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## St. Louis American wins top honors third year from NNPA

By George E. Curry  
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

PORTLAND, Oregon (NNPA) – The St. Louis American has won the National Newspaper Publishers Association's Russwurm/Senstacke Trophy for general excellence for the third consecutive year, it was announced Thursday night at the NNPA's annual convention.

It was the Missouri newspaper's 8th time winning the NNPA's top award in the past 15 years. The award was named in honor of John B. Russwurm, co-founder of Freedom's Journal, the nation's first African American newspaper, and late Chicago Defender Publisher John H. Senstacke, founder of the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, now the National Newspaper Publishers Association, in 1940.

The winner of the award is determined each year by the paper that accumulates the most points in the 21 categories of the NNPA's annual Merit Awards. With the honor goes the title of Best Black Newspaper in the nation.

The St. Louis American, published by Dr. Donald M. Suggs, captured six first-place awards for Best Use of Photographs (Broadsheet), Best Special Section, Best Entertainment Section, Best Lifestyle Section Community Service and



NNPA Publisher of the Year Rosetta Miller Perry of the Tennessee Tribune and Dr. Donald Suggs, publisher of NNPA top winner St. Louis American (NNPA Photo by Ann Ragland).

Digital Excellence. The newspaper came in second in Best Layout and Design (Broadsheet) as well as Best Business Section and third place in the Best Sports Section competition.

Rosetta Miller Perry, publisher of the Tennessee Tribune in Nashville, was named Publisher of the Year by her fellow publishers.

The Merit Awards are administered by the NNPA Foundation, the charitable arm of the Association.

"We had more newspapers winning awards this year than at any time in recent memory," said Mary Denson, chair of the NNPA Foun-

ation and publisher of the Windy City Word in Chicago. "I think that's a testament to the dramatic improvement our papers continue to make."

Cloves C. Campbell, chairman of the NNPA and publisher of the Arizona Informant, said, "As usual, the competition was extremely fierce this year and we congratulate all of the winners. This year's Merit Awards winners have raised the bar of excellence that all of our papers can strive to meet."

See a complete list of award winners on Page 9.



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COMMENTARY

## GOP's reverse 'Southern Strategy'

By Raynard Jackson  
NNPA Columnist

Last week's election results infuriated me and not for the reasons you might suspect. My anger has less to do with the outcomes of the various elections, but more to do with the means of getting to the outcome.

The most watched election of this year was the Mississippi Senate race between Tea Party favorite Chris McDaniel and

six term incumbent Senator Thad Cochran. Cochran was forced into a runoff last week, which typically doesn't bode well for an incumbent.

According to Professor Larry J. Sabato, director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics, "In 37 of 40 Senate primary runoffs conducted since 1980, turnout had decreased from the initial primary to the runoff. In these 40 races, the com-

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Dr. Michael D. McFarland



Alton Glass



Adm. Michelle Howard

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## Dr. Michael D. McFarland

Lancaster ISD was in a state of transformation for the past few years, and leading the charge has been its superintendent, Dr. Michael D. McFarland. Since his arrival, the district has improved its financial status, strengthened city and community partnerships, increased the graduation rate to where it is the highest among the Best Southwest member cities and is seeing gains in student achievement.

The transformation has not gone unnoticed and on Thursday, June 17, Region



10 Education Service Center confirmed Dr. McFarland as its Regional Superintendent of the Year.

The Superintendent of the Year Program has honored outstanding Texas adminis-

trators for achievement and excellence in public school administration. Candidates are chosen for their strong leadership skills, dedication to improving the quality of education in their school districts, commitment to public support and involvement in education, and ability to build good employee relations among teachers and staff members.

"As superintendent of Lancaster ISD, Dr. McFarland has realized superior academic achievement, greatly improved fiscal management and amassed abundant community support," Region 10 Chief Communications Officer

Kelli Tharp said. "Through innovative programs such as the More Than a Diploma Initiative and the transformation of the instructional services department, Lancaster ISD achieved the highest academic rating and eight designations of distinction from TEA last year. The Region 10 selection committee was impressed with the transformations Dr. McFarland has made thus far and enthusiastic about the vision he illustrated for the future."

Tharp added that being named Superintendent of the Year in Region 10 is a window into the high-functioning organization Dr.

McFarland has established. "The designation of Superintendent of the Year highlights the hard work and ambition of the Lancaster ISD staff, students, parents and community," she said. "It is a rallying cry for the virtuous work that will most perceptibly continue under Dr. McFarland's tenure."

In a note to staff, Dr. McFarland shared his sentiments regarding this recognition.

"I accept this honor, but I also realize that this recognition is more about the work, sacrifice and effort that we all have exerted in our quest to provide the best

for our students," he said. "This award is also about where we have been, where we are and where we are headed. It provides external confirmation that the improved achievement of our students has been remarkable and the efforts of each of you are commendable—we did this together."

Many staff members throughout the district said that they were proud of their superintendent.

"Dr. McFarland is a transformational leader. He inspires others to give their best and instills in others the need to evolve and grow

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## Alton Glass

Los Angeles, CA (BlackNews.com) -- Celebrated director, writer, producer Alton Glass is no stranger to the American Black Film Festival (ABFF), or the winner's circle for that matter. At the 18th annual ABFF held in New York City, Glass and ensemble won awards for his engaging and heartfelt drama, "CRU", making history by winning all nominated categories. The award-winning film "CRU" tells the story of four high school best friends whose lives are dra-



matically changed after a near fatal accident, and when they reunite 18 years later they discover a set of past and present secrets that threaten to alter the course of their future.

The drama won the following awards in each nominated category:

- \* Grand Jury Prize for Best Director - "CRU," Directed by Alton Glass, award and \$5,000 prize provided by Cadillac

- \* Grand Jury Prize for Best Screenplay - "CRU," written by Alton Glass and Oliver W. Ottley III, award and \$5,000 prize presented by the Time Warner Foundation

- \* Grand Jury Prize for Best Narrative Feature - "CRU," Written by Alton Glass & Oliver W. Ottley III, Directed by Alton Glass, Executive Producer

Courtney Triggs, Produced by Danny Green, Alton Glass, Matthew Hatchette and Oliver W. Ottley III, award presented by BET Networks

- \* Audience Award for Best Film - "CRU," Written by Alton Glass & Oliver Ottley III, Directed by Alton Glass, Executive Producer Courtney Triggs, Produced by Danny Green, Alton Glass, Matthew Hatchette and Oliver W. Ottley III, award presented by Nielsen

- \* Grand Jury Prize for Best Actor - Keith Robinson for his performance in "CRU," award presented by UPTOWN Magazine

CRU stars Keith Robinson, Richard T. Jones, Harry J. Lennix, Melissa DeSousa, Sammi Rotibi, Antwon Tanner, Alison Eastwood and Jermaine Crawford.

Glass was overwhelmed with excitement over the history-making accomplishments. "I'd like to thank Jeff Friday, ABFF team, sponsors, my Mom who is my biggest supporter and film-lovers for supporting me and TeamCRU", says Director/Writer/Producer Alton Glass while receiving back-to-back honors at the ABFF awards ceremony.

For more information on

CRU or Alton Glass, visit [www.glassrockent.com](http://www.glassrockent.com)

Alton Glass is an award-winning Director, Writer and Producer who owns Glassrock Entertainment in Los Angeles, CA. His works includes CRU, The Confidant, The Candy Shop and The Mannsfield 12 which received two of the highest honors by winning the Grand Jury "Best Director" and "Best Screenplay" Award in 2007 at the American Black Film Festival.

The ABFF is a four-day event dedicated to showcasing quality films by and about people of African descent.

## Adm. Michelle Howard

Adm. Michelle Janine Howard became the first female four-star officer in the history of the U.S. Navy, according to a press release.

Howard, who was promoted at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, is expected to relieve Adm. Mark Ferguson II as the 38th vice chief of naval operations today as well. The promotion also makes her the first African-American female officer to achieve four-star ranking in the history of the military.

"Michelle Howard's promotion to the rank of admiral is the result of a brilliant



naval career, one I fully expect to continue when she assumes her new role as vice chief of naval operations, but also it is an historic first, an event to be celebrated as she becomes the first female to achieve this position," Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, who

presided over the ceremony and administered the oath of office, said, according to the release.

"Her accomplishment is a direct example of a Navy that now, more than ever, reflects the nation it serves—a nation where success is not born of race, gender or religion but of skill and ability."

"Michelle's many trail-blazing accomplishments in her 32 years of naval service are evidence of both her fortitude and commitment to excellence and integrity," Adm. Jonathan Greenert, chief of naval operations, added. "I look forward to many great things to come from the Navy's newest four-star admiral!"

Howard graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1982 and from the Army's Command and General Staff College in 1998. She has a master's degree in military arts and sciences.

In addition to being the first female four-star admiral, she is also the first African-American woman to command a ship in the U.S. Navy, the release notes.

President Obama's senior adviser, Valerie Jarrett, tweeted out her congratulations to the inspiring admiral, who was awarded the 2011 USO Military Woman of the Year and the 2013 NAACP Chairman's Image Award.

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# Bush marched us off to war while cutting VA benefits

By Bill Fletcher, Jr.  
NNPA Columnist

In 2003, we were lied into a war with Iraq. Just about everyone now admits that. At the same time that we were being lied into the war, the then Bush administration was cutting benefits to veterans. This was such an odd set of circumstances. At a point when the U.S. was preparing for war, at a point when one must expect casualties, the Bush administration cut benefits.

The current crisis in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which has been described as a situation of long waits, in some cases allegedly leading to the deaths of patients, cannot be understood in the absence of a discussion of funding cuts, insufficient funding,

and retaliation against workers who have identified the depth of the problems at the VA. In fact, it is fair to say that many of the most vocal critics of the VA, on the Republican side of the aisle, were equally unwilling to fund the VA to the extent that it has needed funding. Why?

The VA gets very high marks from veterans for the actual service that it delivers. Their expertise with physical, emotional and psychological wounds and injuries simply cannot be matched in the non-VA health care systems. It is, in effect, one stop shopping. This, however, is an anathema to many conservatives who wish to see all healthcare privatized. It is for that reason that in the midst of the current VA crisis, there are those who are suggesting a voucher-like system for vet-

erans rather than actually fixing the problems. These critics would rather dismantle the VA and hand out vouchers, than repair a system that has worked for thousands of veterans.

In order for the VA to be repaired, however, the career managers have to be punished for retaliating against whistleblowers within the workforce. VA workers, many of who are represented by the American Federation of Government Employees, have spoken up to identify some of the problems that are currently coming to light, only to face various forms of retaliation from management.

One must ask the question of whether career managers who have watched the juggernaut of privatization proceed down the tracks since the

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## ← **GOP,** continued from Page 1

bined turnout dropped by about a third from the primary to the runoff. And yet, this time [Miss. senate race], turnout went up by 18 percent, jumping from about 319,000 in the initial primary to about 375,000 in the runoff."

Astonishingly, there were more votes cast in the runoff than in the June 3 primary. McDaniel went from 155,000 votes to 184,000 votes; Cochran went from 153,654 votes to 191,508 votes. Without question, the Black vote saved Cochran. There is universal consensus on that point – liberal and conservative; Black and White; Democrat and Republican. But the analysis of how the Black vote led to Cochran's win has been totally misunderstood.

Make no mistake about it, Haley Barbour was the brains behind Cochran's resuscitation. Haley is like a son to me. He is the former governor of Mississippi and former head of the Republican National Committee. A political genius, Haley knows how to win; and is a helluva guy to get a drink with. Haley knows how to operate without leaving fingerprints. But his DNA was all over Cochran's campaign. He is definitely ol' school.

What saved Cochran was the Republicans use of the "reverse Southern Strategy." The Southern Strategy was created by Kevin Phillips, a former Nixon aide, in the 1960s to sacrifice the Black vote (who were staunchly

Republican) in order to pick up the vote of the White Southern Democrats opposed civil rights. To this day, that keeps Blacks aligned with the Democratic Party.

The Cochran campaign did the exact opposite. They sacrificed the conservative White Tea Party vote to pick up the Black vote. They made a political calculation that they had maxed out on their White support and their only way of winning was to expand their base of support.

The only option was to go after Black Democrats who had not voted in the 3 primary. It was a stroke of genius.

What angered me about this last-ditch effort when, in fact, it should have a conscious development. Why did it take desperation to get the party and the campaign to do what was and has always been in its own best interest—cultivating the Black vote?

I was further angered that prior to the runoff, there was absolutely no mention of the Black vote by either candidate. Neither campaign had any Blacks on their campaign staffs or as consultants in decision making positions.

Normally, I blast the Republican Party for doing the right thing even if it's the wrong way (Rand Paul's visit to Howard University); but in this case, they did the wrong thing the right way. The Cochran campaign has spent more time and spent more

money with Black Democrats than they have with Black Republicans. Go figure.

Over the years, I have had heated discussions with conservative and Tea Party members of the Republican Party over the issue of race. I have been told that sometimes I can be "hyper-sensitive" on the issue of race; I am "overreacting;" or "we just have a different view on this issue than you." Really?

Some unknown group created a robo-call targeting Black voters that said in part, "Hello neighbors. It's time to take a stand against the Tea Party. The time has come to say no to the Tea Party. No to their obstruction, no to their disrespectful treatment of the first African American president... If we do nothing, Tea Party candidate Chris McDaniel wins and causes even more problems for President Obama..." Both campaigns deny any involvement in the making and distribution of the recorded call.

The McDaniel campaign and the Tea Party are furious about the robo-call. Now that you have experienced the race card being played against you, maybe, just maybe you will be more understanding of my views the next time we have a discussion about race.

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



# Elite Fitness Pros' new mobile app will help busy people shape up for life

WASHINGTON – Personal training guru Gregory Jones, CPT, owner and Lead Personal Trainer for Elite Fitness Pros, is pleased to announce that the company has launched several new fitness programs including a new mobile app and online platform that will deliver virtual one-on-one counseling to clients. Jones said the advanced technology uses the latest innovations to provide users with personalized fitness instruction that's convenient for busy schedules and delivers the motivation and support of a certified trainer without the high cost.

"The online program simply begins after you contact us through our website to let us know you want to become a client," said Jones. "One of our staff members will contact you to set up your account and provide you with a brief questionnaire (primary fitness goal, equipment accessibility, etc.) so we can create your custom fitness plan."

Jones said during a 30-



Photo: James Lord / Flickr

minute consultation (via phone or Skype) you will be introduced to your Certified Personal Trainer (CPT) who will discuss the finer points of your fitness program and answer any questions you may have. Afterwards, your Online Personal Training Plan will then be created, giving you access to your workout calendar and detailed fitness program. Each workout will include detailed instructions, including trainers notes, and a

place to enter your feedback.

"All new clients must begin with our Introductory Package," said Jones. "This will allow your Personal Trainer to manage the expectations of your fitness program, talk you through proper form, and also conduct virtual one-on-one sessions that will set the tone for your approach to your new Online Personal Training Sessions."

With detailed instruc-

tions, picture/video examples of your exercises, and a messaging feature, Jones said you would always know exactly what to do, while having access to your trainer. Several Elite Fitness clients who are using the cost-effective mobile app and online training website are already seeing results.

"After relocating and trying fitness on my own, I reached out to Greg in 2013 for help," said Brenda Doles. "This is when he introduced to Online Personal Training. Skeptical at first I agreed, and now I am so glad that I did. The app is simple and easy to use, I have Greg's guidance on the exercises I should be doing, and although I have a specific days to work out, I can do them at whatever time is convenient for me."

"I've always hated working out, but Elite Fitness Pros make it fun, keep it interesting, and most importantly yield results," added Mathew Richter. "In the three months I've been working with Elite Fitness Pros, I've lost over 25

pounds, dropped four clothing sizes, started to like working out on a regular basis, and become more conscious about my health."

Jones added that creating that beach-ready body requires 80 percent nutrition and 20 percent exercise. With fad diets being thrown at us from every angle, he said it's about time that we kick the latest trends to the curb and go with what works.

"Our Custom Nutrition Plans give you the flexibility to choose the foods you like from our healthy foods list while providing the structure you need to reach your fitness goals," said Jones. "So whether you're trying to bulk up or slim down, our Certified Fitness Nutrition Specialist will work hand-in-hand with you to design a nutrition plan that will have you ready for the next pool party or trip to the beach."

The process begins with the completion of a Custom Nutrition Plan Questionnaire. The information provided will be used to con-

struct a dietary plan to achieve the desired results. Once the nutrition strategy is sent for your review (2 – 3 business days) you will be contacted (via email or phone) by a Certified Fitness Nutrition Specialist who will discuss the details of your plan.

"Along with your Custom Nutrition Plan, you will receive our Custom Nutrition Plan Overview that will give you the details on how to effectively follow your nutrition plan," Jones said. "You will have frequent check-ins with your Nutrition Specialist to follow up and make tweaks."

Elite Fitness Pros has also launched an Outdoor Transformation Boot Camp that takes place four mornings per week at Canal Park, 200 M Street, SE in Washington, DC. Jones said the program is designed to provide you with powerhouse workouts and a personalized, fat-burning nutrition plan.

For more information and pricing plans, please call (202) 570-3435 or visit [www.elitefitnesspros.com](http://www.elitefitnesspros.com).

## These 4th of July safety tips can save a lot of trouble

July 4 is a time for celebration, whether it's a family get together in the backyard or a trip out of town for some R and R. With all the fun going on, we sometimes forget about the dangers July 4th merrymaking can bring. Fireworks, swimming pools and hot temperatures can all put a damper on your good times if you're not careful.

Doctors at local AFC/Doctors Express Urgent Cares and American Family Care facilities often see a surge in patients seeking treatment for injuries and illnesses over the July 4th holiday.

Fireworks are part of any great July 4th celebration, but mishandling fireworks or using illegal fireworks can lead to problems that will land you in the doctor's office. Doctors see a lot of hand, fingers and eye injuries caused by



Photo: Brett Chisum / Flickr

fireworks each year, and say that the safest way to enjoy them is at a professional display. If you set up your own legal display, be sure to have a fire extinguisher or a hose connected to a water source nearby to put out fires. Keep children away from fireworks at all times. According to the CPSC, children under age 5 were most likely to be injured by fireworks.

• Sparklers and rockets accounted for more than 40 percent of all fireworks injuries.

• Consumers sometimes feel comfortable handing children fireworks devices perceived to be less powerful, such as sparklers and bottle rockets, leading to injuries.

Swimming pools -- either in a friend's backyard or the public variety -- can cause major medical problems. Swimmers with intes-

tinal illnesses can release *Cryptosporidium* bacteria into the water, and anyone who gets water in their mouth is also at risk for the bacteria.

According to the CDC, every day about 10 people die from unintentional drowning, and nearly 80 percent of drowning victims are male. There have also been recent reports of secondary and dry drowning incidents, where problems happen long after swimming or contact with water.

• Dry drowning: Water is inhaled while swimming, creating irritation in the airway. The irritation can cause muscle spasms, leading to impaired breathing.

• Secondary drowning: Water is inhaled while swimming and doesn't clear the lungs. The irritation caused by the water can lead to fluid buildup in the lungs,

known as pulmonary edema. The drowning actually occurs from the lung fluid, not the water.

Too Hot to Handle - People suffer heat-related illness when their bodies' temperature control systems overload and their bodies can no longer cool themselves. Infants and children under age 4, people over 65, overweight people, people with certain illnesses and those taking certain medications are most at risk for heat-related illnesses.

• Heat Stroke: Most serious heat-related illness. Body temp can rise to 106 degrees in 10 to 15 minutes, and sweating just isn't enough to cool down. Without immediate treatment, you can become permanently disabled or die.

• Heat Exhaustion: Milder heat-related illness that develops after

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# The Old Black Woman



## Curtis Report

by Barry Curtis

There is nothing like the presence of an old black woman. I say that with the utmost respect and honor.

Old black women are the window to the soul of the black experience. Look at her face; it is worn with the burden of the ages. The deep outlines of her wrinkles chronicle the history of black America. They are the proof of life and death, of tyranny and abuse. Her wrinkles demand the respect of those that have lived, fought, and died before her. Those magnificent wrinkles show the evidence of the witness to history. The wrinkles constitute the virtual life line of the black journey in this country. They are proof that black mothers and grandmothers are raising their children as well as their grandchildren. It is clear that if it weren't for the older black women, there would be no

evidence of the black family. Old black women are holding together what is left of the black family. We can say that with great certainty since young black women who are having some babies are not taking care of them. The babies that the young black women don't want are being aborted in record numbers.

We thank you old black women, not for your oldness but in spite of it. We know that you have grown old too quick, much at the cost of your own health and well-being. We know that you didn't get to finish your education, old black woman; instead you favored giving up much to allow other younger children to complete their education.

We thank you old black women for feeding, clothing and securing the children at all cost. We know mostly at a significant life altering cost to you. We know that breast cancer and heart disease kills older black women at a

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# Irving Police to conduct 'No Refusal Weekend' around holiday schedule

Irving, Texas – The Irving Police Department will conduct a DWI No-Refusal operation over the July 4th holiday weekend. The Department runs the operation by way of a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) as part of the State's "Drink. Drive. Go to Jail." campaign. Additional officers whose primary focus will be to locate and arrest impaired drivers will be on duty. Their high visibility and enforcement efforts should serve as a warning to those who would drive impaired.

The Department will be utilizing a no-refusal approach to DWI enforcement. Those arrested for DWI will be offered a blood test only (no breath tests). Officers will obtain a search warrant, signed by a judge, in order to acquire a sample from anyone refusing consent to a blood test.

During the July 4th holiday weekend, there is a higher likelihood of impaired drivers on the roadways. This can increase the potential for alcohol related crashes involving injuries or

deaths.

The operation will take place on the nights of Friday, July 4th and Saturday, July 5th. If you see a suspected drunk driver, and you (or a passenger) can do so safely, please call 9-1-1 with the information.

For more information on this or other special enforcement efforts and education please contact Lt. Lewis Remington, Special Operations Division, Irving Police Department (972) 721-721-7840

# State-wide boat-draining rule took effect July 1

As of July 1, boaters must drain all water from their boat and on-board receptacles before leaving or approaching a body of fresh water anywhere in Texas.

The new Texas Parks and Wildlife Department regulation is designed to help combat the further spread of zebra mussels and other invasive species.

It applies to all types and sizes of boats whether powered or not: personal watercraft, sailboats, kayaks/canoes, or any other vessel used on public waters.

The regulation requires the draining of livewells, bilges, motors, and any other receptacles or water-intake systems coming into contact with public waters.

Live fish, including personally caught live bait, cannot be transported from the water body where the fish were caught in or aboard a vessel in water from the water body where the fish were caught. Personally caught live bait can be used in the water body where it was caught.

Anglers are allowed to transport and use commercially purchased live bait if they have a receipt that identifies the source of the bait.

Any live bait purchased from a location on or adjacent to a public water body that is transported in water from that water body can only be used as bait on that

same water body.

Anglers participating in a fishing tournament confined to one water body may transport live fish in water from that single water body to an identified off-site weigh-in location, but all water must be drained and properly disposed of before leaving that location.

Anglers are required to possess documentation pro-

vided by tournament organizers that identify them as participants in the tournament.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and a coalition of partners are working to slow the spread of zebra mussels by reminding boaters to Clean, Drain and Dry their vessels before traveling from one lake to another.

# Addison Summer Jazz Series kicks off this week

Addison Summer Series continues with July Jazz concerts beginning July 5 with an upbeat and swinging jazz performance by Corner Pocket! Pack a picnic, gather up your family and friends and spend your Saturday night listening to some great music under a blanket of beautiful North Texas stars in Addison's Beckert Park.

Addison invites you to its acclaimed Summer Series for free and memorable evenings throughout the summer

with July Jazz and Cinema in the Circle in August.

Addison is known for hosting fun, family entertainment year-round and the 2014 Summer Series is no exception! With many of Addison's fantastic restaurants offering great discounts to Summer Series attendees, it's summer fun you will not want to miss. Be sure to check [www.addisontexas.net](http://www.addisontexas.net) for details on these events and special offers.

Every Saturday in July, sit back, relax and enjoy evenings under the stars while listening to cool jazz. Pack a picnic for family and friends or grab a table at an Addison Circle restaurant for a peaceful evening. At the Beckert Park located at 5044 Addison Circle Drive in Addison.

July 5, 2014	Corner Pocket
July 12, 2014	Simone Pellizzi
July 19, 2014	Carolyn Lee Jones
July 26, 2014	Joseph Vincelli

# FIREWORKS, continued from Page 4

several days of exposure to high temps and inadequate replacement of fluids. Most prone to heat exhaustion are the elderly, people with high blood pressure and folks who work or exercise

in the heat.

People often don't have many options besides emergency care over the Fourth of July holiday. With no appointments necessary and extended evening and holi-

day hours, AFC/Doctors Express and American Family Care facilities are often swamped with patients during the festivities.

"Summer is the time to take it easy, but you can never take a vacation from proper health precautions and safety," says Dr. Bruce

Irwin, founder of American Family Care.

"Injuries and sickness don't only happen Monday through Friday from 9 – 5. Our medical facilities are open on weekends and after hours to make sure patients get immediate care without long waits and high bills."

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**Call: 866-429-3700**







# Is flagging students as 'at risk' in early grades helpful or harmful?

By Alyson Bryant  
New American Media

Long before students have even entered ninth grade, teachers are looking to detailed data to figure out which kids are most likely to drop out of high school. Though this flagging system can call attention to a need for additional help to a potential dropout, there may be concerns, like inaccurate predictions, or worse, lowered expectations.

At Clinton Middle School in East Los Angeles, teachers are using a system called Early Warning Indicators, or EWI, which is part of a school transformation program called Diplomas Now, currently used in 14 cities around the country. The system is based on recent research out of Johns Hopkins University that shows

what specific factors best predict the likelihood of dropping out of high school. The warning system uses three data points — suspensions or behavior, attendance, and grades in middle school — to identify kids at risk of not making it to high school graduation. According to an op-ed written by Diplomas Now in the New York Times, in the 2012-13 school year, “the program achieved a 41 percent reduction in chronically absent students, a 70 percent reduction in suspended students, a 69 percent reduction in students failing English and a 52 percent reduction in students failing math.”

Here’s how it works: After reviewing the trends, the teachers examine students’ names that are colored red or yellow, considered off-track or in danger of being off-track. At Clinton, signs of being

off-track include coming to school less than 85 percent of the time, getting a bad behavior grade, or an F in any class. Students who show two or more of these signs are flagged.

The teachers then discuss the circumstances around each student, things like how often he or she visits the nurse, or what’s going on in the family. Then they brainstorm interventions. These can be simple, like saving an extra breakfast for a student, or more involved, like assigning tutoring or Saturday school.

Though teachers have always kept students’ needs in mind when grades have dipped or behavior has changed, typically those decisions were made within the teacher’s own classroom. Teachers don’t always know what’s going on in the classroom next

door, and it’s fairly rare to have time carved out of the school day just to problem-solve around student data. Likewise, students often don’t realize that teachers are paying attention to their personal lives.

At Clinton, a student doing poorly in math class is every teacher’s problem, because that student is considered more likely to drop out. The faculty meets every month, hoping that within a month, they can bump a student back on-track — a process they call “recovery.”

But does being off-track definitely mean that a student will drop out? The kids interviewed at Clinton are in seventh grade and only 12 years old. Can data accurately predict if one of them is going to drop out of high school five years down the line?

That’s a question Chris West is wrestling with, based on his work developing an Early Warning Indicator system for Montgomery County Schools in Maryland. His system flagged “at-risk” students as young as first grade. One of his concerns is whether all this information can even be acted upon. He found that 76 percent of the students who dropped out had these warning indicators, but 47.4 percent of the non-dropouts had these indicators, too. What’s the risk of “mis-predicting”?

Ultimately, West said if you identify someone incorrectly, but they still show signs of disengagement, the effects of intervening could still be positive.

There’s another concern about these early flagging systems.

See HISTORY, Page 13

## MCFARLAND, continued from Page 2

professionally,” Lancaster High School Principal Joseph Showell said. “Students in our community are considered at-risk. Dr. McFarland is very aware of what the research says about our student population if they are not adequately educated. His knowledge of academic trends and best practices is exceptional.”

District employee Terry Tucker said that the success of any organization or movement starts at the top.

“Dr. McFarland is truly a ‘hands on’ superintendent. He often visits each campus to ensure the students are receiving the best of instruction and campus engagement,” Tucker said. “Great school districts don’t just happen by chance. Great school districts happen by design. His leadership, professionalism and dedication inspire a love of learning in students and staff of all backgrounds and abilities.”

Central Office Administrative Assistant Eliska Thomas has been in Lancaster ISD for 14 years and has been a witness to its transformation.

“Since Dr. McFarland’s arrival to Lancaster ISD, a

level of professionalism has been restored to the district,” she said. “He has instilled a high level of accountability and expectations with regards to instruction and student learning.”

The Lancaster ISD Board of Trustees unanimously voted to nominate the superintendent for this honor. Board President Ty G. Jones said that the nomination and Region 10’s selection came as a result of the hard work that Dr. McFarland has put forth to catapult the district to a great place as it relates to student achievement, leadership and financial management.

“This selection will solidify our place in the Best Southwest and the state as a premier district that services African American students and students as a whole,” President Jones said.

The school district and its city are in a partnership and Lancaster City Manager Opal Mauldin-Robertson was glad to hear the news. She expressed that Dr. McFarland was an excellent selection for this honor.

“His commitment, compassion and dedication to ensuring the most qualified and competent educators

are providing a learning experience that prepares our students for the workplace and society is second to none,” she said. “Dr. McFarland has taken the opportunity that the Lancaster Independent School District provided and created an environment that districts across the metroplex and state of Texas are using as a standard and template for continuous improvement and success.”

Dr. Reo Pruiett, Program Officer for Educate Texas agrees that others are beginning to take notice of the working occurring within Lancaster ISD.

“Across the state of Texas, Lancaster ISD is developing a reputation of being the school district that is transformative, cutting edge and innovative,” Dr. Pruiett said. “The best kept secret in the Best Southwest Consortium was Lancaster ISD and its willingness to re-invent what school looks like for children today. Now, the secret is out.”

The Chairman of the Texas Instrument Foundation, a partner of Lancaster ISD, was happy to hear the district’s news.

“This recognition reflects Dr. McFarland’s charismatic leadership, his ability to gain consensus among

the school board, business community, parents and teachers to work toward a common goal,” Chairman Lewis McMahan said. “Most importantly, he has helped to sharpen the focus on a vision that can lead to an outstanding public school system where high-performing students are prepared to succeed in college or the workforce of tomorrow.”

Neighboring district leader, Dr. David Harris, DeSoto ISD Superintendent, shared that he supports Region 10’s selection.

“I feel Dr. McFarland is an excellent choice. He is a great example of how to preserve and expand the opportunities for students in Lancaster. Dr. McFarland is a true visionary and has the fortitude to ensure his vision and the vision of the community comes to fruition,” he said. “It gives credibility to the work that is ongoing in Lancaster and it means others are looking at the work too.”

Dr. McFarland will now advance to the next level and represent Region 10 and Lancaster ISD in the state competition for Superintendent of the Year.

“Region 10 looks forward to Dr. McFarland representing North Texas in the

next stage of the Superintendent of the Year competition,” Tharp said.

“The work he has accomplished in Lancaster ISD mirrors the hard work and high academic realizations occurring in schools and districts across Region 10. We are proud to highlight this work through the snapshot of Dr. McFarland and Lancaster ISD.”

Region 10 is the second largest of the 20 ESCs in Texas servicing 80 public school districts and 44 public charter schools. The region encompasses Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Fannin, Grayson, Hunt, Kaufman, Rockwall, and a part of Van Zandt Counties.

The Lancaster Public

Schools serve more than 6,000 pre-kindergarten through grade 12 students in 11 schools.

The mission of the Lancaster Independent School District, a leader in providing innovative, quality programs, is to educate every student with the knowledge; skills; and principles to succeed and contribute in a competitive and technologically advancing world by providing rigorous and engaging learning opportunities that promote diversity; create an environment of integrity and respect; and establish a commitment to continued improvement in partnership with families and community.



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# DCT offering sensory-friendly performance of Stuart Little for special needs guests on July 12

Following an enthusiastic response to the sensory-friendly performance of *Go, Dog. Go!*, families and professionals who serve the special needs community now look forward to the sensory-friendly performance of *Stuart Little* on Saturday, July 12 at 4:30 p.m.

Current attendance numbers suggest that DCT is poised to host more than the 300+ who came to the first show.

Attendee Beverly Campbell shared the following after coming to DCT's first sensory-friendly show, "My grandson had a glorious time at his first theater experience, and I was thrilled to let him express joy in his special way! We will return in July for another ex-



perience of a non-judgmental outing."

After years of requests from families, a national grant from the

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Theatre Communications Group has enabled Dallas Children's Theater (DCT) to include

three sensory-friendly performances for children with autism and other special needs in 2014. Based on the overwhelming response,

DCT is seeking funds to continue providing these special performances in 2015 and beyond. Many of these children, along with others with sensory sensitivity, are enjoying a comfortable live theater experience for the first time.

Stuart Little actors and production staff have worked with sensory processing experts to develop this special performance featuring the story of an extraordinary mouse making his way through New York City. Actor Randall Scott Carpenter who plays Stuart says, "On the road it worked out

really, really well, and it made for such a comfortable and easy experience for the children. Being a part of that is so great."

The sensory-friendly performance of *Stuart Little* is Saturday, July 12 at 4:30 at the Rosewood Center for Family Arts. Show goers are encouraged to come one hour early to enjoy some fun pre-show activities! The performance is recommended for all ages.

In an effort to make sure families have no economic barriers to participation, tickets to the sensory-friendly performance are only \$5 each. For tickets or more information on *Stuart Little*, visit [www.dct.org](http://www.dct.org) or call the box office at 214-740-0051.

## Bowie named senior pastor of St. Luke's 'Community' UMC

Dr. Michael Bowie will assume the role of new senior pastor at St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church of Dallas. He will deliver his inaugural sermon July 6 during a Unity service at 10 a.m. We ask the community to "discover new things" at St. Luke including our pastor and our passion.

The current senior pastor, Dr. Henry Masters is retiring after 47 years of service to the United Methodist Church (UMC). Dr. Bowie brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and energy to St. Luke. He has a strong track record of helping churches grow their congregation in their spiritual walk.

Bowie holds a doctorate of ministry from the United Theological Seminary with an emphasis on church development and congregational development. He earned his masters of divinity, magna cum laude, from St. Paul School of Theology. True to his Houston roots he earned his bachelor's in political science from Texas Southern Uni-

versity.

A Texas native, Dr. Bowie is coming home after 10 years in Ohio. Most recently he leaves the Stonybrook UMC in Gahanna, Ohio where he served as their senior pastor since 2010. Before that he was a teaching pastor at the Ginghamburg UMC in Tipp City, Ohio. Dr. Bowie and his wife Jeanette have two lovely children, Michael III and Lauren.

St. Luke is in its 81st year of service to the greater Dallas area. The church is best known for its past senior pastor, Dr. Zan W.

Holmes, Jr. During his tenure St. Luke was one of the most vibrant congregations in the Methodist church. The church is also known for its stained glass windows depicting the voyage of African-Americans through the history of this country.

St. Luke welcomes Dr. Bowie and invites you to join us for our July 6 Unity worship celebration. Regular Sunday services begin at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. For more information on St. Luke and its ministries please contact the church office 214-821-2970.

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St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church

# DISCOVER

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Unity Sunday, July 6, 2014  
10:00 a.m.

**Join Us and Discover What's New At St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church**

**Dr. Michael Bowie Senior Pastor**

**Michael III, Lauren, Michael and Jeannette Bowie**

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# The Black Press

## The Voice of Black America

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

(NNPA) Amidst last week's annual convention of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) Annual Convention in Portland, Oregon, I was reminded repeatedly that Black Americans have had a long, storied tradition of newspaper publishing. Since the first publication of Freedom's Journal in 1827, Black American publishers have worked heroically to earn the title "Voice of Black America." From the east coast to the west coast, in big cities and in small towns, NNPA publishers continue have a sustainable economic development impact within the heart of the Black American community.

For more than 187 years, the Black Press in America has stood courageously to articulate and print the news interests of Black America. But please do not take this history lightly or for granted. We must never forget how the long struggle to attain the right to vote was "blood soaked" by the sacrifices and sufferings of civil rights leaders and activists.

Similarly, the historic struggle of Black Americans to engage in the enterprise of freedom of press has been also soaked with sacrificial blood, facing down lynch mobs, and enormous economic inequality challenges. There is a long list of Black newspapers in the U.S. that have been dynamited, deliberated destroyed and the target of successive arsons.

During the 1898, race massacre in Wilmington, N.C, the Daily Record was burned to the ground by 1,500 racist vigilantes who were angry at the audacity of Alexander Manly, the Black American publisher of the newspaper. Manly had written a bold editorial opposing the brutal and wanton patterns of unjust lynching of Black men and women in the state.

Sixty-five years later, the Wilmington Journal, published by Thomas C. Jervay, Sr. and family, was bombed with sticks of dynamite by a paramilitary group known as the Rights of White People (ROWP). Still, the Wilmington Journal never missed a week publishing. The Jervay family of Black-owned newspapers in Raleigh and in Wilmington emerged over the years to epitomize the history of moral integrity and high value of NNPA member publishers.

Some ask why it is necessary to be

reminded of the history of the Black Press. It is necessary because we cannot afford to be ignorant of our past if we intend to have a better future for generations to come. The Black Press is one of the most valuable assets that we have in our communities.

I wrote of series of columns recently on the "Civil Rights Movement and

self-expression of Black America. We live in a global media age. The print media is the bedrock of multimedia and social media. Digital media augments – and not supplant – the printed word. That is especially true among African Americans who over index on technology.

Thus, we intend to strengthen the



Photos: Worsom Robinson / NNPA

#VoiceofBlackAmerica @NNPABlackPress every second, hour, day, week, month and year. Next year will mark the 75th anniversary of the National Newspaper Publishers Association. I am excited and passionate about helping to enhance and advance the significant interests of the Black Press in the U.S., in the Caribbean, in Brazil, across Africa and throughout the world. Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the 75th Anniversary of NNPA: The Voice of Black America.

Our struggle for freedom, justice and equality continues. I am optimistic about the future. We have been given the baton of history at a time when have some of best newspaper publishers, freedom-fighting journalists, business leaders, teachers, preachers, lawyers and other professionals, along with the most talented and gifted generation of youth that we have ever been blessed to witness. Nothing can hold us back from winning but ourselves.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the Interim President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: [dr.bchavis@nnpa.org](mailto:dr.bchavis@nnpa.org).

## 2014 NNPA Merit Award Winners

The complete list of NNPA Merit Award winners were:

- 1) *St. Louis American*
- 2) *Miami Times*
- 3) *Washington Informer*

CLASS I – Robert S. Abbott Best Editorial Award

- 1) *Final Call*
- 2) *Black Voices*
- 3) *Daily Challenger*

CLASS II – Emory O. Jackson Best Column Writing

- 1) *Final Call*
- 2) *Black Voices*
- 3) *Houston Forward Times*

CLASS III – Carl Murphy Community Service

- 1) *St. Louis American*
- 2) *Houston Defender*
- 3) *Portland Skanner*

CLASS IV – Ida B. Wells Best News Story

- 1) *Houston Forward Times*
- 2) *Philadelphia Tribune*
- 3) *Richmond Free Press*

CLASS –V Frank L. Stanley Best Feature Story

- 1) *Portland Skanner*
- 2) *New Pittsburgh Courier*
- 3) *Winston-Salem Chronicle*

CLASS VI – BEST NEWS PICTURES

- 1) *LA Watts Times*
- 2) *Richmond Free Press*
- 3) *Washington Informer*

CLASS VII – Robert L. Vann Best Layout and Design TABLOID

- 1) *Washington Informer*
- 2) *Final Call*
- 3) *LA Watts Times*

BROADSHEET

- 1) *New Pittsburgh Courier*
- 2) *St. Louis American*
- 3) *Miami Times*

CLASS VIII – Leon H. Washington Best Special Edition

CLASS IX – Ada S. Franklin Best Lifestyles Section

- 1) *St. Louis American*
- 2) *Houston Forward Times*
- 3) *Charlotte Post*

CLASS X – Best Youth Writer

- 1) *Houston Forward Times*
- 2) *Miami Times*
- 3) *Final Call*

CLASS XI – Best Use of Photographs (Broadsheet)

- 1) *St. Louis American*
- 2) *Carolina Peacemaker*
- 3) *New Pittsburgh Courier*

(Tabloid)

- 1) *Washington Informer*
- 2) *Gary Crusader*
- 3) *Chicago Crusader*

CLASS XII – Best Church Page

- 1) *Philadelphia Tribune*
- 2) *Miami Times*
- 3) *LA Sentinel*

CLASS XIII – Don King Best Sports Section

- 1) *Pittsburgh Courier*
- 2) *Philadelphia Tribune*
- 3) *St. Louis American*

CLASS XIX – Best Business Section

- 1) *Miami Times*
- 2) *St. Louis American*
- 3) *Houston Defender*

CLASS XX – Best Entertainment Section

- 1) *St. Louis American*
- 2) *Miami Times*
- 3) *LA Sentinel*

CLASS XXI – Miller-Coors Digital Excellence

- 1) *St. Louis American*
- 2) *Skanner*
- 3) *Crossroad News*



# Things to do to celebrate July 4 in the area

## DALLAS METROPCS FAIR PARK FOURTH (FREE)

[www.fairpark.org](http://www.fairpark.org)

Gather the family and head down to the heart of Dallas to marvel at a 16-minute fireworks show sponsored by Gold Metal Recyclers, a performance of patriotic favorites by the three-time Grammy nominated Dallas Wind Symphony, dancing water fountain shows at the Esplanade Fountain, and dancing to music provided by Quiver and Havana NRG. Visitors should also check out the aquarium, swan boats and the performance by Motion following the fireworks show.

July 4 from 4:30 to 11:30 p.m. at Fair Park, 1300 Robert B. Cul-

lum Blvd. Fireworks will begin at 9:30.

Free admission. \$15 parking within the park's gates, or visitors may ride DART's Green Line Rail to the Fair Park or Martin Luther King Jr. stations. Some attractions and activities cost extra. Visitors must have wristbands to enter the Cotton Bowl, which will be distributed free of charge from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. 214-421-9600.

## ALLEN MARKET STREET ALLEN USA CELEBRATION (FREE)

[www.allenusa.org](http://www.allenusa.org)

Will you be out of town on July 4th? No, problem. Check out Allen's early Independence Day event. The event features a 20- to

25-minute fireworks show choreographed and produced by Pyrotechnico. The fun also includes music by Emerald City Band, Dennis DeYoung performing the music of Styx, Heidi Zetti Band, the Indecision, the Kassy Levels Band and blues artist Joey Love. There'll also be a guest appearance by Radio Disney Live's Dylan Riley Snyder. Food, inflatables, crafts and games round out the day's attractions.

June 29 from 4 to 10 p.m. at Celebration Park, 701 Angel Parkway. Free admission. Event staff recommends parking and taking the shuttle from Allen High School, 300 Rivercrest. Concessions and some activities cost extra. 214-509-4700.

## ADDISON

### KABOOM TOWN (FREE)

[www.addisontexas.net/events/kaboomtown](http://www.addisontexas.net/events/kaboomtown)

Addison's celebration has been rated in the top five best firework show by Forbes as well as AOL. The celebration features a 30-minute firework display choreographed to music, the Addison Airport Air Show with formation flights performed by aerobatic pilots, historical airplanes showcased at the Cavanaugh Flight Museum, viewing parties hosted by local restaurants, night aerial aerobatics from pilots such as Dan Buchanan and Bill Leff, family games, military bands, performances by the Dallas Wind Symphony and an after-party on the Dos Equis Main Stage featuring

Emerald City Band.

July 3 at Addison Circle Park, 4970 Addison Circle Drive. The park opens at noon and the event runs from at 5 p.m. to midnight; fireworks begin at 9:30. Free. Attendance will be limited, and guests are encouraged to leave bags and coolers at home, as all will be searched. 1-800-233-4766.

## LEWISVILLE CASTLE HILLS JULY 4TH FREEDOM FESTIVAL (FREE)

[www.castlehillsvillageshops.com](http://www.castlehillsvillageshops.com)

The sky will be a blaze with a firework display at approximately 9:30 p.m. The celebration will include live music by Cover Down,

See JULY 4, Page 12

# Delta Martin: 'Beyond Layers' in the SDCC gallery

The South Dallas Cultural Center (SDCC) presents Delita Martin: Beyond Layers, a series of portraits that explore ideas of identity and the role of Black women within community and family structures. The exhibit is on view in the Arthello Beck Gallery of the South Dallas Cultural Center Saturday, July 12 to Wednesday, July 30. An artist talk and reception takes place Saturday, July 12 beginning at 5:00 p.m. The South Dallas Cultural Center is located at 3400 S. Fitzhugh Avenue in Dallas, 75210. The exhibit and re-

ception are free and open to the public.

Throughout the Beyond Layers exhibit, Delita Martin pairs portraits with common objects, such as spoons, bottles, and bowls, to show a connection to daily life. These personal objects can serve as spiritual symbols and make historical and/or social references. Martin combines the objects and symbols to create a unique visual language that moves the piece beyond its literal meaning.

A Texas native currently living in Little Rock, Ark., Delita Martin received her

BFA in drawing from Texas Southern University and an MFA from Purdue University. She is excited to unveil Beyond Layers in her home state. Martin's passion for history and years of training in various disciplines are presented in the exhibit.

"My process of layering printmaking, drawing, sewing, collaging and painting techniques are held within the visual space," says Martin. "The artwork serves as a medium for the visual and symbolic language to converge, creating a new filter for interpreta-

tion and offering other narratives for women who have historically been marginalized." More informa-

tion about Delita Martin is available at <http://www.black-boxpressstudio.com>.

Additional information

can be found online at <http://www.dallasculture.org/SDCCulturalCenter/> and on Facebook.

## Free 34th annual Basically Beethoven Festival Sunday

Fine Arts Chamber Players presents the free 34th Annual Basically Beethoven Festival Sunday afternoons starting July 6. Held at the Dallas City Performance Hall in the Dallas Arts District at 2520 Flora Street, Dallas, TX 75201, doors open at 2 p.m. for the 2:30 p.m. Rising Star Recital featuring outstanding harpist Juanito Riveros. Awarded by the Texas Commission on the Arts and Texas Cultural Trust, Riveros is a recipient of the Young Masters Program, a grant given to a group of 20 gifted student artists across the state.

His program includes: Sonata No.3 in C minor, Op.2 by Sophia Dussek, La Source, Op.44 by Alphonse Hasselmans, and

Gabriel Pierné's Impromptu-caprice, Op.9. at 3 p.m., the W yeth String Quartet performs Mozart's Quartet No.4 in C major, K.157; Echoes by acclaimed film composer and conductor Bernard Herrmann; and Beethoven's Quartet Op. 18, No. 4. All concerts are FREE TO THE PUBLIC. Paid parking is available in surface lots and garages in the Dallas Arts District. Families with children are welcome.

For more information call (214) 520-2219, email [music@fineartschamberplayers.org](mailto:music@fineartschamberplayers.org) or visit our website at [www.fineartschamberplayers.org](http://www.fineartschamberplayers.org). Basically Beethoven Festival recitals and concerts continue on July 13, 20, and 27.





# The power of 'Power Talk'

By James Clingman  
NNPA Columnist

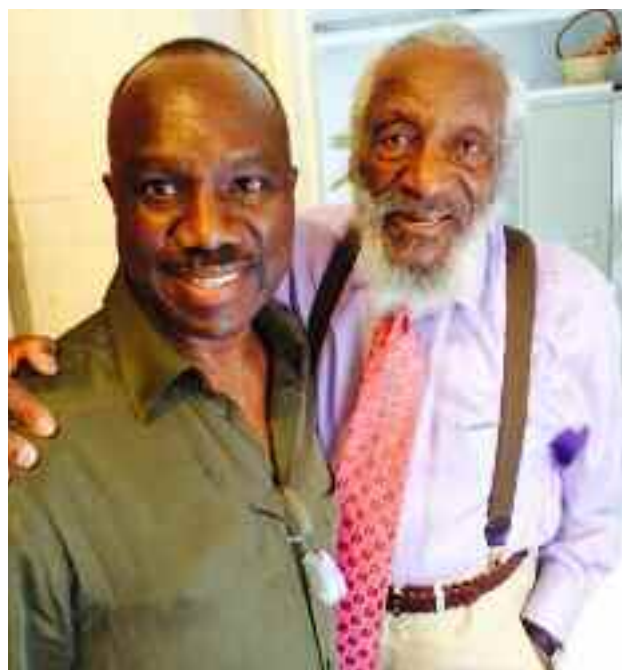
The recent gathering of serious, conscious, and intelligent brothers and sisters in Washington, D.C. on June 21 was so refreshing and stimulating. The event was called Power Talk One, and it was organized by Carl Nelson, radio talk show host par excellence, whose show is carried from 4-7 p.m. weekdays on WOL-1450, in the District of Columbia and across the nation. Gatherings like this one are too few and far between, and I am so excited about its future plans, which will be shared in various circles very soon.

Some doubted the turnout would be significant, but there was standing room only at the Plymouth Baptist Church after 1,200 people showed up. The sanctuary was filled, including the balcony and choir sections, as well as the overflow room where attendees could listen to the proceedings. It was scheduled to end at 6 p.m., but continued until 9 p.m.

Power Talk One was sponsored by a Black-owned corporation, Radio One, which is significant because too often Black event planners and organizers run to corporations owned by non-Blacks for financial support. A few years ago, I spoke at a June-teenth celebration and said, "How can we celebrate our freedom if we cannot pay for our freedom celebration with Black dollars?"

My point was and is that we should not overlook the pleasant and rare fact that a Black company was the sole sponsor of Power Talk One, a Black event. Props to Cathy Hughes and Radio One.

Power Talk One brought in men and women from Massachusetts, New Jersey,



New York, South Carolina, North Carolina, Detroit, Georgia, Illinois, Oklahoma, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Florida, and points in between. They came because of Carl Nelson's powerful radio show and his many years of dedication and commitment to the unyielding pursuit of knowledge and commensurate action. They came because they know Carl's show informs Black folks (and anyone else who listens) of important issues that will have a positive effect on his audience.

They came because they know the Carl Nelson Show features a wide variety of guests, many of whom should be featured on TV news shows and national panels that deal with Black issues but are not included on the usual list of Black go-to guys and gals. They came because the Power Talk One list of speakers comprised the likes of Claud Anderson, Francis Cress-Welsing, Tony Browder, Umar Johnson, Patricia Newton, and the venerable and indefatigable Dick Gregory. Yeah, that was the icing on the cake; and those brothers and sisters turned the place out.

"The positive energy in

the room was palpable," said an ebullient and proud Carl Nelson. Folks from every corner of this country were there, some having slept in their cars after driving hundreds of miles to be at this event," Nelson con-

tinued, "They were eager not only to hear but to interact with our august group of speakers. The meeting exceeded my expectations and I am so honored to have been involved."

The Power Talk One gathering was certainly not unique, but it was necessary, timely, and significant as it relates to how we must not only "come together" but also "work together" on solutions so desperately needed for Black people to move in a positive direction toward economic empowerment, historical relevance, educational excellence, and social consciousness. I applaud Power Talk One and Carl Nelson for bringing this event to fruition.

As we move forward, it is vital for us to do more to help ourselves with the tremendous resources, both

financial and intellectual, that are available within our ranks as Black people. In light of our people always looking for what we already have, it is refreshing to see a group of Black people, from grassroots to Ph.Ds, in one room, with no one trying to be the HNIC, and with so much positive energy, seeing and hearing what we have and being willing to utilize those resources.

One last but important thing: As I always say, everything we do takes money. Radio One stepped to the front and sponsored Power Talk One. I am calling on all those business owners who attended and those who could not, to buy advertisements on the Carl Nelson Show. Ad revenues provide the opportunities to present these kinds of events to the public. Let's

practice the Maát principle of Reciprocity to show our gratitude for Power Talk One.

I have already gotten one company (maybe two) to buy commercials. Do your part to support Power Talk, but not just by saying how great it was and how good it made you feel. Help sustain it with your dollars. This was not just a "rap and clap session;" there is action to follow but, as usual, we have to write some checks.

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

**Greater Irving-Las Colinas  
Chamber of Commerce**  
5201 N. O'Connor Blvd.,  
Ste. 100

**Iglesia Santa  
Marie de Guadalupe**  
2601 S. MacArthur

**The Chateau on  
Wildbriar Lake**  
1515 Hard Rock Rd

**Bombay Sizzlers**  
397 East Las Colinas  
Blvd, Ste. 180

**Le Peep**  
4835 N. O'Connor Blvd.

**Mattito's Tex Mex**  
1001 MacArthur Park  
Drive

**Taqueria El Tacazo**  
1150 W. Pioneer Drive

**Capistrano's Café &  
Catering**  
4650 W. Airport Frwy

**Empress of China**  
2648 N. Beltline Rd.

**The Spirit Grille**  
4030 N. MacArthur Blvd  
#112

**El Rancho Restaurant**  
1210 E. Irving Blvd

**504 Salon**  
3414 W. Rochelle

**Irving YMCA**  
220 W. Irving Blvd

**Mitchell's Barbershop**  
4020 N. Beltline Rd

## 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.

**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 Cen-  
ter**  
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.**  
4011 Conflans Road

**Bible Way Baptist  
Church**  
4215 N. Greenvview Dr.

**Strictly Business**  
4159 W. Northgate

**Washateria**  
3712 Cheyenne Street  
**New Life Ministries**  
3706 Cheyenne Street

**Elisha Mane Attractions**  
3704 Cheyenne Street

**Bear Creek Community  
Church**  
2700 Finley Rd.

**Evergreen Baptist  
Church**  
3329 W. Country Club  
Drive  
**Po' Boys Restaurant**  
4070 N. Beltline Rd. Ste.  
100

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

**VW 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 Restau-  
rant**  
3000 N. Beltline Rd

**New Look Barbershop**  
3317 Finley Rd.

**Irving Arts Center**  
3333 N. MacArthur #200



## JULY 4, continued from Page 10

as well as free children activities such as face painting, interactive games, giant water slides, photo booths and Euro bungee.

July 4 at 4 p.m. at 2560 King Arthur Blvd. at Lady of the Lake (in the Castle Hills neighborhood). Free admission. Attendees can take chairs, blankets, and coolers. 972-410-6587.

### ARLINGTON LIGHT UP

**ARLINGTON (FREE)**  
[www.levittpavilionarlington.org](http://www.levittpavilionarlington.org)

Pack up the family in the mini-van, grab the ole' cooler and don't forget to toss in the lawn chairs for this Independence Day Concert featuring performances by Velvet Love Box, made up of three veteran North Texas musicians; and headliner Atlanta Rhythm Section. The event will also include a Boomtown children's area, bounce houses, face painting, a petting zoo, food vendors and a 15-minute fireworks show, all

held at the Levitt Pavilion.

July 3, starting at 6 p.m. at 100 W. Abram St. Music begins at 7:30. Free. Coolers and picnics are allowed; no glass containers. Free parking. 817-543-4301.

### FARMERS BRANCH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION (FREE)

[www.fbspecialevents.com](http://www.fbspecialevents.com)

Get groovy to the tunes of Groove Night. Other event highlights will include children's activities, on-site concessions, tours of Farmers Branch Historical Park structures and a fireworks show at approximately 9:30 p.m.

July 3 at Farmers Branch Historical Park, 2540 Farmers Branch Lane. Gates open at 6:30 p.m. Free. Parking is located at Metro Square Business Park, 12300 Ford Road. Free shuttles will be provided to and from parking and entrance. 972-919-2620.

### FRISCO FRISCO FREEDOM FEST (FREE)

[www.friscofreedom-fest.org](http://www.friscofreedom-fest.org)

The city of Frisco's celebration includes a 20-minute fireworks show; live entertainment by Rick Deringer; local performers; a zip line; two Euro bungees; rock climbing; a Children's Expo with bounce houses, face painting and games; food; and more. Make sure you see the "Hometown Hero" exhibit that will honor local police and firefighters, as well as a Major League Soccer match featuring FC Dallas and Chivas USA.

July 4 event begins at 4 p.m. at Simpson Plaza at City Hall, 6101 Frisco Square Blvd. Free admission. (Tickets required to see FC Dallas MLS soccer game.) Fireworks show will begin at approximately 10:20 (they'll be launched from the north fields of the FC Dallas Stadium). Additional activities and attractions cost extra. Free parking. Sorry, but coolers or the family pets are not allowed.

### GARLAND STAR SPANGLED SPECTACULAR (FREE)

[www.firewheeltowncenter.com](http://www.firewheeltowncenter.com)

The Firewheel Town Center and the city of Garland will host a celebration that features a performance by the Wonders, face painting, bounce houses, balloon artists, decorative hats from the RadHatter, inflatable slides, miniature train rides throughout the park, and games and prizes given away by Radio Disney and Firewheel Town Center. The event will end with a huge fireworks display.

July 4 from 4 to 9 p.m. at Firewheel Town Center, 245 Cedar Sage Drive, Garland. Free. Fireworks begin at 9. Parking is limited, but DART transportation will be available. 972-495-8085.

For even more options, visit [www.northdallasgazette.com](http://www.northdallasgazette.com).

Drivers: CDL (A or B). Local Recruiting Fair 8am to 5pm. Mon. July 7th - Wed. July 9th. Best Western. 8051 Lyndon B Johnson Freeway. Dallas, TX 75251. Call Jason for appt: 1-855-395-6723

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FranklinHighSchool [www.diplomafromhome.com](http://www.diplomafromhome.com)

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## American Airlines recognizes employees with the sixth annual Earl G. Graves Award For Leadership In Diversity

FORT WORTH -- American Airlines Group has recognized four employees with the 2014 Earl G. Graves Award for Leadership in Diversity for influencing positive change, setting an example and leaving a lasting impact on those around them.

- **Fleet Captain Kathi Durst** - Capt. Durst is American's first female pilot in a management leadership role. She is active with Women in Aviation, International, leads career improvement presentations and mentors young pilots. With the backing and support of many co-workers, she chose to become a visible role model and stepped up to assume the Fleet Captain position for the 737 fleet.

- **Vice President of Airport Integration Bob Ciminelli** - Ciminelli has served as an Executive Sponsor for the African American Diversity Network and is frequently involved with other Employee Business Resource Groups such as the Christian EBRG. At the US Airways hub in Philadelphia, he

challenges and engages the Resource Groups to manage themselves well and connect with our employees.

- **Senior Analyst Sales Strategy Anila Jivanji** - Jivanji joined the Family Matters Employee Business Resource Group where she strongly advocated for the Mothers Room built at American Airlines headquarters. Jivanji also helped lead two of the company's biggest on-campus events - Take our Sons and Daughters to Work day and Trick or Treat for UNICEF.

- **Staff Assistant Linda Kozma** - Kozma collaborated with our Veteran's Initiatives department to present the first Marine Week at Chicago O'Hare international Airport, working closely with the Marine Corps Community Services. Their efforts resulted in an invitation for the Resource Group to tour the Pentagon, where staff provided guidelines and protocol for Military Human Remains/Plane-side Honors.

Since 2008, American Airlines has

been honoring recipients with a diversity award for leadership in honor of Earl G. Graves, a successful African American businessman, entrepreneur and former AMR board member.

"This year marks a milestone as we opened nominations for employees from American Airlines and US Airways," said Cindy Fiedelman, vice president - People & Diversity, American. "Not only are we proud to recognize employees for exceptional leadership in diversity, but we are proud to have so many employees willing to take time and nominate their fellow colleagues. It's truly inspiring."

American's long-standing commitment to diversity is part of the company's culture of coordinated, collaborative teamwork and mutual respect and has been recognized by the Human Rights Campaign, the Association of ERGs & Councils, PRISM International and Diversity MBA Magazine. For more information, please visit [aa.com/diversity](http://aa.com/diversity).

## BENEFITS, continued from Page 3

time of the Bush administration, are more interested in preparing their own nests in the private sector over ensuring that veterans receive the service to which they are entitled. How else can one explain retaliating against workers who speak up?

The VA needs to be repaired, rather than dismantled. Veterans need improved and prompt service. But this also means that the atmosphere of panic that has been spread by both the Republicans and many people in the media must halt. Here is an example of why. Part of the reason for delays in care was the direct result of the expansion in VA service to veterans facing disabilities that had previously not been fully covered, e.g., Agent Orange; Gulf War Syndrome. Yet, this has not been discussed in the mainstream media, most likely because to raise the fact that the VA was now serving additional veterans would beg a simple question: Why is the VA not receiving additional resources in order to accomplish its mission?

It makes you wonder...

*Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a racial, labor and global justice writer and activist. He is an employee of the American Federation of Government Employees but this column does not necessarily represent their views. Follow Bill on Facebook and at [www.billfletcherjr.com](http://www.billfletcherjr.com).*

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*column does not necessarily represent their views. Follow Bill on Facebook and at [www.billfletcherjr.com](http://www.billfletcherjr.com).*



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**July 6, 9:30 a.m.**  
You're invited to join us in  
our Sunday Fellowship  
Services as we worship and  
praise God for all of His  
blessings.

**July 9**  
Join us in our Wednesday  
Morning Bible Class at  
10:30 a.m. and/or our  
Evening Bible Class at 7  
p.m.

Brother Ramon Hodridge,  
Minister of Education  
1026 Avenue F  
Plano, TX 75074  
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viduals to live like Jesus  
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**July 6, 8:45 or 11 a.m.**  
Join us in our Morning  
Service as we worship,  
honor and praise God for  
His blessings to us.

**July 9, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our  
Wednesday Night Bible  
Study to learn more about  
the Word of God.

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fort and to fellowship. Call  
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Richardson, TX 75080  
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0567 or they may be sub-  
mitted via email to: prayer-  
line@theship3c.org

**July 6**  
Join us for Sunday Worship  
Services at 9:30 a.m. at  
1550 Edelweiss Drive in  
Allen.

**July 9**  
You're invited to our  
Wednesday Noon Day Live  
Prayer and Bible Study  
and/or our Wednesday  
Night Live Prayer and Bible  
Study at 7 p.m. to learn  
more about God's Word at  
Joycie Turner Fellowship  
Hall at our 200 W. Belmont  
Drive location.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr.,  
Ed.D.  
Senior Pastor  
1550 Edelweiss Drive  
In Allen for Sunday  
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Admin. Building Address  
Is 200 W. Belmont Drive  
Allen, TX 75013  
972-359-9956  
www.theship3c.org

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**July 6, 7:35 a.m.**  
Join us this Sunday for our  
praise and worship services  
and receive a blessing from  
God.

**July 9, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our  
Wednesday Bible Study to  
learn more about God's  
word and how it can lead  
and guide you.

Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Pastor  
4215 North Greenview

Drive  
Irving, TX 75062  
972-257-3766  
www.biblewayirving.org

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OF PLANO (MOCOP)**

**July 6**  
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day School at 8:30 a.m. and  
to stay for our Sunday  
prayer at 9:30 a.m. and our  
Worship Service at 10 a.m.

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

**NORTH DALLAS  
COMMUNITY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

**July 20 11 a.m.**  
You're invited to join us  
and bring a friend as we  
honor Pastor Billy & Mrs.  
Shelley Robinson and cele-  
brate our 14th Church An-  
niversary. Guest speaker is  
Pastor Victor Paul, Greater  
First Baptist Church,  
Bartlesville, OK.

Pastor Billy R. Robinson  
1718 Trinity Valley  
Carrollton, TX 75006  
972-484-1185  
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IN PLANO**

**July 6, 10 a.m.**  
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and bring someone with  
you.

Rev. James W. Thomas,  
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469-467-7575

**SHILOH MBC  
IN PLANO**

**July 6, 8 a.m.**  
Join us this Sunday for  
Morning Worship Services  
as we worship God for His  
blessings.

**July 9, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our  
Wednesday's Bible Study to  
learn more about God's  
Word.

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Senior Pastor  
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**July 6,  
7:30 and 11:30 a.m.**  
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**July 7, 7 p.m.**  
Join us in Monday School  
as we learn what God has to  
say to us.

Pastor Rickie Rush

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

**July 6, 10 a.m.**  
You're invited to Sunday  
School with Elder/Superin-  
tendent Greg Mason; adult  
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Mason; and children class  
teacher and Director of our  
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Elizabeth McAfee and stay  
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# Fears that keep us from His presence



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"Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So He got into the boat and left." **St. Luke 8:37**

Jesus did many miracles when He lived on earth. One of those miracles involved the deliverance of a demon-possessed man. The people of the community witnessed this awesome demonstration of God's power when Jesus commanded the demon spirit to come out of the man and go into the herd of nearby pigs. The man was healed and sat at Jesus' feet.

You would expect the people who witnessed this to embrace Jesus as one performing good deeds and to honor Him. The opposite was true. Instead, they were overcome with fear. Why?

Many of us respond the same way to Jesus when He does an out-of-the-ordinary act among His people. We

are fearful because we have never personally experienced this before. So, we draw wrong judgments. The result is that Jesus removes Himself from us.

The Lord is able to do far exceeding above what we think. Jesus does not remain in the places where there is fear of His goodness. It is often subconscious fears that prevent us from going to a deeper level with Him.

The people in Gerasenes could not benefit from Jesus' presence because of their fears. Have you feared Jesus because of what He might require of you?

Have you feared that He might ask of you something you are not prepared to give? Do not let your fears drive Him from your presence.

All that is necessary is that you understand His roadblocks for you. "And Joshua said, 'Ah, Sovereign Lord, why did You ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of Jordan!'"

**Joshua 7:7**

Have you ever felt like you were doing what God

wanted you to do, but your plans were totally frustrated? This was how Joshua felt.

The Lord had been with the people of Israel as they entered the Promised Land. They defeated every enemy because of God's blessing and protection. They had just taken the city of Jericho. The next battle was the city of Ai.

They scouted the enemy and determined it would re-

quire only 3,000 men to defeat them. They attacked, and soon the reports came back that they were being routed. Joshua could not understand this. He cried out to God asking why this was happening.

The Lord said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? Israel has sinned; they have violated My covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken

some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions.

That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction." **Joshua 7:10-12.**

Whenever we open ourselves up to sin, we become liable. God removes His protective shield from our lives in order for the sin in our lives to be purged out. He often uses the enemy of our souls to accomplish the task. If you feel you are being thwarted in some way, examine your life to see if there is any sin that is the cause of the problem.

Adversity is not always due to sin, but it can be. Ask God; He will show

you. As with Joshua, God immediately answered this prayer when Joshua asked. He desires for His children to live in a right relationship with Him.

Opportunities abound. Ask God to help you to discern when an opportunity is something He has placed before you and when it is something that would be contrary to His will for you.

Ask God to stir your conscience and bring questions, examples and Scripture to your mind that will guide you in this process. Ask for help to consider biblical values; ethics; the gifts, skills, and abilities that He has given you; your family and other commitments; and anything else that may open your eyes to the truth.

Seek encouragement to grasp the opportunities that God gives you and to turn from the opportunities that you should not touch.



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# NDG Book Review: *The Prodigal Son*

Mom always liked you better.

Your siblings probably knew it. How could they not? You were her favorite who got the bigger dessert, more hugs, a lax curfew. Surely that proved it.

And surely, they thought the same thing because Moms really aren't supposed to have favorites. And in the new book "The Prodigal Son" by Kimberla Lawson Roby, neither are Dads.

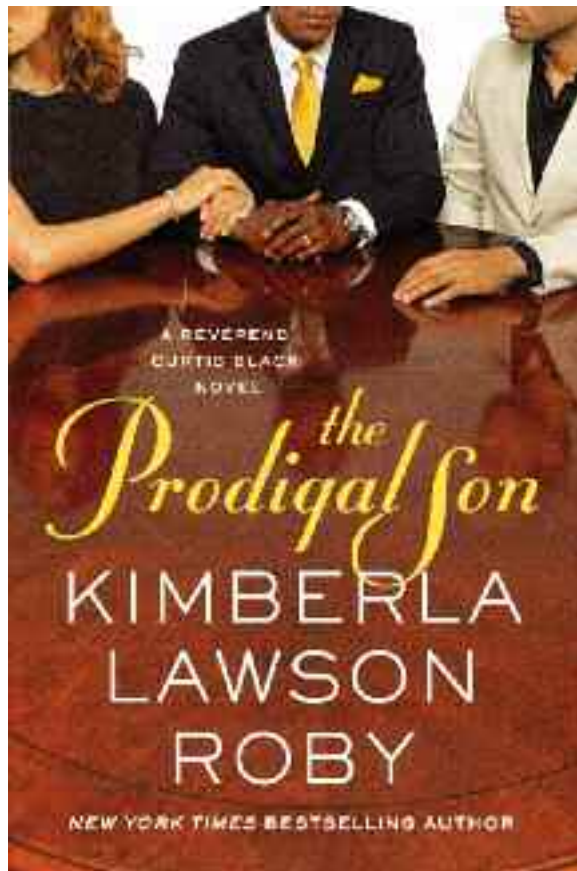
Matthew Black hated to admit it, but he missed his parents.

It had been a year since he'd cut ties with them. It had to happen: his father had stood by while his mother did something underhanded to Matt's wife and baby son. Reverend Curtis and First Lady Charlotte Black never wanted Matt to marry Racquel; they'd made that clear, and their actions almost destroyed her.

Though it hurt him to the quick, Matt avoided his parents in order to protect his family, but then Racquel started acting weird. She wanted nothing to do with her son or her husband, she started drinking, acting crazy, and she asked for a divorce.

Matt was baffled. He loved Racquel – until things got much, much worse...

Curtis Black hoped with all his heart that Matt would come back to the fold. He loved all his children deeply: Alicia, his oldest daughter. Matt, his strong son. Curtina, his baby girl.



And now there was Dillon, a long-lost, newly-embraced son that Curtis had denied so many years ago. Reverend Black felt blessed.

Dillon Whitfield was furious!

Here he was – the eldest son of the esteemed Reverend Curtis Black – and his own father ignored him! He never told Dillon about his return to the pulpit. He barely included Dillon in family events. Curtis could hardly even make time for his firstborn son and Dillon knew who was behind everything: that witch, Charlotte.

Dillon knew she hated him and he planned to ruin her. Nothing would give

him more pleasure, but he wasn't sure exactly how it would happen. His "fiancée," Melissa, the woman he'd used to scam his father, was pathetic. She was no help. He couldn't do it on his own.

And then he met a wildcat named Racquel...

The way I see it, there are two parts to "The Prodigal Son."

The story itself is good enough. Author Kimberla Lawson Roby gives readers a standard amount of women's-novel drama in a standard church setting; a couple of plotlines that go off yonder; things that will make you suck the enamel clean off your teeth; and your typical evil antago-

nists. We also get a cliffhanger, naturally.

What bothered me, though – and I know it irritates others, too – are the mistakes in this book. Missing punctuation and oddly

worded sentences have nothing to do with the plot, that's true, and some issues can be ignored – but not when they happen over and over again.

Though it can stand alone

as a passable diversion, this book is part of a series and, if you've read the others, you'll want "The Prodigal Son." For most readers, though, I think you can do better.

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## WOMAN, continued from Page 5

disproportionate rate than your white counterparts. We know that old black women are less likely to seek medical attention for themselves. The cost of no medical care is obvious to see.

We thank you old black women for picking up the slack where young and old black men have failed to live up to their responsibility. The numbers are staggering: 78 percent of all births in the black homes are born to a one parent household.

We thank you old, black women, with your aged royal face and your crested silver crown of grey hair. We honor and salute you. We are indebted beyond our ability to comprehend. We should repay you but how would we calculate such a contribution to our world.

Thank you old and grey black women. I love you.

Barry Curtis can be reached at [Thecurtisreport.com](http://Thecurtisreport.com).