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Economic power in the fight for justice beyond the holidays

No more business as usual!

Excess spending and frivolity is historically associated with the U.S. holiday season but this year marks a change in direction and focus from consumerism to commitment by those refusing to adhere to business as usual.

Nationwide, activists and ordinary citizens are calling for continued spending boycotts of large retail outlets and many are encouraging Black people to instead increase spending money at Black-owned businesses.

This strategy has gained momentum in recent months as one response to several police and vigilante involved shootings and abuses of young, Black men and women that have gripped the country.

There are several voices on the front lines participating and leading these ongoing, "No Justice, No Profits," "Shut it Down" and "Buy Black" movements.

Black spending power used strategically is a critical force in the struggle for Black freedom, justice and equality, activists point out.

"This must be a multi-front movement in which we use every possible strategy and tool available to us. That undoubtedly includes



Protestors walk out of mall after shutting down stores in efforts to inflict economic pain as part of strategies to obtain justice. (Photo: Richard B. Muhammad)

economic boycotts, which are a form of fiscal resistance," responded Rahiel Tesfamariam, writer, social activist and founder of Urban Cusp magazine to an e-mail from The Final Call.

"With the \$1.1 trillion buying power of the African American community, it is absolutely necessary to withhold our hard earned earnings from a broken system that often values property over people. It is a way for us to assert that we have had enough and will spend 'not one dime.' We refuse to be driven by America's rampant materialism and

capitalistic values at a time of communal grief and rage," said Ms. Tesfamariam.

According to various reports, there was an 11 percent drop in Black Friday sales this year to \$50.9 billion from an estimated \$57.4 billion in 2013. While analysts are not attributing the decline to boycott's by thousands still angry and outraged by the deaths of Michael Brown Jr., 18, Eric Gardner, 43, Tamir Rice, 12, Tanisha Anderson, 37, John Crawford, 22, Akai Gurley,

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Five tips to keep your New Year's resolution

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MLK parade to be held on Jan. 19

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Minority-owned businesses still not adequately represented

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COMMENTARY

NNPA president envisions black press as 'Mainstream Media'

By Hazel Trice Edney
TriceEdneyWire.com

Civil rights leader Benjamin Chavis, now president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, says he envisions Black newspapers as becoming the "new mainstream" rather than an alternative press as it is often called.

"The Black Press, I believe has an opportunity where it can make even more traction than it has

in the past," Chavis said in a recent interview with the Trice Edney News Wire. "In other words, I don't see the Black press as a side press from the mainstream press. I want the Black press to become the new mainstream because the demographics are changing."

Chavis was among the speakers at a gala celebration for the 50th Anniversary of the Washington Informer Newspaper, publisher where it can make even more traction than it has
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Anthony D. Ross



Cheryl Lacey Donovan



La Tashe McCutchen

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Anthony D. Ross

At age 13, Anthony D. Ross lost his grandmother to heart disease. She was his sole caretaker of me at the time, he never knew my dad, and his mother was a drug addict. This is his remarkable story:

"After my grandmother died, my sisters and I were living in my mom's house with no water, heat, or electricity for months due to her drug use. We ran out of the house when she tried to murder us one night with a meat cleaver.

My sisters and I were separated when some of



them joined their father's side of the family while I ended up homeless sleeping in cars and homeless shelters in Washington, D.C. Some of my sisters went to live with their father's family while I ended up home-

less, sleeping in cars and homeless shelters in Washington, D.C.

I wanted to go to high school so bad but could not because I needed to feed and clothe myself at such a young age so I enrolled into a G.E.D. program at age 16 so that I can have time to work at Starbucks during the day and Ruby Tuesdays during the night and still go to school. After I earned my G.E.D.,

I stayed up until three and four in the morning teaching myself algebra, trigonometry, logarithms, functions, and geometry on the computer from watching YouTube videos and

had tutors come out to the shelter to help me prepare for the SAT/ACT's. In 2008, I got accepted into college and spent 4-6 hours a day in the library studying ahead of the syllabi and earned a 4.0 GPA my freshmen year.

I interned for the Mayor of Washington, D.C., Adrian Fenty, where he and President Obama performed several initiatives together which I was able to see first-hand and served as a guest speaker at the British Embassy.

The United States of America recognized me and 14 other homeless students in America for our coura-

geous efforts of drafting a Homeless Youth Act to Congress before receiving awards from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

I was inducted into the Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society and Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society and was on the President's and Dean's List since freshmen year.

Out of all political science majors at my University, I won the department award. I served three years in the Student Government Association and was elected Student Body President of the college my junior year.

On May 5, 2013, I gradu-

ated with Great Honors (Magna Cum Laude), in the top percentile of my graduating class, and I am now aspiring to become a Lawyer."

In this autobiography, Anthony takes the reader through his harrowing past of ending up homeless at age 13 in Washington, D.C., after the death of his grandmother and escaping being murdered by his mother. Despite his past, he was able to earn his GED and get into a University..

Homeless at Age 13 to a College Graduate: An Autobiography chronicles his journey to success and is available on Amazon.com.

Cheryl Lacey Donovan

"Real Life, Real Faith with Cheryl Lacey Donovan" is reality television and radio programming at its best. Think Iyanla's "Fix My Life" and combine that with the teachings of TD Jakes and Joyce Meyers. Think about how explosive and spiritually uplifting a show like that would be led by a former teen mom turned Motivational Speaker, Evangelist, Award-winning Author and Life Coach. Cheryl will help women become the change they want to see in their lives by helping them to identify their



strongholds and tearing them down one at a time.

Helping women and families in crisis, while utilizing her spiritually-uplifting technique and delivery, Cheryl will lay the founda-

tion for healing as she helps them to identify their truth. Cheryl provides the tools to help people become the change they want to see in their lives. "Real Life, Real Faith with Cheryl Lacey Donovan" is about reaching for our best selves, focusing on what can make our lives meaningful, learning from the mistakes of our pasts and having hard conversations with a spiritual yet deeply grounded approach. "Real Life, Real Faith with Cheryl Lacey Donovan" is reminiscent of Intervention and daytime talk repurposed into core principles.

Cheryl draws on her experience and passion as an

educator to motivate and encourage others to live their lives on purpose. She is particularly passionate about helping others create the lives they deserve and desire. Articulate and compassionate, Cheryl is a speaker with a gift for teaching.

She says, "My desire is to help people see the world from God's perspective, and to move them to do something about what they see." Cheryl has spent a lifetime acquiring experience around educating and advising others on living a more meaningful life. After more than 20 years of educating and advising allied health

care professionals Cheryl followed her passion for bringing out the best in other people by choosing to be more involved in the vision and direction their lives were taking. This culminated in the launch of Worth More than Rubies a division or Cheryl Lacey Donovan International.

Since then Cheryl has spoken to hundreds of groups across the country and written articles as well as Bible study curricula. Cheryl is uniquely positioned to impact the lives of individuals she comes in contact with for long term success with her message of faith and powerful vision of

bringing purpose into the people equation to promote happier, healthier more meaningful life experiences.

Cheryl presents a powerful message with a conversational style that's just like sitting around chatting with one of your sisters - one who is filled with pearls of wisdom and whose heart is filled with giving.

Some of us long for that kind of sister or friend who will just sit you down, tell you the truth about life, share her experiences, and then give you access to a greater more meaningful purpose in life.

La Tasha McCutchen

By Carolyn Guniss
Special to the NNPA
from *The Miami Times*

Chef La Tasha McCutchen performed well throughout Season 13 on Fox Network's "Hell's Kitchen."

So when she was selected from four chefs to face emotional chef Bryant Galaraher in the final two, she knew she could win.

"Honestly, I was hoping the pressure would get to him," McCutchen said. "I am cool, calm and collected and I was hoping he would shoot himself in the foot."

In the end, McCutchen, who has been a part of the South Florida food scene



for around seven years, took the title and executive chef job of Gordon Ramsay Pub & Grill at Caesars Atlantic City, a prize package worth \$250,000.

On Saturday, McCutchen said she's still pinching herself because of the victory but in the end, "Mommy and Daddy didn't raise no

fool," a line she used in the season finale when she dug deep pulling out determination to win.

"My parents taught me to ignore negative comments and never to second-guess myself. Make a decision and stick to it," she said. "Words can't describe how I feel right now. I was true to myself," McCutchen said of her performance.

Her winning menu – get ready for your mouth to water and your mind to race – consisted of prime filet mignon tartare with shallots, capers, whole grain mustard, cornichons, chives, lemon zest, sunny-side-up quail egg and waffle potato crisps; pan-seared Chilean sea bass with beet risotto, glazed thumbelina carrots and herb gremolata;

and spiced bread pudding with pumpkin spice ice cream, praline crumble and spiced chocolate anglaise.

"I was the only person that went down for the audition," McCutchen said. After auditioning, McCutchen joined the Citron American Brasserie at the JW Marriott Grand Lakes in Orlando, Florida. While there, she got the call that she was selected for the cast of "Hell's Kitchen's season 13, which finished airing Dec. 17. After filming the show in early 2014, McCutchen found her South Florida mentor DaSilva and joined her as lead line cook, this time at the award-winning 3030 Ocean restaurant at Fort Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa.

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ACTIVISTS, continued from Page 1

lished by NNPA member Denise Rolark Barnes. Black-owned newspapers are often called specialty, alternative or minority press by government agencies and corporate America.

But, according to an analysis of U. S. Census Bureau population stats, people of color, including African-Americans, will gradually increase to become a clear majority of America's population over the next four decades.

"All in all, minorities, now 37 percent of the U.S. population, are projected to comprise 57 percent of the population in 2060," according to a U. S. Census report. "The total minority population would more than double, from 116.2 million to 241.3 million over the period."

During that period, "the black population is expected to increase from 41.2 million to 61.8 million" as the White population will peak in 2024 - 10 years from now - and then gradually decrease by 20.6 million by 2060, the Census reports.

Chavis sees this increase as a prospective boon for NNPA's more than 200 Black-owned newspapers as it anticipates its 75th anniversary in 2015 - but only if certain strategies are put in place.

First, he said, the Black press must focus on a stronger economic foundation by generating more revenue. African-Americans spend \$1.2 trillion dollars a year, he said, noting that Black newspapers must partner with the Black Church, Black banks, Black colleges and Black organizations to network and support the Black press.

This strategy would require much unity, Chavis says. "This is beyond connecting the dots. The dots have to converge...There's too much disunity in our community. And I'm not just talking about organiza-

tional disunity. I'm talking about disunity even among the so-called personalities ... In my long career in civil rights I've seen what happens when leadership goes in divergent paths...To me, it's a disservice to our community to allow personality conflicts to get in the way."

Secondly, White-owned businesses must be made to understand the value of supporting Black newspapers as businesses and as a sustainable institution, the same as the broadcast media, Chavis says.

"To reach people in our community. They can't just look at something on TV or hear it on the radio and act. They've got to look at it and read it more than once. That's the value of the Black print press," he said. "The pen has to have an economic undergirding so that what is written gets distributed; so that what is written gets circulated. Sometimes we overlook the necessity to the strong economic foundation in our quest for freedom, justice and equality."

Finally, Chavis said, Black newspapers must take full advantage of the digital universe.

"Technology, particularly digital technology can be a great equalizer. Some people think the digital will supplant the print. I don't. To me, the digital will make more valuable the print press because every day it's about the content. We have the content, but we have not aggregated the content," he said.

Denise Rolark Barnes, who has been publisher of the Informer for 20 years, succeeded her now late father, Dr. Calvin Rolark, a prominent D.C. businessman and Black leader. Barnes recalls how the Black press has led America's media when it comes to many of the issues that have now emerged as headline news for White-owned



NNPA President Benjamin Chavis
(PHOTO: Roy Lewis/Trice Edney News Wire)

media, such as police brutality, economic justice and voting rights.

"The more you do it, the more stories you realize need to be told; the more you realize that our community, our Black history every day is being thrown away," says Barnes, in an exhibit hall showing historic front pages and photos from the Informer. "I've learned that history does repeat itself and is repeating itself."

Hundreds of people packed into the Carnegie Library in Downtown Washington, DC to salute the Informer and its legacy during the event in late fall.

Iconic radio talk show host Joe Madison recalled how the Black press has been so audience-specific that readers know that those who advertise in Black newspapers specifically want to reach Black people. "It means it's for us," Madison said.

Madison also underscored Black newspapers as a chronicler of Black history. "Most of us would not have known about Emmett

Till had it not been for the Black Press. Most of us wouldn't have known, quite honestly about Martin Luther King Jr. if it wasn't for the Black Press because White media certainly wasn't publicizing it ... The Black Press is, as Frederick Douglass would probably say, our North Star."

Ben Chavis is one who has benefited tremendously from the Black press. He is one of the historic Wilmington 10, who was pardoned by North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue two years ago in a 1971 fire-bombing amidst the civil rights struggle. The pardon finally came after the Wilmington Journal of North Carolina, published by Mary Alice Thatch, escalated the campaign for justice.

Concludes Chavis, "It is in the business of not only reporting the news, but defending the news when it comes to the interest of Black people. That's what gives the Black press its unique value, not only to Black America, but to the rest of America."

Five tips to keep your New Year's weight loss resolution

(StatePoint) New Year's Resolutions are easier to make than to keep, especially when it comes to dieting. While life can often seem at odds with your health and fitness goals, there are plenty of ways to avoid common pitfalls this New Year and stay on the weight loss track.

Snack and drink smart: When you're one-the-go, easy protein-packed snacks will help you stay on track. Try beef jerky, low-fat string cheese, or 100 calorie packs of almonds. Fiber-rich whole-grains, fruits and vegetables can also help keep hunger at bay.

Calories from drinks add up fast. Stick with dry



wines, as they often have fewer calories than sweeter varieties. Light beers, with approximately 100 calories for every 12 ounce serving, are also a good choice. If you prefer cocktails, use calorie-free mixers, such as seltzer with 1.5 oz. of spir-

its. **Make it easy:** Dieting should be easy. Most people often complain they fail at diets because they need to constantly count calories, or weigh and measure foods.

Look for programs that help you stick to your goals by offering convenience and support. For example,

Nutrisystem helps with the hard part -- the counting, weighing and measuring -- by offering pre-portioned and personalized meal plans designed to fuel individuals with the right amount of calories for how their metabolism burns, as well as satisfy individual taste. And with their Fast 5+ kit, you can jumpstart your weight loss, since it promises to help you lose five pounds plus an inch off your waist in your first week of dieting. You'll see results quickly, giving you motivation to keep going.

There's no better time than now to start your weight loss journey and make your pledge to lose.

To learn more, visit www.Nutrisystem.com or the Nutrisystem Facebook page to #pledgetolose today.

Eat out, right: Eating out is sometimes unavoidable. Just be sure to check out a restaurant's nutrition information online before you go, so you can make wise choices.

Make substitutions like salad, with dressing on the side, instead of fries and don't be afraid to ask if a menu item can be modified. Also, be mindful of portion sizes. Take half your meal home and enjoy it for tomorrow's lunch.

Facing the scale: Weight fluctuates throughout the

day. Weigh yourself at the same time of day in similar weight clothing to get the most accurate readings. Remember though, the number on the scale won't always reflect your hard work. Focus instead on healthy, positive changes and how you feel.

Aim for 30: Squeeze 30 minutes of activity into your day. Walk during lunch, jump rope during your favorite nightly TV show or turn on music and dance around the house.

Remember, everyone falls off the wagon from time to time, but the New Year is the perfect time to commit to your weight loss goals.

Distractions, fatigue as dangerous as drunk driving New Year's Eve

DALLAS – Whether it's making a "happy holidays" phone call from behind the wheel, rushing to the next party or indulging in some rum eggnog prior to hitting the road, Parkland Health & Hospital System physicians warn travelers to be careful this holiday season.

Driving when you're tired, impaired or distracted is always dangerous but add in the end of Daylight Savings Time, low visibility, the potential for wet or icy conditions and the pressures that come with the holiday season and this may be one



Imagine a cab driver texting on two phones while driving – Flickr Gerry Gaffney had the pleasure of riding with one in Greece.

of the most dangerous times to be on the road.

"That's why it's impor-

tant to stop and rest before you head out, minimize distractions inside the vehicle

and slow down—especially if you're traveling after sunset," said Alex Eastman, MD, Parkland's Interim Trauma Medical Director. "When it's dark you can't tell if you're driving on a dry road or if you're coming up on black ice. Too many times people are in a hurry and instead of attending a holiday party they're making an unplanned trip to the trauma center."

During the last year's holiday season, Nov. 1, 2013 thru Jan. 2, 2014, 415 patients were treated in

Parkland's emergency department as a result of a car or motorcycle crash.

"Although we don't know the exact cause of each crash, the sheer number of visits would validate that either the weather conditions were bad, the drivers were impaired or distracted or both," Dr. Eastman said. "Especially during the holiday season we see a lot of patients who were thinking of the list of items they need to get done rather than concentrating on the task at hand, which is getting to

their destination safely."

As a trauma surgeon Dr. Eastman has witnessed first-hand the results of a distracted driver. "In just that split second, lives can be changed forever or even lost," he said, noting that a majority of the crashes may have been prevented.

Doug Horn, who founded the driving safety program, "Drive by Example," states that the four most dangerous holiday driving hazards include: distracted driving, impaired driving, pressured driving and fatigued driv-

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Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and Festival scheduled for Jan. 19 in Dallas

Elite News and NBC 5 are partnering for the 29th Annual Elite News Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade and Festival on Monday, Jan. 19, starting at the corner MLK, Jr. Blvd and Holmes Street in Dallas at 10 a.m. at the corner of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Boulevard and Holmes Street in Dallas. The parade will proceed eastbound on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard toward Fair Park.

In addition to the parade, there will be a festival at the Fair Park Grand Building featuring entertainment, job

placement services, vendor booths and host of special guests riding in the parade. Area health and wellness resource centers will be set up, along with many restaurants and caterers providing food and beverages. Admission to the festival is free.

The Elite News Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade and Festival is a historical community event held in Dallas, Texas to commemorate and celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., prominent leader of the modern American Civil Rights movement.



TxDOT warns drunk driving is not tolerated on NYE

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Transportation reminds motorists that law enforcement will be out in force on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day in an effort to reduce crashes and discourage drunk driving.



Abandoned car after a likely drunk driving accident (Flickr: Matthew T. Rader)

“The New Year's Eve holiday has historically been a dangerous time on our roadways,” said TxDOT Executive Director Lt Gen Joe Weber, USMC (Ret). “Texans should plan ahead for a sober ride or risk suffering the consequences. Drunk driving will not be tolerated in Texas.”

TxDOT's annual Holiday Impaired Driving Campaign began Dec. 1 and runs through New Year's Day to promote the importance of planning for a sober ride. The campaign coincides with an increase in law enforcement patrols aimed at

reducing the number of impaired driving crashes in Texas during the holiday season. Numerous law enforcement agencies throughout the state also will implement no-refusal initiatives

Drivers arrested for DWI can face jail time and up to \$17,000 in court costs and legal fees. The legal limit for intoxication in Texas is .08 blood or breath alcohol concentration (BAC).

During last year's New Year's holiday (from 6 p.m. on Dec. 31 to midnight on

Jan. 1), there were 218 DUI alcohol-related traffic crashes in Texas resulting in 10 fatalities and 76 injuries (both incapacitating and non-incapacitating). These DUI alcohol-related fatalities marked an increase of 25 percent from the previous New Year's holiday.

Other TxDOT efforts to curb impaired driving include partnering with the National Safety Council and some of the state's largest employers to promote the safe and sober message; working with the

Texas Hospitality Association and Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission to distribute sober ride materials in stores and venues

where alcohol is sold; and working with transit authorities to encourage people to take public transportation to and from holiday celebra-

tions. Additionally, Texans looking for a sober ride can visit SoberRides.org for assistance.

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2015 bill gates scholarship program to give \$20k scholarships to minority students

Deadline for applications is Jan, 15, 2015

(BlackNews.com) -- The Gates Millennium Scholars Program (also known as the Bill Gates Scholarship) awards scholarships each year to African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American students. The program, funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, selects 1,000 talented students each year to receive a good-through-graduation scholarship to use at any college or university of their choice.

The scholarship is renewable and may be used in the freshman, sophomore, junior, senior or graduate years. Students must have financial need and meet Pell Grant eligibility requirements. They must also

maintain a grade point average of 3.3 and have a strong interest in leadership and community service. Stu-

dents may attend any college or university they choose.

Established in 1999, the

Gates Millennium Scholars Program aims to promote

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CHANGE, continued from Page 1

28 and countless others at the hands of police, others argued it did have an impact.

Ms. Tesfamariam agreed; stating the economic boycott led by young Black men and women in response to the Ferguson decision not to indict Officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of Michael Brown Jr., played a major role in this year's decline. "Not One Dime" was another online hashtag that garnered tremendous grassroots support.

"The boycott galvanized through social media started out as an online grassroots effort but caught the attention of countless African American celebrities who backed it by promoting to their millions of followers. Our collective efforts were a tremendous display of solidarity and resistance by a community that is fed up with racial profiling and the systemic devaluation of Black life," said Ms. Tesfamariam.

Supporters of the push to direct Black spending habits to Black-owned businesses note the potential impact it could have on effectively addressing problems of high crime, poor education, lack of jobs and health disparities that plague poor, Black and Brown communities.

In a recent commentary, "We Need to Use Our Black Economic Power," psychologist Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu raised a series of questions.

"How can a group have over 3 million people with college degrees be so underdeveloped economically? How can a people have over 10,000 elected officials have so little economic power? Why do African Americans only spend 3 percent of their income with each other?" he asked. "Could that explain why only 9 out of every one thousand African Americans start a business, while other groups are above 100? Or could it be that Black parents socialize their children to get a good education, or to get a good job,

while other groups encourage their children to become entrepreneurs?" continued Dr. Kunjufu.

Boycotts are a start but cannot be the end result. It must be ongoing, noted Ms. Tesfamariam.

It is not enough to withhold money but the money and resources Black people have must also be redirected to empower and uplift Black communities, she explained.

"This includes but is not limited to supporting Black-owned business and causes, as I have called for through the #BlackDecember campaign. Black-owned banks and financial institutions play a major role in this, as where our money is housed matters just as much as where it is spent," said Ms. Tesfamariam.

Black communities also must begin to understand the need for its community to explore greater job creation and small business empowerment, because self-determination and self-sustainability are critical to any strategy for economic empowerment, she continued. "I and other activists engaged on this front know how critical it is to shift the mindset of our community in order to build fertile ground for this strategy to be sustained on a long-term basis."

A catalyst for change

Black people advocating for unity through the pooling of economic resources, boycotts or direct and strategic targeting of finances is not a new strategy. From Marcus Garvey to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, patriarch of the Nation of Islam, Black people pooling money and working together to better their circumstances has been a constant throughout history.

The 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott in Alabama is being cited by several young activists and bloggers as a model and inspiration on how to use economic leverage and unity to influence systematic change. If retail sales con-

tinue to decrease into 2015 as a result of boycotts, it could then force those that make policy to enact legislative changes even in the justice system, noted one blogger.

The time has come to revisit the strategy of long-term economic boycotting to create ongoing pressure on the justice system, whose institutional racism impacts all people of color, Mai Perkins wrote in an online commentary titled, "No Justice, No PROFITS." Ms. Perkins noted that the Montgomery Bus Boycott lasted over a year by setting up systems within the Black community that were driving forces in sustaining the boycott. The same thing is needed today, she said.

"One-day or even short-term boycotts cannot achieve the type of change people are desperate for, which in this case is to repeal policies and laws regarding police misconduct and accountability. I imagine that big corporations have the influence to lobby for social justice initiatives that benefit the very same consumers who are spending money on their products and services," wrote Ms. Perkins.

The Nation of Islam under the guidance of Mr. Muhammad in the 1960s and 1970s and under the leadership today of the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan, has demonstrated success in establishing businesses, farms, schools and programs in Black communities.

At a recent address to college students at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Md., the Minister voiced his strong stance on Blacks not spending money with their "open enemy." The Muslim leader voiced his support for the Black Friday boycott. But the long-time leader also has offered a realistic and viable solution to the ills that affect the Black community through Muhammad's Economic Blueprint. The program calls for 16 million wage earning Blacks to contribute 35 cents per week to a fund, enabling

\$291.2 million to be accumulated in one year to begin buying farmland, creating industry and making jobs for Black people. The Nation of Islam's "Do For Self" program has been consistent for over 80 years.

"Politics without economics is symbol without substance," Min. Farrakhan has often stated.

Charlene Carruthers, national coordinator of the Chicago-based Black Youth Project, said she believes the momentum generated through boycotts and targeted spending will continue into 2015.

Young people, particularly young, Black people are not letting up anytime soon and the movement to divest from some of these corporations that mistreat, do not hire them or invest in the Black community is ongoing, she told The Final Call.

"The effort to divest from these companies and invest more in Black businesses is something that's going to continue to grow," said Ms.



Demonstrators stage die-in as part of Black Friday protests that led to a drop in spending for the important weekend. (Photo: Ricjard B. Muhammad)

Carruthers. The use of technology in the dissemination of information is a key component in this growth, she added.

An aspect of community mobilization is ensuring that we know what makes us powerful and how to actualize that power, said Ms. Tesfamariam. "While we are often greater at mobilizing in the streets, we want our community to understand how we stand to benefit from greater economic

unity," she continued. Online campaigns like #NotOneDime and #BlackDecember is her way of beginning to "transform the mentality of the Black community by the renewing of the mind."

"When you couple that with the efforts on the ground to literally 'shut it (access to retail shopping) down,' then there is a disruptive force at work that won't allow us to conduct business as usual."

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1547	\$250,000 Bingo Overall Odds are 1 in 2.82	\$10	1/23/15	7/22/15
1512	Line 'Em Up Overall Odds are 1 in 4.42	\$1	2/18/15	8/17/15
1594	Match 3 Doubler Overall Odds are 1 in 4.54	\$1	2/18/15	8/17/15
1584	VIP Cash Club Overall Odds are 1 in 4.14	\$2	2/18/15	8/17/15
1605	Cherry Tripler Overall Odds are 1 in 4.21	\$2	2/18/15	8/17/15
1588	7 Overall Odds are 1 in 3.84	\$5	2/18/15	8/17/15

For detailed odds and game information, visit tdl.org or call 1-800-876-0110. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education. © 2015 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

TEXAS LOTTERY

Minority Owned Businesses still not getting 'shopped' by state agencies

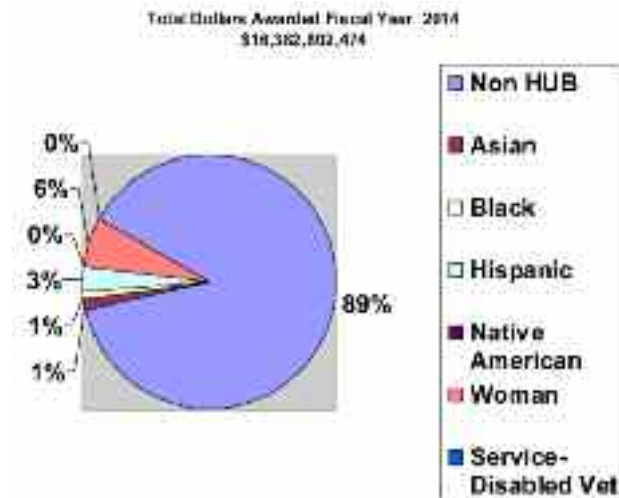
By Contributing Writer
Nicole James Scott
TPA Wire Service

After conducting a disparity study in 2009 The Texas Comptroller's office concluded special programs to secure procurement for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) are still necessary. It went on to affirm its commitment to ensure state agencies make a concerted effort to utilize HUBs for contracts in construction, professional and consulting services and commodities purchases. All state agencies, medical and health facilities and institutions of higher learning were included in the study.

The following primary points highlighted in the study to confirm disparity were as such:

- statistical disparities by race, ethnicity and gender classification in current HUB utilization, particularly in prime contracting
- statistical disparities by race, ethnicity and gender classification in the private marketplace, particularly in the area of utilization of women and minority owned firms in commercial construction
- statistical disparities in firm earnings by race, ethnicity and gender classification, even after controlling for capacity-related factors; and
- anecdotal testimony of disparate treatment as presented by business owners in interviews, surveys, public hearings and focus groups.

The more than 200 state agencies and institutions of higher education have a cumulative multi billion dollar annual budget. A great source of that revenue is generated from 60 different taxes and fees. Taxes and fees such as property tax, sales tax, cigarette, tax, alcohol tax, hotel tax, various motor vehicle taxes that all citizens of the state pay. For



the fiscal year of 2013 the comptroller's office collected close to \$48 billion in taxes alone. So what is the connection and what does this have to do with state agencies? If you drive a car, buy alcohol, smoke cigarettes, own property, or patronize hotels then you are contributing to that whopping \$48 billion the state collects to fund various state agencies such as the Department of Transportation, and Public Utility Commission and institutions like Sam Houston State, Texas A&M and University of Texas just to name a few.

In essence these agencies and institutions belong to the communities and should in kind serve those communities. So when the Department of Health and Human Services advertises in the medical journals and fails to do so in African-American newspapers it is a great disservice. It is the Black press that is the pipeline of communication into the African-American community where the prevalence of diseases such as diabetes and stroke is twice that of Whites. African-Americans have the highest age-adjusted heart disease death rate and African-Americans have the highest hospitalization rate of all ethnicities. In the interest of serving the African-American community the Department of Health and Human Services

is remiss in bypassing Black newspapers.

But it's not just the Black press that is underrepresented when it comes to state procurement and contracting. According to the 2014 annual Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) report \$15,113,071,094 were awarded to non-HUBs compared to \$2,060,862,969 awarded to HUBs. Asian Pacific, Black, Hispanic, Native American, Woman Owned and Service-Disabled Veteran constitute HUBs.

All state agencies and institutions are required to keep annual reporting of their expenditures. There is a special report generated specifically to detail how much funding and bids are awarded to HUBs. Just to provide a few examples of the inequality that exists, the University of Texas Health and Science Center's 2013 report listed 42 out of 559 bids/proposals that were awarded to HUBs, 25 of which went to women. In fiscal year 2013 the Department of Transportation contracted a paltry 4.82% of its construction contracts with HUBs. The same year the Public Utility Commission awarded 250 contracts of which 90 went to HUBs. Of those 90, 26 went to Asian males, 2 African-American males, 7 Hispanic males and 1 Hispanic female and 1 Native American male. The remaining

53 were awarded to women. The Alcoholic Beverage Commission awarded 1,600 contracts. The breakdown of those contracts were as follows: 1 Asian male, 1 Asian female, 6 African-American males, 49 Hispanic males, 1 Hispanic female, 2 Native American males and 246 women. These are just four examples but the pattern is consistent among the majority of agencies and institutions.

Moreover, most often many of the contracts that are awarded primarily go to women who are neither Asian, African-American, Hispanic or members of any ethnic group.

The issue at hand is not about set asides, diversity or even affirmative action. Albeit groups that have been historically excluded should receive special consideration.

However HUBs con-

tribute and put into the collective pot so to speak just as much as other businesses.

Any procurement HUBs receive from state agencies are not only deserved but also earned. We are not talking about handouts or charitable contributions. In viewing the above chart suffice it to say HUBs are clearly not receiving their fair slice of the pie.

Not by a long shot.

↑42% Families want to live near public transportation because it brings them closer to the things they want and need. In fact, home values perform 42 percent better on average near public transit.

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Lenny Kravitz headlining AT&T Playoff Playlist Live! on Jan. 10

The College Football Playoff (CFP) selected Lenny Kravitz and Sting as the headline performers for its new signature musical event, AT&T Playoff Playlist Live!, the premier concert series at the American Airlines Center in Dallas during the weekend of the national championship.

Kravitz will perform Saturday night, Jan. 10. Sting will take the stage Sunday, Jan. 11.

Kravitz has transcended genre, style, race and class into a 20-year musical career, one which revels in the rich influences of '60s and '70s soul, rock and funk. The artist recently debuted his 10th acclaimed studio album, *Strut*. Kravitz is currently hitting the road as part of an extensive world tour, performing songs from *Strut* as well as from a distinguished career that has



made him one of the most distinctive and successful recording artists of today.

Earlier in December *Rolling Stone Magazine* named *Strut* as one of the best albums of 2014.

Kravitz's talents as a writer, producer and multi-instrumentalist have resonated through nine studio

albums into a timeless catalog. He has won four consecutive GRAMMY Awards (1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002), setting a record for the most wins in the "Best Male Rock Vocal Performance" category. Lenny Kravitz's appeal has also been recognized by his peers; his collaborative ef-

forts are as varied as his own influences, having worked with Madonna, Slash, Aerosmith, Jay-Z, N.E.R.D., Mick Jagger, P. Diddy and Alicia Keys.

Having sold over 38 million albums worldwide, Kravitz's musical success has afforded him many opportunities to fulfill his creative vision beyond the recording industry. The artist appeared in a supporting role in the critically-acclaimed film *Precious*, and the box office smash film *The Hunger Games*, as Cinna. Lenny was also seen in Lee Daniels' *The Butler* (The Weinstein Company) alongside Forest Whitaker and Oprah Winfrey.

Kravitz also launched a creative firm, Kravitz Design Inc., which provides commercial and residential design services as well as specializes in product de-

velopment and branding. Kravitz Design is also collaborating with iconic California lifestyle brand Fred Segal and will be introducing its first-ever designer collaboration called Fred Segal x Kravitz Design.

Now add photographer and author to his list of accomplishments with the release of *Flash* in February. During his childhood, Kravitz was enthralled by cameras, playing with them like toys instead of taking photographs. In recent years photographer friends taught him the fundamentals of photography by using a Leica. Intrigued by the possibilities, Kravitz began creating his own works, featur-

ing close attention to the nuances and effects created by light.

As he himself had been endlessly photographed by photographers, paparazzi, and fans—his perspective on aesthetics was decidedly unique.

In *Flash*, he captures the essence of what it's like to be a rock star who's constantly in the public eye. The result: an intense exploration of the photographer and his subject.

One-day ticket prices for AT&T Playoff Playlist Live! range from \$30 for upper level to \$60 for lower level. All tickets available via Ticketmaster.

Disney's Beauty and the Beast roars back to Ft. Worth

FORT WORTH, Texas, December 4, 2014 – Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, the award-winning worldwide smash hit Broadway musical, is returning to Fort Worth as part of Performing Arts Fort Worth's Broadway at the Bass series. Produced by NETworks Presentations, this elaborate theatrical production will come to life on stage at Bass Performance Hall January 14-18. Tickets start at \$33 and are on sale now!

Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* features the Academy Award®-winning score with music by Alan Menken and lyrics by the late Howard Ashman, with additional songs composed by Alan Menken and lyrics by Tim Rice. The book is written by Linda Woolverton.

The original creators of the Broadway production have reunited for this touring production. The play is directed by Rob Roth and choreographed by Matt



West, with Costume Design by Ann Hould-Ward (Tony Award® winner for her work on Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*), Lighting Design by Natasha Katz (three-time Tony Award® winner), Scenic Design by Stanley A. Meyer, Sound Design by John Petrafesa Jr. and Music Supervision by Michael Kosarin.

Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* is the classic story of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped in a spell placed by an enchantress. If

the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed to his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity.

Based on the 1991 Academy Award®-winning animated feature film and celebrating 20 years since its Broadway premiere in 1994, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* has become an international sensation that has been seen by over 35 million people worldwide

in 22 countries, and has been translated into 9 different languages. This production launched in February 2010 and has been seen by 2.5 million people while playing over 1,000 performances in all 50 United States and 6 Canadian Provinces. Currently, there are four other productions playing around the world including Paris, tours in Japan and Germany, and a new international tour that currently will visit over 12 countries in two years.

To charge tickets by phone, call (817) 212-4280 in Fort Worth; 1-877-212-4280 (toll free) outside Fort Worth; or order online at www.basshall.com. Tickets are also available at the Bass Performance Hall ticket office at 525 Commerce Street. Ticket office hours: Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. For group sales, call 817-212-4248

NDG Out On the Town...



NDG Entertainment Editor Jessica Brewer enjoyed the Broadway experience at the Winspear Opera House. Catching the captivating musical, *ONCE*, winner of 8 2012 Tony Awards including BEST MUSICAL.



The 2014 DSO Christmas Pops was wonderful end to a highly entertaining Christmas season in Dallas. The show featured the beautiful voice of Jubilant Sykes and the traditional sounds of Christmas.

Enter to Win! Ticket Giveaway

NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit www.northdallasgazette.com to win tickets to Ronald K. Brown @ the Winspear Opera House.

Jill Scott to be Honored at Essence Grammy Celebration

Special to the NNPA from
The Washington Informer

Essence will kick off a yearlong commemoration of the 45th anniversary of its magazine in 2015 with a Black Women in Music Grammy Awards Week celebration that will honor recording artist Jill Scott.

Now in its sixth year, Black Women in Music will honor the Grammy-winning singer-songwriter for her incredible achievement, singular artistry and powerful storytelling.

"Jill Scott is the quintes-

sential Essence woman. Like many of the female artists who inspired her — she has touched the collective soul of women across generations," said Vanessa K. DeLuca, Essence editor-in-chief.

For the first time, Essence will invite fans to join a host of industry influencers for the invitation-only event on Feb. 5, 2015, which will include an exclusive performance from Scott as well as several featured performances representing the classic eras in music — '70s, '80s, '90s and beyond.

"Essence was groundbreaking in its founding 45 years ago, as is Jill Scott in her impact on music and the arts," said Michelle Ebanks, president of Essence. She is a fearless innovator, and it is our honor to continue to build community by bringing together music industry influencers and fans during Grammy Week for an epic celebration."

Established in 2010, Essence Black Women in Music heralds the accomplishments of both emerging and established artists and influencers during

Grammy Week. Previous celebrants include Mary J. Blige, Kelly Rowland, Janelle Monae, music industry veteran Sylvia Rhone and singer-songwriters Solange, Lianne La Havas and Emeli Sande.

The 2015 Essence Black Women in Music event is sponsored by Lincoln, Colgate Optic White and Glade. Stay tuned to essence.com for highlights and behind-the-scenes access. Follow on Twitter and Instagram @essencemag #EssenceRedCarpet. Join in the discussion on Facebook.



The Best of 2014: Dwight Brown runs down Hollywood's hottest

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

As 2104 draws to a close it's a perfect time to reflect on noteworthy films, strong performances and the strides that black artists made this past year. It's also a good time to spotlight the top-quality movies that will vie for Oscars and be released in theaters and on DVD/VOD in weeks to come.

Belle (***/2) A mind-boggling story based on fact about a biracial female being raised in a White aristocratic home in 18th Century England. Actress extraordinaire Gugu Mbatha-Raw lights up the screen in a very romantic and surprisingly socially relevant tale. Lavish production elements. Nice acting all around. Strong writing by Misan Sagay. Smart direction by British director Amma Asante.

Beyond the Lights (***) This ode to chanteuses fighting personal demons (Rihanna-types) is the brain-child of writer/director Gina Prince-Bythewood, who made the most romantic film of the year. A wayward

pop/hip hop singer (Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Belle) is rescued by a stoic, virile cop (Nate Parker). A sweet, modern love story set in the soul-eating, kinetic music industry. Well written, directed and acted.

Birdman (****) It's not like Michael Keaton's career was kaput, but it seems like he raised himself from the dead with this invigorating performance. Mexican director/writer Alejandro González Iñárritu gave Keaton a plum role as a has-been actor and ex-superhero trying to make it big on Broadway. The line between reality and fantasy is blurred. Excellent acting from all involved including Ed Norton and Naomi Watts.

Boyhood (****) Shooting a film over the course of 12 years takes patience and imagination. Writer/director Richard Linklater had that in abundance as he followed the life of a small boy into young adulthood. Patricia Arquette as the stalwart mom is superb and Ethan Hawke as the bungling dad is pretty good too.

Dear White People (***) The narrative follows the

plight of four Black students at an almost all-White Ivy League school. Biting satire plays havoc with race relations. Credit filmmaker Justin Simien with a brilliant view of a complex subject and for equating Quentin Tarantino's Django with Birth of a Nation and Gone With the Wind. Bravo.

Grand Budapest Hotel (***/2) Wes Anderson's quirky films (The Royal Tenenbaums) have been an acquired taste only a few could love until this whimsical story about a snowy mountaintop hotel in the fictional Republic of Zubrowka. To hell with conventional storytelling, just throw in a confusing plotline, a bazillion cameos and wait for the dust to settle. Sweet ensemble acting. Tony Revolori, as the quirky bellboy Zero Moustafa, steals the movie.

St. Vincent (***/2) — Something about saying grouch and eccentric and Bill Murray seems redundant. Murray is a Brooklyn neighbor who babysits the vulnerable kid next door. His idea of teaching the boy how to be a man involves

betting on the horses, drinking in bars and beating up the class bully. Cool. Nicely directed by Theodore Melfi. Melissa McCarthy, Naomi

Watts and Terrence Howard chew up the scenery in the year's best comedy.

Selma (****) It's as if David Oyelowo was born to

play Martin Luther King. Same nose, skin tone and cadence. Carmen Ejogo as

See MOVIES, Page 13

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Stepfamily finances: Address the issues early

By Jason Alderman

The Pew Research Center reports that four in ten American adults have at least one stepparent, a step-or-half sibling or a stepchild, in their family. While the Pew study says that many stepfamilies operate harmoniously, it also notes that adults “feel a stronger sense of obligation to their biological family members than they do to their step kin.”

That is one reason why blended family finances can get so messy.

Couples planning to blend families often have to make financial arrangements that respect previous relationships with ex-spouses and their families. Issues range from childcare and eldercare to potentially complex matters involving businesses, investment assets and real estate. That’s why involving trained experts in stepfamily financial planning is a must.

Here’s a basic checklist of issues and solutions potential spouses and partners should consider:

Start with all cards on the table. Today’s first-time marriages or partnerships alone can introduce some staggering financial variables – business and inheritance issues, college debt, consumer debt or even past bankruptcies. Couples planning stepfamilies face even more complications. But all couples need to start with a critical first step – sharing personal information with a potential impact on finances. Start with the following:

- Current credit reports and credit scores. Extensive loans or bad credit for one or both partners can endanger future purchasing plans for auto, home or tuition. It’s also important to share information about personal or cosigned loans to family and friends.
- Assets and liabilities. Potential spouses or part-



Photo: Peddhiapati / Flickr

ners should know each other’s financial assets and liabilities and any issues connected with them. As mentioned above, debt and credit issues may be a problem, but if one spouse has extensive assets, it’s important to clarify whether those assets will be shared legally or promised to others.

- Legal issues. If divorce,

child custody, foreclosure, bankruptcy, or any other civil or criminal legal proceedings are pending against either partner or members of their families, full disclosure is essential.

- Business and estate issues. If potential spouses or partners have significant estate or business assets assigned to children, former

spouses or family members, those commitments need to be factored into the finances of the planned marriage or partnership.

Bring in professional expertise. Beyond disclosure, it’s good to have qualified professionals who have specific expertise with blended families and their many unique issues. Both partners should start by bringing any existing advisors into the discussion. But if none exist and friends and family members don’t have solid suggestions, the following organizations might provide local experts with specific skills in helping stepfamilies plan:

- Financial planners. The Association for Financial Counseling, Planning and Education and the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards are two nationwide organizations that can identify advisors in your area.

- Tax advisors. Your state CPA society can suggest qualified personal, business and estate tax advisors in your area.

- Estate planners and attorneys. Organizations like the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils and the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel might be able to help.

Address problems before move-in. Most experts tell you it’s best to start any new marriage or partnership with a clean slate – or a slate that’s as clean as you can make it. That’s doubly true with stepfamilies. As many income, asset, debt, child custody, estate and business issues as possible should be identified and solutions put in place before the family is legally joined.

Make a fresh estate plan. Financial experts say it’s time to review all money issues whenever you face a major life event, and remar-

riage or re-partnership certainly qualifies. Even if the individuals have their own separate estate matters in order, stepfamily issues restart the planning clock on everything.

Plan – or re-plan – your retirement. You may have planned a great retirement with a former spouse or on your own, but what if your future spouse hasn’t? Whatever steps you’ve both taken toward retirement, you need to review your strategies so you can retire comfortably together.

Bottom line: Money issues complicate all relationships. But stepfamilies have unique, detailed planning needs that should be discussed and settled before marriage or move-in.

Jason Alderman directs Visa’s financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/Practical-Money.

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Dallas ISD is committed to the ideals of equal opportunity in all its business endeavors. It is the goal of Dallas ISD that at least 30% of the work performed under each contract will be provided by minority or woman-owned business enterprises.

Dare to Dream Again

The key to growth for all companies is the magic of customer acquisition. In the 21st Century, with Facebook, Yahoo, and Bing, companies are moving toward the Internet with amazing purpose and speed as a potential customer can get more information quickly rather than using traditional marketing. In the 1990's, a viable company would be very foolish not to advertise in the Yellow Pages.

However, in 2014, that same company might hesitate to utilize traditional advertising yet very pro-active to insure they are seen on the World Wide Web that provides their potential customers with immediate information accessible with just the click of a mouse. We are now an "Information Society" that must have it NOW, not later. The quicker a company can provide that information, the better.

There is a Web Site called "BRILLIANT COMPENSATION" which outlines very efficiently the role and value of Network Marketing as one of the MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS of customer acquisition for numerous companies such as Mary Kay, Amway, Shacklee, Jusuru, ACN, etc. This Web Site will show in no uncertain terms how you can be part of a plan and a program that will "potentially " provide you with an income stream for life as long as you consistently are involved with "customer acquisition".

The key to this growth is finding a team of people and services that are in residual demand. Products such as fuel, power, electricity, groceries, etc., that are consumable so that the customer continues to come back and purchase again and again. NSA Water Filters made many millionaires in the 1990's, but it lacked the variable of consumption that results in residual sales.

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Job Fair scheduled for Jan. 14

The Dallas Job Fair and Career Fair is on Wednesday, Jan. 14 at the Embassy Suites Dallas - Love Field for career seekers and candidates. Candidates will meet with hiring managers from local, national, and Fortune 500 companies for free at the Dallas Job Fair.

Tips for success include:
• Job seekers should re-

member to dress professionally for the event. You will be meeting with decision makers, so wear a suit and dress for success.

• Update your resume and bring dozens of copies to be able to offer a resume to every manager.

• Keep an open mind and you just might find your dream job.

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Empress of China
2648 N. Bellline 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. Bellline Rd

Roy's Pawn Shop
635 E. Irving Blvd

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

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

Irving Salvation Army
1140 E. Irving Blvd

Antioch Christian Church
2043 W. Walnut Hill Ln

Lee Park Recreation Center
300 Pamela Drive

Lively Pointe Youth Center
909 N. O'Connor Rd

Mustang Park Recreation Center
2223 Kinwest Pkwy

Northwest Park Recreation Center
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Senter Park Recreation Center
907 S. Senter Rd

Austin Recreation Center
825 E. Union Bower Rd.

Houston Recreation Center
3033 Country Club Rd.

Cimarron Park Recreation Center
201 Red River Trail

Georgia Farrow Recreation Center
530 Davis Street

Heritage Senior Center
200 Jefferson Street

iRealy Office Building
320 Decker Drive

Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
135 S. Jefferson

Irving City Hall
825 W. Irving Blvd

Irving Public Library
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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.
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Bible Way Baptist Church
4215 N. Greenview Dr.

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New Life Ministries
3706 Cheyenne Street

Elisha Mane Attractions
3704 Cheyenne Street

Bear Creek Community Church
2700 Finley Rd.

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3329 W. Country Club Drive

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

VW Barbership
4070 N. Bellline 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

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Job Seekers: Resolve to Make a Better Impression in 2015

(StatePoint) First impressions matter, particularly when you're in the market for a new job. While a top notch resume and cover letter can help get your foot in the door, only you can seal the deal.

The New Year is the perfect time to revamp your look for a smooth job search. Make a strong first impression at your next interview or networking event with these easy tips:

- Be a good listener. What you say is just as important as being engaged when others are talking. Make good eye contact and ask questions to show you are interested in what is being said.
- Anticipate the questions you will be asked so you are prepared with intelligent, confident and articulate responses. Define your strengths and weaknesses ahead of time to answer every hard question with



ease.

- Get a good night's sleep the night before an important interview or convention. Not only will you look fresher and more alert in the morning, you'll be thinking more clearly as well.
- Know how to explain any gaps in your resume. If you have taken time off from your field to pursue a passion for travel, be ready to discuss this time off and explain how it has helped you professionally.
- Prepare your 30-second

elevator pitch to communicate your strengths and goals. You never know where a conversation with a hiring manager may lead, so be sure to tailor it to each person you speak with so it does not sound over-rehearsed or unnatural.

• The maxim often holds true that, "it's not what you know; it's who you know." Be sure that your LinkedIn profile is up to date, showcasing all of your recent work. Connect with headhunters, friends, family, or

even old classmates and coworkers to learn about opportunities you may not have heard about otherwise.

• Dress to impress to be taken seriously. Denis Daly Wood, founder of Dalys1895.com, a century-old men's luxury designer and online retailer, recommends standing out with a unique accessory for your suit, such as a stylish tie clip, tie, pocket square, or pair of cufflinks that can break the ice and start a conversation.

"A unique pocket square can finish off the look of a suit or blazer, while also helping convey that you are stylish and put together. What you wear communicates a lot about your personality and who you are," says Wood.

Seek quality accessories, such as the limited edition Caravaggio Italian silk pocket squares, which are

handmade or the Dalys 1895 Alligator Belts, which are measured to each inch for a perfect fit. Wood also reminds job seekers that outerwear and a bag may often make or break the first impression. A sophisticated briefcase, coat and winter scarf, such as the exclusive Caravaggio wool and silk men's scarf, can give you a polished look when you're

making your entrance. More style inspiration for briefcases, cufflinks, and more can be found at www.Dalys1895.com.

In the professional realm, presentation matters from your social media profile to your suit and tie.

For a successful job search, resolve to showcase the best version of you in the New Year.

MOVIES, continued from Page 10

Coretta is perfectly cast, too. Smartly directed by Ava DuVernay, who steps out of the shadows of small indie filmmaking to create an Oscar-caliber, historical film that depicts the bravery of a civil rights activist and a fiery reverend who outsmarted LBJ and got the Voting Rights Bill passed. Inspiring.

Starred Up (***/12) A violent British adolescent (Jack O'Connell, Unbroken) gets sent to a tough prison where his dad (Ben Mendolsohn) is a career jailbird. This brutal film makes Oz look like Sesame Street. Stark realism is so gruesome you can't look at the screen. Director David Mackenzie gets under the grimy skin of prison life in a way that will make you never one want to get arrested.

Whiplash (***/1/2) Who knew band practice could be equated with emotional abuse? Young actor Miles Teller plays a very ambi-

tious drum student at a prestigious music school who is tormented by an instructor (J.K. Simmons), who is more sadistic than Satan. Damien Chazelle's script takes you places you didn't dream you'd go and his direction doesn't give you a way out. You'll stay until the best man wins.

Honorable Mention

- Annie*
- Cesar Chavez*
- Cuban Fire*
- The Drop*
- Force Majeure*
- Get On Up*
- I Am Ali*
- Ida*
- Le Weekend*
- Maleficent*
- Nightcrawler*
- Omar*
- Ride Along*
- Salt of the Earth*
- A Stranger Among Men*
- Think Like a Man Too*
- Unbroken*

Worst Movies

- Dumb and Dumber 2*

(The first one was a classic comedy. This one was classless.)

Hercules (The Rock was good as Herc. Bret Ratner's direction was awful.)

Magic in the Moonlight (Woody Allen phones in another ho-hum movie.)

A Million Ways to Die in the West (Seth MacFarlane directs a dud western.)

Nymphomaniac: Part One and Part Two (Remember when sex used to be fun?)

Sex Tape (A whole movie devoted to a missing sex tape. Really?)

Tyler Perry's Single Mom's Club (He churns movies out like a sweat shop factory.)



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Mondays – Fridays In the New Year 2015
Call 972-423-8833 for AFFECT, Inc. or email: AFFECTxInc@aol.com for counseling services, resources and assistance for job readiness and training programs for individuals.

January 4, 2015 at 7:35 a.m.

Join us for this 1st Sunday in the New Year for our praise and worship services and receive a blessing from God.

January 7, 9:30 a.m.

You're invited to join us for Bible study as we worship and praise God for His blessings.

January 15, 12 Noon

Call 972-960-9981 to register for our Between Jobs Support Group at Christian Works for Children, 6320 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75240; we meet every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

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

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CARROLLTON

January 4, 2015

You're invited to our Sunday Morning "Prayer and Mediation" followed by Morning Worship Service at 10 a.m. See what God is doing through and with us in the New Year; you will be blessed.

January 7, 7 p.m.

Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Associate Pastor Brenda Patterson teaching on the subject of Spiritual Warfare. These are Hot Topics in Winter Months. We will learn what God says about critical issues and topics through the study

of His word.

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

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

January 4, 8:45 a.m. And 11 a.m.

Join us in our Morning Service as we worship, honor and praise God for His blessings to us.

Dr. Terrence Autry, Senior Pastor
George Bush Fwy at Jupiter Road on the Garland/Richardson Border
972-991-0200
www.christcommunityrichardson.com

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "The Ship"

Monday – Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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

January 4

Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services at 9:30 a.m. at 1550 Edelweiss Drive in Allen and bring someone with you; you will be blessed.

January 7

You're invited to our Wednesday's 12 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, 200 W. Belmont Drive in Allen.

January 11, 9:30 a.m.

Join us on Story Road for Diego Fuller, a Christian

Hip Hop Artist and his "Tha Go Getta 4 Christ" Engranted performance.

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

BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

January 4, 7:35 a.m.

Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services and receive a blessing from God.

January 7, 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

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

January 4

Join us in Sunday School at 8:30 a.m.; stay for our Sunday prayer at 9:30 a.m. and our Worship Service at 10 a.m.

January 7, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study; you will learn what God has to say to us.

Pastor Sam Fenceroy
Senior Pastor
300 Chisholm Place
Plano, TX 75075
972-633-5511
www.mocop.org

NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

January 4

You're invited to join us for Early Morning Services at

7:30 a.m., followed by Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

January 7

Join us for Wednesday's Bible Study

Dr. Tommy L. Brown
Senior Pastor
9550 Shepherd Road
Dallas, Texas 75243
Phone: 214-341-6459
www.nmzb.org

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

January 4,

8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Come and worship with us this Sunday. God will greet us and bless us with words of wisdom as He leads and guide us in all truth and righteousness.

January 4, 7 p.m.

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

Word.

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

THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH

January 4,

7:30 and 11:30 a.m.

You're invited this Sunday to our praise and worship service as we honor and magnify God's Holy name; and receive a blessing from Him.

January 5, 7 p.m.

You're invited to join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.lbocchurch.org

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9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Night Live
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The Maker of all human beings is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to the serious deflected in the primary and central component of the heart.

This is due to a willful malfunction in the original prototype units called Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units.

This defect has been technically termed, "Sub-sequential Internal Non-Morality," or more commonly known as SIN, as it is primarily expressed.

Some other symptoms are: Loss of direction, foul vocal emissions, amnesia or origin, lack of peace and joy, selfish or violent behavior, depression or confusion in the mental component, fearfulness, idolatry, and rebellion.

The Manufacturer, God, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory authorized repair and service free of

charge to correct this SIN defect.

The Repair Technician, Jesus, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required.

The toll free number to call for repair in all areas is: 1-800-P-R-A-Y-E-R. Once connected, please punch the number one to place your burden of SIN through the REPENTANCE procedures.

Next punch 2 for ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component.

No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it with: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control.

Please see the operating manual, HOLY BIBLE, for further details on how to keep the maintenance up on these fixes.

As an added upgrade, the Manufacturer has made available to all repaired units a facility enabling direct monitoring and assistance from a resident Maintenance Technician, The HOLY SPIRIT.

Repaired units need only make Him welcome and He

will take up permanent residence on the premises!

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids the Manufacturer's warranty, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded.

For free emergency service, call on JESUS.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the burning furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that

facility.

--Author Unknown

This is something to ponder at the beginning of a New Year. The question was asked: Is it time for a wakeup call for you?

And remember always: If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it. Also in happy or sad moments, praise God. In difficult moments, seek God. In quiet moments, worship God. In painful moments, trust God. In every moment, thank God.

Have a wonderful and blessed New Year. Pray for me as I pray for you.



Little Miss Alea Wilson after performing in the Christmas Play at Bethel Bible Fellowship Church in Carrollton, Texas

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cbbf.org 972-427-3411

Getting financially fit in the New Year

DENVER—Quitting smoking and slimming the waistline will have to make way at the top of resolution lists this year. A recent survey from the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) finds 64 percent of U.S. adults will make a financially-focused goal in 2015. The survey, conducted by Nielsen on behalf of NEFE, also finds that 31 percent rate the current quality of their financial life as worse than they expect it to be.

Staying in strong financial shape goes beyond budgeting and making timely payments, as the data suggests a swift and savvy response to managing unexpected shocks is paramount.

When faced with an unforeseen major expense (of which 63 percent said they experienced in 2014), Americans still rely on

credit card use above all else, approximately 36 percent of the time. Yet many are realizing the benefit of an emergency savings account, utilized 32 percent of the time. Since nearly half of respondents (48 percent) qualify themselves as living paycheck to paycheck, financial agility planned ahead of time is necessary to stay on track with resolutions.

Respondents in the NEFE survey cited the most prevalent financial setbacks in 2014 as transportation issues, housing repairs, and the inability to keep up with debt and falling behind on bill payments. Additionally, the survey finds the top anticipated expenses for 2015 include paying off debt, home improvement and maintenance, and transportation-related expenses.

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The best the bookshelves had to offer in 2014

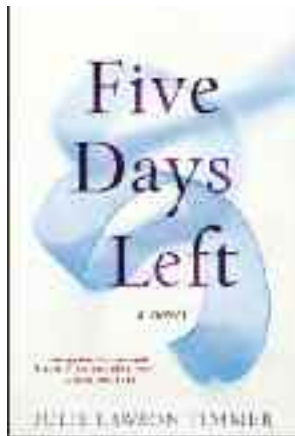
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

So many books, so little time.

It's easy to feel that way when faced with an entire bookstore full of possibilities. How do you pick? How do you know what's good?

Start here, with the Bookworm's Best of 2014...

Let's start with FICTION.



Throughout the year, every time something bad happens, you're reminded to hug the ones you love. *Five Days Left* by Julie Lawson Timmer, the story of a woman who is at the end stages of a terminal disease, and a man in another state who has fallen in love with a child he's fostering, will actually make you want to do that. Bring tissues. That's all I'm saying.

My list wouldn't be complete without my annual nod to Emma Donoghue. Her novel *Frog Music*, a big story of murder and lust set in 1870s San Francisco is a

must-read for this year. It's a gauzy tale – in fact, it seems at times like a dream, as though the main character, Blanche Beunon has imagined the whole friendship she had with Jenny Bonnet and the reason for Jenny's death. Bonus: it's based loosely on a true event.

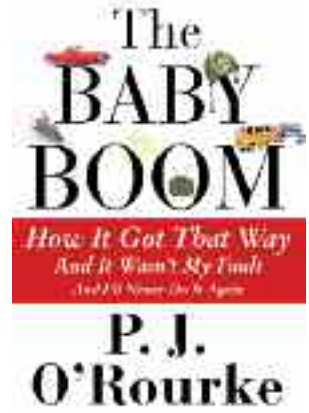
I almost guarantee that you won't see *The Last Time I Died* by Joe Nelms on any other Best Of list. It's here because it was one of those books that just struck me: Christian Franco, a loser in life and love, learns that he can revisit his childhood by being brought back from the edge of death. Early trauma left him with holes in his memory. Reviving gave him answers. But he had to die again and again and you won't be able to put this book down until you know what happens.

They say we all have a doppelganger, and *Recognition* by O.H. Bennett is based on that idea: on a rainy night, as a young widow heads home to pick up her son, she sees a beggar who is her late husband's double. Many years ago, he went missing and was presumed drowned – but did he? You'll wonder, too...

And finally, a tie: *A Wanted Woman* by Eric Jerome Dickey and *I Am Pilgrim* by Terry Hayes are both thrillers; I couldn't de-

cide which I liked better. Be aware that the Dickey book leans toward violence and profanity, while the Hayes book is more espionage-like. Both kept me on the edge of my seat for days...

And then there are my NON-FICTION PICKS...



The Baby Boom by P.J. O'Rourke will bring back memories for anyone born between 1947 and 1964. O'Rourke recalls the usual things that Boomers will remember – playing outside til dark, getting that first Color TV – but the real appeal comes when he finds something you've long-forgotten, and he expounds upon it. This book is like time-travelling to your childhood.

Lovers of the Old (or new) West will love *Badluck Way* by Bryce Andrews, the story of cowboy-ing, ranch life, and the end of both. It's also a tale of conservation: wolves were a big problem on the ranch where Andrews worked,

and they cost his employer a good amount of money. But where's the happy medium between raising cattle and being a steward to the land and its wildlife? This book doesn't have all the answers, but it'll make you think.

I'm normally not a big fan of biographies that include "recreations," but *Death of a King* by Tavis Smiley was a great exception. In this book, Smiley envisions the last year of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: his friendships, his dilemmas, the heartbreak he knew and caused, the work he did, and that which he might've wished he didn't do. I liked this book because it's thoughtful, and because it makes Dr. King into an ordinary man. Smiley makes King approachable.

If you've read other Best Of lists this year, you've probably found *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande there – and for good reason. It's about the end-of-life, aging, and how medicine perceives both. Gawande urges readers to take charge of the end of their lives. That's powerful stuff, in a powerful book.

And lastly, another tie: *The Removers* by Andrew Meredith, *Smoke Gets In Your Eyes* by Caitlin Doughty, and *The Skeleton Crew* by Deborah Halber all deal with bodies. Dead

ones. The Meredith book is a father-son memoir in a coming-of-age way; the Doughty book is a memoir about her years working in a crematory; and the Halber book is about how everyday people spend their time comparing missing persons lists with online lists of unclaimed bodies. I liked 'em all. I couldn't decide ...

And then my Best of CHILDREN'S BOOKS:



For the littlest kid, *Don't Push the Button* by Bill Cotter is a near-guaranteed gigglefest. There's a monster inside this book, and a red button. Whatever you do, well, read the book with your favorite 3-to-6-year-old and see.

Post-apocalyptic novels have been done to death, but *H2O* by Virginia Bergin really struck me as unusual. The premise of this book is that planetary dust has caused contaminated rain. Anybody who gets wet dies – bloody, painfully, and fast. That includes the heroine's parents, sibling, friends, neighbors, and everyone she loves. Or maybe not, because there's a wicked

cliffhanger here and I loved it.

I also liked *Noggin* by John Corey Whaley, a disturbingly plausible book about a young man who's suffering a terminal illness. His only hope is to have his head cryonically frozen, and to wait for a donor body. But can everybody in his life wait for him to return?

As I read *Endangered* by Jean Love Cush, I wasn't sure whether or not it was an adult book or a teen read. I decided it was both: it's the story of a young teen who gets arrested for a murder he didn't commit, but it's also the story of his mother, who tackles the justice system, the law, and everything she never thought she'd have to deal with on behalf of her son. Timely and sobering, this is another one of those books you just can't put down.

And finally, *Skink No Surrender* by Carl Hiaasen is a great way to introduce your teen to the humor of this adult author. In this book, a teen goes missing and it's up to her cousin and a Vietnam-veteran-former-mayor-possibly-insane-conservation-minded madman to find her. What's not to like, hm?

And there you are: fifteen books you just can't miss. The Best of the Year.

Happy Reading!

GATES, continued from Page 6

academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for outstanding minority students with significant financial need to reach their highest potential. The program reduces financial barriers for African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American and Hispanic American students with high academic and leadership promise who have

significant financial need.

The program also increases the representation of these target groups in the disciplines of computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health and the sciences, where these groups are severely underrepresented; and develops a diversified cadre of future leaders for America by facilitating successful completion of bache-

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Skippyjon Jones debuts at DCT Jan. 23

New York Times #1 Best Selling children's author Judy Schachner and Dallas Children's Theater (DCT) together will bring to stage another new work – the musical adaptation of SKIPPYJON JONES. Adapted by DCT Playwright-in-Residence Linda Daugherty with music and lyrics by Nick Martin, this world premiere will play 48 performances at DCT and it will also be produced by collaborating partner Oregon



Children's Theater in Portland.

Skippyjon Jones is a rambunctious Siamese kitten with big ears and an even bigger imagination. When

his loving but exasperated mother puts Skippyjon in time-out, he starts to daydream. His imagination takes him far, far away to Mexico, where he pretends that he is a swashbuckling Chihuahua named Skippito Friskito. This silly, sweet tale celebrates the power of imagination. As Skippyjon would say... mucho fun!

Tickets are \$15 – \$28. Call the box office for details. 214-740-0051 or at DCT.org.