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Advances for infants with hearing implants

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Soul Sistah expo slated to be held on June 7

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Tyler Perry sues over studio fire incident

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Jail time for 'stealing education'

A courageous mother shares a heartbreaking story

By Richard B. Muhammad
Special to the NNPA
from *The Final Call*

CHICAGO (FinalCall.com) — When an Ohio judge sentenced Kelley Williams-Bolar to jail for enrolling children in a suburban school district where their grandfather lived sharp words were spoken. “I will make an example out of you,” said the judge.

She was right.

Ms. Williams-Bolar is an example of a courageous Black woman who feared for the safety of her children when her Akron home was burglarized and a mother who wanted her children to have a good education.

She shared her story May 10 at Metropolitan Apostolic Church, welcomed by the Rev. Leon Finney, Jr., at a program organized by Phil Jackson and the Black Star Project, a group devoted to making sure Black children are properly educated.

Ms. Williams-Bolar, with teenage daughter Jada by her side, brought the audience to tears as she shared the ordeal—and how her father,



Kelley Williams-Bolar comforts daughter Jada during emotional part of her story.

who paid taxes in the school district—died in prison but was defiant to the end. The daughter and father were accused of fraud and theft.

Ms. Williams-Bolar was working

with special needs students at a public school, had never been in trouble and was going to school part-time after a divorce. Her home was bro-

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COMMENTARY

Housing recovery bypasses Blacks and Latinos

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA Columnist

data using zip codes in metropolitan areas.

Scholars from several of the nation’s most-esteemed colleges and universities jointly concluded that the nation’s so-called housing “recovery” is bypassing communities of color and working-class neighborhoods. Underwater America, their new report, analyzed negative equity and foreclosure

According to the report, nearly one in 10 Americans or — 28.7 million — live in the 100 hardest hit cities from the housing crisis. Among the 395 hardest-hit zip codes across the country, Blacks and Latinos represent at least half of that population. And in 57 cities, at least 30 percent of all

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People In The News...

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Purity Macharia



Dr. Maya Angelou



Cornell William Brooks

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

Purity Macharia

Imagine trying to hear a conversation through heavy-industrial earmuffs — the kind used for jack-hammering or hunting.

The noise may reach your ears, but understanding speech is nearly impossible.

For one young girl, this kind of muffled and unintelligible noise was her reality. Born with a medical condition called congenital aural atresia with microtia, Purity Macharia, 5, has malformed outer ears. The opening to the ear canal — the tunnel which allows sound to



travel to the middle and inner ear — is completely closed. Her inner ear is perfectly healthy and capable of receiving sound.

"It has been estimated that 1 in 10,000 to 20,000

people will be born with this type of medical condition," said Dr. Jeffrey Martin, clinical assistant professor in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences and head of audiology at the Callier Center for Communication Disorders, where Purity is a patient. "In Purity's case, the direct pathway for speech to reach the inner ear is simply obstructed."

Fortunately, there are wearable hearing devices that bypass the outer ear structures and transmit sound directly to the inner ear by vibrating the skull.

Purity Macharia, who was

born with malformed outer ears, is shown wearing her old hearing device, which was prone to breaking and had inferior software that affected her speech.

"These hearing aids work on the bone conduction of sound," Martin said.

Purity had an older version of this device that was prone to breaking and had two-decades-old software. The poor quality of the hearing provided was noticeable in her speech development. When the device broke, as it often did, it would take weeks to repair. Although her father is fully employed as a commercial

truck driver, the family could not afford replacement devices, which cost about \$5,000 each.

"Prior to receiving the new device, Purity's speech included many articulation errors — mostly deleting or substituting high-frequency consonant sounds like 's' and 'th'," said Dr. Shawna Jackson, the audiologist working with Purity.

Thanks to the Callier Care Fund, Purity was given a brand new Oticon Ponto Pro hearing aid last October with the capability to filter out noise and provide clearer sounds. A recent manufacturer's up-

grade has given Purity's device Bluetooth capabilities. The new capabilities allow Purity to talk with her father on the phone remotely, connect directly to her school's FM system in class and receive clear communications from her teachers.

"After just four months with the new device, her speech improvement was remarkable," Jackson said. "She was not only talking with more confidence, the clarity of her speech was apparent even with difficult-to-pronounce words. The improvement she made

See MACHARIA, Page 10

Dr. Maya Angelou

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson Mourns the Passing of Literary Icon Dr. Maya Angelou:

Washington, DC — "Today (Wednesday), Dr. Maya Angelou, award-winning writer, poet, and civil rights activist, died at age 86. Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson released the following statement in honor of the life and contributions of Dr. Maya Angelou:

"I am deeply saddened by the passing of the literary icon, Maya Angelou. She dedicated her life to the empowerment of others



Photo: Sven Mangard / Wikimedia

through her inspirational poetry and sophisticated literary works.

"Maya Angelou was a trailblazer for women and poets around the world. She worked as a civil rights ac-

tivist, alongside both Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X, to help usher in historic change throughout the nation. As a newly elected Member of Congress, I had the great honor of being present during her reading of "On the Pulse of Morning" at President Clinton's inauguration in 1993. She was the first African American woman to have that honor, and the first poet, since Robert Frost, to read at an inauguration in more than three decades. These are testaments to the extraordinary impact she had on American society.

"Today, we lost a great

teacher, mentor, leader and American. Maya Angelou's creative works and poems are timeless.

"Her influence will be felt for generations to come. We will continue to revisit and reflect upon her words for years to come."

Congressman Marc Veasey (TX-33), Member of the Congressional Black Caucus, released the following statement marking the passing of Dr. Maya Angelou:

"A talented and remarkable woman, Dr. Maya Angelou dedicated her life to making a difference in the lives of others. I can remember reading her poetry

as a young man and feeling deeply connected with the words that continue to speak to the conscience of our nation.

"Dr. Angelou taught us to fight for equality, love, and social justice. She inspired us to unlock the greatness within each of us.

"We must honor her life and legacy by lifting up others just as she has lifted us."

Marguerite Johnson was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 4, 1928.

She later picked up the nickname "Mya" from her older brother Bailey Jr.

She took up the professional name "Maya An-

gelou" in 1954 while dancing and singing professionally in the San Francisco area.

Angelou met civil rights legend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1960 after moving to New York to pursue her writing career.

She was deeply active in politics, campaigning for Hillary Clinton and then Barack Obama in the 2008 election when she proclaimed, "We are growing up beyond the idiocies of racism and sexism."

Angelou had canceled several engagements recently due to declining health.

Cornell William Brooks

By George E. Curry
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — When Rev. Frederick D. Haynes III of Dallas, Texas learned that the NAACP Board of Directors had chosen Cornell William Brooks over him, Attorney Barbara R. Arnwine and several other better known candidates to succeed outgoing president Benjamin Todd Jealous, his response was "Who?"

And he wasn't the only one responding that way.

In an interview from Florida, where trustees had just made their selection, a board member who asked not to be identified by name



said, "We turned the whole nation into a collection of owls," he said. "When they learned of our decision, everyone in the country was saying, 'Who? Who? Who?'"

Though he is not among the Who's Who of national civil rights advocates, Brooks feels his entire life has prepared him to become

president and CEO of the NAACP. He graduated from Jackson State University in Mississippi with honors, earned a Master of Divinity degree with a concentration in systematic theology from Boston University School of Theology—where Dr. Martin Luther King earned his Ph.D. in the same area of study — and graduated from Yale Law School, serving as a senior editor of the Yale Law Journal and a member of the Yale Law and Policy Review.

After serving as a law clerk for Judge Sam J. Irvin III on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, Brooks' first job was as an attorney at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law headed by Bar-

bara Arnwine. He later worked as an attorney for the Justice Department, a senior attorney for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and was executive director of the Fair Housing Council of Greater Washington, D.C.

His most recent job was as president of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, a Newark-based organization founded in 1999 by the Alan V. and Amy Lowenstein Foundation. According to its website, the institute seeks to expand economic opportunity for people of color and low-income residents; promotes holding local, state and regional government accountable for fulfilling the needs

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Brown vs. Board of Education revisited

By Bob Franklin
North Dallas, TX Democrat Women

May marks the 60th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Often considered among the most important decisions ever handed down by the Court, its impact goes far beyond the civil rights issues that it is best known for. It is also a case of historic importance in the expansion of the Supreme Court as a policy making institution of government, and further establishes the Court as not just a judicial body, but a powerful political body with the ability to create solutions to social problems, rather than the earlier passive position as an institution that merely approved or disapproved of the actions of the dominant two branches of government.

The constitutional issue that lies at the heart of *Brown* was established in 1868 with the ratification of the 14th

amendment following the end of the Civil War. The relevant portion of that amendment contains the language that no states "shall deprive any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." These words, as straight forward as they appear today, required years of review over the interpretation of the amendment, as well as significant evolution as to its application.

In 1875, Congress enacted the first major Civil Rights Act, which required that all persons were to enjoy equal access to such amenities as transportation, lodging and theaters. Opponents to the Act brought lawsuits attacking its constitutionality, claiming that the 14th amendment must be interpreted very narrowly, or else it violated the 10th amendment rights of states. The Supreme Court decisions in these early lawsuits adopted the narrowest interpretation of the 14th amendment in a series of holdings is-

sued in 1882. Collectively, these decisions held that the 14th amendment restrains only State action. The operation of transportation, lodging and public amusement facilities were private businesses, and not governed by the 14th amendment.

The Court further stated that private acts of racial discrimination were simply private wrongs that the national government was powerless to correct. Based upon the narrow interpretation, states adopted policies that attempted to continue segregation in areas outside state control.

An 1890 Louisiana law established that railroads must provide equal, but separate accommodations for 'white' and 'colored' railroad passengers. Since the Court had established that amenities such as transportation were private businesses, the 14th amendment need not apply to them.

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HOUSING, continued from Page 1

mortgaged homes are still underwater, defined as owing more on their loans than their homes are now worth.

Published by the Haas Institute for Diversity and Inclusion at the University of California at Berkeley, the report's authors come from Occidental College, Nathan Cummings Foundation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, The New School and George Washington University.

Commenting on Underwater America, John A. Powell [Yes, that's how he writes it], Haas Institute Director and Professor of Law, Ethnic and African-American Studies at UC-Berkeley, said, "The Underwater America report is important because it reveals that a large part of the country is not only not recovering, it is largely being ignored. These are disproportionately Black and Latino communities."

Today, homeownership represents 92 percent of the net worth for Blacks and 67 percent for Latinos. Whites, by comparison, only have 58 percent of their wealth in their homes. And despite rising home prices in many areas of the country, owner-occupied housing still remains \$3.2 trillion below 2006 levels.

By examining trends by zip codes, the new report determined which states had the highest housing hardships. In order of severity they are: Georgia (61), Florida (55), Illinois (47), Michigan (38), Ohio (33), New Jersey (32), Maryland (24), Missouri (21), California (17), Nevada (10) and North Carolina (10).

The zip code analysis also revealed

negative housing patterns in specific city neighborhoods. Again, ranked by the rate of severity, the following cities had serious and multiple neighborhood problems: Las Vegas, Atlanta, Jacksonville (Fla.), Orlando, Chicago, Tampa, Detroit, Miami, Memphis, Virginia Beach, Riverside (Calif.), Kansas City (Mo.), St. Louis, Cleveland and Milwaukee.

For example, in Atlanta, more than 400,000 consumers remain underwater on their mortgages. Another 5,400 homeowners in 2013 went into either default or foreclosure. Additionally, the market's home prices are still 27 percent below their peak levels.

"These challenges faced by cities represent opportunities for communities to empower themselves to save their homes, their neighborhoods and restore their community's wealth," added Powell.

The irony to this still-unfolding saga is that over succeeding generations, buying a home was a reliable gateway to building wealth and financial security. Owning a home 'free and clear' was a cause for celebration attested to family financial security.

But as earlier research by the Center for Responsible Lending, which was cited in the Haas report, revealed, the years leading up to the housing crisis found communities of color – Black and Latino – targeted for high-cost, risky loans even when borrowers qualified for lower-cost and more sustainable mortgages. Instead of earning home equity, many borrowers of color

lost thousands of dollars in what is often the single largest investment of a lifetime.

Underwater America states, "For African-American and Latinos specifically between 2005 and 2009, they experienced a decline in household wealth of 52 percent and 66 percent, respectively, compared to 16 percent for whites. This reflects, in large part, disparities in foreclosure rates among these groups, since for most Americans, and particularly for people of color, their homes are their largest source of wealth."

According to Powell, "These challenges faced by cities represent opportunities for communities to empower themselves to save their homes, their neighborhoods and restore their community's wealth."

The report recommends remedies that include a defined role for non-profit organizations in addition to efforts by governments and banks. The three stakeholder groups working together could and should reverse the losses of recent years.

According to Saqib Bhatti, one of the report's authors and a fellow with the Nathan Cummings Foundation, "We believe that if banks are unwilling or unable to write down underwater mortgages to the current market value of the homes, then local officials should take the decision out of their hands."

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at: Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

Study: Infants benefit from implants with more frequency sounds

Research Shows 6-Month-Olds' Ability to Understand Speech Improves When They Hear Less Distortion

A new study from a UT Dallas researcher demonstrates the importance of considering developmental differences when creating programs for cochlear implants in infants.

Dr. Andrea Warner-Czyz, assistant professor in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, recently published the research in the *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*.

"This is the first study to show that infants process degraded speech that simulates a cochlear implant differently than older children and adults, which begs for new signal processing strategies to optimize the sound delivered to the cochlear implant for these young infants," Warner-Czyz said.

Cochlear implants, which are surgically placed in the inner ear, provide the ability to hear for some people with severe to profound hearing loss. Because of technological and biological limitations, people with cochlear implants hear dif-



A UT Dallas researcher studied how 6-month-olds distinguished between speech sounds. Through cochlear implant simulations, she found that infants process speech differently than older children and adults.

ferently than those with normal hearing.

Think of a piano, which typically has 88 keys with each representing a note. The technology in a cochlear implant can't play every key, but instead breaks them into groups, or channels. For example, a cochlear implant with 22 channels would put four notes into each group. If any keys within a group are

played, all four notes are activated. Although the general frequency can be heard, the fine detail of the individual notes is lost.

Two of the major components necessary for understanding speech are the rhythm and the frequencies of the sound. Timing remains fairly accurate in cochlear implants, but some frequencies disappear as they are grouped.

More than eight or nine channels do not necessarily improve the hearing of speech in adults. This study is one of the first to examine how this signal degradation affects hearing speech in infants.

Infants pay greater attention to new sounds, so researchers compared how long a group of 6-month-olds focused on a speech sound they were familiarized with — "tea" — to a new speech sound, "ta."

The infants spent more time paying attention to "ta," demonstrating they could hear the difference between the two. Researchers repeated the experiment with speech sounds that were altered to

sound as if they had been processed by a 16- or 32-channel cochlear implant.

The infants responded to the sounds that imitated a 32-channel implant the same as when they heard the normal sounds. But the infants did not show a difference with the sounds that imitated a 16-channel implant.

"These results suggest that 6-month-old infants need less distortion and more frequency information than older children and adults to discriminate speech," Warner-Czyz said. "Infants are not just little versions of children or adults. They do not have the experience with listening or

language to fill in the gaps, so they need more complete speech information to maximize their communication outcomes."

Clinicians need to consider these developmental differences when working with very young cochlear implant recipients, Warner-Czyz said.

Other authors of the study include Dr. Derek Houston from Indiana University School of Medicine and Dr. Linda Hynan from UT Southwestern Medical Center.

This work was supported by a grant from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences.

Don't let yourself fall prey to medical identity theft

By Jason Alderman

By now, most people know about the perils of identity theft, where someone steals your personal or financial account information and makes fraudulent charges or opens bogus accounts in your name.

Lately, a not-so-new twist has been getting a lot of attention — medical identity theft. That's where someone gains access to your health insurance or Medicare account information and uses it to submit phony insurance claims, obtain prescription drugs or

medical devices, or get medical treatment in your name.

Besides its high cost, medical ID theft also can have deadly consequences: Suppose someone poses as you and gets an appendectomy; if you later entered the hospital with abdominal pain, your medical file would show that your appendix was already removed and you could be tragically misdiagnosed.

Here are a few tips for avoiding medical ID fraud and steps to take if it happens:

See THEFT, Page 8

'A Robot Operated on My Hernia'

Robotics-assisted surgery has become enormously popular, with physicians around the world performing 1.5 million procedures — from hysterectomies to heart valve repairs — in 2011.

Dr. Keith Chisolm and other robotics surgeons use the da Vinci Surgical System, which the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved for minimally invasive surgeries in 2000. Nine years later, the da Vinci was being used in 80 percent of surgeries to

remove cancerous prostates, according to its maker, Intuitive Surgical, Inc.

"The benefits of robotics-assisted surgery are numerous," says Dr. Chisolm, who performs several different procedures using da Vinci and became the first Pinellas-Pasco physician to use it for a single-incision cholecystectomy (gall bladder removal).

See ROBOT, Page 6



Researchers are currently conducting a clinical research study of an investigational add-on drug for people with schizophrenia. If you or someone close to you has schizophrenia, you may want to talk to your doctor about participation in this study.

To be eligible to participate in this study you must be:

- Male or female between 18-65 years of age
- Currently diagnosed with schizophrenia
- On a stable medication treatment regimen for ≥2 months
- Willing to follow a treatment plan including routinely scheduled study visits, laboratory tests and other study procedures

If you are eligible to participate in this study, all investigational medication, study related tests and study doctor's visits will be provided at no cost to you. Compensation may be provided to study patients for their time and travel.

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If you, a friend or family member has schizophrenia and would like more information about this study, please contact the study site above.

Johnson releases information for resources for reporting waste, fraud and abuse at the Department of Veterans Affairs

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson released the following information for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs employees in light of recent allegations of misconduct at the Dallas Veterans Administration Health Care System, and the ensuing investigation by the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General.

Congresswoman Johnson recognizes that there may be other local employees and patients who want to come forward to file official complaints. Individuals who

may potentially report claims of waste, fraud, or abuse should be clear about the protections they are afforded when filing a complaint and the proper channels to file those complaints. Congresswoman Johnson recommends that VA employees do not use official VA telephones or email accounts when filing a complaint or reporting allegations of wrongdoing.

Those individuals seeking to file an official complaint or offer information regarding waste, fraud, misconduct, or abuse at the VA

may wish to contact the VA Office of Inspector General: VA Office of Inspector General (VA OIG)

- Website: www.va.gov/oig

- Email Complaints to: VAOIGHotline@VA.GOV

- Call Complaints into VA OIG Hotline: 1-800-488-8244

- Whistleblowers may confidentiality file their complaint with the VA

- The VA OIG may accept complaints from VA employees and the general public and investigate allegations concerning criminal

activity, fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement of VA programs.

VA employees who feel that a retaliatory action has been taken against them for filing an official complaint may wish to contact the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC):

- Website: www.osc.gov
- Electronically File Complaints: <https://www.osc.gov/oscefile/>

- Call Complaints into OSC: 1-800-572-2249

- The OSC receives, investigates, and prosecutes allegations of prohibited

personnel practices, with an emphasis on protecting federal government whistleblowers.

Individuals may also contact the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Veterans Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigation to report additional information or obtain information on additional resources:

House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigation

- Website: <http://veterans.house.gov/subcommittee-oversight-investigations>

- Call Complaints: (202) 225 – 3569

- The House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations (O&I), provides oversight on programs and operations of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

- The Committee accepts leads on complaints and does not disclose sources

Soul Sistah Expo planned for June 7

African American women struggle with a variety of health issues and the upcoming Soul Sistah Expo will shine a spotlight on solutions.

The event will feature a health walk entitled the Fit and Faithful Walk. It is scheduled to start at 7:30 a.m. Early morning walkers

will start off with a warm-up and crossfit training in the Amphitheater.

Tonya Hall and the Desoto Parks and Recreation Department will host the event.

Diabetes, overweight, heart disease and lupus are just a few of the diseases that are serious concerns in

the African American community. However not everyone agrees pills are surgery are the immediate answers. That is why the event will spotlight a holistic approach to living well.

Information on hair care, fitness tips and beauty spotlights will be featured throughout the event.

Online registration is open and the fee is \$10. Guests can register online at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/soul-sistah-expo-fit-and-faithful-walk-tickets-11429841965>.

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Veasey restores medals for veteran

On May 23, Congressman Marc Veasey, TX-33, presented Staff Sgt. Phillip Quintin, of Fort Worth, with a Purple Heart and other medals for his service in the U. S. Army, during the Vietnam War, and his service in the U. S. Air Force.

Veasey's office helped Staff Sgt. Quintin obtain his medals by contacting the appropriate federal agencies, when Staff Sgt. Quintin had previously run into roadblocks.

"The world is safer because of the courage of veterans like Staff Sgt. Quintin," Veasey said. "They have sacrificed greatly and we owe each our gratitude. For his courage and service, Mr. Quintin earned these medals."

Earlier this month, the U.S. House of Representatives considered the annual national defense bill (NDAA) to ensure Congress keeps faith with veter-



Congressman Veasey presenting Staff Sgt. Quintin with his replacement Purple Heart and other medals at Congressman Veasey's Fort Worth District Office. (May 23, 2014)

ans, troops, and their families.

"As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I joined colleagues from both sides of the aisle in support of this bill," Veasey said. "I will continue to honor the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our

country and make sure that they have the resources that they need."

Metroplex veterans and the family members of deceased veterans may request military records and medals by contacting Congressman Veasey's Fort Worth Office at 817-920-9086.

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1566	What's Your Number? Overall Odds are 1 in 4.52	\$1	7/30/14	1/26/15
1565	Veterans Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.44	\$2	7/30/14	1/26/15
1578	10X The Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.15	\$2	7/30/14	1/26/15
1454	Bonus Break The Bank Overall Odds are 1 in 3.81	\$5	7/30/14	1/26/15
1553	Cash Extravaganza Overall Odds are 1 in 3.86	\$5	7/30/14	1/26/15
1573	Red Diamond 7's Overall Odds are 1 in 3.70	\$5	7/30/14	1/26/15
1575	Cash Club Overall Odds are 1 in 4.20	\$5	7/30/14	1/26/15
1277	Casino Action Overall Odds are 1 in 2.47	\$50	7/30/14	1/26/15

For detailed odds and game information, visit texaslottery.org or call 1-800-37-LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education. © 2014 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

TEXAS LOTTERY

Eastfield accepting applications for \$2,500 T-STEM scholarships

Eastfield College is now accepting applications for the T-STEM Challenge Scholarship, a \$2,500 award for the 2014-15 academic year. The Texas Science, Technology, Engineering or Math scholarship provides funding for high-achieving students pursuing a degree in the STEM field disciplines. Students selected as T-STEM scholars will have the opportunity to intern, explore careers, and net-

work with other STEM students, faculty and industry professionals.

T-STEM Challenge Scholarships are merit scholarships that are based on past and continuing student performance in specific instructional programs.

Applications are available in C-120 and S-213. Deadline for first consideration is Aug. 14. Final consideration deadline is Sept. 5.

Eligible students must be in good standing with the institution and fulfill all the obligations required by the T-STEM scholarship program. Students who are eligible to receive a T-STEM scholarship must meet the following requirements:

1. Have graduated from high school with at least a 3.0 GPA on a four-point scale in mathematics and science courses. Recent graduates are encouraged to

apply, and college credit can be considered.

2. Be enrolled at the applicant institution and be self-declared in a T-STEM instructional program.

3. Agree to work up to 15 hours per week in the student's chosen educational program area or related field, or for a business participating in the T-STEM Scholarship Program. Eligible campus opportunities may include, but are not

limited to, paid or volunteer tutoring (Science Corner, Math Spot, TRIO), volunteer lab assistants, Service Learning, or employment sought through Career Services.

4. Have a statement on file with the applicant institution indicating that the student is registered with the Selective Service System as required by federal

law or is exempted from the Selective Service registration under federal law.

5. Plan to complete a minimum of 30 semester credit hours within a year (fall, spring and summer semesters or equivalent). This requirement limits applicants to those who have not yet completed 30-35 transferable college credits at the time of application.

Imaginative play is important for children

(StatePoint) It can be all too easy to resort to television and other passive entertainment when you're looking to fill a long afternoon with the kids. But encouraging your kids to use their imaginations is a much better use of their time.

Whether you're playing with the little ones, or letting them do their own thing, here are some great suggestions for creative play:

Sock Puppet Play

Keep old socks on hand and art supplies for that next rainy day. Permanent markers, googly eyes, pipe cleaners, sparkles, glue and yarn can turn some regular old socks into an entire cast of characters. You can even let the kids design the stage. Then have them write a script and rehearse. Finally, get the video recorder because it's show time!

Talent Show

A talent show is a great

way to showcase everyone's unique abilities. Give everyone five to 10 minutes to dance, sing, twirl a baton, perform comedy or whatever else he or she does best.

You can make the event even more special by inviting your children's friends over to participate and their parents to be part of the audience. Set up the backyard or living room like it's a real theater.

Creative Toys

Stock the play room with toys that go above and beyond merely entertaining kids. They should encourage adventure and the use of one's imagination. For example, PLAYMOBIL's realistic playsets (www.playmobil.us) spark creativity and can transport kids anywhere -- from a knight's tournament to a pirate ship to a princess island to a pony pasture.

This year, there are opportunities for kids to get even more imaginative. In celebration of the company's 40th anniversary, the brand has dispatched its "Tim the Traveler" figure to embark on sightseeing adventures all over the world, by sending him to be hosted by members of its worldwide PLAYMOBIL Collectors Club.

This special program engages children and collectors of all generations as they host Tim, showing him around their hometowns and photographing him as he discovers exciting sights.

To follow Tim on his "PLAYMOBIL Around the World" tour, visit 40.playmobil.com. To learn about the PLAYMOBIL Collectors Club, visit www.PCC.pm.

Start a "Band"

Make an afternoon project of creating instruments

with stuff found around the house, such as guitars made out of empty cereal boxes and rubber bands, and maracas made out of dried beans and cans. Kids can "cover" their favorite songs or even write their own.

With a little creativity, and the right toys and supplies, you can avoid letting play time be down time for your children's minds.

ROBOT, continued from Page 4

"The robotic arms hold miniaturized surgical instruments, so we can get in through very small incisions," he says. "That means there's less chance of infection, less pain, much less scarring and a quicker recovery time. Because the arms have 'wrists' that can rotate more than 360 degrees, we have far more maneuverability than we do with laparoscopic surgery, and we can get into hard-to-reach areas."

"One of the robotic arms holds a magnified 3D high-definition camera, which gives us a much better view of the surgical site than we would have with just our own two eyes."

In a 2013 FDA survey, surgeons experienced with da Vinci said their patients have less bleeding, fewer complications, much quicker recovery times and less time in the hospital. Interestingly, those who used da Vinci to remove advanced

cancer in the tonsils region of the throat said half of their patients were able to avoid chemotherapy.

A study published in July 2013 found that half of the minimally invasive procedures reviewed, including robotics-assisted and laparoscopic surgeries, cost insurance providers less than the same surgeries performed in the traditional manner. Four of the six minimally invasive surgeries also resulted in fewer lost work days -- sometimes several weeks fewer.



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State governments look to entrepreneurs for creativity, efficiency

By Jeffrey Stinson
Stateline Staff Writer

Entrepreneurs in government? The idea may sound like an oxymoron to government bashers.

Yet a move is on to bring successful entrepreneurs into state agencies, city halls and economic development agencies to help stimulate business and job growth – and, important to many advocates, help bureaucracies become more creative, efficient and responsive to the public.

“Those of us in business always say we want government to be more businesslike,” said Virginia state Del. Steve Landes. “Government is not a business. But maybe we can be more business-like, and use some (entrepreneurial) techniques and ideas and philosophy of the private sector in government.”

Landes, a Republican banker, sponsored legislation enacted in March that creates a pilot entrepreneur-in-residence program. It calls for Virginia’s secretary of commerce and trade to bring as many as 10 successful and willing entrepreneurs into state agencies to advise on reaching out to business and curing any government inefficiencies they spot. Volunteers would offer their time and advice free for up to a year, he

said, ideally out of a sense of civic duty.

The legislation is similar to what Texas lawmakers approved last year and to bills introduced in California, Connecticut, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, New York and Tennessee.

It comes as dozens of cities or counties – from New York City to San Francisco to Arlington County, Virginia – are creating their own entrepreneur-in-residence programs to try to spur business activity or solve civic problems.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti earlier this month appointed two veterans of successful computer and manufacturing startups to advise the city on what it can do to “foster ideas to get businesses off the ground and create jobs.” The initiative is underwritten by Ernst & Young, the multinational professional services and accounting firm.

Up the coast, San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee chose six startup companies in March out of about 200 that had applied to be in the city’s new entrepreneurship-in-residence program. They will collaborate with city departments on issues as varied as boosting social engagement with the community to reduce crime and develop-

ing new simulation, planning and urban development tools and technologies.

The program’s goal, Lee said, is “to explore innovative solutions to civic challenges that can lower costs, increase revenue and enhance productivity.”

Moving the Concept to Government

Government inviting successful entrepreneurs to set up temporary residence is new. But the concept of tapping into their expertise is not. Venture capitalists have turned to them for more than a decade for strategy and to help spot other startups possibly worth investing in. Universities have brought them into their business schools to teach.

Corporate America increasingly has sought them in recent years to help identify and develop possible new products or services, and to help shake up staid thinking.

The chief evangelist for putting them in state government, Ingrid Vanderveldt, comes from Dell, the technology giant, which in 2011 embraced the idea of reaching out to entrepreneurs as part of its strategy to sell its computing services to the business world. Vanderveldt, who had several successful startups of her own, now oversees Dell’s \$100 million innovators credit fund to help start-

ups finance technology tools, along with Dell’s center for entrepreneurs.

Her zeal for encouraging entrepreneurship didn’t stop at the private sector. Government needed to be involved, too. So two years ago, she worked with Silicon Valley U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., to craft legislation to set up a residency program in the federal government that he introduced with Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La.

The goal, she said, was to help change a policy and a regulatory climate that entrepreneurs tell her are stumbling blocks to launching new enterprises.

The Kauffman Foundation, which has tracked new business starts since 1996, reported last month that entrepreneurial activity in the nation fell for a second straight year. The rate of new business owners dropped to about 476,000 a month in 2013 from about 514,000 in 2012.

Jared Konczal, senior analyst with the Kansas City, Missouri, foundation, attributes the fall to better job opportunities in an improving economy. As a result, he said, there were fewer “necessity entrepreneurs” who started their own businesses because they couldn’t find work elsewhere.

States Get Involved

As the federal entrepreneur leg-

islation languished, Vanderveldt turned to state capitals. She began offering lawmakers model legislation shaped from Honda’s bill and adaptable to the needs of a particular state. In addition to Austin, she’s been to capitals in Connecticut, Tennessee and California to testify or advocate for it.

The goal, she said, is the same: to bring entrepreneurial thinking “from the outside in” to government agencies to create a better climate for starting a business.

She said another benefit is to instill an entrepreneurial spirit in government to tackle the problems it faces, especially during lean budget times. “If there is any sector of the population who knows how to do more with less, it’s startups and business founders,” she said.

Possibly changing the way government does business is what appeals to Assembly member Ian Calderon, who is sponsoring entrepreneur legislation in California.

“I feel like this is an avenue in which to explore the way to get people the (state) services they need and in a more efficient and creative way,” said Calderon, a Democrat.

But will it work? Calderon said he isn’t sure. No state program is off the ground yet. And he foresees resistance.

THEFT, continued from Page 4

Your medical files are often full of information ID thieves crave: account numbers for Social Security, health insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, contact information, email address, etc. All it takes is one stolen employee laptop or an intercepted piece of mail or email to leave you vulnerable.

Sophisticated thieves will also hack computer networks of insurance companies, pharmacies, medical equipment suppliers and others who have access to your medical records. And unfortunately, the black market for stolen information is so tempting that employees have been known to steal data.

Common signs of medical identity theft include:

- Provider bills or insurance Explanation of Benefits (EOB) forms that reference medical services you didn’t receive. (Verify all dates, providers and treatments and look for duplicate billing.)
- Calls from debt collectors about unfamiliar bills.
- Medical collection notices on your credit report.

Just as you shouldn’t hesitate to ask your doctor or nurse whether they washed their hands, so you should feel free to ask what security precautions their business office takes to protect your information. Here are a few preventive measures to take:

- Never reveal personal or account information during unsolicited calls or emails.
 - Be suspicious if someone offers you free medical equipment or services and then requests your Medicare number.
 - Never let people borrow your Medicare or insurance card to obtain services for themselves. Not only is this illegal, but it could be disastrous if your medical histories become intermingled (think about differing allergies, blood types, etc.)
 - Regularly check your credit reports for unpaid bills for unfamiliar medical services or equipment. This could indicate someone has opened a new insurance policy using your identity and is running up charges.
- If you suspect or know your infor-

mation has been compromised, ask for copies of your medical records from each doctor, hospital, pharmacy, lab or health plan where a thief may have used your information. Also request a copy of their “Accounting of Disclosures” form, which lists everyone who got copies of your medical records.

Next, write them all by certified mail explaining which information is inaccurate, along with copies of documents supporting your position. Ask them to correct or delete all errors and to inform everyone they may have sent records to (labs, other doctors, hospitals, etc.) Keep copies of all correspondence and logs of all phone calls or other related activities.

You can also file a police report and contact the fraud units at the three major credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. You may want to place a fraud alert or freeze on your accounts. Visit the Federal Trade Commission’s Identity Theft site for more information (www.consumer.ftc.gov).

Jason Alderman directs Visa’s financial education programs. To follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.

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STEALING, continued from Page 1

ken into and Akron schools weren't good. After a talk with her dad, she agreed to enroll her girls where he lived. She knew it wasn't uncommon for children to attend schools outside of where they lived.

"When I enrolled them I figured, 'Now they got a chance; they got an opportunity.' This district for the most part is all-White, my kids excelled in that district even after all that had happened to me," she said.

In the second year, a letter came saying the children were ineligible to attend school in the district but asked her to come in and work things out, Ms. Williams-Bolar said. Getting a grandparent-power-of-attorney document and meeting with school officials did nothing, she said. The district refused to ac-

cept the grandparent-power-of-attorney; a court upheld that decision. She withdrew her children. The school district had paid a private detective to follow and investigate her.

Some 18 months later, with her children no longer in the district, Williams-Bolar was indicted for grand theft of services. Accused of stealing \$30,000 worth of education, tried and convicted, she was given 10 years in jail.

Represented by a lawyer she said did little but take her money, Ms. Williams-Bolar was shaken, scared and stressed out.

The judge told her: "I will stop you from graduating from college." But press coverage of the case had increased. The mother's sentence was brought down to two years probation, restitu-

tion, regular check-ins with a probation officer and holding down a job.

"You did wrong so I am going to give you a felony but I want you to maintain a 40 hour job a week?" continued Williams-Bolar, repeating the onerous terms imposed by the judge. She served nine days in jail. She also suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. Once released, she barely left her room, or spoke to her children, or family members.

Daughter Jada said she lost her mother for a year because of PTSD. Jada also felt guilty. She felt responsible for her mother's woes and was teased by classmates.

Perhaps most painful and infuriating is the death of Edward L. Williams. The 65-year-old man died after serving 11 months in prison. He had a month left on his sentence.

The father and daughter were tried in 2010. Under heavy pressure, Ohio's governor pardoned Williams-Bolar. Her father was not convicted in the education theft case. He was charged later with fraud related to his disability, receipt of social security and state benefits and was convicted. His daughter said her father was targeted—and another example made. Requests for an early release were denied, though Mr. Williams was largely hospitalized while in prison.

But, Williams-Bolar said, her father was strong to the end. "Do what you are going to do anyway, and I told her what I had to tell you," Williams-Bolar said her father told the judge at his sentencing.

She was not allowed to visit him in prison because the two had been accused of

a conspiracy. When finally given special permission to visit, he was shackled to a bed, she recalled. He lost the ability to walk in prison, recovered but suffered from kidney failure, was incapacitated and passed away, Ms. Williams-Bolar said.

Sitting next to her mother, Jada broke down and cried as her grandfather's suffering was recounted. It was her first time hearing the full story. He passed away May 10, 2012.

"Kelley Williams-Bolar can be compared to Rosa Parks, Frederick Douglas, George Washington and other great Americans who stood up to tyranny. They arrested her, tried her, convicted her and jailed her for wanting the best education for her daughters," said the Black Star Project.

Mr. Jackson is calling for a federal law that would

prohibit jailing parents for sending children to the wrong school district. There was also a call for President Barack Obama to grant Williams-Bolar a pardon.

Williams-Bolar's Chicago visit was sponsored by ABBA Church of Renewed Faith, King of Glory COGIC, Memorial Baptist Church, Metropolitan Apostolic Church, Prologue Schools, Center for the Study of Race, Politics & Culture at University of Chicago and The Black Star Project.

"She is a profile in courage," said Mansong, a musician and activist.

Ms. Williams-Bolar is working on a book and there are plans for a movie. She isn't rich. Her speaking tour is designed to pay for Jada's education. If money isn't raised, Jada will be back in public school.

BROOKS, continued from Page 2

of urban residents and protects the civil rights of the disadvantaged.

"When you look at the arc of my career, it has not been singular or linear in focus, but really touched on many of the challenges facing the country – whether it be in business, the criminal justice system, the juvenile justice system, the housing market – so I think I bring a multi-dimensional, multi-disciplined, multi-faceted focus on work," Brooks

said.

The five-page job description developed by The Hollins Group, the NAACP-contracted search firm based in Chicago, noted among the specific job responsibilities: "Work closely with the Chairman and the Board and be responsible for developing the organization's U.S. private sector fundraising plan and growing its annual income and membership by 20 percent. This also will include expanding

both staff and operations with an emphasis on building a larger base of private sector support and establishing an endowment."

According to the job description marked "confidential," the Baltimore-based NAACP has a staff of 100 and an annual budget of \$42 million. However, the organization is deeply in debt and recently cut its staff by 7 percent.

Brooks has never managed a staff that large. The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice had a total of 19

staff members and a budget of \$2.08 million. Its primary income was equally divided between government grants and investments, each bringing in approximately \$350,000 annually.

According to its IRS Form 990, it had a loss of \$421,939 in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2012.

Beyond the fiscal challenge, the expectation that Brooks can grow membership by 20 percent a year is considered a lofty goal for an organization that has

long fudged its membership numbers. Former NAACP executive directors Roy Wilkins and Benjamin L. Hooks routinely claimed a membership of 500,000.

However, the *Baltimore Sun* did research and found that the NAACP had been claiming a membership of 500,000 since 1946. In 2006, then-president Bruce Gordon finally admitted that the figure was less than 300,000, where it still remains today.

"My grandfather, Rev.

James Prioleau, in the 40s ran for Congress in the 6th Congressional District of South Carolina," said Brooks, a fourth-generation ordained minister and an associate pastor at Turner Memorial AME Church in Hyattsville, Md. "He ran for Congress not because he thought he could win, but rather because he wanted to register African Americans to vote and enlist in and engage in the membership of the NAACP. That legacy is part of my moral DNA."

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- Director, Office of Disaster Management - National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.
- Founder and President, Southern Foundational Unit Ministry Support Group - Organization established to provide spiritual and financial support to the people of Haiti
- Senior Fellow, Department of Homeland Security and Criminal Justice, North Carolina Central University, Durham, North Carolina
- National Advisor for Homeland Security - National Baptist Convention
- National Convention member - North East Division, Holiness Baptist

Previous Leadership:

- Regional Vice President, National Baptist Congress of Christian Education of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.
- President, Texas State Holiness Baptist Convention, Inc.
- Director of The Arkansas Baptist College, 300 Prater Texas Extension

Additional:

- Provided leadership for building a church that has served more than 100,000 members, built and equipped buildings worth more than \$100,000,000.
- Organized and built a Holiness medical clinic employing 3 doctors and nursing staff.
- Provided the resources for shaping water wells and water systems.
- Helped fund the Encourager Bible Seminary in New York, India.
- Authored the book, "The Lord is My Shepherd," published 2008

His Family:

- Dr. Vaughn is happily married to Brenda G. Vaughn. They have 8 children, 14 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren.

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Tyler Perry sues 'For Better Or Worse' producers over studio fire

By Ruth Manuel-Logan
Special to the NNPA
from *The Chicago Defender*

Actor, playwright, and film mogul Tyler Perry (pictured), who had a massive fire at his Atlanta-based mega-million-dollar studio last year, is now reportedly suing the producers of his sitcom "For Better Or Worse" for \$1.8 million, accusing them of negligence, ac-



cording to TMZ.

The lawsuit reportedly claims that the blaze broke out due to a white hot light that was placed too

close to a backlot facade on the show's set.

Perry is claiming that the lighting professionals should have been more knowledgeable and competent.

Last year after the fire was thoroughly investigated, though, Atlanta's Fire Chief Kelvin J. Cochran determined that the damage was so extensive that the source of the blaze could not be

found.

"The intensity of the fire in the area of origin consumed any evidence that would lead to a cause of ignition," Cochran stated according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

The four-alarm fire reportedly damaged the exterior but not the interior of the building that stood in the 30-acre, 5-year-old complex's center.

The building's interior did have some water damage, but that was the result of firefighting efforts. More than 100 firefighters responded to put out the blaze, and they managed to contain the fire to one building. There were no reported injuries.

The impending lawsuit's dollar amount will reportedly cover the total damage to the studio.

The king of all monsters is back

By Brian W. Carter
Special to the NNPA
from the *Los Angeles Sentinel*

Godzilla roars back into view with a new story to tell and giant monster fights to be had!

Godzilla is fantastic! This film truly succeeds in introducing the giant, radioactive lizard to a new and old generation. From the opening of the film, to the very end, you will be in the grasp of the King of all Monsters.

This modern take on the Japanese kaiju (strange creature) has its existence being known since the 1950's during a nuclear "test." Fast forward to the late 1990's and Dr. Ichiro Serizawa (Ken Watanabe) finds that signs are all pointing



to bad things ahead for humanity. A nuclear supervisor, Joe Brody (Bryan Cranston), based in Japan, finds himself in the middle of a mystery

See GODZILLA, Page 12

MACHARIA, continued from Page 2

with the device was beyond all expectations."

The Callier Care Fund provides assistance to children and adults with hearing, speech and language disorders regardless of their income, insurance or socioeconomic background. Created by Ruth and Ken Altshuler, the Callier Care Fund relies on donations to provide assistance and services.

"[The Callier Center] has been there for us since the first day," said Mary Mwaura, Purity's mother. "She was little and we came here and they

tested her and, since then, they've been there for us, helping us with the resources. It's a lot of stress — a load taken off."

In addition to bringing the gift of hearing and speech to a little girl, the efforts of the Callier Center and the Callier Care Fund have given Purity the ability to do what she loves best — dance to her favorite music.

For more information about the Callier Care Fund or to make a gift, please contact Shanon Patrick by phone at 214-905-3084 or by email at Shanon.Patrick@utdallas.edu.

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Wells Fargo to lend \$100 billion to small businesses by 2018

By Deepak Chitnis
Special to the NNPA
from *New America Media*

NEW YORK — Wells Fargo has officially launched its newest initiative geared specifically at budding entrepreneurs looking to help their small businesses grow, entitled Wells Fargo Works for Small Business.

The initiative was unveiled this past weekend, at the first-ever South Asian Young Women Entrepreneurs (SAY WE) conference that took place at the Condé Nast building in Times Square on May 17.

“We know that the Asian small business community is the first one to achieve entrepreneurial parity,” said Nancy Wong, Senior Vice-President of Wells Fargo’s Asian Segment Manager. “We have seen the momentum grow in very specific regions, specifically the tri-

state area [New York, New Jersey, Connecticut] and California.”

Wells Fargo also announced their goal of lending \$100 billion to small business by 2018.

Wong said that this is an aggregate goal for all businesses, South Asian and otherwise.

Featuring a congregation of some of the best and brightest minds in the tri-state area’s South Asian entrepreneurial scene, the SAY WE conference is intended to be the first leg of a three-part series of conferences that will continue in Houston and San Francisco later this year.

The series is entitled “Raise, Rise, Rule!” and strives to help budding South Asian entrepreneurs, particularly women, by giving them the advice and resources they need to help establish and grow their

small businesses.

Saturday’s event was organized by SAY WE founder Reema Rasool, who described the experience of being at the organization’s inaugural conference as “surreal.”

Rasool explained that she founded SAY WE as a way of providing young South Asian women with the advice and resources they needed, but often never have access to, in order to launch their entrepreneurial ventures. An entrepreneur herself, Rasool said that she wished these resources were available to her when she was getting started, and now wants to make sure that she can help those who are now starting to come up after her.

Two panel discussions were held, one in the morning and one during the afternoon session. The first featured South Asian Amer-

ican entrepreneurs and centered on what one has to do to take their business idea from an intangible wish to a profitable operation.

The second panel discussion featured local New York City news anchor Joya Dass, *Bibi Magazine* founder Ayesha Hakki, The Cake Designer founder Parul Patel, and social media guru Adam Khan. They talked about the advantages and disadvantages of using social media to promote small businesses, and how to avoid the common pitfalls associated with the still-young but incredibly powerful online marketing tool.

Keynote addresses were given by Aroon Shivdasani and Faisal Hoque. Shivdasani is the founder of the Indo-American Arts Council and the key organizers of the annual New York Indian Film Festival, while Hoque

is a writer and entrepreneur who also gave out and signed copies of his latest book, “Everything Connects.”

The SAY WE conference series will continue in Houston on June 14, and will conclude in San Francisco on August 9.

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Five ways to know she is a female boss

By Tezlyn Figaro

You will know she is a female boss when you see these five traits and skills evident throughout everything she does.

PRIORITIES: She is not the one to drop everything for a night on the town and or because the male species shows her a little attention. She is a star, so she is not moved by just any attention she is moved by capturing attention based upon her success. If she has business to handle, she handles it with no excuses.....PE-RIOD!

DISCIPLINE: She does not live by the phrase 'YOLO' Although, she appreciates a healthy balance of work and play, her ability to manage her budget,

credit score, priorities, goals and time are impeccable.

RESPONSIBILITY: She does not just play BOSS on Facebook. She understands when she has been entrusted to important tasks and responsibilities, such as:

- leadership role in her community;
- supervisor on her job;
- and if she owns her own business then her client list is impressive. After all, anyone can own a business; the question is who is doing business with you?

Her work ethic is a direct reflection of her client list and her 'Bossiness' shows up in her portfolio. She is careful and calculated with her moves. They say you win some and you lose some, the female boss does

not prefer to be on the bottom of the latter of the two. She prefers to be on top of her game!

TIME MANAGEMENT: A real female boss has effective time management skills everything from study time, time with the kids, work and play is managed very well. She understands there are only 168 hours in a week. You will find most of her days and nights are used implementing productive time management tools and skills. The female boss manages time like a master conductor directs a Broadway orchestra. She is always early or right on time. She is like sweet music to your ears! She does not talk about it, she is about it!

FOLLOW UP SKILLS: If she promises to call you

at 11:30 a.m. sharp you can count on it! She does what she says she will do, when she says she will do it. Her clients, colleagues and even her friends know her word is bond.

Unless there is an emergency she follows through, if she is unable to follow through she does not run or avoid the issue, she deals with it directly. A female boss would rather cancel the meeting appropriately then to not show up at all. She would rather tell her client she is not available to take on the big project rather than not meet the deadline. A female boss consistently does her due diligence in every task she touches.

In turn, this makes her a

trusted friend, business partner, advisor or confidant to many. Simply put, she has the skills to pay the bills!

This opinion piece was

written by Tezlyn Figaro, based upon the observation of others, experience, expertise and most of all results.

GODZILLA, continued from Page 10

when the nuclear plant blows. Now in the present, Brody's son, Ford (Aaron Taylor-Johnson), a United States Navy officer, finds himself pulled into his father's conspiracy theories. Soon, Ford finds himself trying to reunite with his wife, Elle (Elizabeth Olsen) and son, all while fighting

for humanity's survival against a new threat that can only be stopped by...you guessed it—Godzilla.

This reinterpretation of Godzilla see's the mighty monster as more of a guardian for the Earth. The mega monster appears on the scene only to lay the smackdown and defend his

title as king of all monsters. Most reviews state that the human story takes a back seat to Big G but in actuality, it maintains a believable strand as Brody carries out his duties defending his country.

You can also say that there is a team up, although not on purpose, between Godzilla and humanity to deal with a gargantuan

threat.

This is definitely an excellent summer starter as Godzilla is sure to please monster, disaster and brawling movie enthusiasts all around. From the first time you hear that roar until you see him use his trademark—Godzilla will have you cheering in your seat.

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BROWN, continued from Page 3

The issue was revisited by the Court in the infamous case of Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), where the Court sought to give greater guidance on the meaning of the 14th amendment. The case involved the right of a man who was 1/8 black to sit in a segregated section of a train. The broad holding of the Court included a couple of infamous passages: "The object of the 14th amendment was undoubtedly to enforce the absolute equality of the two races before the law, but in the nature of things it could not have been intended to abolish distinctions based upon color, or to enforce social ... commingling of the two races upon terms unsatisfactory to either." Further, the Court said that "laws requiring their separation in places where they are liable to be brought into contact do not necessarily imply the inferiority of either race to the other, and have been generally, if not universally, recognized as within the competency of state legislatures." And, finally, "if the two races are to meet upon terms of social equality, it must be the result of natural affinities, a mutual respect of each other's merits, and a voluntary consent of individuals ... Legislation is powerless to eradicate racial instinct or abolish distinctions based upon physical differences. If one race be inferior to the other socially, the Constitution cannot put them on the same plane." Plessy endorsed the position that separate but equal access to certain amenities and services must be provided, but those amenities and services themselves need not be equal in quality.

Following the Plessy holding, states enacted or continued existing laws that held that no person could be denied access to certain amenities, but the amenities could be of unequal stature. By the 1950's, many school districts across the country had established segregated public schools, where everyone was to have equal 'access' to the schools, although the quality of the

schools within a district could vary widely.

In 1954, a lawsuit was brought against the Topeka, Kansas school district for operating a segregated school district. The US Supreme Court would ultimately decide the issue. Parties to the suit filed their briefs advancing their positions before oral argument.

Attorneys for Brown asked whether a state can exclude children from public schools that they would otherwise be qualified to attend, based solely on their race. They argued that the 14th amendment prevents states from according differential treatment to American children based upon color or race.

Further, that the purpose of the amendment was to complete the emancipation of the race. They argued that the racial classifications have no reasonable relation to a valid legislative purpose. "Candor requires recognition that the plain purpose and effect of segregated education is to perpetuate an inferior status...and that the primary purpose of the 14th amendment was to deprive the states of all power to perpetuate such a caste system."

Attorneys for the School District suggested that the 'general concern was with the fundamental rights of life, liberty and property' and the guarantee to all races the equal enjoyment of these rights. But the 'right to mingle with other races in the public schools was not included in this concept of basic rights.' It was argued that the people of Kansas 'are demonstrating their willingness and capacity to deal with local race problems in a manner most beneficial to all concerned. Federal interference is neither necessary nor justified.'

Attorneys for Kansas also argued that there were no tangible differences between white and colored schools, in that they were all equal, or were being equalized.

The Court went beyond determining whether there

was a tangible difference between the white and colored schools, and instead focused on the effect of segregation on public education. The Court rhetorically asked, "Does segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race, even though the physical facilities and other 'tangible' factors may be equal, deprive the children of the minority group of equal educational opportunities? We believe that it does: The ability to engage in discussions and exchange views with other students are necessary. To separate them from others of similar age and qualifications solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely ever to be undone ... A sense of inferiority affects the motivation of a child to learn. Segregation with the sanction of law, therefore, has a tendency to retard the educational and mental development of these children ... We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

Brown did much more than integrate the public school system, or bring segregation in general to an end. It propelled the US

Supreme Court into a social policy making institution, forever changing it from a solely judicial body into an important political player, giving it arguably greater policy making power than the executive and legislative branches.

Being free from electoral constraints, it permitted the 'least dangerous branch' of the federal government to break the partisan and regional logjams and finally enact meaningful civil rights legislation.

Finally, the Brown decision highlights an important difference between the federal and Texas judiciaries. All federal judges are nominated by the president, and confirmed by the US Senate, making it the least democratic branch of government.

By contrast, essentially all judges in Texas are elected, making the Texas judiciary completely democratic. When the Supreme Court announced its decision in 1954, it was not a popular one. For obvious reasons, states that allowed segregated schools were angry, but parents around the rest of the country questioned the ability of the Supreme Court to interfere in the operation of public schools, which had been traditionally a local power. Immediately following the Brown decision, only 52 percent of the national pop-

ulation supported the decision, while 44 percent opposed it, including President Eisenhower. Sixty years later, about 87 percent of the population has come to support the decision.

Now imagine, if the Justices of the Supreme Court were subject to re-election campaigns, would they have decided the case the same way? Appointed judges are the least democratic way to choose a judiciary, but it does free judges to decide issues based on what, in their estimation, is right, and not just what is popular.

In conclusion, the Brown v. Board of Education decision of 1954 was instrumental in promoting mean-

ingful civil rights legislation.

It established the Supreme Court as more than a judicial body, but an essential player in a three-branch government. It firmly established the role of courts in contributing to the national social policy, and gave the judiciary a means of breaking the gridlock of the executive and legislative branches. And it developed a necessary public dialog on the inherent benefits and detriments to a judiciary free from electoral constraints.

The Brown case brought the issues to the forefront for public discourse; sixty years later, the discourse continues.



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NDG Book Review: Natchez Burning by Greg Iles

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

All you have to do is ask. That's how to keep small life-knitting memories from being lost. It's how to save tales of your grandma's favorite toy, your mother's best friend, your dad's first love. Knowing those stories preserves history that books may never hold.

And to get those stories, all you have to do is ask and listen. But, as in the new novel "Natchez Burning" by Greg Iles, be prepared for what you hear.

Natchez Mayor Penn Cage knew that District Attorney Shadrach Johnson only called the Mayor's Office when he had no other option. Penn and Johnson were far from friends – one might even call them adversaries – but Johnson's announcement that he was planning to file murder charges against Penn's father stunned the mayor.

For more than forty years, Tom Cage had been one of Natchez's most beloved citizens. Dr. Tom had stitched, birthed, vaccinated, and tended folks,



black and white, and was considered "a saint" by many. That he was accused of killing Viola Turner was ludicrous but when Penn tried to clear up what was surely a misunderstanding, Tom cited doctor-patient confidentiality, saying only that he'd treated his former nurse before she died.

But somebody had killed Viola Turner by overdose, and her son, Lincoln, was pushing for an arrest. Dark-skinned Lincoln hinted that racism might be a motive; back in the 1960s, when Viola worked for Tom, Natchez boiled with racial issues and it wasn't unheard-of for a white man to take advantage of a black female employee.

To Penn, though, that didn't

describe his father. Tom was known for his fairness and his morals, so Penn began to listen closer to old rumors that re-surfaced – rumors about Viola and long-ago crimes supposedly committed by a group of local rednecks that called themselves Double Eagles. Penn heard about the brutality attributed to them, the whispers of attacks on black men and women, destruction of black businesses, people who disappeared without a trace.

Was his father involved in those murderous activities? Was it possible? Penn wondered... and Tom wasn't saying...

Though I have to admit that I was ready for the end of this novel by page 490, and though it has its predictable elements, "Natchez Burning" is a very good book.

Maybe that's because author Greg Iles uses real history as a reference for this multi-layered thriller, which adds raw authenticity to scenarios that will surely give the average reader nightmares. Yes, there's a

whole cadre of bad guys here who would be better described as "horrible guys," so heinous are the crimes that Iles allows them. Fortunately for readers, that's nicely balanced by a likeable lawyer-cum-

mayor with finely-honed crime-solving skills and a girlfriend who's hungry for cold cases.

I don't think this is a read-in-bed kind of book – in part because of many disturbingly heavy scenarios

and partly because, at nearly 800 pages, this book is heavy. Still, it's finely detailed, meticulously set, and written well enough that "Natchez Burning" is a book for which you should surely ask.

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While there is no one-size-fits-all solution to our communities' challenges, Wells Fargo's small, focused efforts can have huge meaning for the individuals they serve. And little by little, they add up to some pretty huge numbers. Last year, Wells Fargo worked with over 18,500 non-profits and schools from the San Francisco Bay Area to Tampa Bay, donations that totaled more than \$275 million. But offering a helping hand can also mean lending your own hand to a cause. So Wells Fargo Team Members volunteered 1.69 million hours in their local communities in 2013.

The "Small is Huge" campaign demonstrates that there's nothing so huge we can't overcome one small measure at a time. Little by little, we can do a lot. Individual, by community, by neighborhood the effect can be huge.

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