of New York are you from?

J.L.I.: I am a native of the Upper West Side by Central Park West, but I was raised in Harlem.

AmNews: When you were a child growing up, what was it about the circus that you enjoyed the most?

J.L.I.: The circus, particularly Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey, which was the circus (still is), was otherworldly to me. It was like entering “a living dream,” as Ernest Hemingway once quipped. I loved everything, from the scent of cotton candy to the famous menagerie, to my all-time favorite act, the

“Globe of Steel.”

AmNews: When you are performing your duties as a ringmaster, how does it make you feel?

J.L.I.: Responsible! Tens of thousands of strangers have entrusted us with their time, money and imaginations.

AmNews: What are the challenges that you face as a ringmaster?

J.L.I.: Endurance! I perform well over 400 live shows annually, which require me to sing and announce in addition to promoting the show via the press and speaking at schools. The ringmaster is

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Tyler Perry

By Shamika Sanders
Special to the NNPA from
the *Atlanta Daily World*

Tyler Perry has been a pivotal figure in Black cinema since he first debuted his spit-fire character Madea to the time he created Tyler Perry Studios and later partnered with Oprah’s network OWN to establish his dominance in television. While his achievements may be overlooked by White-washed award shows, he finds support at the NAACP Image Awards.

Tyler attended the 45th annual NAACP Image Awards at the Pasadena Civic Center in Pasadena, California yesterday and revealed to us what differentiates the Image Awards from every other award show.

“It’s just about the celebration of who we are which is so important,” he said. “I think that there are a lot of times people don’t understand our brand of humor, our brand of celebration, our brand of who we are and it’s really awesome to be able to do that.”

With Stevie Wonder at the helms of a musical tribute to Nelson Mandela and “The Butler” and “Fruitvale Station,” finally receiving the recognition it deserved, we asked Tyler what moment he was anticipating the most, he responded, “I’m just surprised all the way around so I’m looking forward to all of it. I think it’s going to be fun.”

Perry, born Emmitt Perry, Jr., is an actor, director, screenwriter, playwright, producer, author and song writer. From humble beginnings Perry rose to fame by developing family friendly content which served an au-

dience starving for attention: mature African American women in particular.

From the moment the success Perry’s first feature, *Diary of a Mad Black Woman* stunned Hollywood with a number one box office opening, experts continued to underestimate him and the loyalty of his fans.

He has enjoyed several number one box office openings and even put away his dress and Madea long enough to star as the title character, *Alex Cross* last year. On March 14 his latest film (also not featuring Madea) *The Single Moms Club* will open.



Aaron Dotson

Aaron Dotson spent last summer participating in medical research at one of the world’s most renowned institutes, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Selecting the JHU program over similar research internships at Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania, Dotson, a neuroscience junior, spent three months working with Dr. Brendan Canning at the Bayview Medical Center campus. The summer internship program in the division of pulmonary and critical care medicine provided Dotson with critical skills to pursue his career goal of becoming a doctor.

While at Johns Hopkins, Dotson studied the progression of idiopathic pulmonary fibro-

sis. IPF is an incurable disease that leads to the thickening of the tissue in the lungs, making it difficult for them to move normally and to properly absorb oxygen. As a result, not enough oxygen is delivered to the organs and patients often die after three to five years.

“Before the program, I had no research experience whatsoever besides just taking biology lab here at UT Dallas,” Dotson said. “But after the program, I can say I know what research is about, I know how to approach it, and I’ve learned many skills that I can use in my future.”

Dotson was not the only Comet at Johns Hopkins — he visited and learned about the area with UT Dallas alumni Chanel Matney BS’11 and

Therri Usher BS’11.

“UT Dallas has other good relations with Johns Hopkins because of the faculty, such as Dr. John Hart, who had worked

there for about 25 years in the department of neurology,” Dotson said.

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Clarence Thomas' self-inflicted amnesia

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is at it again. Whenever he opens his mouth about race, he displays a surprising myopia for a 65-year-old African American man who was raised in the Deep South during a segregated era. During his confirmation hearing, Thomas excoriated his own family, speaking of his sister as someone (and I paraphrase) waiting around for her welfare check.

He was equally contemptuous of other members of his family, even as they were loyal to him and attended some of his hearings. A notable point in his confirmation hearing was a moment when he said he experienced the pain of racism when his grandmother could not use a desegregated bathroom. I'd remind him now, as I did then in a column, that it wasn't personal, and it wasn't just his grandmother, it was everybody's grandmother. That's the collective and institutional knowledge than Thomas lacks.

The old Clarence Thomas resur-

faced when he went to Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Fla. to deliver a speech.

According to news reports, he said: "My sadness is that we are probably today more race and difference-conscious than I was in the 1960s when I went to school. To my knowledge, I was the first Black kid in Savannah, Georgia, to go to a White school. Rarely did the issue of race come up. Now, name a day it doesn't come up. Differences in race, differences in sex, somebody doesn't look at you right, somebody says something. Everybody is sensitive. If I had been as sensitive as that in the 1960s, I'd still be in Savannah. Every person in this room has endured a slight. Every person. Somebody has said something that has hurt their feelings or did something to them –left them out."

People didn't talk about race much until the 1950s and early 1960s, and when they did, then, they did them with a whisper. When Emmett Till was killed in 1955, there were few African Americans who took White folks to account for this, except for the large African American organizations, such

as the NAACP. Because of their very public stance on the issue, the organization was described as "subversive," their members (and the members of other organizations) were labeled "outside agitators".

Before Till, there were thousands of incidents, few making headlines. For African Americans, acts that left African Americans lynched and killed, run off their property, and just plain disappear were not much discussed. It was understood that those harassed are those who "stood up to the White man." For Whites, this fatal harassment of people of African descent, the outright theft of property, rape of women, and a litany of other oppressions, was nothing more than business as usual. White men could rape Black women, beat up or kill Black men, and do whatever they wanted without fearing reprisals. Some of these oppressions are only now being uncovered. Of course, people are talking about race.

Furthermore, things like employment discrimination are not simple

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"Little or no evidence of a negative association between minimum wages and employment..." The CBO also cites the work of David Card and Alan Krueger who similarly conclude that after reviewing the available research there is little support for a negative relationship between minimum wage increases and employment loss. The CBO also cites the work of Dale Belman and Paul Wolfson, who limit their look to synthesizing the findings of research done since 2000.

Belman and Wolfson conclude: "The effects are statistically detectable but small, even when restricting attention to the effect on either youth or the food and drink sector." The CBO also cites a study by John Schmitt that synthesizes the many studies done since 2000 on the effects of the minimum wage. Schmitt concludes that: "The weight of that evidence points to little or no employment response to modest increases in the minimum wage."

The CBO in its text says it thinks the studies that are most reliable look at changes in the minimum wage that have been taking place at the state level, and that the studies need to control for local labor market differences. This is an endorsement of the approach taken by the work of Sylvia Allegretto, Arindrajit Dube, Michael

Reich and Ben Zipperer that CBO also cites. CBO looks heavily at the effect of the minimum wage on teen employment. Teenagers are a small fraction of minimum wage workers, but a large share of teenagers are affected by changes in the minimum wage.

The Allegretto study they cite, using methodology that CBO reports is the most reliable, finds that increasing the minimum wage has between a very small negative effect to a small positive effect on teen employment, but either effect is so small it is essentially zero; no effect.

So, if the available evidence CBO considered suggests that there aren't employment effects, why would CBO report employment effects? The studies of Doucouliagos and Stanley and of Card and Krueger CBO cite discuss a phenomena known as "publication bias." Because for many years, economic theory predicted raising the minimum wage would lead to job loss, the only available research published by economists showed job losses.

Economists either manipulated their models to get the desired effect-leaving out other important variables and explanations for job losses, or didn't get published. Unfortunately, CBO appears to have succumbed to a similar malady in policy discussions. But, as

is often the case, policy in Washington is behind.

So, despite overwhelming support from Nobel laureates in economics and past presidents of the American Association for raising the minimum wage because those on the cutting edge of economic knowledge know the consensus of the field has changed, the policy debate in Washington is locked in the old world because Republicans have made increasing the minimum wage a partisan issue. The safe spot for the "non-partisan" CBO is to side with Republicans that there will be job loss, but give in to the current state of economic thinking that wages will rise and poverty fall.

It is a strange change in fate that raising the minimum wage is no longer an issue to economists, but is a political football. Until the 1970's, increases in the minimum wage won majority support from both Republicans and Democrats. Given the overwhelming support of Americans for raising the minimum wage, and the current state of economic knowledge, raising the minimum wage should be smart policy, not partisan. The CBO should have punted instead of creating needless confusion.

Follow Spriggs on Twitter: @WSpriggs. Contact: Amaya Smith-Tune Acting Director; Media Outreach AFL-CIO 202-637-5142.

Eight simple stressbusters for every season

By Henry S. Miller

Got stress? It can be a normal part of a life during tax season. The good news? You have more power than you realize to control stress before it prevents you from living the life you want to lead. Here are 8 simple stressbusters to help you:

1. Breathe Slowly and Deeply

Before you react to the next stressful event, first take 3 deep breaths and consciously release each breath slowly. If you have more time, try a relaxation technique, such as meditation or guided imagery, before deciding how to handle the situation.

2. Speak More Slowly

If you feel overwhelmed at any time, deliberately slow down the pace of your speaking. You will appear less anxious and more in control of the situation. Stressed people tend to speak fast and breathlessly. If you slow down, you'll find

you can think more clearly and react more reasonably to stressful situations.

3. Take a Break Outdoors

Take advantage of the healing power of fresh air and sunshine. Just 5 minutes outside on a balcony or terrace can be rejuvenating. If you have more time, 30 minutes of sunshine has proven positive benefits.

4. Check Your Posture

Hold your head and shoulders upright. Avoid slumping or stooping: bad posture leads to muscle tension, pain, and increased stress. If you are behind a desk during the day, avoid repetitive strain injuries and sore muscles by making sure your workspace is ergonomic, and take 5 minutes every hour to walk around or stretch.

5. Drink Plenty of Water and Eat Small, Nutritious Snacks

Fight dehydration and hunger—they can provoke aggressiveness and exacerbate feelings of anxiety and stress.

Drink plenty of water always have small and nutritious snacks available on hand, such as fruit, string cheese, or a handful of nuts.

6. Do One Thing Today

Take control of your time. Every day, do at least one simple thing you've been putting off: return a phone call, make a doctor's appointment, or file the paperwork piling up on your desk. Taking care of one nagging responsibility will energize you and improve your attitude! You might even find that completing one task inspires you to move on to the next one. At the end of each day, try planning your schedule for tomorrow using a calendar or day planner that works for you.

7. Reward Yourself after a Stressful Day

At the end of the day, set aside any work concerns, housekeeping issues, or family concerns for at least a few minutes. Allow yourself a brief period of time to fully relax before bedtime each

day—even if it's only taking a relaxing bath or spending 30 minutes with a good book. Remember, you need time to recharge. Don't spend this time planning tomorrow or doing chores you didn't get around to during the day. You'll be much better prepared to face another stressful day if you give yourself a brief reward of some free time.

8. Practice Letting Go

When your next inevitably stressful situation comes up, make a conscious choice not to become upset. Just let it go. Don't waste your energy on situations where it is not deserved. Managing your anger is a proven stress reducer.

There's no way to avoid stress, but you can be proactive in managing it. Here's wishing you a happy life with less stress!

Henry S. Miller the creator of the online membership program Get SERIOUS About Your Happiness: 20 Transformational Tools for Turbulent Times.

ENDORSEMENTS,

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Party Primary Election.

330th District
Andrea Plumlee
363rd District
Nigel H. Redmond

Judicial District Courts

101st Judicial
Marty Lowy
204th Judicial
Lena Levario
255th Judicial
Lori Chrisman Hockett
265th Judicial
Anthony Eiland
282nd Judicial
Andy Chatham
283rd Judicial
Rick Magnis
291st Judicial
Stephanie Mitchell
292nd Judicial
Brandon Birmingham
44th Judicial
Bonnie Lee Goldstein
301st District
Lawrence J. Praeger
304th District
William A. "Bill" Mazur Jr.

County Criminal Courts

County Ct. #10
Rob Canas
County Ct. #11
Shequitta Kelly
County Ct. #4
Remeko Edwards
County Ct. #5
Trey Bunch

County Probate Courts

Probate Ct. #2
Chris Wilmoth
Probate Ct. #3
Michael E. Miller

Justice of the Peace

Precinct 1, Place 2
Valencia Nash
Precinct 5, Place 1
Sara Martinez
Precinct 5, Place 2
Juan Jasso

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1544	Veterans Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.43	\$2	4/30/14	10/27/14
1523	Joker's Wild Overall Odds are 1 in 3.84	\$5	4/30/14	10/27/14

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KidsFest 2014 will promote health and fitness at Firewheel

GARLAND - About 8,000 children and parents will enjoy an afternoon of high-energy festivities at this year's KidsFest April 12, 2014 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Firewheel Town Center. This year's KidsFest has been designated a WFAA Family First Day in the Community. The mall's square will be transformed into a kid's activity park, filled with bounce houses, an Easter egg hunt, face painting, arts and crafts and a video game truck. On air talent from WFAA will be on hand to sign autographs and Radio Disney will broadcast the event live.

"WFAA is happy to be bringing KidsFest to our viewers, while bringing awareness of the great services the Galaxy Counseling Center provides to our community," said Stephanie Wilcox, Director of Community Marketing for WFAA, Channel 8.

This year's KidsFest

theme is "Keep it moving" which focuses on creating a healthy mind and body.

Event participants include Master Chef Cassandra Armstrong who will demonstrate healthy cook-

ing for kids. New Light Fit kids will perform a workout routine for the entire family. Sponsors will host tents filled with information on healthy eating and fun activities that will help to

teach children the value of balanced healthy living.

Galaxy Counseling Center mission is to provide innovative mental health services to enrich the lives of the children, adults and

families in our community.

Studies have shown that physical activity promotes good mental health.

According to the American Psychological Association mental health is an es-

sential part of children's overall health. Research has shown that mental health in children has a complex interactive relationship with

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not only a performer—he's an ambassador.

AmNews: How many years have you been a ringmaster with Ringling Bros.?

J.L.I.: This is my 16th year. I began my career in 1998. I took a hiatus from 2004-2009, but I was still working with the "Greatest Show on Earth" during that time, so I include those years. It's like the Sawdust Mafia—once you're in, you're in.

AmNews: How do you feel about traveling the country, touring with your wife, who is employed by the circus, and your young children?

J.L.I.: I couldn't ask for anything better. We live, work and play together. The "Greatest Show on Earth" provides both a nursery and school, and as parents, we use our travels as a means of educating our children as well.



From left: Loanna Archer, Beverly Johnson, Roland Parrish, Gladys Knight, Dr. Steve Perry, Kenny Williams, and Charles Ogbon III.

We applaud the few that inspire the many.

For this year's 365Black® Award recipients, each day is exceptional. They stand for greatness and bow with selflessness. Through their dedication and service, they inspire a world of change. We're proud to honor them all for staying Deeply Rooted in the Community,® 365 days a year. To learn more about this year's honorees, go to 365Black.com.



365BLACK
AWARDS

Recognizing the value of HBCUs

By James Clingman
NNPA Columnist

With specific emphasis on Howard University, let's consider a few solutions to the challenges HBCUs face. There are some who say HBCUs are irrelevant and no longer necessary because we are living in a "post-racial" society, mainly because a Black man was elected president of the U.S.

You've heard it: He who defines you also controls you; he can set the height of the bar and raise it anytime he wants. The relevancy and necessity of HBCUs, often promoted by those who have no stake in their existence, is a question that constituents of HBCUs should answer. Do we value HBCUs? Have they served us well? Have they played an important role in American history? Should we allow them to fade away because a few critics say they should? Will we define ourselves, or let someone else to do it?

One look at the list of Howard University graduates made me think about the tremendous void in our society that would exist

without their contributions and achievements. There are similar alumni lists for other HBCU's of Blacks who have contributed to this nation in virtually every category of service, business, media, research, entertainment, politics, education, science, engineering, medical, and legal, just to name a few. Irrelevant? Anachronism? Outlived their usefulness? Not by a long shot.

Roger Madison, Izania.com, says, "We simply don't have a history of reaching back to lift up our own and build our own institutions of thought leadership. Our brightest have anchored themselves in mainstream institutions and have felt very little obligation to help raise the level of quality at our HBCUs." As I recall, Harold Cruse's, *The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual* drew a similar conclusion and, more recently, W.D. Wright's, *The Crisis of the Black Intellectual*, continues that premise.

Since the critics invariably compare the top HBCUs to Harvard, here's something to think about: Hedge Fund Manager, Ken Griffin, recently gave \$150 mil-

lion to Harvard, a school that already has a \$32 billion endowment. I doubt we will see one or two Black super-wealthy individuals do that, but I know that through our collective action, we can meet a similar goal, that is, if we value our schools.

Yes, our HBCUs need money, just as every school does, but they also need other resources, many of which those of us who care can offer. We can volunteer to teach a class as a guest lecturer, do an online presentation to a class, hold more of our meetings and conferences on HBCU campuses, and pay for their space rather than some other venue.

Current HBCU students could mount continuous PR and marketing campaigns that tell the fantastic stories of their HBCU. Some do that already, but we need more. With all of the social media available to students and their never-ending use of it, personal testimonies of how their HBCU helped them could replace many of the 140 character "tweets" they post daily. No school is perfect; all have positives and negatives. But we must tell our own stories

about the value of HBCU's and refuse to accept any contention that they are no longer necessary.

We must also work to keep our schools on solid financial ground, the responsibility of which starts with the president and his cabinet. Good stewardship of HBCU funds is essential. Just like any business, Howard and all HBCUs must diversify income streams, invest in new information technology, and continue to provide high quality education in the face of rising costs.

One day we may get a Ken Griffin to step up for an HBCU, but until then and even afterward, we must exercise our collective responsibility to support our own schools. There are probably a million members of Black fraternities and sororities. A fund could be established in which each one would deposit a minimum of \$10 per month to be given to their respective HBCU each year. Howard University is the alma mater of thousands, many of whom are doing very well financially and probably would donate much more on a monthly basis. Masons, Shriners, religious

groups, business and professional associations could do likewise. The keys to helping ourselves are commitment, sacrifice, consistency, and sustainability.

We often talk about the "State of HBCUs," but this is about the "Fate of HBCUs." Will we determine that fate or leave it up to others? By working together in support of our colleges and universities, we can mitigate out-of-reach tuitions, provide more educational opportunities for our young people, and maintain the high quality and tradition of our valuable and valued HBCUs. A statement made by Howard's interim president, Wayne Frederick, speaks volumes: "Howard wrapped me in an audacity by believing in me and creating an environment that made me comfortable." There's that word again, "Audacity."

Jim Clingman, founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce, is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati and can be reached through his Web site, blackonomics.com.

DOTSON, continued from Page 2

Also through networking in the UT system, Dotson was able to meet his inspiration, Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient and pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson.

Dotson remains a student to watch in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences. He is

a UT Dallas Rising Star, a Student Ambassador, an avid volunteer in many UT Dallas programs, and has now participated in summer programs at Johns Hopkins University and Yale School of Medicine.

"I met Aaron during Welcome Week of his freshman

year. His commitment and initiative to maximizing his education impressed me then as it continues to do so now," said Dr. Bert Moore, dean of BBS and the Aage and Margareta Møller Distinguished Professor. "I am confident that he is going to be a terrific doctor, and we are very pleased to have him in our program."



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The myth of Black History Month and other fairy tales



Curtis Report

by Barry Curtis

The myth of Black History Month and other fairy tales

I am not a proponent of Black History month. It's not that I don't want to illuminate the amazing accomplishments of black people throughout history. It's just because I don't know why there is a month dedicated to it.

Black History Month, or

Negro History Week as it was originally called, was started in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a historian of some note. It was originally a weeklong celebration. The celebration was to honor the birth of Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass, both born in February; Lincoln on the 12th and Douglas on the 14th. The Negro community at the time had large celebrations of the two political figures. It wasn't until Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976 did it become truly a national event.

Here are my issues with

this Black history month. Why is it that black people only get a month to celebrate black history? We can't celebrate all year long? How can we sum up all of our accomplishments and national contributions in a month?

I resent the month that we get. Why do black people get the year's shortest month to celebrate black history?

In England the month of October is used to celebrate black history. This black history mess seems to encourage hero worship. We seem only to recognize a

few people in history and leave out many more contributors that deserve the same attention.

I ask this to those that celebrate black history month, what about Native American history? Or white Anglo-Saxon history? Do they deserve a month?

Fundamentally this is the point about the myth of a Black History Month. Black history is AMERICAN history. Black people's contributions are interwoven with the sacrifice, courage, and pride with all the other races' contributions to this amazing country. When we

segregate our historical contributions we separate our purpose and corrupt our unity. We have had enough divisions through the use of hyphens after our race such as African-Americans and Irish-Americans. Enough hyphens already. How about a national American month or better yet let's celebrate our heritage all year?

The American experience

should be a national experience where we can all proudly enumerate our shared sacrifice and honor those that have gone before us. Here is the myth-buster; we are all Americans without hyphenation or dedicated months that simply divide.

Barry Curtis can be contacted at www.thecurtisreport.com.

Texas launches 'Teen Click It or Ticket' campaign

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Transportation is launching its annual "Teen Click It or Ticket" campaign to address the leading cause of death among teens: motor vehicle crashes. Aimed at Texans ages 15-20, this year's campaign will use Vine videos, and a wrecked truck exhibit to highlight the consequences of not wearing a seat belt, such as costly tickets, lost driving privileges, injuries or even death.

"Every year, thousands of new teen drivers get behind the wheel in Texas, and they need to be in the habit of buckling up the moment they get in their vehicles," said John Barton, TxDOT deputy executive director. "Whether you're driving or

riding as a passenger, seat belts save lives and not buckling up can get you a ticket or worse."

This year's "Teen Click It or Ticket" campaign features animated characters designed to resonate with teens: "Drop-off David"

lost his driving privileges for not obeying seat belt laws and now must ride everywhere with his mom. "Strapped for Cash Nash" spent his money paying for the ticket he received be-

See **CLICK**, Page 11

KIDFEST,

continued from Page 5

their physical health and their ability to succeed in school, at work and in society. Both physical and mental health affects how we think, feel and act on the inside and outside.

Proceeds from this event will go toward counseling services for families in our community.

The national average for spending on mental health services is \$109 a person, according to the Center for Public Policy Priorities. Texas spends just \$36, ranking the state 51st (including Washington DC) — last in the country — when it comes to mental health funding.



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No. 1 seeded UT Arlington hosts 2014 national wheelchair basketball championship

ARLINGTON — For the first time in three years, The University of Texas at Arlington men's wheelchair basketball team will host the sport's pinnacle event, the 2014 National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Championship.

UT Arlington is the No. 1 seed in the eight-team tournament, which opens Thursday, March 6. The third place and championship games will be played at College Park Center, 601 Spaniolo Drive. All other matches will be played at the Maverick Activities Center, 500 W. Nedderman Drive.

Also new this year, a UT Arlington women's team will play in the tournament. The team consists of five current students and recruits who have committed to attend the University.

Admission to National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Championship games is free and open to the public.

The UT Arlington men's wheelchair basketball team has won seven national championships, but this will mark the first time that the



UTA's wheelchair basketball team is ranked No. 1 and hosting the 2014 national wheelchair basketball championship

Movin' Mavs have hosted the event at College Park Center. The team hosted the 2011 championship game at Texas Hall.

If UT Arlington wins, it will be the team's first national championship title in seven years.

"We are thrilled to be able to play this type of physical game in front of a home crowd at College Park Center. It's going to be

very exciting," said Doug Garner, Movin' Mavs head coach. "We have trained hard this season and overcome many obstacles. The key now is to maintain complete mental focus."

The 2014 Movin' Mavs men's and women's teams includes 19 student athletes, among them:

John McPhail, a junior social work major who was injured as an infant when a

drunken driver struck the vehicle he was riding in, leaving him a paraplegic. The Sydney, Australia native eventually found basketball and earned a spot on the Australia men's national wheelchair basketball team that competed at the 2010 Wheelchair Basketball World Championship that won a gold medal.

Andreas Kraft, a junior who is studying international finance. Kraft was born with a rare congenital birth defect affecting the development of his hip and femur. Kraft succeeded in adaptive sports in his native Vienna, Austria. He also is a member of UT Arlington's wheelchair tennis team and an internationally ranked swimmer who will represent UT Arlington in several tennis and swimming events this spring.

Morgan Wood, a sophomore who transferred from

the University of Memphis last fall and is pursuing pre-nursing studies. A birth defect left Wood partially paralyzed. She began her basketball career while in high school and committed to UT Arlington after a summer wheelchair basketball camp.

McPhail said: "We know what we can do when we play to our strengths and play the right game. The main goal now is an eighth national championship – to put a ring on that finger."

The Movin' Mavs are sponsored by the UT Arlington Division of Student Affairs.

Since joining the Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Division in 1989, 34 UTA Movin' Mavs have earned First Team All-American recognition, 28 earned Second Team All-American honors, and nine

Movin' Mavs have been named MVP. The team's other recent honors include U.S. Paralympic Grant, Neilson Foundation Grant, United States Tennis Association Grant(s), two-time NASPA Excellence Award Gold Honoree, and NASPA Excellence Award Silver Honoree.

Game Times

9 a.m. Thursday, March 6 – Women's #4 vs. #5 game, Maverick Activities Center

3 p.m. Friday, March 7 – Men's Semi-Final Game, Maverick Activities Center

9 a.m. Saturday, March 8 – Women's Third Place Game, College Park Center

1 p.m. Saturday, March 8 – Women's National Championship Game, College Park Center

3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8 – Men's National Championship Game, College Park Center

A Hug from the First Lady...



First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden greet students from Orchard Gardens in Boston, Mass. after the students performed at a luncheon for National Governors Association (NGA) spouses, in the Map Room of the White House, Feb. 24, 2014. (Official White House Photo by Amanda Lucidon)

A salute to Black History Month

By Carrenza Thurmond

"There is much more to Black History Month than what many people may know of. Each and every day some black person is making history. It's not all about those who have gone on before, but now concerns the achievement of the living is quite strong," says Willie C. Cochran, pastor of the South Dallas Faith Based Outreach Ministry Church.

"History repeats itself through sports, church,



Pastor Willie C. Cochran

entertainment, law, journalism, TV, Radio, armed forces, education, politics

and much more.

"With all this in mind one should share an interest in Black History Month and educate those who would like to know more about the history of our people.

"As the world turns it could be you or someone you may know sitting in the spotlight of the making of history. Over all please make sure your qualifications stand and your voices heard, and most of all let freedom ring," Cochran concludes.

South Dallas Faith Based Outreach Ministry Church

2822 Tanner St., Dallas, TX 75215
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HUD applicants file discrimination complaint against the City of Irving

By Nicole Scott,
NDG Contributing Writer

The City of Irving's Housing and Human Services Department once again finds itself facing discrimination charges for unfair treatment of low income Hispanic and African-American residents. In what has turned into an almost two year dispute, applicants for the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Tudor Lane Project are accusing the city of racial and class discrimination among a number of other charges including intentionally discouraging them from applying for the homes.

The 27 HUD homes located on Tudor Lane are part of a city project to upgrade the once crime ridden complex and provide quality and top grade housing to lower income residents. Some of the amenities of the newly built energy-efficient homes include rear-entry two-car garages, Energy Star appliances and manicured lawns. The homes are part of a joint effort between the city and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). TDHCA provides funding for the project, funding

the status of one of her client's application. Sanchez, who is representing some of the claimants in the complaint against the city, says she was told by the city's Housing Development Analyst, Sara Ramirez the reason for the delay in her client's property closing was because TDHCA had not provided the funds to close the transaction. However, according to Sanchez this was completely false based on the information she received directly from TDHCA. Not only were the funds available for her client back in August of 2012, but Sanchez says she was told by [TDHCA] that, "funding has been available for Irving."

This is only one of the numerous barriers, according to Sanchez, the city erected to dissuade applicants. Sanchez says when one of her clients initially applied for a new low income townhome, she was told by Ramirez she did not qualify because she did not make enough money. Sanchez further alleges, not only did her client qualify based on the city's own HUD income guidelines, Ramirez discourage her client from further pursuing a new townhome.



The Tudor Lane Project is the focus of a complaint recently filed by HUD applicants claiming racial and class discrimination on the part of the City of Irving. (Photo credit: City of Irving Web site)

grants to states, local communities and organizations to purchase foreclosed or abandoned homes for rehabilitation and resell in order to stabilize neighborhoods and maintain property value of neighboring homes.

In addition, Sanchez claims the entire complaint process is designed to lock disgruntled applicants into a "revolving door with no resolution." According to Sanchez the Housing and Human Services (HHS) own policy states that a Manager reviews complaints then forwards them up the chain of command to the HHS Director. There is no mention on the city's website directing dissatisfied applicants to HUD if they are not happy with the city's "resolution". Sanchez noted, "Can you imagine how many complaints the city would have if disgruntled applicants knew they could go to HUD?"

Sanchez expressed her dismay at why Irving is the only DFW city that has never depleted its funds. Sanchez says she has worked with neighboring cities with the same HUD program and they are usually out of funds within the first six months of the fiscal year. She pointed out that Dallas's MAP Program processes an applicant in less than 45 days. "I know the program works, other cities prove that," Sanchez stated, "But only when the right people are in place to make it work." Why would a city hoard funds provided by the State for residents who are qualified and eager to

claim a piece of the American dream — becoming a homeowner.

But Irving NAACP founder and community activist, Anthony Bond is not the least surprised by the city's actions. According to Bond, the City of Irving has a long history of discriminating against people of color and low income. Bond says he filed a Fair Housing Complaint against the city in 1998 on behalf of the African-American community in historic Bear Creek due to severe neglect by the city. Bond says not only were the great majority of African-Americans living in extreme sub-standard housing but the City of Irving declined \$80 million in federal funds; funds that would have especially benefitted the African-American community. Bond also says he has been complaining to the city management for a period spanning over two years regarding issues of discrimination and specifically of the degradation and ill treatment of people of color by Ramirez.

"I've personally witnessed her speak to clients like they were less than human. She clearly does not need to be working in a capacity where she's dealing with the public," said Bond.

Ramirez completely denies the allegations against the city and says she treats all applicants the same regardless of race or class. She declined to answer any specific questions for fear it could jeopardize the pending investigation and forwarded the *North Dallas Gazette* to the city's communi-

cations representative Susan Rose. No one from the city would confirm or deny any of the accusations of discrimination, including whether any of the 14 houses on Tudor Lane are still available, and why only two have been closed on in over a year. They did forward the following statement from City Director, Chris Hooper:

"The City of Irving remains committed to placing qualified families in the Tudor Lane Homes. Due to the sources of funding for this project, including both State and Federal funds, the qualifications are stringent and the process may not be progressing as quickly as we would like. Regarding the few pending HUD complaints received, the city firmly asserts that they are wholly lacking in merit. Accordingly, we have responded and look forward to a satisfactory resolution," said Chris Hooper, director of community resources for the City of Irving. "In the meantime, we continue to work vigorously to close on any pending sale to qualified families as promptly as possible."

The city's website promotes the Tudor Lane project as part of an effort to provide top notch housing for those seeking a better environment but might not necessarily have the financial means to afford it and welcomes applicants to apply.

"We are aggressively marketing the homes to families interested in a high-quality home in a location that is convenient to Trinity Railway Express stations, schools, parks and churches." — Community Resources Director Chris Hooper.

"The city is working to provide prospective homeowners with the tools needed for responsible homeownership." — Assistant Community Resources Director Vicki Ebner

However, the question many of Irving's Brown and Black residents are posing is whether the offer extends to everyone or only certain "qualified" applicants. Applicants who don't come from, as they say, "the other side of the tracks."

"I know the program works, other cities prove that. But only when the right people are in place to make it work."

-Josie Sanchez

that is and has been readily available for the city to use.

This is what Josie Sanchez, a Realtor with iRealty LLC, was told by a representative at TDHCA when she followed up on

According to Sanchez, it was not until her client became upset and voiced her frustration that she was made aware of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. This a federal program that provides

'12 Years a Slave' Wins Big at NAACP Image Awards

A landmark year for black film-making meant that it was a tight race for the 45th Annual NAACP Image Awards. Saturday night's broadcast felt more like a steady stream of acknowledgements across the board instead of the predicted clean sweep.

But at the end of the day Steve McQueen's "12 Years a Slave" would be crowned the big winner thanks to a writing award for John Ridley, directing award for McQueen, supporting actress award for Lupita Nyong'o and outstanding film award.

Lee Daniels' The Butler – which has been essentially snubbed during the mainstream movie award season – earned an "Outstanding Actor" award for Forest Whitaker (who was also bestowed with a Humanitarian Award) and an "Outstanding Supporting Actor" award for David Oyelowo.

Kevin Hart was another big winner Saturday night. He took home "Entertainer Of The Year," "Outstanding Actor in a Comedy Series," and Outstanding Comedy Series" for "Real Husbands of Hollywood."

John Legend was a multiple winner on the music side of the Image Awards, which aired live Saturday on TV One. He took home "Outstanding Male Artist" and "Outstanding Song."

The complete list of winners for the 45th Annual NAACP Image Awards is as follows:

Outstanding Comedy Series
"House of Lies"
"Modern Family"
"Real Husbands of Hollywood" – WINNER
"The Game"
"The Soul Man"

Outstanding Actor in a Comedy Series
Andre Braugher – "Brooklyn Nine-Nine"
Cedric The Entertainer – "The Soul Man"
Don Cheadle – "House of Lies"
Dule Hill – "Psych"
Kevin Hart – "Real Husbands of Hollywood" – WINNER

Outstanding Actress in a Comedy Series
Aisha Tyler – "Archer"
Mindy Kaling – "The Mindy Project"



Although they could have won for Best Looking Couple, Idris Elba and Lupita Nyong'o won for their respective performances at NAACP Image Awards. (Credit: Facebook)

Niecy Nash – "The Soul Man"
Tasha Smith – "Tyler Perry's For Better or Worse"
Wendy Raquel Robinson – "The Game" – WINNER

Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series
Boris Kodjoe – "Real Husbands of Hollywood"
Jerry "J B Smoove" Brooks – "Real Husbands of Hollywood"
Morris Chestnut – "Nurse Jackie" – WINNER
Nick Cannon – "Real Husbands of Hollywood"
Tracy Morgan – "30 Rock"

Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series
Anna Deavere Smith – "Nurse Jackie"
Brandy Norwood – "The Game" – WINNER
Nia Long – "House of Lies"
Rashida Jones – "Parks and Recreation"
Sofia Vergara – "Modern Family"

Outstanding Drama Series
"Boardwalk Empire"
"Grey's Anatomy"
"Scandal" – WINNER
"The Good Wife"
"Treme"
Outstanding Actor in a Drama Series
James Pickens, Jr. – "Grey's

Anatomy"
LL Cool J – "NCIS: Los Angeles" – WINNER
Michael Ealy – "Almost Human"
Shemar Moore – "Criminal Minds"
Wendell Pierce – "Treme"

Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series
Chandra Wilson – "Grey's Anatomy"
Kerry Washington – "Scandal" – WINNER
Khandi Alexander – "Treme"
Nicole Beharie – "Sleepy Hollow"
Regina King – "Southland"

Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series
Columbus Short – "Scandal"
Guillermo Diaz – "Scandal"
Jeffrey Wright – "Boardwalk Empire"
Joe Morton – "Scandal" – WINNER
Michael Kenneth Williams – "Boardwalk Empire"

Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series
Archie Panjabi – "The Good Wife"
Debbie Allen – "Grey's Anatomy"
Diahann Carroll – "White Collar"
Taraji P. Henson – "Person of Interest" – WINNER
Vanessa L. Williams – "666 Park Avenue"

Outstanding Television Movie, Mini-Series or Dramatic Special

"Being Mary Jane" – WINNER
"Betty & Coretta"
"CrazySexyCool: The TLC Story"
"Luther"
"Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight"

Outstanding Actor in a Television Movie, Mini-Series or Dramatic Special

Chiwetel Ejiofor – "Dancing on the Edge"
Danny Glover – "Muhammad Ali's Greatest"
Idris Elba – "Luther" – WINNER
Malik Yoba – "Betty & Coretta"
Omari Hardwick – "Being Mary Jane"

Outstanding Actress in a Television Movie, Mini-Series or Dramatic Special

Angela Bassett – "American Horror Story: Coven"
Angela Bassett – "Betty & Coretta"
Gabourey Sidibe – "American Horror Story: Coven"
Gabrielle Union – "Being Mary Jane" – WINNER
Keke Palmer – "CrazySexyCool: The TLC Story"

Outstanding Talk Series

"Oprah's Lifeclass"
"Oprah's Next Chapter"
"Steve Harvey" – WINNER
"The Arsenio Hall Show"
"The Queen Latifah Show"

Outstanding Reality Series

"Iyanla: Fix My Life" – WINNER
"Shark Tank"
"Sunday Best"
"The Voice"
"Welcome to Sweetie Pie's"

MUSIC

Outstanding New Artist

Ariana Grande
Candice Glover
K. Michelle – WINNER
RaVaughn Brown
Zendaya

Outstanding Male Artist

Bruno Mars
Charlie Wilson
John Legend – WINNER
Justin Timberlake
Robin Thicke

Outstanding Female Artist

Beyonce – WINNER

India.Arie
Janelle Monae
Ledisi
Mary J Blige

Outstanding Duo, Group or Collaboration

"#Beautiful" – Mariah Carey feat. Miguel
"Blurred Lines" – Robin Thicke feat. T.I. & Pharrell – WINNER
"Fire We Make" – Alicia Keys feat. Maxwell
"Hurt You" – Toni Braxton feat. Babyface
"Suit & Tie" – Justin Timberlake feat. Jay-Z

Outstanding Gospel Album

"20 Year Celebration Volume 1 – Best For Last" – Donald Lawrence
"Azusa: The Next Generation" – Hezekiah Walker
"Best Days Deluxe Edition" – Tamela Mann – WINNER
"Good God" – Shirley Caesar
"Music From the Motion Picture Black Nativity" – Various

Outstanding Music Video

"Cocoa Butter" – India.Arie
"Fire We Make" – Alicia Keys feat. Maxwell
"Made To Love" – John Legend
"Q.U.E.E.N." – Janelle Monae feat. Erykah Badu – WINNER
"Treasure" – Bruno Mars

Outstanding Song

"All Of Me" – John Legend – WINNER
"Blurred Lines" – Robin Thicke feat. T.I. & Pharrell
"Fire We Make" – Alicia Keys feat. Maxwell
"Q.U.E.E.N." – Janelle Monae feat. Erykah Badu
"Treasure" – Bruno Mars

Outstanding Album

"20/20 Experience – The Complete Experience" – Justin Timberlake
"Blurred Lines" – Robin Thicke
"Love In The Future" – John Legend
"Love, Charlie" – Charlie Wilson – WINNER
"The Electric Lady" – Janelle Monae

MOTION PICTURE

Outstanding Motion Picture

"12 Years A Slave" – WINNER
"Fruitvale Station"
"Lee Daniels' The Butler"

See AWARD, Page 11

CLICK, continued from Page 5

cause he wasn't wearing his seat belt. "Sideline Sofia" was unbuckled when her vehicle crashed and now she's sitting on the sidelines with an injury and is unable to play with her volleyball team. All of these characters and their scenarios are featured in Vine videos, a growing, new-technology trend among teens.

Additionally, the characters will be included in free, educational toolkits available to campus classrooms. The kits include campaign posters, banners, parking lot signage, morning announcements, a school newspaper article and a parent brochure, among other items designed to remind students of the consequences of not wearing a seat belt.

TxDOT also is reaching out to teens through on-site, interactive events featuring an actual truck that was wrecked in a crash. The two teens involved in the crash were able to walk away with only minor injuries because they were wearing their safety belts. By putting on headphones, participating teens will hear the compelling story of what happened that day – and how seatbelts saved the teens' lives. The wrecked truck will appear at the fol-

lowing University Interscholastic League (UIL) events in Austin and Georgetown.

- March 1: Girls Basketball State Tournament - Frank Erwin Center
- March 8: Boys Basketball State Tournament - Frank Erwin Center
- April 18-19: Soccer State Championship - Birkelbach Field, Georgetown ISD
- April 26: Interscholastic League Press Conference (ILPC) - UT Campus

In 2012, there were more than 660 crashes in Texas in which unrestrained occupants between the ages of 15-20 sustained fatal or serious injuries. Of the 297 fatalities resulting from those crashes, 141 were people who were not wearing seat belts at the time of the crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), wearing a seat belt reduces the risk of being fatally injured in a serious crash by 45 percent. Texas law requires drivers and all passengers in a vehicle to be buckled in a seat belt or face fines and court costs up to \$200.

Find out more at TxDOT.gov. Fan us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter.

AWARDS, continued from Page 10

"Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom"
"The Best Man Holiday"

Outstanding Actor in a Motion Picture
Chadwick Boseman – "42"
Chiwetel Ejiofor – "12 Years A Slave"
Forest Whitaker – "Lee Daniels' The Butler" – WINNER
Idris Elba – "Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom"
Michael B. Jordan – "Fruitvale Station"

Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture
Angela Bassett – "Black Nativity" – WINNER
Halle Berry – "The Call"
Jennifer Hudson – "Winnie Mandela"
Kerry Washington – "Tyler Perry Presents Peeples"
Nicole Beharie – "42"

Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture
Cuba Gooding Jr. – "Lee Daniels' The Butler"
David Oyelowo – "Lee Daniels' The Butler" – WINNER
Morris Chestnut – "The Best Man Holiday"
Terrence Howard – "Lee Daniels' The Butler"
Terrence Howard – "The Best Man Holiday"

Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture
Alfre Woodard – "12 Years A Slave"
Lupita Nyong'o – "12 Years A Slave" – WINNER
Naomie Harris – "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom"
Octavia Spencer – "Fruitvale Station"
Oprah Winfrey – "Lee Daniels' The Butler"

Outstanding Independent Motion Picture
"Blue Caprice"

"Dallas Buyers Club"
"Fruitvale Station" – WINNER
"The Inevitable Defeat of Mister & Pete"
"The Trials of Muhammad Ali"

Outstanding Writing in a Motion Picture – (Theatrical or Television)
Alfonso Cuaron, Jonas Cuaron – "Gravity"
Brian Helgeland – "42"
Danny Strong – "Lee Daniels' The Butler"
John Ridley – "12 Years A Slave" – WINNER
Ryan Coogler – "Fruitvale Station"

Outstanding Directing in a Motion Picture – (Theatrical or Television)
Jono Oliver – "Home"
Justin Chadwick – "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom"
Lee Daniels – "Lee Daniels' The Butler"
Malcolm D. Lee – "The Best Man Holiday"
Steve McQueen – "12 Years A Slave" – WINNER

Hey Irving, Pick Us Up!

You can find a copy of the North Dallas Gazette at any one of these fine businesses and organizations. Be sure to pick up a copy every week to stay on top of the issues important to the Irving area in particular and the DFW African American community as a whole.

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Iglesia Santa Marie de Guadalupe
2601 S. MacArthur

The Chateau on Wildbriar Lake
1515 Hard Rock Rd

Bombay Sizzlers
397 East Las Colinas Blvd, Ste. 180

Le Peep
4835 N. O'Connor Blvd.

Mattito's Tex Mex
1001 MacArthur Park Drive

Taqueria El Tacazo
1150 W. Pioneer Drive

Capistrano's Café & Catering
4650 W. Airport Frwy

Empress of China
2648 N. Beltline Rd.

The Spirit Grille
4030 N. MacArthur Blvd #112

El Rancho Restaurant
1210 E. Irving Blvd

504 Salon
3414 W. Rochelle

Irving YMCA
220 W. Irving Blvd

Mitchell's Barbershop
4020 N. Beltline Rd

Roy's Pawn Shop
635 E. Irving Blvd

Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church "The Green"
3329 Country Club West

Irving Islamic Center Valley Ranch - Valley Ranch Masjid
9940 Valley Ranch Pkwy W.

Irving Salvation Army
1140 E. Irving Blvd

Antioch Christian Church
2043 W. Walnut Hill Ln

Lee Park Recreation Center
300 Pamela Drive

Lively Pointe Youth Center
909 N. O'Connor Rd

Mustang Park Recreation Center
2223 Kinwest Pkwy

Northwest Park Recreation Center
2800 Cheyenne St.

Senter Park Recreation Center
907 S. Senter Rd

Austin Recreation Center
825 E. Union Bower Rd.

Houston Recreation Center
3033 Country Club Rd.

Cimarron Park Recreation Center
201 Red River Trail

Georgia Farrow Recreation Center
530 Davis Street

Heritage Senior Center
200 Jefferson Street

iRealy Office Building
320 Decker Drive

Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
135 S. Jefferson

Irving City Hall
825 W. Irving Blvd

Irving Public Library
801 W. Irving Blvd

Shady Grove CME Church
3537 E. Gilbert Road

Emmanuel Baptist Missionary Church
511 Gilbert Road

Ben Washington Baptist Church
3901 Frisco Ave

Shepherd Church
615 W. Davis

West Irving C.O.G.I.C.
3922 Grimes Road

Bible Way Baptist Church
4215 N. Greenvview Dr.

Strictly Business
4159 W. Northgate

Washateria
3712 Cheyenne Street

New Life Ministries
3706 Cheyenne Street

Elisha Mane Attractions
3704 Cheyenne Street

Bear Creek Community Church
2700 Finley Rd.

Evergreen Baptist Church
3329 W. Country Club Drive

Po' Boys Restaurant
4070 N. Beltline Rd. Ste. 100

Girl Friends Africa
4070 N. Beltline Rd. Ste. 134

VW Barbership
4070 N. Beltline Rd. Ste. 143

Northlake College
2000 College Blvd Bldg. A

Antioch Christian Church
2041 West Walnut Hill

Kasbah Grill
2851 Esters Rd

Fresh Food Store
4020 W. Northgate Drive

Lee's Catfish
1911 Esters Road

Danal's Mexican Restaurant
508 N. O'Connor Rd

Fred's Pit Barbecue
808 E. Irving Blvd

Gary's Barbershop
2117 Story Rd.

African Village Restaurant
3000 N. Beltline Rd

New Look Barbershop
3317 Finley Rd.

Irving Arts Center
3333 N. MacArthur #200

THOMAS, continued from Page 3

“slights” that result in hurt feelings. Instead, they are institutional attacks on a community’s economic well being. Differences in the well-documented ways that interest rates are offered for homes and automobiles are not slights but pernicious economic discrimination. Thomas willfully reduces institutional racism to oversensitivity, when one more cognizant of history might acknowledge that both micro and macro inequities impact economic advancement, and quality of life.

Thomas is joined by George Zimmerman, who says his massacre of Trayvon Martin has nothing to do with race, and has cast himself as the victim in a tragedy he perpetuated. Thus, Michael Dunn, objecting to loud music, aimed multiple bullets at a vehicle holding four young Black men, killing one, Jonathan Davis, who was leaning away from the window of the vehicle, weaponless. Hiding behind the Stand Your Ground law, he says he felt threatened. Others posit (more correctly) that he objected to a young man mouthing off at him when he demanded that they turn down their music. If he felt so “threatened” why did he even bother to approach the car of

young men minding their business?

What has race got to do with it? In the time when people didn’t talk about race, this question might not be asked. Today, because people perceive “slights,” (like the murder of young Black men), the question of race inevitably and appropriately comes up. Thomas dissented in the Hudson case, which awarded an inmate \$800 after he claimed cruel and unusual punishment when he was beaten so badly that his dental plate was broken in his mouth. I guess he regarded police brutality as a simple “slight.”

People talk about race (and gender) more because they are not muzzled by an institutional racism that made it impossible to have these conversations without consequence, because “race champions” were beaten, fire-bombed, and killed because they dared seek social and economic justice. Thomas may lack institutional memory but he, frankly, makes a fool of himself when openly displays his ignorance.

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

Belk Galleria Dallas to host on-the-spot job interviews

The employment office at Belk Galleria Dallas is buzzing with excitement as Belk looks to fill nearly 200 positions and is currently conducting on-the-spot interviews.

To meet the demand of Belk’s rapid Texas expansion, Belk is hosting job fairs on the second level of the mall through Saturday from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. through the first week in March to fill these positions. Belk is hiring for sales, support and specialist positions to support the opening of its first flagship store in Texas.

Based in North Carolina, Belk is the largest family-owned and-operated department store chain in the country, with more than 300 locations, including 14 in Texas. After moving into the space vacated by Saks Fifth Avenue, the company renovated the store into its first flagship in the state. It has other DFW locations in McKinney, Rockwall, Flower Mound and Fort Worth.

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TAX, continued from Page 1

own shots.)

Here are a few things to remember when calculating your 2013 taxes:

First, some potentially good news for taxpayers who claim a home office deduction: You now may choose between the traditional method of calculating the business use of your home (which involves numerous calculations, filling out the onerous IRS Form 8829 and maintaining backup records for years) and a new simplified option.

Under the new, so-called "safe harbor" method, you can simply claim a standard deduction of \$5 per square foot for the portion of your home used regularly and exclusively for business, up to a maximum of 300 square feet – a \$1,500 limit.

Contrast that with the traditional method where you must calculate actual expenses of your home office expressed as a percentage of the square footage your home office consumes. For example, if your office takes up 12 percent of your house, you can deduct 12 percent of your electricity bill.

A few additional details:

You can choose either method from year to year; however, once you've elected a method for a given tax year it's irrevocable.

Under the safe-harbor method you cannot depreciate the portion of your home used for business in that particular year.

With the new method you can still claim allowable mortgage interest, real estate taxes and insurance losses as itemized deductions on Schedule A. These deductions don't have to be allocated between personal and business use, as under the traditional method.

You'll need to weigh

whether the recordkeeping hours you save justify the potentially smaller deduction – especially if you have a large home office or considerable deductions. Suggestion: Look at last year's deduction and compare what it would have been using the \$5 per square foot calculation, factoring in time spent doing the math.

A few other self-employment tax-filing considerations:

In addition to the home office deduction, you generally can deduct many other business-related expenses, including: legal and accounting fees; professional dues and subscriptions; business insurance and licenses; professional training and education; professional equipment and software; maintenance/repairs;

and business-related mileage, travel and entertainment.

You can also deduct the full cost of medical, dental, vision and long-term care insurance premiums for you, your spouse and de-

pendents, even if you don't itemize deductions.

For more details on business expenses and deductions, see IRS Publication 535 (www.irs.gov). Also visit the IRS' Self-Employed Individuals Tax

Center.

Bottom line: Income taxes are often more complicated for self-employed people and good record-keeping is essential. Unless you're an accounting whiz, consider hiring a tax profes-

sional or financial planner who specializes in self-employment issues. The penalties and fees they can help you avoid – and hidden deductions they can uncover – will probably more than pay for their fees.



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March 5

Join us for Wednesday Morning Bible Class at 10:30 a.m.; and come back for Evening Bible Classes at 7 p.m.

March 8 & 9

You're invited to our Single Parent Symposium. For additional information please contact Sis Regina Shaw. Also you can register <http://avefchurchofchrist.org/index.php/calendar/2sps>.

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Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Sr.
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4215 N. Greenview Drive
Irving, TX 75062
972-257-3766
www.biblewayirving.org

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

Dr. Terrence Autry,
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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.

March 2, 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.

March 5, 7 p.m.

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

**March 30
Super Sunday**

Every 5th Sunday join us for a day of fellowship and fun at 9:30 a.m.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr.,
Ed.D.
Senior Pastor
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Admin. Building Address
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972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

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**March 2
8 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

Join us for one or both of

our Worship Services as we praise and honor God. Sunday School starts at 9:45 a.m. After each service ministers and deacons are available to meet with you for prayer or questions.

March 5, 7 p.m.

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

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March 2, 7:30 a.m.

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March 3, 7 p.m.

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Sunday Morning Worship
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Wednesday Night Live
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Black History facts continued...



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

I have written in my column, at least twice, that **Henry T. Sampson** invented the “gamma-electric cell,” without which we would not have the **cellular phone** on July 6, 1971; but what I haven't written is that **Dr. Philip Emeagwali**, is considered “a Father of the Internet; he helped give birth to the **supercomputer**, the technology that spawned the Internet; and thanks to **Mr. John Ross**, my friend, and my **Black History mentor**, when I called inquiring about, “a Black man considered to be, “a father of the internet,” to get the story for my column, he told me about Dr. Emeagwali's and how to pronounce his name.

Dr. Emeagwali was voted History's 35th greatest African. However, not being too computer savvy, I didn't know about Dr. Emeagwali until just recently. When I need to ver-

ify Black History Facts, I call on John.

President Bill Clinton extols Dr. Emeagwali as a “great mind.” A poll of 300 million search entries proves it (he is ranked “the most searched” for scientist.)

For additional information on Dr. Emeagwali, visit his website, (www.emeagwali.com) it will be worth your time and I believe that you will enjoy reading his information.

Reconstruction was the period immediately after the Civil War, during which the freed slaves and their northern supporters tried to make America more racially inclusive. From 1869 to 1901, there were 22 African Americans in the House of Representatives, but the defeated South remained determined that white supremacy should be maintained by any means. **George H. White**, born in Rosindale, NC was the **last black Reconstruction Congress person**, and the last former slave to sit in the House.

White, not surprisingly, found it difficult to make his mark in Congress. However, he was able to

obtain back pay for Black Civil War veterans, but his colleagues refused to hear his federal anti-lynching bill. However, twenty-five years later, **Oscar De Priest** of Chicago, was the next African American that was **elected to Congress**.

It is said that, “Necessity is the mother of invention” with that in mind, **Andrew Jackson Beard** was standing between two railroad cars, linking them together; he was crushed between the cars and lost his leg. His ac-

cident was Beard's incentive to create a device to **hook cars together automatically**, an invention that became the model for a national standardized linking mechanism. Beard also **patented a new form of plow and a rotary steam engine**.

In 1791, Congress created the District of Columbia, where Washington is located; however, the city of Washington did not have its own local government or mayor. In 1974, **Walter E.**

Washington was elected by the people of Washington, DC as their **first mayor** in 1974.

Otis Boykin invented more than 25 electronic devices used in computers and guided missiles. The actual heart pacemaker was first invented by Paul Boli, However, in 1955, Boykin created an electrical mechanism as a **regulating unit for the first heart pacemaker** (I know that U.S. Vice President Dick Chaney and his family is very thankful to Mr. Boykin.) Raised in Dallas, Boykin device uses electrical impulses to maintain a steady heart beat.

Richard Wright was the leading African American writer of the 1930's and 40's. His writing, in a style called realism (reminds you of today's TV's reality shows) reflected the seriousness of the period. His

novel **Native Son**, published in 1940, tells the story of the accidental murder of a white woman by a young Black man. It was told so powerfully, it became a selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club, the first book by an African American writer to achieve that distinction. Wright's story of his life, **Black Boy**, (the theme of this fiction and of his own life is the same: the destructive impact of racism on people of color) came out in 1945 and was the Club's second selection by an African American writer.

INVENTIONS: Peter Walker, a **machine for cleaning seed cotton** on Feb. 16, 1897. **Thomas W. Stewart**, the **improved “wet mop”** on June 13, 1893. **Frederick M. Jones**, the **portable refrigerated**

See TARPLEY, Page16



Dr. Philip Emeagwali

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Evening Worship	3:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class	7:00 pm

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AWANA: Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
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NDG Bookshelf: *Saint Monkey* is a book worth spending time on

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The first time you saw her, it was all you could do to resist touching her curls.

They were perfect, just like her fingers and her apple-dumpling cheeks. Her eyes drew you in, begging you to love her – and you did.

She was the most beautiful doll you'd ever seen. And she was property of your best friend, who wouldn't let you touch her.

Do we ever outgrow wanting what someone else has? Or, as in the new novel "Saint Monkey" by Jacinda Townsend, do we instead learn that those things are as tarnished as our own?

Fourteen-year-old Pookie never did like Audrey much.

They were only friends because Pookie's bad teeth and Audrey's braininess meant that nobody else would play with them. Eventually, they just had one another, their friendship sealed over baptism in front of God and old ladies who "got happy."

At fourteen years old, Audrey liked to read. She also liked to sit on her porch

swing on Queen Street and watch Pookie's daddy come home every night. Three years before, Audrey's father went to Korea and never came back. She sometimes pretended that Sonnyboy was really her daddy.

Or, she did – until Sonnyboy murdered Pookie's Mama.

And that right there, it changed a lot of things. Pookie started using her given name – Caroline – and she started messing with boys. She'd always said she was going to Hollywood, and Audrey believed her. The funny thing was that Audrey was the first to leave Mt. Sterling, when a man heard her playing piano for a funeral and offered her a job in Harlem.

Leaving her Mama and Grandpap was hard, but Harlem was a dream come true for Audrey. She missed Caroline, too, but they'd had disagreements before she left, and Audrey was sure the friendship was too damaged to continue.

Still, Audrey wrote letters back home, telling Caroline about life in New York, meeting a special man, fame, and about Harlem through the eyes of a country girl. But to Caroline, it all seemed to be brag-

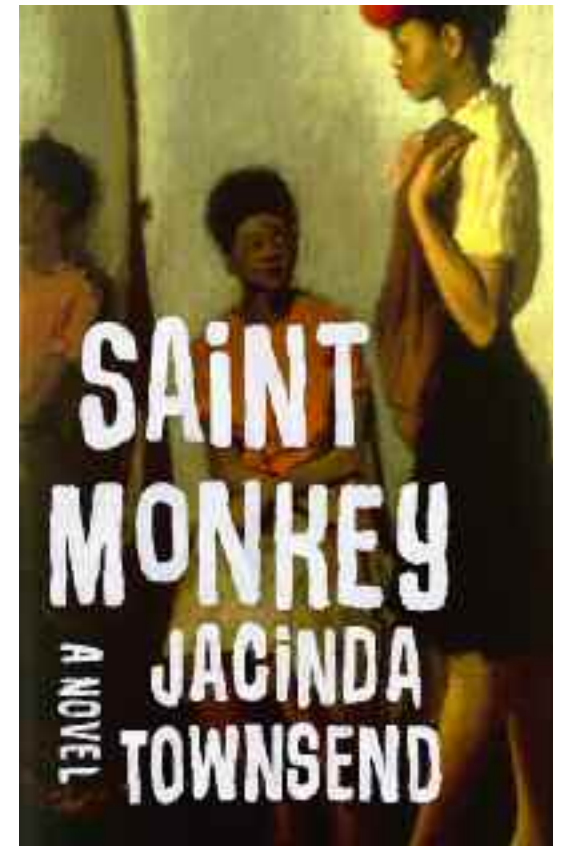
ging. She always knew that Audrey thought she was better than everybody else.

What did she ever see in that girl, anyhow?

Reading "Saint Monkey" is as painful and irresistible as the friendship that forms this novel's core.

Written in two distinct voices, this is the story of a love-hate relationship between two friends who grow together and grow apart, but can't seem to let go of either. It's the story of moving on, while aching for your roots; and of treading water while wondering what's beyond the boundaries of your town. And for those reasons, sticking with the theme of this novel, it's easy to both love and hate author Jacinda Townsend's utterly compelling characters: Audrey, for her preoccupied properness, and Caroline for hiding her hurt behind sarcastic sass.

This is not a whip-through-it-quick novel. No, this one demands that you sink into the pages and take some time. And if you've got that, then *Saint Monkey* is surely a book to curl up with.



SANCHEZ, continued from Page 1

Congress will begin with a mission to create jobs."

He feels like the current tax code unfairly punishes hard working families, meanwhile millionaires like Mitt Romney only pays 15 percent. Sanchez pledges, "I will work to make our tax laws fair and equitable. I will not side with predatory enterprises that exploit the weakest among us."

Immigration reform is

also on Sanchez's radar, he is tired of all the talk over recent decades promising meaningful reform. However, he encourages the Hispanic community to vote in proportion to the population. If they express their voices at the ballot box, this issue can finally begin to move forward.

But he is not willing to let the issue continue to languish at the hands of an in-

active Congress stating, "in the absence of any Congressional action I will be calling for changes at the Department of Justice and Administration to stop the separation of families with deportation policies that are hate-filled and designed to oppress our congressional district."

The party on March 4 also will double as a 96th birthday celebration for Sanchez's mother, Josefina Sanchez.

TARPLEY, continued from Page 15

unit for trucks on July 12, 1940. **Fredrick J. Loudin**, the **key chain** on Jan. 9, 1894. **J.H. Robinson**, **life-saving guards for trains and street cars** on March 14 and April 25, 1899. **Elijah McCoy**, **57 different patents for the lubrication of steam engines**. **Henry Pickett**, improvements in the **scaffold** on June 30, 1874. **Daniel Johnson**, the **rotary dining table** on Jan. 15, 1888. **B.H. Taylor**, patented **improvements to the rotary engine** on April 23, 1878.

Lydia Newman patented a new and

improved **hair brush** on Nov. 15 in the 1800's. **Alfred L. Cralle**, the **ice cream scooper** on Feb. 2, 1897. **D.A. Fisher** invented the **Joiner's Clamp** on April 20, 1875. **Michael C. Harvey**, the **improvement of the wick-raising lantern** on Aug. 19, 1884; and **Pattof Johnson**, **improvement in the design of swinging chairs** on Nov. 15, 1881.

(Editor's Note: We are aware that the claims made on behalf of Dr. Philip Emeagwali, "The Father of the Internet," have since been widely disputed.)



Tom Sanchez recently toured the Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy in Dallas. The classroom ambassadors shared how they are inspired by their teachers. Sanchez, an engineer and an attorney, offered words of encouragement and insights. Photos provided by the Tom Sanchez for Congress campaign.

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