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CAP report: Gun violence aimed at black males triggers concern

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Several new studies confirm what most people have suspected all along: No group is harmed more by gun violence than young Black males.

“While 13 percent of



Americans are black, in 2010, 65 percent of gun murder victims between the ages of 15 and 24 were black,” revealed a report by the Center for American Progress (CAP). “Forty-two percent of the total

gun deaths of individuals in this age group were of black males.”

This trend has continued, the report noted, even as crime rates decline.

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Make-A-Wish North Texas unveils its 8,000th wish at Dallas gala

On Saturday, March 8, Make-A-Wish North Texas hosted its 8th Annual Waltzing for Wishes gala at the Overton Hotel in Lubbock, Texas. Guests arrived knowing they were in for another competitive dance competition, but



they had no clue they would be a part of a milestone announcement.

Just days before the gala took place, Taylor, age eight, who battles a life-threatening medical condition, was seen skipping through the mall singing,

“We’re going to a gala. We’re going to a gala.” Taylor had just learned that she would spend her Saturday night with her family attending Make-A-Wish North Texas’ annual

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Don't Forfeit Past Tax Refunds

By Jason Alderman

Does this sound familiar? A few years back your yearly earnings were pretty low so you figured you wouldn't owe any income tax. Thus, when April 15 rolled around the following year you didn't bother filing a tax return, knowing you wouldn't be penalized.

Big mistake.

Even if your income fell below the threshold at which you'd owe anything, chances are taxes were deducted from your paycheck throughout the year. (Check your year-end W-2 form). If so, you probably left a sizeable tax refund on the table.

And you wouldn't be

alone. The IRS estimates that each year close to a million people don't bother filing federal tax returns, thereby forfeiting around \$1 billion in refunds they were due – refunds that average several hundred dollars apiece.

Here's the good news:

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COVER STORY

Obama's initiative must address the root problem of structural racism



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Whitaker's Wonderful Wit and Wisdom

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COMMENTARY

Solving inequality

By Williams Spriggs

The job numbers came out for February last week. The preliminary numbers show that private-sector employment grew by 162,000, meaning it is very likely that in March, private-sector employment will top its previous peak of 115.9 million in January 2008. That is the good news. The bad news is we will still be

down 666,000 jobs from the employment peak in January 2008. While private-sector jobs will recover in March, public-sector jobs will not.

This is a large part of the reason that, while most mainstream voices now talk about inequality, it will be difficult to solve. There is a common view that: “Only businesses create jobs.” But, that

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Kelly A. Morgan



Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson



Monique Miles

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

Kelly A. Morgan

Kelly A. Morgan is a real-world and real-talk inspirational speaker, author and business coach. As an inspirational speaker and author, Kelly doesn't simply motivate people to do just anything; instead, she inspires individuals to do what they aspire to do but have not had the encouragement and support to do in the past. She utilizes her experiences lived and learned to reveal the root cause of their situation and their true heart's desire. From personal experience, Kelly knows that taking the first few steps towards goals may be fright-

ening since it is new territory; but, it can also be exciting and so very rewarding! Kelly's personal story is a testament to that.

Kelly was unexpectedly faced with a life-changing ultimatum: To close her coaching business or be fired from her day job. Although it seemed that closing her coaching business was the simple decision to make so that she could keep her job, every bone in her body told her it was the wrong decision for her. After deep reflection on her life, she realized that her job as a Human Resources



Manager was out of sync with what led her to the career in the first place: Helping individuals to live the life they desired. Kelly also

realized she was lacking balance in her life; that in order to live a happy life, her relationships, health, spirituality and finances

needed to be in sync. So, she resigned from her job and decided to follow her dreams. Coach Kelly Speaks and Kelly's first book, *Journey to a Place Called THERE: A Navigation Guide for Creating a Balanced Life*, are two of her dreams that have come true!

In addition to being an inspirational author and speaker, Kelly is also the owner of SAGE Professional Strategies LLC (2005), a business and leadership coaching firm. As a Business and Leadership Coach, Kelly uses her corporate human resource experience and professional

certified coach training to be the catalyst for entrepreneurs, executives, small businesses and religious organizations to create and implement their personal and professional development plans.

When she is not speaking, coaching, or working on a book project, Kelly keeps busy by staying involved in various organizations. She is a member of the International Speakers Network, Society for Human Resource Management, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber and National Black MBA Association.

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson

This week, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson took action to force an up-or-down vote on key legislation that would extend unemployment insurance for more than 2 million Americans.

Congresswoman Johnson joined her colleagues in signing a discharge petition to bring up the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act (H.R. 3546). The bill extends emergency unemployment insurance for nearly 5 million Americans looking for work through the

end of the year.

"The time is now for action on unemployment insurance. Too many Americans and more than 100,000 Texans have been suffering too long," said Congresswoman Johnson.

"In this time of economic recovery, our state cannot afford to lose the \$171 million in economic activity that has been lost in the first two months of this year due to the 105,000 Texans that were cut off from unemployment insurance."

"Despite repeated efforts

from the Democrats in the House of Representatives, Republicans in Congress have callously refused to restore this vital economic lifeline that helps people support their families and pay their bills while they look for a new job."

The number of people who have lost their unemployment benefits as a result of the program's Dec. 28 expiration surpassed two million last week, according to a new analysis from Ways and Means Committee Democrats.

Every week, 72,000 people, on average, are losing

their unemployment benefits nationwide without an extension of the program.

Despite the growing struggles, House Republicans have blocked multiple efforts by Democrats to bring up legislation to extend the program on the House floor.

Last month a Senate measure to extend the program came one vote short of the 60 votes necessary to move forward legislation. To overcome this opposition, today Democrats are launched a discharge petition to force action on this widely supported legislation.



Monique Miles

Monique S. Myles, a Chicago native, is no stranger to hard work and perseverance. Her passion and dedication is reflected in Monique's many outstanding accomplishments that showcase her corporate leadership and community activism. As a result, she has been able to leave an indelible mark on everything she touches.

As part of her paternal family's legacy, she continued a generational tradition when she became an alumnus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While there, she was awarded the Bruce D. Nesbitt Volunteer of the Year Award, which is given to

the individual who has contributed the most to the surrounding community and campus. From Illinois she earned a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration, with a concentration in Marketing and completed a minor in African American Studies.

Early in life, she began to establish herself as a global citizen. In 2003 Monique traveled to South Africa as an Illinois International Fellow. There she studied European influence on post-Apartheid South Africa and volunteered with the Keep Pietermaritzburg Clean Association. She also pursued a course of study in Paris that allowed her to examine

the inverse role that colonial Africa played on the modern day Francophone society.

With years of solid experience

under her belt, Monique has proven herself to be a strong and perceptive

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You can't build a strong national economy on weak minimum wage

By Gina Schaefer

It didn't take long after my husband and I opened our first hardware store in 2003 for people to start coming in and asking us to open in their neighborhood, too.

By 2009, we had grown to six Ace Hardware stores in Baltimore and Washington DC, with our seventh store opening in 2010 in Takoma Park, Maryland. The next year, Old Takoma Ace Hardware was one of four stores, out of 4,500 locally owned and operated Ace Hardware stores worldwide, to win the "Coolest Hardware Store" award from Ace Hardware Corporation.

We expanded further in 2012, growing from seven stores to nine with additional Washington DC and Maryland locations.

We may own the business, but we didn't do this alone. Our growth would not have been possible without

the help of our dedicated employees.

Paying fair wages helped our business grow fast to nine stores and nearly 200 employees even as our country suffered a terrible economic downturn.

Our starting pay for sales associates is \$10. We know that gradually raising the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 an hour makes good business sense.

Raising pay at the bottom is good for the bottom line in key ways:

When employees earn a decent starting wage, they can concentrate on their job without continual stress over how they are going to afford basics like rent, groceries or transportation.

Businesses like mine count on good customer service, and good customer service depends on employees who are treated fairly and invested in our business. Our employees know we value them, and we know they value our customers.

Satisfied customers don't just keep coming back themselves, they tell their friends and families about us. Paying better wages helps us attract and retain good employees, increase sales, expand our business, and hire more employees.

When the minimum wage goes up it puts money in the paychecks of people who most need to spend it – from making rent to buying things they could not afford before from the grocer, the pharmacy, the shoe store, the auto repair, and, yes, the hardware store.

Local businesses depend on local customers with money to spend. A higher minimum wage means more money circulating in our local economy. Our employees shop at other businesses, and the employees of other businesses shop at our stores. A higher minimum wage is a boost for our local

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mantra is at the core of the neo-liberal policies that drive inequality and brought about the Great Recession. It is true that businesses create jobs. It is also true the public sector creates jobs.

Jobs are a derived demand. That is, most people do not go around hiring airline pilots or chefs. But when you fly by buying an airplane ticket, you and your fellow passengers are creating a demand for the airline to hire a pilot. When you go to a restaurant to eat a meal, you and your fellow diners are creating a demand for the restaurant to hire a chef. When someone says "only businesses create jobs" they are declaring that only individual demands for private goods are legitimate demands. And that our policies must be tilted so "businesses" can respond to those individual private demands.

That view has many problems. First, it removes the legitimacy of people speaking with a democratic voice to demand something. If we demand high-quality public schools with low classroom size, that creates a demand we expect our government to respond to by hiring highly skilled teachers in enough numbers to give our children small classes. If we demand an efficient way to get to work, we expect our government to respond by building mass public transportation networks and hiring the construction firms and transportation workers to

make that function. These are examples of legitimate demands that "create jobs."

Second, if only individual demand for a private good is legitimate, then the high level of inequality means that the sum of our society will be determined by only a few people. Because income is unequal, so is consumption. The marketplace responds to dollar votes, not people votes. Since the 7.4 percent of households earning more than \$150,000 a year account for 18.4 percent of all consumption expenditures in the United States, they have 2.5 times more votes than their share of the number of households on what will be produced based on individual demands.

Those households account for 34.6 percent of all private education dollars spent in the United States. That means they get 4.7 votes on shaping education decisions like what colleges should provide. The bottom 60 percent of households, by income, has to make do on 38 percent of the goods and services that private households buy. That means the bottom 60 percent by household count each get two-thirds of one vote on what our society will produce.

Third, is the often repeated fallacy that businesses alone create jobs, because government needs tax revenues to provide services. So, government

does not create jobs unless the private sector creates the income to tax. But, a restaurant or airline does not create revenue. Workers have to have incomes to demand products to create the revenues for restaurants and airlines.

There is a circular flow of money and economic activity between government, business and the household sector. The business sector needs the government to enforce contracts, provide the infrastructure of roads and port facilities to move their goods and a literate workforce. The business sector also needs well-paid workers in the household sector to afford the goods and services the business sector sells and still have savings to provide the investment funds for business to expand. So, the business sector is not an island.

Public demand must not be squelched by the plutocracy, because the government reacts to one person, one vote and is democratic. The plutocracy wants the economy run by their votes. The bottom 60 percent of households need more than 38 percent of the economy to thrive. That can't happen if we don't see that the solution is job creation to get the more than 300,000 public-school teachers, whom our children have lost since the recession began, back to the classroom.

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

NDG Review: *Living Safely, Aging Well*

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The third step from the bottom squeaks when you tread on it – which is something you tried to remember when you snuck in after curfew.

There's a light switch near the door that does nothing, and never did. One of the kitchen drawers has a tendency to stick. And someone, sometime, put a strip of wallpaper on upside down.

Yes, the house you grew up in has its peccadilloes but your mother loves it there and she wants to stay. In *Living Safely, Aging Well* by Dorothy A. Drago, M.P.H. you'll learn how to ensure that she does.

You probably don't need to be reminded that, as we age, our bodies change. Bones get fragile, eyesight dims, hearing can fade, balance can go out of whack. These things are annoying when you're younger but can lead to devastating injuries for an elder.

But mere awareness puts you on the advantage. Says Drago, "When you anticipate the possibility of an injury, you can attempt to prevent it."

Take, for instance, falls.

According to nearly all sources, falls are "the primary injury mechanism for the aging population." But merely knowing the risk for falls won't prevent them; you need to know why people fall. Clothing mishaps, problems with furniture, slippery floors, and other environmental reasons can be dealt with individually or with professional help; poor balance, medications and other physical issues can be brought to the attention of a doctor. It can also be reassuring to teach someone how to get up if they tumble.

But though falls may be first on your mind, there are other things to consider when making a home as safe as possible. Kitchens and bathrooms can be literal hotspots, and there are ways to minimize the risk of burns and scalds. Medication mix-ups can lead to poisoning, which can be easily monitored. The risk of choking –



the "third leading cause of home injury death among those over the age of 76..." - can be minimized. And good health decisions can be made through health literacy and by asking your doctor to be an ally.

You want to keep Mom or Dad independent a little longer, whether it's in their home or yours. Either way, "Living Safely, Aging Well" can give you the tools to do it.

We've all seen TV commercials about falling, and while author Dorothy A. Drago, M.P.H. has a huge chapter on that aspect of home safety, I was pleased to see a bigger picture: Drago also digs deeper and offers solutions to other issues that don't normally come to mind. Boomers will be relieved to know that that includes the hard stuff, like giving up dangerous-but-beloved possessions and furniture, giving up a bit of autonomy, and giving up the driver's license.

Specifically because of those I-never-thought-of-that issues, I think anyone who's over age 50 needs this book on their shelf. If you're concerned about safety for a loved one or want to maintain independence yourself, "Living Safely, Aging Well" will give you the steps you need.

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Another report on gun violence by the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) mirrors the CAP findings.

"Between 1963 and 2010, 59,265 Black children and teens were killed by guns – more than 17 times the recorded lynchings of Black people of all ages in the 86 years from 1882 to 1968."

The Children's Defense Fund study also reported that, "Black males ages 15-19 were nearly 30 times more likely to die in a gun homicide than White males."

Yet another study on Black homicides in the United States by the Violence Policy Center, shows that 8 percent of Black homicide victims never reached their 19th birthday and the average age of Black homicide victims was just 30 years old.

But the numbers tell only part of the story.

"More than 1 million years of potential life are lost due to gun deaths each year," the CAP report found. "These are years of life that young people killed

by guns would have achieved educational milestones, entered the workforce, had families, and contributed to the social, economic, and cultural advancement of society in untold ways – all erased by gunfire."

Reducing the availability of illegal guns, teaching children that violence is not the way to resolve conflicts and improving educational and economic opportunities for communities are just a few steps needed to change the tide of rampant gun violence that disproportionately affects young Blacks.

WISH, continued from Page 1

fundraiser. Treatments and doctors' visits were far from her mind as all she could think about was getting to dress up like a princess and go to a "ball" wearing a pretty pink dress.

Arriving at the Waltzing for Wishes gala, Taylor's parents knew that this was the night their daughter would find out her wish was coming true, but what Make-A-Wish North Texas had in store for the wish family, and the guests, was something no one expected. After a heated dance competition between six Lubbock "celebrities", Taylor joined her family on stage as her mother shared the family's journey since first hearing the news that their daughter was battling cancer. All eyes were on Taylor as she received news that her wish to go to Hawaii would soon come true. The crowd cheered as Taylor hugged her dad and the cheers turned into a roar when it was announced that Taylor's wish would be the 8,000th wish granted for the North Texas chapter.

Taylor was all smiles as her and her brother danced the night away while their parents watched with joy. Soon the family will make their way to Hawaii where

they will take a horseback ride along the beach, swim with dolphins and experience an authentic Hawaiian luau.

"I'm excited to swim with dolphins which are my second favorite animal," Taylor explains while smiling. When asked what her favorite animal was, Taylor squealed "horses!"

Since 1982, Make-A-Wish North Texas has continued their efforts to grant the wishes of every eligible child in the 161 counties they serve in Texas. Now granting over 500 wishes per year, the chapter was delighted to share the news of their 8,000th wish milestone.

For a child with a life-threatening medical condition, a wish experience can give back what the illness takes away. It can help children forget about being sick...remember how to be a kid...laugh out loud...and inspire them to keep making plans for the future.

Nationally, a wish is granted every 38 minutes at an average cost of \$8,000. Every fulfilled wish represents a unique collaboration between wish families, medical professionals, volunteers and donors.



McKinney Housing Authority 2014 PHA PLAN MEETINGS NOTICE

The Quality Housing & Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires the McKinney Housing Authority to submit an Agency Plan each year.

The PHA Plan is a comprehensive guide to public housing agency (PHA) policies, programs, operations, and strategies for meeting local housing needs and goals. There are two parts to the PHA Plan: the 5- Year Plan, which each PHA submits to HUD once every 5th PHA fiscal year, and the Annual Plan, which is submitted to HUD every year.

Below is a list of meetings that are scheduled to review and discuss the Agency Plan documents for the 2014 fiscal year.

Residents, the public and staff are encouraged to attend the meetings.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Saturday March 15, 2014 | 9:30am | Resident Council Meeting | Merritt Community Center | 1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069 |
| Monday March 17, 2014 | 1:00pm | Resident Meeting | Newsome Homes Community Center | 231 Aniscott Parkway. McKinney, TX 75069 |
| Tuesday April 15, 2014 | 5:30pm | Public Hearing | Merritt Community Center | 1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069 |

Chief Brown announces promotions

Dallas Police Chief David O. Brown announced the following Lieutenants promotions effective Wednesday, March 12, 2014. A promotional ceremony will be held in their honor on March 11 at 9:30

a.m., in the Don A. Stafford Conference Room located in the Jack Evans Police headquarters, 1400 S. Lamar Street, Dallas, Texas.

Sergeant Brian Deininger and Sergeant Sharise Hadnot will be promoted to the

rank of Lieutenant.

Lieutenant Deininger will be assigned to Northwest Patrol Division, and Lieutenant Hadnot will be assigned to South Central Patrol Division.

Councilmember Caraway hosts North Texas Council for International Visitors' 'Panel Discussion on Domestic Violence'

The North Texas Council for International Visitors (NTCIV) is a Dallas based non -- profit organization that has been hosting international visitors for the US Department of State for the last 60 years. As part of its newly launched Global Women's Initiative (GWI), NTCIV will be hosting Laxmi, a young woman from India who has recently received the International Woman of Courage Award (IWOC) from Secretary John Kerry.

The distinguished panelists included the Hon. Dwayne Caraway, Dr. Donna Scott-Tilley, PhD from Texas Women's University, Dr. Carl Robinson with Dallas Men Against Abuse, Ms. Jessica Garza, a domestic abuse survivor and activist, and Ms. Debra Nixon-Bowles with Women For

Moses.

Moderating the roundtable is Mr. Michael Coleman, published author and noted expert on family issues. While in Dallas, Laxmi will also visit and tour Genesis Shelter, meet with the Human Freedom team at the Bush Institute and attend a reception at the Greater Dallas Indo Asian Chamber of Commerce.

Established in 2007, the Secretary of State's IWOC honors women around the globe who have exemplified courage and leadership in advocating for human rights, women's equality and social progress, often at great personal risk. The ceremony itself took place in Washington, DC on March 4, 2014 and was presented by First Lady Michelle Obama.

Fire Departments in Texas receive More than \$1.2 Million in FEMA Preparedness Grants

DENTON — Fire departments in Texas have been awarded more than \$1.2 million in preparedness grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The Lancaster Fire Department received more than \$740,640 to boost hiring efforts for firefighters. The Leander Fire Department received \$473,375 in funding, which will be used to hire a Volunteer Liaison who will recruit new, diverse volunteers and also work to retain current and future members.

The federal grants are part of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants program. SAFER awards provide funding directly to fire departments and volun-

teer firefighter interest organizations.

"These grants help to fulfill a critical need, which is to make sure there are enough firefighters and volunteer firefighters to help protect lives and properties

in communities," said FEMA Region 6 Administrator Tony Robinson.

For more information on the SAFER Grant program, visit <http://www.fema.gov/staffing-adequate-fire-emergency-response-grants>.

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Energy for Life Walk-a-thon in downtown Garland

GARLAND — The United Mitochondrial Diseases Foundation is excited and energized to be able to reach out to the community to raise awareness as well as support those who are fighting mitochondrial disease in our area. Whether you, someone you love, or someone you know is fighting this disease, we can all come together to spread the word and raise money for research toward a cure.

Those participating in this walkathon are providing the energy for those unable to take part because they suffer mitochondrial disease. Funds raised in this walk will be used by the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation (UMDF) to

provide research for an easier diagnosis, better treatments and a cure.

To date, the UMDF has funded \$11 million in research grants. The Energy For Life Walkathon: Dallas Fort Worth offers all participants a fun-filled experience with entertainment, refreshments, mitochondrial disease resources and more.

Registration opens at 10 a.m. on March 29 (rain or shine) at the Plaza Theatre. The walk kicks off at 11 a.m.

For more information about the Energy for Life Walk, visit www.umdf.org or www.energyforlifewalk.org/dallasfortworth.

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More than 100,000 African-American parents are now homeschooling their children

By Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu

We hear so much about the plight of Black children and their low test scores. We have not heard that African American children who are homeschooled are scoring at the 82 percent in reading and 77 percent in math. This is 30-40 percent above their counterparts being taught in school. There is a 30 percent racial gap in schools, but there is no racial gap in reading if taught in the home and only a 5 percent gap in math.

What explains the success of African American students being taught by their parents? I believe that it's love and high expectations. I am reminded of Booker T.

Washington High School. They were honored several years ago for producing the greatest turnaround as a Recovery school. The principal had the opportunity to pick and choose her staff and emphatically stated, "If you want to teach in this school you must love the students". Researchers love promoting that the racial gap is based on income, marital status, and the educational background of the parents. Seldom, if ever, do they research the impact of love and high expectations.

Since the landmark decision, Brown vs. Topeka in 1954, there has been a 66 percent decline in African American teachers. Many African American students are in

classrooms where they are not loved, liked, or respected. Their culture is not honored and bonding is not considered. They are given low expectations - which helps to explain how students can be promoted from one grade to another without mastery of the content.

There are so many benefits to homeschooling beyond academics. Most schools spend more than 33 percent of the day disciplining students. And bullying has become a significant issue. One of every six Black males is suspended and large numbers are given Ritalin and placed in Special Education. These problems seldom, if ever, exist in the Home-

school environment.

Another major benefit is the summer months. Research shows that there is a 3 year gap between White and Black students. Some students do not read or are involved in any academic endeavor during the summer. Those students lose 36 months or 3 years if you multiply 3 months times 12 years (grades first -12) Home-school parents do not allow academics to be forsaken for three months.

Finally, in the homeschool environment, parents are allowed to teach their children values. Large numbers of parents are teaching their children faith based morals and principals. And many are

teaching their children with the Africentric curriculum SET-CLAE.

These children are being taught truths like, Columbus did not discover America; Abraham Lincoln did not free the slaves; Hippocrates was not the father of medicine and that African history did not begin on a plantation, but on a pyramid.

Until public schools give more love, higher expectations, better classroom management, greater time on task throughout the entire year, values and the SETCLAE curriculum, we can expect to continue to see an increase in African American parents homeschooling their children.

UT Arlington named one of the best schools for veterans in the U.S.

The University of Texas at Arlington is one of the best business schools in the United States for military veterans, according to rankings released Monday by Military Times.

UT Arlington has about 3,000 veterans or veterans' family members attending classes here. Of those, about 2,200 are veterans. UT Arlington placed No. 33 on the list of 64 institutions.

Military Times focused on culture and curriculum that caters to military veter-



ans when conducting and scoring the second annual Best for Vets: Business Schools survey, a highly respected, nearly 80-question analysis of a school's complete offerings for veterans. Business Dean Rachel

Croson said the entire College of Business staff deserves credit.

"We have a great tool in the Goolsby Leadership Academy. Many of our veterans have skills that make them a great fit with our Leadership initiatives," said Croson of the 10-year-old program within the College of Business. "And it's not just the business school. We have an entire university that backs the veterans across many, many platforms."

In November, Military Times named UT Arlington as one of the best colleges for military veterans. In that list, UT Arlington placed

No. 70 of the 120 institutions ranked.

About 140 colleges and universities participated in the detailed, nearly 80-

question survey, which delved into school culture, student support, academic

See UTA, Page 8



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Alpha Kappa Alpha presents gift to youth transitioning from foster care

DALLAS – Afraid. Anxious. Confused. Ill-prepared. These are some of the feelings of more than

20,000 young people that annually age out of the foster care system.

According to Children-

srights.org, without reliable adults, many of these youth will be unemployed, become homeless, incarcerated or victimized.

ated or victimized.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated seeks to turn the tide when they convene for their 82nd South Central Regional Conference in Dallas March 13-16, 2014. Under the leadership of Mrs. Chelle Luper Wilson, South Central Regional Director, members from the four states that comprise this region will donate \$50,000 to support these teens as they enter society.

Citysquare Transition Resource Action Center and

Meet the conference leadership: Mrs. Chelle Luper Wilson, South Central Regional Director; Mrs. Madelyn Butler, Conference Co-chair; Mrs. Bertha Scott, Conference Co-chair; Mrs. Patricia Webb, Conference Chairman

the University of North Texas' PUSH program will receive this contribution in the form of gift cards for various stores and services so that these young people can get the resources that will benefit them most.

"The world can be a scary place if you feel like you are facing it alone," states Mrs. Wilson. "But with hope, love and resources from the

community, these teens can make it."

Alpha Kappa Alpha's South Central Regional Conference will welcome nearly 8,000 sorority members and guests to Big D.

For more details regarding the BIG plans for this conference, please contact Conference Chairman Patricia Webb at src2014chairman@akasouthcentral.org.



← MILES, continued from Page 2

tive marketer in the communications and media industries. Her corporate affiliations began at Keen Management Group as the Marketing Manager. There she connected her celebrity clients with countless opportunities to be featured in national magazines and industry papers, thereby increasing their brand recognition. Shortly thereafter Monique moved on to CosmoGIRL! Magazine. CosmoGIRL! allowed Monique to combine her vocational growth with her personal commitment to providing young women with positive female role models.

In early 2007 she joined Black Enterprise and now serves as the company's Marketing Manager. Once again, this position couples an amazing professional opportunity with an additional channel for Monique to impact her community and causes. At Black Enterprise Monique handles the promotion and marketing of several vital properties, including the magazine, their two television shows and blackenterprise.com, while also identifying and developing key strategic partnerships and managing the BE College Rep Program. She

also advises others in the art of branding and promotion through her very own marketing agency, Myles Ahead

Consulting, LLC.

In addition to her profession Monique is committed to giving back. From 2004 to 2008 she served as a Youth Adviser and execu-

tive member of the Mid-Manhattan Branch of the NAACP. Monique also is a founding member of the New York Urban League Young Professionals.



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American Contract Bridge League expects approximately 5,000 players over 10 days at Dallas NABC event

HORN LAKE, Miss. – Nearly 5,000 bridge players from more than 15 nations will travel to Dallas from March 20 to 30 for the North American Bridge Championships (NABC). The American Contract Bridge League (ACBL), which hosts the NABC, is also encouraging Dallas-area residents to attend “Learn Bridge in a Day” – a session that teaches the basics of the game to beginners.

The NABCs are held three times a year across the U.S. and Canada to bring together players of all skill levels, from beginner to advanced, with opportunities for everyone to play daily. NABC Dallas is being held at the Sheraton Dallas Downtown, where for 11 days thousands of players will start competing at 9 a.m. and continue playing throughout the day, ending with an 11:30 p.m. session.

“We look forward to showcasing Dallas to thousands of bridge players from around the world,” said Robert Hartman, CEO of the ACBL. “Dallas has a rich history of bridge players, such as the



Photo Denise Griffen / Flickr

world’s first professional team – the Dallas Aces – and the game continues to grow in the area.”

ACBL and bridge clubs in the Greater Dallas area are encouraging locals to attend “Learn Bridge in a Day” on Sunday, March 23, from 1 to 6 p.m. The \$20 class, led by renowned bridge teacher Patty Tucker, aims to educate novice bridge players and to promote the game to new audiences.

“I attend all three NABCs each

year to spread my love and knowledge of the game, and to encourage others to give it a try or to further develop their skills,” Tucker said. “Bridge is a unique game that poses a real mental challenge for players, regardless of age. You can’t become a Life Master in a day, but you can learn a genuine appreciation and understanding of the game if you visit the NABC.”

In bridge, a Life Master is a player who has accumulated 500

or more master points – the metric of accomplishment. Participants at NABC Dallas will have the opportunity to play against the elite of their sport, including Dallas native Bob Hamman.

Hamman is one of the few surviving members of the famous Dallas Aces, a team formed in the late 1960s that would become the model for professional bridge teams. He is a Grand Life Master with more than 35,000 masterpoints and member of the ACBL Hall of Fame. With 52 NABC victories and multiple world titles and the humility to match, Hamman is this year’s recipient of the Sidney H Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award, being presented at the NABC Las Vegas in July.

The NABCs are significant in terms of economic impact, as the Dallas tournament is expected to generate approximately \$8.5 million in economic activity over the 11-day period. In addition, the ACBL is committed to making a difference in the cities that play host to the NABCs. For the Dallas

tournament, the ACBL Charity Foundation will give \$5,000 to local charity Paws in the City, which is committed to ending the overpopulation, abuse and neglect of Dallas-area dogs and cats.

“Many locals will be surprised to see such a big turnout for a bridge tournament, but the reality is that bridge has been a very popular game in this area for a long time,” said Donna Compton, owner of the Bridge Academy of North Dallas. “We hope the NABC will create a buzz in Dallas that encourages more locals to take up the game, but regardless, the city will significantly benefit from the thousands of visitors and from the ACBL’s contribution to Paws in the City.”

The 2014 summer and fall NABCs will be held in Las Vegas from July 17 to 27, and in Providence, R.I., from Nov. 27 to Dec. 7. For more information about NABC Dallas, “Learn Bridge in a Day” and the ACBL, visit www.acbl.org.

‘As Governor, would you veto the Lily Ledbetter Equal Pay Act?’

On Sunday, Republican Greg Abbott was asked if he would support a bipartisan Equal Pay Act, or if he would follow Rick Perry’s lead and veto such legislation.

He wouldn’t give a straight answer, instead fumbling through talking points about “existing

laws” that have been ruled insufficient by the courts.

“It’s a simple question; does Greg Abbott support a Texas Equal Pay Act or not?” said Ed Espinoza, Executive Director of Progress Texas. “By refusing to give a straight answer, it should become clear to Texas families

that Greg Abbott cannot be trusted to support Equal Pay.”

The federal version of the law offers protection in federal courts – but does not provide standing in state courts, which can provide more affordable and more timely judgments. This is why 42 other states have passed Equal Pay

laws.

Abbott’s response – that existing state law ensures women are not discriminated against – was discredited by both the Texas Supreme Court and the Fort Worth Court of Appeals have ruled that state law is insufficient, and that

Texas must pass its own version of the Equal Pay Act.

Last fall Greg Abbott said “there is nobody in the state of Texas who has done more to fight to help women I have...”

Well Mr. Abbott, actions speak louder than words.

UTA, continued from Page 6

outcomes and quality, academic policies, and cost and financial aid.

Some of that helps in the College of Business comes from Rebecca Neilson, a retired colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve with 30 years of commissioned service. Neilson is the director of Graduate Business Services in the College of Business.

“The College of Business has great programs,” said Neilson, who teaches leadership and communications in the Goolsby Academy. “Those programs help veterans get to be where they need to be educationally. I point them in the right direction for support.”

Lisa Thompson, senior director of UT Arlington’s TRIO Pre-College Programs, said veterans need specially directed aid and help, which is exactly what the Uni-

versity has provided.

In February, UT Arlington received a \$122,000 grant from JPMorgan Chase to fund educational opportunities for military veterans. The support will enable the University to provide enhanced services to student veterans at the onset of their first academic year.

Two years ago, UT Arlington received a \$1.25 million U.S. Department of Education grant to fund a new Veterans Upward Bound program for five years.

“It’s imperative we help our veterans, many of whom have served multiple tours in combat areas,” Thompson said. “They have a different set of needs than those students coming straight out of high school.”

UT Arlington’s notable efforts to assist veterans with specific programs, include:

The new Student Veterans Assistance Center (VAC), which offers one location for advising, tutoring and counseling, assistance with completing college, financial aid and GI Bill applications.

A collaborative effort between UT Arlington and the Department of Veterans Affairs that has placed a full-time, experienced vocational counselor in the VAC.

A recent College of Nursing federal grant in support of increased enrollment and graduation rates for veterans.

A new School of Social Work program to better serve veterans and active members in the military with mental health needs.

Grants to enhance sports programming for disabled veterans through the UT Arlington wheelchair basketball team, the Movin’ Mavs.

UT Arlington boasts one of the largest populations of student veterans and active

duty military personnel in Texas, Veterans Administration surveys show. The University enrolled about 500 veterans during the 2006-07 academic year. That number more than tripled to 1,564 student veterans in fall 2013.

The Military Times organization comprises Army Times, Navy Times, Air Force Times and Marine Corps Times. The full rankings are available in print, and online at www.militarytimes.com.

The University of Texas at Arlington is a comprehensive research institution of more than 33,300 students and more than 2,200 faculty members in the heart of North Texas. It is the second largest institution in The University of Texas System. Visit www.uta.edu to learn more. Visit www.uta.edu/uta/student-life/veteran-services to learn more about Veteran Services at UT Arlington.

Black male initiative must address America's structural racism

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Washington
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – If President Barack Obama's "My Brother's Keeper" initiative expands educational and work opportunities for young Black and Hispanic males, but fails to address the burdens of structural racism that threaten their lives, the program might not succeed, some community activists believe.

"Let's say they do all the right things, let's say they excel in the classroom, let's say they are involved in community activities, but then they go out on the street and they are harassed by police, profiled and arrested," said Walter Fields, executive editor of the NorthStar News a news website that caters to African American.

"Or they go to college and they get a degree, then they go out on the labor market and they are discriminated against. How do we control that, after you have told these young men that they have to rise above it and be better, then they run into a system that is designed to cut them down?"

President Obama launched the "My Brother's Keeper" initiative in the East Room of the White House, joined by key players in business, philanthropy and public policy. Philanthropic foundations and private corporations have pledged \$200 million dollars over the next five years in an effort to "to make sure that every young man of color who is willing to work hard and lift himself up has an opportunity to get ahead and reach his full potential," the president said.

Obama said that he was inspired to create the initiative following the tragic death of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed, Black teen who was pursued, shot and killed by George Zimmerman, a volunteer neighborhood watchman in Sanford, Fla. Martin's shooting and Zimmerman's ultimate acquittal of murder, sparked nationwide protests and an investigation by the Justice Department.

Since then, a similar case has been in the news.

Michael Dunn, a White com-



puter programmer, shot to death Jordan Davis, another Black teenager in Florida in the parking lot of a Jacksonville, Fla., convenience store following an argument over what Dunn described as "thug music" playing in the teen's SUV.

Like George Zimmerman before him, Dunn was found not guilty of a first-degree murder charge in the death of Davis. Unlike Zimmerman, Dunn was convicted of three counts of attempted murder.

Jawanza Kunjufu, a prominent educated who has written extensively about Black males, said that he's in total support of what the president is doing with his initiative, worries that financial support pledged so far will be enough to prevent more parents from mourning the loss of their young sons due to gun violence.

"I don't know if money could have eliminated what happened to Trayvon Martin and Jordan Davis," said Kunjufu.

While some openly express doubts about the president's new plan, many others applauded President Obama for raising the visibility of the startling racial disparities that exist in education, the labor market and the criminal justice system that cripple a generation that must shoulder the future economic prosperity of a country that has largely forgotten them.

By the time they reach fourth grade, 86 percent of Black boys are reading below grade level compared to 58 percent of White boys who read below proficiency levels. Even though the national

graduation rate for Black males increased from 42 percent to 52 percent from 2001 -2010, according to a report on public education and Black males by the Schott Foundation, "It would take nearly 50 years for Black males to secure the same high school graduation rates as their White male peers."

According to a 2011 report by the Children's Defense Fund, "A Black child is only half as likely as a White child to be placed in a gifted and talented class. A Black child is more than one and a half times as likely as a White child to be placed in a class for students with emotional disturbances."

An overwhelming majority of Black students enrolled in special education programs are males and at the other end of spectrum, White females are least likely to land in special education programs, said Kunjufu. Differences in learning styles between male and female students and an inability of teachers to relate to Black male students contribute to the stigmatization of the group targeted by the president's new initiative.

According to a 2011 study by The National Center for Education Information (NCEI), a private, non-partisan research group in Washington, D.C. 84 percent of public school teachers are White and 7 percent are Black.

Black males account for 10 percent of Black teachers and less than 2 percent of all teachers, White females account for 85 percent of White teachers and more than 70 percent of all teachers.

According to data from the U.S.

Department of Education's Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC), "when out-of-school suspension rates were examined by race, one in five black males and more than one in 10 black females were suspended in 2009-2010 — higher than any other race."

CRDC data also showed that Black students account for 18 percent of national student enrollment and 42 percent of students referred to law enforcement and 35 percent of arrests, compared to White students who account for more than half of all students, 25 percent of law enforcement referrals and 21 percent of arrests.

Kunjufu said that getting more Black male teachers into our nation's classrooms has to be a part any strategy that seeks to provide better educational opportunities and outcomes for young Black males.

"It's very important for students to see teachers that look like them," said Kunjufu. "The question becomes, are school districts and superintendents willing to go the extra mile to recruit African American male teachers?"

Like others who have waited for a targeted program like this from the White House, Ron Daniels, president of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century, a group that works for social, political, economic and reform that impacts the Black community, said that the "My Brother's Keeper" programs have to be multi-faceted.

"It's not just about mentoring. Mentoring by itself won't end these problems," said Daniels. "There will be some who will be

able to change their behavior and to escape and to be successful, but to look for [solutions] alone absent structural issues is to virtually take a Booker T. Washington approach: clean up, brush up, paint up have good values look decent and everything will be fine."

Daniels added: "Well, everything won't be fine. It'll take more than that."

The Black community should not expect the "My Brother's Keeper" initiative to solve those structural issues alone.

Daniels said that Attorney General Eric Holder's aggressive push to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline, to reform mandatory sentencing guidelines, and to reduce the disparities in sentencing between crack and powder cocaine has to work in tandem with the "My Brother's Keeper."

Young Blacks continue to be over-represented in a criminal justice system that cost the United States economy \$57 billion to \$65 billion per year in lost output of goods and services related to depressed wages and underemployment of ex-offenders.

Even as the president urged business and civic leaders, members of the faith community and foundations to support this new initiative he often returned to a "no excuses" message directed squarely at the young Black and Hispanic males as he tip-toed lightly around the structural racism that will likely slow their at success and better lives. It's a message that has generated eye rolling from Black thought leaders throughout his presidency.

"What the president is saying, in a very coded way is that, 'Yeah, we know racism exists, but you have to rise above it,'" said Fields. "I don't know how you rise above it. We've never risen above it. We've managed it, but we've never truly risen above it."

Fields continued: "The difficulty in offering this critique is that there is so little done for this population that you hate to criticize anything that is done [them]. But when it comes from the most powerful elected official in the world, we have to hold him to a higher standard."

Whitaker's Wonderful Wit and Wisdom

By Kam Williams
Special to the NNPA from
the Afro-American Newspaper

Forest Whitaker is a distinguished artist and humanist. He is the founder of PeaceEarth Foundation, co-founder and chair of the International Institute for Peace and since 2011 served as UN-ESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Peace and Reconciliation.

He is also a talented, versatile performer and one of Hollywood's most accomplished figures. He has received prestigious artistic distinctions including the 2006 Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance in *The Last King of Scotland* as Ugandan dictator Idi Amin.

Whitaker has dedicated most of his time the past decade to extensive humanitarian work. His social awareness has compelled him to seek ways of using the film medium as a means to raise peoples' consciousness. To that end, he produced the award-winning documentary *Kassim the Dream*, which tells the poignant story of a Ugandan child soldier turned world championship boxer; *Rising From Ashes*, which profiles genocide survivors of the Rwandan war who have risen from wooden bicycles to competing in the Olympics; *Serving Life*, which focuses on hospice care for prisoners at Louisiana's Angola Prison; and the Emmy-nominated and Peabody Award-winning *Brick City*, which takes a look at life in inner-city Newark, New Jersey.

In 2007, he received the Cinema for Peace Award for his selfless and ongoing advocacy for child soldiers, as well as for his work with inner-city youth. The following year, he served as a member of the Urban Policy Committee and currently sits on the board of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH).

In 2013, Boston University's Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center appointed Forest as a Martin Luther King Jr. Fellow. In addition, he currently serves as a Senior Research Scholar at Rutgers University, and as a Visiting Professor at Ringling College of Art and Design.

Here, he talks about his latest



Forest Whitaker, in a scene from his new film *Repentance*, portrays the grief of his character, Angel Sanchez. Photo by Patti Perrett (Courtesy Photo/Rottentomatoes.com)

movie, *Repentance*, a psychological thriller co-starring Anthony Mackie, Sanaa Lathan, Nicole Ari Parker, and Mike Epps.

Kam Williams: Hey, Forest. Great to talk to you again.

Forest Whitaker: Same here, Kam.

KW: I don't know whether you noticed that I named *The Butler* the No. 1 film of the year on my Top 100 list for 2013.

FW: Wow! Thanks a lot for that.

KW: It was also No. 1 on my annual Blacktrospective, where I named you the No. 1 Black actor of the year.

FW: Thanks for the support. I appreciate that.

KW: I really enjoyed this new movie, *Repentance*. Although it is a little different, for some reason it reminded me of an art house film of yours many people might have missed called *Ripple Effect*.

FW: It's very different, in a way, because my character in *Ripple Effect* was very actualized. In that case, he totally forgave the lead character played by Philippe Caland, who happens to be the director of this movie.

KW: I didn't realize that.

FW: Yeah, Philippe's character in *Ripple Effect* was tormented and unable to move past the things he'd done in his past. So, it's a similar thematic.

KW: I have a lot of questions

from fans. Let's start with Editor/Legist Patricia Turnier who asks: What interested you in producing and starring in *Repentance*?

FW: I'd say the fact that it's a movie that talks about dealing with your past issues and past pain, and being able to move forward in the future from that. I think that's a lesson that we all have to deal with and learn from. In addition, the film offered me a great opportunity to do a really interesting character with an amazing cast of actors, and to be directed by a friend and associate, one of my partners. We own a company together. So, a lot of things came together to make this happen for us.

KW: What message do you think people will take away from *Repentance*?

FW: Understanding and searching for the truth by dealing with issues from the past, by taking them out and allowing them to be present so that you can move past them or with them into your future. I think this film suggests it's possible to address even those hidden secrets that we keep sequestered under the rug of our minds.

KW: Vassar Film Professor Mia Mask asks: How do you prepare for a role? What steps do you take to understand and become Angel Sanchez?

FW: I read a number of different books and articles on mental illness... about schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, medications and

issues surrounding those topics. And I also did some interviews with people dealing with those things. So, that helped shaped part of Angel. For the rest of it, I tried to look at grief and pain. I wanted to understand the stages of grief, and the escalation that might happen if this person was in deep pursuit of the truth about the loss of his mother, and then you put the other stuff on top of that. So, I just kept piling it on until it started to leak out in the movie.

KW: Harriet Pakula-Teweles says: Thank you for *The Butler* — your performance and that of the great ensemble cast made the movie truly memorable. What consideration enters into your decision to take on a role?

FW: I think every character bears it, but I'd like to know that the movie's going to shed some more light on our humanity, and open up another door for me. I think the biggest thing that motivates me when I'm choosing a part is a role that will help me continue to grow as a person and as an artist, and a role that will deepen my understanding of humanity, and my connection to it.

KW: Environmental activist Grace Sinden says: I loved you in *The Butler*. Is there a particular role that you would like to do next, if you could choose any one you want?

FW: Well, I've been playing around and toying with doing the Louie Armstrong story. I've developed a script we've been working on. It still may happen. That's interesting to me. Otherwise, I'm just looking for characters that continue to make me stretch and grow and learn more about the human condition.

KW: Jazz pianist Steve Kramer, who played with Artie Shaw, says: Man, I would love to talk to you about the making of *Bird*. I was a friend of Chan, Charlie Parker's wife. Long before you played *Bird*, Hollywood expressed an interest in having Richard Pryor play Parker. Chan did not want him to play Parker because at the time Pryor was having problems with drugs and shooting up cars. Chan always wanted *Bird's* story to be more about his music and his

more stable side when he wasn't so hopped up. So one thing I would love to know is, what was it like meeting Chan Parker and did she play any of the secret tapes she has of *Bird* that I was privy to hear.

FW: Well, she gave some of those to Clint [director of *Bird*, Clint Eastwood]. But I did have an opportunity to spend some time with her and to talk with her at length. She also gave me a copy of her book *To Bird with Love*. I read that and spoke with some other people I met through her. She and the musicians I met were very helpful to me in terms of understanding Charlie Parker and formulating the character.

KW: Steve says: Another thing I'd like to ask is, how has being an actor made you a better person, and how difficult is it to balance a personal life with the life of a working actor? Do relationships and family suffer?

FW: I think it's allowed me to understand more about myself, and to understand more about others. In that way, it has helped me better myself, and expand myself. As far as family, it's always difficult to be away, which a film career calls for. You're often away for months at a time. You have to try to find a balance by having your loved ones on location with you or you can go back to visit them. There's also the phone, Skype and other things of that nature. It's a struggle, but this isn't the only profession that has to deal with adverse conditions. For instance, I met a cab driver who hasn't been back home for years. I'm lucky that I don't have that kind of distance from my family.

KW: Documentary filmmaker Kevin Williams would like to know what you learned from being directed by Clint Eastwood in *Bird*.

FW: I think Clint trusts himself completely. I came to appreciate that kind of trust that he has in the artists and his choices that allows you to feel like you're walking in some form of grace. I think the other thing would be that he's worked with his crews for so many years, for 15, 20, sometimes 25 years. As a result they truly op-

See WHITAKER, Page 16

SBA offers online training for how to prepare government contract proposals

The Small Business Administration offers many courses to assist small businesses.

One of those courses is How To Prepare Government Contract Proposals.

This course explains the government's contract-solicitation process and describes

how to prepare a proposal in response.

This on-line course is available at no cost along with a workbook and/or text-based course at <http://www.sba.gov/tools/sba-learning-center/training/how-prepare-government-contract-proposals>.

The objectives for this course are two-fold: (1) to help small businesses understand the types of solicitations and contracts used by the federal government and, (2) to learn how to respond appropriately to government solicitations with proposals that win contracts.

Is your financial advisor really your friend?

The importance of money is impressed upon most Americans as soon as we're old enough to buy candy. But the importance of money management is an entirely different story, says self-made millionaire Mike Finley.

"Think about all that we do to prepare children for the world; we fill them up with things we think are most important for doing well as adults and spend tens of thousands of dollars for higher ed-

ucation, but they never take a class on how to manage personal finances," says Finley, author of "Financial Happiness\$," (www.thecrazymaninthepinkwig.com), which discusses his journey to financial literacy and applying the principles that allowed him to retire from the Army a wealthy man.

"Our culture celebrates privacy and self determination, which is why, I think, we don't want to tell students how they

should spend their money, but I think young people are hungry for guidance."

Seventy-six percent of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, according to a recent CashNetUSA survey. That percentage varies with other studies; however, the percentage never dips below at least 50 percent of Americans who have very little in savings, says Finley, whose voluntary night class

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SOLVING, continued from Page 3

tax base as well.

Too many large companies pay wages so persistently low that many of their employees have to turn to food banks or food stamps and other public assistance for the most basic essentials. This means companies that could pay higher minimum wages, but aren't, are being heavily subsidized by taxpayers.

Moreover, when the minimum wage stays too low, the gap between companies like mine that are trying to do the right thing and the larger companies that are paying as low as they can, gets greater and greater. A growing gap makes it harder for businesses like mine to compete.

There's no reason for businesses to be paying a minimum wage of just \$7.25 an hour — \$15,080 a year for full-time work. After all, that's the same minimum wage that businesses paid in 1950, adjusted for inflation. This is 2014, not 1950!

Between 1950 and 1968, the minimum wage increased in real inflation-adjusted value, giving us stronger ground to anchor our income ladder to

the middle class.

But since 1968, the minimum wage has been allowed to lose about a third of its value, leaving even full-time workers in poverty and the rungs of the middle class further out of reach for a growing number of working families.

We need to raise the minimum wage so full-time workers can get out of poverty and we can rebuild the consumer demand that drives our economy.

As a business owner, I support the proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2016, and then adjust it annually to keep up with the cost of living. Indexing the minimum wage to the Consumer Price Index will make wages much more predictable for businesses.

Better wages at the bottom helped my business succeed. A better minimum wage will help our nation succeed.

Gina Schaefer is the owner of A Few Cool Hardware Stores, a group of nine Ace Hardware stores in Washington DC and Maryland.

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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The Chateau on Wildbriar Lake
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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. Greenview 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 Barbershop
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

Carry The Load announces 2014 National Relay route

Carry The Load announced today the dates for its 2014 National Relay, which will begin on April 29 in West Point, NY, and end with its 20 hours and 14 minutes Memorial March in Dallas, TX, during Memorial Day weekend on May 25-26. The vision of Carry

The Load is to restore the true meaning of Memorial Day by connecting Americans to the sacrifices of our military, law enforcement, firefighters, and rescue personnel, and to support charitable organizations around the country that help them and their families.

"What was meant to be a day of remembering the sacrifices of our fallen military men and women has become a weekend of sales, barbecues and mini-vacations," said Clint Bruce, co-founder of Carry The Load. "And though it is a wonderful weekend to celebrate

family and the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, the true purpose of Carry The Load calls all of us to 'never forget to remember' those who made that ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms."

This year, Carry The Load will log more than

See CARRY, Page 13

TAX, continued from Page 1

The IRS generally gives you a three-year window to go back and file a past year's tax return if you want to claim an unpaid refund. For example, to collect a refund for 2010 you have until April 15, 2014, to file a 2010 return. After that, the money becomes the property of the U.S. Treasury.

You can order prior year tax forms at www.irs.gov or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676). If you're missing any supplementary paperwork (e.g., W-2 or 1099 forms), you'll need to request copies from your employer, bank or other payer. If that doesn't work, file IRS Form 4506-T to request a free transcript showing information from these year-end documents.

Keep in mind that if you file to collect a refund on your 2010 taxes but have not also filed tax returns for 2011 and 2012, the IRS may hold onto the refund until you file those subsequent returns. Also, past refunds will be applied to any amounts you still owe to the IRS or your state tax agency, and may be used to offset unpaid child support or past-due federal debts, such as student loans.

Another good reason to consider going back and filing a previous year's tax return: the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Chances are, if the reason you didn't file a return was because you didn't earn enough to owe taxes, you may have been eligible for the EITC,

a "refundable" tax credit for low- to moderate income working taxpayers. ("Refundable" means that if you owe less in tax than your eligible credit, you not only pay no tax but also get a refund for the difference.)

As an example, for tax year 2010, a married couple filing jointly with three or more qualifying children whose adjusted gross income was less than \$48,263 were eligible for an EITC of up to \$5,666. To find out how EITC works and whether you qualify, consult IRS.gov.

For the rest of us, April 15 looms as the deadline for filing our 2013 taxes. At the very least you should request a filing extension by then; otherwise the penalty on any taxes you owe increases dramatically.

Typically you'll have to pay an additional 5 percent of taxes owed for each full or partial month you're late, plus interest, up to a maximum penalty of 25 percent. However, if you file your return or request an extension on time, the penalty drops tenfold to 0.5 percent per month, plus interest.

Bottom line: If you skipped filing a tax return in the last three years, go back and crunch the numbers – you may be pleasantly surprised by a hefty refund.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To participate in a free, online Financial Literacy and Education Summit on April 2, 2014, go to www.practical-moneyskills.com/submit2014.

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ADVISER, continued from Page 11

on financial literacy at the University of Northern Iowa is always packed beyond capacity.

Finley identifies your best allies -- and the voices that do not have your best interests at heart -- when it comes to money management:

Do trust:

Your No. 1 advocate -- you: "It's not simply how much money you make, it's what you do with it," Finley says. The best thing you can do right now is to educate yourself so you can make sound financial decisions. A great start is to embrace the concept of paying yourself. Put away at least 20 percent of your income for your future, which requires a lifestyle of living below your means.

Real teachers -- Most people want something from you, but some truly want to give. Finley, who regularly volunteers instructional time to veterans, current military personnel and youth, says to identify the people you can trust, who sincerely want to educate you. Look for classes at local colleges; workshops sponsored by nonprofit organizations, and even websites geared to improving your money decisions, including SaveandInvest.org, MrMoneyMustache.com and JaneBryantQuinn.com.

Beware:

Most financial advisors -- If you want to learn about a car you're thinking about buying, would you go to the car salesman trying to earn commission or an objective third party? A salesman wants your money, but Consumer Reports, for example, has to earn the public's trust with objective, reliable information. Most financial advisors, especially those employed by massive, nationwide firms, are trying to sell prepackaged financial products. Independent advisors are a better option, but if you're financially illiterate, it can be hard to determine whether or not they

have your best interests at heart.

Advertisements -- Advertisers are not just selling products -- they're trying to sell happiness. What do you see in commercials for iPads and tablets? You see young, exuberant, smart-looking and stylish people. Nearly from the cradle, we're exposed to advertising messages that promise we'll be happier, better people if we purchase the products and services advertised. But an iPad won't make you more exuberant or stylish. Learn to view advertising messages with a discriminating eye so that you purchase what you truly need -- not what they tell you to need.

Mike Finley is the author of "Financial Happiness\$," (www.thecrazymenintheinkwig.com) and teaches a popular financial literacy class at the University of Northern Iowa.

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Qualified Candidates who are self motivated and top performers must apply online.

www.hobbylobby.com
EOE

CARRY, continued from Page 12

2,000 miles across the nation with relay points in more than 230 cities. Carry The Load encourages people in communities and towns throughout the route to join the National Relay

in an effort to remember the true meaning of Memorial Day and share "who they are carrying." This year's national non-profit partners are Team RWB, TAPS, Snowball

Express and Heroes on the Water.

"Through the efforts of Carry The Load, we are all able to express our respect and admiration for those who sacrifice for us every day," added Bruce.

Visit CarryTheLoad.org

to join the National Relay, make a donation, or to share your story.

The website provides a town-by-town overview, lists activities planned in local cities, and highlights the progress of the cross-country event.

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sources and assistance for
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**March 16
9:30 a.m.**

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

March 19

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

Brother Ramon Hodridge,
Minister of Education
1026 Avenue F
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

**BETHEL BIBLE
FELLOWSHIP**

March 16, 9:45 a.m.

You're invited to our Sun-
day worship Service as we
Study the Word of God,
praise and worship Him for
all of His blessings. Our
mission is to empower indi-
viduals to live like Christ.

March 19, 7 p.m.

Join us for Bible Study

Night; we are studying the
Book of Matthew at this
time.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,
Senior Pastor
1944 E. Hebron Parkway
Carrollton, TX 75007
972-492-4300
www.bethelbiblefellow-
ship.org

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BAPTIST CHURCH**

March 16, 8 a.m.

Today is "Old Fashion Day,
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day School at 9:30 a.m. and
stay for Morning Worship
Service as we praise God
for all of His blessings.

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

**CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH
IN RICHARDSON**

**March 16, 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.

Dr. Terrence Autry,
Senior Pastor
George Bush Fwy at

Jupiter Road on the
Garland/Richardson Border
972-991-0200
www.followpeace.org

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March 2014

For those in need visit
Helen's House Tuesdays
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to receive, to give, to com-
fort and to fellowship.

Pastor Minnie
Hawthorne-Ewing
635 W. Campbell Road
Suite 210
Richardson, TX 75080
972-480-0200

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**Monday – Friday
9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

TheShip3C's Prayer Lines
for those that are in need are
972-649-0566 and 972-649-
0567 or they may be sub-
mitted via email to: prayer-
line@theship3c.org

For Community help the
Assistance Center serves
Collin County by respond-
ing to people in crisis for
emergency shelter, clothing,
food, and access to medi-
cine and medical services

for county residents. Call
the church or Allen's City
Hall for details.

March 16, 8 a.m.

Join us in Early Worship at
200 W. Belmont Drive loca-
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.

March 19, 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
1550 Edelweiss Drive
In Allen for Sunday
Morning Worship.
Admin. Building Address
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Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

**SHILOH MBC
IN PLANO**

**March 16
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.

March 19, 7 p.m.

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

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

**THE INSPIRING BODY
OF CHRIST CHURCH**

March 16, 7:30 a.m.

You're invited to join us as
we worship, honor and
magnify God's Holy name.

March 17 p.m.

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

We will worship Him and
praise His Holy name.

March 17-21, 7 p.m.

Join us as we "Tithe Our
Time" to the Word of God
as He inspire us and we
bless His Holy Name.

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
https://ibocchurch.org

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and prayer does change
people, things and situa-
tions.

Dr. Gregory E. Voss,
Senior Pastor
2765 Trinity Mills Road
Building 300
Carrollton, TX 75006
214-514-9147

www.theship3c.org Fellowship Christian Center Church 972-359-9956

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National Women's History Month



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

March is "Women's History Month"; its 2014 theme celebrates women with courage and commitment.

To celebrate strong women who have made, or who are making a difference I will highlight facts about Black Women and their contribution to mankind this month. Thank God for Godly women of this world.

Throughout history, Black women have made contributions to our society. Unfortunately, most of the time, you will not find their stories in America's history books.

Cathay Williams, because of an error in correctly understanding her name, became William Cathay (a male soldier.) According to an Army doctor; William Cathay enlisted in the United States Regular Army as a Buffalo Soldier in 1866.

The Army surgeon exam-

ined William Cathay, the recruit, but failed to realize that William Cathay was a female and not a male; the surgeon determined the recruit fit for duty and assigned William Cathay to the 38th U.S. Infantry; it was established in August 1866.

Cathay Williams (the female) was 22 years old, 5'9" tall with black hair, black eyes and black complexion. The surgeon did not realize that William Cathay was a female.

In March 1869, after William Cathay's disability discharge in 1868, the 38th and 41st Infantries were consolidated into the historically familiar African-American 24th and 25th Infantries.

Cathay Williams carved a small, but symbolically important place in the history of American women, in the history of African American women and in the history of the United States Army.

She was the only woman to serve in the U.S. Regular Army in the 19th Century. To date, she is the only documented Black woman who served in the U.S. Army prior to the official introduction of women.

Nannie Helen Burroughs was one of the best known

and well-respected African Americans of the early twentieth century. She was called 'The Black Goddess of Liberty'. She was an educator, institution and organization-builder and a major figure in the Black church and secular feminist movement.

In 1900, at the annual meeting of the National Baptist Convention (NBC)

in Virginia, Burroughs gave a speech, "How the Sisters are Hindered from Helping."

This oration gained her national recognition and served as a lightning rod for the formation of the largest Black women's organization in the United States, the Woman's Convention (WC) an auxiliary to the NBC.

Furthermore, in 1896,

Burroughs joined other women and formed the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) to promote political mobilization of Black women.

Burroughs became a much sought after participant, particularly by the Republican Party. When Herbert Hoover was elected President in 1928, he chose Burroughs to head a fact-finding commission on housing. In 1909, she founded the National Training School for Women and Girls, which was renamed the Nannie Helen Burroughs School in 1964.

Annie Onieta Plummer was dubbed "The Dictionary Lady"; she was born in 1936; the fifth of twelve children. In 1992, she noticed that many school children in Savannah, Georgia were not carrying any books.

On her own initiative, she invested 50 dollars in 30

pocket dictionaries and proceeded to hand them out on the street corner. Her project gained nationwide attention and was emulated in other areas and mushroomed.

Always aware of the value of education, she went back to school at the age of 42. In each dictionary she handed out, she inscribed the motto of the United Negro College Fund, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste," supplemented by her personal message, and "I challenge you not to waste yours."

"I saw the children with no books. I wondered what I could do to help." "Children need to know that people of all races have made contributions to society. That should be integrated into all curriculums, every day—not just during Black History Month in February." --Annie Onieta Plummer.



Cathay Williams, the only woman to serve in the U.S. Regular Army in the 19th Century and a Buffalo Soldier.

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NDG book review: *Charly's Epic Fiascos: Beware of Boys*

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Warm fuzzies.

That's what you get when you help someone. You feel good because you did some good. Honestly, it's sometimes hard to know who benefits more from your good deed – you, or the person on the receiving end.

But sometimes, even the best intentions get out of hand, as you'll see in the new novel *Charly's Epic Fiascos: Beware of Boys* by Kelli London.

As the star of TV's Extreme Dream Team reality show, Charly St. James should've known better than to make a scene in a crowded store. She knew how to deal with fans, but when a bunch of them swarmed her and things got out of hand, there was really no reason that some handsome boy grabbed her and

dragged her out of the fray. He deserved her attitude, for sure.

Still, that wasn't the way Charly wanted to meet the singer Mēkel. It wasn't the way she wanted him to know her, either – especially when she learned that she'd been chosen to work with him, boxer Lex, and actor Faizon on a splashy special project for sick inner-city girls. It was an opportunity of a lifetime, made even more appealing when Charly's boss, Mr. Day, told her that this project would lead to a spin-off show of her very own. How could she pass that up?

She couldn't, but she hated Mēkel for being a jerk.

Lex was awesome and energetic. Faizon was funny, smart, and Charly was eager to see him on-screen and in person. The

boys introduced her to their entourage: Bobsy, who had a chip on his shoulder; Eden, the chaperone; and Coop, who seemed dangerous but totally trustworthy.

As the project started to get off the ground, however, Charly began to think that she'd made a mistake by getting involved. There was something odd about how the three boys interacted, and there was tension all over the place. Something wasn't as it seemed, and it threatened to destroy everything – but what was wrong? Was there something of which Charly needed to beware?

Looking for a novel that's not too complicated; not filled with slang, sex, or shootings; and that's really not too bad? You and your teen may find it in "Charly's Epic Fiascos: Beware of Boys" – that is, if you can

ignore that this story of a girl who has a "reality show" has very little reality in it.

Yes, the plot line is quite far-fetched, but what's good about this series is that author Kelli London has, over time, made Charly into a strong role model. Charly takes no hassle, strives to make a difference, is responsible, and she knows her own mind. I think that's a vast improvement over the first book in the series, and it's what keeps me reading. See? Not. Bad.

While boys can surely read this book, it's meant for 12-to-16-year-old girls who want something sassy-but-spotless, and for moms who want an escape to share. Give your teen "Charly's Epic Fiascos: Beware of Boys" and you'll generally do good.



WHIYAKER, continued from Page 10

erate like a well-oiled machine. That's a great insight to learn about the relationships you want to nurture and maintain.

KW: Kevin also asks: When did you realize that you could carry a film as the star?

FW: I guess it would be around the time I made Bird, because, although I wasn't all that confident about my performance, it was the first time I was allowed to be the focal point of a film.

KW: Mike Pittman asks: When did you get your first big break as an actor?

FW: My first big break? I think The Color of Money was very instrumental in opening up other opportunities. People started to recognize me as an artist after that film. And then, after I did Bird, it was more solidified.

KW: Reverend Florine Thompson asks: Did playing The Butler make you more empathetic toward our ancestors?

FW: Yeah. I think one of the great things Lee did was humanize his characters in a way that they could experience all these emotions as they walked through history. As a result, I came away with a deeper understanding, an in-dwelling, a knowing that I didn't have before, as opposed to its just being an intellectual or

emotional exercise.

KW: Reverend Thompson also asks: Was making The Butler a "game changer" for you spiritually, emotionally or politically?

FW: Working on the film, a transcendent space was created for me that I was able to carry to my next film. So, in that respect, it served as a catalyst for change in my work. Certainly, it was also a solidi-

fier of an understanding of social justice in my life.

KW: The Pastor Alex Kendrick question: When do you feel the most content?

FW: It varies. It's a wave that comes over you. Sometimes, it comes from just sitting still quietly in the moment.

Or it can be the feeling you get looking out a window at a tree while riding in

the back a car. It's not a permanent space. It's a place that moves with me differ-

ent places that I go in my life. It happens quite often. I feel it in my skin.

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