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Many Dallas families face a food shortage

-See Page 4



DISD librarian honored

-See Page 7



Furious cast proves diversity sells

-See Page 9

Economic recovery eludes black workers

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Senior Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – The slow-moving, uneven economic recovery continues to elude Black workers and some economists predict that even with a falling unemployment rate, at the end of 2015, Blacks will still be further away from full recovery than Whites.

A recent study by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), a Washington, D.C.-based think tank focused on low- and middle-income families, said that in the fourth quart of 2014, the national unemployment rate for Whites was “within 1 percentage point of pre-recession levels, while the Black unemployment rate was 2.4 percentage points higher than it was at the end of 2007.”

The report also explained that, “True labor market improvements are more likely in those states experiencing both unemployment declines and increases in the share of workers employed,” also known as the employment-population ratio or EPOP ratio.

The study continued: “On the other hand, declining unemployment in those states without in-



While economic recovery is improving in many segments, black workers aren't reaping the benefits. (Photo: Miami Workers Center / Flickr)

creasing shares of workers employed may suggest workers are simply dropping out of the labor force.”

Valerie Wilson, director of the Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy for EPI, analyzed 2014 data for the unemployment rate, the EPOP ratio, and the long-term unemployment rate, and said that using the unemployment rate to determine the health of the labor market may be overstating the progress of the economic recovery in the U.S.

“Between 2013 and 2014, the an-

nual black unemployment rate declined most in Arkansas (6.5 percentage points), Indiana (4.6 percentage points), and Tennessee (3.6 percentage points). Of these, only Arkansas had a significantly higher Black employment-to-population ratio in 2014 (from 46.8 to 50.1 percent),” stated the EPI report. “Among states for which reliable estimates could be calculated, 15 states experienced a significant decline in the Black unemployment rate between 2013 and 2014 and in

See WORKERS, Page 5



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COMMENTARY

Jailing Educators for 'Cheating to the Test'

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Eleven Atlanta teachers have been convicted of altering student test scores on standardized tests. They are charged with racketeering and conspiracy. The much-celebrated Superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools Beverly L. Hall was among the indicted but was too ill to stand trial. She died March 2.

Another group of teach-

ers, principals and administrators took plea bargains. A total of 178 people were accused of taking part in the cheating “scam” and in 2011 Hall reminded observers that “we have over 3,000 teachers in Atlanta,” and just a few were part of the cheating scandal. She also denied having any knowledge of the cheating. Until her illness, she insisted that she wanted to stand

See TEST, Page 3

INSIDE...

People In The News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community	5
Education	6
Community Spotlight	7-8
Entertainment	9-10
Market Place	11
Career Opportunity	12
Church Directory	14-15
NDG Book Review	16

People In The News...

See Page 2



Van Jones



Celena Mondie-Milner



LaShawna Stanley

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Van Jones

PALO ALTO, CA – Culture Shift Labs, the leading consultancy firm formerly known as Diversity Affluence, gathered 250 leaders in tech, healthcare and finance on April 1 at the Garden Court Hotel in Palo Alto, CA to celebrate diversity and innovation at the Inaugural Silicon Valley Diversity Brunch. Hosted by Andrea Hoffman, CEO and Founder of Culture Shift Labs, the brunch celebrated four individuals who are examples of what's possible for current and future generations in tech and beyond. This year's honorees re-



flected the changing face from board seats to the C-Suite. They included: Van Jones - Co-Founder of #YesWeCode and CNN Commentator, Shellye Archambeau – CEO of MetricStream, Ken Coleman -

Chairman of Saama Technologies and Special Advisor to Andreessen Horowitz, and Hugh Molotosi - VP of the Intuit Labs division of Intuit. Also in the room were venture capitalists, entrepreneurs, health care executives, and leaders from some of the biggest names in tech, healthcare and finance including: Apple, Ernst & Young, Google, Facebook, LinkedIn, Intel, Riot Games, Pandora and Microsoft.

The invitation-only brunch, emceed by Ben Jealous, noted civic leader and Partner of Kapor Capital, began with opening remarks from Andrea Hoff-

man followed by a private Veuve Cliquot Champagne toast that featured the four honorees and sponsors: Cisco, Kaiser Permanente, NewsOne, Microsoft, Moët Hennessy USA, and Tourneau. Bernard J. Tyson, Chairman and CEO of Kaiser Permanente and Fred Humphries, VP of U.S. Government Affairs for Microsoft (and top sponsors) addressed the room and gave recognition to Andrea Hoffman who was responsible for hand selecting each guest and inspiring the largest gathering to date of senior leaders of color in tech.

The brunch was attended by an exhaustive list of no-

table leaders including Denise Young Smith - VP of Human Resources at Apple, Brandon Jones – Head of Product Operations at Google, Scott Cook – Co-founder of Intuit, Michael Seibel, Partner at Y Combinator, and Lo Toney – Partner at Comcast Ventures. A live discussion between David Drummond, Google's Chief Legal Officer and Senior Vice President of Corporate Development, and #YesWeCode Co-Founder Van Jones addressed the diversity challenge in Silicon Valley and solutions on how the 250 guests in the room could be a part of it, starting by concentrating on tomorrow's

leaders – today's youth.

Many of the attendees remarked that the brunch had achieved something for the first time by gathering Black men and women in powerful positions from some of the most influential corporations in one room to inspire hope, ignite change and take the necessary steps to encourage inclusion in the industry. The 1st Annual Silicon Valley Diversity Brunch recognized, celebrated and brought awareness to important leaders – the first of many "business of diversity" initiatives to come from Culture Shift Labs (CSL).

Visit the website at CultureShiftLabs.com.

Celena Mondie-Milner

AUSTIN, Texas — Following a national search, The University of Texas at Austin has named Celena Mondie-Milner director of New Student Services (NSS). Part of the Division of Student Affairs, the office oversees and coordinates UT Orientation for nearly 10,000 freshman and transfer students each year. In collaboration with campus partners across the university, NSS provides an engaging and comprehensive orientation experience that ensures students successfully transition, both ac-



ademically and socially, to the Forty Acres.

"Celena understands the importance of creating a welcoming and inclusive learning environment for our students at UT Orienta-

tion from the moment they register," said Gage E. Paine, vice president for student affairs. "Her leadership will play a critical role in helping us achieve our goal of increasing four-year graduation rates."

For the past eight years, Mondie-Milner has served as director of orientation and new student programs at Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia. During that time, she maintained overall satisfaction ratings between 94 and 97 percent for student and family orientation programs.

"With more than 15 years of progressive leadership

experience, Celena clearly understands the university's mission, the department's purpose and our new student initiative. She will be able hit the ground running with UT Orientation just around the corner," added Soncia Reagins-Lilly, senior associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students.

Throughout her career, Mondie-Milner has held a variety of higher education positions including student affairs director, instructor, coach, judicial hearing officer and minority success recruitment officer. A former track star, she won the gold

medal for the 4 x 100 meter relay at the 1995 World Championships. She is also a 19-time NCAA All-American in track and field and a Big Ten Conference Medal of Honor recipient.

No stranger to Austin, Mondie-Milner lived here while training for the U.S. Olympic trials in track and field.

"I look forward to returning to the Forty Acres and leading UT Orientation. The commitment of student affairs and academics to work closely together in providing a holistic experience for undergraduate, transfer and graduate

students is impressive. I am excited to be chosen for this very special opportunity," said Mondie-Milner.

This May, Mondie-Milner will receive her Ph.D. in educational leadership from Mercer University. She received a Master of Education degree in leadership and organizational development and a Bachelor of Arts degree in speech communication from the University of Illinois.

Mondie-Milner will start her new position June 1. The first of 10 UT Orientation summer sessions begins June 8.

LaShawna Stanley

LaShawna Stanley, a beautiful woman of color, a teenage mom at the age of 15 and now a grandmother of four, has been a fighter her entire life. As a child growing up in a household of all fair complexion family members, she had to fight the stigma of having dark skin and made it her quest to empower women of color to love themselves.

Being a teenage mom LaShawna refused to become a stereotype. As a no-nonsense self-taught entrepreneur she has been at the vanguard of redefining beauty through the agency she created, Ethnicity Models. LaShawna teaches women to APPRECIATE their skin tones, unique fea-



tures and varied silhouettes but NOT be exploited by them.

Ms. Stanley is a hero to women's empowerment! She has appeared on national networks such as BET's Hip-Hop vs. America, UPN news, and Vh1's Hip-Hop Videos: Sexpolitation On The Set defending the rights of women in the

music industry. LaShawna has also been featured in major publications such as VIBE, The Source, Hip-Hop Weekly, KING, & XXL. Her company is the "go to" agency for hiring a diverse group of beautiful ethnic women, she's hosted charitable events for Magic Johnson, Donald Trump, and Alonzo Mourning. As a favorite amongst A-List clientele; Diddy, Jamie Foxx, Beyonce, Jay-Z, Usher, and Kanye West only scratch the surface of her company's infamous resume.

Through it all LaShawna is resolute in her determination to help women of color realize their true potential. This can be seen as she visits schools and youth centers with her models to teach young girls, college

students, teenage moms and women in general about self-esteem, believing in themselves, and following their dreams.

LaShawna Stanley is a motivational/inspirational/informational speaker on a number of Hip Hop and women empowerment topics such as "Hip Hop & The Sexploitation of women" dissipate stereotypes and learn the truth about the women in hip hop music videos from an inside perspective. "Empowering Teen moms to beat the odds" Dream big and don't limit yourself. "Empowering Women to become Entrepreneurs " Create your own destiny. Become your own boss. Ms. Stanley is also available to facilitate modeling workshops and seminars.

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‘Religious Freedom’ scams

By Lee A. Daniels
NNPA Columnist

Pity the poor, put-upon anti-gay bigots.

Worried by recent steady march of federal court decisions advancing the right of gays and lesbians to marry, they tried to copy the Supreme Court majority’s flim-flam maneuver of last year in the Hobby Lobby case: By asserting a business is a “person,” they intended to enable business owners to discriminate against gay and lesbian prospective customers, and anyone else under the cover of “religious belief.”

The blowback from corporate giants, religious denominations, cities and states, associations and organizations, and prominent entertainment and literary figures produced a thunderous roar succinctly expressed by the headline of the March 31 front-page editorial of the Indianapolis Star newspaper. In huge letters, it blared: “Fix This Now”

Suddenly, faced with the likelihood of devastating economic boycotts, the two states’ governors and state legislatures quickly complied. By week’s end last week they had amended

those particular so-called religious freedom restoration laws to declare they couldn’t be used to discriminate against someone because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. (However, neither did either legislature enact specific statutes barring discrimination against, gays, lesbians and transgendered people.)

But no one on the right side of history should think this ends the anti-gay rights campaign. Nor should they forget this episode’s lessons.

For one thing, it’s underscored the true purpose of these “religious freedom”

laws, which now exist in 19 other states and are being considered in an additional 14. That purpose, with the U.S. Supreme Court set to rule on same-sex marriage by this June, is to provide the anti-gay forces a means of escaping compliance with the seemingly inevitable affirmation of same-sex marriage by the federal judiciary.

Secondly, these wolf-in-sheep’s-clothing laws offer further proof that the GOP down to its very roots in state and local communities has devolved from a politi-

See SCAMS, Page 11

TEST, continued from Page 1

trial and clear her name.

In what was described as the largest cheating scandal in the nation’s history, District Attorney Paul L. Howard Jr. prosecuted the educators under a law originally designed to snare organized crime figures. Of the 12 defendants, 11 were convicted of racketeering, a felony punishable up to 20 years. One defendant, Dessa Curb, a former elementary school teacher, was acquitted.

Those 11 convicted were taken straight from the courtroom to jail. Sentencing should take place this week. On top of the 20 years maximum sentence for racketeering, they could be convicted on other charges including making false statements. It is interesting to note that most of these teachers are African American.

You can serve as few as 15 years for second-degree murder in Georgia, and as little as a year for involuntary manslaughter. Further, most convicted offenders get a day or even months to go home and straighten out their affairs before reporting to prison. But not this group of educators.

These Atlanta teachers aren’t the only teachers involved in similar cheating scams. A year ago, 130 Philadelphia educators were

accused of cheating. In September, several were ordered to stand trial.

Why have those who chose a low-paid and little-regarded profession stoop to cheating on standardized tests? Are they judged by the number of students who pass these flawed tests, and the number who fail? Is there a culture of cheating in too many of our nation’s schools? Is there a culture of “teaching to the test”?

There is no excuse for the cheating in Atlanta, or Philadelphia, or in El Paso, where the school superintendent was imprisoned for reporting faulty test scores. While there is no excuse, it would be foolhardy to ignore the pressure that many face when federal laws mandate the use of standardized tests to “prove” that teachers and schools are doing their jobs.

In some districts, including Atlanta, teachers are given bonuses when their students do well on tests, and may be terminated when students do not. Even now, after revisions in teacher evaluation, half of teacher performance is based on standardized tests. Teachers can be reassigned, or schools can be closed if there are too many poor-performing students enrolled.

It makes sense to look at

the many ways that the system encourages teachers to manipulate, if not outright cheat, when they administer standardized tests. Some schools spend days preparing students to take the tests. They aren’t spending days teaching the material students must learn, just the rote material needed to pass standardized tests. Passing a test in English and grammar may prove some proficiency, but does it prove that a student can write a paragraph or an essay, or engage in critical thinking?

When teachers spend too much time focused on standardized testing and not enough on course content, are they cheating students? In teaching to the test, are they cheating to the test? I’m not referring to the multiple erasures that investigators found on some of the Atlanta tests, or schemes that excluded poor-performing students from testing so average grades could be higher. I’m referring to teachers who choose to teach content that they know will show up on the test, or those who spend tens of hours in “practice sessions” with old copies of tests used as drills. From my perspective students are being cheated when there is too much emphasis placed on standardized testing.

One might ask how teachers and students can be evaluated without standard-

ized tests, but there is an extensive body of research that suggests other methods of evaluating teachers, including classroom observation and curriculum review. Interestingly, an increasing number of colleges do not use standardized tests to evaluate students for admissions because they recognize such tests are flawed.

Obviously, there must be some way to measure progress among students, and proficiency among teachers. Still, standardized test results should not be tied to teacher compensation, or to threats of school closings. If standardized tests are one way to measure results, they must be combined with other measures to ensure fairness.

It makes sense, though, to ask if there is a racial dynamic to leading nearly a dozen teachers, mostly African American, out of a courtroom in handcuffs. And it makes sense to wonder if the charge of racketeering is being applied to harshly for what is clearly illegal misconduct.

While teaching to the test is not against the law, isn’t it cheating our students nearly as much as the scams?

Julianne Malveaux is an economist, writer, and President Emerita of Bennett College. She can be reached at julianne@malveaux.com.

Nearly 19 percent of Dallas households cannot afford enough food

AUSTIN – Texas households suffered extraordinarily high rates of food hardship during and after the recession, according to a new national report released today. In 2014, 18.4 percent of surveyed households said they could not consistently afford enough food.

Federal lawmakers in the Senate and House have passed budgets that put nutrition programs such as SNAP (aka food stamps) at



significant risk. Rates of food hardship will increase significantly if funding for these programs is reduced.

“It is unacceptable that Congress is debating cuts to nutrition programs like

SNAP when so many Americans are struggling to afford food,” said Celia Cole, CEO of Feeding Texas.

“SNAP is a proven tool to solve hunger. Our elected leaders should act to help, not hurt struggling families.”

The report, *How Hungry is America?*, is published by the national group the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) in coordination

with Gallup-Healthways Polling, and provides data on food hardship for the nation, every state, and 100 of the country’s largest cities. The report includes food hardship rates for San Antonio, Austin, Houston, and the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

Food hardship is defined as the inability to afford enough food. The report found a national food hardship rate of 17.2 percent in

2014.

“All these data tell the same story – hunger and poverty rates spiked at the beginning of the recession and have stayed high ever since,” said Cole. “Cutting nutrition programs now will lead to even greater hardship for millions of struggling Americans.”

Feeding Texas is urging concerned Texans to raise their voices and tell Members of Congress to

strengthen – not weaken – the nation’s nutrition safety net. They can do so, for example, by adding their name to a petition in support of SNAP.

The full food hardship analysis and petition is available on FRAC’s website (frac.org). Feeding Texas leads a unified effort for a hunger-free Texas. Learn more and find your local food bank at feeding-texas.org.

You can eat those carbs without the weight gain!

By Dr. Ro
NNPA Columnist

The much-maligned carbohydrate (an essential, macro nutrient) has been touted as the bane of your dietary existence for too long. Don’t worry, you can eat your comfort food carbohydrate favorites without the guilt that often comes with consuming them and you don’t have to pack on dreaded pounds when you do. Instead of banning pasta, potato chips, ice cream, and those hi-carb foods that send you swooning every time you catch a whiff of their gooey goodness, I encourage you to proceed without the caution using the small tweaks I give you below. Here are my Top 4 Carb Fixes that deliver on taste, while lowering the calorie and carb content:

Pasta:

When you think of carbs, pasta is the holy grail. It is the first thing that generally comes to mind. But 1 serving of traditional spaghetti and meatballs contains 54 carbs and 433 calories. But with Explore Asian black bean spaghetti, you can reduce your carb count to 17 and your calories to just 180. Now, that’s what I call a winner. This is my new favorite pasta because, not only do I love its chewy texture and meaty flavor, but it is made with just two ingredients – black beans and water and has a whopping



25 grams of protein and 12 grams of fiber in each serving! This is big, because traditional pastas typically contain only 7-8 grams of protein per serving. When you eat a complex carbohydrate like beans and include lean protein in the same meal, you get the double benefit of energy compliments of the complex carb and the muscle-building protein, plus the fiber fills you up so you are satiated and feeling full for longer periods of time so no over-eating. Now that’s hard to beat.

Pizza:

Of course, its not just college frat boys and co-eds who enjoy a good pizza every once in a while, but did you know that you can cut carbs here too? That’s right, it’s all about the crust. When you switch the ingredients of your pizza crust you can cut carbs to a tasty and manageable level that allows you to have pizza night for yourself and the family any time you choose. Eureka! Just one slice of cheese and veggie pizza has

41 grams of carbs and 372 calories. Most people have three slices at one sitting. For a woman following a 1,200 calorie weight-loss diet, that could amount to her carb and calorie budget for the whole day! Here’s one creative way to have your pizza and eat it, too. And it’s tasty, healthy, and cuts the carbs in half.

Make the dough using cauliflower instead of wheat flour and reduce your carb and calorie count from 41 grams and 372 calories/slice of traditional pizza to just 14 grams and 272 calories/slice of the cauliflower crusted pizza with my recipe.

Potato Chips:

I have yet to meet the person, who doesn’t enjoy a good potato chip, and for good reason. They are the perfect combination of a salty, buttery flavor with a crunchy bite that satisfies, but a single serving bag of potato chips has 15 grams of carbs and 160 calories and the truth is most people don’t eat just one...bag. But I have found a way to sat-

isfy the chip lover in you that’s scrumptious and the best part is these chips are carb-free! These cheesy chips contain only 60 calories, no carbs – zip, zilch, nada, and they deliver on savory flavor and crunch.

To make your own cheesy chips:

Slice 1 each roll of string cheese (made of part-skim mozzarella) into quarter inch slices

Lightly spray a cookie sheet with olive oil cooking spray

Place cheese “chips” on the tray an inch apart

Bake in 375 degrees oven for 4-5 mins.

Peel off chips, and enjoy!

Ice Cream Sundae

We all scream for ice cream! But ice cream in its creamy, cool, sugary goodness is a high-carb, indul-

gence that can certainly pack on the pounds. The average ice cream sundae contains a whopping 172 grams of carbs and from 600 to more than 1,000 calories. This one-time treat can blow your entire calorie and carb budget for the whole day. But there is a way to simplify this dessert and dramatically cut carbs and

See CARBS, Page 5

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Free dental clinic offered at Eastfield

MESQUITE — A Texas Mission of Mercy (TMOM) mobile dental clinic will be at Eastfield College this Friday and Saturday, April 10-11, delivering pain-relieving dental care at no cost to underserved Texans.

To take advantage of

this opportunity, patients seeking care need to arrive by 5 a.m. at the Eastfield College Gymnasium (3737 Motley Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150) to register.

Doors will open at 7 a.m. TMOM is a first-come, first-served event, and the

clinic will stop accepting patients once capacity is reached. Patients must bring their current medications.

More than 100 volunteer dentists and 900 volunteers from the dental profession, businesses and community groups will provide charita-

ble care to hundreds of adults and children.

The services, which are free, include basic, pain-relieving and preventive procedures such as dental cleanings, fillings, and extractions.



WORKERS, continued from Page 1

six of those states the Black EPOP increased. On the other hand, between 2013 and 2014 the Black unemployment rate significantly increased in Missouri (3.2 percentage points) and Wisconsin (4.8 percentage points)."

With a Black population of 6.5 percent, Wisconsin recorded the highest annual jobless rate for Blacks in the U.S. in 2014 (19.9 percent).

Paul Randus, a columnist for MarketWatch.com, said that Scott Walker, the governor of Wisconsin and a Republican presidential hopeful, is known nationally, "as the governor who eliminated collective bargaining rights for most public employee unions in Wisconsin — and then beat back a recall motion over it."

Randus wrote, "The win further emboldened Walker," and that the governor recently signed a "right to work bill" that economists say will chip away at labor union power in the state. The policies were supposed to spur job and business growth, but the governor has fallen almost 100,000 jobs short of his 2010 pledge to create 250,000 jobs during his first term.

The anti-union policies in Wisconsin are a big prob-

lem for both White and Black workers in the Badger State, said Wilson.

Even though, Black workers in Virginia (19.7 percent Black population) experienced the lowest annual Black jobless rate in 2014 at 8 percent, it was still, "higher than the highest White rate of 7 percent in Nevada," stated the EPI report. In the fourth quarter of last year, the 11 percent Black unemployment rate was, "higher than the national unemployment rate at the peak of the recession (9.9 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009)."

The Black jobless rate is expected to dip to 10.4 percent, by the fourth quarter of 2015, but that's nowhere near the pre-recession unemployment level, which was 8.6 percent.

"In 2014, long-term unemployment among African American workers (39.7 percent) was the highest of any racial or ethnic group, although it was down 3.7 percentage points from 2013," stated the report. "Among states with a large enough sample size for reliable estimates, only three had significant declines in long-term unemployment between 2013 and 2014: North Carolina (14.4 percentage points), Florida (10

percentage points) and Texas (8.2 percentage points). In 2014, the highest shares of long-term unemployed black workers were in the District of Columbia (56.3 percent), Illinois (52.7 percent), Alabama (48.9 percent) and New Jersey (48.6 percent)."

The U.S. economy added 126,000 jobs in March, far below analysts' expectations, and the national unemployment rate was still 5.5 percent.

Wilson said that record-setting snow falls and cold temperatures suppressed hiring and demand consumption in March.

The Black jobless rate decreased from 10.4 percent in February to 10.1 percent in March, compared to the White unemployment rate, which was stagnant at 4.7 percent.

The unemployment rate for Black men over 20 years old decreased from 10.4 percent in February to 10 percent in March and the EPOP ratio also rose from 60.3 percent to 60.5 percent. The jobless rate for White men was 4.5 percent in February and 4.4 percent in March. The EPOP ratio was unchanged at 69.2 percent.

Wilson said that she will be keeping a close eye on the unemployment rate for Black women, which has

increased over the last three months from 8.7 percent in January to 9.2 percent in February.

The EPOP ratio for Black women over 20 years old was 55.8 percent in March, the same mark recorded last month. The jobless rate for White women was 4.2 per-

cent in February and March and the EPOP ratio was down 55.2 percent to 55 percent.

"The recovery has been moving at a less than optimal pace for the last five years, partly due to inadequate demand sufficient enough to drive job

growth," said Wilson.

"We need strong job growth to continue beyond this year, if we're going to see the Black unemployment rate drop significantly below 10 percent and get anywhere near what can be considered a recovery-level rate."

CARBS, continued from Page 4

calories. I call it banana nutice cream.

Add 1 frozen banana to a food processor

Add 2 TBS of almond milk and pulse to desired consistency

Top with a sprinkle of cinnamon.

If you enjoy a good butter pecan ice cream try adding 1 TBS of crunchy almond butter, it does the trick.

Find the recipes to all of my carb-fixes at www.everythinggro.com.

Bon Appetite!

Rovenia Brock, Ph.D. is a medical advisory board member and contributor to the "Dr. Oz Show," where she helped more than a half-million Americans lose more than 5 million pounds. She is the author of "Dr. Ro's Ten Secrets To Livin' Healthy (Bantam).

Ledbetter

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Fall registration opening soon for Collin College

Registration for Collin College's fall 2015 semester begins Tuesday, April 21 for returning students and will open to all on Tuesday, June 2.

Priority online registration for returning students will open in stages.

Students with 50 or more hours can register online beginning Tuesday, April 21.



Photo: Oldag07 / Wikimedia

Students with 30 or more hours can begin registration on Wednesday, April 22.

Those with one or more hours can begin registration Thursday, April 23.

All registration should be completed through CougarWeb, Collin College's student and faculty portal. New students may register online via CougarWeb after admission, assessment and advising.

They will receive a username and password from the Admissions and Records Office.

Returning students, who

already have CougarWeb access, are not required to come to campus unless they need to assess, obtain advice or have holds on their record waived or removed.

Students may view the latest version of the e-schedule at www.collin.edu/academics/class_schedule.html. However, they will not be able to register until they log into Cougar-

Web.

For more information about registration and admissions, visit www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/register/. For general information, visit the college website at www.collin.edu or call 1.877.COLLIN1.

Collin College was founded in 1985 and has since grown to serve more than 50,000 students.

How to convince your boss to support your EMBA studies

Whether you're on the fence or have made the decision to enroll in an executive MBA program, you don't need to go it alone. You can — and should — enlist the support of your employer.

Forty-one percent of EMBA students were fully self-funded in 2013, up from 27 percent in 2011 and 34 percent in 2009. Only 24 percent of students received full financial sponsorship, according to the Executive MBA Council.

State your (business) case

Show your business savvy by presenting your supervisor a formal business case. Start with an ex-

ecutive summary that can be shared with the C-suite and other stakeholders.

Present your enrollment as an opportunity for your company. Think WIFT (What's in It For Them), not WIFM.

Illustrate how earning an EMBA will apply to your current — and, more importantly, future — role at the company. Your initiative in furthering your education reflects on your commitment to both your career and your company.

Relate how mastery of business concepts will help with retention of current customers/accounts. A higher percentage of employees with MBAs also makes the company look

more favorable in the eyes of potential clients. In addition, a company with more MBA holders on its staff is more likely to attract — and retain — top talent.

If you have settled on a specific program, justify why that particular program is best suited for your needs, and those of your company. Lastly, provide concrete examples of how you'll share your newfound knowledge with your colleagues.

Demonstrate ROI

As you're building your business case, make sure your personal goals align with those of your company. Look at both short- and long-term goals.

Northwood University announces sophisticated data management system

MIDLAND, MICHIGAN — In today's competitive higher education sector, data management, reporting and analytics is a must for colleges and universities to align plans, meet performance goals and measure progress, while simultaneously enhancing the student experience at all levels. At Northwood University in Midland, Michigan, a drive for continuous quality and improvement prompted officials to implement a new higher-education performance management software system, Ellucian Perform, tracking such indicators as student retention and grad-

uation rates, among others, with an institution-wide view.

This software program, developed by Fairfax, Virginia-based Ellucian, streamlines data entry and analytics to seamlessly provide a detailed view of key performance metrics across the campus, its departments, enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems and educational platforms. It transforms raw data into tangible information that Northwood University now uses in planning and quality performance initiatives as it undergoes a major system-wide restructuring, "Mov-

ing Northwood University Forward," and evolves its programming for future sustainability and success.

With a focus on specialty business education and operational excellence, Northwood University seeks to practice what it teaches its students — future global business leaders, says Kristin Stehouwer, Northwood University's executive vice president, chief academic officer and chief operating officer.

"The implementation of this system exemplifies our commitment to excellence in all we do — at all levels of

See SYSTEM, Page 13

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Colleagues praise Big D Reads Librarian of the Year as 'gentle giant'

Stuffed bunnies, Clifford the Big Red Dog, Mother Goose, Dora the Explorer and Arthur are among the notable characters that peer out from almost every bookshelf in the library at Anne Frank Elementary School.

It's testing week at the north Dallas school and, for the moment, the library is quiet. Outside the glass door, young students march in single file through the hallway as they take a breather from the STAAR exams. Inside, Librarian



Librarian Lisa Mead opens the library doors at 7:15 a.m. and welcomes in students to enjoy free reading time, finish up homework, or work on projects. (Courtesy photo)

Lisa Mead is waiting for the students to return.

Talking with Mead about her classroom experience

and her passion for teaching, it's not hard to see why

she was recently named the Big D Reads Librarian of the Year. An 11-year veteran of the Anne Frank Elementary faculty, Mead spent the first seven years as a classroom teacher, serving as grade level chair, a member of the Campus Instructional Leadership Team, and being named the campus' Teacher of the Year.

"I still see myself as a teacher," Mead said. "The biggest difference (as a librarian) is I get to teach all the students in the school. That's my favorite thing

about being a librarian; I get to positively impact the education of all the kids."

Colleagues have high praise for Mead, describing her as passionate, committed, creative, and resourceful. In their statements of support for Mead's Librarian of the Year nomination, teachers credit her for turning around the use of the school's library, making it a popular gathering spot for students.

During the mornings,

See LIBRARY, Page 8

Benjamin Crump joins family in pursuit of justice for paralyzed 21 year-old victim

Monroe Bird III, 21-year-old shot by a security guard in Tulsa, is not expected to walk again as a result of a bullet striking his C3 vertebrae. Although Bird was unarmed, Tulsa's District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler has not pursued charges, claiming the facts did not warrant prosecution.

However, Bird's family now have additional support with the announcement last week civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump is representing the family. Crump made headlines last year while representing the family of Michael Brown Jr., in Ferguson. Other high-profile cases he has handled

included working on behalf of the families of 12-year-old Tamir Rice killed in Cleveland last year and Trayvon Martin killed by George Zimmerman three years ago.

In February 2015, Bird was in the vehicle with an unnamed female passenger parked at the Deerfield Es-

tates Apartment. Ricky Stone, a security guard at the complex, claims Bird tried to run over him with his car and that is why he shot his gun three times.

According to Crump in a recent interview with NewsOne, the facts do not support Stone's version of the story. He contends, if Bird

was shot while backing up and was paralyzed, he could not have taken the car out of reverse, put it drive, turn the vehicle, drive 30 yards away before crashing in a tree.

Speaking on behalf of the family Tezlyn Figaro, Crisis Management Mediator and Media Relations Manager

shared, "Pastor Johnny Magnus and wife Zondra Magnus waited patiently for over 30 days without any contact from the District Attorney. Their faith in God and the justice system gave them hope that justice would be served. On March

See CRUMP, Page 16

Murphy names new police sergeant

Denver Collins has been promoted to sergeant in the Murphy Police Department. Collins, the department's fourth sergeant, has been a police officer for 18 years, having spent the last nine-and-a-half years serving the residents and businesses of Murphy. A former member of the Allen Police Department, Collins joined Murphy to establish the motorcycle unit, becoming the department's first motorcycle

officer. During his tenure with Murphy, Collins has held the ranks of Corporal, Officer in Charge, and Detective. His training portfolio includes the FBI's Hostage/Crisis Negotiations, Criminal Investigations, Background Investigations, and New Supervisors Course, and is nearing completion of a Criminal Justice Administration degree through Tarleton State University.



Denver Collins (center) has been promoted by the Murphy Police Department to Sergeant. Municipal Court Judge Natalie Banaelos (left) administered the oath of office under the watchful eye of Police Chief GM Cox, PhD. (Courtesy photo)

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Promise House raises over \$40,000 at donor luncheon

Promise House hosted its annual Hearts of Promise Donor Luncheon, Friday, March 27 at the Park City Club in Dallas. The event raised over \$40,000 in donations.

The Hearts of Promise luncheon gave attendees an opportunity to learn about the organization's mission to transform the lives of homeless and at-risk youth in Dallas. Guest speaker Bianca spoke about the organization's impact and how Promise House supports the journey from



Regina Levine, Jennifer Wright and Aaliyah Haqq commemorate the successful fundraiser for the Dallas charity. (Courtesy photo)

homelessness to independent living. She emphasized that Promise House is more

than just a place to stay; it becomes a home and family to teens.

At this year's luncheon, attendees had a special opportunity to make their charitable donation go further. RGK Foundation and Brinker International matched donations dollar for dollar up to \$20,000. As a result of this match, Promise House received over \$40,000 in donations at the event. Frost Bank and Frost Insurance also played a part in Promise House reaching their fundraising goal by donating \$1500 as the Speaker Sponsor.

"Promise House serves as

a beacon of hope, a resource that ensures children that it will be okay and there are people out there that truly care," said Dr. Ashley Lind, president of Promise House. "Promise House is working to make a difference for each one of these children and endeavors to impact the community as a whole. We absolutely can make a difference and, by supporting Promise House, you can make a difference too."

Promise House embraces homeless, runaway and at-risk youth by providing

them with individualized support, skills, encouragement and hope to live a better life.

Since 1984, Promise House has had an open door 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to youth and families in crisis serving nearly 70,000 children, teens and families in North Texas.

Promise House is dedicated to providing the strength, stability and hope that youth need today

To learn more, please visit www.promisehouse.org.

LIBRARY, continued from Page 7

Mead opens the library doors at 7:15 a.m. and welcomes in students to enjoy free reading time, finish up homework, or work on projects. Throughout the rest of the day, Mead spends her time teaching library skills, collaborating with teachers,

and singlehandedly managing a facility that serves 1,200 students and boasts a monthly circulation of more than 7,000 books.

Mead is especially passionate about the importance of teaching students how to use technology to

find their own answers to questions. She makes sure they master research skills that will serve them throughout their school career.

"A librarian's job is to instill a lifelong love of learning," Mead said. "I want them to be comfortable in the library, to have owner-

ship of the library so they learn to love to read and will continue to go to the library whenever they're curious or just for fun."

Principal Jonnice Legum-Berns describes Mead as amazing.

"The learning environment she has created for our students is well-organized,

visually stimulating and, most importantly, welcoming," she said.

Legum-Berns said that, under Mead's stewardship, the Anne Frank library is a focal point enlivened by Mead's enthusiasm, leadership, and innovation.

"Mrs. Mead is one of

those gentle giants who positively impacts so many lives while instilling a love for reading and a thirst for learning," Legum-Berns said. "I cannot think of a better candidate so deserving of representing Dallas ISD as Librarian of the Year.



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Free Jazz fest to offer top talent in Denton

Jazz it up April 24-26 at the annual Denton Arts & Jazz Festival. The public is invited to enjoy a weekend filled with music, good food, art and many activities for the whole family in Denton. The Denton Quakertown Park, on 32 acres in the heart of downtown, provides the perfect setting for the event that is free to the public.

The Denton Festival Foundation, Inc., in cooperation with the City of Denton and American Federation of Musicians, the Music Performance Trust Fund, produces the festival with support from individual and corporate sponsorships. Over 2,900 musicians, artists and performers



attract over 225,000 annually to enjoy the culturally diverse music and art.

Move to the beat at one of 7 stages with jazz, blues and cross-cultural music. Get in the groove and buy a spe-

cial piece of art from 175 juried artists and crafters. The 12 and under set can mold, draw, sculpt and create at the Children's Art Tent and make music in the Percussion Tent, then treat yourself to delicious offerings at one of the seven food courts.

HEADLINERS:

Friday, April 24: UNT One O'Clock Lab Band - 7pm - Jazz Stage

Friday, April 24: Randy Brecker - 9pm - Jazz Stage
Saturday, April 25: Dr. John & The Nite Trippers - 9pm - Jazz Stage

Sunday, April 26: Brave Combo - 7pm - Jazz Stage
More info at www.dentonjazzfest.com.



75 percent of *Furious* audience was non-black

By Terry Shropshire
Special to the NNPA from
the *Michigan Chronicle*

hits.

Take exhibit A, the just-released *Furious 7*, which set or neared records for the studio as well as the national and international box offices.

Hollywood, are you paying attention? Ethnically diverse casts produce record-breaking monster

The Universal film

opened to a franchise-best \$384 million over the weekend at the global box office, including \$143.6 million domestically — the biggest debut since *The Hunger Games: Catching*

See FURIOUS, Page 10

NDG Readers can win tickets to see *Just Like Yo' Daddy*

Recording Artists Terry Williams and Dana Hemphill star in the new stage play *Just Like Yo' Daddy* as Zeke and Teresa - a married couple with issues. Zeke never met his father, so he has no intentions on ever being one. Teresa's biological clock is ticking so loudly that it drowns out all good sense. Out of desperation, Teresa commits an unthinkable betrayal that threatens to destroy their happy home.

Lakeicha Thomas plays Arshanay, Zeke's sister who doesn't care about a man's love, only the size of his wallet. Will Devon (BET's *Let's Stay Together* star Christian Keyes) make her reconsider her relationship rules? At the center of the turmoil is the family's matriarch, needy Mama Annie (CeCe Godbolt). Also featuring Ray Lavender from Donald Trump's *The Ulti-*



mate Merger, Gospel Comedienne Mrs. Cotton White, Christian Hip Hop Artist Norris J, Contessah Irene, Cory Espie, Raison Thompson, Santosha Faulkner, and Tasha Harden.

Just Like Yo' Daddy is executive produced by Aaron Hall, and written by *Essence* Bestselling Author Tiffany L. Warren and directed by Snoop Robinson.

The event is scheduled for Father's Day Weekend at Friendship West Baptist

Church with a cost of \$25 General Admission, \$30 is the cost at the door, and for VIP Premier Seating at the door the cost is \$40. If you want to purchase the tickets in advance visit www.pushentertainment.org or at the church. Vendor Booths are available, and you can call 972-228-5200 for more info.

NDG Readers can win tickets visit NorthDallasGazette.com for more details!

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The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Inc. 2014-2015 38th Season programs are supported in part by the City of Dallas - Office of Cultural Affairs, Centropolis, The Dallas Weekly, Downtown Business News, Exam Engineering, CBS 11/13A 21, Radio One-Dallas, Vision Creative Solutions, Key Professional Services, Dowdon Family Foundation and an Anonymous Fund of The Dallas Foundation

Enter to Win! Ticket Giveaway

NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit www.northdallasgazette.com to win tickets to *Just Like Yo' Daddy* @ Friendship West Baptist Church, June 20, 2015.

Peter Rabbit at Dallas Children's Theater was a winner!

By Leah M. Griffin

Dallas Children's Theater completed their run of Beatrix Potter's classic "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" very appropriately, on Easter. This musical take on the family classic was enchanting in every way. Peter, his three sisters Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-Tail, and Mother Rabbit were all brought to life by the wonderfully talented puppeteers and voice actors behind the scenes. The towering, lumbering Mr. McGregor provided comedic relief in a non-threatening, yet villainous manner onstage as the only human actor.

From the moment I entered the theatre I was captivated by the detail and beauty of the elaborate set which truly made the audience feel as if we had just stepped into a storybook. The dimming of the lights and the arrival of Peter and his sisters stirred wide eyed wonder. As the children learn that Father Rabbit had succum to the temptations of Mr. McGregor's tasty vegetable garden, Peter's curiosity is suddenly



peaked. Against the bidding of his mother and the pleas of his sisters, Peter inevitably follows in his fathers footsteps and ventures into McGregor's forbidden garden. After gorging on veggies, a harrowing chase ensues as Peter desperately flees the grasp of McGregor to avoid being cooked into a pie as his father had been before him. Narrowly escaping McGregor's net, Peter finally reaches the gate and though he loses his jacket in the final struggle, he returns safely home to his worried family.

This show is filled with lessons that every young one must learn during child-

hood; obey your parents instructions, never take what is not yours, resist the temptations of mischief, and last but not least, eat your vegetables. To the tune of Peter's rampant appetite, a catchy number is thrown into the mix listing all of the delicious and (conveniently for the parents) nutritious veggie treats that Peter begins to eat. More than likely your children will not be begging for broccoli and beets on the car ride home. However, any introduction into the wonderful world of veggies surely couldn't go amiss.

The single most impressive aspect of this produc-

tion, for me, was the seamless transitions from marionette to theatre rod puppets. The two techniques were used to give a different feel to each of the worlds. The theatre rod puppets, used against a traditional black backdrop, were set in the den home of Peter and his family. The slightly larger sized puppets, the dark background, and dim front lighting drew the audience into the den, while the nearly invisible strings of the marionettes set against the wide open backdrop of the nearby

meadow where the children played truly expanded the world of the bunnies' backyard.

I would say, however, that the pacing, content of the show, and the energy from the performers would be best suited for children in the 2 - 8 year old age range. Due to the lack of set changes and predominantly sung dialogue, younger minds would be more enthralled with this world rather than older ones. All in all I give this performance a 5 out of 5 stars. Although this particular pro-

duction has closed, if has been any indication of the caliber of productions to be seen at DCT, I will most definitely return to be impressed again and again.

Visit www.DTC.org for ticket and information for upcoming shows including their newest show this weekend: Balloonacy, the story of a solitary old man who reluctantly makes friends with a wayward red balloon that floats into his window as he is celebrating his birthday alone. Opening night is Friday, April 10.



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FURIOUS, continued from Page 9

Fire in November 2013 (\$158 million). More impressive, its global total was the fourth-best of all time.

According to Universal, 75 percent of the audience in North America was non-Caucasian, generally in line with previous installments.

Check out these stats:

- Hispanics, who have replaced blacks as the most frequent moviegoers in the United States, made up the majority of ticket buyers for *Furious 7*;
- Caucasians made up 25 percent;
- African-Americans (24 percent),

- Asians (10 percent)
- Others (4 percent).

"The importance of diversity of the ensemble cast in the *Fast and Furious* franchise has been an integral part of the success of the brand," Rentrak box office analyst Paul Dergarabedian told industry publication Hollywood Reporter.

"There is literally someone within the cast that is relatable on some level to nearly every moviegoer around the world, and this has paid big dividends at the box office and also in terms of how casting deci-

sions will be made in the future for these types of large-scale action epics."

Furious 7's ensemble cast includes Vin Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez, Tyrese Gibson, Jason Statham, Dwayne Johnson and, of course, the late Paul Walker. Christopher "Ludacris" Bridges, martial artist Tony Jaa and Djimon Hounsou also star.

"Someone that I admire quite a lot recently said this is a franchise that really looks like America, and there are characters that everyone can relate to. I think that's a big plus," said Universal president of domestic distribution Nicholas Carpou.

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The business side of Black Media in America

By Cynthia E. Griffin
Special to the NNPA
from *Our Weekly*

While most people who think about Black media consider its historic role as a leader and purveyor of the needs, wants and desires of the African American com-

munity, those same people sometimes forget that at the very foundation of newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations owned by African-descended people are some fundamentals—these entities are businesses that in order to exist, must make money.

For years, this has been the struggle with Black media which often seems to be left out of the loop when it comes to advertising. This is despite the studies that highlight the wealth in the Black community and aside from the well-known fact that Black people utilize

Black media.

According to a recent Nielsen study, African Americans represent about 14.4 percent of the nation's population, yet only 2.6 percent of the major media advertising is spent on African American media. In numbers, the Nielsen report

noted that advertisers allot only 3 percent of their \$2.2 billion yearly budget to media aimed at Black audiences, despite the fact that according to "The State of

the African-American Consumer Report" Black buying power in America is expected to hit \$1.1 trillion this year.

See MEDIA, Page 13

SCAMS, continued from Page 3

cal party ruled by the old traditions of give-and-take politics crucial to the functioning of a democratic society. It's become one driven by an unceasing winner-take-all attitude that's only barely concealed beneath a thin veneer of ultra-conservative religious dogma.

Further, we should remember that the justifications for these laws are classic examples of the "hustle" used to pretend bigotry is not bigotry: those who want to discriminate against a particular group claim it's that group, backed by "the government" who are "victimizing" them.

So, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence could assert, shortly after he signed the original state law, that "many feel their religious liberty is under attack by government action" in forcing them to accept gays and lesbians as customers of their businesses.

One doesn't have to be that well-versed in the Southern massive-resistance campaign against the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s to note the tawdry similarity: That region's politicians also vociferously claimed that they were defending white citizens' against attack by the federal government. And, as numerous other commentators have noted, many Southern Christians cited Biblical passages to justify their racism.

The rationales for today's anti-gay laws are just as despicable. Their advocates claim they're needed because, as Eric Miller, execu-

tive director of the conservative group Advance America, said they could help Christian bakers, florists and photographers avoid punishment for "refusing to participate in a homosexual marriage."

Got that? Miller contends that any business owner who sells an item to or performs a service for a customer thereby becomes a "participant," and "involved" in whatever it is the customer proceeds to do with the item. If you think that's silly, look up some of

the segregationists' rationales for all the grand and petty laws of Jim Crow for further proof that bigotry is impervious to logic

The historian Jarret Ruminski ended his recent column on this latest effort to cloak intolerance in law with these words: "If I wanted to argue from a religious standpoint, I'd point out that rabid anti-gay stances conflict with Jesus' injunctions to 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' And to 'Judge not, that ye be not judged.' Finally," he wrote, "if I wanted to argue from the standpoint of basic human

decency, I'd argue that love is always better than hate, and that hate shrouded under the banner of good intentions and blind moral absolutism is especially devious."

Lee A. Daniels is a long-time 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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MBA, continued from Page 6

vestment. Be sure to emphasize your ability to apply classroom learning to real-time challenges your company is facing. What's more, you can use specific company issues as case studies.

Reassure your boss of your loyalty to the company (more on this later). A company may be hesitant to sponsor you for fear losing you to a competitor once you've earned your MBA.

Mention that your participation in an EMBA program will give you a new perspective on your company and its industry. You'll be more inclined to question the status quo which, in turn, can result in significant savings and efficiencies. You'll be poised to compare business practices within your vertical and across a range of industries. And you'll have instant access to a highly connected personal network of advisers.

Remember "support" from your employer doesn't have to be 100 percent financial. If you can't secure a "free ride" from your employer, use your best negotiating skills to arrive at a compromise (such as travel and accommodation vs. tu-

ition). You also can ask for additional PTO for studying or for travel to/from the school, if applicable, or request reduced travel requirements or a slightly lighter workload in the interim. Support doesn't have to be all or nothing. If your employer won't foot the entire tuition bill, propose sharing the cost.

Keep in mind that your request for support is a two-way street. If you receive corporate backing, you likely will be expected to sign a contract indicating you'll stay in the company for a specified period after graduating, typically from one to five years.

For more information on the EMBA program at The University of Texas at Arlington, visit <http://www.emba.uta.edu/>.

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Online website provides resources for women seeking business funding

(BlackNews.com) -- GrantsForWomen.org, an online resource for women looking for funding, has published a listing of the top 60 programs for women in 2015. The programs help women get scholarships, funding to start a business, funding to start a non-profit, and more.

Although women make up 51 percent of the world's population, they are still a minority in many ways. In the workplace and sometimes their homes, they face gender discrimination, gender underestimation, and even gender harassment. Others have to deal with domestic violence and abuse.

GrantsForWomen.org was created to help elevate and empower women, so that they can have successful careers, businesses, and organizations.

Every year, millions of dollars are allocated to programs for women as investments in their talent, creativity, intellect and deter-

mination. Research confirms that women are huge contributors to the economy, the workforce, global entrepreneurship, and to the development and management of non-profit organizations.

For more details on the top 60 programs, visit: www.GrantsForWomen.org.

MEDIA, continued from Page 11

The Nielsen Company also teamed up with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), a trade group representing 200 Black community newspapers, for the third consecutive year to produce the report, "Resilient, Receptive and Relevant: The African American Consumer 2013," which noted that the buying power of Blacks likely will increase from its current level to \$1.3 trillion by 2017.

And yet, even with these projections, Black media does not garner a fair share of corporate ad spending, but instead is circumvented for ad buys in general market media channels.

There are other indicators that point even more clearly to the problem.

Take a legal action launched recently by comedian-turned-media-mogul Bryon Allen. He recently filed a \$20 billion lawsuit on behalf of his company, Entertainment Studios, against Comcast, Al Sharpton and Time Warner Cable.

Allen joined with the National Association of African-American Owned Media (NAAAOM) for the action, in which he accuses corporate America and these three companies [Comcast, Time Warner and AT&T], in specific, of paying off civil rights activist Al Sharpton as well as other

organizations to sign-off on their diversity spending efforts. He has also filed a \$10 million lawsuit against AT&T.

The entrepreneur is also suing former FCC commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker and pointed out that months after she voted to approve a merger, she took a high-paying job with Comcast. He wants the lawsuit to turn the spotlight on how this happened.

In a broadcast report on CNN, Allen accused the corporations of giving money to Sharpton to avoid having to support the broader Black press.

"This is a historic lawsuit," said Allen. "It's about economic inclusion . . . We don't need charity. We don't

need people speaking for us. Just do business with us."

According to Allen, there are numerous people who have gone to Comcast looking to start up a cable channel but they have essentially told these individuals to go away. The Los Angeles media entrepreneur said he has seven cable networks on Verizon. He also noted that the Black Family Channel was turned away from Comcast and told it would have to pay \$10 million to be part of the cable station's platform.

SYSTEM, continued from Page 6

our institution," Kristin Stehouwer, Northwood University's executive vice president, chief academic officer and chief operating officer. She added the university sought a robust management system to capture what it is accomplishing and what it seeks to achieve in the future.

"We are achieving increased transparency around our key performance metrics," Stehouwer says. "This platform has helped us examine how we use data to make strategic decisions and allows us to assign weights to various performance metrics. That is one of the biggest benefits so far. It's bringing us one-step closer to a balanced scorecard and allows us to see how important each measure is in helping

us achieve our goals and fulfill our mission."

For more information on Northwood University, visit www.northwood.edu, or call 800-622-9000.

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April 12
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 at 5 p.m. for our Iglesia de Cristo Services (the Word of God in Spanish.)

April 15, 7 p.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
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www.avefchurchofchrist.org

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CARROLLTON

April 12, 9:45 a.m.
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.

April 15, 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.

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CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

April 12, 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 April Month Series is "My Career Path in Babylon." What does your faith look like in your work place?

April 12, 10 a.m.
Two great events for ages 9 through 12. Jr. B.O.O.T camp for boys (email Joe Williams for details at jwilliams@ccrichardson.org) Let's build our boys; and Young Ladies Academy; God's Phenomenal Girls with Kenya Woodruff. Email kwoodruff@ccrichardson.org.

April 15
Join us at 12 Noon with Rev. Viveca Potter teaching on the Word of God; come back at 6:45 p.m. 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
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Richardson, TX 75081
www.Christcommunityrichardson.org

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Pastor Minnie Hawthorne-Ewing
635 W. Campbell Road Suite 201
Richardson, TX 75080

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

April 12 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.

April 15, 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

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April 12
Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services at 9:30 a.m. followed by Morning Services at 1550 Edelweiss Drive in Allen and bring someone with you; you will be blessed.

April 15
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.
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972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

April 12, 7:35 a.m.
Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services and receive a blessing from God.

April 15, 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

THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH

April 12 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.

April 15, 7 p.m.
Join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

April 17, 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
Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.Ibocchurch.org

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

April 12
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.

April 15, 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

April 12
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.

April 15
Join us for Wednesday's Bible Study and learn what God has to say to us.

Dr. Tommy L. Brown Senior Pastor
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Sister Tarpley

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The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of His unfailing love.

Psalm 33:5

A loved one died, and on that clear, cold morning, in the warmth of the day the other person was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't anymore. No more hugs, no more special moments to celebrate together, no more phone calls just to chat, no more "just one minute." Sometimes, what we care about the most gets all used up and goes away, never to return before we can say, "good-bye," before we can say, "I love you."

So while we have it. It's best we love it, care for it and fix it when it's broken ... and heal it when it's sick. This is true for spouses, children, other family members, friends, marriages, aging parents and grandparents. We keep and love them because they are worth it, because we are worth it.

Some things we keep --

like a best friend who moved away or a classmate we grew up with. There are just some things that make us happy, no matter what.

Life is important, like people we know who are special; and so, we keep them close! Suppose one morning you never wake up, do all your family and friends know you love them?

I was thinking ... I could die today, tomorrow or next week, and I wondered if I had any wounds needing to be healed, friendships that needed rekindling or three words needing to be said.

Let every one know you love them. Even if you think they don't love you back, you would be amazed at what those three little words and a smile can do.

Live today to the fullest because tomorrow is not promised.

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: There are two days in every week about which we should not worry, two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is YESTERDAY with its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control.

All the money in the world cannot bring back

Yesterday. We cannot erase a single word we said. Yesterday is gone forever.

The other day we should not worry about is TOMORROW with its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and poor performance. Tomorrow is also beyond our immediate control.

Tomorrow's sun will rise, either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds—but it will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in Tomorrow, for it is as yet unborn; and its no guarantee that we live to see Tomorrow.

This leaves only one day – TODAY – Any man or woman can fight the battles of just one day! It is only when you and I add the burdens of those two other eter-

nities – Yesterday and Tomorrow that we break down.

It is not the experience of Today that drives men and women into a state of depression and worrying—it is remorse or bitterness for something which happened Yesterday which is forever beyond our control; and the dread of what Tomorrow which is yet unborn and beyond our immediate control, may bring.

Let us, therefore, live but one day at a time. Let Us Pray and Learn to Keep An Open Mind.

I Did a Little House Cleaning: Last week, I threw out Worry – It was getting old and in the way. It kept me from being me, I couldn't do things God's

way.

I threw out those Inhibitions – They were just crowding God out. I made room for my new growth and got rid of my old dreams and doubts.

I threw out a book on My Pass Old Grudges – It's not a good book to read anyway. I replaced it with a new book, called Forgive & Forget. I must take time and starting reading it today.

I threw out my whining and complaining; oh how I treasured them so. Got me a New Philosophy too! I threw out the one that did-

n't agree with God from long ago.

Then I brought in some new books that's called I Can, I Will, and I Must. Threw out I Might, I Think and I Ought. Wow, you should see the dust!

I asked, Jesus to helped me to do some cleaning and He added some things Himself; like Prayer, Hope and Faith. Oh yes, I really like His style.

I picked up something special and I placed it at the door—It's called God's PEACE. Nothing will get

See TARPLEY, Page 16



Young Sung, a graduate of Newman Smith High School (NSHS), Sister Tarpley, a former teacher of NSHS and Mr. Joe Pouncy, current principal of NSHS

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NDG Book Review: Reach: 40 Black Men Speak on Living, Leading, and Succeeding

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Where do you go from here?

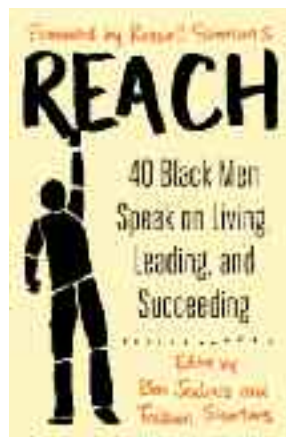
You've been looking at your life and everything around you, and that's the question you've been asking: what next? What will you do with the rest of your days? In the new book "Reach," edited by Ben Jealous and Trabian Shorters, foreword by Russell Simmons, you may find some guidance.

What you see is what you do.

That's natural. Says Ben Jealous, "...imitation has always been the first step for those who achieve great things." It's easy to emulate positive behavior and success, once you see it done – which is what you'll find in this book.

When D'Wayne Edwards was sixteen, he lost his beloved older brother. That, says Edwards, "really encouraged me to pay attention to my gift" of drawing and design. Realize your "true potential," he advises.

Says actor Louis Gossett Jr.: learn that you can play



Superman.

Shaka Senghor was still a teenager when he was sent to prison and "was on course to become the best predator I could be," until journaling helped him look at his life and "the most absurd stuff you can imagine." Write down your thoughts, he says. Read them and "understand that [they] have power."

Read, says Dr. Eddie Connor. "We've got to promote books instead of prison bars..."

Ben Jealous advises taking risks. Learn math, says Emmanuel Cephas. Broadcasting executive Ron Davenport says to "Be in the room where the decisions

are made."

Learn to fail, says aviator Barrington Irving, but don't let it be an option. Name your future, says Van Jones. Become involved in politics, get an education, and cultivate empathy. Be financially literate, and promote entrepreneurship. Be a role model, and ask for mentors. Work collaboratively, and lift up future generations who come after you.

And above all, stay hopeful. Loss of hope, says Reverend Tony Lee, can "sabotage [your] faith." Says Yusef Shakur, "without... hope, poverty becomes overwhelming."

Says Senghor, "... hope, man – hope is the saving grace."

Wow. Though it's only a few ounces of paper and ink, "Reach" truly packs a punch.

There's a lot of takeaway in this book, for starters. Editors Ben Jealous and Trabian Shorters invited 40 black men from all walks of life and achievement to tell their stories and share what helped them succeed.

While it's natural that there'd be some repetition, you'll find dozens and dozens of short chapters to uplift and inspire.

I loved that in this book – but there was one thing that bears mentioning: pay attention, and you'll start to notice that many authors

here were raised in fatherless households. It truly struck me as further proof that there are no excuses not to succeed.

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First-time homebuyer fair scheduled for April 18

The City of Irving and Business Community Lenders of Texas are partnering to host the annual Homebuyer Fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 18 at Senter Park Recreation

Center, 901 Senter Road. The fair will assist first-time homebuyers become more confident, educated and prepared consumers. Builders, community development housing organiza-

tions, credit counselors and lenders will be available to provide one-on-one information.

For more details and to register, visit homebuyer-fair.com.

TARPLEY, continued from Page 15

me down anymore.

Yes, I got my house looking good—it looks great around this place. For

things like Worry, Trouble and Grudger, there's just no place for them.

It's good to do a little

house cleaning. Get rid of old things on the shelf. It sure makes things brighter—Maybe you should try it yourself!

Author Unknown

CRUMP, continued from Page 7

4, 2015 their faith in the system was shaken when they learned on television that District Attorney Kunzweiler justified the shooting of their son.

As a result, the family decided to hire National Civil Rights Attorney Benjamin

Crump in order to assist them with obtaining more information from the District Attorney in pursuit of justice for Monroe." Figaro is also a former North Dallas Gazette staff member.

During a recent press

conference Crump indicated the family has not ruled out a civil lawsuit while the family continues to push the district attorney to press criminal charges. District Attorney Kunzweiler reportedly has conceded that he will press charges if new evidence becomes available.

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