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Blacks suffering preventable deaths

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Black dollars matter!

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Rape's other victims

By Jazelle Hunt
NNPA Washington Correspondent

SECOND IN A SERIES

(NNPA) – The first time Tiffany Perry learned about her conception, she was too innocent to fully understand the gentle explanation her mother was offering, too young to process such a heavy and complicated behavior.

What she distinctly remembers is watching “Oprah” with her mom a few years later, as a 10-year-old. It was the television episode in which Oprah revealed to the world that she was a rape survivor.

“When [Oprah] said herself, and started crying...my mom just fell apart,” the 39-year-old Jersey City, N.J. native recounted. “I tried to console her, but she was inconsolable. It was just so intense.”

At 15 years old, Perry’s mother was raped by her foster mother’s 21-year-old married son. His wife had invited Perry’s mother into their home to babysit their child and to escape her foster mother’s wrath.

Her foster brother raped her repeatedly for two weeks, sometimes at knifepoint. Despite being a virgin at the time and under the care of the state, few people bothered to inquire about the details of the pregnancy. Plus, the fact that he had threatened to kill her, kept Perry’s mother silent.

“Maybe, as a Black person, they just saw this as another teenage



May Golan / Flickr

pregnancy, and nobody really asked any questions,” Perry said, trying to explain the unexplainable. “I can’t say with certainty...but I’m thinking that if she was White in a foster home and her belly started to grow, then maybe a flag would’ve went up somewhere and somebody would’ve investigated more as to why this foster child is pregnant.”

In subsequent years, freed by the Oprah episode, Perry’s mother became more forthcoming.

“As I grew up, she told me more details of the attack. It was like she had been carrying this around the whole time.”

But opening that door triggered another set of emotions in Perry.

“I went through different feelings of inadequacy, feeling like I had to overcompensate because I was a

child of a rape. Even now, when I say the word ‘inadequate,’ I get choked up,” she said, her voice trembling with emotion.

“My mom was awesome, she never talked down to me...my mom always praised me, always gave me love,” Perry said. “But I felt like...I owed it to her to be perfect so she doesn’t feel like keeping me was a mistake.”

And there was the question of what she would say when asked about her father. Perry chose to say that he was dead, that he had left, or that she didn’t know him, depending on the questioner. But even while denying his existence, there was also a deep craving to know about this man, wherever he was.

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COMMENTARY

Democrats still searching for winning formula

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel just got spanked. Despite a campaign war chest of more than \$15 million and the support of President Barack Obama, the former Congressman and White House chief of staff could not avoid a run-off in the non-partisan election.

Garnering 45 percent of the vote to runner-up Jesus “Chuy” Garcia’s 34

percent, he did not clear the 50 percent bar for victory. Emanuel, the darling of the mainstream Democratic Party, has earned the dubious distinction of being in the first Chicago mayoral runoff in nearly 20 years. He also runs the risk of being the first incumbent mayor ousted since Harold Washington beat Jane Byrne in 1983.

The man who delivered the Emanuel whipping,

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People In The News...

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Ainissa G. Ramirez, Ph.D.



Dr. Monica F. Cox



Kimberlyn Jackson

More than 18,000 readers visited NorthDallasGazette.com in February!

Ainissa G. Ramirez, Ph.D.

(Editor's Note: March is National Women's History Month, throughout the month in our People in the News section, we are spotlighting Women Making History.)

Ainissa G. Ramirez, Ph.D. is a science evangelist who is passionate about getting the general public excited about science. She co-authored (with Allen St. John) Newton's Football: The Science Behind America's Game (Random House); and, authored Save Our Science: How to Inspire a New Generation of



Scientists (TED Books).

Before taking on the call to improve the public's understanding of science, she was an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science at Yale University. Technology Re-

view, the magazine of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), named her as one of the world's 100 Top Young Innovators for her contributions to transforming technology. She has been profiled in The New York Times, Fortune Magazine, CNN, NPR, ESPN, The Hartford Courant and numerous scientific magazines (Scientific American and Discover Magazine).

Dr. Ramirez received her training in materials science and engineering from Brown University (Sc.B.) and Stanford University (Ph.D.). Prior to being on the faculty at Yale, she was a research scientist at Bell

Laboratories, Lucent Technologies, in Murray Hill, New Jersey where she did award-winning research. She has authored more than 50 technical papers, holds six patents, and has presented her work worldwide.

She now focuses her energies on making science fun, and gave an impassioned call to action at TED on the importance of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, which generated widespread enthusiasm. At Yale, she was the director of the award-winning science lecture series for children called Science Saturdays and hosted two popular-science video series called

Material Marvels and Science Xplained.

As a graduate student she wrote as a science correspondent for Time magazine's Washington D.C. bureau, which ignited her passion for communicating science. Now, she speaks internationally on the importance of making science fun and has served as a science advisor to the American Film Institute, WGBH/NOVA, and several science museums.

Ramirez is the co-author of Newton's Football. Together a journalist and scientist explore the unexpected science behind America's Game, from why

woodpeckers don't get concussions to why coaches act like primates when it comes to risk. Newton's Football illuminates football—and science—through funny, insightful stories told by some of the world's sharpest minds.

Material Marvels is a collection of video podcasts covering an assortment of fascinating materials. Dr. Ramirez brings to life geeky subjects like demonstrating the heat absorption properties of the space shuttle's ceramic tiles and shape memory alloys. They are "metals with a memory" and used in space, in robots, and even in your mouth!

Dr. Monica F. Cox

Dr. Monica F. Cox is a native of Newville, Alabama, and the only child of a first-grade teacher and a K-12 administrator. Dr. Cox followed her parents in a career in academics, choosing the non-traditional path of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). She is a trailblazer in discipline that historically has not featured many females or African-Americans.

Unlike many who excel in advanced STEM careers, Dr. Cox didn't attend a



school that offered Advanced Placement STEM courses or even basic Calculus.

She was different because her parents noticed their daughter's aptitude for

math, and enrolled her in engineering summer programs for high school students. This was followed by community college classes at the age of 16. She graduated as valedictorian of her high school class with enough completed college credits to begin her full time college career at the legendary Spellman College classified as a sophomore.

The young Ms. Cox studied in NASA's Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program, ultimately earning a Bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's in industrial engineering from the University of

Alabama. From there she earned her Ph.D. in Leadership and Policy Studies from Vanderbilt University. She achieved this without acquiring a mountain of student loans, instead earning all three college degrees debt free.

Following six years as an associate professor in the School of Engineering at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., in 2011 Dr. Cox became the first African-American female professor to earn tenure in the College of Engineering at Purdue. These are just a few of her achievements

that led to an invitation from the White House and the Office of First Lady Michelle Obama to serve on a panel highlighting the importance of workplace flexibility for scientists and engineers.

Dr. Cox is not only focused on educating some of the best minds in the country at Purdue, she is helping others through STEMinent LLC and her "Prepared to Be a Pioneer" program. She also is an author, businesswoman, creator of an animated STEM YouTube series (Quirky Time), as well as in the fashion business.

In 2013, she obtained a contract to write a book about the demystification of the engineering Ph.D. She is walking in her heart's desire of sharing the lessons she has learned with others. Dr. Cox has spoken to thousands of undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty who want it all - family, professional success, good health, happiness, and peace.

Dr. Monica Cox is a Woman Making History with many more achievements and honors. Please visit PreparedToBeAPioneer.com to learn more.

Kymberlynn Jackson

On Feb. 21, history was being made for one North Dallas High School student.

In the shadows of the record breaking achievement, in which Kymberlynn Jackson won the first Dallas ISD UIL girls wrestling title, the daunting reality that Jackson faces daily made that moment all the more satisfying.

Unlike most of her peers, Jackson can't place her state medallion in her room or hang it on her wall with the other countless accolades she's won this year: the first Dallas ISD girls wrestling state champion is homeless.

Without a place to call



home, Jackson chooses to wear the symbols of her success around her neck. It's a small reminder of where she's been and where she plans to go.

"I used to let my anger get the best of me, and I knew I needed to do better," Jackson said.

"Life for me and my family was hard, especially last year." Jackson added. "But I know being active in school is what I needed to jumpstart my thinking in a positive way."

The start of a new school year brought about the kind of change Jackson needed.

North Dallas High Principal Dinnah Escanilla had been eyeing Jackson since her freshmen year due to many behavior and conduct concerns, including fighting.

Still, Escanilla saw past her outward displays and pulled Jackson aside earlier this fall with a proposal.

"I want you to be an ambassador in this class to use your leadership and help

others," Escanilla told her at the time. "You have the potential to take more of a leadership role in here and, if you do, I know you'll go far."

Prior to their talk, Jackson admitted she had never heard of the word "ambassador." Hesitant to accept Escanilla's plea, she finally decided to take a step toward a different path. Jackson ultimately agreed and became ambassador to her second period Algebra class.

School administrators say Jackson's math class, which includes students who were, at times, reported for disruptive behavior, has seen a

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Publisher's Office:
publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:
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Editorial Department:
editor@northdallasgazette.com

Online:
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STAFF

Chairman Emeritus

Jim Bochum
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Editor

Ruth Ferguson

VP of Digital Marketing and Entertainment

Jessica Brewer

Published By

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Web Master

Todd Jones

Contributing Writers

Jackie Hardy
Ivy N. McQuain
Terri Schlichenmeyer
Nicole Scott
Tamarind Phinisee

Special Projects Manager

Edward Dewayne
“Preacher Boy” Gibson, Jr.
James C. Allen

Editorial Writers

Ivy N. McQuain
Ruth Ferguson
Nicole Scott

Community Marketing

Nina Garcia

Production

David Wilfong

Religious/ Marketing Editor

Shirley Demus Tarpley

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The GOP's 'acting the fool' dynamic

By Lee A. Daniels
NNPA Columnist

Among the formal definitions for “acting the fool” are: one who is deficient in judgment, sense or understanding.

Perhaps the dictionaries should add a new one: today’s Republican Party

February was a great month for those who think the GOP has become a dustbin of ideological extremists with no commitment to actually getting things done in Washington, elected officials easily led into ethically questionable dealings, and office-holding crackpots

with bizarre beliefs about some of the most important issues of the day

For example, in the Congress the GOP leadership has been frantically trying to tamp down House conservatives’ threat to force a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security over President Obama’s executive order on immigration. At the 11th hour, they kicked the can down the road by providing only a week of additional funding.

On the crime front, Maureen McDonnell, Virginia’s former First Lady, drew a lenient sentence of a year and a day in prison for her

participation in the tawdry petty corruption scheme that also led to the conviction last year of her husband, former Virginia Gov. Robert McDonnell. Once considered a prime contender for the 2016 GOP presidential nomination, McDonnell himself had been sentenced in January to two years in prison.

For comic relief, there was the Idaho Republican state representative who, seemingly confused about the female anatomy, asked a doctor during a legislative hearing whether women could swallow small cameras to help doctors do re-

mote gynecological exams. Even more hilarious was Nevada Republican legislator Michele Fiore expressing her belief that cancer is “a fungus” that can be cured by “flushing, let’s say, saltwater, sodium carbonate” through the body.

While that comment immediately raced around the Internet, too, many news media felt compelled to note, as the Washington Post did: “Cancer is not a fungus. It is the uncontrolled division of abnormal human cells within the body. Saltwater cannot cure cancer.”

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Chuy Garcia is a county commissioner and former alderman. His base is the poorer neighborhoods of Chicago, the Latino community, and the teachers’ union. He pounded on the theme of income inequality and exploited the widespread perception that Emanuel is arrogant and removed from poor people. Indeed, most of Rahm Emanuel’s support came from wealthy White voters who helped raise his large campaign fund. Garcia didn’t have a fraction of Emanuel’s money, but he had a large cadre of volunteers to help deliver his votes.

There were three other candidates in the race, and their combined 20 percent of the vote will likely determine the outcome of the April 7 election. Just a day after the election, both Emanuel and Garcia were courting their competitors, seeking their endorsements. So far, those opponents have been noncommittal.

Emanuel’s loss is a major setback to the Democratic establishment. Voters are tired of income inequality being acknowledged, with nothing being done about it. Their only recourse is the vote, and on February 24 in Chicago, they used it.

According to the Chicago

Tribune, Emanuel rode to victory on the coats of Blacks four years ago with 58 percent of the votes in the six wards that are more than 90 percent Black. This time, he won 42 to 45 percent of those same wards. Blacks may determine the victor of the April 7 election.

Another possible Democratic setback is looming as Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) weighs the possibility of challenging former Secretary of State Hilary Rodham Clinton.

Warren has been portrayed as a champion of the people, especially where consumer protection and financial matters are concerned. She has raised her voice against financial skullduggery by banking institutions, been a critic of attempts to weaken the Dodd Frank bill, and a defender of consumer rights.

The architect of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), Warren has been the darling of the left, and has enhanced that status with her travel to many progressive gatherings. While she has demurred when asked if she will run for president, her replies, if somewhat definite, also seem coy. Additionally, there have been efforts to draft her into running, with

online petitions and other efforts.

While Warren seems to have little baggage, Hilary Rodham Clinton seems less than invincible. Questions have been raised about the Clinton Foundation and the sources of its money, especially when this money has come from foreign governments that have mixed relationships with the United States.

Other questions have been raised about the high six-figure speeches Clinton gives and the audiences she gives them to. Certainly, she is entitled to earn what the market will bear, but some say those who foot the bill are the very Wall Street scions that Elizabeth Warren rails against.

Could Elizabeth Warren seriously challenge Clinton? Is there a chance that she could win the Democratic nomination? If she chooses to enter the presidential race in the next several months, she will be entering the race at about the time Barack Obama did eight years ago. Like Obama, she has penned an autographical book that explains the origins of her populist views. And like Obama, she has the chance of “catching on” with voters.

After Clinton, the only competition Warren is

likely to have for the Democratic nomination is Vice President Joe Biden. But Biden, at 73, may be considered too old to be considered a viable choice for president. Biden also has a history of both oral and behavioral gaffes, most recently offering a rather intimate whisper into the ear of Defense Secretary Ashton Carter’s wife Stephanie at Carter’s swearing in.

Whether she enters the race or not, Warren’s very presence pushes Clinton to the left on populist economic issues. And if Warren enters the race and pulls three or four states, and about 20 percent of the popular vote, she offers Clinton a serious challenge. If these “draft Warren” petitions catch on and hundreds of thousands of signatures are gathered, that too, presents a challenge to Hilary Clinton.

Voters are looking for alternatives and Democrats aren’t providing them. Instead, they are offering a party line that inhibits discussion of issues and hews to the inevitability of party favorites. Rahm Emanuel’s defeat and the Warren challenge to Hilary Clinton suggest that the party line is unsatisfactory.

Julianne Malveaux is a Washington, D.C.-based economist and writer.

Blacks dying for lack of black help

By Elaina Johnson
Special to the NNPA from
the Howard University
News Service

Bi'ja Thatch sat nervously beside her mother when her doctor entered through the doors of her hospital room a little over a year ago bearing troubling news. Thatch was diagnosed with a rare, cancer-like disease that causes cells to destroy and damage each other.

Thatch's only chance of survival was a bone marrow transplant. Article 23 Donor 2abc

Thatch was lucky. It took her a year to find a donor, but she did find one. Every day, however, 20 people in need of transplants die waiting for organs. Ten of them, like Thatch, are African-American. In fact, 35 percent of people on the national waiting list for major organs are African-Americans.

Thatch, 21, successfully underwent the transplant last July and is in recovery.

"I am so grateful for this transplant because I know many people are not as fortunate as me to make it off the waiting list," Thatch said. "Transplants are extremely helpful to those fighting fatal diseases."

Despite the African-American community's high need for major organs, statistics



Bi'ja Thatch (photo courtesy of NNPA)

show they are the lowest ethnic group of registered donors. Blacks comprise only 14 percent of organ donors.

Consequently, African-Americans are in desperate need of kidneys for diseases such as hypertension and diabetes, more than any other ethnic group. They also need bone marrow and tissue transplants.

There are numerous accounts of African-Americans, some famous and some not so famous, dying for lack of donors.

Grammy Award-winning rapper Nelly's sister, Jacqueline Donahue, died young despite her family's four-year attempt to find a bone marrow to help cure her of leukemia.

Shannon Tavarez an 11-year-old actress who played

Nala on Broadway in the "The Lion King," died six months after being diagnosed with leukemia when her mother was unable to find a bone marrow donor.

Dr. Clive Callender, senior transplant surgeon at Howard University Hospital, has seen and heard the stories. In response, Callender, who performed the first kidney transplants at Howard University and one of the city's first liver transplants, founded the National Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program, in order to increase the number of blacks who agree to be donors.

Using a \$1.2 million study, Callender discovered there were five reasons African Americans shied away from organ donation lack of knowledge of organ

donation, their religious beliefs, their fear of being used as a "guinea pig," a fear of being prematurely killed for organs and a mistrust of the medical system.

By working to dispel those myths and misconceptions, Callender's organization saw the number of African American donors in the District of Columbia increase by 125 percent over the past 20 years.

"Many said that minorities would not donate," Callender said, "but we have demonstrated that minorities will become apart of the

solution to this problem."

Though progress has been made, Callender says there is still a great need for more African-American organ donors.

Delise Hampton, 21, made a decision to become an organ donor two years ago when she became aware of the African-American community's needs.

"When I pass away, my organs will be of no use to me," Hampton said. "It is very fulfilling to know that I will really save someone's life".

The Washington Re-

gional Transplant Community (WRTC), organ procurement organization, is dedicated to making sure this goal is achieved. This organization facilitates relationship between donors, donor families, transplant teams and waiting list patients.

It also provides professional education programs to encourage healthcare professions to get involved in the donation process. They host public education programs designed to promote donor registration and

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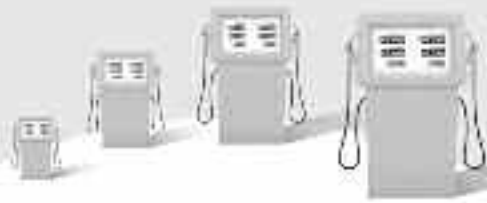
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Northwood University receives ACBSP accreditation for business programs

MIDLAND, MICHIGAN – The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) Baccalaureate-/Graduate Degree Board of Commissioners has awarded Northwood University in Midland, Michigan, accreditation of its business programs. The ACBSP accreditation also applies to Northwood University business programs in Cedar Hill, TX and West Palm Beach, FL.

Established in 1988, ACBSP is the only organization offering specialized business accreditation for all degree levels, from associate to baccalaureate to doctoral degree programs. ACBSP accreditation certifies that the teaching and learning processes within both the undergraduate and graduate business degree programs offered at Northwood University meet the rigorous educational standards established by ACBSP.

Based on the criteria of the Baldrige National Quality Award, ACBSP accreditation evaluates aspects of the institutional leadership, strategic planning processes, relationships with the community, quality of academic programs, faculty credentials and services, and educational support to determine whether the institution offers a rigorous educational experience and demonstrates continuous quality improvement.

“Northwood University has shown their commitment to teaching excellence and to the process of quality improvement by participating in the accreditation process,” said ACBSP Chief Accreditation Officer Dr. Steve Parscale, who will present the Certificate of Initial Accreditation at ACBSP Conference 2015 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, June 14. “This accreditation is

evidence that Northwood is committed to providing the highest quality business education for their students.”

“As a university focused exclusively on business education, achieving this business specialty accreditation is strategically important and is a key goal of the current Northwood University Strategic Plan,” notes Kristin Stehouwer, Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Academic Officer at Northwood University. “As with our regional accreditation through the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) of the Higher Learning Commission, we see ACBSP accreditation as part of our quality journey.”

Stehouwer says the process leading to this prestigious accreditation helped the university to systematically benchmark

its performance and continue its drive toward global excellence as a premier business university based on the free-enterprise model.

“The ACBSP accreditation process allowed us to gather evidence of the many improvements we have made across the university over a period of several years,” Stehouwer says. “We truly appreciate and are grateful to the numerous faculty and staff who have contributed to this success. The entire process prompted us to have higher expectations of ourselves and ever-escalating expectations of being the best we can be as we work to develop the future leaders of a global, free-enterprise society.”

For more information on Northwood University, visit www.northwood.edu, or call 800.622.9000.

Women in Technology Scholarship accepting applications until March 9

Attention all college-bound women! If you're pursuing a career in computer science, information technology, management information systems, computer engineering, or another related field, Visionary Integration Professionals (VIP) would like to invite you to apply for our annual Women in Technology Scholarship (WITS) program.

Now in its eighth year, the program has awarded nearly \$100,000 in aid to more than 60 women across the country. WITS offers support for women who are attending or planning to attend a two- or four-year college within the United States for the upcoming school year. VIP awards multiple scholarships of up to \$2,500 per recipient. Candidates are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Academic performance
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An educated workforce is essential to the economic development and growth of our nation. VIP is committed to not only improving educational opportunities for young women, but to investing in the future of the IT industry.

We encourage qualified women to apply by downloading the application here. Submissions are due by March 9, 2015.

For more information on WITS 2015, please contact WITS@trustvip.com.

Cedar Valley College Sustainability Conference Set for March 20 with Trammell S. Crow as Keynote Speaker

LANCASTER – Cedar Valley College in Lancaster is set to host its second annual Sustainability Conference on Friday, March 20. The theme of the free conference – “H3: The Responsible Pathway” – reflects the belief that for any sustainability effort to be truly

successful, people must commit to it wholly with their head, heart and hands.

This year's keynote luncheon speaker is Trammell S. Crow.

Crow is the president of the Crow Family Foundation and founder of Earth Day Dallas (now Earth Day

Texas). Mr. Crow is expected to talk about Earth Day Texas 2015 and how it is changing the national perception of our state and its journey to sustainability.

“Since Cedar Valley College is in southern Dallas County with plenty of underdeveloped land, we are

sure Mr. Crow will have an uplifting message for businesses and community members that can be very important for the future of this area,” said Dr. Maria Bocalandro, who is the college's sustainability director and conference coordinator.

The opening speaker is Dr. Elaine Ingham, a soil biology researcher and founder of Soil Foodweb Inc., and a known leader in soil microbiology and research of the soil food web.

Dr. Ingham also will be the main presenter for the

Clean Economy Series to be held from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, March 21, also at Cedar Valley. The cost to attend the Clean Economy Series is \$99.

For more information, visit www.carboneconomy-series.com.

Collin College announces sole finalist for presidency

Last week the Collin College Board of Trustees announced that Dr. Neil Matkin is the sole finalist for the college's district presidency.

Dr. Matkin is the executive vice president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System and has impressive credentials as well as extensive experience in higher education leadership.

Collin College conducted a nationwide search to replace long-time District President Cary A. Israel following notice of his resignation. Forty individuals applied, the board narrowed the field to seven for interviews in January, and two finalists were invited back in February for final interviews and campus meetings.

The board's selection of

the third district president is expected to become official in March following a waiting period required by state law.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Matkin served as president of the Central Campus of San Jacinto College and served in a variety of administrative and staff roles with the Virginia Community College System, the Illinois Board of

Higher Education and Ambassador

University. He holds both an Associate of Arts and Bachelor of Arts degree from Ambassador College as well as a Master of Science degree from Golden Gate University, a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Dallas and a Doctorate of Education from Texas A&M University-Commerce.

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S.M.Wright Foundation offering computer and financial skills training

The South Dallas Education and Financial Empowerment Center is offering training for students of all ages and adults. Academic tutoring, adult computer training and adult financial empowerment training will all be part of the services provided by the Center.

The Education division of

the S.M.Wright Foundation will address and support members of the South Dallas communities by providing: Academic and scholarship assistance, post-secondary preparation, and an athletic character building program.

The program will include:

- Tutoring support provided Monday and Wednesday evenings

- Tutoring and support for post-secondary entrance exams/requirements provided

- College tours/ college fairs arranged with support provided for students to attend

- Athletic Character Academy will address the plague of unacceptable behaviors in the sports arena as well as provide academic support

Scholarship Fund

- Financial advisors from major financial institutions will conduct seminars for adults to become fiscally

responsible and financially solvent

- Adult computer classes will be provided for Microsoft certification

Program Requirements and Qualifications:

To qualify for Foundation services, a family must complete an application and show proof of income and

residency, provide a valid social security card and birth certificate for each family member, and meet Texas Commodity Assistance Program (TEXCAP) income requirements. Parents/caregivers must register their child/children for

See TRAINING, Page 13

RAPE, continued from Page 1

Wanted to know her roots

More than anything else, she did not want her mother to feel badly.

"I didn't rape her, but when I was younger, I used to feel like it was my fault," she recalled. "The dreams that she probably could have fulfilled – if she had stayed that innocent virgin who wanted to be a lawyer – she wasn't going to be able to fulfill those because I was here."

Instead of pursuing her dreams, Perry's mother had to shift her focus, looking after the needs of an infant rather than look forward to a career as an attorney.

"Sometimes she was a little more paranoid than I would think is regular," Perry said. "When I was growing up my mom was so strict, or smothering, when it came down to me, particularly."

Once, her mother sent her to the corner store for a few items. There, she ran into a family friend, an older man. He offered to buy her something – she chose cookies – and they parted ways.

She thought nothing of it – until her mother went into a rage.

"She flew off the handle. She beat me with an extension cord. And she told me, 'Don't ever accept anything from a man, they can't be trusted, you don't know their intentions.' I'm six. I don't have a clue what she is talking about.

"She cried. When I got older and reminded her about the incident, she explained to me that she didn't trust anybody, she didn't

trust any man. And she wanted me to be extra careful. She wanted to put that fear in me."

It instilled both fear and confusion, blurring the lines of what was acceptable with the boys and men in her world.

Unresolved trauma

Philadelphia-based author, activist, and scholar Ewuare Osayande wasn't born of this violence, but also grew up in its shadow.

His mother spent her childhood at the mercy of a sexually abusive stepfather. The oldest of eight children, she was the only one who was not his blood-relative. The abuse was the family's open secret. She grew up to date, marry, and divorce abusive men.

Justice Department data show that Black women are more likely than their White counterparts to be assaulted, sexually and otherwise by strangers and by family members.

"It was never the case where my mother covered in the face of her abuse. She didn't hold her tongue, she always spoke her mind," Osayande said.

Today, Osayande is the creator of Project ONUS: Redefining Black Manhood, a series of anti-sexist workshops for Black men. It took time and life experiences before he was able to connect the dots and realize how his mother's abuse – some he had witnessed, some he had not – had affected his own development.

"That processing has been life-long," he ex-

plained. "I'm a divorcée. In that relationship, I found myself becoming like the men I swore for years I would never be. It never got to the point where I became physically abusive, but certainly emotionally abusive."

As the son of a rape and abuse survivor, and as a formerly abusive person, he also realized he had to address his own internal conflicts and beliefs.

Secondary survivors need help

In the sea of services for survivors, most resources geared toward family and

friends coach them on how to best support the survivor in their life. Although crisis centers and hotlines are equipped to aid and counsel family and friends of survivors, few resources address the challenges these relatives face.

The book, *I Will Survive: The African American Guide to Healing from Sexual Assault and Abuse*, cites a study that draws parallels between the emotions of boyfriends and husbands of women who have been sexually assaulted, and the wives and girlfriends of war veterans.

Tiffany Perry's breaking point came about 20 years ago. A probation officer contacted her out of the blue, looking for her father. He had given her name and birthdate as his next-of-kin. She learned that not only did he know about her, but he knew where she lived. To this day, the two live less than an hour apart. She has never contacted him, but has learned a bit about his life via a cousin and aunt on Facebook.

Perry's mother remains her primary source of support.

"When I went to go look

for support groups for children of rape victims or children conceived out of rape, they're pretty much nonexistent," Perry says. "[Rape] is so common we don't even cringe when we hear about it. Rape is inhumane, and people are not treating it like it's inhumane. They just treat it like 'Well, it happens.'"

NEXT INSTALLMENT: Should we have faith in the faith community?

(The project was made possible by a grant from the National Health Journalism.)

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First North Texas Teen Book Festival is March 7

Calling all lovers of teen literature- a new teen book festival is coming to North Texas. Tweens, teens, and the young at heart will celebrate teen literature together on Saturday, March 7 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Irving Convention Center as the Irving Public Library and its partners, Half Price Books, the Friends of the Irving Public Library, local school districts, museums, other local libraries, and the DFW chapter of the Forever YA book club, host the first North Texas Teen Book Festival (NTTBF).

This free, one-day festival will highlight Middle Grade and Young Adult (YA) literature by connecting the North Texas reading community to more than 40 well-known, best-selling, and emerging teen authors. Bookending the festival will be a keynote and end-note speaker with a full day



of panel sessions, book signings, book sales, and more in between. NTTBF will expose attendees to new authors, new stories and new characters while getting them excited about reading.

“The festival will be an exhilarating way for pre-teens, teenagers, and adult fans of teen literature to

meet and speak with authors who write many of their favorite books.” says Kristin Trevino, Irving Public Library teen librarian and festival coordinator. “And, we have such a wide variety of authors scheduled in our inaugural year that everyone will be able to find something to suit their reading tastes and inspire

them.”

With strong sales of fiction books aimed at readers, ages 12 to 18, today’s marketplace is in one of the most fertile periods in the history of YA literature. The North Texas community mirrors the increased interest in teen literature found at the national level. As the popularity of series like the Hunger Games and Divergent bring YA literature into the forefront of mainstream culture, teens and adults show a growing excitement for YA literature.

The North Texas Teen Book Festival is created to connect local tweens and teens with authorsto foster an enjoyment of reading and improve literacy, while meeting the entertainment needs of older YA readers in an environment that inspires reading for pleasure.

To find out more about the festival, visit northtexasteenbookfestival.com.

Garland court to host ‘Recall Day’

The Garland Municipal Court is hosting a “Recall Day” Friday, March 6, 2015 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. People attending will not be arrested for outstanding Garland municipal warrants if they appear before a judge on “Recall Day.”

A person with active Garland warrants will have a chance to go before a judge to enter a plea, make arrangements to pay any balance on outstanding tickets, and have their warrants recalled. In certain cases, the amount of the outstanding fine and court costs may be reduced at this special docket.

This special day of amnesty comes just before the 2015 “Great Texas Warrant Roundup” that begins on Saturday March 7, 2015.

More than 300 law enforcement agencies statewide are participating in the roundup. People with outstanding warrants for minor infractions like traffic and parking tickets, as well as those with more serious violations could be arrested. If Municipal Court warrants are not cleared, marshals and police officers may show up at your home or work, arrest you and take you to jail.

Those wishing to take advantage of “Recall Day” need to come to the Garland Municipal Court building, 1791 W. Ave B, 2nd floor, with a valid ID and be prepared to pay their unpaid fines. For more information, contact Lt. Judy Granado, with the Garland City Marshal’s office at 972-487-7342



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JODECI releasing new album March 31

NEW YORK /PRNewswire/ — JODECI have set March 31 as the release date for their highly anticipated new album and one of the biggest R&B events of the year—The Past, The Present, The Future [Sphinx Music Entertainment/Epic Records]. The digital pre-order for the group’s fourth full-length LP and first for Epic Records, is now live on iTunes, and it engages an instant download of the lead single “Every Moment.” You can pre-order the album on iTunes, Amazon, and Google Play. When you pre-order the album you receive “Every Moment” instantly along with an instant great track “Checkin For You.”

The legendary and influential multi-platinum R&B dynamo have given fans an appetizer to savor with a tease of their music video for “Every Moment” via Complex Magazine. The music video is available to view on VEVO today. Helmed by iconic music video director Hype Williams and creative concept by Breyon Prescott, the video’s story goes down in snowy Aspen, CO. In epic fashion, it commences



with a grandiose and breathtaking opening shot of DeVante Swing playing a baby grand piano on top of a mountain overlooking the world below. Donning all white and looking heavenly fly, K-Ci, DeVante, JoJo, and Mr. Dalvin take flight like never before with one of their most divine refrains yet. The video has already been added to MTV Jams, VH1 Soul and Centric revealing early indications that JODECI has yet again created another momentous visual.

The Past, The Present, The Future is exclusively executive produced by Devante Swing, Louis Burrell, Lajuanna Burrell, and Breyon Prescott with co-production by Timbaland on “Incredible”

and “Those Things.” Among its 12 tracks are “Every Moment,” the soulfully striking “Nobody Wins” feat. B.o.B, the beautifully titled “Jennifer,” and more.

JODECI first arrived in 1991 with their triple-platinum debut, Forever My Lady. That album became Billboard’s “R&B Album of the Year” and yielded three smash #1 singles—“Stay,” “Forever My Lady,” and “Come and Talk to Me.” JODECI’s 1993 follow-up not only topped charts and went platinum, but it also introduced the world to both Timbaland and Missy Elliott. Their platinum-certified final offering, The Show, the After-Party, the Hotel debuted at #2 on the Billboard Top 200 and cemented their musical legacy. In-

November 2014, the group made their formal return to the stage, performing a medley of hits at the Soul Train Awards. Now, they stand poised to once again rule R&B.

Dallas Theater Center has two classics on stage through March 29

Dallas Theater Center currently are showcasing The School for Wives and Medea, the first productions in DTC’s new multi-year Classical Theater Initiative, which will feature masterpieces of theatrical literature from around the world. The shows, which will be performed in repertory at the historic Kalita Humphreys Theater, are both directed by DTC Artistic Director Kevin Moriarty. They are running until Sunday, March 29.



“Our focus at Dallas Theater Center is on creating work that is representative of and responsive to the world we live in today, hoping to spark meaningful dialogue within our community. Often this involves producing new plays and musicals, but with the launch of the Classical Theater Initiative, we seek to expand our work to also include high impact productions of great work from long ago that

have withstood the test of time,” said DTC Artistic Director Kevin Moriarty.

“Moliere is one of the greatest playwrights in French literature and The School for Wives is one of his wittiest comic masterpieces. This hilarious play, paired with Euripides’ Medea, one of the most emotionally moving stories from Ancient Greece, allows us to ex-

plore the role of women in society and the cost to everyone in a community when equality and justice are denied.”

Tickets for both shows start at \$18 and are available online at www.DallasTheaterCenter.org or by phone at (214) 880-0202. All performances are at the Kalita Humphreys Theater, located at 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd.

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NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit www.northdallasgazette.com to win tickets to the North Texas Irish Festival March 6-8, 2015.

TeCo's 13th Annual New Play Competition announces rescheduled dates!

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

I loved the TeCo's 13th Annual New Play Competition and the writers and actors put so much hard work into it but like so many other events around town the weather caused cancellations of last night's show and also tonight. So I am delighted to see they were able to adjust the schedule so more people will have an opportunity to see this wonderful production.

The rescheduled shows are on March 20, 21, 22.

Do not miss this show! TeCo Productions is a great example of quality theater available at affordable prices. Check it out for yourself at tecotheater.org.



Focus is a bit too slick, but still engaging

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

After *Earth*, *Men in Black 3*, *Seven Pounds* ... It's been a while since Will Smith lived up to his star status in a film worth having his name above the marquee. As Nicky, a con artist's con artist in *Focus*, he redeems himself somewhat in a generic but often entertaining game of who's fooling who.

Nicky Spurgeon – part con artist and part thief – was trained by his dad and granddad in the fine art of deception: Focus your victim's attention in one direction, while you steal him blind out of his line of vision. One night in a New York bar, Jess (Margot Robbie, *The Wolf of Wall Street*), a novice shyster, picks him up and brings him back to her hotel. Her enraged husband barges into the room demanding money from Nicky, or he'll kill him. Don't BS a BSer. Nick knows the two are on



Will Smith and Margot Robbie co-star in the con artist movie *Focus*.

the con. He schools them. That would have been the end of a strange night, except Jess wants to learn the ropes from a master and Nicky is smitten with the svelte blonde.

Nicky works Jess into his gang of thieves. In New Orleans, they pickpocket, swipe jewelry and steal money with a nerve and rhythm that is precision. At

a football game, Nicky schemes on a wealthy man named Liyuan (BD Wong) who likes to bet on anything. He pulls an unwitting Jess into his ruse. Once he's done, he leaves her. Three years later in Buenos Aries, Nicky shows up for a job involving the racecar world and a coveted algorithm. He's working for a slick dude named Garriga

(Rodrigo Santoro). He's shocked one night when he finds a beautiful blonde cozying up to his mark. It's Jess.

The cagey film *The Grifters*, starring Annette Bening, Anjelica Houston and John Cusack, directed by Stephen Frears, set the bar real high for all con artist movies that followed. This nicely crafted and very slick looking production isn't as gripping or original as the aforementioned, but that doesn't stop it from being fun. You won't be astonished, but you won't be bored either.

Writer/directors Glenn Ficara and John Requa (*Crazy, Stupid, Love*) mix in enough hijinks (thieves working a New Orleans crowd), violence (a car crash, punched faces and gun play) and titillation (Smith goes bare chest, Robbie does not, their modest love sex scene lacks chemistry) to keep your interests piqued. The screenplay has a lot of twists and

turns, and you can't quite guess where the story is leading, though you know instinctively that a big con is coming.

Jan Kovac's (*Curb Your Enthusiasm*) editing is pretty nimble and well accommodates the film's four acts, which unfold in 104 minutes. There is a happy marriage between Xavier Grobet's (*Mother and Child*) glossy cinematography, Beth Mickle's (*Thanks for Sharing*) production design and Kelly Curley's art direction, which tends to favor teal blue. The musical score by Nick Urata (*I Love You Phillip Morris*) is reminiscent of 1980s hip nightclub music, like the hit song "Ghost Town" by The Specials.

Margot Robbie, certainly tall and beautiful in a *Victoria Secrets* kind of way, has a tough interior. Adrian Martinez (*American Hustle*) as Farhad, one of Nicky's cronies, brings humor to the gang. As Jess sits in the back seat and

Nicky drives the car, Farhad blurts out, "You hitting that?" Gerald McRaney (TV's *House of Cards*) plays the perfect henchman. Rodrigo Santoro is fine as the Argentinean playboy, but he was much more electric in *300: Rise of an Empire*.

Will Smith carries this film on shoulders. His cool demeanor and devil-may-care attitude are appealing. He has tremendous stage presence and he knows how to work the camera. Physically, for a 47 year-old-man, he's in great shape and aging like Dorian Grey. What Smith's career needs now, is a blockbuster that can put him back on top of the heap.

Focus is a bit too slick, but engaging nonetheless. It doesn't give up. It doesn't stop. Or, as Nicky puts it, "Never drop the con. Die with the lie."

Visit NNPA Film Critic Dwight Brown at Dwight-BrownInk.com.

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'Black Dollars Matter!'

By James Clingman
NNPA Columnist

The protest slogans addressing our latest struggle for justice and equity compel me to come up with a new phrase. The signs and T-Shirts emblazoned with "I Can't Breathe!" "No Justice, No Peace!" and the latest, "Black Lives Matter," carry connotations related to action. I often wonder what the folks who wear the T-shirts and hold the signs are doing to back up the slogans they spout. More importantly, I wonder who makes the shirts and who sells them. With that in mind, my slogan for action – economic action is, "Black Dollars Matter!"

The "I Can't Breathe" shirts worn by the Brooklyn Nets and Cleveland Cavaliers, for instance, were sold by NYC Customs, a shop in Long Island, owned by Helen Mihalatos, a friend of Rameen Aminzadeh, member of Justice League of NYC. The initial gesture and resulting "hook-up" came from Nets team member, Jarrett Jack, followed by help from LeBron James and Russell Simmons' political director, Michael Skolnick. The shirts were ordered by Jay-Z, who bought 1,000 more shirts after the basketball game.

I truly hope those "Big Ballers" and "Shot Callers" had enough consciousness to give the profits to Eric Garner's family. The Washington Post reported that "Skolnick obtained shirts from a store in Long Island

City, whose owner confirmed in an interview that the shirts were manufactured by Gildan, a large Canada-based apparel company... According to pro-labor activists, Gildan has a poor record when it comes to respecting workers in its manufacturing plants in Haiti." The story discloses that Gildan's workers are paid \$6 per day for their work. Skolnick's response was, "I think we want to assume sometimes when we're ordering shirts that they're not being made in a sweatshop; we've got to do better." You think?

Now you would think that someone in this chain of events involving T-shirts that carry the last words of a Black man killed on the streets of New York City by police officers would be conscious enough to say, "Hold up! Let's not just go for the symbolism of wearing shirts on the basketball court; let's make a substantive statement as well, via a Black business transaction and a financial benefit for the Garner family." Sound reasonable?

Instead we now have "I Can't Breathe" shirts sold on Amazon and elsewhere as if they are some kind of novelty rather than a sincere, compassionate, and meaningful response to the homicidal death of Eric Garner, the originator of the "I can't breathe" phrase. We saw him take his last breath; he was the one who couldn't breathe for real. The above travesty reminds me of an article I wrote after

Trayvon Martin was killed, titled, "The Profit of Protest."

In light of the hype of "I Can't Breathe" and now the phrase, "Black Lives Matter," the slogan we should emblazon on shirts, and instill in our brains, the one by which we should live and the one that, if inculcated into our daily lives, will move us from the rhetoric of freedom to the action of freedom is, "Black Dollars Matter!"

Despite the wasteful and nonsensical spending by Black folks, from the poorest to the super-rich flamboyant celebrities, we must all realize that "Black Dollars Matter" and they should matter to us first. Right now, they matter most to everyone else; and other folks are doing everything they can to get more of our dollars with no reciprocity other than symbolic gestures that make us feel good.

It's great for athletes to wear shirts with slogans, but they should move to the next step of starting initiatives that not only sustain their gestures but build economic empowerment for Black people. Our athletes and celebrities, as they protest inequities and injustice, should keep in mind that "Black Dollars Matter," and they should consider that as they come up with their solutions to effect real change within the systems against which they protest – and so should we.

After the chanting, the marching, the protests and

demonstrations, the outrage, the threats, and the unjustified killings of our people with impunity, if all we do is sit back and wait on the next crisis, why should we even bother with the above actions in the first place? We must be smarter and we must be conscious. We must always be aware that money runs this country and it has its place in everything, yes, even in the deaths of our people.

Indeed, Black lives matter above all; but to those who kill us, those who economically exploit us, and those who are indifferent toward us, Black lives don't matter as much as Black dollars do. Start a "Black Dollars Matter" campaign. Make some shirts displaying that attention-grabbing slogan, and act upon it. "Black Dollars Matter," but only if they start making more sense.

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 can be reached through his website, blackonomics.com.

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TRAINING, continued from Page 7

the program and agree to provide reports cards, test scores, and progress reports to the Tutoring Center Director for the entire school year.

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ing in reading, math, language arts, science and social studies as well as in test-taking skills for standardized tests. The center also tutors students and adults in computer skills and provides the students with an evening meal and snacks.

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Rawlings kicks off 2016 Mayors Intern Program

DALLAS – Calling it “an investment in Dallas youth that delivers tangible, life-changing results,” Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings kicked off the Dallas Mayor’s Intern Fellows Program with an aggressive campaign to increase the number of businesses providing eight-week paid internships to Dallas public and charter high school students this summer.

Since its inception in 2008, 1,048 Dallas ISD and public charter high school students have participated in the program.

The 2014 edition of the program was the largest – almost 1,700 Dallas public high school students applied for internships, 975 qualified for the Job Fair, and a record-breaking 300 students were hired by 102 businesses and 81 nonprofits that provided internships last summer.

Applications for 2016 will open in October at mayorsinterns.org.

The students – rising juniors and seniors from Dallas ISD and public charter high schools – get exposure to a variety of fields, including technology, healthcare, law,

finance and accounting, education, the nonprofit sector, advertising/marketing/public relations, engineering, manufacturing and hospitality, and many more.

In 2014, interns worked in hospital bone marrow units and professional theaters, led youth programs, developed sports marketing programs, and witnessed engineers and architects as they tackled their next project.

The Mayor’s Intern Fellow’s Program is facilitated by Dallas nonprofit Education is Freedom (EIF), a comprehensive college-planning program offering a dedicated team of school-based experts who offer college-access programming in numerous Dallas ISD high schools.

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Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
135 S. Jefferson

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Richardson church hosting free workshop for the unemployed and under-employed

A free Job Search Workshop by Career Transition Ministries will be held 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday, March 21 at The Heights Baptist Church, 201 W. Renner Rd. at US-75 in Richardson.

Free lunch and materials are provided. The all-day

workshop will teach proven job search skills, including:

- finding your job focus
- resume critique and development
- effective networking skills
- creating a 30-second elevator presentation
- interviewing techniques

• developing a 2-minute verbal resume and more.

Doors open at 7:45 a.m. Check-in begins at 8 a.m. in the Mezzanine.

Pre-registration is required due to limited seating. Register online at <http://www.theheights.org/jobseekers/>

The Heights JobSeekers Ministry serves the community by assisting jobseekers with tools, resources, networking opportunities and workshops. For more information, email jobseekers@theheights.org, or call 214-536-8111.



GOP, continued from Page 3

Not to be outdone back in Washington, Oklahoma Senator James Inhofe, the chairman of the Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee, jumped aboard the party comedy train when he brought a snowball into the Senate chamber from the minuscule dusting of snow Washington got that day and said it proved there was no such thing as global warming.

But a lion's share of media attention on the GOP for much of the month was, rightly, devoted to former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's claiming that President Obama "doesn't love America" because he "wasn't brought up the way you were brought up and I was brought up through love of this country."

Amid the immediate blowback, Giuliani then made the cable news show rounds the following days

to double down that his comments couldn't be called racist "since [Obama] was brought up by a white mother, a white grandfather, went to white schools, and most of this he learned from white people." The "this," he implied, was Obama's "socialism or possibly anti-colonialism."

By February's last week, however, Giuliani had penned an oily op-ed in the *Wall Street Journal* meekly stating he "didn't intend to

question President Obama's motives or the content of his heart. My intended focus was the effect his words and his actions have on the morale of the country and how that effect may damage his performance."

Of course, the article was a sure sign that conservative movement chieftains had warned him of the damage he was doing to Republican efforts to get its 2016 presidential primary sweepstakes off to a good start and deal with its intra-party rebellion in Congress.

New York Daily News columnist Linda Stasi had the best succinct take on Giuliani's actions in suggesting "Perhaps it's megalomania-infused narcissism with an overlay of overt racism?"

She's right that Giuliani was reflexively following the standard GOP script of the last seven years: When you want to grab public attention and the plaudits of the conservative base, say something vile about the president.

One of the most obvious

insights that offers is that because racism is impervious to logic, the achievements of individuals and even a large cohort of those the bigots hate doesn't just expand the space for tolerance in the larger society. It also actually intensifies the fury of those who need to cling to their bigotry. As an old friend once put it: the bigots say they hate you because you're inferior. But when you prove you're more than equal, they hate you even more.

That's why, during the

Obama presidency, acting the fool has become the Republican Party's chief operating principle.

Lee A. Daniels is a longtime journalist based in New York City. His essay, "Martin Luther King, Jr.: The Great Provocateur," appears in Africa's Peacemakers: Nobel Peace Laureates of African Descent (2014), published by Zed Books. His new collection of columns, Race Forward: Facing America's Racial Divide in 2014, is available at www.amazon.com



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continued from Page 4

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You're invited to our FREE 3rd Annual Single Parent Symposium. Child care provided. Call the church for details.

March 8
Join us this Sunday at 8 a.m. for our praise and worship services, God will bless you. And don't forget to come back for our Iglesia de Cristo Services (the Word of God in Spanish).

March 11, 9:30 a.m.
You're invited to join us for Bible study as we worship and praise God for His blessings. Prepare to be encouraged by God's plan to grow.

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

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CARROLLTON

March 8
You're invited to our Sunday Morning "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship Service at 10 a.m. See what God is doing through and with us; you will be blessed. We will also have some Black Women History facts to share with you.

March 11, 7 p.m.
Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Dr. Woodson and/or 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. Come and be blessed by God.

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

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

March 5, 7 p.m.
If you need some of God's comfort, come to our Grief Share, "Mourning to Joy."

March 8, 8:45 a.m. And 11 a.m.
You're invited to our Morning Services as we worship, honor and praise God for His blessings. Our March Month Series is "I am a Church Member." Discover the attitude that makes the difference.

March 11
Join us at 12 Noon with Rev. Viveca Potter teaching on the Word of God; come back at 6:45 for Corporate Prayer and stay for Senior Pastor Autry at 7:30 p.m. teaching the Word of God. Our youth will come for Food and Fellowship at 7 p.m. followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. and Tutoring/Homework Assistance at 8 p.m.

Dr. Terrence Autry, Senior Pastor
701 Centennial
972-991-0200
Richardson, TX 75081
www.Christcommunityrichardson.org

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

March 8
For this Sunday only, join us for our praise and worship services at 9:30 a.m. followed by Morning Services at Bolin Elementary, 5705 Cheyenne Drive in Allen and bring someone with you; you will be blessed.

March 11
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 the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 W. Belmont Drive in Allen. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all, be prepared to grow.

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

March 8, 7:35 a.m.
Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services and receive a blessing from God.

March 11, 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)

March 8
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.

March 11, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

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

NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

March 8
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.

March 11
Join us for Wednesday's Bible Study and learn what God has to say to us.

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

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

March 8, 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.

March 11, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and growth; and, it's all for His glory.

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

THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH

March 8, 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.

March 11, 7 p.m.
Join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

March 13, 7 p.m.
All men are invited to join us for Men's Fellowship night. What is God saying to us?

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
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'Weaving the stories of women's lives'



Sister Tarpley

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

March is National Women's History Month. Every year the National Women's History Project selects a unifying theme to be shared with all who want to promote women's history.

This year's theme presents the opportunity to weave women's stories – individually and collectively – into the essential fabric of our nation's history.

To celebrate strong women who have made, or who are making a difference I will highlight facts about Black women and their contribution to mankind this month.

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

Accounts of the lives of individual Black women are critically important because they reveal exceptionally strong role models who share a more expansive vi-

sion of what a woman can do.

The stories of Black women's lives, and the choices they made, encourage girls and young women to think larger and bolder, and give Black boys and men a fuller understanding of the female experience.

Knowing Black women's achievements challenges stereotypes and upends social assumptions about who they are and what they can accomplish today.

There is real power in hearing Black women's stories, both personally and in a larger context. Remembering and recounting tales of our ancestors' talents, sacrifices, and commitments inspires today's generations and opens the way to the future.

Delilah L. Beasley - Historian and Newspaper Columnist; at her memorial service, which was a testament to her life-long crusade for justice, all attending stood and made the following pledge—"Every life casts it shadow, my life plus others make power to move the world. I, therefore pledge my life to the living work of brotherhood and material understanding between the races.

Beasley was the first Black woman to be regu-

larly published in a major metropolitan newspaper and the first author to present the history of Blacks in early California.

Growing up in Ohio, Beasley started writing social columns for Black and White newspapers while still a teenager. After her parents' deaths, she sought a career path that would better support her younger siblings, working as a hairdresser, massage therapist, nurse, and maid for many years.

In 1910 she moved to

Oakland California where she immersed herself in the local Black community and again started writing articles in local newspapers.

In 1915 Beasley started writing a weekly column in the Oakland Tribune. Her articles protested the stereotypes contained in the movie "The Birth of a Nation." Through a column called "Activities among Negroes," she campaigned for Black dignity and rights.

She Highlighted activities of local churches, women's clubs, literary societies,

along with national politics, and achievements of Black men and women; her column aimed to give all readers a positive picture of the Black community and demonstrate the capabilities of Blacks.

Deeply interested in the history of Black Californians, Beasley trained herself in archival research and oral histories. In 1919 she self-published The Negro Trail-Blazers of California, this was a groundbreaking book chronicling the lives of hundreds of Black Californians from the pioneer period

through the early 20th century.

Her book included an unprecedented amount of Black women's history, focusing on the strong roles women played in their communities and featuring countless biographies of Black women leaders.

In the thirties, Beasley was the driving force behind the passage California's first anti-lynching bill. She continued her column and was active in the community until her death in 1934.



Delilah Beasley

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NDG Book Review: *A Spool of Thread* is hard to put down

By Terri Schlichenmeyer



Cut from the same cloth. That's what your grandma said about you and your siblings, but it couldn't have been further from the truth: you were different as sun and rain. You came from the same set of parents, and that's about all you had in common.

Still, there are always things in life that stitch families together and in the new book "A Spool of Blue Thread" by Anne Tyler, the Whitshanks needed that kind of mending.

When Junior Whitshank built the house on Bouton

Road just after the Depression, folks noticed that he threw his heart into it, but no one fully understood.

They didn't know that Junior aimed to someday live there himself, even though Bouton Road was

built for well-to-do clients, and Junior wasn't. Even so, eyeing a dream that would surely come true, he insisted that every door, newel, and window were the finest his clients' money could buy.

Red Whitshank knew that the house he inherited from his father was a great place to raise a family but he never thought much past that. Over the years, as he and Abby brought each baby home, Red remodeled some, moved the girls to make room for boys, and added a bathroom - but for him, there were other things more pressing to consider.

Like work, for instance.

For Red's wife, Abby, the house on Bouton Road was the heart of her family, though there were times when she didn't understand where things went wrong - especially with her oldest son, Denny. He'd always been the Black Sheep child, the one who flitted from here to there and could never settle down. It wasn't unusual for him to disappear, for years to pass before they heard from him again.

That hurt Abby because, deep in her heart, Denny was her favorite and she'd never admit that to anybody

but Red. She wasn't even sure Red listened anymore (he was just like his father); he said she worried too much but wasn't that a hallmark of a good mother? And wasn't a good mother the ribbon that tied the family together?

Much as I loved "A Spool of Blue Thread," I struggle to define it because it's really not about anything in particular: through the eyes of three generations of average people, author Anne Tyler spins a tale of love and family dynamics. The Whitshanks marry, they squabble, they grow, they deal with tragedy, that's all.

Then again, that's not all.

Tyler makes this book feel like a long conversation on the front porch with a friend (or two) whose family is going through a rough spot. You'll listen, you'll raise eyebrows in gentle surprise, you'll nod, you'll sympathize - but you just can't turn away.

Nor can you put this heart-striking novel down because it feels just right for a few winter afternoons. And so, if the next book club pick is yours or you want a good family drama to read, "A Spool of Blue Thread" has that all sewn up.

JACKSON, continued from Page 2

difference in overall class productivity. Escanilla says it's mainly due to the constant steering by Jackson to lead her peers in the right direction.

"As a class ambassador, Kym has made tremendous strides to help maintain a positive learning environment for both she and her classmates," Escanilla said.

"Even her teacher said the class' conduct is improving."

No longer is Jackson misbehaving and running through the halls, badmouthing administrators or performing poorly in class.

Filled with excitement, Principal Escanilla couldn't resist explaining Jackson's grades are not only up, but she made the A-honor roll the entire fall semester.

"She has an innate ability to push herself forward, and

that's the attitude of a leader I wanted to push out," Escanilla said.

During the UIL state championship, Feb. 21, Jackson won every match by pin in the 5A girls 215-pound division. She pinned

her final opponent in just 2:50.

This was Jackson's first year wrestling. Even as a newcomer, her road to victory was a reminder that she could accomplish what others believed she could.



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